



# HARDTACK



Indianapolis Civil War Round Table Newsletter

<http://indianapoliscwrt.org/>

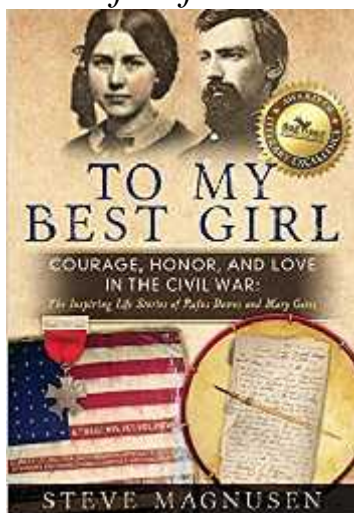
December 9, 2019 at 6:45 p.m.

Meeting at MCL Cafeteria Township Line

2370 W. 86th Street

## *The Plan of the Day*

*To My Best Girl: Courage, Honor and Love in the Civil War, The Inspiring Life Stories of Rufus Dawes and Mary Gates*



Behind all descriptions of historical events are the stories of real people. This is the extraordinary true story of a citizen soldier and the girl he loves, as both become embroiled in the cauldron of our nation's Civil War. Rufus R Dawes will emerge from a troubled family background to become an officer in a famous unit thrust into horrific battles in the eastern theater. But before those stirring war scenes, there is the early life of a proud and intelligent descendant of leading Revolutionary War figures, ancestors who helped form the United States, the Northwest Territory, and the state of Ohio. Rufus will meet beautiful and vibrant Mary Beman Gates and fall in love. But there is separation due to distance and social standing, apparently little reciprocal feeling, and competition by others better situated than he. Can it ever become more than infatuation? The outbreak of war intervenes. Faced with the doubt of his own survival, is it possible to fulfill any dream of a life with Mary? Mary is a girl with a loving family who becomes a young woman while witnessing many acquaintances and suitors, along with an only brother, march off to war. Tragic battle losses soon mount. Will she--should she--become involved with a soldier whose life is in daily jeopardy far away? The drama unfolds upon Rufus and Mary, and upon family members and soldiers who experience their own battles, trying to survive while patriotically performing their duty to the nation. Based on

many letters and diary entries, most never published, this is a timeless story of love and courage.

## **JOIN US BEFORE THE MEETING AT MCL CAFETERIA!**

**All ICWRT members and guests** are invited to join us at 6:00 P.M. at MCL Cafeteria, 2370 W. 86th Street before the meeting to enjoy dinner and fellowship.

### *Our Guest Speaker*



Indiana native, **Steve Magnusen**, holds a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering from Purdue University. He served as a registered professional municipal engineer and public works director for Winnetka and Libertyville, Illinois, the latter for twenty-eight years. Steve later joined an engineering consulting firm, assisting many suburban Chicago communities, prior to relocating to Indianapolis. He will have books with him for sale: paperback \$23 and hardback \$30.

### *Roster of Officers and Committees for the 2019-2020 Campaign*

#### *Officers:*

President: Nikki Schofield  
 Secretary: Bill Nicholai  
 Immediate Past President: Tony Trimble

Vice President: Angie Gilmer  
 Treasurer: Tony Roscetti

#### *Committees:*

Preservation: Andy O'Donnell  
 Program Selection: Tony Trimble, Bob Gottschalk, & Angie Gilmer  
 Publicity: Peg Bertelli, Dave Sutherland & Tony Roscetti

Website: Ed Pope

#### *Quiz Master:*

Tony Trimble

#### *HARDTACK Newsletter:*

Editor: Jenny Thompson

Editors in Training: Pete Benner and Bob Gottschalk

**Members are encouraged to wear their badges to the meetings, so people will know who you are.**

If you have a short article, book review, or some other item that may be of interest to our members, please submit it via email to the editor at [jkt60jet@gmail.com](mailto:jkt60jet@gmail.com) by the tenth day following the preceding month's meeting.

### *2019-2020 Campaign Plans*

January 13, 2020 – Greg Biggs – "The Question was One of Supplies: The Logistics for William T. Sherman's Atlanta Campaign"

February 10, 2020 – David Fraley – "Colors and Color Bearers (U.S. and C.S.) on the 1864 Tennessee Campaign"

March 9, 2020 – Kurt Vettters – *Freedom Spring*

April 13, 2020 – John Fazio – *Decapitating the Union: Jefferson Davis, Judah Benjamin and the Plot to Assassinate Lincoln*

May 11, 2020 – Michael K. Shaffer – *In Memory of Self and Comrades: Thomas Wallace Colley's Recollections of Civil War Service in the 1st Virginia Cavalry*

June 8, 2020 – Mike Beck and Bruce Kolb – "G.A.R."

### *Other Camp Activities*

**Hamilton County Civil War Roundtable:** They meet at the Carmel City Hall, located at 1 Civic Square, Carmel, IN 46032. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., and the program will start at 7:00 in the Second Floor Counsel Room. Join them for dinner at 5:15 p.m. at Dooley O'Tools Restaurant at 160 E. Carmel Dr., Carmel, IN 46032. Meetings will be on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month, September through May, excluding December.

December - no meeting

January 8, 2020 - Craig Dunn - 19th Indiana Regiment

February 12, 2020 - Stephen Towne - Surveillance & Spies in the Civil War

March 11, 2020 - Tom Williams - Stonewall Jackson's Valley Campaign

April 8, 2020 - Ray Boomhower - Pres. Harrison's Role in the Civil War

May 13, 2020 - Ted Chamberlain - General Chamberlain

**Madison County Historical Society Civil War Roundtable:** They meet on the third Monday each month except July, August, and December at 7 p.m. at the Museum of Madison County, 13 West 11<sup>th</sup> Street, in downtown Anderson.

December - no meeting

### *Special Orders*

**Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum Director Fired:** Illinois Governor J. B. Pritzker fired Alan Lowe in September. Lowe took over the museum in July 2016, but ignored the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency's rules for loaning items when he loaned a priceless handwritten copy of the Gettysburg Address in June 2018 to Mercury One, a new museum founded by Glenn Beck in Texas. The artifact was safely returned in June 2018. To read the entire story, please visit:

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/politics/ct-abraham-lincoln-library-inspector-general-20191123-gpft5vsoendbfae2skzqnoyi7y-story.html>

**Death of Former Member:** Ed Bensman passed away on November 16, 2019. His funeral mass was held November 16, and he will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

### *Official Records*

**Attendance:** 30

**Alan T. Nolan Memorial Youth Scholarship Fund:** The Executive Board of the Indianapolis Civil War Round Table has established this fund to provide membership dues, annual tour expenses or other worthwhile purpose for any full-time student of any age. Please see Tony Roscetti to donate to this fund.

**Facebook:** The Indianapolis Civil War Round Table is on Facebook. We invite you to join our group. Feel free to post Civil War related messages on our site.

**Charitable Sponsors:** In an effort to upgrade our speakers and programs, the board of ICWRT is asking members and organizations with which they are involved (companies or charitable organizations) to consider sponsoring one or more speakers. This could be done as a gift now, or a person could opt to make a bequest in a will for that purpose. Because of our limited membership, we can't bring in as many national speakers as we would like to. If you are interested or want more info, call Chris Smith at 450-7430.

#### **Book Raffle:**

*April 1866: The Month that Saved America*, by Jay Winik

*Meads of Gettysburg*, by Freeman Cleaves

*Lincoln Finds a General: A Military Study of the Civil War - Volume 1*, by Kenneth P. Williams

*For Cause & For Country: A Study of the Affair at Spring Hill and the Battle of Franklin*, by Eric A. Jacobson

*Mr. Lincoln's Washington*, by Stanley Kimmel

**\*Anyone wishing to donate books for upcoming raffles should either bring them to Tony Roscetti at the December meeting or contact him to make arrangements for pick up.**

### *Test Your Civil War Knowledge (with Trimble's Trivia)*

Identify the Civil War figure(s) known by each of the nicknames below.

1. "Old Rosy"
2. "Young Napoleon"
3. "Old Prayer Book"
4. "Joe Brown's Pets"

## 5. "Johnny Shiloh"

Answers to the November Quiz:

1. On 26 May 1862, there was a skirmish at Calico Rock. In what state is it? \*\*\*  
Arkansas
2. Grant attacked along a 3-mile line from Stockade Redan to Fort Garrott. Of what campaign was this a part? \*\*\* Vicksburg
3. Who were the "Lost Children"? \*\*\* Men from NY Regiments participating in the 1863 siege of Charleston
4. Who was restored to command by Gen. Lee on 22 February 1865? \*\*\* Joseph E. Johnston
5. "Retreat is a weak term to use when speaking of this disgraceful rout." Name the journalist who wrote this and to what battle did he refer. \*\*\* Frank Vizetelly on First Bull Run

### *The Newspaper Speaks*

From Newspapers.com

*The National Tribune* (Washington, District of Columbia) 14 May 1885, Thursday, page 3

GETTYSBURG.

A member of the 6th Wis. Takes Issue With "Carleton."

TO THE EDITOR: I have noticed in your paper various articles concerning the opening fight at Gettysburg, but not being controversially inclined, I have refrained from correcting them; but "Carleton's" article in your issue of March 26 is the last straw that breaks the back of my patience. So far as my knowledge extends, "Carleton's" statements are a tissue of errors from beginning to end. He first omits the 6th Wis. from the "Iron Brigade," then assigns the 156th Pa. and 146th Pa. to Wadsworth's Division, and commends the prudence of Gen. Doubleday in halting the 6th Wis. and 100 men of the 149th Pa. (What Brigade of Wadsworth's Division did they belong to?) at the Seminary; describes the tremendous fire of the other two regiments of Cutler's Brigade across the excavation, to escape which the Confederates rush into the trap of the cut; how Adjutant Brooks closes the eastern end with a company, and the pitiless storm that causes the enemy to lift their hands in token of surrender. If Adjutant Brooks, Col. Dawes, or any man of the 6th Wis. who was present in that charge, will admit that there is a word of truth in "Carleton's" description of it, I am willing to allow "Carleton" to "write me down an ass." The drifting cannon smoke with thickened the atmosphere must be the fumes of "Carleton's" imagination, which became overheated while conjuring up the statements he puts forth as history. Gen. Sherman says Whitelaw Reid wrote a description of the battle of Shiloh from his view of the field obtained at Cincinnati, and I judge by the tone of "Carleton's" article that it was written while safely intrenched behind newspaper gossip. The putting forth such mental dribble as history is an outrage upon the men who stood between the Union and destruction on that memorable 1st of July. While the 6th Wis. always felt towards other regiments' claims as Prince Henry did towards Falstaff in regard to the killing of Hotspur, yet we do think that persons who attempt to write history should state facts. "Carleton" had probably outlived his usefulness as a historian, and had better give way to men who learn the facts first and write their history afterwards.

Now, I desire to write a few facts (whether it is history or not) about the actions of the 6th Wis. on the morning of July 1, 1863. About 10 a.m. we heard skirmishing on our left front, and immediately started at a double-quick across the fields towards the Seminary, and just after we had started a line of battle of the enemy rose over a ridge on our right front - or, more correctly speaking, in a right-oblique direction - and immediately opened fire on our column. Our regiment formed line of battle "by company into line on right company" and advanced towards the enemy, who were advancing and firing on our regiment at the same time, until they reached the railroad cut, which they occupied. We did not fire a shot until the road with a fence on each side of it was reached. In this road we halted a moment until all hands came up, when the command was again "Forward!" and from there to the railroad cut, a distance of 150 or perhaps 200 yards, our men fired two or three rounds, loading and firing at will as we advanced. All the while the enemy kept up a deadly fire, and out killed and wounded lay thick on the grass between the road and cut. Upon reaching the cut bayonets and clubbed muskets were used by the 6th Wis., and the rebs were clubbed and bayoneted into surrendering. Some of them would throw down their guns and cry "I surrender," and immediately pick them up and shoot some of our unsuspecting men. A few of them escaped to the rear, but finally their commanding officer gave his sword to Lieut.-Col. Rufus R. Dawes, who commanded the 6th Wis., and Corp. Frank A. Wallar, of Co. I, 6th Wis., captured their colors after a desperate struggle had occurred over them. The 6th Wis. received no support, morally or physically, from any New York or Pennsylvania regiment, but charged alone and unaided. The 6th Wis. lost 40 killed and 82 wounded between the Seminary and the railroad cut, and if necessary I can and will furnish the name of each individual. - JAMES P. SULLIVAN, Co. K, 6th Wis.

### *Officer of the Month*



Photo from Steve Magnusen and information from Find A Grave memorial # 5848728.

**Rufus R. Dawes** was born July 4, 1838 in Malta, Ohio. He graduated from Marietta College in Marietta, Ohio in 1860. He enlisted in the Sixth Wisconsin Infantry. He served as captain, major, lieutenant colonel, colonel, and brigadier general. This regiment became part of the Iron Brigade and participated in Second Bull Run, South Mountain, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, and Gettysburg. He became a Civil War legend for his command at Gettysburg. After the war, he built a lumber business in

Marietta and served as U.S. Representative from 1881-1883. He died August 1, 1899 and lies buried with his wife Mary Beman (Gates) Dawes in Section 4, Lot 20 of Oak Grove Cemetery in Marietta, Ohio.

### *Historic Site of the Month*



Photo from Steve Magnusen and information from [http://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/WMBRV2\\_6th\\_Wisconsin\\_Infantry\\_Monument\\_Gettysburg\\_National\\_Military\\_Park\\_Historic\\_District\\_Gettysburg\\_PA](http://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/WMBRV2_6th_Wisconsin_Infantry_Monument_Gettysburg_National_Military_Park_Historic_District_Gettysburg_PA)

**6th Wisconsin Infantry Monument at Gettysburg:** "The granite monument/sculpture marks the approximate location where the 6th Wisconsin Infantry along w/ the 95th & 84th New York Regiments charged & captured the 22 Mississippi Regiment on the afternoon July 1 1863 at the railroad cut. The position on Culp's Hill marks the line on July 2 & 3 1863. The monument is located east of N. Reynolds Ave. and south of the RR cut...The monument was dedicated June 30, 1888 by the State of Wisconsin and is one of 6 honoring Wisconsin troops who participated in the Gettysburg campaign. The sculpture is approximately 11 feet 7 inches by 2 feet 2 inches (squared). The two-tiered base is approximately 4 feet 6 inches, squared. The monument was fabricated by the B & M Granite Company. The regiment was command[ed] by Lieutenant Colonel Rufus R. Dawes, grandson of William Dawes who rode with Paul Revere. It brought 340 men to the field and lost 30 killed, 116 wounded and 22 missing."

Indianapolis Civil War Round Table  
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