



Civil War Preservation Trust

An American Heritage Land Preservation Organization

James Lighthizer
President

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Dear Friend,

Fifty-point bonus question for you:

What do the Civil War battlefields of Fort Donelson and Shiloh have in common?

Yes, both are Tennessee battlefields that witnessed the emergence of two dominant, towering figures of the Civil War – Ulysses S. Grant for the Union and Nathan Bedford Forrest for the Confederacy.

Yes, both battles were fought in early 1862, 146 years ago, nearly to the week.

And yes, they are two of the most important battles of the Western Theatre and the entire Civil War, with a combined 44,000 men killed, wounded, captured and missing.

But the answer I am looking for today is that they are both places where the Civil War Preservation Trust has saved hundreds of acres of hallowed ground . . .

. . . and where you and I have the opportunity to save 168 acres more today . . .

. . . nearly tripling every dollar you give by multiplying it into \$2.70!

I've sent you a special two-sided official CWPT battle map of each of these storied places.

Regarding the must-have-7-acre piece that we are saving at Ft. Donelson, respected historian Terrence Winschel tells us:

“Due to its location adjacent to the park entrance and proximity to the Visitor Center, it is probably the single-most important parcel currently not protected by the National Park Service or preserved by the Civil War Preservation Trust.”

The two parcels we are working to save at Shiloh – noted in yellow on your map, of course – total 161 acres, and Woody Harrell, Shiloh National Military Park superintendent tells us this about the larger of the two:

“Of all the land bordering Shiloh Battlefield, this piece is the most critical in terms of the potential negative impact on the historic viewshed, if it fell into the wrong hands and had any kind of inappropriate development.

“If CWPT can give us some help getting this into the park, people will be singing your praises 100 years from now.”

That's good enough for me, but I can understand you probably want a few more

details. Let me quickly brief you on this CWPT “2008 Tennessee Campaign”:

As I mentioned, these three areas of hallowed ground add up to a total of 168 acres. You and I will be adding 7 key acres at Fort Donelson, where CWPT has already saved a whopping 308 acres (CWPT-saved lands are always depicted in blue on your official maps).

We are adding 161 acres at Shiloh, where together we have previously saved 215 acres, and are getting ever closer to finishing the job there, creating a fully saved battlefield.

As I mentioned to you before, it was at Fort Donelson on a frigid February morning, then at Shiloh just 50 days later, where two rather unknown generals began to make their mark on American history.

In his new book, Men of Fire: Grant, Forrest and the Campaign that Decided the Civil War, historian Jack Hurst writes that prior to his victory at Fort Donelson, Grant “had yet to win a battle and barely clung to command of his army... Grant’s Confederate opponent, an obscure lieutenant colonel named Nathan Bedford Forrest, was similarly untested in battle.”

Both of these leaders delivered immortal remarks at Fort Donelson:

“No terms except an unconditional and immediate surrender can be accepted.”

— Ulysses S. Grant, Fort Donelson, Tennessee, February 16, 1862

“I did not come here for the purpose of surrendering my command.”

— Nathan Bedford Forrest, earlier that same morning

Once again, the estimable Terry Winschel weighs in on the historical significance of the land we are saving at Fort Donelson:

“Confederate earthworks that were part of the fort’s outer works are just within the boundary of the park at this location and run parallel to the tract. These works were manned by Col. John C. Brown’s Third Brigade of Brig. Gen. Simon Bolivar Buckner’s Division, and consisted of the 3d, 18th, and 32d Tennessee Infantry, and Capt. T. K. Porter’s Tennessee Battery.

“On February 15, 1862, Brig. Gen. Charles F. Smith’s Union division advanced across this parcel to strike the Confederate works, which helped seal the fate of the fort’s gallant defenders who surrendered the following day. Union victory launched Brig. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant into the national spotlight and opened the pathways of invasion to the Deep South along the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers.”

At the other end of the battlefield, on land previously saved by CWPT, Forrest led a charge against forces under General W.H.L. Wallace, and had the second horse of the day shot out from under him (Forrest would lose one more horse on this day, 29 throughout the course of the war).

After the full day of fighting, Confederate General Gideon Pillow inexplicably ordered his troops back to their original lines, relinquishing their gains of the day. The Confederate high command believed that the troops were too badly used up to fight any more, so they settled on the idea of surrendering them.

When Forrest learned that his superior officers had determined to give up the 13,500-man force, he stormed, “I did not come here for the purpose of surrendering my command, and I will not do it if they will follow me out.” Given permission to attempt a breakout, Forrest spent the rest of the night in preparations,

and was able to lead his own command and about 200 others on a daring escape.

It was also on that night that Grant penned his famous note that electrified the North. It was addressed to General Simon Bolivar Buckner, who had taken control of the Southern forces after both of his superior officers relinquished command:

“Sir: — Yours of this date proposing armistice and appointment of commissioners to settle terms of capitulation, is just received. No terms except an unconditional and immediate surrender can be accepted. I propose to move immediately upon your works.”

Just seven weeks later, these two titans would again be squaring off against each other, this time near a small country church called Shiloh.

After the Union army suffered a frightful pounding on April 6, 1862, General William T. Sherman said to his friend Grant, “We’ve had the devil’s own day, haven’t we?” To which Grant replied in his usual understated fashion, “Yes – lick ‘em tomorrow, though.”

In his memoirs, Grant writes, “To Sherman I told the story of Fort Donelson, and said that the same tactics would win at Shiloh,” that is, to aggressively push the Confederates.

On the other side of the Shiloh battle lines, most of the Confederate high command was convinced they had won, as General P.G.T. Beauregard telegraphed to Jefferson Davis in Richmond, a “TOTAL VICTORY.”

Forrest, however, was not so sure, and spent the night of April 6 - 7 scouting the fresh Union divisions arriving on the battlefield, and attempting to convince his superiors of the threat. He warned Confederate General James Chalmers that the Federals “are receiving reinforcements by the thousands, and if this army does not move between this and daylight, it will be whipped like hell before 10 o’clock tomorrow.”

Both Grant and Forrest looked into the immediate future and saw clearly what was going to happen.

As I look at the future of these 168 acres, I clearly see what will happen as well.

The total purchase price for these three parcels of \$846,900 – that’s a lot of money, to be sure.

But CWPT expects to receive \$125,000 from the federal Civil War Battlefield Preservation Program, plus is applying for additional state grants from the Tennessee Heritage Conservation Trust Fund in the amount of \$409,000, meaning that we will have matches totaling \$534,000, or 63 percent of the total!

This means that if CWPT can raise \$312,900, we can leverage those matching funds and save \$846,900 worth of land – a multiplier of your generosity of \$2.70!

I’ve said it before, but it still holds true – in this economy . . . in ANY economy . . . don’t you like the idea of a 270 percent return on your donation dollar?

But even more important than nearly tripling the value of your donation, I want to go back to what Woody Harrell, the superintendent of the national park at Shiloh, had to say:

“If CWPT can give us some help getting this into the park, people will be singing your praises 100 years from now.” Think about that for a moment, my friend . . .

. . . one hundred years from now, what will it be like to go to a Civil War battlefield? Sure, the

indefatigable Ed Bearss – at age 184 – will still be giving tours, but I imagine it will be a very different experience from what you and I know today.

Will there be high-definition, 3-D, holographic projections showing re-creations of the battle on the actual ground in real-time? Will I-Pods or other data devices become so widespread that people will just put in their earphones and have their tromps across this hallowed ground thoroughly narrated via satellite depending on where they are on the battlefield? Who knows what other technological advances are on the horizon?

I can't say for sure, but I can tell you this: one hundred years from now, the hallowed ground that you and I are saving today will definitely be the islands of green space and open space in the vast oceans of commercial development and sprawl.

I believe people will be drawn to these hallowed, sacred places and, surveying the teeming, cramped world in which they live, will sing your praises, saying, "Thank God our ancestors were forward thinking enough to see this coming, and generous enough of their time and treasure to save these places while they had the chance."

I also believe that as long as there are places for Americans to go to learn about their history, they will continue to WANT to learn about their history. If those places are erased from our national landscape, they may as well be erased from our national memory.

I hope you agree, and that you'll stand with me and CWPT today in this crucial effort to save 168 acres of Civil War battlefield land while multiplying your support by \$2.70.

When I divide \$312,900 (the amount CWPT needs to raise to match the \$534,000 in grants) by 168 acres, I get a per-acre cost of \$1,862, which matches the year in which both of these battles were fought – the Lord continues to work in mysterious ways!

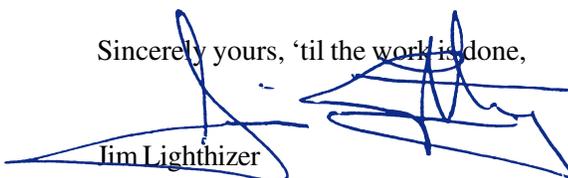
If you have the interest in saving a full acre for \$1,862, I will sing your praises, listing your name in an upcoming issue of CWPT's award-winning magazine, *Hallowed Ground*. (I wish I could list every single supporter, but that would mean either so many pages of names that the magazine would begin to resemble a phone book, or the print would be so small as to need a magnifying glass! I apologize.)

You can save one-half of an acre for \$931, 1/4 of an acre for \$466, 1/8 of an acre at \$233, 1/16 of an acre for \$116, and 1/32 of an acre for just \$58.

To express my thanks for your participation in this crucial matching campaign, for your gift of \$58 or more, I will send you a FREE Trailhead Graphics map of the Shiloh Battlefield. This highly detailed map shows the location of every key point of action, every monument and every historical marker – even if you never leave the comfort of your couch, after a few minutes with this map, you'll feel like you've had your own private tour!

Thank you once again for all you have done, and all that you continue to do, to save our nation's Civil War battlefields. I don't know what I would do without you. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely yours, 'til the work is done,



Jim Lighthizer
President

P.S. Again, every \$1 is turned into \$2.70 for this CWPT "2008 Tennessee Campaign" – will you help today?