

**National Patriotic Instruction
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War**

February 2024

FIRST CIVIL WAR MONUMENTS

The oldest known surviving Civil War monument is the 32nd Indiana Infantry Monument, also known as the August Bloedner Monument. It was carved in January 1862 and originally marked the site of the Battle of Rowlett's Station, Kentucky. The monument was moved to Cave Hill National Cemetery at Louisville, Kentucky in 1867. Due to its fragile condition, the monument was removed from the national cemetery in 2008 for conservation and is currently located at the Frazier History Museum in Louisville. Although it is no longer in its original location, the monument is generally considered to be the oldest surviving memorial to the Civil War. A replacement monument at Cave Hill National Cemetery was dedicated in December 2011.



While the 32nd Indiana Monument is generally considered the oldest, the Hazen Brigade Monument at Stones River National Battlefield is the oldest monument still in its original battlefield location. During the summer of 1863, members of Hazen's Brigade were detailed back to Stones River to build a monument both to commemorate the heroism of the brigade and to memorialize their lost comrades. A Union army captain described the monument as a "quadrangular pyramidal shaft, ten feet square at the base and eleven feet in height....A dry-stacked stone wall, four feet high and two feet thick, enclosed both monument and cemetery. Three low steps breached the wall's south side to allow access."

An earlier Confederate monument commemorating the death of Col. Francis S. Bartow at the First Battle of Bull Run was dedicated on September 4, 1861, but was later vandalized and then destroyed following the Second Battle of Bull Run.

Even while the Civil War was still raging, participants themselves recognized the importance of memorializing their deeds and sacrifices. ***Lest we forget!***

*In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,
Tad D. Campbell, PCinC — National Patriotic Instructor*