



HARDTACK



Indianapolis Civil War Round Table Newsletter

<http://indianapoliscwrt.org/>

Monday, May 12, 2025 at 6:45 p.m.
Meeting at MCL Cafeteria Township Line
2370 W. 86th Street

The Plan of the Day



CBS News

“Wilder's Lightning Brigade”

Colonel John Wilder was among the most forward-thinking and aggressive Union brigade commanders. His men, the hardy farmer-outdoorsmen who became rugged soldiers and determined fighters, were a vital component of the brigade's battlefield success. Col Wilder recognized the shortcomings of the Union Army's ability to thwart vastly superior Confederate cavalry and was disappointed that current battlefield tactics were obsolete with the more modern weapons of the day. He took the initiative to create his own style of fighting. First, he procured the Spencer 7-shot Repeating Rifle and incorporated new tactics to maximize its effects. Then he obtained horses for his brigade to give them speed and maneuverability. His horse soldiers were highly mobile and able to move rapidly from point to point, but they deployed and fought as infantry – with one very important difference – their breechloading Spencers enabled them to fight prone or from behind cover, without undue exposure in loading compared to the typical soldier with the standard percussion muzzleloading rifle. This combination of excellent leadership, supremely confident and capable soldiers, superior firepower, speed and maneuverability, and creative tactics gave Wilder's Lightning Brigade an enormous advantage over their conventionally armed and tactically outmoded opponents.

Our Guest Speaker



Scott Diezman

A Civil War enthusiast since childhood, Scott's enthusiasm was bolstered upon discovery that his great-great grandfather served in the 18th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and has since focused his research on the Army of the Cumberland.

Scott retired after 20 years of service as a Lt. Col. in the Air Force where he was a satellite engineer/program manager for multiple space systems and served a tour of duty in Iraq. He then served for a decade as the Subject Matter Expert on Space-based Intelligence Systems, and currently serves as Satellite Engineer and Program Management Advisor at the National Reconnaissance Office in Chantilly, VA.

Scott and his wife, Susan, reside in Centreville, VA, where he spends time conducting research at the National Archives in Washington D.C. In his spare time, he provides Civil War presentations to multiple Civil War Round Tables, schools, and history day events. He also leads tours of the Chickamauga Battlefield and Chattanooga area.

Remainder of the 2024-2025 Campaign

June 9, 2025 - Gene Eric Salecker - "The Sultana Disaster"

Roster of Officers and Committees for the 2024-2025 Campaign

Officers:

President: Chris Smith

Vice President: Tony Roscetti

Secretary: Eric Dove

Treasurer: Pete Mohr

Immediate Past President: Pete Benner

Committees:

Preservation: Andy O'Donnell

Website: Ed Pope

Program Selection: Chairman Steve Magnusen; Members: Bob Gottschalk, David Finney, & Tony Trimble

Publicity: Peg Bertelli

Quiz Master:

Tony Trimble

Book Raffle Masters

Roy Agnew/Charlotte Carmichael

HARDTACK Newsletter:

Bob Gottschalk

Other Camp Activities

Hamilton County Civil War Roundtable: Meetings are on the 2nd Wednesday each month at the Cornerstone Lutheran Church, Main St. & Gray Rd., Carmel. Entrance Door #6. Opens at 6:30, and program begins at 7:00.

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. Upcoming presentations:

May 19: David Sutherland. "VMI's Civil War Legacy."

June 16: David Finney. "The Civil War: A Living Legacy."

July 21: Tony Trimble. "Cades Cove: A Community at War."

Official Records

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)

by Tony Trimble

1. What battle was fought 10 miles north of the Mason-Dixon line.
2. While the war was still being fought in 1864, a convention convened in a Confederate state to plan for reconstruction. Which state was it?
3. What was the percentage of enemy dead compared to the original body of soldiers for specific types of ammunition called?
4. Who was known as the "Florence Nightengale of the South"
5. In May 1862, Lincoln ordered the movement on Richmond stopped and 20,000 troops sent to the Shenandoah. For what purpose and under whose command?



This Month in Civil War Era History

May 18, 1860 - Abraham Lincoln became the Republican Party's presidential candidate for 1860.

May 13, 1861 - Queen Victoria announced Britain's neutrality in the U.S. Civil War.

May 9, 1862 - The U.S. Naval Academy relocated to Newport, Rhode Island.

May 28, 1863 - The 54th Massachusetts left Boston to begin its tour of duty.

May 12, 1864 - J.E.B. Stuart died, being mortally wounded at the Battle of Yellow Tavern the previous day.

May 9, 1865 - President Andrew Johnson proclaimed hostilities in the South to have ended.

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Indianapolis Civil War Roundtable's 70th Anniversary Observations



Period Attire Contingent

Sixty-three members and guests celebrated the 70th anniversary of the ICWRT on Monday evening, April 14. I thank everyone who helped to make the event a memorable one, in particular David Finney, Bruce Kolb and the color guard, and words of remembrance from Tony Trimble, Nikki Schofield, Tom Krasean. And Dave Sutherland.

Our program entertainment, Steve and Lisa Ball, were a huge hit. Everyone enjoyed their performance of Civil War era songs, and in particular, the interesting history behind each - facts we did not know. They are anxious to return so look for that to happen next campaign.

In this era of CWRT's closing operations across the country, it is heartening to know that our own Round Table is continually greeting new members who enjoy hearing, learning, and sharing Civil War history. There is much to learn from the stories of those who faced our nation's most difficult trauma.

We look forward to continued success. Last but not least, at least sixteen people dressed in period clothing or uniforms. The photos attest to this living history.

See you at the May 12 meeting. It will feature a very interesting topic and terrific, young speaker. Wilder's Brigade by Scott Diezman.

- Steve Magnusen



Steve and Lisa Ball

On Monday evening, April 14th, sixty-five attendees gathered at the Northside Events and Social Club to celebrate the Indianapolis Civil War Round Table's 70th Anniversary. The banquet meal consisted of Iceberg Lettuce Salad, Chicken Cordon Bleu, Seasonal Roasted Vegetables, Rice Pilaf, Chocolate Cake, Coffee and Tea. The menu contained a quote from a Confederate trooper, D.P. Chamberlain, 9th Tennessee Cavalry, who wrote, "Sometimes we had a good meal, but generally we...had to buckle up our belts to find whether we possessed stomachs." Such was not

the case for us that evening as we all enjoyed the meal. The Posting and Retirement of the Colors was done by Commander Bruce Kolb and members of the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War. Tom Krasean, who's been a round table member for sixty years, led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. The founders of the Round Table were recognized as were those members with the most longevity in the organization. They were Tom Krasean, Nikki Schofield, Tony Trimble, David Sutherland, and Gerald Jones. Recognition also included past presidents, authors, and members having Civil War ancestors. Four tables were distributed about the banquet hall and they contained Civil War books written by thirteen of our members; Peggy Bertelli's beautiful Civil War reproduction lap quilt that was sold in a silent auction for \$200.00; a table loaded with Civil War relics and family memorabilia; and a book table containing donated books available for a donation which will be provided to battlefield preservation. Steve and Lisa Ball, from Ohio, provided the evening's entertainment, singing Civil War songs. We all joined in to sing The Battle Hymn of the Republic and Goober Peas. It was truly an enjoyable evening and paved the way for 2030 when the Indianapolis Civil War Round Table will celebrate its 75th Anniversary, also known as its Diamond Anniversary.

- David Finney



Olivia Treen

RE-ENLIST NOW FOR THE 2025-2026 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 2025 thru June 2026

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. _____