



© Lynn Light Heller | American Battlefield Trust

We're nearly to the finish line
to save 15 hallowed acres at Gettysburg.

Please help us raise the remaining needed in time for

GETTYSBURG'S 162ND ANNIVERSARY

Dear Fellow Preservationist,

Just a little over two years ago, we embarked on one of the most important and ambitious efforts in our history: saving 15 acres of hallowed ground at Willoughby's Run, a key feature in the Battle of Gettysburg.

Today, we are in the final stretch of this campaign, and we need your help to ensure that this land is preserved forever.

A few years ago, this land seemed all but lost. The 15 acres at Willoughby's Run were sold to a local developer who planned to build a massive new apartment complex. This hallowed ground was going to be covered by as many as 112 apartments spread out over eight buildings of differing heights.

But, as you know, we don't give up easily. After months of negotiations and relentless appeals urging the developer to "do right by history," they agreed to sell it to us for the price of \$3 million.

What had seemed impossible was now within reach! We halted the development that would have paved over priceless historic acres in its tracks. But then we had to figure out how to raise the money ...

And \$3 million is no mere pocket change ... Fortunately, the developer allowed us to spread the payments over time, giving us a longer period to secure the needed funds. *Then*, an extremely generous supporter pledged to provide half the money, as long as we could raise the other half — \$1.5 million.

Backed by patriots and staunch preservationists like you, we made the first payment. I can't thank you enough!

Now we have to raise the remaining \$750,000, which will be matched to complete the donor's \$1.5 million challenge.

I know as well as you do that three-quarters of a million dollars is a tremendous amount of money. But I have some wonderful news — several generous supporters have just contributed a combined \$275,000, meaning we now have \$475,000 to go to ensure this land is saved forever.

We must raise the remaining funds and I don't want to wait. *And here's why ...*

AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST

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

BATTLEFIELDS.ORG

July 1st begins the 162nd anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg. It's the very day, 162 years ago, when the "*first blood at Willoughby's Run*" was drawn. On that day, I want to be able to say, *to you and to all of America*, that we have succeeded in saving these 15 acres in time for the anniversary!

Without a doubt, \$475,000 is a lot to raise. And I don't think for one minute raising this final amount is a slam dunk, especially when so many of you have contributed so much already.

But, my friend, we're so close. Just two years ago, saving this critical part of the Gettysburg battlefield seemed all but hopeless. And yet, we didn't give up. *YOU didn't give up!* And now we're just \$475,000 away from securing the land forever.

Every dollar you can contribute will bring us closer to victory.

And today, I have a very special offer for you. If you're able to give \$63 or more, I'll thank you with a free copy of our limited-edition book, published earlier this year, called ***Battle Maps of the Civil War: The Gettysburg Campaign!*** It's not available in bookstores but only from the American Battlefield Trust. I promise the compilation of 47 maps and descriptive text will be an essential part of your Civil War history collection.

Some might wonder why an organization of our size has committed so much in the way of time and resources for 15 acres. ***But I know you understand their significance ...***

These acres bore witness to the first moments of what would become the best-known battle ever fought on American soil. Considered by many a major turning point in the war, Gettysburg has long captivated students of history of all ages.

Tens of millions of Americans have traveled to Gettysburg to walk in the footsteps of their ancestors, to contemplate what they did there, and marvel at the flow of the Civil War's greatest battle. No one would want to see inappropriate development at one of the nation's most sacred sites.

Let's turn for a moment back to the history of this land.

In the early morning hours of July 1, Confederate troops began to gather just west of Gettysburg. Robert E. Lee ordered General Henry Heth to use great caution while waiting for more troops to arrive.

Nearby, Union cavalry commander General John Buford was employing the same caution — he knew the Union infantry, though marching hard to join them, was not yet on the field — his troopers had to delay any advance as long as possible.

But the battle would not wait any longer. As the 8th Illinois Cavalry crossed the target tract and adjacent area, they could see Tennessee, Alabama, and Mississippi troops cresting the ridge to the west. Messengers of death — Minie balls and Confederate artillery projectiles — began to fall, piercing the slow-moving waters of Willoughby's Run.



The Pennsylvania Memorial rises above a foggy scene on the Gettysburg battlefield. © Lynn Light Heller | American Battlefield Trust

Buford's men set up a stubborn line of battle near McPherson Ridge, trying to give Union infantry time to reach the scene. Some would say that the nation hung in the balance.

Soon, the Union foot soldiers, the infantry, moved through the grove of trees known as Herbst or McPherson's Woods, located above Willoughby's Run.

A soldier in the 2nd Wisconsin would later recall:

"The grove was our citadel, and it in itself furnished the means of a strong defense. Every tree was a breastwork, every log a barricade, every bush a cover and concealment, and we made good use of every defensive object."

Gaining strength, the Union General John Reynolds' men slammed into the Confederates near Willoughby's Run, driving their enemy back across the stream onto the very land we need to save, and capturing Gen. James Archer just steps from the creek.

By the time the sun set on July 1, General Reynolds was dead, the Confederates were in possession of the ridges west of Gettysburg, and the two sides combined had suffered more than 17,000 casualties — that day alone would have been the 12th bloodiest battle of the Civil War. The furious battle that raged on July 1 allowed time for the Union to occupy and fortify the heights south of Gettysburg, which would host much of the fighting for the two days to follow.

As fellow students of America's history, we can't help looking back and wondering what might have been.



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

What if those Union troops had not held off the Confederates during those crucial few hours? What if the trees and thickets on the banks of Willoughby's Run had not provided enough cover to hold off the Confederate advance?

Today, nearly 162 years later, we must ask ourselves a very different question:

What if the American Battlefield Trust hadn't acted over two years ago when we learned with horror that this very land was about to be developed with a sprawling complex of up to 112 apartments spread out over eight buildings?

There were so many obstacles in our way.

The development plans were drawn up. We didn't have the money. And while all Americans knew about Gettysburg, few knew about Willoughby's Run and the central role it played in the battle action of the first day.

But we knew our history. **We knew our duty**. And we knew we had allies like you, who would respond generously just as soon as I sounded the call for aid in this crucial effort.

Together, we raised the first \$750,000, which, when matched by our kind donor, was enough to pay for the first half.

And now, together once again, we must work urgently to raise the remaining funds — \$475,000 — to complete this preservation effort before July 1 in time for the 162nd anniversary of Gettysburg.

That will be something to celebrate!

Just as you can never ask a father or mother of multiple children “*who is their favorite,*” I would never tell you that this battlefield acre or that battlefield acre is more important than the other. Each is a critical puzzle piece in America’s story.

But I will say, these 15 acres are among the most meaningful to me. We have worked so hard, and battled so long to reach this day, and I would be incredibly, personally grateful to you if you would give now and bring us one step closer to a true preservation victory.

Please let me hear back from you as soon as possible, and please accept my deepest thanks for your generosity.

If you have just a few dollars to give, I will appreciate that. We must all do what we can!

But if you can give \$63 or more today, I hope you will let me send you your personal copy of *Battle Maps of the Civil War: The Gettysburg Campaign*.

This is a rare opportunity to ensure that the legacy of all those who fought, bled, and died at Willoughby’s Run will endure, to the 162nd Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg and beyond. **I know you value this irreplaceable history, as I do!**



Humbly awaiting your reply,

David N. Duncan
President



The Sachs covered bridge was used by both Union and Confederate Troops during the Civil War Battle of Gettysburg, July 1-3, 1863.
© Buddy Secor | American Battlefield Trust

P.S. Just a few years ago, saving this hallowed ground was all but hopeless — but we didn’t give up — YOU didn’t give up — and now we have the chance to save it for all future generations. Please don’t wait! I would be grateful if you could send your best gift today, so we can complete this preservation by July 1 and the 162nd anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg!



AMERICAN
BATTLEFIELD
TRUST ★ ★ ★

We're nearly to the finish line **to save 15 hallowed acres at Gettysburg.** Please help us raise the remaining needed in time for
**GETTYSBURG'S
162ND ANNIVERSARY**

*I am so grateful for the support you have already provided to this campaign. We are so close! Thank you for your help.
-David*

Dear Fellow Preservationist,

Just a little over two years ago, we embarked on one of the most important and ambitious efforts in our history: saving 15 acres of hallowed ground at Willoughby's Run, a key feature in the Battle of Gettysburg.

Today, we are in the final stretch of this campaign, and we need your help to ensure that this land is preserved forever.

A few years ago, this land seemed all but lost. The 15 acres at Willoughby's Run were sold to a local developer who planned to build a massive new apartment complex. This hallowed ground was going to be covered by as many as 112 apartments spread out over eight buildings of differing heights.

But, as you know, we don't give up easily. After months of negotiations and relentless appeals urging the developer to "do right by history," they agreed to sell it to us for the price of \$3 million.

What had seemed impossible was now within reach! We halted the development that would have paved over priceless historic acres in its tracks. But then we had to figure out how to raise the money ...

And \$3 million is no mere pocket change ... Fortunately, the developer allowed us to spread the payments over time, giving us a longer period to secure the needed funds. *Then*, an extremely generous supporter pledged to provide half the money, as long as we could raise the other half — \$1.5 million.

Backed by patriots and staunch preservationists like you, we made the first payment. I can't thank you enough!

Now we have to raise the remaining \$750,000, which will be matched to complete the donor's \$1.5 million challenge.

I know as well as you do that three-quarters of a million dollars is a tremendous amount of money. But I have some wonderful news — several generous supporters have just contributed a combined \$275,000, meaning we now have \$475,000 to go to ensure this land is saved forever.

We must raise the remaining funds and I don't want to wait. *And here's why ...*

July 1st begins the 162nd anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg. It's the very day, 162 years ago, when the "*first blood at Willoughby's Run*" was drawn. On that day, I want to be able to say, *to you and to all of America*, that we have succeeded in saving these 15 acres in time for the anniversary!

Without a doubt, \$475,000 is a lot to raise. And I don't think for one minute raising this final amount is a slam dunk, especially when so many of you have contributed so much already.

But, my friend, we're so close. Just two years ago, saving this critical part of the Gettysburg battlefield seemed all but hopeless. And yet, we didn't give up. *YOU didn't give up!* And now we're just \$475,000 away from securing the land forever.

Every dollar you can contribute will bring us closer to victory.

Some might wonder why an organization of our size has committed so much in the way of time and resources for 15 acres. ***But I know you understand their significance ...***

These acres bore witness to the first moments of what would become the best-known battle ever fought on American soil. Considered by many a major turning point in the war, Gettysburg has long captivated students of history of all ages.

Tens of millions of Americans have traveled to Gettysburg to walk in the footsteps of their ancestors, to contemplate what they did there, and marvel at the flow of the Civil War's greatest battle. No one would want to see inappropriate development at one of the nation's most sacred sites.

Let's turn for a moment back to the history of this land.

In the early morning hours of July 1, Confederate troops began to gather just west of Gettysburg. Robert E. Lee ordered General Henry Heth to use great caution while waiting for more troops to arrive.

Nearby, Union cavalry commander General John Buford was employing the same caution — he knew the Union infantry, though marching hard to join them, was not yet on the field — his troopers had to delay any advance as long as possible.

But the battle would not wait any longer. As the 8th Illinois Cavalry crossed the target tract and adjacent area, they could see Tennessee, Alabama, and Mississippi troops cresting the ridge to the west. Messengers of death — Minie balls and Confederate artillery projectiles — began to fall, piercing the slow-moving waters of Willoughby's Run.

Buford's men set up a stubborn line of battle near McPherson Ridge, trying to give Union infantry time to reach the scene. Some would say that the nation hung in the balance.



The Pennsylvania Memorial rises above a foggy scene on the Gettysburg battlefield. © Lynn Light Heller | American Battlefield Trust

Soon, the Union foot soldiers, the infantry, moved through the grove of trees known as Herbst or McPherson's Woods, located above Willoughby's Run.

A soldier in the 2nd Wisconsin would later recall:

"The grove was our citadel, and it in itself furnished the means of a strong defense. Every tree was a breastwork, every log a barricade, every bush a cover and concealment, and we made good use of every defensive object."

Gaining strength, the Union General John Reynolds' men slammed into the Confederates near Willoughby's Run, driving their enemy back across the stream onto the very land we need to save, and capturing Gen. James Archer just steps from the creek.

By the time the sun set on July 1, General Reynolds was dead, the Confederates were in possession of the ridges west of Gettysburg, and the two sides combined had suffered more than 17,000 casualties — that day alone would have been the 12th bloodiest battle of the Civil War. The furious battle that raged on July 1 allowed time for the Union to occupy and fortify the heights south of Gettysburg, which would host much of the fighting for the two days to follow.

As fellow students of America's history, we can't help looking back and wondering what might have been.

What if those Union troops had not held off the Confederates during those crucial few hours? What if the trees and thickets on the banks of Willoughby's Run had not provided enough cover to hold off the Confederate advance?

Today, nearly 162 years later, we must ask ourselves a very different question:

What if the American Battlefield Trust hadn't acted over two years ago when we learned with horror that this very land was about to be developed with a sprawling complex of up to 112 apartments spread out over eight buildings?

There were so many obstacles in our way.

The development plans were drawn up. We didn't have the money. And while all Americans knew about Gettysburg, few knew about Willoughby's Run and the central role it played in the battle action of the first day.

But we knew our history. **We knew our duty**. And we knew we had allies like you, who would respond generously just as soon as I sounded the call for aid in this crucial effort.

Together, we raised the first \$750,000, which, when matched by our kind donor, was enough to pay for the first half.



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

And now, together once again, we must work urgently to raise the remaining funds — \$475,000 — to complete this preservation effort before July 1 in time for the 162nd anniversary of Gettysburg.

That will be something to celebrate!

Just as you can never ask a father or mother of multiple children “*who is their favorite,*” I would never tell you that this battlefield acre or that battlefield acre is more important than the other. Each is a critical puzzle piece in America’s story.

But I will say, these 15 acres are among the most meaningful to me. We have worked so hard, and battled so long to reach this day, and I would be incredibly, personally grateful to you if you would give now and bring us one step closer to a true preservation victory.

Please let me hear back from you as soon as possible, and please accept my deepest thanks for your generosity.

If you have just a few dollars to give, I will appreciate that. We must all do what we can!

This is a rare opportunity to ensure that the legacy of all those who fought, bled, and died at Willoughby’s Run will endure, to the 162nd Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg and beyond. **I know you value this irreplaceable history, as I do!**



Humbly awaiting your reply,

David N. Duncan
President



The Sachs covered bridge was used by both Union and Confederate Troops during the Civil War Battle of Gettysburg, July 1-3, 1863.
© Buddy Secor | American Battlefield Trust

P.S. Just a few years ago, saving this hallowed ground was all but hopeless — but we didn’t give up — YOU didn’t give up — and now we have the chance to save it for all future generations. Please don’t wait! I would be grateful if you could send your best gift today, so we can complete this preservation by July 1 and the 162nd anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg!