



The Battle of Shiloh lasted two days.  
**THE CAMPAIGN TO SAVE 23 ACRES OF SHILOH  
BATTLEFIELD HAS LASTED 130 YEARS.**

Now, at last, we have the chance!  
**Please help save this hallowed ground,  
and have your preservation gift doubled!**

Dear Patriotic Friend,

Travel back in time with me for a moment to 1894. The Civil War had been over for almost 30 years. The veterans and civilians who had experienced the war firsthand were growing older, and America was growing fast. Roads and railroads were being built, and new buildings were going up across the country.

In the midst of this rapidly changing world, some forward-looking patriots and preservationists worried future generations might just forget — or never learn — what happened on the blood-stained soil where valiant men fought, bled, and died.

And so, with an eye to honoring our history and the brave fathers, sons, uncles, and brothers who sacrificed for it, the United States Congress took a major step and designated our nation's first five Civil War battlefield parks. *One of them was at Chattanooga. Another was at Shiloh — which, at the time of the battle in 1862, had been the bloodiest battle in American history.*

**When the U.S. Congress drew the boundaries for the Shiloh battlefield, it included tracts of land that were privately owned, but were important to telling the battle's story.** Over the years, many tracts were acquired by the National Park Service or later on by us, but 23 of the most significant battlefield acres remained unavailable. They were in private hands, dutifully stewarded by owners who weren't ready to sell — not for any price.

Now, I'm a patient man, and I've been at this a long time. I've waited out landowners before. *But 130 years might be a record.* Generation after generation, families held onto the land. Even in the last few decades, as the American Battlefield Trust and our partners have preserved so much additional land at Shiloh, especially on the southern and western fronts, these 23 acres were out of our reach.

Then, something amazing happened. Earlier this year, I got a call. They said, "*David, we've been caring for this land for a long time now, and now we'd like the American Battlefield Trust to take it over.*" I almost dropped the phone!

This is literally a ***once-in-130-years*** opportunity to save this land. And I can flat out guarantee you this — it won't ever come again. We have to raise \$490,000 to save this incredible property, as well as an additional half-acre of hallowed ground at Chattanooga. **And, here's some good news:** we already expect to receive nearly half of the money from preservation partners!

**But I can't get to the closing table without the rest. I need to raise the last \$280,000 in the next 45 days, if possible. Will you please make a gift *today*, knowing the impact of your generosity will be nearly **DOUBLED**?**

Let me tell you a little bit more about these two extraordinary properties that I'm hoping you're going to help me save ...

Turn back with me to April 1862, in southern Tennessee.

At the outset of the Battle of Shiloh, the Confederates had high hopes for an important strategic victory. They aimed to block the Union advance into Mississippi, and early in the battle, it seemed that they might succeed.

As night fell on the first day of battle, General Pierre G. T. Beauregard, who took command after General Albert Sidney Johnston was shot and bled to death, believed his army was victorious. In what might have been his fatal error, he called a halt to the attacks as darkness approached.

What he didn't know was that, during the night, thousands of additional Union troops arrived to reinforce Ulysses S. Grant's battered army. By daybreak, Federal forces numbered nearly 54,000 men near Pittsburg Landing, an advantage of 24,000 men over Beauregard's army. The greater numbers, and the tactical advantage they provided, proved to be decisive.



The park commemorates the April 6-7, 1862, 2-day battle that resulted in 23,746 casualties; more casualties than in all of America's previous wars combined.

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The Shiloh National Military Park was established on December 27, 1894.

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How significant were the events of this battle? Confederate President Jefferson Davis summed it up aptly, writing, *"When Sidney Johnston fell, it was the turning point of our fate; for we had no other hand to take up his work in the West."*

No wonder that, 32 years later, Shiloh — the very scene of this turning point — was chosen to be one of America's first five national military parks. The original 1894 boundary for this park even included the 23 acres we're working to save today as part of it!

My friend, oftentimes when I write to you, it's because we're fighting to protect our hallowed ground from a developer who would proceed to destroy those acres.

Nearly every day, our team must work to avert the threats that come from irresponsible developers, tech companies, and sometimes even from indifferent government officials. Oh, the stories I could tell you!

But the story of these particular 23 acres at Shiloh is very different. **For 130 years, the owners have loved, respected, and cared for the land.**

I think, like a lot of folks back then (and some today), they cherished their connection to history and living on hallowed ground. And they passed that down from generation to generation.

Now they want to ensure the land is preserved forever. I'm not only grateful they've chosen to have the land permanently protected — I'm *elated* that they've given us the opportunity to purchase it so it can be saved. We've built a reputation for doing things the right way — effectively and with integrity. That's not only a tribute to our team, it's also a tribute to you. You make our work possible!

These acres — which include a portion of the widow Mary Howell's farm and the field where Confederate Colonel Preston Pond sent two infantry regiments on the morning of April 6th — could not be incorporated into the park when Congress established it. But, 130 years later, it can happen now. All we need to do is raise \$280,000 in the next 45 days. **Please help.**

Now, let's travel in time again, this time jumping forward to November 1863.

Ulysses Grant had been given command of all Union forces in the west, and was pushing doggedly to break free from the rail hub at Chattanooga, where Confederate forces under General Braxton Bragg laid siege to the city, hoping to starve the Federal forces into surrender.

After three days of coordinated attacks at Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge, and Tunnel Hill, Grant and his men succeed in driving the Confederates out of their entrenched position at Chattanooga and into Georgia, effectively opening the way for General William Tecumseh Sherman's infamous March to the Sea soon after.

Thanks to members like you, the American Battlefield Trust has already saved 405 acres at Chattanooga. Today, we have an opportunity to save another piece of this major battlefield.

The parcel is small — just half an acre — but **take a look at the map I'm enclosing. It's right in the very center of the action!** Soldiers from three different Union brigades surged over the land as they fought upwards to drive the Confederates from Tunnel Hill.

I know *you* understand how preservation works. As I've said before, it's like putting a puzzle together. It takes all the pieces, each one equally important, to tell the full story of a battlefield. And this is no exception!

Once again, we'd be expanding the borders of one of the first five national Civil War battlefield parks. And once again, we'd be saving hallowed ground from a battle that had an enormous impact on the trajectory of the war.

I cannot stress enough just how important it is for us to protect this land now that it has become available ...

Chattanooga has been listed as one of the fastest-growing markets in the country and has recently

been designated a destination city. And just like Nashville and Charlotte, Chattanooga now has one of the hottest real estate markets in America, which means if we don't buy it now, there will be a new house, townhouse, or duplex built on it before you know it.

Is it expensive? Yes. Is it worth it? I would say again and emphatically, Yes! The tract has tremendous historical value. So we have to ask ourselves, *what's the price of our history? What's the price of heritage, and our national character?*

History was made on this half-acre. If I let this property slip through our fingers, I think we would all regret it.

That's why I'm turning to you now. You understand that ***hallowed ground is priceless.***

**And if you make a gift today, you have a chance to see your support nearly DOUBLED!**

I give all the credit in the world to the visionaries who set aside the land for those first five battlefield parks, and to all who have set aside battlefield land to be saved ever since.

The American Battlefield Trust exists to fulfill and expand what Americans started back in 1894. And that's to save our history before it gets paved over and forgotten, so that every American, and each new generation, can visit the places where men fought and died, and learn about their valor, courage, and honor. But, as you know so well, there is ***more work to be done.***

We have a tremendous track record of saving hallowed ground — nearly 60,000 acres so far — and that is largely because of you and your fellow members, coupled with the support of federal, state, and local grants to preserve these important lands. *But we don't always win.* In this past year, we lost a handful of battles to save land. Important acres that we desperately wanted to preserve were sold to wealthy developers for the construction of data warehouses, distribution centers, solar farms, and housing developments.

But these 23 acres in Tennessee? These two plots at Shiloh and Chattanooga where the Civil War and our nation's history turned? We can still save them. **If we hurry.**

Please make a gift now, so we can raise \$280,000 in the next 45 days and preserve both properties forever. When you do, your generosity will be DOUBLED!



'Til the battle is won,

*David N. Duncan*

David N. Duncan  
President

P.S. Every American can take their children or grandchildren to the battlefields we've helped to save and teach them about American history. But you can do even more. You can take friends and family to any of the battlefields in 25 states where we've worked together to preserve nearly 60,000 acres and say, ***"I helped save this."*** Please mail your gift at once, or go online to [battlefields.org/23acres](http://battlefields.org/23acres). Your support can go twice as far when you do!