



**SHENANDOAH
VALLEY
BATTLEFIELDS**
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Shenandoah Valley
Battlefields Foundation

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The Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation is the managing entity of the federally designated Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District.

KEVEN M. WALKER
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dear Friend of American History,

We have a chance to save 108 acres of core battlefield on the historic Barb Farm at Fisher's Hill.

This farm has been owned for decades by the Foster family, who have lovingly cared for the property, keeping it virtually unchanged from its 1864 appearance. Now, they have agreed to allow us to preserve the property; to keep it forever safe from development; to keep it forever preserved as the pristine battlefield landscape that it is.

This is 108 acres of core battlefield – unspoiled and unchanged – land that played a key role in the Battle of Fisher's Hill on September 21-22, 1864. And we have a golden opportunity to save it.

Before I explain the details, let me tell you more about why this property is so important.

When Confederate Gen. Jubal A. Early's army suffered their crushing defeat at Third Winchester on September 19, 1864, Early and his battered army moved south to Fisher's Hill, the formidable ridgeline that was known as "The Gibraltar of the Valley." Union Gen. Philip H. Sheridan's army pursued quickly, and by September 21 the two armies faced off again.

While Fisher's Hill was a strong position, bristling with gun batteries dug into reinforced earthworks, the strength of Early's army and the position was concentrated from their center to their right. Early's left was much less formidable. His left flank rested on the Barb Farm near the foot of Little North Mountain, along the old Back Road. Here, the terrain was lower, making for a weaker defensive position. And the topographical weakness was exacerbated by how Early had arranged his troops. His left – his weakest defensive ground – was defended by dismounted cavalry and far fewer guns than he had posted on the more easily defensible ground on his right.

On the morning of September 22, 1864, as the weaknesses of his position became more obvious, Early became concerned. He decided he would withdraw his command after dark and move south up the Valley to a new position at Rude's

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Hill, just north of New Market.

But Sheridan and his lieutenants had other plans. That afternoon, the Army of West Virginia, an entire corps of Sheridan's army, would come crashing down the side of Little North Mountain, screaming that "old familiar West Virginia yell" in an attack that would crash into the Confederate's vulnerable left flank – in large part on the Barb Farm.

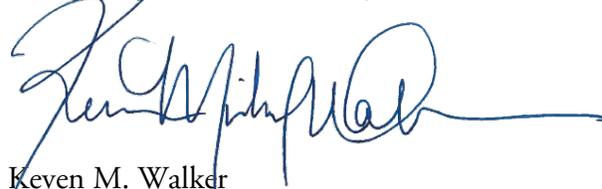
The Federal onslaught that would decide the battle – and the Confederates' desperate struggle to meet it – **began on the property that I need you to help preserve.** We have an opportunity to save a critical, decisive part of the battlefield.

This is an amazing opportunity. You may have noticed that these opportunities, and these appeals for help, are coming faster than ever before. That's because we are in a race against time, and you and I must muster all the support we need to meet these threats, seize these opportunities, and save these battlefields. Just like that all or nothing struggle in the Valley 155 years ago, we are locked in attempt to protect this Valley before it is lost forever – to save hundreds, indeed, thousands of acres before it is too late. We are fighting on at New Market. We fighting on at Winchester. We are fighting on at Cross Keys and Port Republic. We're fighting on along the ridgelines at McDowell. And we are fighting on at Fisher's Hill – at the Barb Farm.

The cost to preserve these critical 108 acres at Fisher's Hill is \$497,382. We've been able to secure federal and state funding to cover \$450,000 of those costs, but **we need your help to raise the remaining \$47,382** – funds that pay for the surveys, appraisals, environmental assessments, and legal fees that it will take to get this project off the ground. Only \$47,382 to preserve 108 acres of prime, unspoiled battlefield – **just \$443 an acre.** Only \$47,382 to secure \$450,000 – meaning that **we will be able to match your donation by more than 9 to 1.**

The only thing that stands between us and the preservation of these 108 acres of hallowed ground is our resolve. So here is the question: do you and I have what it takes to not only defend Fisher's Hill, but to launch this new attack and to seize these 108 acres for future generations?

I know that we do – because I know how much you care. With your support, we can achieve our next great preservation victory. **Please do all that you can to help.**



Keven M. Walker
Chief Executive Officer