



Civil War Preservation Trust

Saving America's Endangered Civil War Battlefields

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November 21, 2008

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Dear Fellow Battlefield Preservationist,

I know that at this time of year, your time is very valuable, so I will get right to the point:

Right now, CWPT has closed on two crucial Virginia "Summer of 1864" Civil War battlefield tracts, a 14-acre tract at the epicenter of The Battle of Reams Station, and a small-but-crucial 1-acre parcel at The Battle of Trevilian Station, which contains an original house that served as General George Custer's headquarters during the battle!

While not the largest transactions we have ever gone after, both are tremendously significant and – just as important in these days of a still-uncertain economy – affordable!

At Reams Station, today, you and I have a chance to save 14 acres at the very heart of this key American battlefield, linking nearly every acre of land that has been previously saved there over the past decade.

Even better, with a powerful match from a federal transportation enhancement (TE) grant, CWPT can quadruple the power of your generosity! That means we are buying this \$150,000 property with just \$30,000 of our own funds.

At Trevilian Station, we are saving a key 1-acre parcel that not only adds to the 1,454 acres that have already been saved there, but by purchasing the historic house where General Custer had his headquarters, we are setting the stage for the local Trevilian Station Battlefield Foundation to eventually take ownership of the house as a future museum and visitors' center.

By the way, CWPT does not usually purchase buildings – you know that we focus almost exclusively on buying "dirt," that is, historically significant battlefield land.

But in this case, the property with the home was scheduled to be auctioned off at a foreclosure sale, and was being eyed as the site of a new convenience store or possibly a junk yard, so we believed it was in the best interest of the battlefield to save it.

To help cover the \$74,000 purchase price, we have applied for a \$25,000 grant from the special Virginia Civil War Sites Historic Preservation Fund, which would mean we need raise \$49,000 in matching funds.

When you combine these two "Summer of '64" transactions together, we are saving \$224,000 worth of crucial, heart-of-the-battlefield land for \$79,000, meaning that every \$1 you give today is turned into \$2.84.

I don't know about you, but in a world where the stock market can drop 20 percent in a week, any opportunity to earn a 284% return on your gift-giving dollar

sounds like a pretty good investment to me!

Let me quickly brief you on this extraordinary opportunity to save two crucial chapters of America's history and heritage . . .

As you can see from your official CWPT troop-movement map and satellite image of these battlefields, the historic land that we are working to save at Reams Station nearly completes the epicenter of this August 25, 1864 battle. It joins the two parcels west of Halifax Road (previously saved by CWPT) and a large parcel which was previously preserved by The Conservation Fund, but is now part of the Petersburg National Battlefield.

Here is a wonderful description of the historic significance of this battle, provided by our friends at The History Channel and their "This Day in History" website feature:

"Confederate troops secure a vital supply line into Petersburg, Virginia, when they halt destruction of the Weldon and Petersburg Railroad by Union troops.

"The railroad, which ran from Weldon, North Carolina, was a major supply line for General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. For more than two months, Lee had been under siege at Petersburg by General Ulysses S. Grant's Army of the Potomac.

"Grant had tried to cut the rail line in June and again in August. On August 18, his troops succeeded in capturing a section of the track, but the Confederates simply began to stop the trains further south of Petersburg and haul the supplies by wagon into the city.

"Grant responded by ordering his troops to tear up the track and move further south. Soldiers from General Winfield Hancock's corps tore up eight miles of rail, but Lee moved quickly to halt the operation. On August 25, General Ambrose P. Hill's infantry and General Wade Hampton's cavalry were ordered to attack the Federals at Ream's Station, and they drove the Yankees into defensive positions.

"The Union earthworks, hastily constructed the day before, were arranged in a square shape that was too small and so Confederate shells easily passed over the top. The green troop in Union General John Gibbon's division was unnerved by the bombardment, and a Confederate attack broke through the Yankee lines. The Union force retreated in disarray.

"Hancock's corps lost 2,700 men, most of whom were captured during the retreat. Hill and Hampton lost just 700. The battle was a stinging defeat for Hancock's proud Second Corps, which had held the Union line against Pickett's charge at Gettysburg, and was considered among the best in the Army of the Potomac. Gibbon and Hancock blamed each other for the disaster, and both soon left their positions in the Second Corps."

So today, you and I have a chance to save an additional 14 acres at the heart of this significant story.

Now, at Trevilian Station, which is becoming one of the best-preserved Civil War battlefields in the nation, Virginia's railroads once again play a starring role.

Shortly after the Battle of Cold Harbor, Union General Ulysses S. Grant unleashed cavalry commander General Phil Sheridan, and commanded him to ride towards Charlottesville and cut the Virginia Central Railroad. The line was supplying Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia, which was engaged in a life-or-death struggle with Grant's Army of the Potomac around Richmond and Petersburg.

Sheridan and his horsemen pounded toward Charlottesville, 60 miles northwest of Richmond. Confederate General Wade Hampton, commander of the southern cavalry since General J.E.B. Stuart's death in May 1864, got wind of Sheridan's move and rushed to intercept the northern forces. On the

morning of June 11, Union General George Custer's men attacked Hampton's supply train near Trevilian Station. Although they scored an initial success, Custer soon found himself almost completely surrounded by Confederate cavalry.

Custer formed his men into a triangle and made several counterattacks before Sheridan came to his rescue in the late afternoon, taking 500 Southern prisoners in the process.

The first day of the battle belonged to the Union, but not the all-day slugfest on the second. With his ammunition running low and his cavalry perilously far from its supply line, at 10:00 p.m. Sheridan finally withdrew his forces and returned to the Army of the Potomac. He managed to destroy about five miles of rail line, and both sides paid a high price. Sheridan lost 735 men compared to nearly 1,000 for Hampton.

Today, as you can see from your official CWPT battle map, the one acre we are saving today is small when compared to other 1,475 acres saved there – but the home that still stands on the property is the same one where Custer made his headquarters.

According to local accounts, Custer actually slept on the front porch that night, because one of the young Trevilian daughters was inside, bedridden, extremely ill with typhoid fever.

And remember – CWPT usually just buys battlefield land. But in this special case, we're buying this house because it is important to the battlefield and to telling the story of this chapter of the American Civil War, and if we had not stepped in to purchase it, it was going to auction, and likely demolished to make way for another convenience store or junk yard, directly on the battlefield!

In the long run, we hope to turn it over to the Trevilian Station Battlefield Foundation, who will maintain it, and use it as a visitors' center and museum, truly making it a must-see destination for travelers interested in our nation's history.

And approaching 1,500 preserved acres, Trevilian Station is now nearly twice the size of New York's Central Park, and will continue to be an oasis of open, undeveloped space in Richmond and Charlottesville's rapidly growing suburbs.

So there you have it – \$224,000 worth of vitally historic hallowed ground that you and I can save today for \$79,000, a multiplication of your donation dollar into \$2.84.

If you will allow me to digress for just a moment for a personal story, I would like to tell you that I recently celebrated one of the most joyous events of my life, the birth of my first grandchild, a beautiful, healthy baby boy.

And as I held that new life in my hands for the first time, I became acutely aware of two timeless truths:

First, whether we like it or not, time does indeed march on, and . . .

Second, tied as we are from generation to generation, we each have a deep obligation – not only to our own children and grandchildren – but also to all who come after us, to leave this world a better place than we found it.

Clearly, you believe as I do that by saving America's Civil War battlefields we are leaving a lasting legacy for those future generations. Your dedication to preserving our country's history – exhibited so vividly by your many contributions to the Civil War Preservation Trust, especially in this economy – is awe inspiring, and I thank you.

As I have gotten a little "more mature" over the years, I have come to value the importance

of preserving the lessons of our nation's past, as a means to securing our future. The places where our history was made – and especially those places associated with the Civil War – resonate with me particularly.

You and I both know they don't teach nearly enough history in schools anymore. (CWPT's website, annual Teacher Institute and other education programs are working ceaselessly to fill an enlarging gap in our nation's historical literacy.)

And when today's young people aren't getting tattoos or tribal piercings, too many of them are plugged in to their iPods, video games, and smart phones.

But I truly believe that in every life there comes a time when we all yearn to know more about where we came from.

You and I have already saved 25,000 acres of some of America's most important historic places so that, when that interest is finally awakened, those young people will be able to "un-plug" and go stand on the exact spots where great deeds were performed for them, and hopefully understand a little better the unique legacy with which they have been blessed.

Today, you have it within your power to ensure that even more of this precious hallowed ground is preserved forever. That, my friend, is a significant legacy.

You already know that CWPT is one of the most effective and efficient non-profit organizations in America, and one that has been a good steward of your generosity. I hear time and time again from members who say they support this mission because "CWPT does what it says it is going to do" with member contributions and our progress is tangible and measurable.

So, if you are ready to make the preservation of America's hallowed ground an even more prominent part of your personal legacy . . .

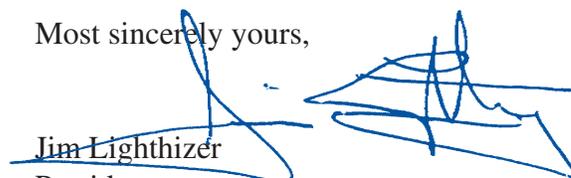
If you want to ensure that the fruits of your life's work are distributed in a way that reflects your personal values, wishes and intent . . .

And if you want to leave the world a better place for your grandchildren and mine, then I urge you to make a year-end leadership gift to the Civil War Preservation Trust.

Whether your desire is to save hallowed acres at Ream's or Trevilian Station . . . whether it is important to you to help us prevent Walmart from destroying the sanctity of The Wilderness Battlefield . . . or whether it is just your belief that CWPT's mission is important and must be supported, you can continue to make a huge impact today.

I thank you very much for your time, and thank you for seriously considering making yet another major contribution to the cause of historic battlefield preservation.

Most sincerely yours,



Jim Lighthizer
President

P.S. It's that time of year again . . . please enjoy and use the enclosed CWPT address labels, with my compliments. Each one features our website address, so by using them, you are helping to spread the word about our crucial mission. I cannot say it too much: Thank you!