



HARDTACK



Indianapolis Civil War Round Table Newsletter

<http://indianapoliswrt.org/>

Monday, November 14, 2022 at 6:45 p.m.
Meeting at MCL Cafeteria Township Line
2370 W. 86th Street

The Plan of the Day



NPS

“Civil War Defenses of Washington City”

July 10, 1864 saw Jubal Early’s Confederate army advancing on Fortress Washington, the most heavily fortified city in the world. By this fourth summer of the war, the elaborate defensive system encircling Washington comprised 68 forts, 93 detached batteries, 5 blockhouses, fortified bridges, over 30 miles of military roads, and armament massing 800 cannons. Supplementing the defenses was a garrison of over 30,000 men. The capital defenders comprised heavy artillerists—expertly trained to operate the large caliber artillery pieces mounted in the forts—together with a mix of infantry and cavalry regiments. Nominally, such a heavy force entrenched in fortified positions made an enemy advance on the capital foolhardy and desperate. But Early’s men now had to resort to desperate measures, and when they reached the gates of Washington, the defenses roared into action. The resulting engagement saved the capital and the Lincoln Administration.

Our Guest Speaker



Steve T. Phan

Steve T. Phan is a historian and public speaker residing in Central Kentucky. A military history scholar of the Civil War era, Phan's research focuses on military occupation, operational command, African American soldiers and refugees, and fortifications during the Civil War. He is the author of articles about Asians and Pacific Islanders in the Civil War and the Defenses of Washington for numerous publications. He holds a master's degree in American History from Middle Tennessee State University.

Remainder of the 2022-2023 Campaign

December 12, 2022 – Bill Ghormley and Andy O'Donnell – “The Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College”
 January 9, 2023 – YOU – “Civil War Show and Tell”
 February 13, 2023 – Ray Boomhower – “Benjamin Harrison”
 March 13, 2023 – Dave Finney - “Custer Meets the Wolverines”
 April 10, 2023 – Gerald Jones - “Grierson's Raid”
 May 8, 2023 – Jonathan Tracey – “The 27th Indiana”
 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 Benner

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.

Official Records

October 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.

President's Message

Over thirty-five attendees at our October Round Table were educated and entertained by Prof. Jim Pula's excellent presentation about the 11th Army Corps at Gettysburg. Thanks to all for the great turnout! It was a terrific meeting.

I am sure everyone will enjoy NPS Ranger Steve Phan on November 14, speaking about the Washington D.C. defense network. Steve is a young and enthusiastic Civil War historian who served in the D.C. area before taking over at Camp Nelson, Kentucky. I am sure we can ask him about his new responsibilities at that site as well.

Nametags: A "straw poll" will be conducted to aid the Executive Committee in deciding whether to initiate professionally made nametags for the Round Table. Some of the "veteran" members have one already, going back a number of years. The Hamilton County CWRT has also expressed interest. The cost looks like about \$11 each, and the question will be asked if members would contribute \$5. I think it will help us better place a name to a face at a minimal cost, and present a positive image here and elsewhere, so my opinion is YES. Please think about it.

See you on the 14th at the MCL!

Steve

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Steve Phan's Recommended Works on the Washington Defenses

Mr. Lincoln's Forts: A Guide to the Civil War Defenses of Washington: Benjamin Cooling, Walton H. Owen II: 9780810867598: Amazon.com: Books

The Day Lincoln Was Almost Shot: The Fort Stevens Story: Cooling III, Benjamin Franklin: 9781442252783: Amazon.com: Books

A Report On The Defenses Of Washington: To The Chief Of Engineers, U.s. Army: Barnard, John Gross: 9781342695369: Amazon.com: Books

This Day In Civil War History

by Steve Magnusen

November 14, 1864

- The 27th and 70th Indiana Regiments of Sherman's Army were consolidated" into the 70th. The 27th was organized in Indianapolis in September 1861 and earned a heroic battlefield legacy, including the Shenandoah Valley, Antietam, Gettysburg, and the Atlanta Campaign with the 12th and 20th Corps. It suffered 302 fatalities, including 151 killed or mortally wounded in action. Veterans went on with the 70th in the "March to the Sea," the Carolina's, and the Washington D.C. Final Review.

- At the treason trial of William A. Bowles, Stephen Horsey, Andrew Humphreys, and Lambdin Milligan of the Indiana Copperhead organization at Indianapolis, testimony showed that over two million dollars had been furnished by sources in the South to inaugurate a revolution in the North.

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160th Anniversary Event Links

Prairie Grove, Arkansas (December 3 – 4, 2022)

[Reenactment of the Battle of Prairie Grove - everything you need to know - Living History Archive](#)

Stones River (Murfreesboro), Tennessee (December 31, 2022)

[Battle of Stones River 160th Anniversary Living History Event: In Their Own Words | Stones River National Battlefield, Murfreesboro, TN | December 31, 2022 \(happeningnext.com\)](#)

Helena, Arkansas (April 14 - 16, 2023)

<https://www.arkansasheritage.com/events/2023/04/14/default-calendar/battle-of-helena-160th-anniversary-reenactment>

Gettysburg, Pennsylvania (June - July 2, 2023)

[160th Battle of Gettysburg Anniversary | Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association \(gbpa.org\)](#)

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

by Tony Trimble

1. Who ordered the explosion of a boat offshore in an attempt to take Ft. Fisher?
2. Who wrote the following in an autograph album: "I never knew a man who wished to be himself a slave. Consider if you know any good thing, that no man desires for himself."
3. What state chamber of commerce commissioned medals to commemorate the defense of Ft. Sumter?
4. Why did Black troops swear the "Quaker Oath" in 1864?
5. Name the member of Lincoln's cabinet born in Florida.

Answers to the October Quiz:

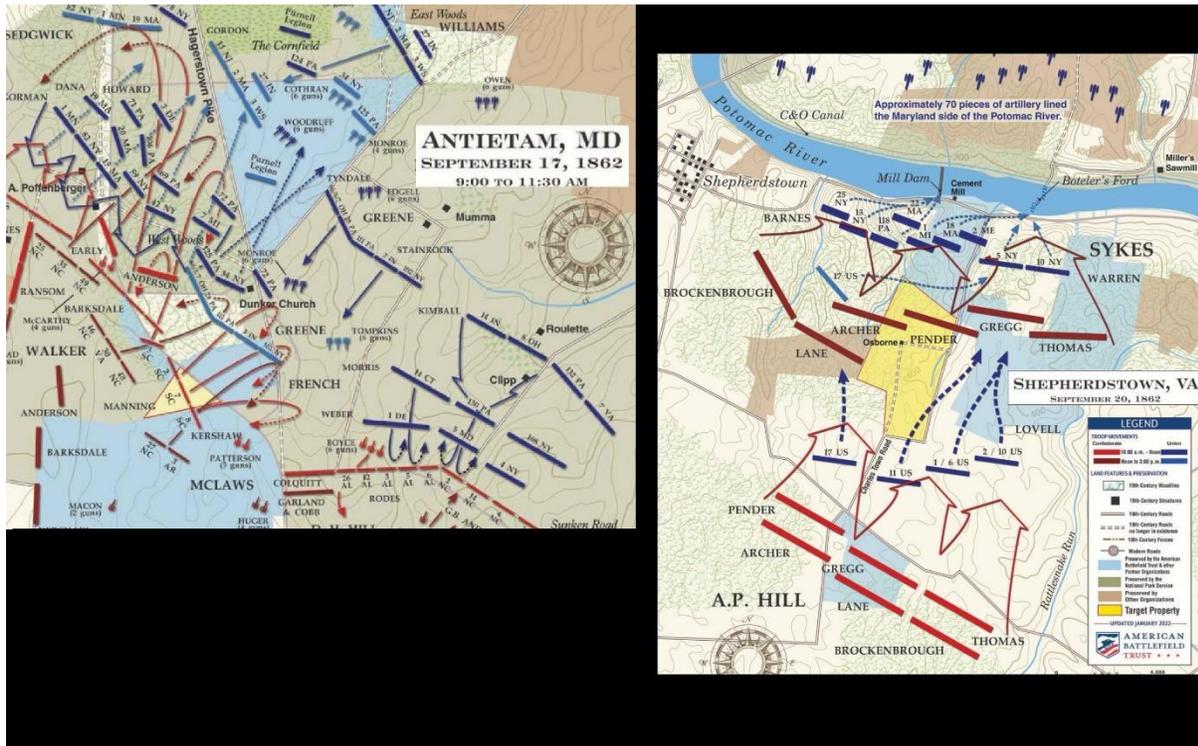
1. Derelict ships filled with rocks and sunk to block Confederate harbors and channels.
2. To abolish slavery with the 13th Amendment.
3. "In God We Trust."
4. John Hunt Morgan.
5. Slavery.

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Preserve 128 Sacred Acres at Antietam and Shepherdstown



The Opportunity

We can add six additional acres to those preserved at Antietam and preserve 122 acres of pristine land at Shepherdstown — all part of the 1862 Maryland Campaign — together having a total transaction value of \$2.75 million for only \$343,837.

An Additional Six Acres to the Existing Antietam Battlefield

The six-acre tract in Sharpsburg, Washington County, Maryland, is steps away from the West Woods and iconic Dunker Church, and a slightly longer stroll can take you to the Bloody Lane or Cornfield. A 70s style brick house, garage, and barn are currently on the property along with a stand of trees that did not exist in 1862. Over the past decades, we've been able to purchase and secure 464 acres at the Antietam battlefield site, and with the purchase of these six acres, we could unify and restore a significant portion of the battlefield including preserved, adjacent land to the South, West, North and East—it's a hole in the donut!

Saving 122 Acres in Near Civil War-Era Condition

The much larger tract of 122 acres near Shepherdstown saw fighting days after Antietam and was instrumental in preventing the Confederates from resuming their advance northward. The land is presently in an almost original state but is now threatened by the development of a residential subdivision of McMansions. In Shepherdstown, we've saved more than 600 acres. The addition of this land to that already sizable plot means even more history will be preserved.

While we have had much success securing hallowed ground in Washington County and Shepherdstown, these plots are necessary to maintain uninterrupted parcels of hallowed ground at both sites.

Generous state and federal grants, as well as commitments from donors, have reduced the amount we need to raise to just \$343,837 from the total of \$2.75 million.

The History

In September 1862, the Confederate president Jefferson Davis, along with General Robert E. Lee, devised a strategy to deliver a devastating blow on Northern soil. At the same time, President Lincoln needed a Union victory to issue the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation from a position of strength. What played out included the bloodiest single day in American history.

The Confederate Army's strategy to move the war into northern territory had several goals: to recruit Maryland citizens and free it from Union control; to draw the Union army out of its capital where it could be dealt a decisive blow; to influence the 1862 midterm elections in their favor; to turn the attention away from Confederate failures elsewhere; and to convince prominent European countries to back the Confederate states. To prevent this action, Lincoln sent the Federals, under the command of General George B. McClellan, to protect key Northern cities and drive the Confederate army out of Maryland, in what became the Maryland Campaign which included the Battles of Antietam and Shepherdstown.

At Antietam, after hours of brutal fighting around the Cornfield, the Hagerstown Pike and near the Dunker Church, Confederate reinforcements arrived at the edge of what was known as the Reel Farm (on land currently owned by the Trust), just south of what would later be called "The West Woods." These and other soldiers in the vicinity wrapped around an advancing Union flank under General John Sedgwick, inflicting 2,500 casualties and sending the Union troops reeling.

While the Union Army outnumbered the Confederates elsewhere on the field, the loss of life was nearly equal. The battle raged on with a casualty count of more than 22,000 men and a loss of life of more than 3,600, making it the bloodiest day on U.S. soil — greater than 9-11 or the deaths at D-Day.

In the end, the Confederates fell back across the Potomac River into Virginia.

Days later, with troops from both sides amassing at Shepherdstown, fighting continued with both sides gaining and losing ground. Although casualty counts were not nearly as high as Antietam, the Maryland Campaign came to an end while soldiers awaited the next bloody chapter in Virginia.

With the completion of the Maryland Campaign and the Battle of Antietam, Lincoln used the opportunity to issue his preliminary Emancipation Proclamation, now with a firm date to free slaves in territories under rebellion on January 1, 1863. This momentous decision changed the course of the war and ushered in a new birth of freedom for so many.

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

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Abram Furman Springsteen

(Courtesy of the Battle of Franklin Trust)



Abram Furman Springsteen was only fourteen years old when he participated in the Battle of Franklin. He was born to Jefferson and Anna Springsteen in Brooklyn, NY on July 5, 1850, but by June 1860, he and his family were living in Indianapolis. On October 15, 1861, eleven-year-old Abram joined the United States army and mustered into Co. A, 35th Indiana Infantry. “When the regiment was ordered to the front, however, and was entertaining at the old Jefferson depot on South Street, in Indianapolis, the parents kidnapped the boy and took him to a farm owned by relatives near Noblesville for hiding. Missing the drummer boy at Cincinnati the captain of the company wired back to Indianapolis threatening arrests...”

In December 1861, Abram was discharged at his parents’ request.

However, in July 1862, Abram enlisted again, mustering into Co. I, 63rd Indiana Infantry. “He beat the drum about the streets of Indianapolis when the 63rd regiment was being recruited. He was mustered into Co. I of the regiment, this time with his parents’ consent. He was then little more than 12 years old. The night the regiment was to entrain for actual service, the parents received permission to take the boy home for the night. Suspecting another attempt to keep him out of the fighting; the boy climbed out of an upstairs window and hurried back to camp.”

On November 29, 1864, Abram was captured in Spring Hill but managed to escape, but without his drum. By morning, he had rejoined his regiment and was present at the Battle of Franklin.

After the war, Abram worked as a brick mason in Indiana, then as a government clerk in Washington, D.C. He finally moved to Los Angeles, CA where he died in 1930.

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Thanksgiving Day 1863: First Official Thanksgiving

From Iron Brigadier, by Mark · (PUBLISHED NOVEMBER 20, 2010 · UPDATED NOVEMBER 8, 2021)

[<https://ironbrigadier.com/2010/11/20/thanksgiving-day-1863-official-thanksgiving/>](https://ironbrigadier.com/2010/11/20/thanksgiving-day-1863-official-thanksgiving/)

Sara Hale and Abraham Lincoln

When most people think of the origins of the Thanksgiving holiday in the U.S., they think of the Pilgrims and Wampanoag Indians celebrating at Plymouth in 1621. While the celebration of Thanksgiving does go back to that time, the establishment of Thanksgiving Day as a national holiday did not occur until 1863. That year, Abraham Lincoln issued a proclamation establishing the last Thursday of November as a national day of thanksgiving. Lincoln's proclamation was the culmination of years of lobbying by writer and magazine editor Sarah J. Hale for the establishment of the holiday.

Born in New Hampshire in 1788, Sarah Hale became a writer and poet after she was widowed at age 34 in 1822. In 1830, she published her second volume of children's poems that included her most famous one—"Mary Had a Little Lamb". Sarah Hale used her position as editor of the popular women's magazine Godey's Lady's Book to promote the establishment of Thanksgiving as a national holiday by writing editorials to that effect starting in the 1830's. By the 1860's a Thanksgiving holiday was not an unfamiliar event to many Americans. Several states celebrated some form of the holiday at various times in the year. But there was still no national Thanksgiving Day.

With Civil War raging throughout the country, Sarah Hale saw a national Thanksgiving holiday as a unifying event for the country, at least for those states in the Union. She editorialized that the president could issue a proclamation establishing a day to be observed by every state. She asked her friend, Secretary of State William Seward, to discuss the issue with President Lincoln. In September of 1863, Sarah Hale wrote to Abraham Lincoln and requested he proclaim the last Thursday of November, which was the 26th in 1863, as the National Thanksgiving Day.

Sarah Hale's years long effort to establish Thanksgiving as a national holiday finally paid off on October 3rd, 1863 when Abraham Lincoln issued a proclamation setting the last Thursday in November as "a day of thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens." Here is the text of President Lincoln's Thanksgiving Day Proclamation, as recorded in Volume III of Series III of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies in the War of the Rebellion:

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: A PROCLAMATION.

The year that is drawing toward its close has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever-watchful providence of Almighty God.

In the midst of a civil war of unequalled magnitude and severity, which has sometimes seemed to foreign states to invite and provoke their aggressions, peace has been preserved with all nations, order has been maintained, the laws have been respected and obeyed, and harmony has prevailed everywhere, except in the theater of military conflict, while that theater has been greatly contracted by the advancing armies and navies of the Union.

Needful diversions of wealth and strength from the fields of peaceful industry to the national defense have not arrested the plow, the shuttle, or the ship; the ax has enlarged the borders of our settlements, and the mines, as well of iron and coal as of the precious metals, have yielded even more abundantly than heretofore. Population has steadily increased, notwithstanding the waste that has been made in the camp, the siege, and the battle-field, and the country, rejoicing in the consciousness of augmented strength and vigor, is permitted to expect continuance of years with large increase of freedom.

No human counsel hath devised, nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy.

It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently, and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American people. I do, therefore, invite my fellow-citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next as a day of thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens. And I recommend to them that, while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular

deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners, or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty hand to heal the wounds of the nation, and to restore it, as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes, to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility, and union.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the city of Washington this third day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the Independence of the United States the eighty-eighth.

By the President: ABRAHAM LINCOLN.
WILLIAM H. SEWARD, Secretary of State

The Union Army and Navy had no official feast on Thanksgiving Day of 1863, as the commissaries were not able to provide such a meal. However, many military units were able to prepare a Thanksgiving meal on their own or with the help of civilian organizations. This was especially true with regiments from New England states, an area that did have some local Thanksgiving traditions.

Even units engaged in active military operations did what they could to observe the holiday. At Knoxville, Tennessee, Major General Ambrose Burnside's Army of the Ohio was under siege, but the men tried to observe the holiday as best as possible under the circumstances.

GENERAL FIELD ORDERS, No. 32.
HDQRS. ARMY OF THE OHIO,
Knoxville, Tenn., November 25, 1863.

In accordance with the proclamation of the President of the United States, Thursday, the 26th instant, will, so far as military operations will permit, be observed by this army as a day of thanksgiving for the countless blessings vouchsafed the country and the fruitful successes granted to our arms during the past year.

Especially has this army cause for thankfulness for the divine protection which has so signally shielded us; and let us with grateful hearts offer our prayers for its continuance, assured of the purity of our cause and with a firm reliance on the God of Battles.

By command of Major-General Burnside:

LEWIS RICHMOND,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

Thanksgiving for the Civil War Soldiers

Sergeant Charles C. Paige of the 11th New Hampshire Infantry was at Knoxville, and noted that it was quiet that day and the men were "in good spirits." But the men under siege there knew the enemy was planning an attack, which toned down the celebration considerably. "Considering it from the usual standpoint I should say that I have not had much of a Thanksgiving day," Paige recorded.

The 36th Massachusetts Infantry was also at Knoxville. A member of the regiment recalled that the soldiers in the 36th took Burnside's words to heart, and "we ate our cornbread with thanksgiving; and forgetting our own privations, thought only of the loved ones at home, who, uncertain of our fate, would that day find little cheer at the table and by the fireside."

In Virginia, the Army of the Potomac was engaged in the Mine Run Campaign. The regimental historian of the 1st Maine Cavalry recalled that "the day was cold and raw, and the marching tedious ... they took their Thanksgiving dinner of cold hard bread and cold water, on a cold day, riding along in the enemy's country ... But it was wonderful how quickly the cheerful camp-fire and the cup of hot coffee put life and new spirit into them."

The 37th Massachusetts Infantry marched ten miles on muddy roads that day. An officer remembered “our Thanksgiving dinner consisted of bread and butter.”

The 4th Maine Battery of Light Artillery was on the march that day as well. A member of that unit recalled “as we ate our Thanksgiving dinner of hardtack and raw pork as we moved along (not stopping long enough to build a fire to make coffee or cook our meat) we thought of our friends who were gathered around the Thanksgiving table at home, and how much we would enjoy being with them.”

A National Holiday

Lincoln issued another Thanksgiving Day proclamation in 1864, and other presidents would continue issuing proclamations. In 1871, Sarah Hale began a push to have Congress pass a law making Thanksgiving Day a national holiday, rather than have it proclaimed by the president. She would not live to see this fulfilled, dying in 1879 at age 91. In 1941, the U.S. Congress finally passed a bill establishing the fourth Thursday in November as the national Thanksgiving Day. President Franklin Roosevelt signed the bill into law on November 26th, 1941.

Sources:

History of the First Maine Cavalry by Edward P. Tobie (1887)

History of the Fourth Maine Battery Light Artillery in the Civil War 1861-65. Augusta Maine (1905)

History of the Thirty-Sixth Regiment Massachusetts Volunteers 1862-1865 by a Committee of the Regiment (1884)

Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies in the War of the Rebellion. Ser. I Vol. XLII Pt 3 and Ser III Vol. III. U.S. War Dept. Washington D.C.: Govt. Printing Off. 1880-1901.

Recollections of the Civil War by Mason Whiting Taylor (1912)

Story of the Experiences of Lieutenant Charles C. Paige in the Civil War of 1861-65 by Charles C. Paige (1911).



Alfred Waud, Library of Congress

RE-ENLIST NOW FOR THE 2022-2023 CAMPAIGN!
CAMPAIGN FEES DUE BY NOVEMBER 14TH!

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 2022 thru June 2023

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. _____