



# HARDTACK



Indianapolis Civil War Round Table Newsletter

<http://indianapoliswrt.org/>

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Monday, June 12, 2023 at 6:45 p.m.  
Meeting at MCL Cafeteria Township Line  
2370 W. 86th Street

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## *The Plan of the Day*



*English Freeguides*

## **“Gettysburg After 50 Years – The Great Reunion”**

Gettysburg After 50 Years – The Great Reunion will examine how the former combatants experienced and enjoyed this colossal event, and the memories they took home. With over 53,000 attendees it was the largest reunion of Civil War veterans ever held. The presentation is replete with period photographs and interesting anecdotal details.

Included in the presentation will be an introduction to fourteen members of Mr. Jackson’s family who participated in the Battle of Gettysburg. One of them was awarded the Medal of Honor, earned during Picket’s Charge. His deed of valor eventually involved a former WWF professional wrestler.

## *Our Guest Speaker*



Steve Jackson

A life-long resident of Anderson, Indiana, Steve Jackson is a graduate of Anderson High School and Indiana University. He was employed by the General Motors Corporation at its Guide Lamp Division in Anderson for over 38 years.

Steve has been the Madison County Historian since 2008, and has a series of four books chronicling the history of Madison County. A fifth book is scheduled for publication in the fall of 2023.

A past president of the Indianapolis Civil War Round Table, having served during the 1999 campaign, Steve has also served as a camp commander and department commander of the Indiana Department, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, held memberships in several hereditary organizations, and currently serves as a member of the board of trustees for Anderson's Maplewood Cemetery, acting as historical consultant.

### **Roster of Officers and Committees for the 2021-2022 Campaign**

#### *Officers:*

President: Steven Magnusen

Vice President: Pete Brenner

Secretary: Eric Dove

Treasurer: Pete Mohr

Immediate Past President: Bill Ghormley

#### *Committees:*

Preservation: Andy O'Donnell

Website: Ed Pope

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

Publicity: Peg Bertelli & Chris Smith

#### *Quiz Master:*

Tony Trimble

#### *HARDTACK Newsletter:*

Editor: Bob Gottschalk

### *Other Camp Activities*

**Hamilton County Civil War Roundtable:** Meetings are on the 2nd Wednesday each month, September through May (excluding December) in Carmel City Hall. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., and meetings start at 7:00 p.m.

**Madison County Historical Society Civil War Roundtable:** Meetings take place on the third Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Bowman Room at the Museum of Madison County History, 15 West 11th Street, Anderson, Indiana. Here is the list of programs for the Madison County Historical Society Civil War Roundtable for 2023.

June 19-- Ray Boomhower--"Lew Wallace: Savior of Washington DC"

July 17-- Gerald Jones--"The Common Soldier"

August 21--Brian Dirck--"Abraham Lincoln: The Honored Dead of the Civil War"

September 18--Linda Jones--"Civil War Veteran Pensions"

October 16--Roundtable discussion.

November 20--Stephen Ritchie--TBA

### *Official Records*

**May Attendance: 36**

**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.

### *NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT For the Indianapolis Civil War Round Table*

Presented by Linda Smith and Nikki Schofield, May 8, 2023

These are the officers for the 2023 – 2024 Campaign Season

President – Pete Benner

Book Raffle Master – Tony Roscetti

Vice President – Chris Smith

Preservation Master – Andy O'Donnell

Treasurer – Pete Mohr

Publicity Mistress – Peg Bertelli

Secretary – Eric Dove

Program Selection Committee – Chairman Steve Magnusen; Committee Members: David Finney, Bob Gottschalk, and Tony Trimble

Hardtack Editor – Bob Gottschalk

Quiz Master – Tony Trimble

Nominating Committee – Nikki Schofield and Linda Smith

## ***FOUR AUTHORS MEET AT ICWRT***



*John Gilmore*

At the April 10 meeting of the ICWRT, four authors of Civil War books met and had John Gilmore take their picture. They are: Mike Eisenhut (far left), author of "Brothers of War: The Iron Brigade at Gettysburg" and currently working on his next book; Kevin Yaney, a first-timer at our club, and author of a trilogy "The Fourth of July"; Nikki Schofield, past president and author of seven Civil War romances, and Steve Magnusen, current president and author of "To My Best Girl" about Rufus and Mary Gates Dawes. The four authors discussed book publishing. If you are interested in any of these books, check Amazon or ask the authors themselves. They are always happy to talk about their books.

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***Prints For Sale!***

ICWRT member David McKay has the following prints for sale.

Don Troiani -

"Men of Arkansas" (A.S. Johnston at Shiloh)

"Opdycke's Tigers" (Franklin)

"Eye of the Storm" (Lee and Jackson Chancellorsville)

"The Bonnie Blue Flag" (Mule Shoe, Spotsylvania)

Dale Gallon -

"Cleburne at Franklin"

Anyone interested in more details can contact David at [dave@gracepca.org](mailto:dave@gracepca.org).



## *This Month in Civil War Era History*

June 9, 1860 – “*Malaseka, The Indian Wife of the White Hunter,*” by Ann Stevens, became the first U.S. "dime novel" to be published.

June 8, 1861, Tennessee became the final of the eleven states to secede from the Union.

June 14, 1863 - Lt. Gen. Richard S. Ewell defeated Maj. Gen. Robert H. Milroy at the Second Battle of Winchester, Virginia, paving the way for the Army of Northern Virginia's invasion of Pennsylvania.



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### *A Message from Steve Magnusen*

As I reflect on the past year as President of the ICWRT, a year that passed very quickly, there is much to be proud of and look forward to. We have added a number of new members. The ICWRT is stronger because of it and I look forward to another year under Pete Benner's leadership.

Thanks to all on the executive committee! Everyone has contributed immensely. We have had wonderful speakers, a fun and educational fall field trip to Kentucky Civil War sites, another awesome "show and tell", new name badges, and great camaraderie. It has been an honor to be part of it.

Next year's programs are set. We will offer diverse monthly presentations in the 2023-2024 Campaign beginning September 11. I think everyone will find them to be interesting and enjoyable!

In 2025 we celebrate our 70th year as a Civil War Round Table! I am looking forward to working with Roy Agnew, Bill Ghormley, Chris Smith, David Finney and others as we plan for some special happenings to commemorate the occasion. If you would like to help out please let one of us know. Gettysburg College Civil War Institute Director Peter Carmichael has already agreed to participate! He began his CW interest as a teen coming to ICWRT meetings with his mother. Thanks to Roy Agnew for making that personal contact!

I look forward to seeing everyone on June 12. I'll ask if you have summer time Civil War trip plans. Personally I am looking forward to being part of the CWRT Congress Conference at Gettysburg in August. At the next meeting I'll share a word about my Rufus Dawes presentation to the Chesapeake CWRT on June 8. A tour of Antietam and Ft. McHenry is planned around that trip.

Best regards and hope to see you June 12th!

Steve Magnusen

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## *My Memorial Pilgrimage*

*by Bob Gottschalk*



*Rocky Face Ridge, looking northwest*

It had long been my goal to see the final resting place of Asa Hoyt, my great, great grandfather's older brother. Of the many ancestors I have that served in the War of Rebellion, he was the only one to die as a direct result of combat. Another's health was ruined after two years on the South Carolina coast.

Asa and his older brother David first enlisted at Wapakoneta, Ohio in the 15th Ohio (3-month) a few days after Ft. Sumter. They saw little action and a lot of western Virginia in this tour of service. When the 15th mustered out in late August 1861, David went home to his wife and child (*he would later reenlist in the 10th Ohio Cavalry*) and Asa immediately enlisted in Co. F, 64th O.V.I.

Asa Hoyt would go on to see service at the Siege of Corinth, in the Kentucky Campaign, at Stones River, Chickamauga, and on Missionary Ridge. He turned 22 in April 1864, only a few weeks before William T. Sherman launched his Atlanta Campaign.

On May 8, 1864 the 340 men the 64th Ohio moved into a position on Rocky Face Ridge just north of Confederate Brig. General Edmund Pettus' Alabama brigade. Lt. Col. R. C. Brown would write in September 1864 "the following day the brigade closed en masse, this regiment in advance, (and) charged the enemy's works on the crest of the ridge, which proved disastrous to our forces, and especially my regiment." The 64th lost 21 killed and 52 wounded. Col. Alexander McIlvain was among the dead, killed attempting to rescue a wounded soldier. Asa Hoyt was carried from the field and sent to a hospital in Chattanooga, where he died on May 14th, 1864. He is buried in the national cemetery there.



His death may have contributed to my great, great grandfather running away at age 15 to enlist in the 187th Ohio Infantry.

This past week I made the journey to find Asa Hoyt's grave at the Chattanooga National Cemetery, and, as close as I could, to where he received his death wound. Though his name was badly misspelled on his headstone, his grave was easy enough to find.

The trek up Rocky Face Ridge was another matter, and almost didn't happen. Initially I'd hoped to make this trip a week earlier, but the weather hadn't cooperated. And although all sources promised clear skies, I awoke to clouds and wet ground on the morning I intended to make the 771-foot ascent to the top. I knew if the climb didn't happen that day, it wasn't likely to ever happen, so I risked it and pushed ahead.



*Rocky Face Ridge*

Fortunately, the rain had ceased and the skies cleared. Even without mud, the footslog to the top was pretty intimidating. The park here is still relatively new, and trail maps are scanty after a point. But in spite of the cuts and bruises, and the risk of snakebite and a potential poison rash, I pushed on and eventually found my way to the top of the ridge. I'd like to be able to say that I found the spot where Asa Hoyt fell, but unfortunately there is more than enough vegetation along the narrow peak of the ridge to preclude an absolute fix on a location. I can say I feel as though I accomplished my mission.



*Rocky Face Ridge looking south*

In addition to these sites, I made it a point to see Chickamauga, Ringgold, Resaca, Pickett's Mill, Big Shanty, and Kennesaw Mountain. It had been 40 years since I last made this trip, and much had changed.

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## RE-ENLIST NOW FOR THE 2023-2024 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 Pete Mohr, ICWRT Treasurer, at the next Round Table meeting, or mail your re-enlistment form and payment to:

Pete Mohr  
6308 Breamore Road  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46220

Phone: (317) 828-5176  
Email: [pmohr2@gmail.com](mailto:pmohr2@gmail.com)

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

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**ICWRT Membership Enlistment for July 2023 thru June 2024**

*Please print legibly!*

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

Address.....

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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 add their name. \_\_\_\_\_

Indianapolis Civil War Round Table  
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