



HARDTACK



Indianapolis Civil War Round Table Newsletter

<http://indianapoliswrt.org/>

Monday, March 13, 2023 at 6:45 p.m.
Meeting at MCL Cafeteria Township Line
2370 W. 86th Street

The Plan of the Day



Don Troiani

“Custer Meets the Wolverines”

The famous Michigan Cavalry Brigade, formed and commanded by Brig. Gen. Joseph T. Copeland, was composed of the 1st, 5th, 6th, and 7th cavalry regiments. On June 29th, 1863, Copeland was surprised to learn that a change of command was sending him to Annapolis and the brigade would have a new commander. The timing could not have been better for 23-year-old George Armstrong Custer to enter his name in the history books. He would take advantage of that opportunity, and for the next 16 days his Wolverines would see almost constant fighting at Hanover, Hunterstown, East Cavalry Field, Monterey Pass, Hagerstown, Williamsport, and Falling Waters. This presentation explores not only the numerous engagements of the brigade, but also the reactions of the Michigan Cavalry Brigade troopers to their youthful new leader.

Our Guest Speaker



Dave Finney

David Finney served as 37 years as an educator and at North Farmington High School (where he was also chairman of the history and social studies department), Oakland Community College, and University of Detroit/Mercy. He has been recognized as the American History Teacher of the Year by the Michigan Council for the Social Studies and the Daughters of the American Revolution. Finney worked as a seasonal ranger at Fredericksburg/Spotsylvania and Petersburg National Military Parks over five summers. He served as a member of the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites and the Civil War Preservation Trust's advisory boards, and he has been featured in several Civil War documentaries as a historian and speaker. He is the author of *Remembering Michigan's Civil War Soldiers*. After residing in Michigan for 45 years, Dave moved to Carmel in 2014.

Remainder of the 2022-2023 Campaign

April 10, 2023 – Gerald Jones - “Grierson’s Raid”

May 8, 2023 – Jonathan Tracey – “The 27th Indiana”

June 12, 2023 – Steve Jackson - “50th Anniversary of the Blue & Gray at Gettysburg”

Roster of Officers and Committees for the 2022-2023 Campaign

Officers:

President: Steven Magnusen

Vice President: Pete Brenner

Secretary: Eric Dove

Treasurer: Pete Mohr

Immediate Past President: Bill Ghormley

Committees:

Preservation: Andy O’Donnell

Website: Ed Pope

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

Publicity: Peg Bertelli & Chris Smith

Quiz Master:

Tony Trimble

HARDTACK Newsletter:

Editor: Bob Gottschalk

Other Camp Activities

Hamilton County Civil War Roundtable: Meetings are on the 2nd Wednesday each month, September through May (excluding December) in Carmel City Hall. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., and meetings start at 7:00 p.m.

Madison County Historical Society Civil War Roundtable: Meetings take place on the third Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Bowman Room at the Museum of Madison County History, 15 West 11th Street, Anderson, Indiana.

Official Records

February Attendance: 35

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.

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January After Action Report

By Nikki Stoddard Schofield

The "Show and Tell" program on January 9, presented by members of the club, was a resounding success. Two women and ten men presented their Civil War treasures, including weapons, jewelry, pictures, a quilt, a book, and stories. The presenters, in order of their appearance, were: Tony Trimble, John Gilmore, David Finney, Chris Smith, Nikki Schofield, Bruce Kolb, Peg Bertelli, Mike Eisenhut, David Hughes, Pete Benner, Gary Bevington, and Don Heitman. This was the second "Show and Tell" event. Based on the good response from the audience, this will most likely become an annual event.

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From Steve Magnusen

Our March 13 Speaker

I am reading "The Last Stand" by Nathaniel Philbrick. The topic is obviously Custer's debacle at the Little Big Horn which will forever be his legacy. It is of particular interest to me because it involves former Union Army generals Crook and Gibbon, they with Marietta, Ohio and Iron Brigade ties in younger years, respectively.

Of course, we know that a young, brave, fearless Custer played a significant role in defeating the Army of Northern Virginia in campaigns from Gettysburg to Appomattox. That role will be explored by Custer expert and long-time Michigan resident, history teacher, NPS Ranger, and Custer brigade scholar, our own David Finney. Be ready for a very informative presentation on March 13, and I bet you can't stump David with your questions.

Welcome to New Members

We are very pleased to welcome several new members to our Round Table in the past couple months. New name badges will be ready for all on March 13, so meet and greet ... Robert Brugler, Steve Buxser, Brian Donahue, Anthony Meeks, Mike Tryon, and Rachael Tryon.

And also, those who joined at various times in 2022 are ... Roy Agnew, Doug Alkire, Charles Christoph, Mac Fife, Ann Ghormley, Janet Hollis, John Jones, Terry Lindstrom, Davis McKay, Leight Murray, Kenneth Pendleton, Ron Selby, and Kathy Wright.

Welcome all! Speaking of name badges, if you did not pick yours up last month (like me, being out of town), they will be available at the meeting.

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CROWN HILL CIVIL WAR TOUR

On Saturday, July 1, at 9:00 a.m., Nikki Schofield will conduct a tour of Civil War graves at Crown Hill Cemetery. The cost is \$10, and you can sign up online at EventBrite or the Crown Hill Heritage Foundation web site. This is a comfortable, hour-and-a-half walking tour, with the last stop, by car, at the Confederate Mound.

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160th Anniversary Event Links

Helena, Arkansas (April 14 - 16, 2023)

<https://www.arkansasheritage.com/events/2023/04/14/default-calendar/battle-of-helena-160th-anniversary-reenactment>

Gettysburg, Pennsylvania (June - July 2, 2023)

[160th Battle of Gettysburg Anniversary | Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association \(gbpa.org\)](#)

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This Month In Civil War Era History

by Nikki Stoddard Schofield

March 3, 1861 - Serfdom is abolished in the Russian Empire.

March 4, 1861 Abraham Lincoln is sworn in as the 16th president of the United States.

March 13, 1862, General Robert E. Lee began serving as the military adviser to Confederate President Jefferson Davis. He held that role until June 1.

March 12, 1865, President Davis signed a bill permitting slaves to enlist in the C.S.A. Army.

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

by Tony Trimble

1. For what technical innovation is William F. Ketchum known?
2. On 23 July 1862 a skirmish was fought at Boles' Farm. In what state is it located?
3. On 23 May 1863 the Catholic Bishop of Iowa threatened church members with excommunication. Why?
4. What was the "Intrepid"?
5. In May 1864, Jefferson Davis called troops to Virginia from several states to protect what?

Answers to the February Quiz:

1. Clement L. Vallandigham.
2. A 1st year cadet at West Point.
3. The funeral of Stephen A. Douglas.
4. The Mozarts.
5. The sinking of the Sultana.

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Library of Congress

Union Camp at Brandy Station, Virginia, March 1864

Preserve 104 acres at Cedar Mountain and Brandy Station

The Opportunity

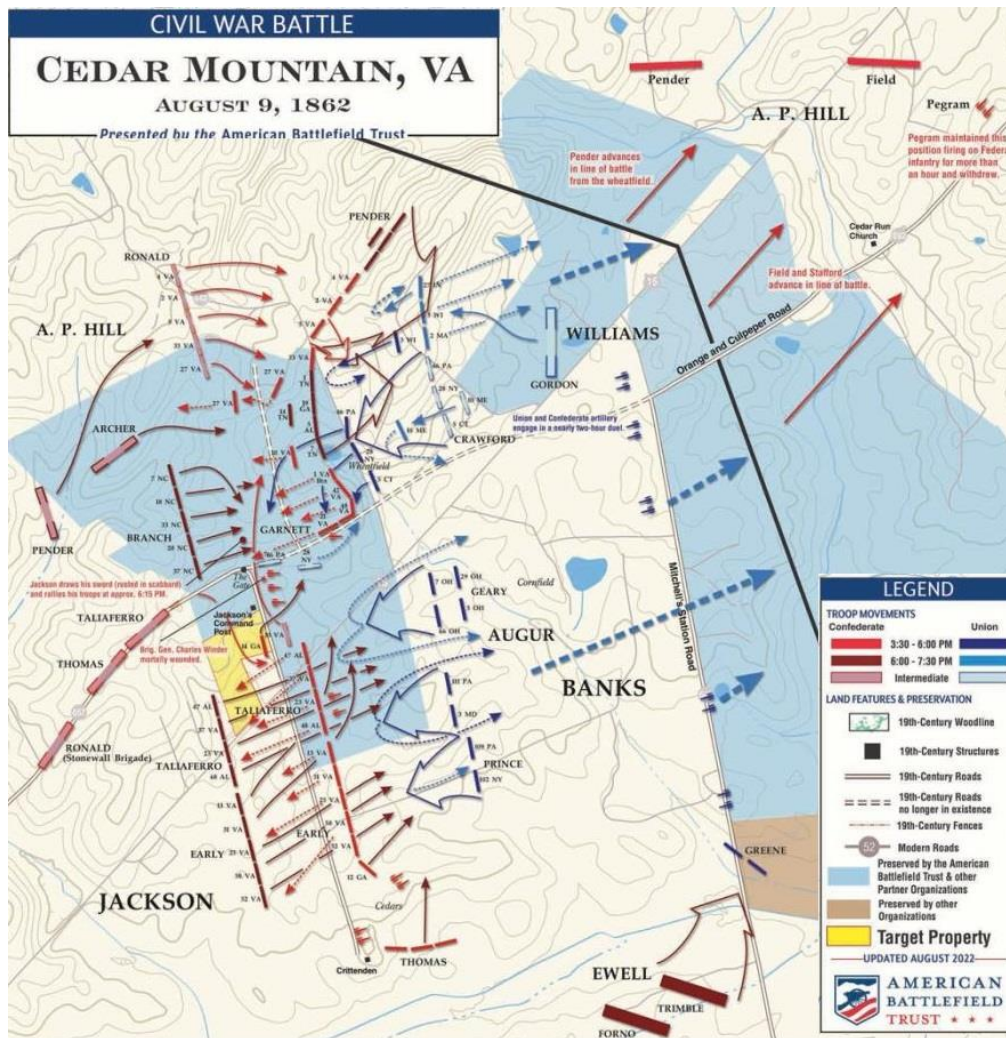
This will be the only chance we will ever have to protect these 97 acres at Brandy Station, and the other 7 acres near Cedar Mountain, and we urgently need your help to close these transactions soon.

Together, we have the chance to save absolutely key pieces of two major Civil War battlefields that, taken together, have a total transaction value of \$5,697,826.

Tapping the state funds requested by the governor and appropriated by the legislature to help save the land at Brandy Station, and applying for additional federal and state matching grants, we hope to cover fully \$5,244,382 million (92%!) of what we need through those sources. Plus, we have a major donor who is willing to match all gifts made to this effort, up to \$225,000!

The History

With the 1862 Peninsula Campaign coming to a close, Gen. Robert E. Lee sent 27,000 troops under Generals Stonewall Jackson and A.P. Hill to attack General John Pope's new Federal Army of Virginia.



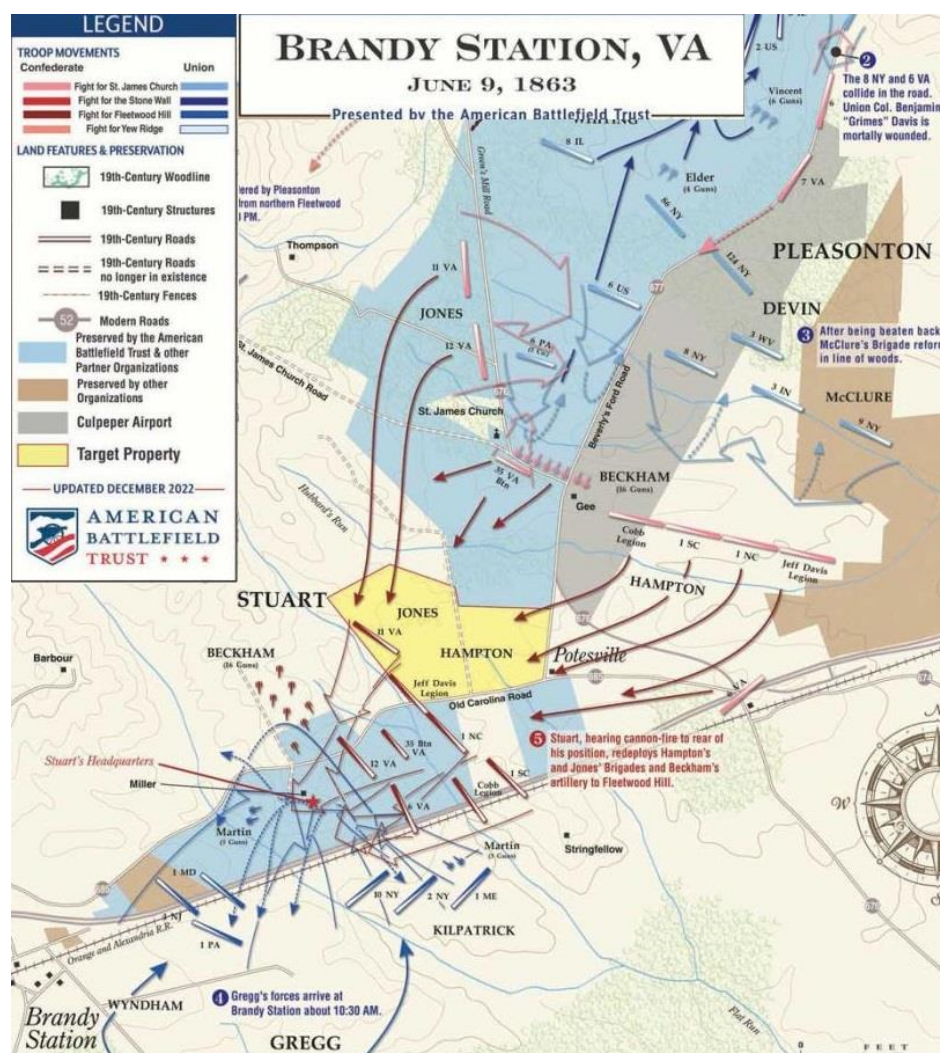
Pope moved to take the strategic rail junction at Gordonsville, Virginia. On August 9, Jackson's force approached the Union position near an eminence called Cedar Mountain, seven miles south of the town of Culpeper. With August temperatures soaring, Confederate Gen. Charles Winder was struck by shell fragments and died a few hours later. With few subordinates aware of Jackson's battle plan, this loss produced a dangerous leadership vacuum just as a powerful Federal attack began.

Pressed by the Union advance, the Confederate guns and their infantry support were forced back. With defeat in the air, Jackson rode into the center of the fighting and attempted to draw his sword that was rusted in its scabbard. Undaunted, Jackson waved a battle flag and his scabbard-encased sword over his head as he rallied his forces.

Reinvigorated by Jackson's leadership, the Confederates launched a counterattack that drove back the Union wave. By 7:00 p.m., the Union line was in full retreat. After a mile and a half pursuit of the Federals, Jackson ordered a halt as night set in. The Federals largely surrendered the initiative to Lee and Jackson, resulting in the 1862 Northern Virginia Campaign as well as the 1862 Maryland Campaign.

Fleetwood Hill at Brandy Station was the center of a series of violent cavalry charges and countercharges during the Battle of Brandy Station on June 9, 1863.

Ten months later, after the major Eastern Theater battles of Second Manassas, South Mountain, Antietam, Fredericksburg, and Chancellorsville (combined casualties of about 100,000 men), Union and Confederate forces eyed each other warily over the Rappahannock River in Culpeper.



On the morning of June 9, 1863, Union cavalry splashed across the river at Beverly's Ford, catching their Confederate counterparts off guard and initiating the Battle of Brandy Station, the largest cavalry battle ever fought in North America.

While the battle raged across thousands of acres of the Virginia countryside, the key to the battlefield was Fleetwood Hill. This was the site of General J.E.B. Stuart's headquarters. Thousands of troopers engaged in fierce combat at close quarters to claim this crucial strategic position.

The land we have a chance to save today is essential to any future preservation work to be done at Brandy Station. It would connect — forever — the land that you have helped preserve, from the western edge of Fleetwood Hill extending northward for nearly four miles!

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**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.**