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# HARDTACK

*The Newsletter of The Indianapolis Civil War Round Table*

Celebrating Our 50th Anniversary

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*September 2004*

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Next Meeting: Monday, September 13, 2004

7:30 p.m., the Indiana Historical Society Auditorium, 450 West Ohio Street, Indianapolis.

The Evening's Program:

## The Battle of Stones River

Presented by Jim Lewis

National Park Service

Stones River National Battlefield



As 1862 drew to a close, President Abraham Lincoln was desperate for a military victory. His armies were stalled, and the terrible defeat at Fredericksburg spread a pall of defeat across the nation. There was also the Emancipation Proclamation to consider. The nation needed a victory to bolster morale and support the proclamation when it went into effect on January 1, 1863.



The Confederate Army of Tennessee was camped in Murfreesboro, Tennessee only 30 miles away from General William S. Rosecrans' army in Nashville. General Braxton Bragg chose this area in order to position himself to stop any Union advances towards Chattanooga and to protect the rich farms of Middle Tennessee that were feeding his men. On December 26, 1863, the Union Army of the Cumberland left Nashville to meet the Confederates. This was the beginning of the Stones River Campaign. A fierce battle took place at Stones River between December 31, 1862 and January 2, 1863. Bragg's Confederates withdrew after the battle, allowing Rosecrans and the Union army to control middle Tennessee. Although the battle was tactically indecisive, it provided a much-needed boost to the North after the defeat at Fredericksburg. Lincoln later wrote to Rosecrans, "you gave us a hard-earned victory which, had there been a defeat instead, the nation could scarcely have lived over." The battle at Stones River claimed more than 23,500 casualties making it one of the bloodiest battles of the Civil War.

**ABOUT OUR SPEAKER:** Jim Lewis has served as a Park Ranger with Stones River National Battlefield for the last seven years. He is a twelve-year veteran of the National Park Service, with previous assignments at Morristown National Historic Park and Edison National Historic Site. He is a graduate of Cornell University, where he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in History. During the program, Jim will tell the story of the Battle of Stones River by weaving together the individual stories of several soldiers. He hopes the audience will gain an understanding of the battle while appreciating the compelling human drama of one of the bloodiest engagements of the War.



### The Indianapolis Civil War Round Table

2004-2005 Campaign



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### Join Us Before the Meeting for Dinner & Discussion at Shapiro's Deli!

All ICWRT members and guests are invited to join us at Shapiro's Delicatessen before the meeting to enjoy dinner and fellowship. This year, we will be initiating an informal "round table" discussion on a selected topic of general interest. On September 13th, we will ask our evening's speaker, Jim Lewis, to share his thoughts on the National Park Service, the trends in battlefield preservation, perhaps his favorite battlefields, and any other issue that you may find interesting.

See you at Shapiro's, 808 S. Meridian St. (just south of  
McCarty Street) beginning at 5:30 P.M.



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### President's Corner

It is a tremendous honor to represent the Indianapolis Civil War Round Table as its President during the 2004-2005 campaign. I am very excited for our organization and look forward to some of the changes and special events that will be taking place during this year's campaign.

As you are undoubtedly aware, our Round Table is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> year. This is quite an accomplishment and says a great deal about the dedication and devotion of all of our members, past and present, to what many of us believe to be the most crucial period of our nation's history. We will be celebrating this milestone in a number of ways, including the forthcoming book chronicling the history of the ICWRT, special recognition of our founding members, historical information presented on the website, and a special 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary desk caddy that will be presented to this year's speakers and made available to our members.

We have some new initiatives planned for the year. We will be conducting a survey of our membership so that our future programs and activities will both recognize our diversity and respond to our common interests. We will be making great strides toward expanding the reach of our organization through the works of the Publicity Committee and by introducing the Round Table to the students of our community – truly the future stewards of what we have accomplished thus far.

We also hope to attract more members to our pre-meeting dinners at Shapiro's by supplementing good food and fellowship with an informal "round table" discussion on a selected topic of interest. Whether the subject is an issue raised by the preceding month's presentation, the state of affairs in battlefield preservation, or a "sidebar" relating to that evening's speaker or program, I know we can count on our members for a lively discussion. I hope you will join us.

In closing, let me say how proud I am to be a member of this great organization. It is my sincere hope that the next 50 years will be as successful as the first 50 have been.

--Tony Roscetti

### ICWRT News

#### **THE ATLANTA CAMPAIGN: OUR CLUB'S ANNUAL TRIP**

by Nikki Schofield

Thirty-five people attended the annual ICWRT field trip in June. This year found us marching (or rather motor-coaching) through Georgia, concentrating our forces in and around Atlanta. Greg Biggs from Clarksville, Tennessee was our excellent on-board guide. We saw many off-the-beaten path Civil War sites, such as a pointed redoubt behind an apartment building. We toured several museums and saw the Atlanta Cyclorama, innumerable battlefields, the two engines involved in the Great Locomotive Chase and the home of spy Sam Davis. In the evening, we enjoyed speeches on a variety of Civil War topics.

If you have not been on one of our Civil War trips, plan on going with us next June. Our tentative destination for 2005 is Gettysburg, with stops at three new museums: the Freedom Museum in Cincinnati, the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg, PA, and the Civil War Medical Museum in Hagerstown, MD.

***DON'T BE A STRAGGLER!!*****Re-enlistment Papers and Dues for the 2004-2005 Campaign ... are Now Due!**

Please complete the enlistment form attached to this HARDTACK and mail it in today—or bring it to September's meeting—together with your check for \$25 (Individual Membership), \$30 (Family) or \$10 (Student).

**IN MEMORIAM**

*"All quiet along the Potomac to-night!"  
No sound save the rush of the river;  
While soft falls the dew on the face of the dead,  
And the picket's off duty forever!"*

Two of our members passed away this Summer: **Barbara Williams Johnson** and **John Hoffman**.

Barbara, wife of long-time member Harold Johnson, died on June 13, 2004, at the age of 76. She joined the Round Table when she married Harold on May 24, 2001. Barbara and Harold attended the 60th Anniversary of the D-Day Invasion. A short time later, she passed away unexpectedly.

Barbara was a regular at our pre-meeting dinners at Shapiro's and helped with name tags for the annual trip. She and Harold had been scheduled to join us on the annual trip.

John Hoffman, an ICWRT member for many years along with his wife, Marilyn, died on Tuesday, June 22, 2004, in Calhoun, Georgia, during the club's field trip to Atlanta. He and Marilyn had followed the tour bus in their car, so she was able to take him to the hospital on Tuesday afternoon, when his breathing became difficult. He died of heart failure.

John and Marilyn faithfully served as our cassette tape librarians, recording our speakers and lending tapes to members. They have been regulars at our meet-the-speaker dinners over the years.

We will miss Barbara and John.

--Nikki Schofield



## Program Schedule for the 2004-2005 Campaign

All meeting dates are on a Monday, usually the second Monday of the month. Please note, however, that due to a scheduling conflict with the Indiana Historical Society, **the October meeting will be held on the first Monday of the month—October 4<sup>th</sup>.**

September 13, 2004	<b>The Battle of Stones River</b>	Jim Lewis, Stones River NMP
October 4, 2004	<b>The <i>Sultana</i> Disaster</b>	Pam Newhouse, Sultana Association
November 8, 2004	<b>Civil War Music</b>	Dr. Wesley Hanson, ICWRT
December 13, 2004	<b>Indiana's Gen. Jefferson C. Davis</b>	Gordon Whitney, Author
January 10, 2005	<b>Berdan's Sharpshooters</b>	Gerald Jones, ICWRT
February 14, 2005	<b>Black Civil War Soldiers</b>	Dick Skidmore, Past-President, ICWRT
March 14, 2005	<b>Indiana Regimental Photographs</b>	Dave Buchanan, Col. Lilly Civil War Museum
April 11, 2005	<b>Draft Riots</b>	Iver Bernstein, Washington University
May 9, 2005	<i>Topic to be Announced</i>	Mark Neely, Penn State University
June 13, 2005	<b>Annual Banquet/ Battlefield Preservation Update &amp; Fundraiser</b>	Dave Duncan and Jim Lighthizer, CWPT



## Calendar of Upcoming Events of Interest

<b>Sept. 13, 2004</b>	<b>ICWRT: Battle of Stones River</b> Jim Lewis, NPS Indiana Historical Society, 450 W. Ohio St., Indianapolis; 7:30 PM
<b>Sept. 15, 2004</b>	<b>Carmel CWRT: Indiana Newspapers</b> Dr. Bruce Bigelow Monon Depot, 211 First Street, S. W., Carmel, IN; 7:30 PM
<b>Sept. 18, 2004</b>	<b>Midwest Civil War Collectors Show</b> Midwest Conference Center, Northlake, IL more than 400 dealers of Civil War collectables and memorabilia <a href="http://www.mwccs.com">www.mwccs.com</a>
<b>Sept. 18-19, 2004</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> Annual Civil War Days and Battle Reenactment, Mooresville, IN</b>
<b>Sept. 21, 2004</b>	<b>Madison County CWRT, Anderson, IN: The Common Soldier</b> Norris Darrall Anderson Public Library; 7:00 pm.
<b>Oct. 1-3, 2004</b>	<b>140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Battle Reenactment of Franklin, TN</b> "National" reenactment on original battlefield at Spring Hill, TN Spectator admission tickets now on sale at <a href="http://www.battleoffranklin.com">www.battleoffranklin.com</a>
<b>October 4, 2004</b>	<b>ICWRT: The <i>Sultana</i> Disaster</b> Pam Newhouse Indiana Historical Society, 450 W. Ohio St., Indianapolis; 7:30 PM
<b>Oct. 8-10, 2004</b>	<b>15<sup>th</sup> Annual Blackford County Civil War Days, Hartford City, IN</b> <a href="http://www.hartfordcitycwdays.com">www.hartfordcitycwdays.com</a>

We recommend confirming all dates, times and locations for events not sponsored by the ICWRT



If you know of a Civil War-related event that may be of interest to ICWRT members, please send your information to Norris Darrall ([norrisdarrall@hotmail.com](mailto:norrisdarrall@hotmail.com)).



## From the Bookshelf

### No Flood of Books on Stones River



This month's ICWRT program on the Battle of Stones River is an opportunity to learn more about an important engagement of the Civil War that has largely been ignored by the campaign chroniclers. Stones River has been the subject of only four book-length studies since the War, "two of which," notes a contemporary authority on the battle, "were written by Northern eyewitnesses so decidedly partisan as to make their works of little value."

For those in search of an in-depth study or simply a decent primer on the battle in advance of our September meeting, here are a few suggested works that should be available at the library or bookstore, if they are not already on your bookshelf:

The most recent and best full-length treatment of Stones River is Peter Cozzens' **NO BETTER PLACE TO DIE: THE BATTLE OF STONES RIVER** (Univ. of Illinois Press 1990). A well-documented study of the campaign as well as the battle itself, Cozzens' book, at just 281 pages, is an easy and enjoyable read for any CW buff looking for something more than what is typically found in the broader-scope general histories.

If you are fortunate to own the 28-volume illustrated history "The Civil War" published by Time-Life Books (the "silverback" series), you will want to take another look through **THE STRUGGLE FOR TENNESSEE: TUPELO TO STONES RIVER** by James Street Jr., et al. (Time-Life Books 1985). The editors of Time-Life have a knack for combining concise, authoritative narrative with outstanding reproductions of period photographs and illustrations, many in color.

Those who enjoy accounts written by partisan participants will find material of interest in the venerable **BATTLES AND LEADERS OF THE CIVIL WAR** (The Century Co. 1884 and reprints). Volume III includes articles by Col. David Urquhart, a member of Bragg's staff ("Bragg's Advance and Retreat," pp. 600-609) and Lt. Col. G.C. Kniffin, of General Crittenden's staff ("The Battle of Stone's River," pp. 613-632) as well as Crittenden himself ("The Union Left at Stone's River," pp. 632-634).

Both **BATTLES AND LEADERS** and Cozzens' book contain detailed summaries of the opposing forces in the battle, each compiled from the Official Records. Cozzens, by the way, is the editor of two new compilations of period accounts that have been appended to the **BATTLES AND LEADERS** series as Volume 5 (2002) and Volume 6 (2004), both published by the University of Illinois Press.

--Dave Klinestiver

Stones River National Battlefield website: <http://www.nps.gov/stri/>

**“Hey, where’s the Quiz ?”**

... It’s a question many of our readers are no doubt asking right now. Regrettably, due to an unexpectedly early press date, we were not able to include a Quiz in this edition of the HARDTACK. We expect to have this popular feature back in print next month.

**Editor’s Endnote**

As announced in the June issue of HARDTACK, after several years of dedicated service, Debby Chestnut elected to take a well-earned break from her duties as Editor of this publication. We are all very grateful for her many contributions to the Round Table in this capacity. Under her stewardship, the newsletter has been not only a reliable source of news and information about the goings-on in our Civil War community—it has become a record of each year’s campaign as it unfolds, now available to all through the ICWRT website.

As the new Editor of HARDTACK, I hope to build on what Debby has accomplished. As we celebrate our Golden Anniversary during this 2004-2005 campaign, we plan to deliver a monthly newsletter with expanded features and articles that our readers will find informative, entertaining and intellectually stimulating. In addition, as you have undoubtedly already noticed, we will be enhancing the look and content of the newsletter with illustrations and graphics that complement the text.

Publishing a “heftier” HARDTACK, however, is feasible only because so many of our members have elected to receive their newsletter via email each month. The limitations imposed by the costs of photocopying and postage are simply not an issue with electronic publishing. Accordingly, we encourage all of our members who have a mailbox in cyberspace to be sure we have your (correct) email address. Not only will you receive your electronic HARDTACK in living color (well, with some color graphics, anyway), your e-edition may, from time-to-time, include additional materials that simply cannot be reproduced in a print edition.

Remember, too, that this is YOUR newsletter. The quality of its contents depends largely on the contributions by our members. We ask for and welcome unsolicited submissions of material for possible publication, including book reviews, articles on recent ICWRT events and activities, or simply a few lines about something of interest to our members (battlefield preservation news and living history/reenactment events, for example).

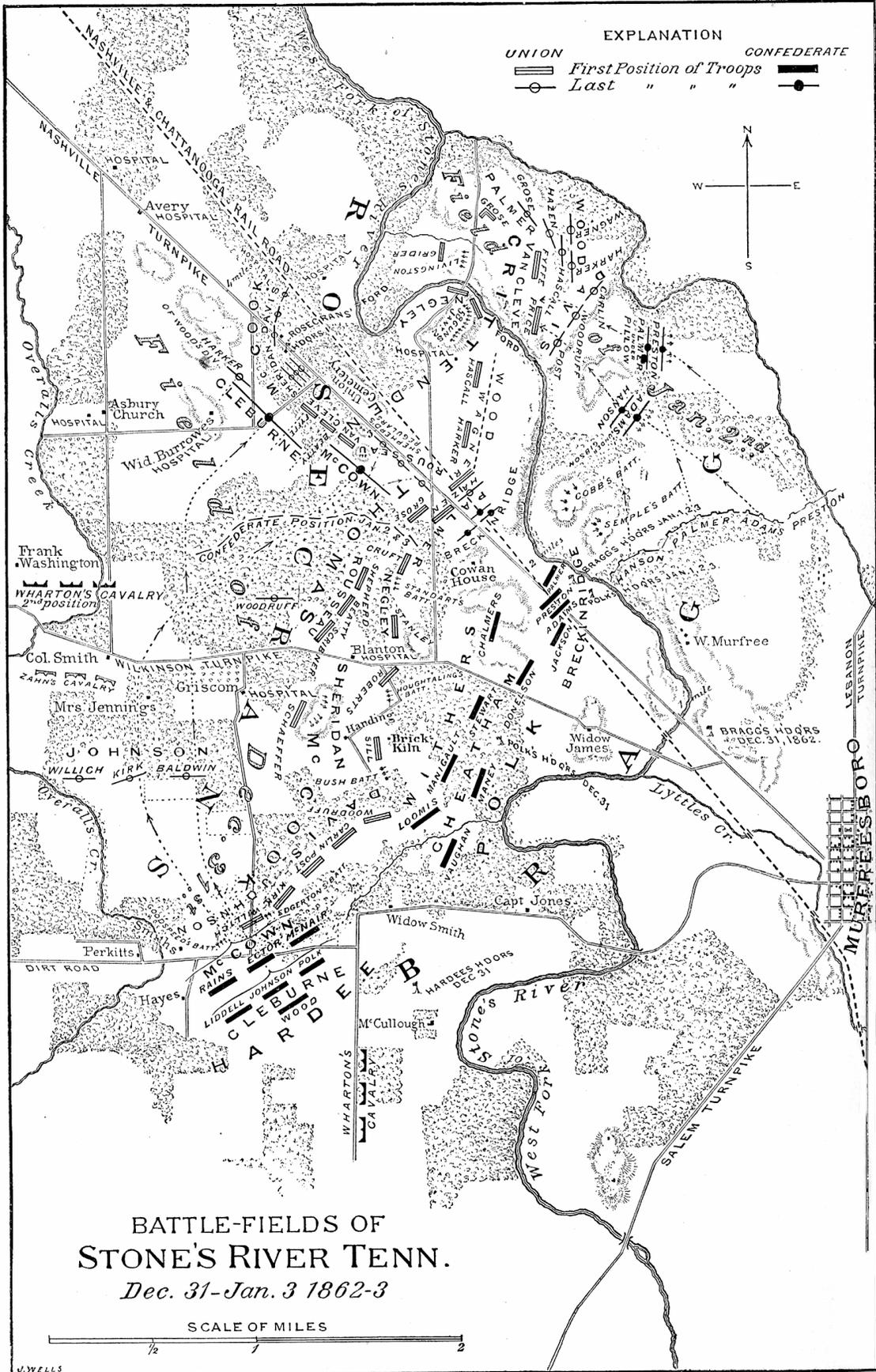
We also welcome any comments you may have—pro or con—regarding the changes you see or would like to see in the newsletter. With your contributions and input, we will continue to have a publication that is worthy of the organization it serves and represents.

---Dave Klinestiver

**HARDTACK**, the newsletter of The Indianapolis Civil War Round Table, is published monthly, September through June, each year. In addition to information about upcoming programs, HARDTACK features articles, news, reviews and a calendar of Civil War-related events. HARDTACK is distributed by mail or email to all ICWRT members.

If you have a short article, book review or some other item that may be of interest to our members, we invite you to submit it for consideration. Please send your material via email to the editor at: [HardtackEditor@comcast.net](mailto:HardtackEditor@comcast.net). Please include a telephone number and email address where we may contact you.

Visit the website of The Indianapolis Civil War Round Table: <http://indianapolisicwrt.org/>



## **Time to Re-enlist for the 2004-2005 Campaign !!**

The 2004-2005 campaign of the Indianapolis Civil War Round Table is upon us. Now is the time to get your re-enlistment paid. Individual membership is \$25.00 and family membership is \$30.00. Make checks payable to "Indianapolis Civil War Round Table" and mail to Doug Wagner at 5245 Kathcart Way, Indianapolis, IN 46254. If you have any questions, please contact Doug at 328-4828 or e-mail at [dougwag@msn.com](mailto:dougwag@msn.com). A re-enlistment form is provided below. We still plan to deliver the HARDTACK newsletter via e-mail for those of you who have an e-mail address. Please be sure to include your e-mail address on your enlistment form.

### **The Indianapolis Civil War Round Table Enlistment for the 2004/2005 Campaign**

Mail to:

D A Wagner  
5245 Kathcart Way  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46254

Phone: 317 328 4828  
Email: [dougwag@msn.com](mailto:dougwag@msn.com)



*Tear off and include with your check*

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### **ICWRT Enlistment for July 2004 thru June 2005**

Make checks payable to "Indianapolis Civil War Round Table"

Name..... Date.....

Address.....  
.....

Phone:..... Email:.....

**Enlistment Status for July 2004 thru June 2005 (please specify):**

**\$25 Individual.....    \$30 Family.....    \$10 Student.....**