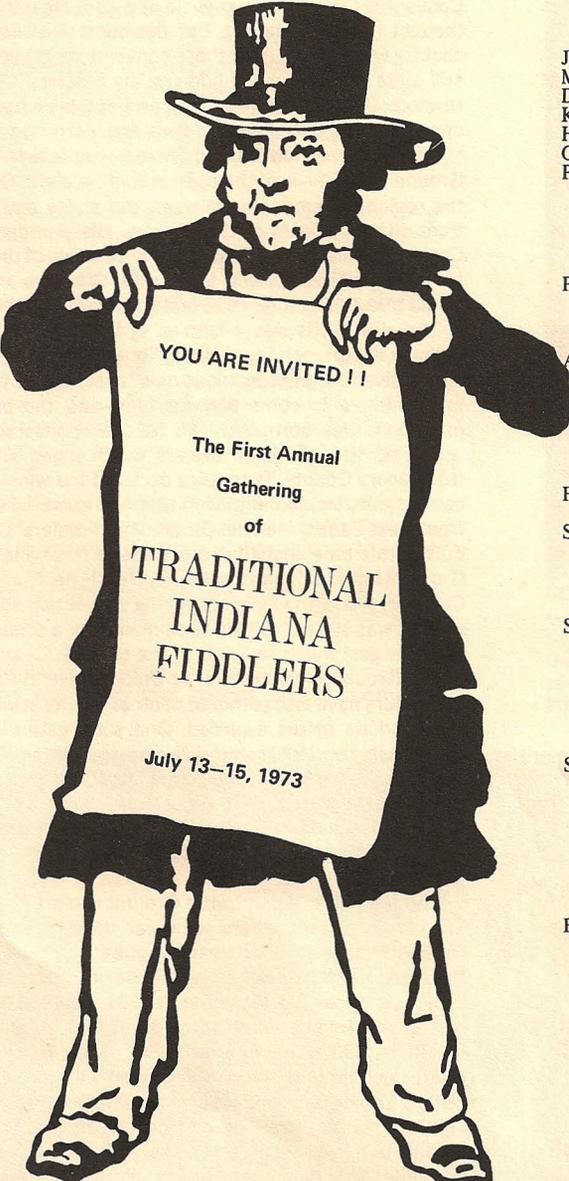


1982

Fiddlers' Gathering

BATTLE GROUND, INDIANA



Featuring

John Summers	Fiddle
Miles Krassen	Fiddle
David Molk	Fiddle & Tin Whistle
Kevin Henry	Irish Bagpipe
Henry McGreavey	Irish Fiddle
Charles Corns	Fiddle
Paul Davis	Autoharp & Dulcimere

And Many Others

PLACE: Tippecanoe Battlefield National Monument, just north of Lafayette, Indiana

ADMISSION: \$2.00 for the weekend

PROGRAM

Friday, July 13	Concert	8:00 p.m.
Saturday, July 14	Workshops	10:00 a.m.
	Concert	2:00 p.m.
	Workshops	4:00 - 5:30
	Concert	8:00 p.m.
Sunday, July 15	Worship Service	
	Gospel Singing	10:00 a.m.

MEALS

Saturday, July 14:

Bean Lunch, 75c
11 a.m. - 1p.m.

Old Fashioned Pig Roast, \$1.50
5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

For tickets and camping reservation contact:

Clark Dobbs
Battle Ground Historical Corporation
Box 225
Battle Ground, Ind. 47920

THIS POSTER ANNOUNCED THE FIRST GATHERING IN 1973.

10th ANNIVERSARY SOUVENIR PROGRAM



**John Levindofske, John McGreevy,
and Miles Krassen, 1973.**

Welcome to the tenth annual Fiddlers' Gathering sponsored by the Battle Ground Historical Corporation in cooperation with the Tippecanoe County Park and Recreation Board. Since 1973 the Gathering has grown from 12 musicians with 80 people in the audience to 200 musicians with a total audience of over 6,000. The event now requires months of planning and the help of dozens of volunteers. For those of us who are responsible for the overall organization, the biggest challenge is to maintain the relaxed and friendly atmosphere of the early gatherings. The hospitality and hard work of the museum's volunteers insures that the Fiddlers' Gathering will continue as a genuine community event. We all hope that you will enjoy Battle Ground and Tippecanoe County, as well as this special ten-day reunion of the Fiddlers' Gathering.

Jan Fouts, executive director
Battle Ground Historical Corporation

Dillon Bustin, program director
Battle Ground Fiddlers' Gathering

THE ANCESTRY OF THE FIDDLERS' GATHERING

Since the time of the first permanent settlements in America by colonists from Europe, the fiddler has held an important place in the social life of rural and small town communities. No one was more needed than the fiddler if the Saturday night dance was to be held in the town hall, a cleaned-up barn, or a cleared-out kitchen. Besides being an indispensable part of local social gatherings, fiddlers have also managed to gather with each other, both formally and informally, to swap tunes, compete, or simply to make music together.

One common type of fiddlers' gathering is the Fiddlers' Convention at which musicians compete for prize money and trophies. The earliest record of a competition between American fiddlers is of a contest held in Hanover County, Virginia in 1737. Modern day Fiddlers' Conventions seem to have begun in the 1890s when no less a figure than the Governor of Tennessee, Bob Taylor, was a regular contestant at contests in the South. One of the most famous contests was the Atlanta Fiddlers' Convention which began receiving the attention of the national press in 1914. The Atlanta Convention, like others, was started as a means of preserving what was thought to be a dying art. But the number of fiddlers from all over the country who came out for these conventions proved that the tradition was still quite strong. For the fiddlers, the Fiddlers' Convention offered more rewards than the prize money and trophies that were given out. The opportunity to hear other fiddlers and learn new tunes was valued.

Harold Zimmerman of Fort Thomas, Kentucky—who appeared at Battle Ground in 1981—is of the opinion that Fiddlers' Conventions have erased the regional boundaries between the styles and repertoires of fiddlers from different parts of the country. His grandfather, a native of Allen County, Indiana, travelled by train at the turn of the century to contests as far away as Missouri and Minnesota. Often he and his fellow musicians would bring along their rifles and go off hunting when the contest was over.

The mid-1920s saw a fanning of interest in old-time fiddling, largely through the promotions of Henry Ford. In an effort to provide a wholesome alternative to that scandalous new music called jazz, Ford invited nearly forty fiddlers to come play for him—and the press, of course—in his mansion in Dearborn, Michigan. He also sponsored a nation-wide contest, promoted through his car dealers, which ended with Uncle Bunt Stephens from Moore County, Tennessee declared the winner. At a regional level of competition, incidentally, Stephens had come in second to W. H. Elmore from West Baden, Indiana. Other major Fiddlers' Conventions were begun during this time, including a contest in Nashville, Tennessee, where the Grand Masters Championship is currently held; and in Union Grove, North Carolina, site of the longest running convention still being held. The latter contest was started to help raise money for a school. It has grown into one of the largest music festivals in the country. Charlie Corns, a fiddler from Battle Ground, was a winner at Union Grove in the early 1970s.

Fiddlers have also gathered at other events at which no competition was held and no prizes awarded. One such gathering favored by Indiana fiddlers in the 1920s and 30s was the Payne Ohio Old-Time Fiddlers' Reunion. One Hoosier who remembers that event remarked to me that photos of the Battle Ground stage and audience looked just like the Old Fiddlers' Reunion in Payne. And the spirit at Battle Ground is certainly similar to that which brought fiddlers and lovers of fiddle music to Payne every year.

Yet, the gathering at Battle Ground is more than a fiddlers' gathering. The variety of music heard each year shows that this festival is related to the Folk Festivals which began to appear in the 1930s. One of the first was the gathering of a variety of traditional musicians, singers, and dancers on Virginia's White Top Mountain in 1931. By 1933 the size of the audience had grown from several dozen to 15,000. Another annual festival was begun in 1932, the American Folk Song Festival held near Ashland, Kentucky. The first National Folk Festival was held in St. Louis in 1934. Before finding a permanent home at Wolf Trap Farm near Washington, D.C., the National was moved from city to city. The program of the 1935 festival in Chattanooga reads like a larger version of the Battle Ground schedule: clog dancing, Irish jigs, old ballads, gospel music, French folk songs (sung by Mrs. J. Caney of Vincennes), Southern string band music, and a hammer dulcimer band from Michigan were all heard on stage. Dancing in which the audience could participate was also a part of the early National Folk Festivals.

The ancestry of the Battle Ground Fiddlers' Gathering is thus to be found in both the Fiddlers' Conventions and Reunions and the Folk Festivals of the first half of this century. For the past ten years, musicians, dancers, and lovers of traditional music have all found their way to Battle Ground, Indiana to carry on the spirit of those early gatherings.

Paul Tyler

GEORGE AND GERRY ARMSTRONG, from Chicago, are lovers of old songs and good stories. They have been singing together with family and friends for over twenty years at folk festivals and at informal music gatherings, such as those documented on the recordings by "The Golden Ring." They will be joined at Battle Ground by their daughters, Rebecca Shepherd and Jennie Armstrong-Park.

JIM BREWER is a blues guitarist and singer who was born in Mississippi. He moved north to Chicago where he worked for many years on Maxwell Street as a 'busker,' or street musician. Since he was 'discovered' by young blues enthusiasts in the mid-1960s, he has performed at coffee houses, colleges, and festivals all over the country.

JACK CHILDRESS comes from the same part of Kentucky that produced the Stanley Brothers. He now lives in Wabash, Indiana, where he is guitarist and singer for the bluegrass band "Yesterday's Grass." At Battle Ground he'll get a chance to show off the old-time clawhammer banjo picking that he loves.

JULIAN CRAMER is a mandolin virtuoso from Martinsville, Indiana. Fifty years ago he played ragtime and pop music with "The Three Musketeers," a trio that performed in clubs in Terre Haute and other cities. He can also play jazz-style guitar, and has made up several original rags. He is an active member of the Hoosier Ragtime Society.

LOTUS DICKEY is an exceptional musician and songwriter from Paoli, Indiana. He learned his first fiddle tunes and songs as the family gathered around the pump organ at home in the evenings. Lotus has also written a large number of consistently beautiful and memorable songs which are based on themes from the Bible and from his personal life. He will be joined on stage by Linda Handelsman and Dillon Bustin.

THE DUFF FAMILY, from Lebanon, Indiana, has the distinction of being the only group to have performed every year at Battle Ground since the first gathering in 1973. The full band is led by Donald Duff, on fiddle, and his brother Lawrence on guitar. On July 3, with Donald's daughter Charlotte, they will recreate their trio performance of ten years ago. The full band will perform on June 30.

THE GEELS FAMILY, from Decatur, Indiana, began playing together for weddings and dances in the late 1930s when they were still in school. Fiddler Francis Geels never quit; but his sisters Helen Loshe, on guitar, and Esther Mowery, on bass, took a few years off to raise families. Now they're playing together again, and have added their young cousin, Joe Alles, on five-string banjo.

DALLAS HENDERSON, a banjo-picker from Indianapolis, was born and raised in Kentucky. He plays a variety of old-time styles, including two-finger picking and clawhammer, or 'knocking the banjo,' as he calls it. Dallas has not been on the Battle Ground stage for several years (he can be heard on the LP of highlights from the 1975 gathering), but he can usually be found out in the parking lot picking with any number of musicians.

THE KOUNTRY KERNALS are a group of locals who play for church picnics, nursing homes, and county fairs. Besides singing country and

bluegrass songs, they play for square dances through the winter at the Battlefield Museum. Guitarist Jim Mikels has appeared on the stage perhaps more than any other musician, beginning with the 1973 gathering when he accompanied fiddler Charlie "Jake" Corns of Battle Ground. Ed Layer, Bruce Cunningham, Fred Bough, and Art VanDeVeer are the other Kernals.

THE BILL LIVERS STRING ENSEMBLE claims that they are "Sweet Owens's Favorite Dance Band." Bill, the fiddler, and his young friends all live in and around Owen County, Kentucky. They play a wide variety of old favorites including reels, two-steps, cakewalks, blues, and swing tunes. The Ensemble includes Eric Larsen, Ann DiSalvo, Ben Griffith, and Jane Harrod.

"MAC" EBERT McCLAIN is a fiddler from Danville, Indiana making his first appearance at Battle Ground. When he learned to fiddle as a young man he chose the swing style he heard from Monte Rivers, a professional fiddler who played on radio in Indianapolis, over the old barn dance style favored by his father. Mac's swing fiddling has won him numerous prizes at contests.

JOHN MCGREEVY, an Irishman born in Chicago, is another favorite from the first Fiddlers' Gatherings making a long overdue return to Battle Ground. One of the finest performers of Irish traditional music in America, John's career dates back to the 1930s when he made 78rpm records with "Pat Roche's Harp and Shamrock Orchestra" in Chicago. His fiddling can also be heard on the highlight albums from the first two Fiddlers' Gatherings.

NOBLE MELTON is a native of Crawford County, Indiana. There he learned to fiddle as a young man by listening to local musicians and to the radio broadcasts of Clayton McMichen from Louisville. Noble now lives in Indianapolis. Since he has retired he has been able to devote a great deal of time to increasing and performing his repertoire of old-time fiddle tunes. He'll be accompanied by Max Jobst and Marti Pizzini.

HECTOR PHILLIPS AND THE PATOKA VALLEY BOYS are a band from Pike County, Indiana that features both tight vocal harmonies and instrumental virtuosity. Mandolinist Tony Rothrock's most recent prize is the 1982 Tennessee State Championship. The group also spotlights the old-time fiddling of Hector Phillips who, though he didn't begin fiddling in public till he was in his seventies, has been the state champion of both Kentucky and Tennessee.

YANK RACHELL has been playing blues on the mandolin for fifty-five years. A native of Tennessee, he recorded in the 1930s (on both guitar and mandolin) with Sleepy John Estes and other bluesmen. He currently lives in Indianapolis. Recently he has performed at the Knoxville World's Fair, and has just returned from a European tour. He will be joined on stage by Peter Roller.

GENE WILHITE, from Brazil, Indiana, is a fiddler with much varied experience in the world of contest fiddling. Besides being the Indiana Certified Champion four times, and the Midwest Area Champion twice (at the national contest at Weiser, Idaho), he has also been a judge at state contests in Illinois and South Dakota. He'll be accompanied by Jay Plesinger and Gerald "Pappy" Lewis.



The Shuffle Creek Cloggers, 1980.

CONTEST



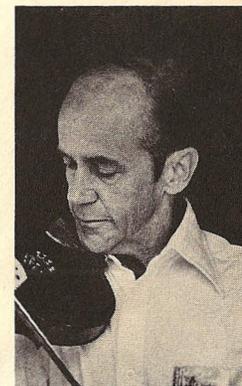
What's a fiddlers' gathering without a contest? Here are eleven musicians who will be performing this year. Next to the column of towns, list the corresponding letter and performer's name. The first ticket holder to present a completely correct listing at the admission gate will receive \$20.



B



A



K



C

- KNOXVILLE _____
- PETERSBURG _____
- WEST LAFAYETTE _____
- PERU _____
- DECATUR _____
- BLOOMINGTON _____
- CHICAGO _____
- ELKHART _____
- NEW UNIONVILLE _____
- WINSLOW _____
- BRAZIL _____



J



D



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1982 BATTLE GROUND FIDDLERS' GATHERING

All evening concerts begin at 8:00, followed by dancing at 11:00. Saturday morning workshops begin at 10:00 and 11:00; Sunday morning hymn-sings at 10:00. Weekend afternoon concerts begin at 2:00.

Friday evening, June 25

Noble Melton
Peppermill String Band
Marti Pizzini
Bob Carlin
Lotus Dickey & Friends

Saturday afternoon, June 26

Mixed Company
Dallas Henderson
Paul Goelz and Stuart Halliday
Martha Burns
Quackgrass

Saturday evening, June 26

Kountry Kernals
John McGreevy & Friends
Jenny Armstrong-Park & Susie Crate
The Laketown Buskers
Sparky Rucker

Sunday afternoon, June 27

Bill Livers String Ensemble
Hector Phillips & The Patoka Valley Boys
George and Gerry Armstrong with Rebecca Shepherd
The Gilmour Brothers
The Indian Creek Delta Boys

Monday evening, June 28

The Dawnbreakers
Julian Cramer
The Armstrongs
Bob Lucas
Bill Livers String Ensemble

Tuesday evening, June 29

Spare Time Music
Lotus Dickey & Friends
Martha Burns
Chicago Barn Dance Company

Wednesday evening, June 30

Street Music
The Duff Family Band
Art Thieme
Nasty Brad & The Angel Band

Thursday evening, July 1

Jon Rosenberg
The Mississippi Mudcats
Mac McClain
David James
The Little Dixie Hoss-Hair Pullers

Friday evening, July 2

The Preservation Band
Jim Brewer
Dan Gellert
Jan Henshaw
The Easy Street String Band

Saturday afternoon, July 3

Rawhide
Jack Childress
Jessica Radcliff and Margie Steiner
The Mississippi Mudcats
Snakebit String Band

Saturday evening, July 3

The Duff Family Trio
The Bosom Buddies
Yank Rachell and Peter Roller
The Little Dixie Hoss-Hair Pullers
The Dalglish Larsen Band

Sunday afternoon, July 4

Stu and Chan Lauterbach
Gene Wilhite & The Country Trio
The Lost World String Band
The Geels Family Band
The Dulcimer Circle
Sangaree