



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

“Gettysburg is central to the whole United States. Everything kind of led up to this in the Civil War, and everything comes out of it.”

— Ken Burns

I hope that I can count on you to help save this extraordinary battlefield that is so crucial to our nation's history!

Dear Fellow Preservationist and Patriot,

Not long ago, we had the opportunity to speak with renowned historian and filmmaker **Ken Burns**.

Ken had brought his 13-year-old daughter to Gettysburg so she could experience the history he chronicled in his epic *Civil War* documentary.

We asked him why saving battlefields matters so much to him. Here's what he told us:

“You're looking to hear the ghosts and echoes of the inexplicably wise past. That can come from drawings and maps, but the thing that really provides it is the land itself.”

Ken's words capture the reason why saving battlefields matters to all of us. *You can hear the ghosts and echoes of the past.*

You may recall my letter from the end of last year about a critical 15 acres at Gettysburg that I had all but written off as lost forever due to a massive new apartment complex that seemed unstoppable!

A local developer had planned to cover this hallowed ground with as many as 112 apartments spread out over eight buildings of differing heights, much to the consternation of local residents.

But we don't give up easily, and after months of negotiations, along with appeals urging him to “do right by history,” the developer agreed to sell it to us for the price of \$3 million. Great news... except we don't have a spare \$3 million, especially given all the other threats to hallowed ground already on our docket.

Fortunately, a generous donor who cares passionately about Gettysburg stepped forward with an offer to give — over the next few years — fully half of that amount, or \$1.5 million, as a match, if we can raise the other half!

As I know you'd agree, Gettysburg is one of the most important battles ever fought on American soil. And this 15-acre tract of *Willoughby's Run*, which saw some of the earliest and most dramatic opening moments of the engagement, is indispensable to telling the story of what Americans on both sides of the battle were willing to fight and die for.

Which makes you wonder — *what will those ghosts be thinking of us if we allow a sprawling apartment complex to be built here, on land stained by blood and consecrated by honor?*



Willoughby's Run witnessed some of the Gettysburg battle's earliest and most striking opening moments.
© Noel Kline, American Battlefield Trust

You and I couldn't let that happen. **Not at Gettysburg.** So, as you may recall from my previous letters, we cobbled together a plan built upon a generous challenge grant from a single match partner and (I'll be frank with you) a loan to cover the rest.

Well, my friend, if you've ever borrowed money to buy a property, you know exactly what we're facing now.

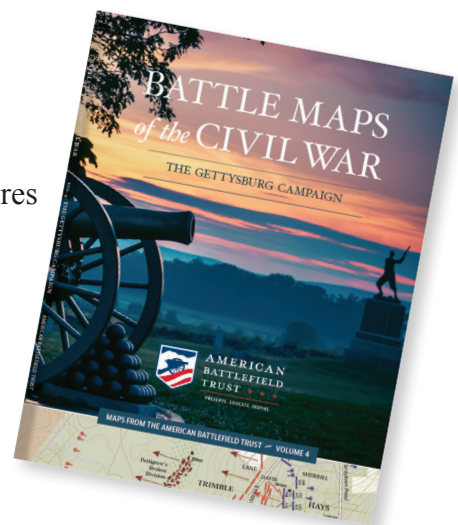
We need to raise \$375,000 so it can be matched by our donor's gift of the same amount – for a total of \$750,000. Our next contractually obligated payment is due this fall!
Without it, the contract could fall through.

Because you've given so generously in the past, I thought long and hard about how I could ask you for another gift for this campaign. *After all, times are tough. And \$375,000 is a lot to raise.*

Then I got an idea. As a nonprofit organization, we may not ever have much money, but what we do have is a wealth of historical information, maps, and illustrations that are invaluable to history lovers like you.

So, we've put together a fascinating new limited-edition book. They're being bound as I write to you! The title is *Battle Maps of the Civil War: The Gettysburg Campaign*, and it's not available in bookstores but only from the American Battlefield Trust.

If you can please make a gift of **\$63** or more today, to ensure we have the funds to make this payment to secure 15 acres of battlefield at Gettysburg, I'll see to it that you are one of the first to receive this new book — an essential part of your Civil War history collection!



Will you please make your best gift now — for Gettysburg?

My friend, you've gotten to know me pretty well, at least from my letters. And you know I never get tired of talking and writing about battlefields!

Like you, I'm also fascinated by the voices of the past, including the men and women who experienced the Battle of Gettysburg first-hand and who would later share their harrowing stories with posterity.

Lt. Dennis B. Dailey witnessed the action and recalled:

“My company had fairly reached the edge of the woods when Gen. Archer’s line gave way. We pursued them vigorously, and captured Archer with a number of his men, about thirty paces west of Willoughby’s Run. Patrick Maloney, the brave patriotic and fervent young Irishman, doubly risked his life for the capture of Archer, by going in advance of his comrades and among the fleeing Confederates, for the sake of his prize. Archer at first resisted arrest, but soon Maloney had help, and the sullen General was subdued. When I arrived on the spot, Gen. Archer appealed to me for protection from Maloney. I then requested him to give me his sword and belt, which he did with great reluctance, saying that courtesy permitted him to retain his side arms.”

A civilian, 16-year-old Amelia Harmon, who lived with her family along the banks of Willoughby’s Run and nearly lost her life when the battle broke out, recalled the following:

*“We fled from our burning house only to encounter worse horrors ... the first Rebel line of battle had passed the house and were now engaged in a hot skirmish in the gorge of Willoughby’s Run. The second was just abreast of the barn, and at the moment were being hotly attacked by the Union troops with shot and shell! We were between the lines! To go toward town would be to walk into the jaws of death. Only one way was open — through the ranks of the whole Confederate army to safety in its rear! Bullets whistled past our ears, shells burst and scattered their contents all about us. **On we hurried — wounded men falling all around us...**”*

You can read their words on the printed page. But nothing ever brings their stories to life like standing where they stood, seeing what they saw on land that has been saved from the bulldozer and steamroller and preserved forever.

This July will mark the 161st anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg. You can be sure that in the coming months and years, there will be more books written and more documentaries made about the battles that formed America — and that shaped our national character.

But there is only so much land, and there is only one Gettysburg. Which is why, when we saw the plans for a sprawling apartment complex that was going to be built right smack-dab at Willoughby's Run, we did the only thing we could. We saved the land.



Help save hallowed ground at Gettysburg.
© Buddy Secor, American Battlefield Trust

Of course, borrowing a sum of money like that has taken serious consideration. Together we will have to work hard to pay back the funds we've borrowed, just as we did at the Slaughter Pen Farm in Fredericksburg. *But what is that challenge compared to the weight of history on our shoulders?*

And so, I come to you today, thinking not only about those ghosts of the past, but also about future generations — families who will one day be doing what Ken Burns did recently and bringing their young ones to Gettysburg to learn the lessons that even books cannot teach.

Please give what you can today to help save this sacred place. And let me thank you for giving \$63 or more by sending you one of the first printed and bound copies of our new book. I'm quite certain that you will love it!



With honor and respect,

David N. Duncan

David N. Duncan
President

P.S. The historian Rick Atkinson has said that one of the greatest lessons of history is understanding *what people were willing to die for*. The three-day engagement at Gettysburg produced more than 50,000 casualties — including sons, grandsons, and brothers — with upwards of 10,000 dead who never came home. They gave their lives on this hallowed field of battle. Today, it falls to us to honor them by giving what we can to save the place where they served and sacrificed. ***If you can possibly make a gift to support this noble and worthy effort, I would be deeply and personally grateful.***