



HARDTACK



Indianapolis Civil War Round Table Newsletter

<http://indianapoliswrt.org/>

Monday, January 8, 2024 at 6:45 p.m.
Meeting at MCL Cafeteria Township Line
2370 W. 86th Street

The Plan of the Day



Annual “Civil War Show & Tell!”

Our Guest Speaker



YOU AGAIN!

This is how the program will be conducted. When you arrive, sign up on the clipboard that Nikki Schofield will monitor. Our program is one hour long, so if six people sign up, they will each have 10 minutes to talk. If twelve people sign up, each person can speak about their item(s) for five minutes. If twenty people sign up, each person has three minutes to talk. Be mindful of your time limit. If the item can be handled, pass it around for the members to see up close. Depending on how long our business meeting takes, the program time can be adjusted accordingly – less business, more show and tell. We want everyone to have an opportunity to share their treasures, and will not cut anyone off. We can be a little flexible. Start setting aside what you plan to bring so you are not scrambling to find that precious something just before it's time to leave for the meeting!

Remainder of the 2023-2024 Campaign

February 12, 2024 – Dr. Brian Direk – “Lincoln’s Views on Death”

March 11, 2024 – Chris Burns - “The Life & Legacy of Ulyesses Grant and the Women Who Molded the Man”

April 8, 2024 – Kent Brown - “General George G. Meade”

May 13, 2024 – Scott Britton – “But Not for My Children”

June 10, 2024 – Phil Spaugy - “19th Indiana & the Iron Brigade”

Roster of Officers and Committees for the 2023-2024 Campaign

Officers:

President: Pete Benner

Vice President: Chris Smith

Secretary: Eric Dove

Treasurer: Pete Mohr

Immediate Past President: Steven Magnusen

Committees:

Preservation: Andy O’Donnell

Website: Ed Pope

Program Selection: Chairman Steve Magnusen; Members: Bob Gottschalk, David Finney, & Tony Trimble

Publicity: Peg Bertelli

Quiz Master:

Tony Trimble

Book Raffle Master

Tony Roscetti

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

December Attendance: About 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.

This Month In Civil War Era History

January 18, 1862 – The Confederate Territory of Arizona was formed.

January 13, 1864 - Composer Stephen Foster died in New York City at age 37.

January 15, 1865 – A combined Union Army and Navy assault captured Fort Fisher, closing the Confederacy's last remaining seaport of Wilmington, North Carolina.

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No Trimble's Trivia this month, to allow extra time for our Presenters!

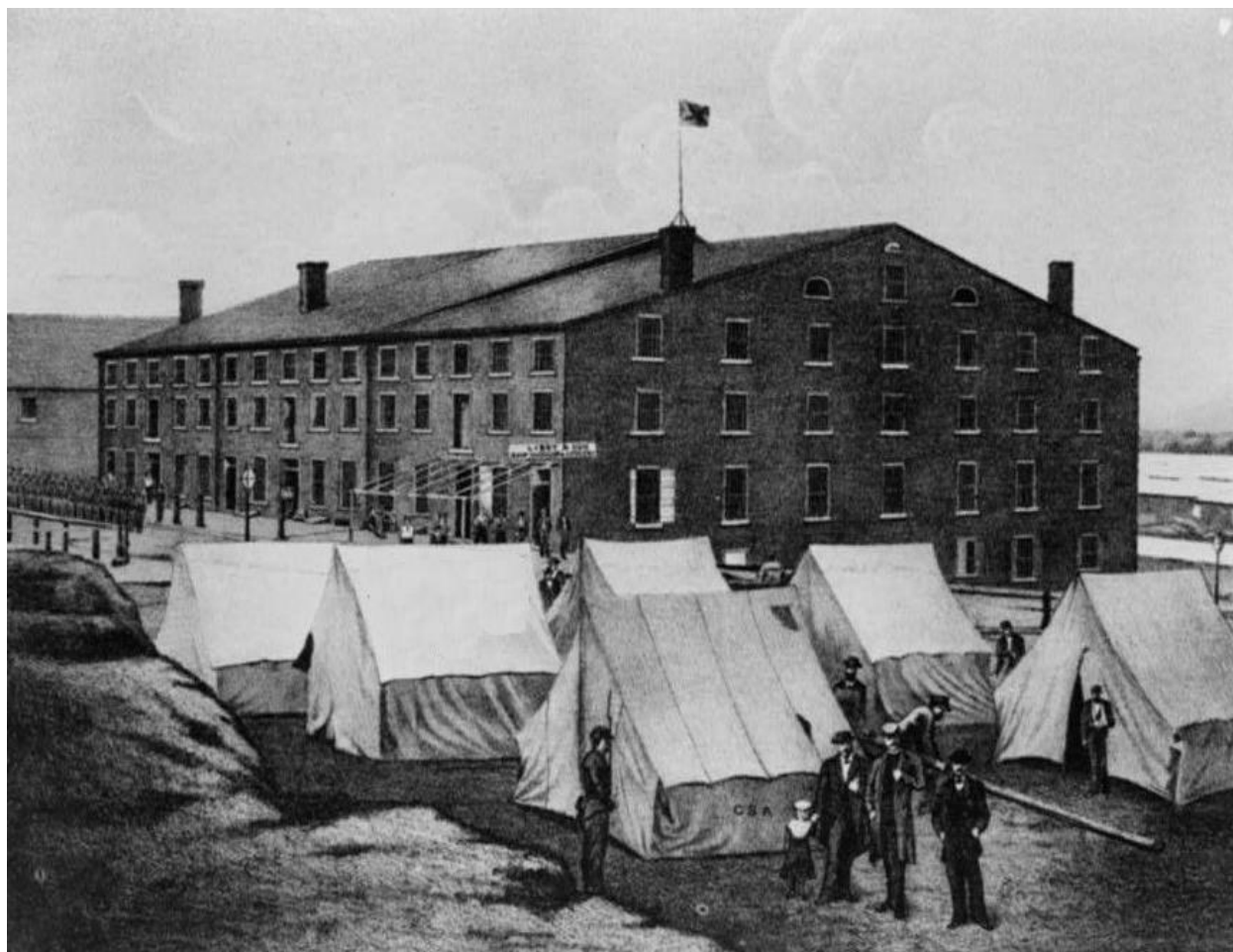
Answers to the December Quiz:

1. Edwin Sumner U.S.A. / James Longstreet C.S.A.
2. Gen John S. Williams, C.S.A.
3. Rear Adm. Louis Goldsborough
4. Cannon captured at Sacramento during the Mexican War
5. An exceptionally heavy sword, the use of which could break your wrist.

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Christmas at Richmond's Libby Prison

From American Battlefield Trust Primary Source



Richmond Times Dispatch

Federico Fernández Cavada describes his holiday experience as a prisoner of war in December 1863. Hear more from Cavada, as he provides immense insight on his grim time at Libby Prison in his 1864 book, “Libby Life: Experiences of a Prisoner of War in Richmond, Virginia, 1863-64.”

Christmas! At that name, what pleasant visions come thronging to the prisoner's mind, visions of home and the hearth. —of mince pies, plum-puddings and bon-bons, of Christmas trees and child-laughter, and pretty little rosy mouths, sweeter for the sugar-plums, puckering into Christmas kisses! What prison-thoughts, that laugh at the rebel bars and bayonets, go traveling by swift air lines, afar off into cozy cottages among the northern snows, and over the wide prairies into western homes; north, south, east and west—over the whole land; fond thoughts, winged with love-lightning!

The north wind comes reeling in fitful gushes through the iron bars, and jingles a sleigh-bell in the prisoner's ear, and puffs in his pale face with a breath suggestively odorous egg-nog.

Christmas day! A day which was made for smiles, and not for sighs, —for laughter, and not for tears, —for the hearth, and not for the prison. The forms which I pass as I saunter up and down the low, gloomy rooms, are bowed in thought, and their cheeks are pale with surfeit of it; it seems very cruel, but the

loving little arms that are felt twining about the neck, —the innocent laughing little faces that will peep out of the shadows, with sunbeams in their eyes, —the warm hands which grasp ours in spite of us, —all these must be thrust aside, and the welling tear-drop in the eye must be brushed away, and. . . tut tut! What's in a uniform, after all, if the soldier can-not make his brain as thread-bare as its sleeve, nor his heart as hard as its buttons!

There is a group in a dusky corner that I can see from here: some one is playing “Home, sweet home!” on a violin. It is a very dismal affair, this group: the faces are all sad, —no wonder, for the tune is telling them strange, wild things: there are whispering voices in its notes: I see that one by one the figures stroll away, and that they all seem to have discovered something of unusual interest to look at, out of the windows.

I am invited out to-day to a Christmas dinner. Good! There is not much inducement left for phantasmal visitations, after a hearty meal. When I say I am invited out, I mean over there in the north-east corner of the room: I shaved my face, and combed my hair, this morning, for the occasion. I am promised a white china plate to eat from!

When I arrive at the north-east corner, I enquire after my host, who is not present. I am informed that he is down in the kitchen, stewing the mutton(!) There he comes, in a violent perspiration, with a skillet in one hand and a tea-pot in the other.

There are four of us, —the dinner is excellent, —I have never tasted a better, even at the *Maison Dorée*; the wine, not a very choice, of course, —it is put down on the bill of fare as “Eau de James, couleur de boue.”

It is true that the table is made from a box, that the table-cloth is a towel, and that I was requested to bring with me my own fork and spoon; but it is a decidedly *recherché* and ceremonious affair, notwithstanding; my host is polite and elegant to a fault.

After dessert, having stepped over to my “house” for my pipe, which I had forgotten in the excitement of making my toilet (an absence of mind probably due to my having combed hair,) I return with unexpected celerity, and I find my host, and the two other guests, with their sleeves rolled up to the elbow, scouring the kettles, and washing up the dishes!

So Christmas-day passes away; there are many extra dinners gotten up, and numerous invitations to admired friends. Towards evening, the gloom has in a measure passed off from most of the faces; there is some laughing, and even cracking of jokes. A “ball” has been advertised to take place in the lower east room; an unusual array of tallow candles renders the room as clear as day —a cloudy day, at least; there is a great deal of sport and merriment, after a while, and a great deal of bad dancing; toes are trampled upon with impunity —hats crushed —trousers torn; —but the violinist scrapes away with supernatural tenacity, and he is the best-natured man in the room, for he is a “fiddler” whom “nobody pays.”

At nine o'clock there is a loud cry of “lights out!” from the sentries; the ball breaks up; blankets are spread on the floor; and dancers, spectators, fiddler and all, are soon wrapped in the arms of the Libbyan Morpheus. Many strange visions are beheld; many pleasing dreams experienced; and many fond, familiar faces are photographed in that wondrous camera obscura which sleep makes of the dreamer's brain.

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American Battlefield Trust, Local Preservation Groups Demand Answers to Hasty, Unlawful Approval of Amazon-Backed Wilderness Crossing Project

Lawsuit against Orange County's approval of the development has moved into discovery phase

Jim Campi & Mary Koik, December 1, 2023

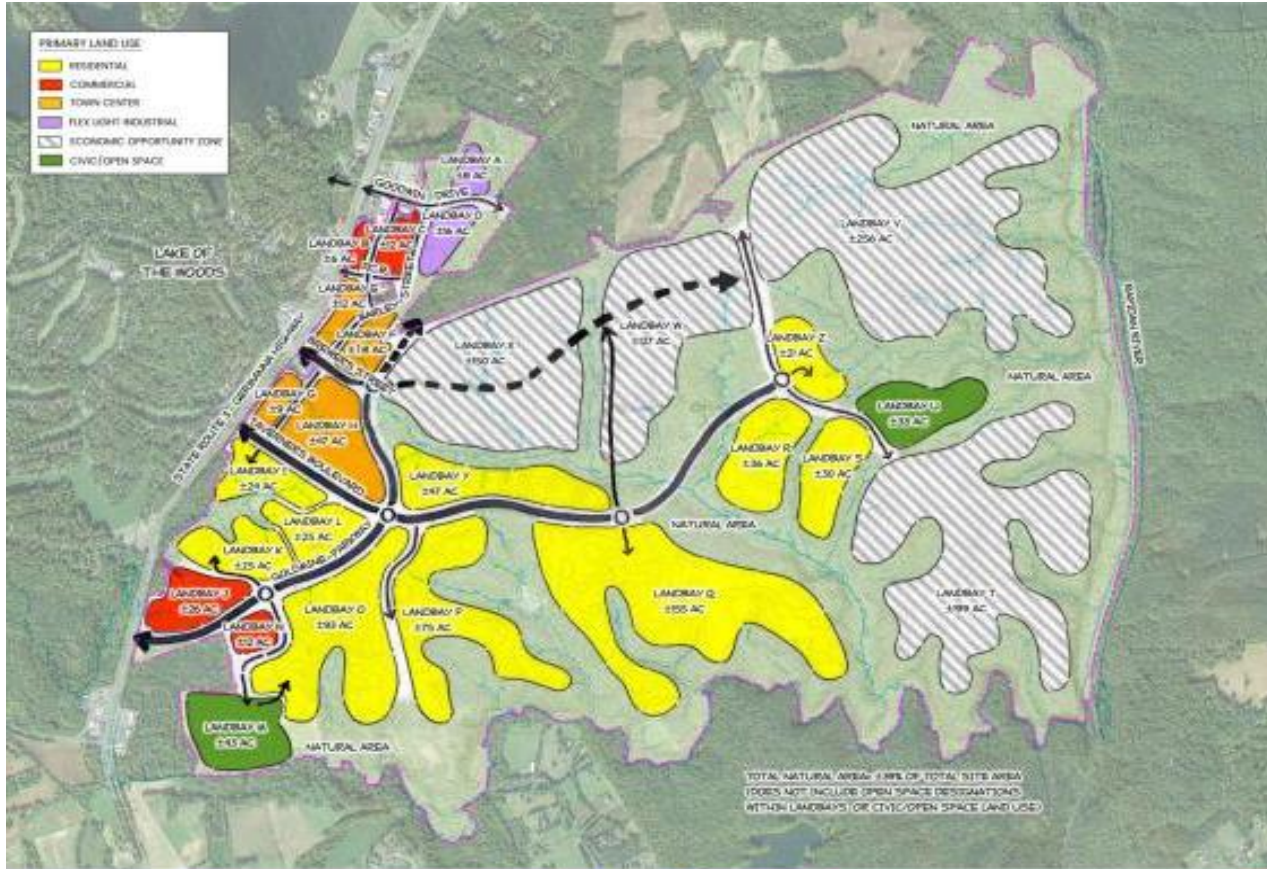
(Orange, Va.) — The American Battlefield Trust, along with several nonprofit preservation groups and private citizens, has filed a demand for sworn responses and documents from Orange County and its Board of Supervisors as part of an ongoing lawsuit related to the unlawful approval of the Wilderness Crossing mega-development. This process moves in parallel to a second suit against the County tied to the project filed by the Piedmont Environmental Council (PEC) over alleged violations of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act that prompted the revelation that Amazon has been behind the controversial proposal since at least April 2022.

This discovery demands that the Board produce all proposed plans for the Wilderness Crossing project, much of which should have been previously disclosed to the public. They must also explain troubling contentions that 1) the noise, odor, light, diminished views and runoffs that would be caused by development of more than 2,600 acres of residential, commercial and industrial space, including data centers and distribution warehouses, are “not actual harms” to area landowners and that 2) a last-minute six-fold increase in permitted square footage of industrial data center and warehouse distribution building space, among other changes, did not “materially affect” the “overall proposal.”

On the same evening it first appeared on the Board's agenda, the Wilderness Crossing project — by far the largest rezoning in Orange County history — was approved despite overwhelming public opposition. It would result in the construction of up to 5,000 residences and hundreds of acres of industrial and commercial development, including structures that would rise 80 feet or more in height. The project would be built in four phases across four decades, virtually all on land that is within or adjacent to the historic boundaries of the Wilderness Battlefield, threatening irreplaceable historical and archaeological resources and diminishing the appreciation of surviving resources.

The plan voted on by the Board of Supervisors differed significantly from what was discussed and advanced by the Planning Commission just a few weeks prior. Those changes included a massive increase in permitted square footage of industrial data center and warehouse distribution building space, from five million to more than 30 million. Yet, much of this extremely pertinent information was intentionally obscured and not appropriately evaluated, in clear violation of Virginia law.

The project was greenlit without analysis of impacts on historic or cultural resources, or analysis of the potential impact on the environment or disturbance of abandoned gold mines, the lawsuit contends. “This failing is shocking, given prior findings ... of 15 known, unreclaimed gold mining sites that contain substantial contaminants, such as mercury, arsenic, cadmium and lead,” according to the lawsuit.



RESIDENTIAL LAND USE



PRIMARY USES

- SINGLE-FAMILY ATTACHED AND DETACHED DWELLINGS
- TWO-FAMILY DWELLINGS
- MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENCES
- CONVENIENCE RETAIL UNDER 10,000 SF PER USER

COMPLIMENTARY USES

- ASSISTED LIVING/MEMORY CARE FACILITY
- SMALL RETAIL USES < 4,000 SF
- COMMUNITY SERVICES
- RECREATION FACILITY/USE
- PUBLIC EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES
- MEDICAL, TECHNOLOGY OR EDUCATION CAMPUS

COMMERCIAL LAND USE



PRIMARY USES

- OFFICE/PROFESSIONAL SERVICES/MEDICAL OFFICE
- HOTEL OR SHORT-TERM LODGING
- CONVENIENCE RETAIL WITH OR WITHOUT CANOPY USES
- FINANCIAL SERVICES WITH OR WITHOUT DRIVE-THRU
- RETAILS/GROCERS
- RESTAURANT / SPECIALTY RETAILERS

COMPLIMENTARY USES

- AUTOMOTIVE RELATED USES: SALES, REPAIR, AND SERVICE
- PRODUCT SALES I.E. BUILDING MATERIALS, ETC.
- RESIDENTIAL LAND USES

TOWN CENTER LAND USE



PRIMARY USES

- CONVENIENCE RETAIL
- RESIDENTIAL ATTACHED TO OFFICE OR RETAIL
- OFFICE/PROFESSIONAL SERVICES/MEDICAL OFFICE
- RESTAURANT / SPECIALTY RETAILERS
- ASSISTED LIVING/MEMORY CARE FACILITY
- ANCHOR USES I.E. MOVIE THEATER, SMALL GROCER +25,000SF, SMALL HOME IMPROVEMENT, ETC.

COMPLIMENTARY USES

- RESIDENTIAL LAND USES
- MEDICAL, TECHNOLOGY OR EDUCATIONAL CAMPUS
- CIVIC/PUBLIC/INSTITUTIONAL FACILITIES

FLEX LIGHT INDUSTRIAL LAND USE



PRIMARY USES

- LIMITED MANUFACTURING AND PROCESSING
- FLEXIBLE OFFICE, STORAGE, AND WAREHOUSING FOR LIGHT INDUSTRIAL USERS / CONTRACTORS
- DATA CENTERS OR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTERS
- WHOLESALE DISTRIBUTION OR WAREHOUSE
- AUTOMOTIVE RELATED USES: SALES, REPAIR, AND SERVICE

COMPLIMENTARY USES

- RESTAURANT / SPECIALTY RETAILERS
- RECREATION FACILITIES
- COMMERCIAL LAND USES

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ZONE LAND USE



PRIMARY USES

- ALL FLEX/LIGHT INDUSTRIAL USES
- SECURITY AND DEFENSE
- MEDICAL, TECHNOLOGY OR EDUCATIONAL FACILITY OR CAMPUS
- DATA CENTERS OR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTERS
- WHOLESALE DISTRIBUTION OR WAREHOUSE
- ANCHOR RETAIL OR ENTERTAINMENT I.E. MOVIE THEATER, GROCER, HOME IMPROVEMENT, GAME VENUES, ETC.
- COMMERCIAL LAND USES

COMPLIMENTARY USES

- RESIDENTIAL LAND USES AFTER DEVELOPMENT RESTRICTIONS EXPIRE

CIVIC/OPEN SPACE LAND USE



PRIMARY USES

- PUBLIC RECREATIONAL USES OR FACILITIES
- PUBLIC TRAILS AND PARKS
- NATURAL OPEN SPACE
- COMMUNICATION TOWERS
- PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITIES
- EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

Plagued by unanswered questions about environmental impacts, infrastructure suitability and destruction of historical and cultural resources in communities across the Commonwealth, organizations like the Trust, PEC, Preservation Virginia and the National Parks Conservation Association have banded together to create the Virginia Data Center Reform Coalition. The group urges the state to study the cumulative effects of data center development and to institute common sense regulatory and rate-making reforms for this industry. Goals include more transparency around land-use decisions, mitigation of negative environmental impacts and assurances that developers bear the cost of new transmission lines and substations, not taxpayers.

Among the 18 specific demands for sworn statements served on November 22, 2023, were for the County to:

Reveal the identity of all those who have entered into confidentiality or non-disclosure agreements regarding the Wilderness Crossing project or related rezoning.
 Explain how tax breaks granted to the developer against the increased value of the rezoned land comply with the Virginia Constitution's equality of taxation requirements.
 Identify all changes between the project details considered and recommended by the Planning Commission in March 2023 and last-minute amendments approved by the Board of Supervisors, addressing whether the changes "materially affect" the "Wilderness Crossing's 'overall proposal.'"
 "We will not rest until there is full disclosure of the backroom deals that led to the approval of this project, accountability for those who made those deals, and, ultimately, appropriate protections of the Wilderness," said Trust President David Duncan. "We trust the court will agree there were clear violations of process and transparency, and put the brakes on this wildly irresponsible plan to be more thoughtfully and carefully reconsidered."

The Trust was joined by the nonprofit Central Virginia Battlefields Trust, Inc. and Friends of Wilderness Battlefield, Inc. in bringing the lawsuit. All three own or steward historic properties in immediate proximity to the rezoned land and stand to suffer significant adverse impacts from the proposal. Private citizens whose homes directly abut the site and face catastrophic consequences also joined as plaintiffs.

This is not the first threat to the Wilderness Battlefield. In 2009, Walmart planned to build a Supercenter at the intersection of Route 3 and 20 — next to the area now threatened. Facing opposition from preservationists, Walmart ultimately donated the site for conservation and built its store further west on Route 3. Following that dispute, the Wilderness Battlefield Coalition produced the Wilderness Battlefield Gateway Study, a 2012 report envisioning a viable development path for the region and many of its recommendations were adopted by Orange County in its Germanna-Wilderness Area Plan. However, these mutually agreed upon principles have been abandoned in the Wilderness Crossing development proposal.

The American Battlefield Trust is dedicated to preserving America's hallowed battlegrounds and educating the public about what happened at those sites and why it matters today. The nonprofit, nonpartisan organization has protected more than 57,000 acres associated with the Revolutionary War, War of 1812 and Civil War across 155 sites in 25 states. Learn more at www.battlefields.org.