

The official newsletter of the Cape Fear Civil War Roundtable.

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**MAY PROGRAM FEATURES USCT AND THEIR ROLE IN CIVIL WAR**

By Bill Jayne, President

Wilmington's Cape Fear Civil War Round Table invites the public to attend a presentation by retired U.S. Navy Captain Edward Gantt. The May 11 meeting will be held at the Cape Fear Museum at 814 Market Street in Wilmington. He will present "The United States Colored Troops in the Civil War." Doors open at 6:30 and the meeting begins at 7:00 p.m.

During the presentation, Capt. Gantt will address the contributions of African American soldiers in the USCT with special attention to their activities in southeastern North Carolina. USCT played an important role in the Battle of Ft. Fisher on January 15, 1865, and led the advance up the peninsula from Ft. Fisher to Wilmington from mid-January to the fall of the city on February 22.

(continued on the next page)

## Membership Report

By Bruce Patterson, Secretary

The April meeting, with presenter Dr. Robert (Bob) Browning, was well attended. The meeting was buoyed by six new memberships that brings our total paid membership to 86, six of whom are either remote or associate. Several of our members attend via Zoom but even so our attendance reflects a current and growing interest in history, specifically Civil War history.

That brings me to what I call the *key to membership* (no surprises here) and while great speakers, interesting topics, wonderful visual aids and a centrally located and comfortable meeting place are essential to maintaining a successful program, the *key to membership* remains a content member who will renew promptly and recruit from neighbors and friends. You, the content member is the *key to membership*.

Our rolls are enhanced by returning members **Mike O'Brien** and **Ann Polanski**, (Wilmington) and new members **John & Nancy Wetherington** from Castle Hayne, **John Lewis**, **Ed LeStrange** and **Mike Anthony** from Leland and **William Lees** from Wilmington. Welcome aboard folks. Hope to see all at our May 11th meeting.

Renewing members may send their \$30 annual membership fee to **CFCWRT, 8387 East Highcroft NE, Leland, NC 28451** or better still, bring a check to our May 11th meeting being held at the *Cape Fear Museum* (one time only). You may also pay online or by credit card.

First came the little-known fighting along the Sugar Loaf line in Carolina Beach. The Sugar Loaf line was a Confederate defensive line that ran from the ocean near today's J. Ryder Lewis Civil War Park on Myrtle Sound all the way to the Sugar Loaf dune in Carolina Beach State Park on the Cape Fear River. The Lewis Civil War Park preserves and interprets the earthwork trenches and other fortifications that can be found all the way across the island. Today, by the way, we know the location as "Pleasure Island," but it wasn't an island until the 1920's when the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dredged Snow's Cut to carry the Intracoastal Waterway from the sounds to the Cape Fear River, avoiding a dangerous voyage around or through Frying Pan Shoals. Until Snow's Cut was constructed, the narrow stretch of land from Wilmington to Federal Point, below Fort Fisher, was a peninsula unobstructed by water but full of marshes and dense maritime forest.

On February 11, 1865, five brigades of Union troops, about 12,000 men including those held in reserve, attacked the Confederate line manned by General Robert Hoke's five to six thousand Confederates. On the Union center and left, the assault was led by nine regiments of USCT, including the battle tested 4th and 5th USCT regiments. These units had figured prominently in the fighting between Grant and Lee around Richmond in 1864 and their ranks including nine men who eventually received the Medal of Honor for their valor in the Richmond fighting.

The attack was pressed with fighting all along the line and support from Federal gunboats on both the ocean side and the river side. More than 100 casualties were incurred, notably 16 men killed in action and 76 wounded in the 4th USCT alone. Finally, Union commanders Major Generals Alfred Terry and John Schofield decided the Confederate defensive line was too strong and halted the attack. In overall command, General Schofield transferred troops across the river to overcome Ft. Anderson on the western bank and

thereby outflank the Confederates at Sugar Loaf. Ft. Anderson was abandoned on February 18 and Hoke retreated toward Wilmington.

On February 20 and 21, Union and Confederate forces clashed once again in the Battle of Forks Road around the intersection of modern-day 17th Street and Independence Boulevard. USCT brigades led the attack up the Federal Point Road where they encountered well-entrenched Confederates once again. There were about 50 Federal casualties before General Hoke, under orders, abandoned the defenses and marched out of Wilmington up today's Castle Hayne Road.

Capt. Gantt will address the background of the USCT as well as their contributions in both Eastern and Western theaters of the war. It's a complicated story, of course. Originally not allowed to join the Army, by the end of the war, some 180,000 to 200,000 Blacks served in the United States Colored Troops (USCT) and comprised ten percent of the U. S. Army. There were at least 166 regiments of Black soldiers, who fought in approximately 450 battle actions and were instrumental in helping to win the Civil War and freedom for their people.

Gantt was born in Maryland and saw combat as a helicopter door gunner and crew chief during a 12-month tour in South Vietnam. His first stint in the service included graduation from the U.S. Army Airborne and Ranger schools.

After his Army service, and following graduation from Howard University, he re-entered the armed forces serving as a naval aviator, including a tour as commanding officer of Fighter Squadron 31 at Naval Air Station Miramar (at that time the home of Top Gun).

In July 2000, Gantt took command of the Navy boot camp at Great Lakes, Illinois. At Recruit Training Command (the Navy's only boot camp), he was responsible for the development of nearly 50,000 sailors annually. He retired from the Navy in September 2003 after 30 years of active service and began a new career as a high school teacher in the Washington, D.C. area.

In the spring of 2014, Gantt began an association with the 23rd Infantry Regiment USCT Civil War re-enactors and living historians. He is currently a member of Company B, 54th Massachusetts Civil War re-enactors and president of the re-formed 23rd Regiment USCT in Spotsylvania, Virginia.

Sugar Loaf lines  
earthworks in Carolina  
Beach on the left. USCT  
- 4th Regiment on the  
right.



Capt. Gantt will also present a special program on Friday, May 12, at Wilmington National Cemetery, beginning at 4 p.m. Established in 1867, the historic cemetery is located at 2011 Market Street and is the final resting place of more than 500 USCT soldiers, the vast majority buried as unknowns. The round table will accept donations from adults who attend but not from school. There is no parking in the cemetery.

We will open the Friday event, scheduled to begin at 4 p.m., to the general public and request a donation of \$10 except for school children.

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## CFCWRT Speakers in the News

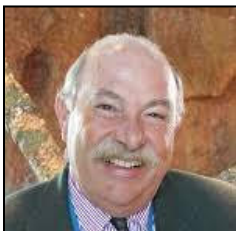
By James Gannon, Programs Committee

**Dr. Chris Mackowski**, our February 2024 CFCWRT speaker recently published an interesting article in the April Emerging Civil War newsletter about his visit to the American Civil War Roundtable of the United Kingdom. Chris found the members of the UK roundtable to be “deeply engaged and highly knowledgeable.”

<https://emergingcivilwar.com/2017/04/28/ecws-april-newsletter-now-available/>

**Captain Ed Gantt**, our May 2023 CFCWRT speaker is a Vice Commander of the Military Order of the World Wars. “The Officer Review” is the magazine of the MOWW. You can check out the magazine at this link.

[https://moww.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/OFFICER-REVIEW\\_January-February-2023-Web-Edition.pdf](https://moww.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/OFFICER-REVIEW_January-February-2023-Web-Edition.pdf)



**John Quarstein** frequently makes virtual on line presentations for the Mariners’ Museum and Park such as his April 28 presentation for the USS Monitor Legacy Program about Admiral John Dahlgren who invented the famous Dahlgren gun. John is Director Emeritus of the USS Monitor Museum in Newport News and will be out September 2023 CFCWRT Speaker.

<https://www.marinersmuseum.org/event/uss-monitor-legacy-program-rear-admiral-john-a-b-dahlgren/>

If you’ve never been there, Harpers Ferry in West Virginia is well worth a visit. Not only is it one of the most historic locations in the country, it’s also a beautiful spot nestled up on a bluff between the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers. The NPS does a great job of interpreting the history of John Brown’s raid there.



FRIENDS OF BENTONVILLE BATTLEFIELD AND THE  
BENNETT PLACE SUPPORT FUND PRESENT:

# BENTONVILLE BENNETT PLACE & BEYOND

THE CIVIL WAR'S CONCLUSION IN NORTH CAROLINA  
SYMPOSIUM

SEPTEMBER 29-OCTOBER 1, 2023

**FEATURING:**

GARRY ADELMAN · SUZY BARILE · MARK BRADLEY  
AL BREDENBERG · ERNEST DOLLAR · CHRIS FONVIELLE  
CHRIS HARTLEY · CHRIS MEEKINS · WADE SOKOLOSKY  
ERIC WITTENBERG · ANGIE ZOMBEK · AND MORE!

**VISIT:**

BENNETT PLACE · BENTONVILLE BATTLEFIELD  
DOROTHEA DIX PARK · MORDECAI HISTORIC PARK  
NC MUSEUM OF HISTORY · OAKWOOD CEMETERY

FOR MORE INFO:

REGISTRATION OPENS  
JUNE 1ST!



This looks to be a great event. You can use the scan code to obtain more information. See you there!

## Area Historic Association Events

By Yelena Howell, Tours and Trips Committee

**Thursday, May 4, 2023, 1030 am-1130am:** New Hanover County Public Library, Pine Valley Branch, Pelican Room. “Get to Know the Senior Resource Center” presentation to highlight various recreational activities, education, support and counseling services, congregate meals, transportation, and assistance services for adults 55+. [Completed before publication but included for reference.]

**Friday, May 5, 2-4 pm:** New Hanover County Public Library, Main Branch, Cape Fear Room. Senior Game Day. Board games, refreshments, and good company. Ages 50+. Preregistration optional. Call Frances at (910) 798-6347 with any questions. [Completed before publication but included for reference.]

**Tuesday, May 9, 2023, 1030-1130 am:** Bellamy Mansion Volunteer Open House. For more information, see <https://www.bellamymansion.org/volunteer.html>

**Saturday, May 13, 2023, 1 - 2pm:** Fort Fisher State Historic Site is resuming the popular Beat the Heat series at the Visitor Center. Site historian Becky Sawyer will speak on Asian Pacific Islanders in the US Navy at Fort Fisher.

**Saturday, May 27, 10 am, and Sunday, May 28, 3 pm:** Bennett Place State Historic Site, Durham, NC: Annual Memorial Day Remembrance Event. \$3 per adult, \$2 per child to attend. For more information, contact Ryan Reed at (919) 383-4345 or [ryan.reed@ncdcr.gov](mailto:ryan.reed@ncdcr.gov)

**Saturday, May 27, 2023:** Dr. Chris E. Fonvielle Jr., the preeminent scholar of the history of Wilmington and the Lower Cape Fear, turns 70 years young! Cape Fear Civil War Round Table wishes Dr. Fonvielle a very happy birthday and many happy returns.

**Mrs. Rose Greenhow sighting in downtown Wilmington!** On April 20, 2023, CFCWRT President Bill Jayne and Tour Director Yelena Howell had the pleasure of seeing Emily Lapisardi, Rose Greenhow scholar and actor of more than two decades and Director of Musical Activities for Most Holy Trinity Catholic Chapel at the United States Military Academy (West Point, New York). Be sure to follow Mrs. Greenhow’s new appearances at <https://www.facebook.com/rosegreenhowportrayal> and consider taking the time to read Rose Greenhow's My Imprisonment: An Annotated Edition (2021) with Ms. Lapisardi’s painstakingly researched commentary that places people and events into appropriate context: <https://a.co/d/exJXLGT> Over the next few months, we will be auctioning off two exciting items to help raise funds for our round table so that we can continue to bring you top-notch speakers and historians.

*Editor's Note: Please remember that we try to get everything submitted to us in every issue, but sometimes we may have to leave something out due to space constraints. Often, items that don't make it in one month may show up in the next month's newsletter. Thanks to everyone for your submissions! There wouldn't be a newsletter without you!*

## CFCWRT Summer 2023 Programs

### 6/8/23: A Double Feature Member Forum!

#### *Bill Jordan: Civil War Cooking*

There was a whole lot more to Civil War Cooking than salt pork and hardtack crackers. Civil War era cooks used different ingredients than we usually do in order to achieve some very good meals. Bill will dispel the myth that the food was always unpalatable. (Bill might even bring a sample.)

#### *Charles Ewell: Civil War Anesthesia*

Although anesthesia was "discovered" less than two decades before the civil war, any controversy about the benefits was settled early in this conflict. Charles will summarize the milestones that led to general anesthesia and focus on the details of its use in civil war surgery. There are some misconceptions about surgery during the civil war which probably arose from depictions in the movies. Charles will dispel these and try to put the successful organization of anesthesia services into the context of the rapid transformation of surgery from the barber shop to something resembling what we have now. Charles's role as an anesthesiologist brings an interesting and different perspective to his subject.



### 7/13/23: A Round Table discussion led by CFCWRT President Bill Jayne

#### *Victory Snatched from the Jaws of Defeat...or Vice Versa?*

The initial Confederate assaults at the battle of Cedar Creek, October, 1864, came while Sheridan was away, and were spectacularly successful. However, by afternoon, the Confederate attack ran out of steam. In his famous ride, Sheridan turned back from Winchester and hurried to the battlefield, helped rally the Union forces, and ordered a counterattack that proved crushingly successful. The Round Table discussion will focus on the Confederate pause that afternoon. Gen. Gordon urged Early to continue the assault against the stalwart Union VI Corps, but Early seemed confident they would retire. Writing later, Early seemed to lay the blame for the defeat upon the Confederate troops, who, by stopping to pillage Union camps, became too disorganized for further attacks. More will be forthcoming before our meeting, but there is plenty of time to read about the battle and form your opinions before our discussion.



### 8/10/23: Audience Participation

#### *"A War Game of Sorts" led by John Weisz*

The game will focus upon the options available to Major General John Buford leading a division of US cavalry and searching for the main Confederate force which has invaded southern Pennsylvania and Maryland. The audience will play the role of General Buford and will be presented four possible courses of action available to Buford. After our audience discussion we will poll the participants and then review the actual decision made by Buford and why he made that choice. If you were John Buford what would you do?



A great site to visit is Bennett Place near Durham where General Joseph E. Johnston surrendered to General William T. Sherman. It was the largest surrender of troops in the war - nearly 90,000. Johnston and Sherman became lifelong friends after their experience together at Bennett Place.

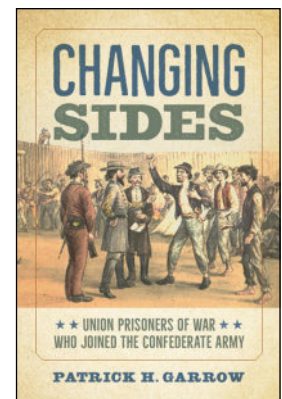
## Changing Sides During the Civil War

By Patrick H. Garrow, Roundtable Member

I became interested in soldiers who changed sides while working on an archaeological site associated with the Confederate Florence Prison in Florence, South Carolina. Hundreds of Union prisoners held in Charleston and then in Florence expressed interest in joining the Confederate army in late 1864. Those men and many others were allowed to do so, which resulted in the creation of four Confederate units made up entirely of former Union soldiers. The first unit raised was sent to Savannah to man a section of the defenses around the city as Sherman's army approached the city. The "galvanized Confederates" tried to mutiny and were arrested and returned to Florence prison. Seven of their number were executed after a brief trial. A second unit became a regiment of pioneers who improved or built roads and bridges ahead of Johnston's army's march through the Carolinas and to its eventual surrender. A third unit was rushed to Salisbury, North Carolina, to defend the city from Stoneman's raid and arrived there as the Confederate defenses were crumbling. Many of the former Union soldiers were captured and taken to a prison in Nashville. The last unit, 1,000 strong, was raised for use in the western theater with Hood's Army. Two thirds of those men were sent to Mississippi, where over 200 of them were captured at the battle of Egypt Station during Grierson's second raid. Those men were taken to Camp Douglas, where most joined a Union regiment of galvanized Yankees that was shipped to the western frontier. The galvanized Confederates were documented in a book titled *Changing Sides Union Prisoners of War Who Joined the Confederate Army*, which was published by the University of Tennessee Press. That book is available from UT Press, Amazon, and most other major online book sellers.

I am currently under contract to the University of Tennessee Press for a companion volume that deals with former Confederate soldiers who joined the Union army. The tentative title of that book is *Gray to Blue: Galvanized Yankees in the Union Army*, which is scheduled to be published in late 2023 or early 2024. The purpose of the second volume is to expand and update Dee Brown's classic work *Galvanized Yankees*. Dee Brown restricted his volume almost entirely to five regiments and one battalion raised from Confederate prisoners of war sent to the western frontier to protect the Oregon Trail, the Overland Trail, and the Santa Fe Trail. Research has revealed that there were many more men raised both from Union prisons and from among deserters from the Confederate army who joined existing Union regiments and battalions. An unknown number of men completed their term of service in the Confederate Army and then changed sides and joined the Union army. The Union raised units in every state in the south except South Carolina and enlisted over 10,000 men in those units. Four such units were raised in North Carolina.

The two-volume set, when completed, will represent the first thorough treatment of men who changed sides during the American Civil War. It is important to understand the Civil War from the perspective of its battles and leaders. Perhaps it is more important understand the war from the perspectives of the men who fought it.





## CFCWRT Fall 2023 Programs

By James Gannon, Programs Committee

**9/14/23 John Quarstein**

***CSS Albemarle and the actions at Edenton, Plymouth and New Bern***

John V. Quarstein is a nationally known speaker and an award-winning historian, preservationist, and author. John served as the director of the Virginia War Museum until his retirement and is now Director Emeritus of the USS Monitor Center at The Mariners' Museum in Newport News, Virginia. He has authored 18 books and has served as an adjunct professor at the College of William & Mary. John is an expert on the Naval War and will speak to us about the Civil War actions that occurred along North Carolina's inland waterways.

**10/12/23 Chris Bryan**

***Author of "Cedar Mountain to Antietam:  
A Civil War Campaign History of the Union XII Corps, July - September 1862"***

Chris Bryan's book is both a unit history and a leadership and character assessment. It is a compelling story of a little studied yet consequential corps and fills a long standing gap in the history of the civil war. It is the story of how this often luckless command began as part of MG John Pope's Army of Virginia in June 1862, endured defeat after coming within a whisker of defeating MG Stonewall Jackson at Cedar Mountain, suffered through the hardships of the campaigns before and after Second Manassas, but despite it all, found its resurgence in Maryland as part of the rebuilt Army of the Potomac. Chris Bryan is a former naval aviator and USNA graduate, and is active with historic preservation and architectural investigations.

**11/9/23 Ed Lowe**

***Author of "A Fine Opportunity Lost:  
Longstreet's East Tennessee Campaign, November 1863 - April 1864"***

Confederate General Longstreet's First Corps and Union General Burnside's IX Corps had already shared battlefields at Second Manassas, South Mountain, Antietam, and Fredericksburg. Unexpectedly, these two old foes from the Eastern Theater now found themselves transplanted to the Western Theater —familiar adversaries on unfamiliar ground. The fate of East Tennessee hung in the balance, and new reputations could be won or lost. General James Longstreet's deployment to East Tennessee gave him the chance for an independent command. For his Union opponent, Major General Ambrose Burnside, the Western Theater offered an opportunity for redemption from past failures. Colonel Ed Lowe USA (Ret) tells the story of how this was "a fine opportunity lost" for both men.

*Next month, look for a page dedicated to our sponsors. Our sponsors mean a lot to the CFCWRT. We couldn't do much of what we do without them. We'll print all their logos in our next issue.*

April's event featured Dr. Robert L. Browning's presentation on "Success is All that was Expected: The Failed Efforts to Take Charleston." Dr. Browning told the fascinating story of the Union's unsuccessful attempt to use ironclads to destroy the forts protecting Charleston Harbor. The forts were stronger than expected and there were challenges with the design of the ironclads themselves. A great program that was enjoyed by all. Here are some photos of the fellowship enjoyed at the meeting. See you on Thursday evening!





Editor's Note: Bentonville Battlefield has an interesting blog - From the Trenches. The Runner will occasionally reproduce (with permission) some of the posts on that blog. This month, we feature a post by Colby Lipscomb, Education Coordinator at the battlefield. Due to space limitations we were not able to print all the photos. To see the post as it was originally published, go to [bentonvillefromthetrenches.wordpress.com](http://bentonvillefromthetrenches.wordpress.com). All the photos can be found there. Thanks to Colby for letting us print it.

## “She’s a Real Veteran:” Lucy Nichols and the 23<sup>rd</sup> Indiana at Bentonville

December 1898, over 30 years after the end of the Civil War, the *Owensboro Messenger Inquirer* printed an article titled “She’s a Real Veteran.” “By a special act of Congress,” the article explains, “Aunt Lucy Nichols of this city will receive a pension of \$12 a month.” Written so casually, it’s not immediately clear how revolutionary it is that a black woman was being granted a pension from the United States government for work she did as part of the military during the Civil War. That quietly revolutionary story is that of Lucy Nichols.

Lucy Higgs was born April 10th, 1838 in Halifax County, North Carolina. Enslaved from birth by the Higgs family, we know very little about her early life. Lucy involuntarily moved with the Higgs around the south as she grew up within the confines of slavery. Lucy established a family, marrying a man also enslaved by the Higgs family and gave birth to a child just before the Civil War broke out. While living in Western Tennessee in 1862, Lucy’s enslavers decided to move her and her family further south. Before this move was possible, Lucy took her liberty into her own hands and self-emancipated with her young daughter Mona. Less is known about what happened to Mona’s father, although some sources claim he self-emancipated as well and joined with a different US Army regiment, potentially serving with the United States Colored Troops.

Lucy and Mona traveled 30 miles under pursuit by their enslavers before finding sanctuary with the 23rd Indiana infantry regiment stationed in Bolivar, TN. Citing the Confiscation Act of 1862, the Hoosier soldiers provided safety and shelter, but most importantly their invocation of the Confiscation Act of 1862 granted legal freedom to Lucy and Mona. This law specifically allowed for the United States government to seize any property owned by people who aided in or participated in the rebellion. Since the Confederate government considered enslaved people property, the Confiscations Act granted many people their freedom.





Lucy Nichols in 1898

“All slaves of persons who shall hereafter be engaged in rebellion against the government of the United States, or who shall in any way give aid of comfort thereto, escaping from such persons and taking refuge within the lines of the army; and all slaves captured from such persons or deserted by them and coming under the control of the government of the United States; and all slaves of such person found on or being within any place occupied by rebel forces and afterwards occupied by the forces of the United States, **shall be deemed captives of war, and shall be forever free of their servitude, and not again held as slaves.**”- Confiscation Act of 1862

To show her gratitude Lucy remained with the 23<sup>rd</sup> Indiana, serving as a cook, laundress, and nurse. With no connection to her husband, who later died due to illness, staying with the regiment ensured Lucy and Mona’s safety in what was a terrifying world for freedom seekers whose freedom was still very much in question as the war raged on.

While the 23<sup>rd</sup> Indiana was celebrating the surrender of Vicksburg July 1863, Mona fell ill and tragically passed away. Mona’s death left Lucy “absolutely alone but,” according to a postwar newspaper article, “she still clung to the regiment.” The heartbroken Indianans organized an ‘elaborate funeral’ to lay young Mona to rest.

Lucy remained with the regiment throughout the remainder of the war, providing necessary services to the men. As the 23<sup>rd</sup> advanced through Georgia and the Carolinas her own life was often at risk as she worked near the front lines, providing vital care to the wounded and sick and support to the rest of the regiment.

By the Battle of Bentonville in March 1865, Lucy had been with the regiment for nearly three years. Part of Sherman’s Right Wing, they arrived after the heaviest fighting had ended. Although the 23<sup>rd</sup> Indiana saw limited action at Bentonville, their presence was noted. Lucy, as a nurse, may have been called into action to help care for the wounded of other regiments but primary sources have yet to be found to provide insight into her role here.

After the surrender at Bennett Place, Lucy traveled with her regiment to Washington DC and marched with them in the Grand Review of the Armies, one of the final acts of the Civil War. Lucy’s freedom was now secure, but it had come at a high cost. Within just a few years she lost her husband and daughter. With little else to her name and nowhere to go, Lucy chose to accept the invitation of the men of the regiment to return with them to New Albany, Indiana.

Lucy lived out the rest of her life in New Albany, where she became a vital part of the community and remained close with many of the men of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Indiana. In 1870, she married John Nichols and lived with him until his death in 1910. She attended every reunion and many other events as a member of the regiment, including marching in some of the first Memorial Day parades. Lucy became one of the only female members of the Grand Army of the Republic, a national fraternal organization of US Army Civil War veterans.



In 1892, thirty years after Lucy joined with the 23rd Indiana as their nurse, the United States Congress passed an act granting a federal pension to “all women employed by the Surgeon General of the Army as nurses, under contract or otherwise, during the late war of the rebellion.” Pensions had become essential in providing monetary relief to those who served the Union during the war and who needed financial help as they aged. This act extended that assistance to many more who labored in the service of the Union. However, after applying for pension twice, Lucy Nichols was denied, most likely due to her race.

In 1895, 55 of the 23rd Indiana veterans campaigned for Lucy to get her earned pension from the US government. It was December 1898 before their complaints were finally heard and Congress passed a special act specifically to grant a federal pension of \$12 a month for the rest of her life to Lucy Nichols. This special act of Congress made Lucy a minor celebrity and articles like the one below were printed in newspapers across Indiana and Kentucky. After 30 years, Lucy finally began to receive the recognition she deserved and had been given by her friends in the 23rd Indiana.

In 1915, five years after her husband’s death, Lucy was admitted to the Floyd County Poor Farm. She died there a few weeks later on January 29, 1915 at the age of 76. Tragically, the location of her grave is unknown.

Not until the 21<sup>st</sup> century did history begin to recognize Lucy for her acts during the Civil War. In 2011, a historical plaque was erected near her church, the Second Baptist Church of New Albany. In 2019, the church unveiled a nine-foot-tall statue of Lucy and her daughter Mona, further cementing her legacy within the community. With these monuments and the written sources and photographs that remain, we are fortunate to be able to tell the story of Lucy Nichols. Her strength and valor gained not just her freedom from slavery but her work with the 23<sup>rd</sup> Indiana helped ensure the freedom of so many others.

Research is actively ongoing to find more information about Lucy and others like her as it relates to the Battle of Bentonville. For more information about Lucy Nichols, her incredible life, and the rest of the 23rd Indiana regiment, check out these resources below:

[Lucy Higgs Nichols, New Albany. Digital Civil Rights Museum, Ball State University.](#)

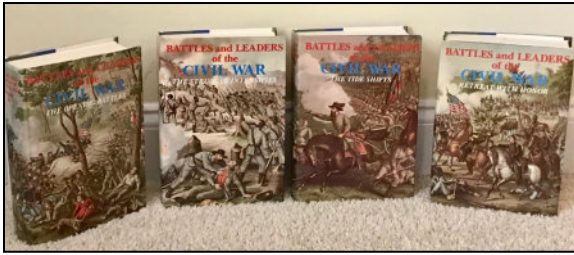
[Lucy Higgs Nichols Historical Marker, Indiana Historical Bureau](#)

[Frenzel, Hallie. “Stories of Service: The Life of Lucy Higgs Nichols.” Indiana War Memorials Foundation.](#)

[Boyle, John. “Celebrating an Icon: Statue of New Albany’s Lucy Higgs Nichols Unveiled.” \*News and Tribune\*](#)

[“Remembering the Life of Lucy Higgs Nichols.” Carnegie Center for Art and History.](#)

## Auction Items Up for Bid to Benefit Roundtable



First of all, we are auctioning off a brand-new set of the *Battles and Leaders* series reprinted by Castle in 1990. The original volumes were published in 1887 by Century Company. The subtitle tells the tale: "Being for the most part contributions by Union and Confederate Officers." A central part of the "battle of the

books," *Battles and Leaders of the Civil War*, became the best-selling and most frequently cited works ever published on the Civil War.

The set we are offering was donated to us and was wrapped in shrink wrap. The four volumes sell for \$100 on Amazon and other book sellers ask for considerably more.



We are also offering a beautiful framed, limited edition of seven Civil War commemorative stamps. The ensemble was sold by Hanford Heirlooms and is numbered "161/10,000". These stamps are not only collector's items, they are historical artifacts. The three-cent Sherman-Grant-Sheridan stamp was issued in 1937 and caused considerable controversy (mostly among southerners) because... Sherman. The four-cent Lee-Jackson stamp was issued in 1937 and caused considerable controversy (mostly among southerners) because the portrait of General Lee

has only two stars on the collar. [According to Wikipedia: "At the outbreak of war, Lee was appointed to command all of Virginia's forces, which then encompassed the Provisional Army of Virginia and the Virginia State Navy. He was appointed a Major General by the Virginia Governor, but upon the formation of the Confederate States Army, he was named one of its first five full generals. Lee did not wear the insignia of a Confederate general, but only the three stars of a Confederate colonel, equivalent to his last U.S. Army rank. He did not intend to wear a general's insignia until the Civil War had been won and he could be promoted, in peacetime, to general in the Confederate Army."] Seriously, it's a very important and attractive piece of memorabilia donated by one of our most generous members.

If you want to bid virtually, just send me an email or text.

*The Bentonville Battlefield held the 158th Anniversary Commemoration of the battle in March. Wade Sokolosky led a tour with re-enactors, cannons were fired, the Huckleberry Brothers Band played period music and artisans demonstrated crafts from that era. Pictures can be found on the next page.*





## Cape Fear Civil War Roundtable

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