

## Finding Rich Mountain Today

Rich Mountain Battlefield Civil War Site is located near the towns of Elkins and Beverly in Randolph County, West Virginia.

### From US 219/250 in Beverly, WV:

Turn west onto Rich Mountain Road (Rich Mountain Backway) and continue 5 miles up the mountain — you'll be traveling on the old Staunton-Parkersburg Turnpike!

**Battlefield:** Stop in the parking lot just past the top of the mountain and follow trails to view the battlefield, Hart homestead site, and inscriptions carved by battle veterans on rocks in the stable yard.

**Camp Garnett:** Continue 1 1/2 miles down to the western base of the mountain. From the parking lot, walk back to the large oak tree to see earthworks on the north side of the road.

**Field of Fire Park:** (picnic area) 1/4 mi. further west

### From US 33 West of Elkins, WV:

Exit onto WV Rt 151 west, follow across bridge. Turn south off 151 onto the Norton - Pumpkintown Road. Go 4 miles and turn left toward Mabie. Go 2 miles across creek and up hill. Turn left onto Rich Mountain Road.

From this turn Field of Fire Park is 1 mile, Camp Garnett 1/4 mile further, and the Battlefield 1 1/2 mile more, at the top of the mountain



## Join the Campaign!

Rich Mountain Battlefield Foundation (RMBF) is working to preserve the Rich Mountain Battlefield and Camp Garnett, so that this vital part of our heritage can remain an important part of our future.

RMBF has a proven record of growth and relies on its members to support the preservation, improvements, and operations of the Civil War Site and Visitor Center. Your tax-deductible donation of \$10 or more makes you a member of RMBF. Members receive periodic mailings on our progress and operations and the satisfaction of knowing they are helping to preserve history.

For more information contact the:  
Rich Mountain Battlefield Foundation  
PO Box 227, Beverly, WV 26253  
Phone (304) 637-RICH  
[www.richmountain.org](http://www.richmountain.org)

## Please Notice...

As you enjoy your visit to Rich Mountain Battlefield, please help to protect the site. Observe all posted rules, including those against digging, artifact hunting, or using metal detectors.

The site contains rough ground that cannot be made perfectly safe without destroying its historic character. Please exercise caution in moving about on the mountain!



## Rich Mountain Past and Present

Located in the heart of West Virginia, Rich Mountain Battlefield Civil War Site serves as a proud reminder of the area's rich Civil War past — and as a tribute to the importance of local history.

Sustained by members and donors, RMBF is a private, non-profit foundation working to protect and promote this significant Civil War site.

With over 400 acres of protected ground, including the Battlefield and Camp Garnett, Rich Mountain Battlefield has continually grown and developed to better serve members and visitors.

Trails through the site and interpretive signs tell the story of this crucial early battle, while a visitor's center in nearby Beverly supports the site with information and resources.



## New Beverly Heritage Center Welcomes Rich Mountain Visitors

Visitors to Rich Mountain are invited to start their battlefield tour at the Beverly Heritage Center in Beverly, West Virginia. The Center offers information, exhibits, and souvenirs related to Rich Mountain, Historic Beverly, and the Staunton-Parkersburg Turnpike Byway. Featured interpretive exhibits include a unique look at the people, places, and events surrounding the Battle of Rich Mountain and the Civil War in West Virginia.

Call (304) 637-RICH for operating hours, special events, or to make appointments for large tour groups. Or see [www.historicbeverly.org](http://www.historicbeverly.org) for general information about local historical features.

# RICH MOUNTAIN BATTLEFIELD



## CIVIL WAR SITE



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**Beverly, West Virginia**  
★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

On July 11, 1861, in one of the first engagements of the American Civil War, Union troops under the command of General George B. McClellan routed the Confederates holding a pass over Rich Mountain near Beverly, (West) Virginia.

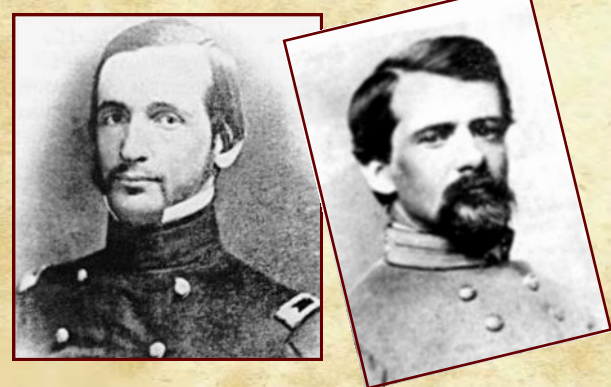
The First Campaign of 1861 was a struggle to control Western Virginia and hold vital roads across the Allegheny Mountains.

McClellan's victory at Rich Mountain established Union control and allowed the western counties of Virginia to form a loyal government at Wheeling that led to a new state—West Virginia.



Control of routes through the Alleghenies seemed to offer a chance to stab deep into the enemy's heartland. But experience showed that the rugged terrain was impractical for large armies.

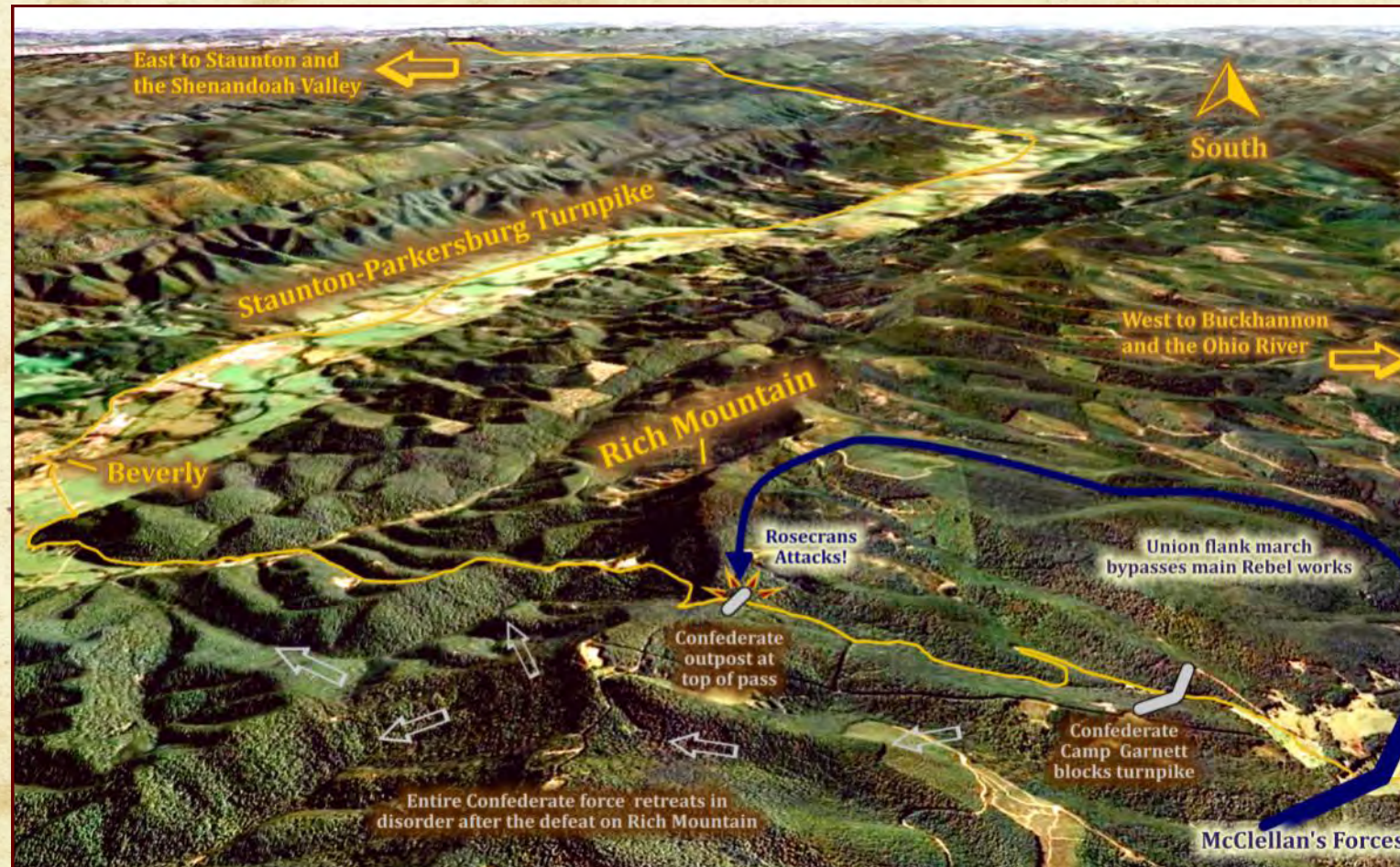
Gen. Robert S. Garnett, CSA



## The Vanquished

Lt. Colonel John Pegram, CSA

# The Battle of Rich Mountain



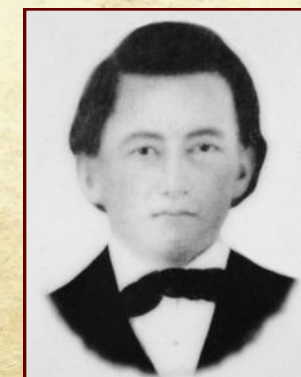
## The Story of David Hart

David Hart was a 22 year-old Virginian who lived with his parents on their farm at the top of Rich Mountain. Descended from a distinguished family with roots in the American Revolution, the Harts—unlike many of their Randolph County neighbors—were strong Unionists.

When Union troops sought to flank the defenses at Camp Garnett, David Hart was summoned as a guide—one who knew every path on the mountain. Young Hart led a brigade of Union troops under the command of Gen. Rosecrans on a circuitous march up the wet and densely-wooded slopes of Rich Mountain.

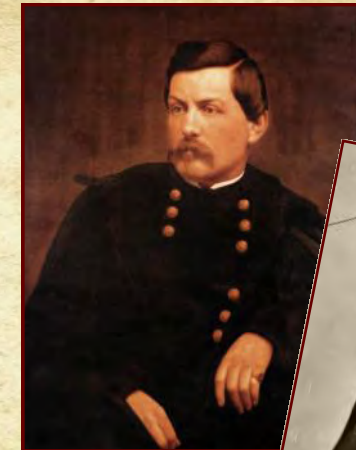
The long, difficult march caused some to question the loyalty of their guide, but Union forces finally reached the Hart farm and won a pitched battle along the turnpike.

Ironically, David Hart had led the Union army home.

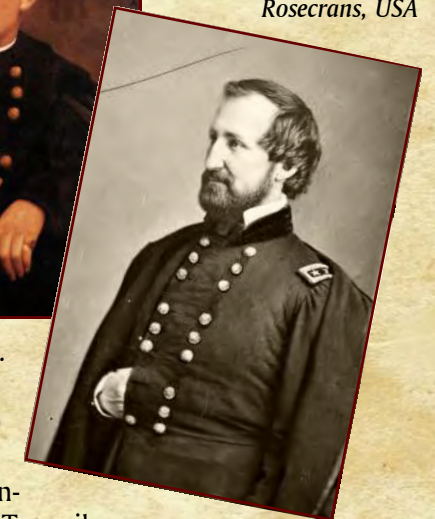


David Hart of Randolph County

## The Victors



Brig. Gen. William Rosecrans, USA



Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan, USA

- ★ The Staunton-Parkersburg Turnpike was a primary wagon route from the Shenandoah to the Ohio River, winding across the rugged Allegheny Mountains.
- ★ Confederates under Lt. Col. Pegram held the turnpike against an advance by Union Gen. McClellan's Army of the Ohio. McClellan confronted Confederates dug in on the western base of Rich Mountain at Camp Garnett, named for their area commander
- ★ Civilian David Hart guided a brigade under Union Gen. Rosecrans to the Hart farm on top of Rich Mountain, behind the main Confederate works.
- ★ In spite of being surprised by Rosecrans' attack, outnumbered Confederates at the summit waged a fierce defense. Finally overcome, the Southerners fled through the woods or surrendered.
- ★ Union troops occupied Beverly. Days later, after a Federal defeat at Manassas, President Lincoln called the victorious McClellan to Washington. He soon rose to supreme command of the army.