



# HARDTACK



Indianapolis Civil War Round Table Newsletter

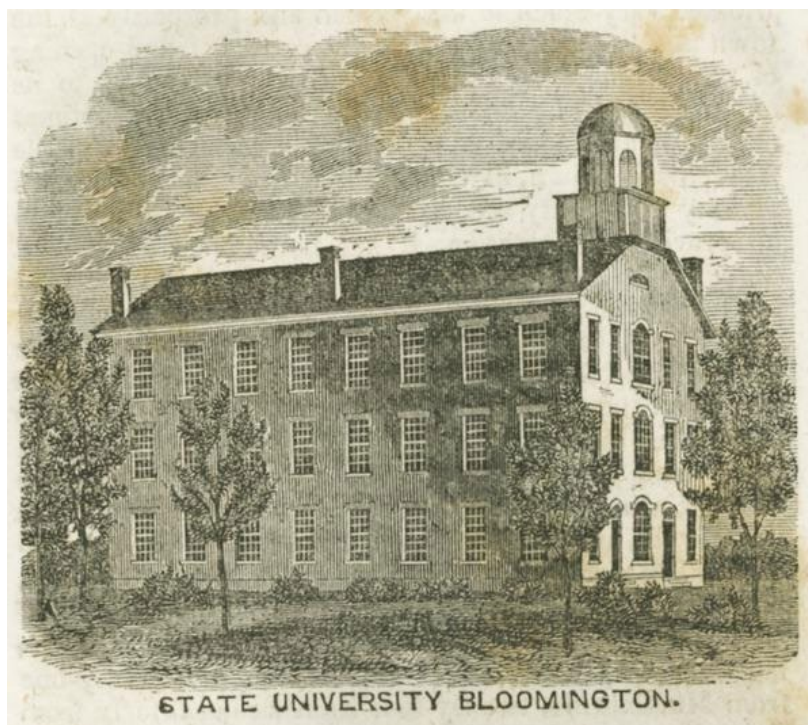
<http://indianapoliscwrt.org/>

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Monday, September 9, 2024 at 6:45 p.m.  
Meeting at MCL Cafeteria Township Line  
2370 W. 86th Street

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## *The Plan of the Day*



*IU Archives*

## **“Indiana University Contributions in the Civil War”**

Indiana University’s Civil War Legacy: Since the Indiana University Bicentennial series nearly six years ago, John has continued to explore the stories of IU’s Civil War connections and legacies. He will share updates, new discoveries, and new stories of IU’s connections to the Civil War including some interesting Indianapolis connections!

## *Our Guest Speaker*



**John Summerlot**

John Summerlot works at Indiana University where he is a Division Director for IU Emergency Management and Continuity, an adjunct instructor, and serves as historian for the Golden Book project. The Golden Book is an IU history project started in 1898 and focuses on recognizing the military service of IU students, staff, faculty, alumni, and the institution itself. His work has resulted in numerous articles, papers, presentations, and a YouTube Channel on IU history. In 2020, John was recognized for his work with an IU Bicentennial Medal. John earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy and history as well as a master's degree in counseling from Mississippi State University. He also earned a master's degree in homeland security from the Naval Postgraduate School. John has served in both the US Marine Corps and the Army National Guard.

## **Remainder of the 2024-2025 Campaign**

October 14, 2024 - Wayne Motts - "Hoosiers at Gettysburg"  
 November 11, 2024 - John Chalfin - "Admiral David G. Farragut"  
 December 9, 2024 - Dan Heitman - "August Willich"  
 January 13, 2025 - YOU - Annual Show & Tell  
 February 10, 2025 - Gerald Jones - "Northern Prison Life"  
 March 10, 2025 - Carl Kramer - "Indiana Generals in the Civil War"  
 April 14, 2025 - 70th Anniversary of the Indianapolis Civil War Round Table  
 May 12, 2025 - Scott Diezman - "Wilder's Lightning Brigade"  
 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
Book Raffle: Roy Agnew/Charlotte Carmichael	
Quiz Master: Tony Trimble	
HARDTACK Editor: Bob Gottschalk	
Website: Ed Pope	
Preservation: Andy O'Donnell	

### *Committees:*

Program Selection: Chairman Steve Magnusen, David Finney, Bob Gottschalk, & Tony Trimble  
 Nominating: Nikki Schofield, Linda Smith, Tony Trimble

## *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.

## *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. On January 8, 1864, Jefferson Davis wrote, "I cannot see how the mere material obstacles are to be surmounted." This was in response to discontent in a Confederate state. Which state and who was its governor?
2. Who or what was "Charlie"?
3. What Union general sent messages from his "headquarters in the saddle"?
4. How many rounds of artillery were fired on Ft. Sumter between November 7-10, 1863?
5. Whose first horse after West Point was named "Nellie Bly"?



## **Save the Date!**

The Date: **Monday, April 14, 2025**

The Time: 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., or thereabouts

The Event: Dinner and Speaker Celebrating the 70th Anniversary of the Indianapolis Civil War Round Table

The Location: Northside Events & Social Club, 2100 E. 71st Street, Indianapolis, Dining Room.

The Price: Very Reasonable, to be determined.

Adult Beverages: Cash Bar

Extras: Be part of a special evening for the Round Table.

Round tables (very appropriate) for easy conversation.

Convenient venue.

Keepsakes for all (free).

Group Photo.

Learn some history of the Round Table, and learn from a respected speaker.

Show off among invited guests.

More information to come, but put it in your calendar.

## Remembering Dr. Peter S. Carmichael



We grieve the sudden death of Dr. Peter S. Carmichael and offer our deepest condolences to his family and friends.

Our director Caroline Janney and Aaron Sheehan-Dean published [this tribute](#), which concludes, "While we will miss Pete the scholar, teacher, battlefield guide, and colleague, we will miss our friend most. A fountain of sage wisdom (at least he thought it was sage) was always forthcoming. He was a Renaissance man – a lover of Indiana basketball, art, music, CrossFit, and an expensive haircut. He was compassionate, always asking after our families and friends, and regaling us with tender stories about Beth and their girls. He made us laugh (even when we shouldn't have) and he loved without fail. He was generous to a fault. We will miss you, dear Friend. And we will try our best to contribute to the field and to humanity as you did so well."

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## The Wife of the Wizard of the Saddle

By Norman Dasinger, Jr., 6/30/2024 (originally published 6/11/2021) [blueandgrayeducation.org](http://blueandgrayeducation.org)

*"She was a pretty, educated, petite, gentle, quiet, well-mannered, pious, Christian and introverted lady."*  
Mary Ann (Montgomery) Forrest as described by her uncle in 1845

Mary Ann (Montgomery) Forrest was born October 2, 1826, to William H. and Elizabeth (Cowan) Montgomery. Her father died in 1829 and is buried in the Cowan Cemetery, Franklin County, Tennessee. Sometime following his death, Mary Ann's widowed mother moved to Desoto County, Mississippi. Mary Ann's uncle was the Rev. Samuel Cowan, a well-known clergyman in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, living in Desoto County. So, his widowed sister, Elizabeth (Cowan) Montgomery, eventually followed him in order to be near familiar faces. Elizabeth's father, Mary Ann's grandfather, was James Cowan. He was a War of 1812 veteran and fought with Andrew Jackson at the battle of New Orleans. Afterward, he remained in the Army and was given command of an area of frontier Tennessee from what is now Chattanooga to a point north of present-day Huntsville, Alabama. At that time, it was land under control of the United States government. It was stated in a letter in 1895 that "Captain James Cowan moved from Blount County, Tennessee to this country (the Cowan area) in 1806 and was the second man to settle here."

In 1845 near Hernando, in Desoto County, Mississippi, Mary Ann Montgomery and Nathan Bedford Forrest would meet. On an August Sunday, Mary Ann and her mother were in their buggy on their way to church to hear her uncle preach. As Forrest encountered the two women, he noticed they were broken down in the middle of a creek. Some local young men were on the bank laughing and teasing the ladies. Twenty-three-year-old Bedford rode up on his horse and immediately waded across and carried Mary Ann and her mother to safety. After properly introducing himself, he asked permission to call on Mary Ann. Mrs. Montgomery agreed. Bedford proposed on his second visit. She hesitated, but accepted on the third. They were married September 24, 1845. Her uncle, the Reverend Cowan, performed the ceremony. They had two children: William (Willie) and Frances (Fanny), who died when she was five years old.

On July 3, 1863, Nathan Bedford Forrest was traveling through his wife's hometown of Cowan, Tennessee. His command was screening and defending Confederate Gen. Braxton Bragg's Army as they made their retreat from middle Tennessee into northeastern Alabama. On that day, as the last units passed through Cowan, an elderly woman stepped from the Franklin Hotel and shouted to a passing cavalryman: "You big cowardly rascal, why don't you turn and fight? I wish old Forrest was here. He'd make you fight." The cavalryman was, in fact, Forrest. He just lowered his head, smiled, and kept moving.

Mary Ann (Montgomery) Forrest died in 1882. Dr. Samuel Mitchem, in a 2020 article about her, wrote, "She was the love of Bedford's life and in many ways, exerted a profound influence on him."



Mrs. Mary Ann Forrest in her late 40s, with her grandson, Nathan Bedford Forrest II | (findagrave)



### **This Month in Civil War Era History**

**September 3, 1861:** Confederate General Gideon Pillow led troops into Kentucky, ending that state's attempt to remain neutral.

**September 22, 1861:** A dispute over a friendly horse race ended when the 2nd New Mexico Mounted Volunteers under Lt. Col. Manuel Antonio Chaves shot and killed 12 Navajo men, women, and children, and wounded 40 more at Fort Fauntleroy, New Mexico Territory, leading to raids on area settlers.

**September 17, 1862:** At about 2:00 p.m., while there was a lull in the fighting along Antietam Creek, an explosion occurred 135 miles away at the Allegheny Arsenal, near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Seventy-eight workers, largely young women, were killed in the blast, most mutilated beyond recognition.



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**September 30, 1862:** Prussian Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Otto von Bismarck delivered his famous "Blood and Iron" speech, ushering in the era of German unification.

**September 16, 1864:** With 3000 cavalymen, Wade Hampton stole 2,468 Federal head of cattle from Coggin's Point, Virginia in what would become known as the Beefsteak Raid.



*Harper's Weekly Magazine, October 8, 1864*

**RE-ENLIST NOW FOR THE 2024-2025 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:*

***ICWRT Membership Enlistment for July 2024 thru June 2025***

*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