



# HARDTACK



Indianapolis Civil War Round Table Newsletter  
<http://indianapoliscwrt.org/>

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Monday, February 9, 2026 at 6:45 p.m.  
Meeting at MCL Cafeteria Township Line  
2370 W. 86th Street

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## *The Plan of the Day*



### **“The Stonewall Brigade”**

Raised from western Virginia communities as widespread as Wheeling and Wytheville, and organized at Harpers Ferry in April 1861, "Virginia's First Brigade" made a standout performance at Manassas that July. Forever afterward known as the “Stonewall Brigade,” the unit saw action from the Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1862 through Spotsylvania, where it was decimated. Mike Eisenhut will present the history of the brigade’s role in the major battles in which it was engaged, and its often-colorful commanders, including Stonewall Jackson, Charles Winder, and Andrew Grigsby, along with other famous personalities from the brigade.

### *Our Guest Speaker*



**Mike Eisenhut**

Our speaker for February is Michael Eisenhut. Mike has been a member of the Indianapolis Civil War Round Table for the past several years. His topic will be "THE STONEWALL BRIGADE", during which he will discuss the people, campaigns, and battles of Stonewall Jackson's famous brigade.

Michael Eisenhut is the author of the award-winning Civil War novel BROTHERS OF WAR, THE IRON BRIGADE AT GETTYSBURG which was published in 2021. The book is based on two brothers in the 19th Indiana Infantry, part of the famed Iron Brigade.

Mike has studied the Civil War his entire life and, for the past few years, has been working on his second book which will be titled THE REBEL, A CIVIL WAR NOVEL. The new novel is a story of a fictional soldier in the 33rd Virginia Infantry of the famed Stonewall Brigade. Mike works as a pilot for a major airline and lives with his wife Kara in Monrovia, Indiana.

### **Chris Smith Memorial Book Review**

This season, we will honor our late member by having a book review presented during the business meeting.

### *Remainder of the 2025-2026 Campaign*

March 9, 2026 - Kevin Charles Murray - "The First Fighting Irish: 35th Indiana Volunteer Infantry. Hoosier Hibernians in the War for the Union."

April 13, 2026 - Steve & Lisa Ball - Civil War Music

May 11, 2026 - Steve Phan - "Burnside's East Tennessee & Knoxville Campaigns"

June 8, 2026 - Darryl Smith, "Stories of the Kentucky Campaign."

### *Roster of Officers and Committees for the 2025-2026 Campaign*

#### *Elected Officers:*

President: Tony Roscetti

Vice President: Danny Russel

Secretary: Gregg Herke

Treasurer: Peter Mohr

Immediate Past President: Chris Smith

#### *Other:*

Book Raffle: Charlotte Charmichael/Eric Dove

Quiz Coordinator: Tony Trimble

Website Administrator: Ed Pope

Librarian: **\*\*Vacant\*\***

HARDTACK Editor: Teresa Russel

#### *Committees/Chairpersons:*

Preservation: Andy O'Donnell

Programs: Steve Magnusen (Chair), Bob Gottschalk, David Finney, Tony Trimble

Publicity: **\*\*Vacant\*\***

Membership: Roy Agnew

Nominating: Nikki Schofield (Chair), 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*

**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.

Contact David Hughes ([david-hughes@msn.com](mailto:david-hughes@msn.com)) for participation with the Indiana Antique Arms Collectors. Membership is free, with meetings at our West 86<sup>th</sup> Street MCL during odd months at noon, lasting roughly about two hours during the second Saturday. Enjoy a wide variety of weapons, firearms, swords, gun-making tools, etc.

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

*by Tony Trimble*

1. On 20 March 1865 there was a skirmish at Talbot's Ferry. In what state is it?
2. What do Generals John Sedgewick, USA and Martin Green, CSA have in common?
3. Who said, "The Confederate Army would better have lost a corps of 30,000 men, than Stonewall Jackson"?
4. What is a "galoot"?
5. What fort was captured by Union troops on 25 February 1862?

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

#### **1861**

**February 1:** Texas secedes from the Union.

**February 4:** Washington Peace Conference is held by 21 states to resolve the slavery dispute. Recommendations presented to Congress are unacceptable to both sides.

**February 8:** Confederate government chooses the name Confederate States of America and announces its new Constitution – based on the U.S. Constitution but preserving slavery.

**February 8:** The arsenal at Little Rock, Arkansas is surrendered to state troops.

**February 9:** The Confederate government elects Jefferson Davis as provisional President and Alexander H. Stephens as provisional Vice President.

**February 11:** President-Elect Lincoln leaves Springfield, Illinois, telling a gathering of local people that he does not know if he will ever return.

**February 18:** The Confederacy's provisional officers are inaugurated in Montgomery, and "Dixie," the new unofficial anthem is played.

**February 21:** Lincoln stops in Philadelphia and is warned of a plot to assassinate him.

**February 22:** Lincoln arrives in Washington by secret train, having skipped a stop in Baltimore in response to the threat.

**February 23:** Lincoln visits Matthew Brady's studio for his inaugural photograph.

**February 25:** Judah Benjamin becomes Attorney General of the Confederate government.

## **1862**

**February 6:** Union troops led by General Grant, and backed by gunboats, capture Fort Henry on the Tennessee River.

**February 12-16:** General Grant's troops capture Fort Donelson and he earns the nickname "Unconditional Surrender" – a response to his demand, and one that fits his own U.S. initials.

**February 13:** The West Virginia Constitutional Convention votes that "no slave or free person of color" can enter the state to become a permanent resident.

**February 17:** Brigadier General Grant is promoted to Major General of Volunteers.

**February 17:** The U.S. Senate passes a resolution to create a Medal of Honor.

**February 20:** President Lincoln's 11-year-old son, Willie, dies.

**February 22:** The first Confederate prisoners arrive at Camp Morton in Indianapolis. This former fairground will house 3,700 men within days.

**February 22:** Lincoln appoints Andrew Johnson as Military Governor of those parts of Tennessee under U.S. control.

## **1863**

**February 3:** Confederates fail to recapture Fort Donelson, Tennessee.

**February 24:** Lincoln approves the act establishing the Territory of Arizona.

**February 25:** Union forces send a dummy ironclad ship down the Mississippi at Vicksburg. It has no crew aboard, but frightened Confederates blow up the captured Indianola.

## **1864**

**February 6:** General Sherman occupies Jackson, Mississippi for the third time, destroying the city and burning citizens' belongings in the streets.

**February 7:** General Truman Seymour's Union troops – half of them black – land and capture Jacksonville, Florida.

**February 9:** Union Colonel Thomas Rose leads 107 other officers in an escape from Libby prison in Richmond, Virginia. Rose and 47 others are recaptured.

**February 11-14:** Sherman's army leaves and marches into Mississippi, destroying millions of bushels of corn, thousands of bales of cotton, buildings, railroads, and supplies.

**February 17:** In Charleston Harbor, the Confederate H.L. Hunley becomes the world's first submarine to sink a ship, the U.S.S. Housatonic. It, too, sinks, killing all eight crew members.

**February 19:** Union General Sherman receives the official Thanks of Congress for his Chattanooga campaign.

**February 20:** The Battle of Olustee, Florida is fought among swamps and won by Confederate forces, halting the Union attempts to take Florida

**February 21:** General Nathan Bedford Forrest's Confederates rout a larger Union force at West Point, Mississippi.

**February 23:** In Richmond, 400 Union prisoners are moved from Belle Isle to Libby Prison to await transfer to the new facility at Andersonville, Georgia.

## **1865**

**February 1:** General Sherman begins a destructive march through South Carolina and North Carolina.

**February 3:** President Lincoln rejects a peace request by Confederate Vice President Alexander Stephens during a meeting at Hampton Roads, Virginia.

**February 5:** Lincoln proposes compensation of \$400 million to Confederate states if they stop fighting and ratify the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment, but his Cabinet rejects this.

**February 6:** Confederate President Davis appoints General Lee as Commander of All Forces.

**February 9:** General Philip Sheridan is given the official Thanks of Congress for his Shenandoah Valley campaign.

**February 9:** Confederate Vice President Alexander Stephens leaves Richmond, Virginia to retire to his home in Georgia.

**February 17:** General Sherman's troops occupy Columbia, South Carolina. Much of the city is burned.

**February 17:** Molly Bean, who disguised herself as a man and fought for two years with the 47<sup>th</sup> North Carolina, is captured by Union troops.

**February 18:** The Union's South Carolina 21<sup>st</sup> Colored Infantry takes possession of Castle Pinckney in Charleston Harbor.

**February 22:** Union General Hugh Kilpatrick reports to General Sherman that 18 of his men were murdered in North Carolina by General Wade Hampton's cavalry.

**February 23:** The Confederate senate defeats a bill that would put black men into the Confederate army.

**Please note:** In subsequent meetings, Charlotte Carmichael will bring a generous supply of Civil War battleground maps and several magazines for our perusal.

#### January 2026 Show & Tell Speakers

- **Nikki Schofield** – “Birth of a Nation” (1915 movie)
- **Tony Trimble** – GAR ribbons & medals in two frames
- **Tom Jones** – GAR 1919 badge in Terre Haute. Tom gave the badge to Tony Trimble.
- **David Finney** – Indiana soldier & wife, and book on 1864. Kennesaw Battle book published in the 1890s, a novel. Also, “Generals at Rest” book of burials. He’s visiting their graves.
- **Gregg Herke** – A. Lincoln book, 1967; Illinois tour. “The Lost Speech in Illinois,” May 1856. Book written in 1967. Gregg read a short portion.
- **Charlie Disque** – Letter from Private Corbin to his wife. 1863 letter from Tennessee Private Benjamin F. Corbin, saying he would not leave the army as wife requested.
- **Katheryn Lerch** – Book from ancestor titled “Lamp to the Path” during Lee’s retreat; it’s a Confederate book which became a sketch book. Kathryn’s great uncle gave it to her. Kathryn passed out sheets of information for help with research of people’s names in the book.
- **Dan Marley** – President Benjamin Harrison cabinet card. Irish card geared toward presidential election; Harrison elected in 1888.
- **Linda Smith** – Picture of President Grant. March 13, 1869, Illustrated London News, weekly publication. Newspapers published pictures, which Linda explained.
- **David Hughes** – Rifle musket, 1861. With bayonet at end, most common; 700,000 were made. Rifle shown with only 3,000 made.
- **George Sanburn (guest)** – Discharge letter from his ancestor. Enlisted 1862-1865. He was from Illinois, 125<sup>th</sup> Regiment. He lived in Westview house as part of the Underground Railroad.
- **Bruce Kolb** – July 4<sup>th</sup> events this year: celebration of 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary, showed items regarding the Declaration of Independence, compares Federal Constitution with Confederate States of America Constitution. Bruce told what events were planned for this upcoming year of celebration.
- **Jay McGuire** – Civil War cavalry saber, 1865, C. Robby manufacturing, made in Massachusetts. Jay’s had the saber for more than 30 years.



From the American Battlefield Trust's Winter 2025 issue of "Hallowed Ground":

## Data Center Lawsuits

### Manassas appeal set for late February

The long fight against data center proposals within the historic boundaries of the Second Manassas and Wilderness Battlefields continued to evolve this autumn, following favorable legal opinions in both cases.

At Manassas, the Trust's suit had thus far proceeded in parallel to one filed by the neighboring Oak Valley Homeowners Association. The latter had won a major victory in August. Since both cases are bringing fundamentally similar charges, and both are next due to be heard by the Virginia Court of Appeals, the court decided to unite oral arguments in both cases into a single hearing in late February. This, however, doesn't prevent the Virginia Court of Appeals from issuing two separate rulings in the cases, since they do not share all counts.

Both cases are complex, featuring procedural nuance in how the rezoning applications were handled at the municipal level. The Trust is committed to ensuring that all avenues are pursued as we endeavor to overturn these shortsighted decisions and prevent construction of data centers that will forever change the character of the surrounding historic landscape. Keep abreast of the latest developments at [www.battlefields.org/news](http://www.battlefields.org/news).

**Indianapolis Civil War Round Table**

**Membership Preservation Recommendation**

**Preservation Recommendation**

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**Name (Optional)**

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**Preservation Recommendation**

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**Name (Optional)**

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## 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](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 2025 thru June 2026**  
*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 a name.

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