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VALLEY
BATTLEFIELDS**
NATIONAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

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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 Fellow Preservationist,

402 acres of battlefield can be saved for just \$20,000 and we can do it before the end of the year!

That's a heck of a way to start a letter, but there's no better way to explain why I'm coming to you in the middle of the holiday season with another ask for help. You and I have the opportunity to protect 402 critical acres of the Fisher's Hill Battlefield, and **thanks to the generosity of the family who owns the land**, we don't have to buy the protective easement – **we only have to raise the money it will cost to get the easement done and recorded!** This is an amazingly generous offer that enables us to preserve 402 acres that otherwise would remain unprotected – risking not only this property but the viewshed of almost the entire battlefield.

As you know, we have several ongoing projects at Fisher's Hill – a battle of extreme consequence – and a battlefield on which we've been able to make enormous headway toward preserving substantial acreage and opening those acres to the public. It hasn't been easy. Access issues; easement negotiations; funding requirements and grant schedules have all complicated what, for you and I, is pretty straightforward – saving this hallowed ground before it's lost forever. We have invested hundreds of thousands of dollars at Fisher's Hill and have hundreds of thousands more to go. **But in this moment – in what could almost be called an early Christmas present – preservation at Fisher's Hill is simple.** If we can raise the funds needed to pay for the survey appraisal, legal fees, and other costs and fees for creating and recording this easement, **the landowners will donate the value of the easement itself!** This is a **donation worth hundreds of thousands of dollars.**

So what ground are we talking about? These 402 acres are on the western end of the Fisher's Hill Battlefield, on high ground along Little North Mountain. **It was the site where the Army of West Virginia**, under the command of General George Crook, **arrived after their secretive flank march and from where they launched an attack** that would crush the Confederate left and win the battle for the Union. I've included a map with this letter, and a quick look will clearly show the importance of this property. If you study the map, you will see several parcels marked as ongoing projects, and even more marked as already preserved. When combined, all of these parcels represent the

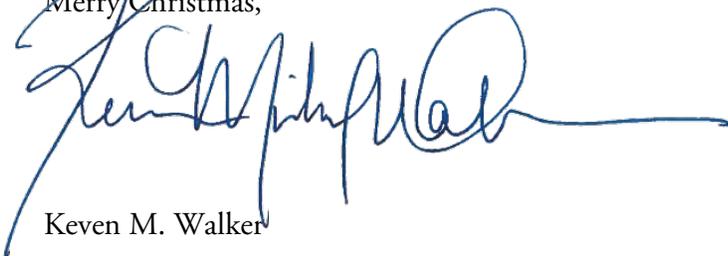
amazing effort that you and all of our friends across the country have been making to save the Fisher's Hill Battlefield. We're slugging it out daily to complete the projects that we already have underway, but this new opportunity is too good not to bring it to you and ask for your help.

If we can come together to raise the \$20,000 needed, we are going to partner with the Land Trust of Virginia to co-hold a perpetual preservation easement on this battlefield property and the pre-war structures situated there. The Land Trust of Virginia is a fantastic and well-known conservation organization that has protected thousands of acres across the Commonwealth. This will be the first project that we will complete together, and represents a partnership that brings the strengths of both organizations to bear in a way that provides optimal protection and stewardship for this property. I'm extremely excited about saving these 402 acres, and very excited to be partnering with the Land Trust of Virginia to get it done. Think about it – **an easement on 402 acres, the value of which is over \$1.3 million – and all we have to come up with is \$20,000.** Actually, it's better than that . . .

Childs Burden, a longtime Trustee and benefactor of the Battlefields Foundation, has been shepherding discussions with the family that owns this property, and was the crucial link that brought us together with the Land Trust of Virginia. Not only has he quietly kept negotiations for this deal moving forward, he **has pledged the first \$3,000 toward what we need to get this done!** That means **you and I only need to raise an additional \$17,000 and these 402 acres** where the Army of West Virginia stormed into history **will be saved forever.** Childs, who has already done so much for us, is once again leading the way – this time toward a Victory at Fishers Hill!

I'm asking you to follow Childs to the front and do what you can to save these 402 acres. When you stand on that hillside today and peer down through the woods you can almost hear the West Virginians yelling as they attack. We have to save this property – protect this hallowed ground – and keep future development on this high elevation from ruining the historic integrity of the rest of this battlefield. If I know you as well as I think I do, we're going to raise the funds we need – and if we raise more it will help us complete the projects already underway at this battlefield... **and set us on the path to creating another major battlefield park in the Shenandoah Valley.** I look forward to hearing from you.

Merry Christmas,



Keven M. Walker