

Edwin C. Bearss
Historian Emeritus, National Park Service

Dear Prospective Member,

I write to you today as a fellow American with a lifelong passion for Civil War history, and as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Civil War Preservation Trust.

The 621,000 citizen soldiers who died in the Civil War don't have a monument on the Mall in Washington, D.C., to commemorate their sacrifices. America's Civil War battlefields are their monuments, and I hope you agree that we cannot allow their legacy, their struggle and their memory to be erased from our national consciousness.

The reality, however, is that these fields of valor are rapidly disappearing on our watch. If we fail to rally to their defense now, history will not give us a second chance.

Working with local preservation groups, members of state and national legislatures, the National Park Service and individuals just like you, the CWPT has saved more than 11,000 acres at nearly 60 sites in 16 states. That's a good start, but it is only a small portion of what remains to be preserved.

Today, I ask you to help lead us on to even greater victories by accepting membership in the Civil War Preservation Trust. We need your help, before these hallowed grounds are lost forever. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Edwin C Bearss

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