



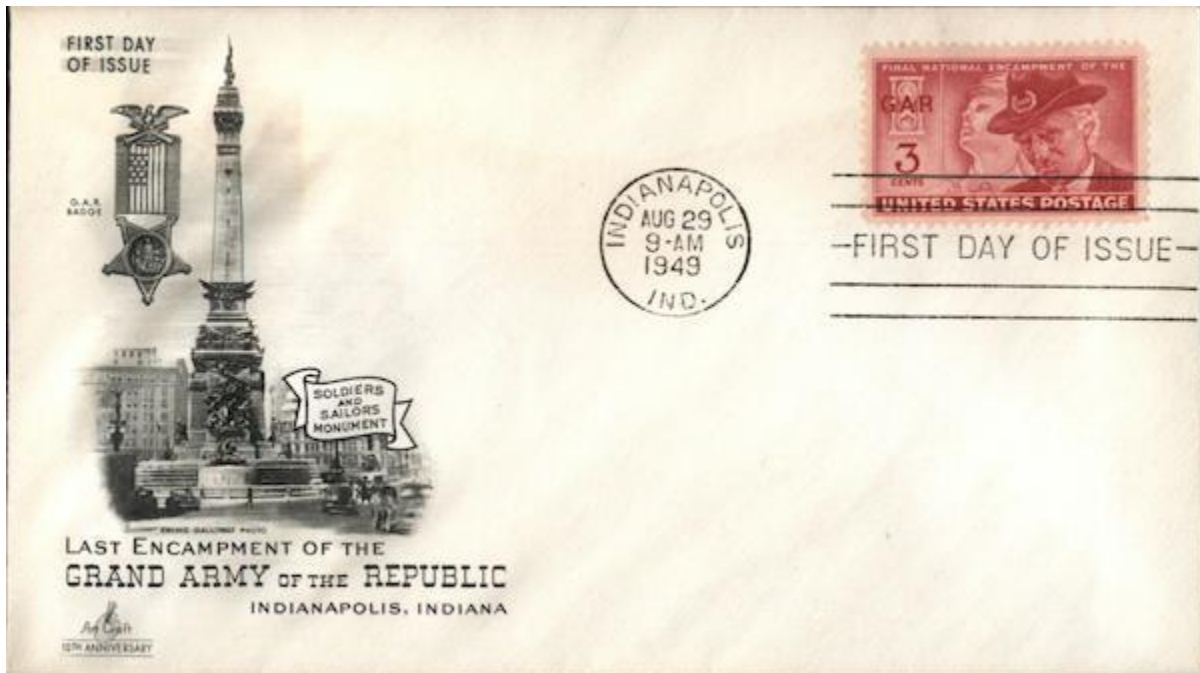
# HARDTACK



Indianapolis Civil War Round Table Newsletter  
<http://indianapoliscwrt.org/>

Live Again! June 14, 2021 at 6:45 p.m.  
 Meeting at MCL Cafeteria Township Line  
 2370 W. 86th Street

## *The Plan of the Day* **The G. A. R.**



The presentation covers the history of the GAR with an emphasis on Indiana and Marion County.

### **JOIN US BEFORE THE MEETING AT MCL CAFETERIA!**

All ICWRT members and guests are invited to join us at 6:00 P.M. at MCL Cafeteria, 2370 W. 86th Street before the meeting to enjoy dinner and fellowship.

Members are encouraged to wear their badges to the meetings, so people will know who you are.

## *Our Guest Speakers*

### **Mike Beck and Bruce Kolb:**

Michael Beck has B.S. in Criminology from I. S. U., and is a graduate from Southern Police Institute. Mike is also a certified Vehicle Crash Re-constructionist and has testified as an expert witness in this field. His love for history was passed down to him from his maternal grandmother, whose stories about her grandfather, Sgt. Joseph S. LeHew, Co. H. of the 15th Ohio Volunteer Infantry fascinated him. Mike has written articles for Civil War Times Illustrated and Military Images, and captained Co. D. 11th Indiana Volunteer Zouaves re-enactment group. Mike is currently the Past Department of Indiana Commander of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) and current Captain of Company D. 27th Indiana Sons of Veterans Reserves (SVR).

Bruce Kolb is the Past Commander of the Department of Indiana Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. He recently stepped down as Captain of the 27th Indiana Sons of Veterans Reserve. He participated in Civil War reenacting for over twenty years. He has been a lifelong collector of Civil War memorabilia, especially Abraham Lincoln.

### **FOUR PRINTS IN SILENT AUCTION**

The following four framed prints by Dale Gallon will be offered by silent auction at our June 14 meeting. All four are scenes from Gettysburg. The two small ones are 11 x 9. One is entitled "Tomorrow we must attack him" with General Lee talking to Gen. Longstreet. The other small one is entitled "Hancock's Ride," and has an information sheet in the pocket on the back. The two larger prints are 19 x 13" and have two prints in each frame. They are entitled "Iron Brigade" and "Buford at Gettysburg." The one of General Buford has information on the back. Winners will be asked to make their payments to our treasurer, Tony Roscetti.

### *Roster of Officers and Committees for the 2020-2021 Campaign*

#### *Officers:*

President: Angie Gilmer

Secretary: Bill Nicholai

Immediate Past President: Nikki Schofield

Vice President: William Ghormley

Treasurer: Tony Roscetti

#### *Committees:*

Preservation: Andy O'Donnell

Program Selection: Bob Gottschalk, Nikki Schofield, & Tony Trimble

Publicity: Peg Bertelli & Chris Smith

Website: Ed Pope

Tour Director: Peter Benner

#### *Quiz Master:*

Tony Trimble

#### *HARDTACK Newsletter:*

Editor: Robert Gottschalk

If you have a short article, book review, or some other item that may be of interest to our members, please submit it via email to the editor at [flyingcircus2011@hotmail.com](mailto:flyingcircus2011@hotmail.com) by the tenth day following the preceding month's meeting.

## *Other Camp Activities*

**Hamilton County Civil War Roundtable:** Meetings cancelled until further notice due to Covid-19.

**Madison County Historical Society Civil War Roundtable:** Meetings cancelled until further notice due to Covid-19.

## *Official Records*

### **May Zoom Attendance: 24**

**Alan T. Nolan Memorial Youth Scholarship Fund:** The Executive Board of the Indianapolis Civil War Round Table has established this fund to provide membership dues, annual tour expenses or other worthwhile purpose for any full-time student of any age. Please see Tony Roscetti to donate to this fund.

**Facebook:** The Indianapolis Civil War Round Table is on Facebook. We invite you to join our group. Feel free to post Civil War related messages on our site.

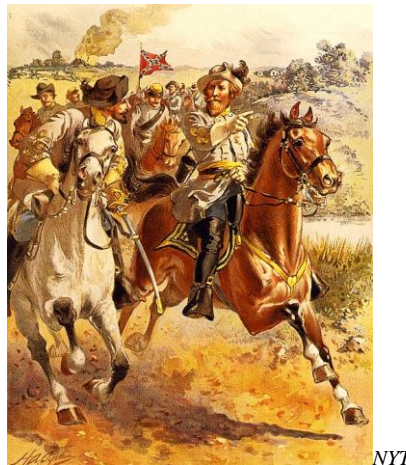
**Charitable Sponsors:** In an effort to upgrade our speakers and programs, the board of ICWRT is asking members and organizations with which they are involved (companies or charitable organizations) to consider sponsoring one or more speakers. This could be done as a gift now, or a person could opt to make a bequest in a will for that purpose. Because of our limited membership, we can't bring in as many national speakers as we would like to. If you are interested or want more info, call Chris Smith at 450-7430.

### **Book Raffle:**

**\*Anyone wishing to donate books for upcoming raffles should either bring them to Tony Roscetti at the June meeting or contact him to make arrangements for pick up.**

## *This Day in History* by Nikki Schofield

June 14, 1862 - Confederate General J.E.B. Stuart was finishing his cavalry raid around Union General George McClellan's position in Virginia, capturing prisoners and destroying property. The raid started June 12 and ended June 15, 1862.



NYT

## *Test Your Civil War Knowledge (with Trimble's Trivia)*

No quiz for the June Hardtack. Answers to the May Quiz:

1. Mutiny by Black troops
2. Front Royal, Va.
3. U.S. Grant
4. Gettysburg
5. Andersonville

## *The Newspaper Speaks*

*The Indianapolis News* (Indianapolis, Indiana) September 7, 1949, pg. 8

### **The GAR Badge**



photo from [http://www.suvcw.org/?page\\_id=167](http://www.suvcw.org/?page_id=167)

Grandfather was very proud of his Grand Army Badge, a symbol which is today held by his children as a precious heirloom. The badges were made from the cannon captured by the Union Army during the war, and presented to the Grand Army by a special vote of Congress, for the express purpose of making the emblems worn by members of the organizations.

Each badge was numbered consecutively and the numbers recorded, with the names of the owners in the Grand Army records. The front of the badge bears the inscription, "Grand Army of the Republic - 1861 - Veteran - 1866." This inscription surrounds a device representing a soldier and sailor clasping hands over a woman and child, and a figure representing the Union stands looking on. In the points of the stars are emblems of the different branches of the service. On the reverse side, in a circle of 38 stars, are the corps badges, and in the center is the shield of the Union. Hazy, Fairland. (From Newspapers.com)

## *Soldier of the Month*

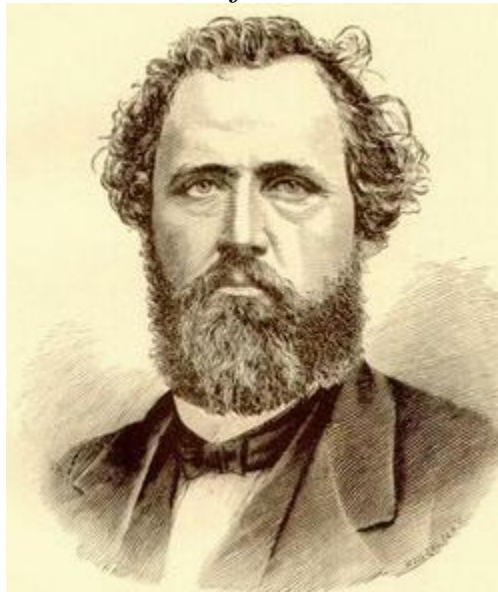
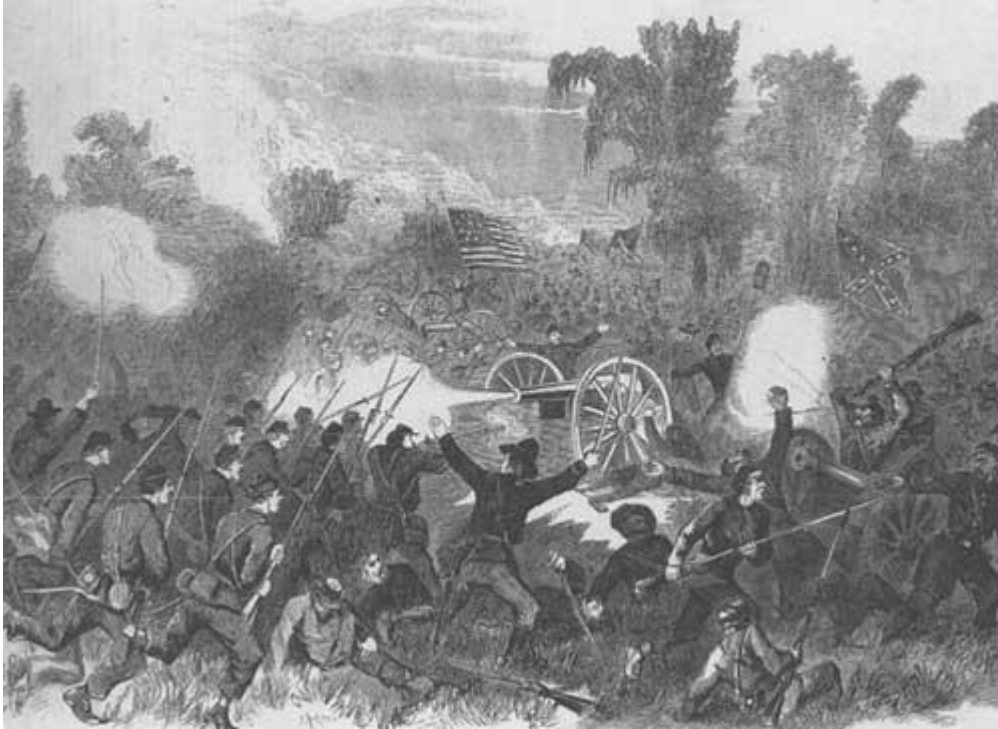


photo & information from Find A Grave memorial # 3007

**Benjamin Franklin Stephenson** was born October 3, 1823 in Wayne County, Illinois. He served as Chief Surgeon of the Fourteenth Illinois Infantry during the Civil War. He founded the Grand Army of the Republic on April 6, 1866 and served as its first Commander-in-Chief. He died August 30, 1871 and lies buried in Rose Hill Cemetery in Petersburg, Illinois.

*Preservation Opportunity of the Month*

**Help Acquire 144 Acres at Champion Hill  
CHAMPION HILL & THE CROSSROADS**



*N.P.S.*

**This acquisition contains the site where Brig. Gen. George F. McGinnis's Brigade (11th, 24th, 34th, and 46th Indiana Infantry, and 29th Wisconsin Infantry Regiments) captured two Confederate batteries.**

**The Opportunity**

Since the last musket fired in the Civil War more than 158 years ago, the Champion family has owned the land where one of the most significant actions of the Vicksburg Campaign occurred—on Champion Hill near the Crossroads formed by the intersection of three vital roads leading to the fortified city.

In 2007, American Battlefield Trust purchased an easement from the Champion family to protect the land from development. And last year, we raised \$78,000 toward the purchase price of the land when we created a memorial campaign to honor noted historian and friend of the Trust, Ed Bearss, who valued this theater of war above all others.

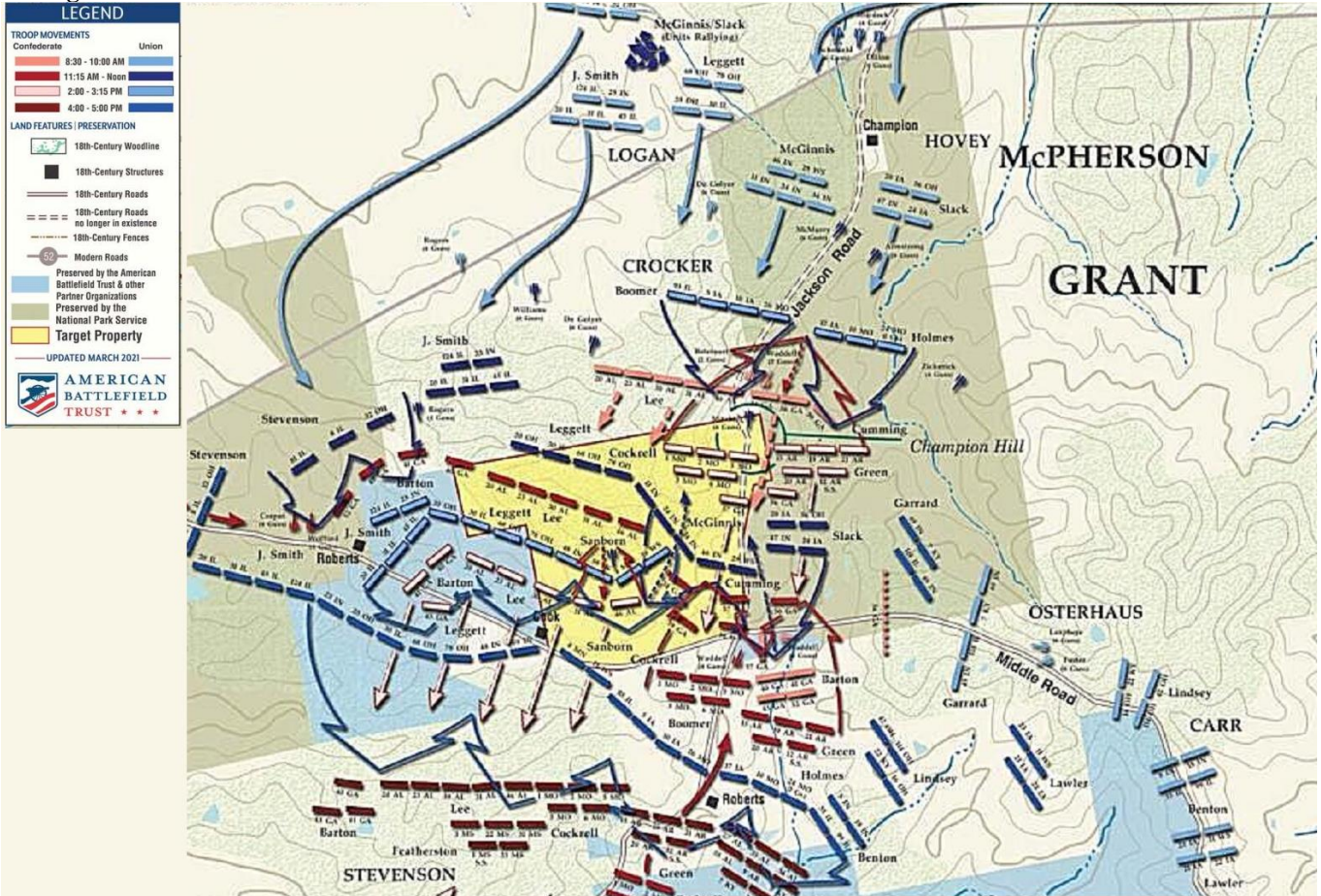
The Ed Bearss Tribute Fund is restricted to the exclusive use of Vicksburg Campaign transactions and generous friends have already contributed \$78,000 toward the Fund, leaving us just \$107,000 to raise to complete the purchase of the 144-acre plot from the Champion family—at the incredible cost of 1.7 cents per square foot (that's far less than the cost of a square foot of carpet).

We need to act quickly! We need to raise the additional funds by June 30th to complete the purchase of this hallowed ground.

Please make your most generous gift today to help us raise the remaining \$107,000 to acquire 144 critical acres of land that includes Champion Hill. Once secured, it will eventually be added to the Vicksburg National Military Park and protected for generations to come.



## The Background



We have until the end of June to secure the remaining funds needed to purchase 144 acres of land that includes Champion Hill and the Crossroads—locations of some of the most significant actions of the Civil War, culminating in the Union victory in the Vicksburg Campaign.

On May 16, 1863, General Grant's army was marching unchecked through Mississippi. Confederate General John C. Pemberton left the Vicksburg defenses, hoping to prevent the Federals from severing the railroads that fed the fortress city. The two armies met that day in a ferocious firefight that raged primarily over high ground owned by Sid and Matilda Champion. After a fierce struggle, Grant's army drove the Confederates off of Champion Hill and back to the relative safety of their fortifications in Vicksburg, setting the stage for the siege that ended with the city's capitulation on July 4, 1863.

The Battle of Champion Hill is widely recognized as the largest, bloodiest, and most decisive battle of the Vicksburg Campaign. However, despite its importance, the battle is often overlooked due to its proximity to Vicksburg and the events that unfolded there. Although the Champion Hill area remains quite rural, threats to the integrity of the battlefield have accelerated over years. The easement the Trust secured 14 years ago has kept development at bay.

Having stewarded the land for more than 158 years, the Champion family is now ready to sell the land to the Trust. Once in our hands, we will transfer ownership to the National Park Service where it will be added to the Vicksburg National Military Park with its 1,728 acres of battlefield land encompassing the Union and Confederate trenches surrounding the city and overlooking the Mississippi River. With its inclusion in the Vicksburg National Military Park, the story of Champion Hill will now be remembered as one of the most decisive battles of the Civil War.

To make a gift by mail, send your check made out to:

**American Battlefield Trust**  
**1140 Professional Court**  
**Hagerstown, MD 21740.**

To make a gift by phone, call **1-888-606-1400**.

**I WANT YOU  
TO CONTRIBUTE TO**



**HARDTACK**

**Share your Civil War travels, reading, interests, and  
experiences with fellow members of the  
Indianapolis Civil War Round Table.**

---

Re-enlist NOW for the 2021-2022 Campaign

Membership Extension Notice

The past year has been unprecedented in how it has impacted all of our lives. With the risks and concerns presented by the Coronavirus, the ICWRT was required to substantially alter the 2020-2021 campaign. With the cancellation of a number of meetings and the transition to Zoom calls for several more, the ICWRT was unable to provide the high level of meetings and presentations to which all of us have become accustomed. As a result, the Executive Board has determined that everyone who has an active membership for the 2020-2021 campaign will have their memberships extended at no additional cost for the 2021-2022 campaign. For anyone who has already paid for membership in the 2021-2022 campaign, their memberships will also be extended for an additional year. It is anticipated that the ICWRT will be able to return to our regular, in-person meetings beginning in September 2021 and we look forward to the return of all current and former members. Thank you for your understanding and commitment to our wonderful organization.

Tony Roscetti, Treasurer  
Indianapolis Civil War Round Table

---

Indianapolis Civil War Round Table  
1162 Thistlewood Way  
Plainfield, IN 46168