



# HARDTACK



Indianapolis Civil War Round Table Newsletter  
<http://indianapoliscwrt.org/>

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**On January 17th, 2021, the Indianapolis Civil War Round Table Board met on a conference call.**

**President Angie Gilmer, and Board Members Tony Roscetti, Nikki Schofield, Bill Nicolai, and Bill Ghormley met by phone and agreed that we would not be holding any in-person ICWRT meetings until at least September, after COVID-19 vaccinations are hopefully near completion.**

**On March 8th, Bill Nicolai will set up a presentation on ZOOM with John Fazio. The previous April and May presentations will be postponed. Nikki Schofield will contact Clay Stuckey and Tony Trimble to set up later presentations via ZOOM.**

**The Board will reconvene by phone after the Fazio session on 3/8 to make any course corrections to assure successful ongoing meetings.**

**Bill Ghormley  
Vice President**

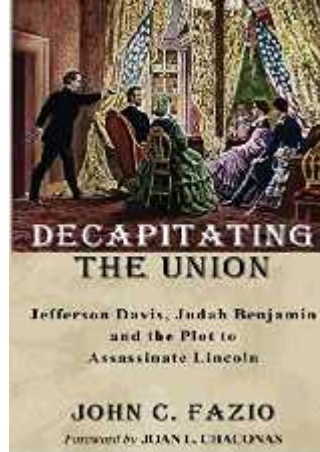
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March 8, 2021 at 6:45 p.m.

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### *The Plan of the Day*

## The Confederate Secret Service and the Assassination of Abraham Lincoln



This presentation reviews the evidence linking the Confederate Secret Service, as well as Confederate President Jefferson Davis, Secretary of State Judah Benjamin, and Secretary of War James Seddon, to the assassination of Abraham Lincoln and the attempted decapitation of the Federal Government on April 14, 1865. John Wilkes Booth and his action are considered in detail, but only in the context of an underground mosaic that included numerous other individuals and action teams who and which were primed to carry out multiple assassinations for the purpose of snatching Southern independence from the jaws of a toothless and chaotic government.

### *Our Guest Speaker*



John C. Fazio has a B.A. and J.D. from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. He now lives in Fairlawn (an Akron suburb) with his wife, Mary, who is retired after a career in public relations. Between them, they have seven children, all of whom have left the nest. John joined Mary in retirement in 2015 after practicing law for fifty years. He is a student of history, with an emphasis on European and American history and with an even greater emphasis on the most defining event in American history, the Civil War. He is a member of the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable and has been its president. He is also a member of the Lincoln Forum, the Surratt Society, the Cleveland Grays and the Western Reserve Historical Society. He teaches Civil War history at Chautauqua Institution, frequently speaks on the war and other subjects before Roundtables and other groups and has written and published numerous articles on the war and other subjects. In addition, he has written *Decapitating the Union: Jefferson Davis, Judah Benjamin and the Plot to Assassinate Lincoln*, after five years of research and writing.

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**Join John Fazio on March 8, 2021 from 7pm – 9pm.** Attached is the link for the March 8th Indianapolis CWRT Meeting with John Fazio, Guest Speaker.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87887358480?pwd=Z05Lck40d2VjTmkwd3VBdUJwM3NSQT09>

Meeting ID: 878 8735 8480

Passcode: 738893

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,87887358480#,,,,\*738893# US (Washington D.C)

+13126266799,,87887358480#,,,,\*738893# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 878 8735 8480

Passcode: 738893

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kdFCy6sB6o>

When Mon Mar 8, 2021 7pm – 9pm Eastern Time - New York

Where <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87887358480?pwd=Z05Lck40d2VjTmkwd3VBdUJwM3NSQT09> ([map](#))

Joining info [meet.google.com/owk-yauo-ksw](https://meet.google.com/owk-yauo-ksw)

Calendar [fazioj60@gmail.com](mailto:fazioj60@gmail.com)

## *Roster of Officers and Committees for the 2020-2021 Campaign*

### *Officers:*

President: Angie Gilmer

Secretary: Bill Nicholai

Immediate Past President: Nikki Schofield

Vice President: William Ghormley

Treasurer: Tony Roscetti

### *Committees:*

Preservation: Andy O'Donnell

Program Selection: Bob Gottschalk, Nikki Schofield, & Tony Trimble

Publicity: Peg Bertelli & Chris Smith

Website: Ed Pope

Tour Director: Peter Benner

### *Quiz Master:*

Tony Trimble

### *HARDTACK Newsletter:*

Editor: Robert Gottschalk

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 [flyingcircus2011@hotmail.com](mailto:flyingcircus2011@hotmail.com) by the tenth day following the preceding month's meeting.

## *2020-2021 Campaign Plans*

March 8, 2021 – John Fazio – “The Confederate Secret Service and the Assassination of Abraham Lincoln”

### *Other Camp Activities*

**Hamilton County Civil War Roundtable:** Meetings cancelled until further notice due to Covid-19.

**Madison County Historical Society Civil War Roundtable:** Meetings cancelled until further notice due to Covid-19.

### *Special Orders*

### *Official Records*

#### **Attendance:**

**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.

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

1. What Confederate victory saved Missouri from the Union according to Gen. Sterling Price?
2. Who was known as the “Knight of the Valley”?
3. Who was Nero?
4. At Charleston, SC Robert Yeadon offered a \$10,000 reward for the capture and delivery of a Union general. Which one?
5. What campaign included a skirmish at Marksville Prairie?

Answers to the November Quiz:

1. Block the road to Richmond

2. St. Louis; A Union prison was located there.
3. JEB Stuart
4. A large shark that patrolled the moat around Ft. Jefferson
5. Gen. John A. McClernand

### *The Newspaper Speaks*

#### JEFF. DAVIS AND THE ASSASSINATION.

A Curious Statement - Interview Between Jeff. Davis and Booth - Jeff. Disapproves of the Assassination.

A man signing himself John B. Van Dien writes from Fort Wayne, Indiana, under date of July 14th, a very curious letter to the Cincinnati *Commercial*, in which he gives an account of an alleged interview between Booth and Jeff. Davis. The thing looks very much like a *canard* but if true is of the very greatest importance. Immediate measures should be taken to discover the identity of the writer, his credibility, and the extent to which other facts substantiate his statement.

We subjoin the important part of his statement. After giving some incidents in his early career, and explaining how he came to be a clerk in the rebel War Department, he continues:

But I am still digressing. My duties in the war department were light, they consisting principally in indorsing, in red ink, and filing in appropriate places, all papers belonging to the confederate secret service. And I must here state that no documents were ever received, from parties in the North, with reference to the assassination of Mr. Lincoln. Many were, however, received from parties in the South, offering to capture or assassinate Mr. Lincoln, for certain sums of money. Such propositions, however, never received the least attention, but were universally passed over, without official notice; and none of them were ever replied to. And, from a conversation at which I was present, which occurred in the war department office, between president Davis, secretary Benjamin and Mr. Breckinridge, on the one part, and two strangers, together with a man named and introduced as Booth, on the other part, I am satisfied that neither Davis nor Breckenridge [sic] were in favor of the least personal injury being done to Mr. Lincoln, but, on the contrary, strenuously opposed any movement in that direction.

The gentleman above referred to as being called Booth was brought into the war office in company with the other two strangers, by president Davis and secretary Benjamin. Mr. Booth was introduced to Mr. Breckinridge by Secretary Benjamin. The other two men were not introduced, and took seats at the further end of the room, without taking part in the conversation that ensued, except that when they retired, they said, "Good-bye, gentlemen," to those who remained.

Booth commenced by saying that a plan was formed, by parties in the Northern States and Canada, friends of the confederacy, to capture or assassinate Mr. Lincoln; that he had a full list of the names, and all they desired was an official recognition on the part of the confederate authorities, and that then the project would certainly be executed. He further stated that they desired no pecuniary assistance from the Government, as that was already secured; that they were not after gain, but were actuated only by a desire to render the confederacy a service, by removing the tyrant who was the cause of so much suffering to the country and the only obstacle in the way of a speedy peace. These are the words, as near as I can remember. Messrs. Davis and Breckinridge both expressed their hearty condemnation of the plot, and advised Booth to think no more of it. That they felt that their cause was just, and that God, in His own good time, would give them the victory, without resorting to any thing but the most honorable warfare, and that they were willing to leave Lincoln's punishment, for his great crime, to the providence of a just God and an outraged people. Benjamin said nothing. Booth retired, and the last words he uttered in the room were, "He must die!" After Booth and his friends were gone, Davis said, "These fellows came here merely to see she [sic] Richmond sights, and their assassination plot is mere 'fudge.'" Breckinridge and Benjamin laughed, and the latter said, "I think so." The matter received no more attention and all agreed with Mr. Davis, that the plot was mere "fudge." I am satisfied that none of them ever expected what has since become a dread reality. In conclusion, let me say that I am willing to be qualified to the above statement of facts. Truly, yours,

JOHN B. VAN DIEN.

*from Newspapers.com*  
*Cleveland Daily Leader (Cleveland, Ohio) 22 June 1865, Thursday, page 2*

**I WANT YOU  
TO CONTRIBUTE TO**



**HARDTACK**

**Share your Civil War travels, reading, interests, and  
experiences with fellow members of the  
Indianapolis Civil War Round Table.**

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](mailto:anthony.roschetti@pnc.com)

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

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**ICWRT Membership Enlistment for July 2021 thru June 2022**

*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  
1162 Thistlewood Way  
Plainfield, IN 46168