



**SHENANDOAH
VALLEY**

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Dear Friend of American History:

I have some extremely exciting news! You and I are now on the cusp of saving a critical battlefield property – key to the Gettysburg Campaign - and in almost pristine condition – and over 150 acres! Not only that, but with the deal we've been able to pull together, we can leverage every dollar that you invest to save this core battlefield, multiplying the buying power of your contribution more than 53 times!

I am coming to you with one of the best preservation opportunities that I have ever heard of and I'm asking for your help to get it done. **If we can raise \$144,450, you and I can save more than 150 acres of the Second Winchester Battlefield – land valued at over \$7.6 million dollars! That's a match of more than 53 to 1!**

Financially, this is the largest transaction we have ever tackled – the most expensive deal that we have ever attempted to close. This amazing opportunity only exists because of the extreme generosity of the landowners; the funds available through the American Battlefield Protection Program; an \$80,000 contribution from our partners at the American Battlefield Trust; and significant contributions from several of our long-term donors.

And this is our last chance... the last chance to save a property that the preservation community first attempted to protect almost two decades ago. **This property, the McCann Farm, has remained virtually untouched and unchanged** since the great armies of the Gettysburg campaign raged across it in June of 1863, **but development has steadily crept ever nearer.** Now, with the economy booming in Frederick County and the City of Winchester growing in leaps and bounds, this property, just minutes from the center of the city, has become extremely valuable and is slated for development. **The time to save it – the last chance to save it – is now.**

Situated immediately north of Winchester along the Valley turnpike, this area was part of a vast and open agrarian landscape that in the 1860's was cut only by the turnpike and a single-track rail line. Because of its location, **the property was enveloped by fighting during three battles**, including Rutherford's Farm and Third Winchester – **but it was during the Second Battle of Winchester that the property figured most prominently into the history of the war.** Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia had climbed over the Blue Ridge into the Shenandoah Valley on what would be their route of invasion into Pennsylvania. While much of his force marched further east through Front Royal to Berryville and on toward the Potomac River crossings, Lee sent Gen. Richard Ewell's Corps farther west to address the threat presented by the Federal force at

Winchester, commanded by Union Gen. Robert H. Milroy. If Lee was to continue his advance into Pennsylvania, the Federals at Winchester would have to be captured, destroyed, or driven north.

The action that ensued – the Second Battle of Winchester – stretched over three days and culminated with the Federals desperately trying to escape the city, only to be cut off by a part of Ewell's force under the command of Gen. Allegheny Johnson. When Johnson's Confederates opened fire on the Union soldiers marching in desperation northward on the Valley Pike, the Federals made one last desperate attempt to cut and slash their way out – a maneuver that played out on the target property. **The fighting roared across the McCann Farm** with Louisiana troops filing in behind the railroad embankment and leveling fire across the farm toward the Federals on the pike. **On the north end of the target property the fighting became desperate; while on the southern end Federals attempted to break out to the east** by charging across the McCann Farm, only to be captured before they could escape.

The Second Battle of Winchester was one of the most resounding Confederate victories of the war; an almost perfect success. Thousands of Union soldiers capitulated in one of the largest surrenders of United States troops in the nation's history. Those that were not captured were scattered in small bands as they struggled to get away. Milroy was humiliated, and Lee's army continued their march north on an invasion that would reach its zenith at Gettysburg.


Take a look at the map that I've included with this letter and you will see how amazing this property is, and just why we must save it. Once protected, we can begin the work of restoring this portion of the Second Winchester battlefield to its appearance in 1863, and **opening it to the public as the beginning of a new battlefield park** – but we have to save it first. To help us do just that, some of our amazing friends and partners have come to our aid and contributed significant sums to get this project of the ground.

Of them, none has done more than the **American Battlefield Trust**, who answered our call for help by immediately pledging \$80,000 toward this effort. Though it may seem like a small amount in light of the more than \$7.6 million price tag, **this project would not have happened without that support.** Not only did they commit the funding, but they came in with their pledge of assistance early in the project – a move that encouraged others to come to the table and helped raise the hundreds of thousands needed for the initial down payment. I cannot overstate the importance of our partnership with ABT, and this is just the latest example of how they continue to do what they can to help us save this Valley. Preservation of the McCann property would probably not have reached this point without them...

And it might not be saved without you.

We need to raise \$144,450. Federal funding and support already secured will do the rest. **This might just be one of the greatest preservation success stories of the modern preservation movement.** It's been almost 20 years in the making, but we are finally here, and all the heavy hitters in the battlefield preservation community are rallying together to save this critical battlefield of the Gettysburg campaign. **Now we need you to join the effort.** With your help, our victory on the McCann farm can be as complete as Lee's...

With Warm Regards and Sincere Gratitude,


Keven Walker
Chief Executive Officer

PS: Join us on September 25th for a tour of the McCann Farm as part of our 25th Anniversary celebration in Winchester!



View of Target Property looking northeast from over the Valley Pike with newer development in the foreground