



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

Our campaign keeps getting bigger — and better!

***We've just added more land!***

But a big payment is coming due soon, and we need your help.

**HAVE YOUR GIFT DOUBLED TO SAVE THIS  
TWICE-HALLOWED TREASURE**

... and receive an ***exclusive gift!***

Dear Friend and Fellow Preservationist,

More than twenty years ago, when we started working to save precious battlefield acres at the overlapping battlefields of Gaines' Mill and Cold Harbor in Virginia, our efforts often felt more like a *dream* than an achievable campaign.

The land was there — but often not for sale and frequently financially out of reach. Unrelenting development pressures made every available acre increasingly expensive, and this compounded year after year. But we couldn't — wouldn't — give up.

**For two decades, we kept up our dogged pursuit.**

After all, 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. U.S. Grant launched massive attacks over the same ground ... and where 5,000 died and another 28,000 were wounded or captured.*

And thanks to your support, we've experienced several major successes over the years ...

In 2012, the Trust saved the 285-acre site of Longstreet's Advance at Gaines' Mill, the largest land preservation success since the national park was created. In 2019, we saved the 50-acre Sportsplex tract before it was lost to development. In 2021, the adjacent site of the Cold Harbor Tavern was preserved, bringing us to a total of 655 acres saved for all time.

But it was in 2020 that we met the preservation opportunity of a lifetime — almost *one square mile* of nearly pristine battlefield land where the 1862 Battle of Gaines' Mill and the 1864 Battle of Cold Harbor overlapped.

And after years of waiting and dreaming about saving this crucial hallowed ground, preservation-minded landowners stepped forward and offered us the chance to preserve it forever. 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 ...



© Robert James, American Battlefield Trust  
The battle at Gaines' Mill witnessed over 15,000 combined casualties in six hours of fighting, and ended with Lee's first victory as commander of the Army of Northern Virginia.



Gaines' Mill was the second in a series of engagements known as the Seven Days Battles that drove General George McClellan's Union army from the doorsteps of Richmond.

Here's how just a few fellow historians described the importance of this tract:

*"If pressed to select the single most desirable tract on any battlefield, I would, without hesitation, select the ground essential to protecting both Gaines' Mill and Cold Harbor."*

– Gary Gallagher

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

– Robert E. L. "Bobby" Krick

The late Ed Bearss, a former Trustee and renowned historian, famously said to his fellow board members: *"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!"*

So, taking a calculated risk, we did the only thing we could do — we launched our ***Gaines' Mill Cold Harbor Saved Forever Campaign***, and broke the effort into phases. You may remember "Pickett's Charge Five Times as Large" in Phase 1 ... "The Intersection" in Phase 2 ... "The Juncture at Griffin's Woods" in Phase 3 ... and most recently "The Cavalry Charge" in Phase 4.

Through each phase, we've worked tirelessly to save the **only place in America where more than one square mile of "double battlefield" can still be preserved**, as well as additional hallowed acres at Gaines' Mill and Cold Harbor that have become available along the way. So far, our campaign has been a historic success — thanks to your generosity and that of your fellow members.

Slowly but surely, we have been **gaining momentum** at these two irreplaceable battlefields. This has fueled new and willing sellers.

And now, if we are able to keep up this good work, we will have the opportunity to expand the amount of land we've saved at Gaines' Mill and Cold Harbor by a multiple of 10!

We are making phenomenal progress, but our work is not done, and we can't rest on our laurels quite yet. To guarantee that these acres are protected in perpetuity, we need to make the next scheduled payment before next month.

But I'll tell it to you straight — we have our work cut out for us. By the end of November, we must come up with \$960,000 to make our next payment and purchase an additional 1.2-acre tract on the same battlefields (that just became available). **I'm going to need your help.**

I know that's a huge figure, but there's some good news, too: We have reinforcements! Thanks to generous partners who have provided about half the funds we need in the form of grants and other support, **every dollar you give today will be doubled!**

**But, we still need to raise \$501,000!**

**Will you please support our Gaines' Mill Cold Harbor Saved Forever Campaign today by having your gift matched?**

I'm also **excited** to tell you about a very special opportunity — next year, historian Bobby Krick (the same one I quoted above) will be publishing the first book of a new two-volume set — each about 500 pages — on the Battle of Gaines' Mill. Bobby is the leading expert on Gaines' Mill, and these two volumes will be the definitive, generational account of the battle. And we'll be getting the first copies, hot off the press!

You DO NOT want to miss this exclusive offer!

As a special thank you for your commitment to this campaign, if you're able to make a gift of \$100 today, **I'll reserve your copy of the first volume of Bobby Krick's new, comprehensive history of Gaines' Mill.**

This hardcover book is heading to the publishers shortly, which means the copies will not be available until 2025, but you'll receive it before it's available in any bookstore or online. You will not want to miss this limited opportunity to get a copy of the definitive history on one of the most important battles of the Civil War!

Now back to the land ... You know that I often talk about some of the **bad guys** we meet in our work. The ones who seem to care only about money, and nothing about the sacrifices made by earlier generations on our nation's battlefields.

The ones who would *sell our sacred ground out from under our feet!*

In recent years we've seen massive data centers built up on sacred ground in Northern Virginia and near Richmond, too. We've seen dense new developments go up that probably never should have been approved, but they were constructed anyway.

And just a few weeks ago, I saw that one company paid \$2.4 million an acre for 20 acres in Loudoun County. *\$2.4 million an acre!* We simply can't compete with that.

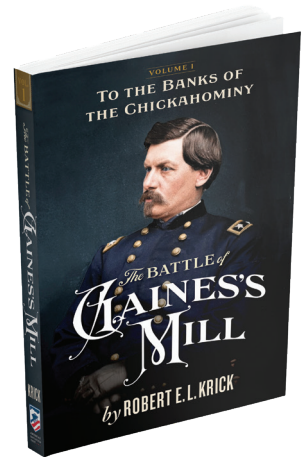
**But there are good guys, too.** Good guys like you. I meet them every day.

That includes landowners who would rather see hallowed ground *saved forever* than see it bulldozed and steamrolled to make way for another warehouse or shopping center.

*Sometimes, they're even willing to take less than the big developers offer them. They just need a reliable partner to work with — someone they can trust, and who understands that the history that took place on that very soil is **worth so much more** than whatever the developers are willing to pay.*

That's exactly what is happening with the additional 1.2 acres we have the chance to save today. As with so many of the tracts we've worked to save as part of our Gaines' Mill Cold Harbor Saved Forever Campaign, this parcel is twice-hallowed ground.

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 right wing of the Union V Corps.



The Battle of Cold Harbor was fought, in part, on the 1.2 acres of hallowed ground that need preserving. © Library of Congress

Two years later, on June 1, 1864, the same 1.2-acre tract was in the path of the Union VI 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.

To a surveyor, this may just be another 1.2 acres of land. But to you and me, its significance is immeasurable. It's a true ***double battlefield***, where soldiers fought, bled, and died.

It's also another example of putting the puzzle pieces together. Some pieces are large, and some are small, but ***the more we add***, the more progress we make toward telling the complete story of these important battlefields and creating a connected monument to our history, heritage, and heroes.

Take a look at the map I've enclosed and you'll see the large "preservation in progress" area in green along with the yellow target area that represents the additional 1.2 acres we can save today.

Just imagine for a moment what the battlefield would look like if instead of open land, it was a private residence with a fence, or a hotel. And then consider for a moment how the map would look without these preservation successes that you made happen!

Thanks to your support, 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!

I'm sure this is not the last time I'll be writing to you about our Gaines' Mill Cold Harbor Saved Forever Campaign. We have a lot more to do there!

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

But I ***can*** promise you this: If we don't make the next payment now, the one that comes due this year, we put that land — all of that preservation in progress — in jeopardy. And what's worse, if we fail to make good on this commitment, we run the risk of losing out on future preservation opportunities, too.

Of course, I know that we don't have to worry about that. **We honor our commitments.** Tremendous partners — individuals like you — come through time after time in the name of history and preservation.

**I rely on you, no doubt.** But please know that I don't ever take you for granted. It's very important to me that you know how much I appreciate your generosity and dedication.

**Please give today as we continue our Gaines' Mill Cold Harbor Saved Forever Campaign.** Thank you for *honoring* our past, *honoring* the men who fought and died, and *honoring* the lands where blood was shed, lives were lost, and history was made.



With warmest regards,

*David N. Duncan*

David N. Duncan  
President

P.S. Bobby's book won't be found in bookstores anytime soon! The limited run is exclusively available to you *only through this campaign*. I urge you to give a gift of \$100 or more, just as soon as you can, to ensure that you'll receive your advance copy when it's shipped next year. **Please give now by mailing your donation or by visiting [battlefields.org/GMCH2024](http://battlefields.org/GMCH2024) today.** Thank you again!