



HARDTACK

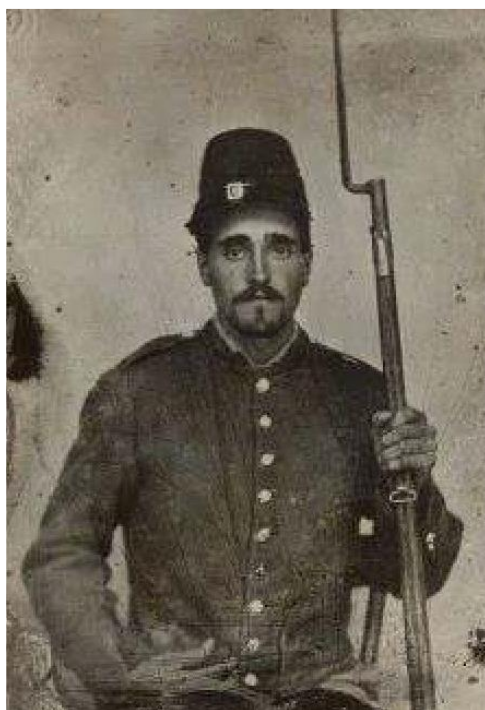


Indianapolis Civil War Round Table Newsletter

<http://indianapoliscwrt.org/>

Monday, May 8, 2023, at 6:45 p.m.
Meeting at MCL Cafeteria Township Line
2370 W. 86th Street

The Plan of the Day



Reuben Hendrickson, Co. F, 27th Indiana Infantry

“The 27th Indiana”

Recruited in Miami, Putnam, Daviess, Johnson, Lawrence, Monroe, Morgan, Jennings, and Dubois Counties, the 27th Indiana Infantry was mustered into Federal service for three years September 12th, 1861 under Col Silas Colgrove. The regiment first saw action at Winchester, played a unique part in the Maryland Campaign, was decimated at Gettysburg, and followed Sherman to Atlanta. The 27th Indiana was mustered out of service at Louisville, Kentucky on November 4, 1864.

Our Guest Speaker



Jonathan Tracey

Jonathan Tracey is a public historian focused on soldier experience, medical care, memory and veteran life in the Civil War era. He holds a B.A. in History from Gettysburg College with minors in Public History and Civil War Era Studies and a M.A. from West Virginia University in Public History with a Certificate in Cultural Resource Management. Jon has worked extensively preserving and interpreting historic sites, including with the National Park Service. (*Antietam Journal*)

Remainder of the 2022-2023 Campaign

June 12, 2023 – Steve Jackson - “50th Anniversary of the Blue & Gray at Gettysburg”

Roster of Officers and Committees for the 2022-2023 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.

May 15-- David Fraley--"Battle of Franklin, Tennessee"
 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

April Attendance: 40ish

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.

...

President's Message

By Steve Magnusen

I am looking forward to Jonathan Tracey speaking to us about the 27th Indiana Infantry regiment, organized here in Indianapolis in September 1861. It is one of the few Indiana regiments that fought in the east as part of the Army of the Potomac. But it also has the distinction of also serving in the west under General Sherman. There is a fascinating history we will learn more about.

Our Speaker lineup for the 2023-24 campaign is almost complete thanks to the efforts of David Finney, Bob Gottschalk, Nikki Schofield, and Tony Trimble. It presents a diverse and interesting schedule so keep that in mind. Fitzhugh's Crossing

...

Andy at the General Lew Wallace Study & Museum

The General Lew Wallace Study & Museum has obvious ties to the Civil War. The facility uses the American Battlefield Trust's Park Day each April to do some outdoor Spring cleaning of the grounds. This year, the weather on April 15th was perfect. More than a dozen adults (and my 7-year-old grandson) volunteered for three hours to spread new mulch in flower beds, move benches out of winter storage, rake leaves and spread new paint on wooden signs. I encourage you to visit Crawfordsville to see our Park Day handiwork.

Book Deals at May's Meeting!

A number of Civil War books will be available for purchase at a nominal fee at the May 8 meeting. This is in addition to our normal free book raffle that Tony Roscetti runs. This book sale will continue over the course of the next few meetings. Money collected will help fund future ICWRT Speakers.

The books are being made available through the efforts of Kathy Wright. She obtained them from Mrs. Mary Ann Wunder, the widow of attorney and law partner David Wunder of Indianapolis. The couple practiced law in Indianapolis for thirty years. David was an avid book collector who passed away in late 2017 at age 92. He was a WW2 veteran of the US Army in the Philippines, awarded three bronze stars. He is buried in the Marion, Indiana National Cemetery. There may be a collector's item that could be yours for only \$5.

...

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

by Tony Trimble

1. What is a "leg case" and who coined the phrase?
2. In September 1863 Jefferson Davis renewed a dispute with one of his generals. Who was he?
3. Who wrote, "General Lee is not the Confederacy."
4. Who was known playfully as "Beauty"?
5. Name the failed campaign that followed Fredericksburg.

Answers to the April Quiz:

1. Nathan Bedford Forrest
2. A mobile telegraph unit
3. A. P. Hill
4. 55th New York for the red trousers of Zouave reforms
5. Jubal Early

Answers to the May Quiz:

1. A deserter; Abraham Lincoln
2. Joseph E. Johnston
3. Mary Custis Lee
4. Jeb Stuart
5. The Mud March

NO QUIZ IN JUNE!

...

Fitzhugh's Crossing, Virginia

By Steve Magnusen

On April 29, 1863, 160 years ago., the Battle of Chancellorsville began with a deadly Rappahannock River crossing under fire conducted by the 6th Wisconsin and 24th Michigan regiments of the famed Iron Brigade, The action was under-reported and is typically overlooked. Here is a brief description taken from one of my favorite books.

9 a.m., Monday, April 29, 1863

The regiment is formed in a shallow ravine 300 yards north of the river. Colonel Bragg gives the men final instructions. "Boys, you know that our firing across the river this morning after the big mule skedaddle did not

move the rebs. They're too protected over there. So, the General says we are the ones to clear them out by crossing over in the boats. Part of the 24th Michigan will join us on the left. The rest of the brigade will move down to the bank on both sides of us and fire across to provide cover. Colonel Wainwright has placed over thirty guns behind us to blast the rebs too. When I give the order, we will march down in company columns to about 200 yards from the river, then "by the right of companies" double quick to the boats, two boats per company, row like hell to the other side, and take those rifle pits. The general is counting on us, and he knows the 6th Wisconsin is up to the task. We are from the west, we know how to handle boats, and we know how to fight! Let no man shirk his duty!"

In the distance, commands are shouted. The artillery in the rear opens a terrific cannonade, and the three supporting Iron Brigade regiments plus the 14th Brooklyn trot forward toward the bank in line of battle. When they stop and open covering fire, Bragg yells out from his spot in the center of the line, "Forward, double-quick, March!". As soon as the regiment appears on the plain, the rebels across the river open fire. At 200 yards from the river, Bragg yells out, "Now for it boys! By the right of companies, Run, March!"

Rufus Dawes is in his place near the right column, and runs forward as fast as he can. Rebel artillery fire is now coming in, and bullets are whizzing past or hitting the ground all around. The noise of rifle and cannon fire going both ways is deafening. Now at the boat! "Heave her off!" "Oars, oars!" Men have dashed up and into the boats, but some are hit and go down in the mud. The oars are in the bottom. Get the oars up! Get off the oars! They struggle to pull them out while others strain to push the big boats into the water and get on board. Bullets are flying in with a whizz, ping, splat! Dawes pulls up an oar, is passing it back to an enlisted man, when, Whack! - a bullet smacks into it, sending splinters flying. Men shove the boat off and clumsily hop in, then begin to furiously pump the oars; other men are shooting at the shore. The water around is churning. Dawes looks back and sees a soldier, Hoel Trumble from his old company, helping to push a boat away, then get hit in the head by a bullet. Trumble's hat flies off and he drops into the water face-first, disappearing.

"Row! Row! Dawes stands up in the bow, all excitement now, urging his men on, sword waving. The brush lined bank is getting closer. His boat is the second to hit the shore, others are close behind, men shouting and firing. His men jump over the sides, into the waist-deep water, and claw up the slippery bank, grabbing bushes or getting shoved up by the next man behind. Shots ring out as the men go crazy in their quest to shoot or capture any rebel soldier they see in their rifle pits. Dawes fires his pistol at Confederates running up the slope as black hat soldiers all around scramble up and about, coming at the rebels from every direction. A sharp clip pulls on his sleeve. He looks down and sees a tear in his new left-hand gauntlet, a close call. Dawes spots Oliver Fletcher, a Lemonweir boy he recruited two years ago, attack a rifle pit, shoot a Confederate soldier in a one-on-one gun battle, grab a rifle from a wounded comrade, and capture two more rebel soldiers in the next trench. Bravery and disregard for individual safety displayed all around. He sees rebel soldiers fall, more throw down their rifles. Here and there Wisconsin and Michigan soldiers are lying still on the muddy red clay.

...

This Month In Civil War Era History

May 8, 1861 - Richmond, Virginia, was chosen as the new capital of the Confederacy.

May 5, 1862 - French forces were defeated at Puebla, Mexico, thus giving us *Cinco de Mayo*. Union and Confederate armies clashed at Williamsburg the same day.

May 15, 1862 – The United States Department of Agriculture was created.

May 1, 1863 - The Confederate Congress passed a resolution to kill black soldiers.

May 27, 1863 - The CSS Chattahoochee suffered a boiler explosion that killed 19 crew members on the Apalachicola River in Florida.

...

ACQUIRE 20 SACRED ACRES AT ANTIETAM INCLUDING THE JACOB AVEY FARM

The Opportunity

September 17, 1862 is the bloodiest day in American history. And some of the fiercest fighting of the Battle of Antietam took place on the historic Jacob Avey Farm.

Today, we're trying desperately to acquire a key 20-acre portion of the original farm. It's expensive. But the price of losing it would be far greater.

So far, by using all available means, we believe we can come up with nearly half of the \$730,000 transaction cost. We need to quickly raise \$369,652 to save one of the last and largest unprotected parcels remaining at Antietam.

But we only have until July before we must come to the closing table with payment payment in hand. Please give now while your gift can be nearly doubled!

The History

After a full day of the bloodiest combat ever seen on the North American continent at places like the Cornfield, the Epicenter, Dunker Church, the West Woods, Bloody Lane and Burnside's Bridge at Antietam are immortalized forever.

More Americans perished than during the attack on Pearl Harbor, D-Day or September 11.

With Union forces finally across that stubbornly held lower bridge regrouping for a late-afternoon attack that threatened to cut off Lee's line of retreat to the Potomac River, roll up his right flank, shatter his army, and possibly end the war in the east.

With everything hanging in the balance ... A.P. Hill came up to center stage.

Historian Bruce Catton writes that, after having been ordered at dawn on the 17th by Lee to join the rest of the army as soon as possible, Hill's soldiers...

"Came upon the field at precisely the right time and place, after a terrible seventeen-mile forced march from Harpers Ferry, in which exhausted men fell out of the ranks by the score... Hill drove his men so cruelly that he left fully half his division panting along the roadside — but he got those up who were left in time to stave off disaster and keep the war going for two and one half more years."

New troops from Connecticut, experiencing their first battle, as well as some Ohioans and Rhode Islanders, were momentarily confused as many of the men now firing at them wore blue uniforms. Only later did they discover that these were indeed Hill's Confederates, who had helped themselves to captured uniforms from Harpers Ferry.

A pinned-down New York soldier later recalled:

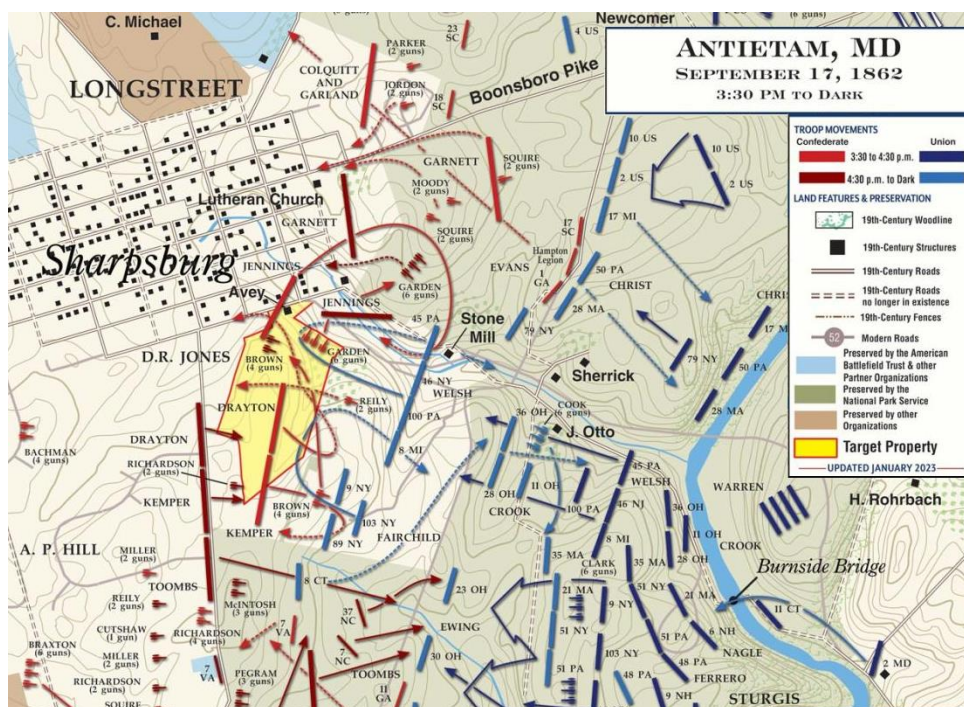
"The mental strain was so great that, at that moment, the whole landscape for an instant turned slightly red."

Burial Map Discovery Adds New Meaning to Land

The 2020 discovery of the Elliott Burial Map, drafted in 1864, revealed that the Avey Farm is the site of several Confederate burial sites. It is sacred ground, consecrated by bloodshed!

Yet there was nothing we could do to preserve it. These 20 acres were in private hands. And they were not for sale. Now suddenly, we are offered the chance to buy the 20 acres and the historic farmhouse where the Avey family lived. And I'm going to do everything in my power to ensure we save them!

The Avey farmhouse sits on land that has witnessed the bloodiest day in American history.



Quiet family farms like the one belonging to Jacob Avey, on the southern edge of the town of Sharpsburg, became bloody battlefields.

The Battle of Antietam not only altered the course of the American Civil War, but it also turned the tide of history. It marked the end of General George McClellan's military career, at the same time ending the Confederacy's hope for foreign political recognition.

It gave Abraham Lincoln the victory he needed to issue the Emancipation Proclamation, which changed the character of the War.

It can be called — without exaggeration — one of the most important, significant, and pivotal battles in the history of the world.

Your impact will be DOUBLED!

We've always known the significance of the historic Avey Farm.

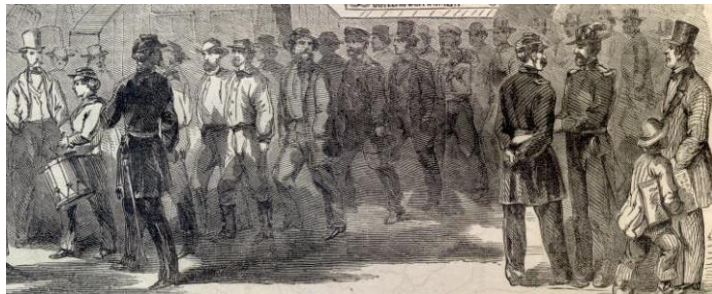
However, for all the nearly 500 acres you and your fellow Trust members have helped to save at Antietam over the years, this is the first time we have the chance to acquire hallowed ground associated with the Final Attack, land fought on by both sides during this last, crucial phase of the fighting.

Please make a gift and double your impact in preserving Avey Farm at Antietam.

American Battlefield Trust
1156 15th St NW Ste 900,
Washington, DC 20005

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

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

ICWRT Membership Enlistment for July 2023 thru June 2024

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 add their name. _____

Indianapolis Civil War Round Table
1162 Thistlewood Way
Plainfield, IN 46168