



# HARDTACK



Indianapolis Civil War Round Table Newsletter

<http://indianapoliswrt.org/>

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Monday, October 9, 2023 at 6:45 p.m.  
Meeting at MCL Cafeteria Township Line  
2370 W. 86th Street

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## *The Plan of the Day*



*Don Troiani*

## **“Jackson at Cedar Mountain”**

Confederate General Thomas J. “Stonewall” Jackson wreaked havoc in the Shenandoah Valley during the spring of 1862, due, in part, to the Federal forces he confronted belonging to three separate departments that did not cooperate with one another. That changed in the summer of 1862, as those former departments became corps in a new Federal army under General John Pope. On August 9, 1862, Jackson decided to strike Union General Nathaniel P. Banks’ isolated corps before Pope’s army consolidated. On a brutally hot day which likely hit 100°, Jackson first engaged Banks in an artillery duel as his infantry formed for an assault. Jackson enjoyed a sizeable advantage in numbers over Banks, which may have given him a level of confidence that contributed to his distraction by the artillery contest rather than attending to the proper alignment of Brig. Gen. Charles Winder’s infantry. As Jackson prepared to attack the Federals, it was Banks who first launched an assault, causing chaos on the poorly positioned Confederate left. With Jackson rallying his troops and the timely arrival of Confederate reinforcements, a counterattack brought gray-clad superior numbers to bear and turned a near-defeat into a Confederate victory.

### *Our Guest Speaker*



**Greg Mertz**

A retired Supervisory Historian at Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania N.M.P., Greg Mertz grew up near St. Louis, Missouri. His interest in the Civil War and in parks was sparked by annual hiking and camping trips his Boy Scout troop made to the Shiloh, Tennessee. After earning a bachelor's degree in Recreation and Park Administration at the University of Missouri, he worked for four years at Gettysburg National Military Park and the Eisenhower National Historic Site. While at Gettysburg, he also earned a master's in Public Administration from Shippensburg University.

Greg then transferred to Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park where he worked for 36 years -- 27 of them as the Supervisory Historian.

Greg has also written four feature articles for Blue and Gray Magazine, and his book, "Attack at Daylight and Whip Them: The Battle of Shiloh, April 6-7, 1862," part of the "Emerging Civil War" series. Greg is the founding president of the Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table and is a past vice-president of the Brandy Station Foundation.

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

November 13, 2023 – Dan Bauer - "Harriet Beecher Stowe"

December 11, 2023 – Steve Buxsen – "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 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. Here is the list of programs for the Madison County Historical Society Civil War Roundtable for 2023.  
October 16--Roundtable discussion.  
November 20--Stephen Ritchie--TBA

## *Official Records*

### **September Attendance: 33**

**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.

## *Civil War Football Fantasy Selections*

It's time to pick your UNION ARMY fantasy football team! Turn your selections in to Steve Magnusen at the October 9 meeting, or email him at [magnusens@sbcglobal.net](mailto:magnusens@sbcglobal.net). The six positions to be filled are: QB, WR, FB, LB, DE, Equip. Mgr.

And thanks to those who participated in the CONFEDERATE picks on September 11. Obviously many candidates. Here are the results, most votes listed first.

QB: R.E. Lee. Others: Jackson, Magruder, Cleburne.

WR: J.E.B. Stuart. Others: Forrest, Jackson and Shelby

FB: Longstreet. Close second: Jackson. Others: Pickett, Cleburne, Johnson, Barksdale, Early, Hood, Johnston.

LB: Longstreet and Stuart, tied. Others: Jackson, Hood, Johnston, Alexander, Bragg, Forrest.

DE: Johnston. Others: Longstreet, Gordon, Mosby, Van Dorn, Jackson.

Equip. Bragg. \* Many others: Jackson, Gorgas, Semmes, Beauregard, Cooper, Pendleton, Longstreet, Smith

Mgr.

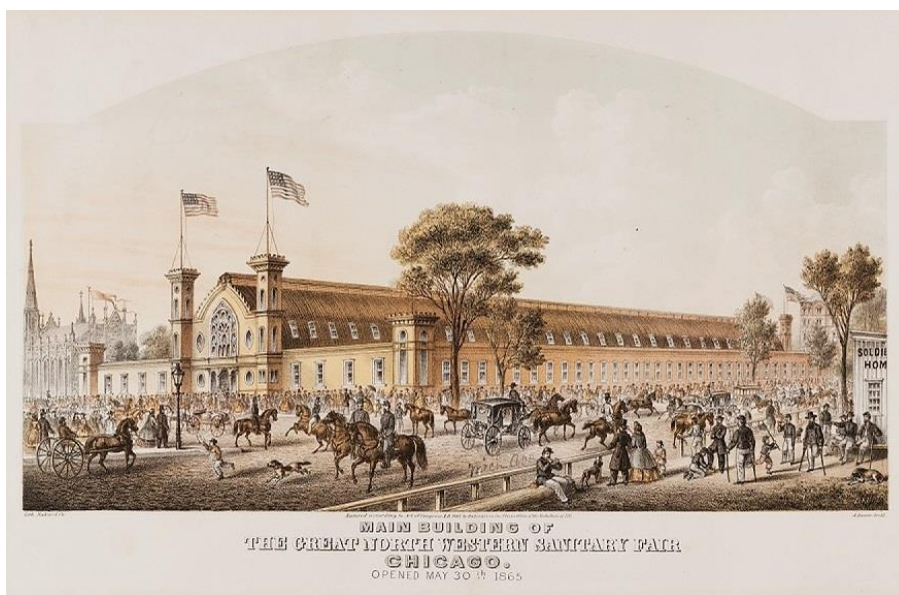
\* The famous Bragg pre-war story a factor? A formal requisition as company commander, a denial of the same requisition as acting Quartermaster! The post commander exclaimed "My God, Mr. Bragg, you have quarreled with every officer in the army, and now you're quarreling with yourself!"

## *This Month In Civil War Period History*

October 13, 1860: The first aerial photo was taken in the United States of Boston, Massachusetts.

October 24, 1861: “Trans-Allegheny” Virginia seceded from Virginia.

October 27, 1863: The first Sanitation Fair to raise funds for war relief, organized by Mary Ashton Livermore, opened in Chicago, Illinois.



*Chicago History Museum*

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

*by Tony Trimble*

Identify the Civil War personality or object associated with each of these nicknames:

1. What battlefield was named for a kind of English inn?
2. On 11 August 1863, Confederate guns At Battery Wagner, James Island and Ft. Sumter opened on Federal trenches where?
- 3' By what name is the Battle of Opequon Creek better known?
4. Name the Indiana Congressman who was on the Committee on the Conduct of the War.
5. Name the New York Federal prisoner of war camp that was considered escape-proof.

Answers to the September Quiz:

1. Land mines
2. Pikes
3. Gen Ormsby Mitchell
4. William H. Seward
5. A drumbeat which signaled a charge.

## ***Her "Beauty, Talents and Education Made Many a Man a Bushwhacker"***

By James W. Erwin, July 28, 2023, [blueandgrayeducation.org](http://blueandgrayeducation.org)

Mildred Elizabeth ("Lizzie") Powell was born in 1840 near Paris, Missouri. Little is known of her prewar life, but she was well-educated and known for her quick wit and sharp tongue that she frequently used against supporters of the Union. Fascinated Union men described her as "young, beautiful & accomplished."

Lizzie Powell was suspected of smuggling percussion caps out of Hannibal in her petticoat for guerrillas. She openly discouraged young men from joining the Union army, telling them that doing so would be an "everlasting disgrace." An officer noted her "beauty, talents and superior education have made many a man a bushwhacker who except for [her] influence would have been an honest man."

On September 29, 1862, Captain William Poillon, with fifty soldiers and a half dozen officers who were eager to meet this notorious and attractive rebel, arrested her at her home. When Poillon introduced his companions, Powell "requested him to dispense with this, as it was not my desire to be introduced to those whose acquaintance I had not sought and did not expect to cultivate."

Powell was brought before Gen. Lewis Merrill, the district commander. After some verbal sparring about the rebellion, Merrill remarked that "he had never met an intelligent southern lady in Missouri." Powell replied that "he had been very unfortunate in his associations."

Powell was allowed to remain more or less free in Hannibal. The local provost marshal, Maj. T.D. Price, came to see her. She wrote in her diary that he "solicits an introduction and passes several compliments; [I] refuse for [the] reason that I do not wish to devote the evening to entertaining a Federal officer."

On January 8, 1863, a Union citizen, William Newland, complained Powell was allowed free run of the town. He noted she was completely defiant of the Union soldiers, "but about one half of them are in love with her." Four days later, General Merrill ordered her confined again.

Major Price was befuddled. He finally wrote St. Louis urging she be banished to Dixie. He pointed out that when Powell was served with the original banishment order, she simply refused to go—and the authorities did not know what to do about it. In a postscript, Price (like the other Federal officers) described her as a "young and withal quite fascinating 'King-Bee' among the 'Secesh.'"

Federal authorities released her unconditionally on February 25, 1863. In directing her release, the commanding officer remarked: "A lofty spirit (such as her correspondence shows her to possess) I would rather trust to generous impulses and a sense of propriety, than hope to reclaim to allegiance by imposing any condition."

Seeking a more favorable climate for her health and politics, Lizzie and her brother James boarded the Hannibal and St. Joseph train in April 1863 for a trip West to Virginia City, Nevada Territory. Lizzie Powell died in 1877 in a carriage accident in Denver.



### Sources:

Lizzie Powell, Union Citizens File, M345, RG 109, Roll 0221, National Archives and Records Administration at Fold3.com OR, Series II, vol. 5, 78

Lizzie Powell Diary (Transcribed), September 29, 1862 at <http://digital.shsmo.org/cdm/ref/collection/amcw/id/22095>. (The original is in the State Historical Society of Missouri in Columbia, Missouri)

Photo courtesy of State Historical Society of Missouri.

Sign up for more free Blue and Gray Education Society dispatches or at our website:  
<https://blueandgrayeducation.org/>

## *A New Speaker Enhancement Fund!*

The ICWRT Executive Committee authorized a special Speaker Enhancement Fund and has approved the following name: The Governor Oliver Morton Fund – named for Indiana’s wartime governor who historian James Ford Rhodes called "The ablest and most energetic of the war governors of the Western States."

The details: Members who donate \$100 or more to the fund in a single campaign year become members of the Gov. Oliver Morton Club. This is in addition to yearly dues or other general fees.

What is it for?: The Treasurer will keep these donations in a separate account to be used solely for guest speaker expenses.

What is the intention? Good speakers and topics are the primary reason members and guests attend our meetings. Good speakers often must travel a significant distance. We reimburse for travel, lodging and offer an honorarium - all in order to attract good speakers. The fund will allow us to continue providing an excellent slate of speakers, many of whom are booked a year in advance.

The Gov. Oliver Morton Club Members: Ten members have already stepped up, they are:

Peter Mohr, David Finney, Tom Krasean, Andy O’Donnell, Roy Agnew, Mike Eisenhut, Steve Magnusen, Chris Smith, Bruce Kolb, Bill Ghormley. Thank You!

All donor names will be published in each issue of the Hardtack.

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Bring a Guest! We encourage visitors and guests! There must be someone in your circle who would be interested in listening to a good speaker and new topic. Give it a try.

Steve Magnusen, 9.25.23

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## *Nearly 150 Acres of Maryland Campaign Battlefield Saved*

*Mary Koik (202) 367-1861 x7231*

September 15, 2023

(Washington, D.C.) — As the nation commemorates the 161st anniversary of the Battle of Antietam — America’s Bloodiest Day — the American Battlefield Trust is declaring victory in its efforts to save nearly 150 acres of battlefield land associated with the Maryland Campaign, including the Jacob Avey Farm, some of Antietam’s most hallowed ground.

“Just a few months ago, we asked our members and preservation friends to help us save a key 20-acre portion of Antietam’s Jacob Avey Farm, where some of the fiercest fighting of the Battle of Antietam took place and where Confederate soldiers were buried after the battle, according to the recently discovered Elliot Burial Map,” said Trust President David Duncan. “They answered our call and now this sacred ground is saved.”

The land also includes the historic Avey farmhouse, where the Avey family lived as the Battle of Antietam raged in Sharpsburg, Md., September 17, 1862. Like many civilians in Sharpsburg, Jacob Avey Sr. suffered great financial loss due to the battle.

Heavy fighting took place on his land, and an errant Union shell penetrated his house. His claims for reimbursement from the Federal government, like many others in Sharpsburg, were rejected, despite his feeding Union soldiers and caring for them in his house.

The Trust is also claiming victory on six additional acres at Antietam, originally part of the historic Reel Farm. In the midmorning of September 17, 1862, the Union armies were gaining ground at Antietam as a large, Northern force entered the West Woods, near this parcel the Trust has preserved forever. Preserving these six acres helps the Trust unite a significant portion of the Antietam battlefield we've already saved.

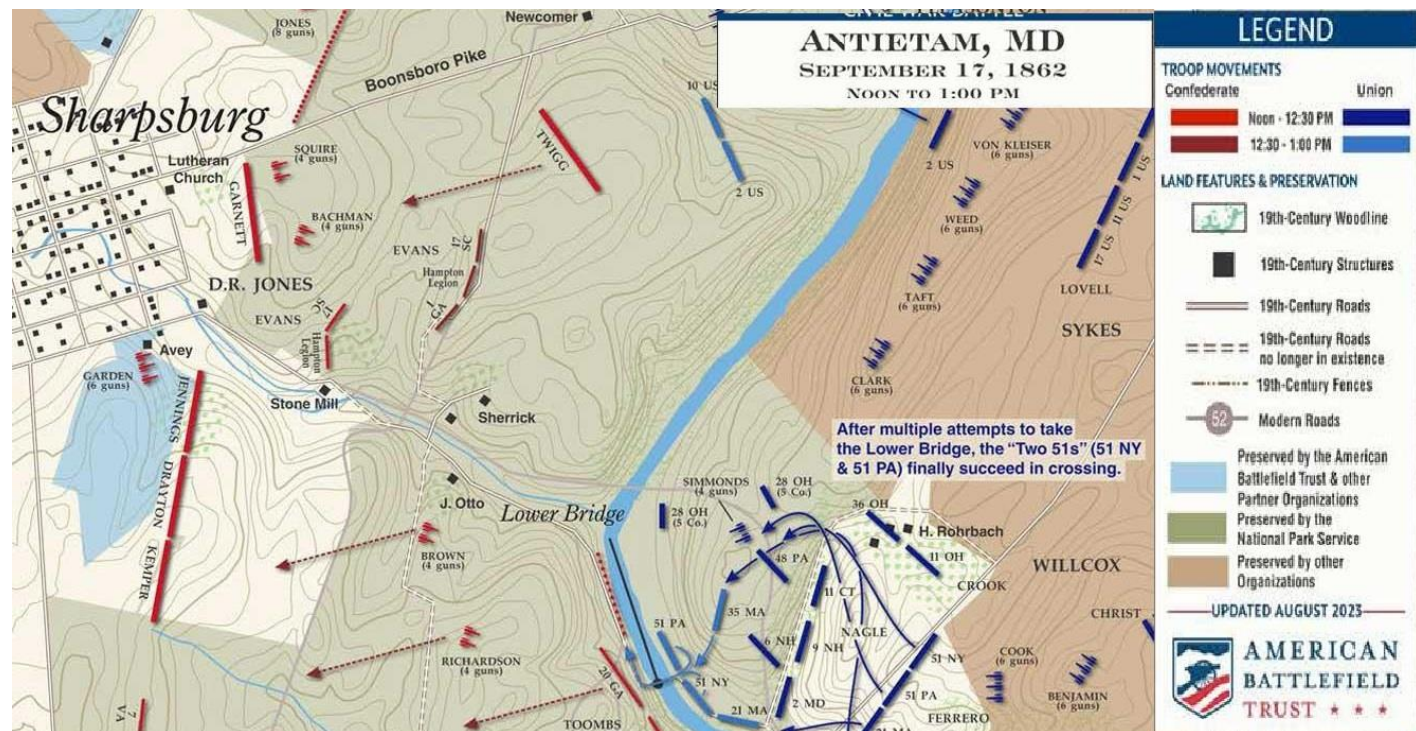


*Avey Farm, Antietam Battlefield, Sharpsburg, Md.*

After the Battle of Antietam, Confederate forces moved back across the Potomac and into Virginia at Shepherdstown, where fighting took place September 19-20, 1862. The Trust's 150-acre Maryland Campaign victory also includes 122 acres of land associated with the Battle of Shepherdstown. These 122 acres of battlefield land, which include the historic Osbourn House, appear mostly as they did during the battle, offering the organization a valuable educational tool for generations to come.

### About the American Battlefield Trust

The American Battlefield Trust is dedicated to preserving America's hallowed battlegrounds and educating the public about what happened there 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. Learn more at [www.battlefields.org](http://www.battlefields.org).



## E-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:*

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**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  
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Plainfield, IN 46168