



## James Lighthizer President

**AT THE DRAMATIC BATTLE OF SECOND MANASSAS, THE FIGHTING WAS SO BLOODY THAT SOME MEN BELIEVED THEY WERE IN THE "VORTEX OF HELL" ...**

**...TODAY, I ASK YOU TO "DIG IN" TO HELP US SAVE A CRUCIAL PART OF THAT HALLOWED GROUND - LAND SO SIGNIFICANT THAT SOME PEOPLE WERE WILLING TO PUT THEIR HOUSES ON THE LINE TO SAVE IT !**

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Dear Friend,

Today, will you help make history by saving history?

Will you help the Civil War Preservation Trust protect a tract of battlefield land so valuable that some people were willing to put their own homes up as collateral to buy it?

And will you step forward today to help preserve America's endangered and rapidly disappearing Civil War heritage?

I hope you will, and that's why I have rushed you a special map showing the battle lines of the Union and Confederate forces in the pivotal Battle of Second Manassas on the evening of August 29, 1862.

As you look at this map, recall it was here that Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson and his 24,000 men, having marched 54 miles in 36 hours, dug in and held on against Union General John Pope and his 65,000 boys in blue.

On ground scarcely a mile from where the first battle of Manassas was fought 13 months earlier, Jackson's "foot cavalry" made their stand, awaiting the arrival of James Longstreet's corps.

During three days of heavy fighting - the most ferocious and bloody combat of the war to that point - the armies were locked in a death struggle that surged back and forth across hills, woods and country roads.

Recently, however, 136 acres of this hallowed ground was in danger of being destroyed, overwhelmed by urban sprawl.

On the map I sent to you, please find the section of the battlefield on the left of the Confederate line that I highlighted for you. Noted historian John Hennessy (author of



Return to Bull Run) has said of this 136-acre tract of land,

"You would be hard pressed to find a more significant tract . . . [it is] at the top of a list of unprotected land at Manassas. There is no other land to which I would direct you before this one."

It was on this ground where, late on August 29<sup>th</sup>, portions of General A.P. Hill's Confederate division were driven back by Billy Yanks under pugnacious, one-armed Union General Phil Kearny.

It was on this ground that Confederate Brigadier General Maxcy Gregg unsheathed his grandfather's Revolutionary War sword and paced his near-shattered lines exhorting, "Let us die here, men, let us die here."

And it was on this ground that General Jubal Early's Confederates vigorously counterattacked, leading one Pennsylvania soldier to recount, "Flesh and blood could stand such butchery no longer."

Thankfully, this tract of hallowed ground, which is situated directly next to the Manassas Battlefield National Park, has been relatively untouched for 138 years.

Just recently, however, this tract of hallowed ground was the scene of another battle, a struggle against the relentless onslaught of commercial land development that is engulfing the suburbs of Washington, D.C.

And unless we moved and moved quickly, this land could have been developed and its historic significance erased forever.

The Civil War Preservation Trust worked closely with a local preservation group called the Sudley Mountain/Stony Ridge Civic Association to raise the \$630,000 purchase price of this historic land.

It was necessary to take out a loan for part of that amount. As I mentioned before, some members of this local group felt so strongly that this land must be preserved, they were willing to put their homes up as collateral for a loan, counting on the Civil War Preservation Trust's help in raising the rest of the funds.

Thankfully, by committing \$300,000 from the CWPT special reserve of emergency funds we have set aside for land purchases, we were able to save the full 136 acres . . .

. . . but now we have nearly nothing left in our reserves

for any future emergencies.

I would never dream of asking you to come up with \$630,000 to buy the entire land parcel, or even to put your house up as collateral for a loan.

But would you be willing to help the CWPT buy a few square feet of hallowed ground, like this land at Second Manassas?

What if I told you that for just over ten-and-a-half cents, you could pay for a square foot of this hallowed ground?

That's right, for exactly 10.6 cents per square foot, you can help the Civil War Preservation Trust replenish our reserves and preserve forever that vital part of the Second Manassas battlefield, as well as help further our work on behalf of our nation's other threatened battlefields.

Just think . . . your Membership donation today of \$26 would help preserve 245 square feet of hallowed ground . . . \$35 will help save 330 square feet . . . \$50 will save 472 square feet.

If every American such as you who cares about our Civil War heritage agreed to save just a few hundred or a few thousand square feet, pretty soon we would - we will - have enough to keep the bulldozers at bay forever.

Please take another look at the battlefield map I sent you. And while you're looking at the 136-acre tract we went so far out on a limb to save, I want you to notice something else about that map: its size.

It is exactly 12 inches by 12 inches... one square foot.

For just a few pennies per square foot, you will be part of helping to protect the land where, as one Confederate reported:

"I took part in the battles at Gettysburg and Chickamauga... but I saw more dead and wounded on this field than in either."

For an amount of change that you might not even bother to pick up off the sidewalk, you can help us save a section of land as big as the map you hold in your hand.

You will be helping to save land where casualties approached 50 percent in certain regiments. After three days of fighting, more than 3,000 dead and 15,000 wounded - North and South - covered the hills and fields of Second Manassas.

Never before in the war had a battle been so big or so bloody. But it was only the opening act: less than a month later,



these armies clashed again on the banks of Antietam creek, producing the single bloodiest day in American history.

Here is the bottom line: to save these many monuments to American courage, valor and sacrifice, sanctified by the blood of our ancestors, we need your help now.

By sending your generous membership donation today, you are telling me that you want this land saved.

On the enclosed "Honorary CWPT Deed", please indicate exactly how many square feet of land you are willing to help us save. (Of course, you won't actually "own" the land, but you can be rightly proud of your efforts to help preserve it.)

If this ground is important enough for people to offer to put up their homes as collateral, you know it is important enough to preserve for future generations of Americans.

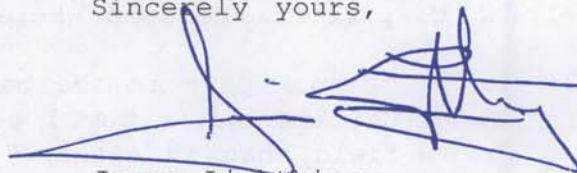
Can I count on you to help us meet this challenge by sending your most generous possible membership donation today?

With any donation of \$26 or above, I will make you a full member of the Civil War Preservation Trust, eligible for all benefits, including our full-color quarterly magazine, *Hallowed Ground*.

The Board of Trustees, our small yet dedicated staff and I are all counting on you. Please send back your reply and generous donation as soon as possible, hopefully within the next five days.

The Civil War Preservation Trust cannot succeed without your immediate help. Thank you very, very much.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'James Lighthizer', with a stylized flourish at the end.

James Lighthizer  
President

P.S. Once we lose a historic treasure such as the Second Manassas battlefield, it can never be reclaimed. That's why your membership contribution today is so important. Please let me hear from you right away. Thank you again.

Please visit our website at [www.civilwar.org](http://www.civilwar.org).