



HARDTACK

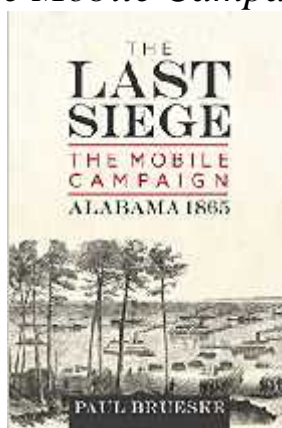


Indianapolis Civil War Round Table Newsletter

<http://indianapoliswrt.org/>

September 9, 2019 at 6:45 p.m.
Meeting at MCL Cafeteria Township Line
2370 W. 86th Street

The Plan of the Day
The Last Siege: The Mobile Campaign, Alabama 1865



It has long been acknowledged that General Robert E. Lee's surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia ended the Civil War at the Battle of Appomattox in April 1865. But even after that battle, Union leaders were not certain the rest of the Southern armies would lay down their arms. The oft-overlooked siege of Mobile was crucial to securing a complete victory and the final surrender of the last Confederate force east of the Mississippi River. After the fall of New Orleans in 1862, Mobile became the most important Confederate port city on the Gulf Coast. In 1864, Union forces won the Battle of Mobile Bay, but failed to capture the city of Mobile. Mobile remained an important logistic center, with access to major rail lines and two major river systems, essential in moving reinforcements, ordinance, and other supplies. By late 1864, Mobile was one of the last significant Gulf Coast cities east of the Mississippi still held by the Confederacy. A lynchpin in the ability of the Southerners to continue fighting, Mobile's capture became one of the keys to ending the war.

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



As a lifelong resident of the Gulf Coast, Paul Brueske became fascinated with studying the Civil War, in particular the 1865 campaign for Mobile. He founded the Mobile Civil War Round Table and regularly gives talks on Civil War topics. He is currently the Head Track & Field Coach at the University of South Alabama. This is his first book, a result of many years of research on the Mobile Campaign. He will have copies of his book for sale for \$34 (this includes tax, and he can accept credit cards).

Roster of Officers and Committees for the 2019-2020 Campaign

Officers:

President: Nikki Schofield

Vice President: Angie Gilmer

Secretary: Bill Nicholai

Treasurer: Tony Roscetti

Immediate Past President: Tony Trimble

Committees:

Preservation: Andy O'Donnell

Website: Ed Pope

Program Selection: Tony Trimble & Angie Gilmer

Publicity: Peg Bertelli, Dave Sutherland & Tony Roscetti

Quiz Master:

Tony Trimble

HARDTACK Newsletter:

Editor: Jenny Thompson

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 by the tenth day following the preceding month's meeting.

2019-2020 Campaign Plans

October 14, 2019 – Steve Williams – "Lambdin P. Milligan and the Fire in the Rear"

November 11, 2019 – Mark Laubacher – "Weapons of Mass Destruction Considered During the Civil War"

December 9, 2019 – Steve Magnusen – *To My Best Girl: Courage, Honor, and Love in the Civil War: The Inspiring Life Stories of Rufus Dawes and Mary Gates*

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 Veters – *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 2nd Wednesday of the month, September through May, excluding December.

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 11th Street, in downtown Anderson.

September 16, 2019 - Stephen Ritchie - "Robert E. Lee, West Point Cadet"

October 21, 2019 - TBA

November 28, 2019 - "The War in the West"

December - no meeting

Special Orders

Yuletide in Dixie: Slavery, Christmas, and Southern Memory: This newest book by former speaker Robert E. May will be released on Amazon on October 15, 2019. "How did enslaved African Americans in the Old South really experience Christmas? Did Christmastime provide slaves with a lengthy and jubilant respite from labor and the whip, as is generally assumed, or is the story far more complex and troubling? In this provocative, revisionist, and sometimes chilling account, Robert E. May chides the conventional wisdom for simplifying black perspectives, uncritically accepting southern white literary tropes about the holiday, and overlooking evidence not only that countless southern whites passed Christmases fearful that their slaves would revolt but also that slavery's most punitive features persisted at holiday time. In *Yuletide in Dixie*, May uncovers a dark reality that not only alters our understanding of that history but also

sheds new light on the breakdown of slavery in the Civil War and how false assumptions about slave Christmases afterward became harnessed to myths undergirding white supremacy in the United States. By exposing the underside of slave Christmases, May helps us better understand the problematic stereotypes of modern southern historical tourism and why disputes over Confederate memory retain such staying power today. A major reinterpretation of human bondage, *Yuletide in Dixie* challenges disturbing myths embedded deeply in our culture."

Lincoln's Spies: Their Secret War to Save a Nation: This new book by Douglas Waller will be published by Simon & Schuster on August 6, 2019. "Behind the grand campaigns of America's Civil War, with their sweeping battlefields and men charging at one another en masse, there was another conflict out of sight. It was the shadow war of dangerous espionage, tangled intrigue and covert operations, which attracted little attention then and now." This book tells the story of espionage in the Civil War's eastern theater through the lives of four Union agents: Allan Pinkerton, Lafayette, George Sharpe, and Elizabeth Van Lew. "And behind these secret operatives was an American president who despite his 'Honest Abe' image became an avid consumer of intelligence and a ruthless aficionado of clandestine warfare, willing to take risks."

2019 CWRT Congress, Friday, September 20, 2019 (5:00 PM until Sunday, September 22, 2019 1:30 PM): The 3rd CWRT Congress is designed to assist CWRT leaders to improve their member recruitment and retention, establish and manage effective governance, develop effective fundraising for program and preservation efforts and enhance community outreach efforts. **Congress Speakers:** Mark Trout - CEO Missouri Civil War Museum; Matt Borowick, PhD. - Civil War News & R. E. Lee CWRT; Jay Jorgensen, JD, R. E. Lee CWRT; Dr. John Bamberl, MD, Scottsdale CWRT; Dr. Chris Mackowski, PhD, Emerging Civil War; Dr. Curt Fields, PhD, Living Historian; James W. Erwin, JD, CWRT of Saint Louis & Author; and Mike Movius, MPA, Puget Sound CWRT. Tours include: Missouri Civil War Museum, and Jefferson Barracks & White Haven. Hosted by: Civil War Round Table of St. Louis James W. Erwin, President. **Recommended Hotel** Drury Inn & Suites St. Louis Southwest [Registration Link](#)
Cost: \$109.99 per night Group Registration Number: 2369307 **Select Your Breakout Sessions** [My Breakouts](#) **What can I bring into the event?** Please bring something from your CWRT to be used as a prize during our trivia contest. Consider T-shirts, coffee cups, bumper stickers, caps, etc. And, be sure to bring your CWRT marketing items (rack cards, brochures, business cards, etc.) **How can I contact the organizer with any questions?** Call Mike Movius @ 360-481-3117 or email him at mike@cwrtcongress.org **Do I have to bring my printed ticket to the event?** No. We will have a check-in table as you enter. As long as your name appears on our listing of registrants, you're good to go. **What is the cost?** \$135 [Learn More](#)

Ghosts of Plum Run: This will be the first film to portray the mythic charge of the First Minnesota at Gettysburg. This regiment suffered the highest casualties in recorded military history in 15 suicidal minutes. They are seeking financial support (as little as \$2 a month) and re-enactors. For more information, please contact Tim Russo at ghostsofplumrun@timrusso.org.

Wabash Literary Prize: The Southern Indiana Civil War Round Table will be offering the Wabash Literary Prize, an annual award for the best book on a Civil War subject published in the preceding year. For more information, please visit www.sicwrt.org/about/the-wabash-literary-prize/

Official Records

Letter From the Editor: I have enjoyed serving as editor of this newsletter since September 2006. Due to health reasons, I will be resigning in June 2020. If you are interested in taking this position, you will also need to be part of the Program Committee this year, so you can help choose the speakers for 2020-2021. All that is needed for this job is a love of history. I will help in this transition. Please contact Jenny at jkt60jet@gmail.com or Nikki at nikki1942@sbcglobal.net.

June Attendance: 37

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:

The Civil War Day by Day: An Illustrated Almanac of America's Bloodiest War, edited by John S. Bowman

Thrilling Adventures of Daniel Ellis, by Daniel Ellis

A Stupendous Effort: The 87th Indiana in the War of the Rebellion, by Jack K. Overmyer

The Third Day at Gettysburg and Beyond, edited by Gary W. Gallagher

Sherman: A Soldier's Passion for Order, by John F. Marszalek

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

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

1. The capture of Fort De Russy and an advance on Alexandria were part of what campaign?

2. What regiment was nicknamed the "Bully Dutchmen"?
3. After its capture, what Confederate general rode Milroy?
4. Who said, "We didn't take Washington but we scared Lincoln like hell!"?
5. Arkansas Post was captured on 11 January 1863. By what other name is it also known?

The Newspaper Speaks

The Daily True Delta (New Orleans, Louisiana) 02 Apr 1864, Sat., page 2 from Newspapers.com

THE SIEGE OF MOBILE. - The New York Times congratulates itself and the country on the fact that the siege of Mobile is about to be abandoned, and bases its supposition on the following New Orleans dispatch:

Madisonville, a small town on Lake Pontchartrain, opposite New Orleans, has been evacuated.

The New York correspondents in this city are a capital and sharp set of fellows, but they do get put on the false scent with remarkable ease. The occupation and evacuation of Madisonville, although it had some apparent relation to the siege of Mobile, really had no more to do with it than it had to do with an expedition against the Great Mogul.

The Mobile Register, discoursing on the same subject, says, "but for some inexplicable reason the Yankee commander failed to move from his snug city quarters." Banks and Farragut are in one respect alike; where you least expect them is the best place to find them. When the right time comes Farragut will go to work in earnest. Does any sensible man believe that he would be popping away at Mobile with weapons about as effective as a boy's pop gun on the pachedermata of a rhinoceros if he expected or desired to take it.

Officer of the Month



(photo and information from <https://www.battlefields.org/learn/biographies/david-g-farragut>)

David Glasgow Farragut was born July 5, 1801. "As a young man Farragut was sent to live with Captain David Porter in order to learn a trade...Farragut began his life as a sailor early; he commanded a prize ship captured in the War of 1812 when he was twelve years old....Despite the fact that he was born and raised in the South, Farragut chose to side with the Union....Farragut's greatest fame came from the August 5, 1864 Battle of Mobile Bay. The Confederates had placed a large number of 'torpedoes' in the waters. The monitor USS Tecumseh struck a torpedo and began to sink, causing the rest of the fleet to back away from the mine-infested waters. At the time, Farragut was watching the battle while lashed to the rigging of his flagship (USS Hartford). Alarmed, Farragut shouted, 'What's the trouble?' The USS Brooklyn answered, 'Torpedoes!' Farragut shouted back, 'Damn the torpedoes! Four Bells! Captain Drayton, go ahead! Jouett, full speed!' In the end, Farragut's fleet defeated Confederate Admiral Franklin Buchanan and the last open seaport on the Gulf of Mexico fell to the Union." He continued to serve in the Navy for the rest of his life, reaching the rank of Admiral. He died August 14, 1870 and lies buried in Brooklyn, New York.

Historic Site of the Month

Information from <http://www.fort-morgan.org/>

Fort Morgan Historic Site, located at 110 Highway 180, Gulf Shores, Alabama is the third fort built to guard where Mobile Bay meets the Gulf of Mexico and "played a significant role in the Battle of Mobile Bay....In 1946 the site was turned over to the state of Alabama as a historic site." Admission is \$7 for Adults, \$5 for Seniors over 65 and Students over 12, \$4 for children 6-12, and free for children under 6. You can learn more about upcoming events and tours on their Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/HistoricFortMorgan/>

Re-enlist NOW for the 2019-2020 Campaign

All ICWRT members may continue to receive the monthly newsletter, HARDTACK, via email at no additional charge. Members who prefer to receive the HARDTACK by U.S. Mail are asked to pay an additional \$12.00 to help cover printing and mailing costs.



Please bring your completed re-enlistment form (below) together with your payment to Indianapolis Civil War Round Table, and give it to Tony Roscetti, ICWRT Treasurer, at the next Round Table meeting, or mail your re-enlistment form and payment to:

Tony Roscetti
6260 Green Leaves Road
Indianapolis, Indiana 46220

Phone: (317) 475-9227
Email: anthony.roschetti@pnc.com

Please complete and detach the form below and include with your check:

ICWRT Membership Enlistment for July 2019 thru June 2020

Please print legibly!

Name..... Date

Address.....
.....

Phone: (.....) Email Address:

We must have a valid email address if you wish to receive the HARDTACK newsletter free of charge!

(please specify Membership Level):

_____ **\$30 Individual** _____ **\$35 Family** _____ **\$15 Student**

_____ **I wish to receive the newsletter via U.S. Mail for an additional \$12**

In addition to my membership dues, please accept my generous gift of \$ _____
to the ICWRT general operating account (This donation is not tax deductible)

If someone invited you to join the ICWRT, please list his or her name below:

Indianapolis Civil War Round Table
1346 Brookwood Circle
Danville, IN 46122