



AMERICAN
BATTLEFIELD
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WE HAVE FOUR VIRGINIA BATTLEFIELDS TO SAVE. And an extraordinary match to save them!

Your gift today can be matched ***\$37-to-\$1*** to preserve battlefield lands facing urgent development threats! **Can I count on you?**

Dear Friend and Fellow Preservationist,

The Civil War affected all of America, and all Americans. In many ways, it continues to shape us to this day.

And *Virginia* was right in the center of it all.

I live in Virginia. And I don't have to drive more than a few miles to walk out onto well-preserved battlefield land—including acres that you helped to preserve!

But I also don't have to drive far to see where sprawling housing developments and hulking data centers are marring the landscape and encroaching on sacred ground.

I've spent most of my life here, and I have never witnessed development pressures at such a fever pitch. Literally billions of dollars are being invested in land for new development. Which means our efforts to save the battlefield acres we have left have never been more urgent.

That's why I'm so excited to write to you today. We have the opportunity to save **nearly 64 acres** of hallowed ground at four battlefields in Virginia.

One tract is at Chancellorsville, a battle I'm sure you know well. Two tracts are at First and Second Kernstown. The last is at Ware Bottom Church, which I've found some folks don't know as much about, but it is enormously important.

The total value of this land is a whopping **\$2.2 million**.

But lucky for us, we have been able to secure more than 97% of the funds through donations and matching grants. All we need now is to raise the final \$60,000 to secure 64 acres that helped shape our nation.

This means that every dollar raised toward this final \$60,000 will be matched ***\$37-to-\$1!*** You've heard me ask this of you before ... (It's one of my favorite ways to illustrate a deal!

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1030 15th Street NW, Suite 900E, Washington, DC 20005 | phone: 800-298-7878 | email: info@battlefields.org

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Especially these days with the cost of everything rising.) So, imagine for a moment getting 37 times the value out of anything else you might spend your money on ...

That's the equivalent of buying a \$40,000 car for less than \$1,100, or getting a \$300,000 house for less than the closing costs.

By raising \$60,000 now, we can save these battlefield tracts before the developers can get their hands on them, and your support will be matched by \$37-to-\$1!

Please make your best gift now so we can get to the closing table in time to seal each of these deals. And when you send back your gift, I hope you'll use one of your new American Battlefield Trust **address labels** I've enclosed for you. We only send these out once a year, and only to our best supporters. I hope you'll use them with pride!

I'm also enclosing detailed maps of the four battlegrounds that have been recreated so you can see where the soldiers fought and where many died. And you can see the target tracts you're helping to save — indicated in yellow on each map — along with the battlefield land that is already preserved. Each tract is on critical battlefield land that would be ruined if it were to be developed, instead of saved!

This campaign is critical, because lately we've been seeing *too many ugly reminders* of what can happen when big developers lobby local government officials to plow their projects through.

The massive "Wilderness Crossing" development that's pushing to be built in Northern Virginia despite our strong opposition shows exactly the influence of deep-pocketed developers.

But with ***your help***, we'll make sure they won't ever get their hands on these 64 acres, which cover four battles over three years, including three Confederate victories and one Union victory. How's that for history!

Here's what's at stake:

18 BATTLEFIELD ACRES AT CHANCELLORSVILLE

This tract is associated with "Jackson's Flank Attack," one of the most famous battlefield maneuvers of the Civil War!

In late April 1863, General Joseph Hooker hoped to turn General Robert E. Lee out of his position at Fredericksburg. On April 27, Hooker marched three corps northwest from his winter encampment to Kelly's Ford on the Rappahannock, then crossed the Rapidan behind Lee's forces at Germanna and Ely's Fords. Union infantry marched past the tract along the Orange Turnpike on April 30 before arriving at the Chancellorsville crossroads. *And these 18 acres were right in the heart of the action that followed!*



Despite the heavy casualties sustained there, the Battle of Chancellorsville is considered General Robert E. Lee's greatest military victory. "Battle of Chancellorsville" © Library of Congress

The next night, Lee decided to divide his command. He dispatched General Thomas J. “Stonewall” Jackson’s Second Corps on a march around the front of Hooker’s army to attack the Army of the Potomac’s right flank. Jackson’s men got underway the following morning. After a twelve-mile march, Jackson deployed his infantry and at 5:15 p.m. gave the order to advance. During the assault, regiments from at least three Confederate brigades, those of General Alfred Colquitt, General George Doles, and Colonel Edward T.H. Warren, advanced over the tract. *It’s even possible this tract was used to treat the wounded.*

Our plans include not only saving this land, but restoring it to its wartime appearance. But there are others who have ***very different plans*** for this region. Chancellorsville faces the immediate and urgent threat of residential development, which could mean hundreds of new units built directly over hallowed ground and thousands of cars crossing over it daily. Please, don’t let that happen!

40 ACRES AT KERNSTOWN — A RARE DOUBLE BATTLEFIELD!

These two parcels witnessed the First Battle of Kernstown in 1862, a Union victory and part of Jackson’s Shenandoah Valley Campaign, and then again during the Second Battle of Kernstown in 1864, a Confederate victory and part of Jubal Early’s Raid and Operations against the B&O Railroad.

The Battle of First Kernstown took place in the spring of 1862, after Union General George McClellan had launched an offensive against the Confederate capital of Richmond. General Stonewall Jackson, stationed in the Shenandoah Valley, received the task of keeping Union forces in that sector from reinforcing McClellan’s army, and set out to engage the Federals near Winchester. On the morning of March 23, the two forces collided outside Kernstown.



Kernstown Battlefield was a key location in Kernstown I in 1862 and Kernstown II in 1864. © Michael Rosst, American Battlefield Trust

Troops from Virginia and Ohio are known to have crossed the 40-acre tract we have the chance to save today. And troops from these states saw action again during the Battle of Second Kernstown two years later, making this land ***doubly important***. We’ve saved 388 acres at Kernstown already, with your help, and these additional 40 acres will nearly complete our work here, helping to secure the integrity of this twice-consecrated battlefield land. I’d be so grateful to have your help.

SIX ACRES AT WARE BOTTOM CHURCH

Not everyone you’ll talk to knows about this battle. And that’s a shame, because in May of 1864, *nearly 10,000 soldiers* under the commands of General Benjamin Butler and General Pierre G.T. Beauregard clashed violently here, with more than 1,000 brave men left dead or wounded.

The church itself is long gone, having been behind both Union and Confederate lines during battle. It was destroyed by Parker's Virginia Battery (part of the Confederate Howlett line), defended by troops from the city of Richmond who were targeting Union sharpshooters inside.

But the land remains!

It's heavily wooded and largely undisturbed. *Yet it's been zoned for light industrial, which means it has the data center developers salivating.* Who can say how soon that might happen if we don't do our duty to preserve it now?



The site of the Ware Bottom Church, which was destroyed during the 1862 battle. © Library of Congress

Please make your gift and have it matched \$37-to-\$1.

Honestly, I'd be proud to save any one of these battlefields. They're all part of our American story. And we both know what could happen to them if we don't.

But the chance to save all four of them? For just \$60,000? And to have your gift matched **\$37-to-1\$**? That's almost unheard of!

Please study the target properties on the maps I'm enclosing. Get a sense of where they are, the history they witnessed, and the brave men in Blue and Gray who died in battle there.

Then, *close your eyes and imagine these battlefields meeting the same fate as so many other properties in recent years:* literally bulldozed to make way for developers.

We can't let that happen! This time we'll make the flank attack and sweep these properties off the market! **Please make your gift to the American Battlefield Trust today to take advantage of this extraordinary \$37-to-\$1 match.** Thanksgiving is coming, and I'd be deeply thankful for any contribution you can make today to our worthy cause.



With warmest regards,

David N. Duncan

David N. Duncan
President

P.S. 18 acres at Chancellorsville. Two lots totaling 4 acres at Kernstown – a double-battlefield! And six acres at Ware Bottom Church, too. Add them all up and you have one of the best opportunities we will have this year to save some of the most valuable, and most coveted, battlefield acres still available in Virginia today. **Please give now by mailing your donation or by visiting battlefields.org/save64 today.** Thank you again and display your address labels proudly!