



# HARDTACK



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

---

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

---

## *The Plan of the Day*



*Fineartamerica*

### **“Harriet Beecher Stowe”**

Any discussion of the events leading to the Civil War includes the name Harriet Beecher Stowe and her famous book, but rarely does a talk make her the focus of the discussion. Never does a talk attempt to establish a direct link between Uncle Tom's Cabin and the onset of the Civil War. Mr. Bauer will combine his passion for Cincinnati history, Civil War history, and politics by telling the story of this highly influential woman. Stowe had little interest in politics, but her 1852 book Uncle Tom's Cabin had a tremendous influence on politics. Dan will describe the political environment as it existed just prior to 1850, the creation of the Fugitive Slave Law, Harriet Beecher's life in Cincinnati, the content of Uncle Tom's Cabin, and finally, and most importantly, the impact of her book. Mr. Bauer will explain how publication of this landmark book raised the level of hostility between North and South which then ultimately led to the Civil War.

## *Our Guest Speaker*



**Dan Bauer**

Dan Bauer is a lifelong resident of Cincinnati and has been a member of the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table since 2000. He has served a variety of officer positions with the CCWRT, currently serving as its program chair. Mr. Bauer has a bachelor's degree from the University of Cincinnati and has been working as a Commercial Lines insurance underwriter for the Cincinnati Insurance Company for the past 37 years. Mr. Bauer loves Cincinnati and especially its rich history. This thought-provoking talk will offer new insight into the forces which made the Civil War unavoidable.

### **Remainder of the 2023-2024 Campaign**

December 11, 2023 – Steve Buxser – “Infectious Diseases of the Civil War”  
 January 8, 2024 – YOU – “Civil War Show and Tell”  
 February 12, 2024 – Dr. Brian Direk – “Lincoln’s Views on Death”  
 March 11, 2024 – Chris Burns - “The Life & Legacy of Ulysses 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. Here is the list of programs for the Madison County Historical Society Civil War Roundtable for 2023. November 20--Stephen Ritchie--TBA

## *Official Records*

**October Attendance: 27**

**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.

---

### *Gov. Oliver Morton Fund \$100+ Donors*

Peter Mohr  
David Finney  
Tom Krasean  
Andy O'Donnell

Roy Agnew  
Mike Eisenhut  
Steve Magnusen  
Chris Smith

Bruce Kolb  
Bill Ghormley  
Philip and Roberta Caito

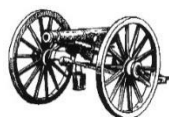
...

### *This Month in Civil War Era History*

November 6, 1860 - Abraham Lincoln was elected the 16th President of the United States.

November 7, 1861 – Brig. Gen. Ulysses Grant fought his first battle of the war at Belmont, Missouri.

November 29, 1864 – Col. John Chivington and 700 Colorado Volunteers murdered more than 230 peaceful Cheyenne and Arapaho Indians at Sand Creek, Colorado.



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

*by Tony Trimble*

1. North & South agreed that one piece of property would remain neutral. Name it.
2. By what name is the Battle of Ocean Pond better known?
- 3 In what Confederate state was the skirmish Big Black River Bridge fought?
4. By what name did soldiers call the installation on Munson's Hill near Washington?
5. What nickname was given to the regiments of Gen. Andrew Jackson Smith?

Answers to the October Quiz:

- |                               |                     |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Cold Harbor                | 4. George W. Julian |
| 2. Morris Island, SC          | 5. Ft. Lafayette    |
| 3. Battle of Third Winchester |                     |

...

### ***The CWRT Congress 2023 Sustainability Conference – A Participant's Learning Experience***

Mike Movius and Carol Van Ornum asked me to participate in a panel discussion at the 2023 Gettysburg Sustainability Conference. The 2019 St. Louis conference being such a positive experience, there was no hesitation - YES! Why? First, the venue. Who does not feel emotions when visiting Gettysburg? Second, the opportunity to represent my Indianapolis CWRT, established 1955, Alan Nolan co-founder. Most important, the unique learning opportunities sure to be experienced.

What will benefit my Indy CWRT, and possibly yours? Here is a brief summary:

1. Our panel included Steve Smith (Harrisburg, PA), Bill Jayne (Cape Fear), and Steve Pettyjohn (Cleveland). It was a pleasure meeting and learning from these leaders during planning and while at Gettysburg. Our "Pandemic Challenges" topic was first on the Saturday agenda.
2. As a presenter myself, my role was to convey issues faced by speakers. Pandemic meeting cancellations, zoom and hybrid meeting technology, reduced audience sizes – issues that sometimes did not go well! Excellent presenters with interesting topics are very important, but so also are policies that take good care of speakers.
3. Conference ideas being implemented or considered by our CWRT include local agency partnering, a written speaker agreement, membership and recruiting improvements, promotion and fund raising ideas, and others. In short, let's use CWRT Congress Best Practices for better long-term sustainability.
4. Learning from fellow CWRT colleagues and conference speakers was perhaps the most helpful aspect. There is nothing like personal conversations.

The schedule and venues did not disappoint! Friday reception at the Seminary Ridge Museum, focused Saturday topics with vibrant speakers held at the new Adams County Historical Society Center, evening dinner at the Visitor Center, Spangler Farm Sunday tour. All with open access to exhibits, the cupola, the cyclorama. Terrific!

Steve Magnusen,  
Indianapolis CWRT Program Chair, Past President, Author, Speaker...

## *Preserve 15 Acres at Gettysburg – Willoughby's Run*

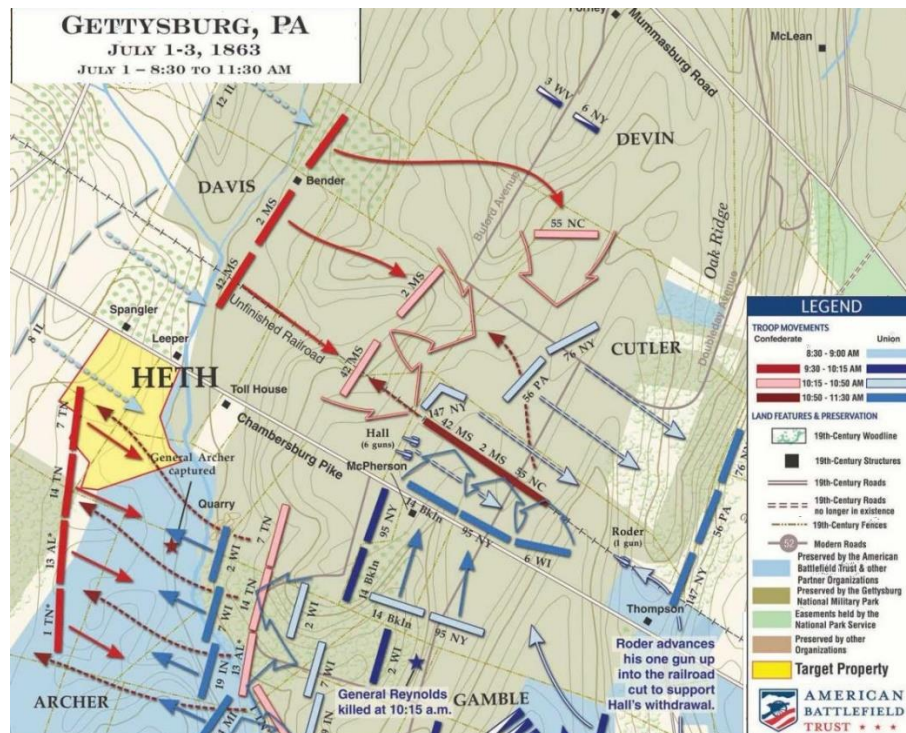
The American Battlefield Trust is launching a multi-year campaign to save this essential — and highly threatened — “First Blood at Willoughby’s Run” tract. These 15 acres of incredibly hallowed land saw some of the earliest and most dramatic opening moments of the Battle of Gettysburg.

After months of negotiations, the developer agreed to sell it to us for the price of \$3 million. Fortunately, a generous donor who cares passionately about Gettysburg has stepped forward with an offer to give — over the next few years — fully half of that amount, or \$1.5 million, as a match, if we can raise the other half!

Unfortunately, time is working against us. We need to pay half by November 20 of this year — now just six or seven weeks away — and the other half by July 1, 2024 — the 161st anniversary of the opening of the battle.

Together, we can prevent the residential development in the short-term, but in the long-term this hallowed ground can never be considered fully preserved until the loan is paid off.

Will you help us raise \$375,000 before November 20 to ensure this hallowed ground at Gettysburg is preserved?



The land the Trust is working so hard to save right now is that very same “shallow valley” between just east of Herr’s Ridge down to the west bank of Willoughby’s Run. Retreating troopers crossed this crucial piece of land in the face of the Confederate advance, some stopping — with bullets clipping the leaves of the trees around them — in the shallow water.

Continue the charge to protect hallowed ground at Gettysburg – Willoughby's Run

With your urgent help, the American Battlefield Trust can save a crucial part of where the battle began! Be a part of this historic effort with a gift of any amount today.

**DONATE NOW!**

American Battlefield Trust  
1156 15th St NW Ste 900,  
Washington, DC 20005

## Civil War Battlefields Cruise

35 Days \*13 States\*3 Ships

May 3, 2024 – June 6, 2024

Be a part of history on our comprehensive Civil War Battlefields cruise, the first and only cruise of its kind. Walk in the footsteps of Robert E. Lee, Ulysses S. Grant, Jefferson Davis, Abraham Lincoln, and more.

Led by a dedicated onboard Civil War historian, you will travel from the banks of the Tennessee and Mississippi Rivers to the hallowed grounds of the East Coast, exploring America's major Civil War battlefields, places of remembrance and reflection. Along your journey, recognized authorities will share in-depth, untold stories of the people, places, and events that took place during this historic time when our nation was divided.

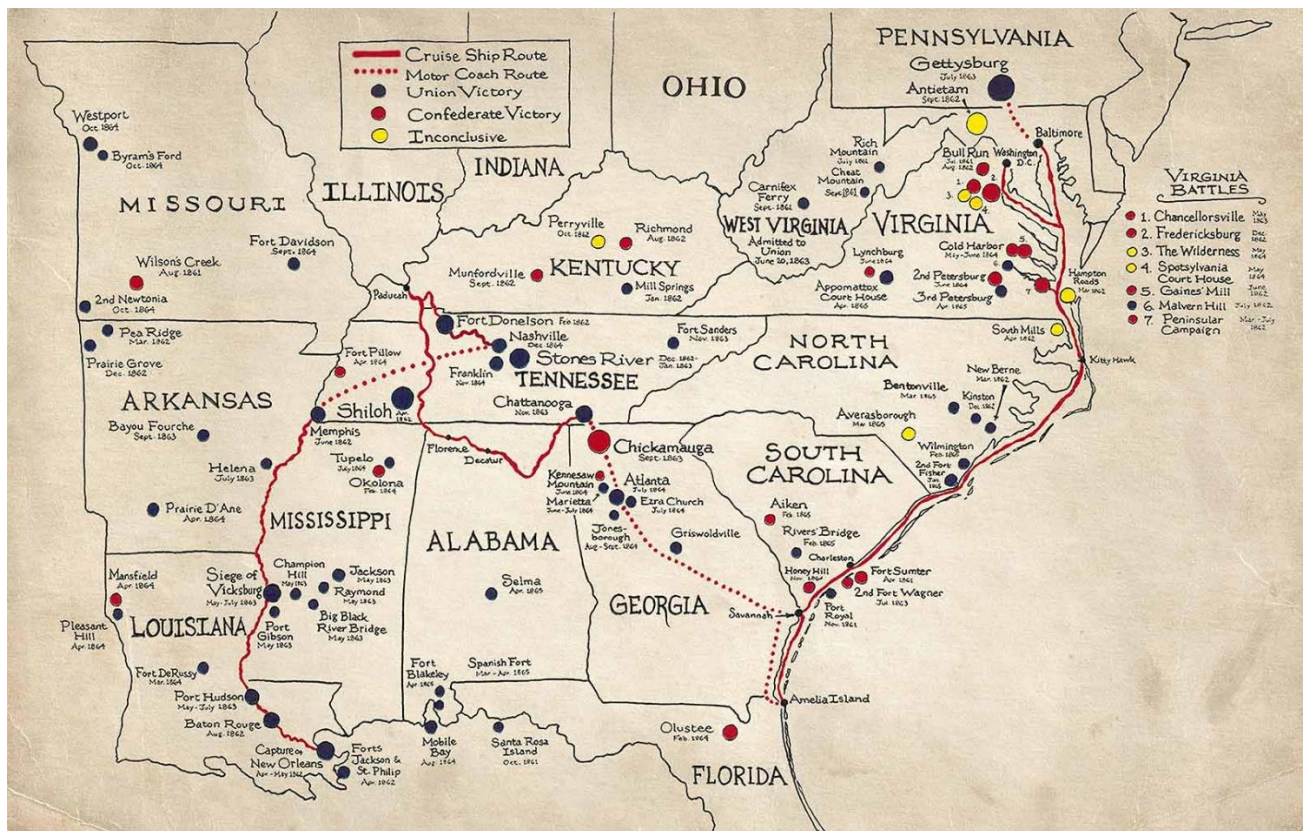
### Cruise Fare Includes:

- 35-Day exploration of America's Civil War Battlefields
- Pre-Cruise hotel stay in New Orleans
- Daily excursions and entertainment
- All meals and beverages
- WiFi powered by Starlink
- All transportation between cruise segments
- All hotels between cruise segments
- All tips, gratuities, and port charges

Prices start at \$24,700

For more information, please follow the link below.

<https://www.americancruiselines.com/cruises/extended-cruises/civil-war-battlefields-cruise>



## *Civil War Fraud: The Bizarre Case of William Newby*

Robert S. Davis, August 18, 2023, [blueandgrayeducation.org](http://blueandgrayeducation.org)

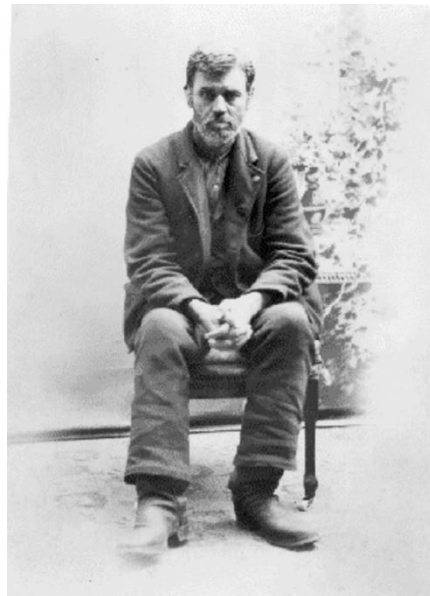
The United States Pension Office was America's first national investigative agency. Its cases tell many incredible stories about the history of the otherwise undocumented.

William Newby is among the strangest of these tales.

The Civil War produced millions of pension claimants, and Civil War pensions became America's first national welfare system. The pension office was the only federal bureaucracy most Americans, especially rural areas, knew. By 1900, 40 percent of the federal budget paid for these veterans' benefits.

The pension office investigators fought against fraud. In the processes, they resolved more "cold cases" than any government body by proving or discrediting in cases of alleged veterans or widows of veterans seeking pension benefits.

The strange tale of the William Newby investigation began in 1891. Crippled Civil War veteran Creel A. Lay identified a vagabond he met near McLeansboro, Illinois, as his comrade William Newby. That soldier, however, was killed at the battle of Shiloh in 1862! Newby's widow was overwhelmed but believed her husband had returned, and in order to be honest, she gave up her widow's pension for that belief. It would not resume until this "veteran," the man whom she believed to be her husband, died in 1907. Other family members were divided, as was the public.



Daniel Benton, aka William Newby/ *Nat. Arch.*

This man claimed he had been held in various Confederate prisons during the war including Camp Sumter, the notorious Andersonville, near Americus, Georgia. Some witnesses identified him as "Crazy Jack," one of the prisoners who survived the horrors of Andersonville by insanity, as with the famous Boston Corbett.

The controversy over this claim fueled a national debate. The case arose during a national political storm over pension fraud that had raged since 1888. If he were the lost veteran, he would qualify for a pension and receive pay for the years he spent incarcerated by the Confederate government.

The pension office finally ruled the man calling himself William Newby was an imposter. He was tried for pension fraud in federal district court in 1893, where 140 witnesses identified him as Newby and 30 others testified to his being Daniel Benton of Tennessee, a man for whom the government had traced his movements almost year by year. The jury took 19 minutes to find him guilty. "Benton" served a two-year prison sentence.

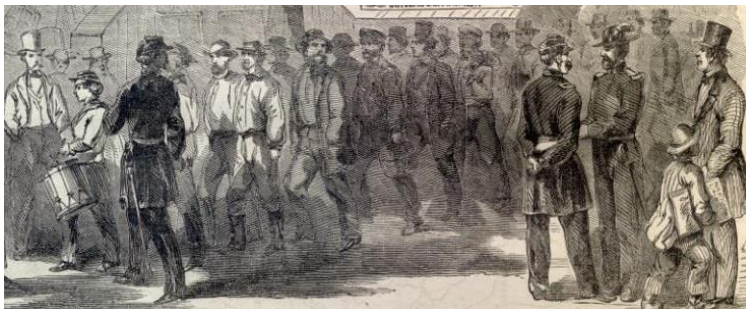
The trial reopened passions about the war. Newby family members accused the government of wrongly making an example of a suffering old soldier to save money and of accusing them of creating a conspiracy to defraud the government.

Ironically, the man, still claiming to be Newby and trying to obtain a pension, last appeared in the pensions records as living on a poor farm near Andersonville, Georgia, in 1898. For more on this story, see Stuart McConnell, "The William Newby Case and the Legacy of the Civil War," *Prologue Magazine* (Winter 1998): 237-254.

This Civil War Dispatch has been brought to you by the **Blue and Gray Education Society**, a non-profit 501-3C educational organization. Please visit us at [www.blueandgrayeducation.org](http://www.blueandgrayeducation.org).

## RE-ENLIST NOW FOR THE 2023-2024 CAMPAIGN!

All ICWRT members may continue to receive the monthly newsletter, HARDTACK, via email at no additional charge. Members who prefer to receive the HARDTACK by U.S. Mail are asked to pay an additional \$12.00 to help cover printing and mailing costs.



Please bring your completed re-enlistment form (below) together with your payment to Indianapolis Civil War Round Table, and give it to Pete Mohr, ICWRT Treasurer, at the next Round Table meeting, or mail your re-enlistment form and payment to:

Pete Mohr  
6308 Breamore Road  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46220

Phone: (317) 828-5176  
Email: [pmohr2@gmail.com](mailto:pmohr2@gmail.com)

*Please complete and detach the form below and include with your check:*

-----  
**ICWRT Membership Enlistment for July 2023 thru June 2024**

*Please print legibly!*

Name..... Date .....

Address.....  
.....

Phone: (.....) ..... Email Address: .....

*We must have a valid email address if you wish to receive the HARDTACK newsletter free of charge!*

**(please specify Membership Level):**

\$30 Individual  \$35 Family  \$15 Student

I wish to receive the newsletter via U.S. Mail for an additional \$12

In addition to my membership dues, please accept my generous gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the ICWRT general operating account (This donation is not tax deductible)

If someone invited you to join the ICWRT, please add their name. \_\_\_\_\_

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