



HARDTACK



Indianapolis Civil War Round Table Newsletter

<http://indianapoliswrt.org/>

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

The Plan of the Day



“The First Fighting Irish: 35th Indiana Volunteer Infantry Hoosier Hibernians in the War for the Union”

Organized and mustered into Federal service at Indianapolis in December 1861, the 35th Indiana Volunteer Infantry contained recruits from across the state, and even had one company of men from Dayton, Ohio. Initially issued green kepis, the regiment saw action at Perryville, Dobbin's Ferry, Stone's River, Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge, the Atlanta Campaign, Franklin, and Nashville. Stationed briefly in Texas after hostilities ended, the 35th was mustered out on September 30, 1865, and discharged at Indianapolis in October.

Our Guest Speaker



Kevin Charles Murray

Kevin Charles Murray, an Indianapolis attorney, covering state, local and municipal matters, was selected as a Super Lawyer in 2005, 2006 and 2008. This peer designation is awarded merely to an elite number of accomplished attorneys in each state. The Super Lawyer selection process considers peer recognition, professional achievement in legal practice, and other cogent factors. Prior to his career, Kevin studied at Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law, graduating in 1979. After passing the bar exam, he was admitted to legal practice in the same year.

Chris Smith Memorial Book Review

The book reviewers for the months remaining in this campaign are:

March - David Finney will review 'Hoosier Spies & Horse Marines: A History of the Third Indiana Cavalry, East Wing.'

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May - Kathryn Lerch

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

by Tony Trimble

1. Name the CSA General whose failure at Champion Hill threatened the Confederate attack there.
2. In 1865, a controversial CSA general was restored to command. Who was he?
3. Who wrote, "Be careful, you're a general now; it's a good job, don't lose it." To whom was it written?
4. What is lignum vitae? How was it used?
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March 18: Union forces occupy Alexandria, Virginia without opposition.

March 21: About 250 Confederate soldiers are surprised and captured at Henderson's Hill, Louisiana.

March 24: Confederate troops of General Nathan Bedford Forrest capture Union City, Tennessee and its garrison.

1865

March 2: President Lincoln rejects General Lee's request for negotiations.

March 2: At Waynesboro, Virginia, General Sheridan's cavalry captures the remainder of General Jubal Early's army, including 1,600 Confederates and eleven guns.

March 3: Congress creates the Freedmen's Bureau to aid former slaves.

March 4: President Lincoln is inaugurated for his second term and calls for "malice toward none; with charity for all."

March 13: Confederate President Davis signs a bill that permits slaves to enlist, thereby earning their freedom.

March 17: Actor John Wilkes Booth's plot to kidnap Lincoln fails when the President does not visit the Campbell House in Washington as expected.

March 24: Lincoln arrives at General Grant's headquarters at City Point, Virginia for a three-week stay, conferring with Grant, Sherman and others.

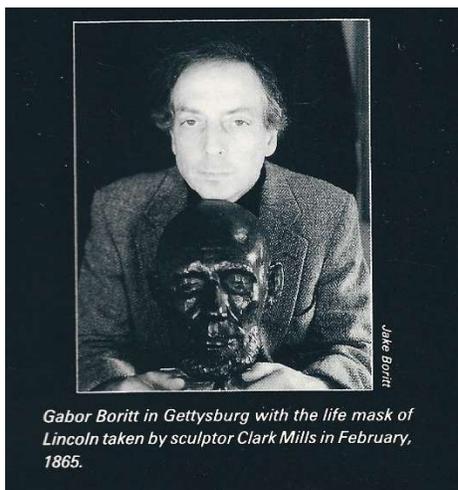
March 25: The Battle of Fort Stedman, Virginia is won by Union forces. Casualties: Union – 2,080; Confederates – about 4,500.

March 26: The siege of Mobile, Alabama begins.

March 27-28: President Lincoln confers with Generals Grant and Sherman at City Point, Virginia, suggesting that generous terms of surrender be offered to the Confederacy.

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

Gabor Boritt, a Hungarian Refugee and Scholar of Lincoln, Dies at 86



Gabor Boritt in Gettysburg with the life mask of Lincoln taken by sculptor Clark Mills in February, 1865.

When he arrived in the U.S., he knew little about the country or Lincoln. He devoted his life to studying both.

By Jon Mooallem

Feb. 12, 2026

Gabor Boritt, a Hungarian refugee, became a scholar of Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War, dying at 86 on Feb. 2.

Gabor Boritt, one of America's pre-eminent scholars of Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War, lived in Gettysburg, Pa., for 43 years, and often leapt at the opportunity to give tours of the famous battlefield near his home. "To me, it's the most peaceful place on earth," he said, "in spite of it being [where] the bloodiest battle of American history took place."

Boritt's guests ranged from President George W. Bush to gaggles of fidgety schoolchildren on field trips, and he had a way of transmitting to all of them both his deep understanding of the site and his almost childlike exuberance for it. "He's the guy who knows the whole story," said filmmaker Ken Burns, who made numerous visits to Gettysburg with Boritt and became a friend. "To walk around with him, you revel in his stories, you revel in his interpretations. He made the landscape come alive."

Karl Rove, who as senior adviser to President Bush organized a tour with Boritt for senior White House staff members and their families early in Bush's first term, recalled Boritt leading their group, step by step, on the path of Pickett's Charge during the battle of Gettysburg: "And Gabor

says, 'I'm going to tell you, as we walk along, how many of you are being killed.' " Boritt proceeded to describe each grisly twist of the battle unfolding spectrally around them. "We'd crest a high ridge, and he would say, 'OK, you two: you're dead,' " Rove said. "By the time we got to the High-Water Mark of the Confederacy [the area of the battle's turning point], three people are left alive out of our group of 15."

Crucially, Rove went on, Boritt helped them inhabit that history through the eyes of its combatants on both sides—young men, many of them still teenagers. And it wasn't lost on Rove that the spindly, excitable man narrating that story for them in a thick Hungarian accent "was once a 16-year-old picking up paving blocks and heaving them at Soviet tanks."

Boritt, a Hungarian refugee who became an influential historian of two archetypical American subjects—Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War—died on Feb. 2 in Chambersburg, Pa. He was 86.

A janitor's closet

Boritt was born Gabor Roth-Szappanos on Jan. 26, 1940, in Budapest, Hungary, the youngest of three children to Rozsa and Pal Roth-Szappanos. Forced from their home as Hungary fell under fascist rule, then further displaced when the Nazis arrived in 1944, the family moved into a janitor's closet at a makeshift hospital in Budapest's Jewish ghetto, sheltering there alongside other Jews for the duration of World War II.

After the war, his mother, whose family had been murdered in Auschwitz, grew ill and died. It was 1948; Boritt was 8. Hungary was being overtaken by an authoritarian, Communist regime, which would soon imprison both Boritt's father and brother, shunting him into an orphanage for a time. Boritt would later describe "the death of my mother and the death of a dream that my father had of a better country, a better society" as simultaneous shocks. "So there are two deaths," he said.

He was 16 when the Hungarian Revolution erupted in October 1956, and he joined a crowd in Stalin Square laboring to tear down a colossal statue of the Soviet leader. (Boritt recalled going off to find some heavy ropes to pull it down and missing the moment the sculpture finally toppled.) For the first time, he imagined a future in which he might actually go to college—a future in which he was free. But days later, Soviet tanks arrived and squashed the uprising at once.

Boritt and his older sister, Judy, fled through the woods on foot, eventually reaching Vienna, where his priority, he later explained, was to taste Coca-Cola. He didn't like it—too sweet. "It was the great disappointment of my life," he said.

He immigrated to New York City with Judy in 1957, part of an emergency program by the Eisenhower administration that welcomed nearly 40,000 Hungarian refugees to America. Boritt had a single U.S. dollar bill in his pocket, he said later. He got a job at a hat factory. He'd been told the real America could be found out west. But apparently no one said where exactly, because Boritt soon set out for Yankton, S.D., where he graduated from the now-defunct

Yankton College in 1962. He completed his master's degree at the University of South Dakota the following year and earned a Ph.D. from Boston University in 1968.

Shortly after arriving in Yankton, in 1959, Boritt sent away for a pamphlet of Lincoln's speeches, published to celebrate Lincoln's 150th birthday that year. The booklet was free, and Boritt was trying to teach himself English. He knew nothing about Abraham Lincoln, and not much about America either. But he was moved so deeply by what he was reading—so enthralled by the man's articulation of that nation's ideals—that he'd devote the rest of his life to studying them both.

A Civil War Renaissance

Boritt's first book, 1978's "Lincoln and the Economics of the American Dream," praised as "pathbreaking" in *The Wall Street Journal*, argued that a key to understanding Lincoln was his conviction, fundamentally more economic than moral, that all men must be furnished with an opportunity to improve their lives and benefit from their own labor—"the right to rise," as Boritt termed it. This included enslaved Black men, the value of whose labor was being stolen.

Boritt would write, co-author or edit 15 other books about Lincoln or the Civil War, including "The Historian's Lincoln" and "The Gettysburg Gospel." His influence extended beyond his published work. After joining the faculty of Gettysburg College in 1981, where he would teach until his retirement in 2009, he founded the school's Civil War Institute; established with two colleagues the prestigious, \$50,000 Gilder Lehrman Lincoln Prize; and organized frequent gatherings at his home for historians from around the country. Over time, colleagues and former students became friends; some called themselves the "FOG Society": Friends of Gabor. In 2008, he received the National Humanities Medal at the White House.

Lincoln had fallen out of fashion among historians when Boritt began publishing in the 1970s. He speculated that scholars and Americans in general were too disheartened by Vietnam to want to contemplate a traumatic rupture like the Civil War.

But Boritt's work, and his optimistic sensibility, helped bring about a renaissance for the field. Even by closely examining "that extraordinary moment of near national suicide," Burns explained, Boritt "absorbed and inhabited the sense of promise of the United States.... He had experienced things which many in the United States had never experienced, and so he was one of those guideposts who, just by his very being, his very presence, reminded us of things we often take for granted."

'Sick of this Nazi business'

In 1968, Boritt married Elizabeth Lincoln Norseen (the "Lincoln" is pure coincidence), who survives him, as do their three sons. For four decades, the Boritts lived on an 18th-century farm in Gettysburg that had once served as a stop on the Underground Railroad and an ad hoc hospital during the battle.

In 2007, one of their sons, filmmaker Jake Boritt, made a biographical documentary about his father, "Budapest to Gettysburg," in which the renowned historian repeatedly resists discussing his own history.

In one scene, returning to the hospital closet in Budapest with his sister, Judy, Boritt grows increasingly impatient as Judy describes the bloodstained floors and other atrocious conditions of their refuge during the war. Finally, he blurts: "I'm just so sick of this Nazi business." Judy, it turns out, has become a psychiatrist—as inclined toward introspection as Boritt was averse. "These people believe that you take the scab off of a wound and take it off again and again until something miraculous happens," Boritt grumbles to the camera. "I happen to think that that's self-defeating and it doesn't do any good."

His view was, he was an American now, living an American life, with his family and his pickup truck and his dogs: "I created myself a new identity, in which I'm very comfortable," he explained.

Of course, Boritt had devoted much of that life, as a historian, to picking at one of the gnarliest scabs in American history. But its resolution was altogether different, and more hopeful, than the story he fled. "My dad would say he came out of the worst failures in human history—Hitler and Stalin," Jake Boritt explained. "They were demagogues whose fascist and Communist ideologies led to violence and mass murder and ripped away people's freedoms. For him, Lincoln was a heroic counterexample: how government can free people. It can create freedom too."

*** SPECIAL OFFER for CWRT MEMBERS ***



ATTN: CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLES
Gather your members and save \$\$\$ on registrations for the May Civil War conference. A roster of tremendous historians will deliver a full weekend of intriguing presentations in the Stanton Theater. Book sales, book signing, and exhibits. The theater has easy parking, and is in walking distance of a wide variety of restaurants. Select your own lodging from the nearly unlimited options on the Monterey Peninsula.

3 ways to save on registration (regularly \$295)

1. Buy three / get one free
2. Buy five / get two free
3. BEST GROUP DEAL: 10 for \$1000 (only \$100 each)

For information on these exclusive Civil War Round Table discounts, visit the CWRT Special Offer Page, where you'll find registration info, a schedule of talks, speaker bios, and more: <https://whytours.org/cwrt-offer.html>
Hosted by WOODBURY HISTORICAL TOURS, whytours.org

Select titles by some of the 2026 featured speakers



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 a name.



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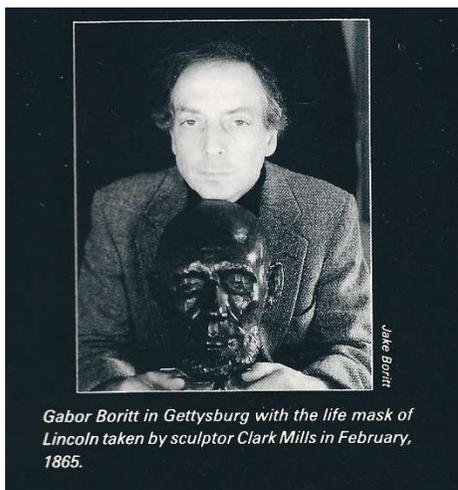
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Gabor Boritt, a Hungarian Refugee and Scholar of Lincoln, Dies at 86



Gabor Boritt in Gettysburg with the life mask of Lincoln taken by sculptor Clark Mills in February, 1865.

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By Jon Mooallem

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Boritt was born Gabor Roth-Szappanos on Jan. 26, 1940, in Budapest, Hungary, the youngest of three children to Rozsa and Pal Roth-Szappanos. Forced from their home as Hungary fell under fascist rule, then further displaced when the Nazis arrived in 1944, the family moved into a janitor's closet at a makeshift hospital in Budapest's Jewish ghetto, sheltering there alongside other Jews for the duration of World War II.

After the war, his mother, whose family had been murdered in Auschwitz, grew ill and died. It was 1948; Boritt was 8. Hungary was being overtaken by an authoritarian, Communist regime, which would soon imprison both Boritt's father and brother, shunting him into an orphanage for a time. Boritt would later describe "the death of my mother and the death of a dream that my father had of a better country, a better society" as simultaneous shocks. "So there are two deaths," he said.

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In one scene, returning to the hospital closet in Budapest with his sister, Judy, Boritt grows increasingly impatient as Judy describes the bloodstained floors and other atrocious conditions of their refuge during the war. Finally, he blurts: "I'm just so sick of this Nazi business." Judy, it turns out, has become a psychiatrist—as inclined toward introspection as Boritt was averse. "These people believe that you take the scab off of a wound and take it off again and again until something miraculous happens," Boritt grumbles to the camera. "I happen to think that that's self-defeating and it doesn't do any good."

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Of course, Boritt had devoted much of that life, as a historian, to picking at one of the gnarliest scabs in American history. But its resolution was altogether different, and more hopeful, than the story he fled. "My dad would say he came out of the worst failures in human history—Hitler and Stalin," Jake Boritt explained. "They were demagogues whose fascist and Communist ideologies led to violence and mass murder and ripped away people's freedoms. For him, Lincoln was a heroic counterexample: how government can free people. It can create freedom too."

*** SPECIAL OFFER for CWRT MEMBERS ***



ATTN: CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLES
Gather your members and save \$\$\$ on registrations for the May Civil War conference. A roster of tremendous historians will deliver a full weekend of intriguing presentations in the Stanton Theater. Book sales, book signing, and exhibits. The theater has easy parking, and is in walking distance of a wide variety of restaurants. Select your own lodging from the nearly unlimited options on the Monterey Peninsula.

3 ways to save on registration (regularly \$295)

1. Buy three / get one free
2. Buy five / get two free
3. BEST GROUP DEAL: 10 for \$1000 (only \$100 each)

For information on these exclusive Civil War Round Table discounts, visit the CWRT Special Offer Page, where you'll find registration info, a schedule of talks, speaker bios, and more: <https://whytours.org/cwrt-offer.html>
Hosted by WOODBURY HISTORICAL TOURS, whytours.org

Select titles by some of the 2026 featured speakers



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.....
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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.



HARDTACK



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

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

The Plan of the Day



“The First Fighting Irish: 35th Indiana Volunteer Infantry Hoosier Hibernians in the War for the Union”

Organized and mustered into Federal service at Indianapolis in December 1861, the 35th Indiana Volunteer Infantry contained recruits from across the state, and even had one company of men from Dayton, Ohio. Initially issued green kepis, the regiment saw action at Perryville, Dobbin's Ferry, Stone's River, Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge, the Atlanta Campaign, Franklin, and Nashville. Stationed briefly in Texas after hostilities ended, the 35th was mustered out on September 30, 1865, and discharged at Indianapolis in October.

Our Guest Speaker



Kevin Charles Murray

Kevin Charles Murray, an Indianapolis attorney, covering state, local and municipal matters, was selected as a Super Lawyer in 2005, 2006 and 2008. This peer designation is awarded merely to an elite number of accomplished attorneys in each state. The Super Lawyer selection process considers peer recognition, professional achievement in legal practice, and other cogent factors. Prior to his career, Kevin studied at Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law, graduating in 1979. After passing the bar exam, he was admitted to legal practice in the same year.

Chris Smith Memorial Book Review

The book reviewers for the months remaining in this campaign are:

March - David Finney will review 'Hoosier Spies & Horse Marines: A History of the Third Indiana Cavalry, East Wing.'

April - Mike Eisenhut

May - Kathryn Lerch

June - Bob Gottschalk

At the February meeting, Tom Jones reviewed "Midnight on the Potomac" by Scott Ellsworth.

Remainder of the 2025-2026 Campaign

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

VP WANTED

We need a Vice President for the Round Table. This is a two-year commitment because after serving one year as VP, that person becomes president the following year. If you are interested in serving the club as VP and then President, please contact Nikki Schofield at 317-500-2811 or Nikki1942@sbcglobal.net.

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) for participation with the Indiana Antique Arms Collectors. Membership is free, with meetings at our West 86th 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.

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

by Tony Trimble

1. Name the CSA General whose failure at Champion Hill threatened the Confederate attack there.
2. In 1865, a controversial CSA general was restored to command. Who was he?
3. Who wrote, "Be careful, you're a general now; it's a good job, don't lose it." To whom was it written?
4. What is lignum vitae? How was it used?
5. What unit was known as the "Magnolia Regiment"?

Answers for the February Quiz:

1. Arkansas
2. Both were killed moments after assuring troops they could not be killed
3. Gen. Winfield Scott Hancock
4. A soldier who has not yet seen battle
5. Fort Macon

This Month in Civil War Era History

1861

March 2: Tennessee Senator Andrew Johnson declares that if he were President, he would hang anyone who fought the Union.

March 4: Lincoln is inaugurated as President. In his address, he states, "I have no purpose...to interfere with the institution of slavery."

March 4: The Confederate Congress approves the first national Confederate flag, nicknamed the Stars and Bars.

March 4: Gideon Welles, U.S. Secretary of the Navy, reports that he has 90 vessels, but that only 42 are in commission carrying 555 guns.

March 5: Three Confederate commissioners arrive in Washington. Their request to present credentials is rejected by Secretary of State William Seward.

March 21: Confederate Vice President Stephens speaks in Savannah, Georgia, insisting that “the negro is not equal to the white man,” and that slavery is “his natural and normal condition.”

1862

March 3: U.S. Assistant Adjutant General N. H. McLean issues a warning in St. Louis, that members of Confederate guerrillas “will be hanged as robbers and murderers.”

March 5: General Beauregard takes command of the Confederacy’s Department of the Mississippi. He tells his soldiers to return home if they are not up to the task.

March 6: Lincoln sends Congress a message advocating “compensated emancipation” to free slaves and reimburse their owners. This is aimed at slave-holding Union border states.

March 7-8: Battle of Pea Ridge, Arkansas is a Union victory. “Wild Bill” Hickok is present, as is a Confederate Cherokee cavalry.

March 8: Confederate Colonel John Hunt Morgan leads a cavalry raid around Nashville, Tennessee.

March 9: The world’s first battle between ironclad warships – the Union’s Monitor and Confederacy’s Virginia (formerly the USS Merrimack) – ends in a draw at Hampton Roads, Virginia.

March 10: Worried about Union General George McClellan’s army, General Joseph Johnston evacuates his Confederate troops from Manassas, Virginia, burning materials that cannot be taken with them.

March 11: President Lincoln removes McClellan’s title of General-In-Chief but keeps him in command of the Army of the Potomac.

March 11: The U.S. military Department of the Mississippi is created, to be supervised by General Henry Halleck.

March 13: General Robert E. Lee begins serving as military adviser to Confederate President Davis (holding that role until June 1st).

March 14: Union Troops, led by General Ambrose Burnside with naval support, capture New Bern, North Carolina. They occupy it until war’s end.

March 17: General McClellan begins to move his army towards Richmond.

March 23: Confederate troops led by Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson meet a larger Union force at Kernstown, Virginia, but are forced to retreat.

March 31: Union General David Hunter takes command of Department of the South.

1863

March 3: The first U.S. Conscription Act passes. Males aged 20 to 45 must enroll, but can exempt themselves by finding substitutes or paying \$300

March 3: Congress passes a resolution opposing any foreign intervention in the war.

March 3: Congress authorizes the award of an honorary brevet rank to officers of the United States Volunteers.

March 3: Confederate General Robert Toombs resigns his commission to return to Georgia as a critic of the Confederacy and the Davis Administration.

March 6: Anti-black rioting breaks out in Detroit.

March 14: Admiral Farragut's Union fleet runs past enemy batteries at Port Hudson, Louisiana but receives considerable damage.

March 15: General Ambrose Burnside is assigned to command the Union's Department of the Ohio.

March 17: Grant's Yazoo Pass expedition is blocked at Fort Pemberton.

March 17: Cavalries engage at Kelly's Ford, Virginia.

March 17: The New Jersey legislature passes a resolution calling for the Federal Government to negotiate peace with the Confederacy.

March 18: The U.S. Government creates the Provost Marshall Department to police the army and organize conscription.

March 21: General Sherman rescues Admiral Porter's ironclads, trapped in Steele's Bayou, ending another attempt to reach Vicksburg's rear.

1864

March 2: Documents are found near Richmond, Virginia on the body of Union Colonel Ulric Dahlgren, detailing plans to burn Richmond and assassinate Jefferson Davis.

March 5: General Sherman's army returns to Vicksburg after completing the Meridian Campaign.

March 8: About 100 Copperheads (northerners sympathizing with the Confederacy) murder five Union soldiers on furlough in Charleston, Illinois.

March 9: General Sherman is put in command of the Union Armies in the west.

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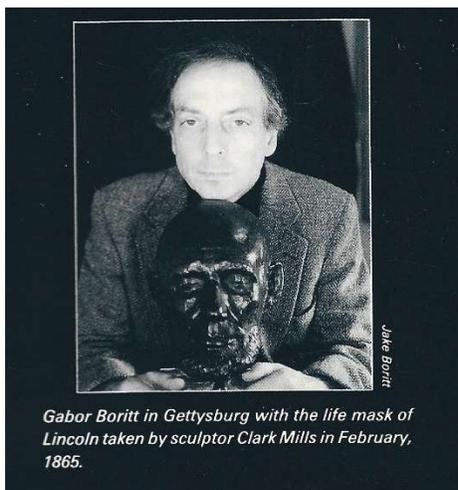
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Of course, Boritt had devoted much of that life, as a historian, to picking at one of the gnarliest scabs in American history. But its resolution was altogether different, and more hopeful, than the story he fled. "My dad would say he came out of the worst failures in human history—Hitler and Stalin," Jake Boritt explained. "They were demagogues whose fascist and Communist ideologies led to violence and mass murder and ripped away people's freedoms. For him, Lincoln was a heroic counterexample: how government can free people. It can create freedom too."

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Hosted by WOODBURY HISTORICAL TOURS, whytours.org

Select titles by some of the 2026 featured speakers



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Phone: (317) 828-5176
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We must have a valid email address if you wish to receive the HARDTACK newsletter free of charge!

(please specify Membership Level):

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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.



HARDTACK



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March 3: U.S. Assistant Adjutant General N. H. McLean issues a warning in St. Louis, that members of Confederate guerrillas “will be hanged as robbers and murderers.”

March 5: General Beauregard takes command of the Confederacy’s Department of the Mississippi. He tells his soldiers to return home if they are not up to the task.

March 6: Lincoln sends Congress a message advocating “compensated emancipation” to free slaves and reimburse their owners. This is aimed at slave-holding Union border states.

March 7-8: Battle of Pea Ridge, Arkansas is a Union victory. “Wild Bill” Hickok is present, as is a Confederate Cherokee cavalry.

March 8: Confederate Colonel John Hunt Morgan leads a cavalry raid around Nashville, Tennessee.

March 9: The world’s first battle between ironclad warships – the Union’s Monitor and Confederacy’s Virginia (formerly the USS Merrimack) – ends in a draw at Hampton Roads, Virginia.

March 10: Worried about Union General George McClellan’s army, General Joseph Johnston evacuates his Confederate troops from Manassas, Virginia, burning materials that cannot be taken with them.

March 11: President Lincoln removes McClellan’s title of General-In-Chief but keeps him in command of the Army of the Potomac.

March 11: The U.S. military Department of the Mississippi is created, to be supervised by General Henry Halleck.

March 13: General Robert E. Lee begins serving as military adviser to Confederate President Davis (holding that role until June 1st).

March 14: Union Troops, led by General Ambrose Burnside with naval support, capture New Bern, North Carolina. They occupy it until war’s end.

March 17: General McClellan begins to move his army towards Richmond.

March 23: Confederate troops led by Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson meet a larger Union force at Kernstown, Virginia, but are forced to retreat.

March 31: Union General David Hunter takes command of Department of the South.

1863

March 3: The first U.S. Conscription Act passes. Males aged 20 to 45 must enroll, but can exempt themselves by finding substitutes or paying \$300

March 3: Congress passes a resolution opposing any foreign intervention in the war.

March 3: Congress authorizes the award of an honorary brevet rank to officers of the United States Volunteers.

March 3: Confederate General Robert Toombs resigns his commission to return to Georgia as a critic of the Confederacy and the Davis Administration.

March 6: Anti-black rioting breaks out in Detroit.

March 14: Admiral Farragut's Union fleet runs past enemy batteries at Port Hudson, Louisiana but receives considerable damage.

March 15: General Ambrose Burnside is assigned to command the Union's Department of the Ohio.

March 17: Grant's Yazoo Pass expedition is blocked at Fort Pemberton.

March 17: Cavalries engage at Kelly's Ford, Virginia.

March 17: The New Jersey legislature passes a resolution calling for the Federal Government to negotiate peace with the Confederacy.

March 18: The U.S. Government creates the Provost Marshall Department to police the army and organize conscription.

March 21: General Sherman rescues Admiral Porter's ironclads, trapped in Steele's Bayou, ending another attempt to reach Vicksburg's rear.

1864

March 2: Documents are found near Richmond, Virginia on the body of Union Colonel Ulric Dahlgren, detailing plans to burn Richmond and assassinate Jefferson Davis.

March 5: General Sherman's army returns to Vicksburg after completing the Meridian Campaign.

March 8: About 100 Copperheads (northerners sympathizing with the Confederacy) murder five Union soldiers on furlough in Charleston, Illinois.

March 9: General Sherman is put in command of the Union Armies in the west.

March 9: Major General Grant is promoted to Lieutenant General.

March 12: Lincoln appoints Grant as General-In-Chief of all Union armies, replacing General Henry Halleck.

March 14: Confederate General Edmund Kirby Smith orders the burning of 150,000 bales of cotton valued at \$60 million, to keep them from Union troops in Louisiana.

March 18: Union forces occupy Alexandria, Virginia without opposition.

March 21: About 250 Confederate soldiers are surprised and captured at Henderson's Hill, Louisiana.

March 24: Confederate troops of General Nathan Bedford Forrest capture Union City, Tennessee and its garrison.

1865

March 2: President Lincoln rejects General Lee's request for negotiations.

March 2: At Waynesboro, Virginia, General Sheridan's cavalry captures the remainder of General Jubal Early's army, including 1,600 Confederates and eleven guns.

March 3: Congress creates the Freedmen's Bureau to aid former slaves.

March 4: President Lincoln is inaugurated for his second term and calls for "malice toward none; with charity for all."

March 13: Confederate President Davis signs a bill that permits slaves to enlist, thereby earning their freedom.

March 17: Actor John Wilkes Booth's plot to kidnap Lincoln fails when the President does not visit the Campbell House in Washington as expected.

March 24: Lincoln arrives at General Grant's headquarters at City Point, Virginia for a three-week stay, conferring with Grant, Sherman and others.

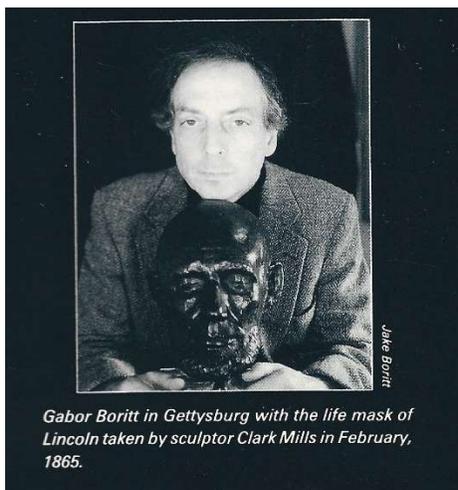
March 25: The Battle of Fort Stedman, Virginia is won by Union forces. Casualties: Union – 2,080; Confederates – about 4,500.

March 26: The siege of Mobile, Alabama begins.

March 27-28: President Lincoln confers with Generals Grant and Sherman at City Point, Virginia, suggesting that generous terms of surrender be offered to the Confederacy.

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

Gabor Boritt, a Hungarian Refugee and Scholar of Lincoln, Dies at 86



Gabor Boritt in Gettysburg with the life mask of Lincoln taken by sculptor Clark Mills in February, 1865.

When he arrived in the U.S., he knew little about the country or Lincoln. He devoted his life to studying both.

By Jon Mooallem

Feb. 12, 2026

Gabor Boritt, a Hungarian refugee, became a scholar of Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War, dying at 86 on Feb. 2.

Gabor Boritt, one of America's pre-eminent scholars of Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War, lived in Gettysburg, Pa., for 43 years, and often leapt at the opportunity to give tours of the famous battlefield near his home. "To me, it's the most peaceful place on earth," he said, "in spite of it being [where] the bloodiest battle of American history took place."

Boritt's guests ranged from President George W. Bush to gaggles of fidgety schoolchildren on field trips, and he had a way of transmitting to all of them both his deep understanding of the site and his almost childlike exuberance for it. "He's the guy who knows the whole story," said filmmaker Ken Burns, who made numerous visits to Gettysburg with Boritt and became a friend. "To walk around with him, you revel in his stories, you revel in his interpretations. He made the landscape come alive."

Karl Rove, who as senior adviser to President Bush organized a tour with Boritt for senior White House staff members and their families early in Bush's first term, recalled Boritt leading their group, step by step, on the path of Pickett's Charge during the battle of Gettysburg: "And Gabor

says, 'I'm going to tell you, as we walk along, how many of you are being killed.' " Boritt proceeded to describe each grisly twist of the battle unfolding spectrally around them. "We'd crest a high ridge, and he would say, 'OK, you two: you're dead,' " Rove said. "By the time we got to the High-Water Mark of the Confederacy [the area of the battle's turning point], three people are left alive out of our group of 15."

Crucially, Rove went on, Boritt helped them inhabit that history through the eyes of its combatants on both sides—young men, many of them still teenagers. And it wasn't lost on Rove that the spindly, excitable man narrating that story for them in a thick Hungarian accent "was once a 16-year-old picking up paving blocks and heaving them at Soviet tanks."

Boritt, a Hungarian refugee who became an influential historian of two archetypical American subjects—Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War—died on Feb. 2 in Chambersburg, Pa. He was 86.

A janitor's closet

Boritt was born Gabor Roth-Szappanos on Jan. 26, 1940, in Budapest, Hungary, the youngest of three children to Rozsa and Pal Roth-Szappanos. Forced from their home as Hungary fell under fascist rule, then further displaced when the Nazis arrived in 1944, the family moved into a janitor's closet at a makeshift hospital in Budapest's Jewish ghetto, sheltering there alongside other Jews for the duration of World War II.

After the war, his mother, whose family had been murdered in Auschwitz, grew ill and died. It was 1948; Boritt was 8. Hungary was being overtaken by an authoritarian, Communist regime, which would soon imprison both Boritt's father and brother, shunting him into an orphanage for a time. Boritt would later describe "the death of my mother and the death of a dream that my father had of a better country, a better society" as simultaneous shocks. "So there are two deaths," he said.

He was 16 when the Hungarian Revolution erupted in October 1956, and he joined a crowd in Stalin Square laboring to tear down a colossal statue of the Soviet leader. (Boritt recalled going off to find some heavy ropes to pull it down and missing the moment the sculpture finally toppled.) For the first time, he imagined a future in which he might actually go to college—a future in which he was free. But days later, Soviet tanks arrived and squashed the uprising at once.

Boritt and his older sister, Judy, fled through the woods on foot, eventually reaching Vienna, where his priority, he later explained, was to taste Coca-Cola. He didn't like it—too sweet. "It was the great disappointment of my life," he said.

He immigrated to New York City with Judy in 1957, part of an emergency program by the Eisenhower administration that welcomed nearly 40,000 Hungarian refugees to America. Boritt had a single U.S. dollar bill in his pocket, he said later. He got a job at a hat factory. He'd been told the real America could be found out west. But apparently no one said where exactly, because Boritt soon set out for Yankton, S.D., where he graduated from the now-defunct

Yankton College in 1962. He completed his master's degree at the University of South Dakota the following year and earned a Ph.D. from Boston University in 1968.

Shortly after arriving in Yankton, in 1959, Boritt sent away for a pamphlet of Lincoln's speeches, published to celebrate Lincoln's 150th birthday that year. The booklet was free, and Boritt was trying to teach himself English. He knew nothing about Abraham Lincoln, and not much about America either. But he was moved so deeply by what he was reading—so enthralled by the man's articulation of that nation's ideals—that he'd devote the rest of his life to studying them both.

A Civil War Renaissance

Boritt's first book, 1978's "Lincoln and the Economics of the American Dream," praised as "pathbreaking" in *The Wall Street Journal*, argued that a key to understanding Lincoln was his conviction, fundamentally more economic than moral, that all men must be furnished with an opportunity to improve their lives and benefit from their own labor—"the right to rise," as Boritt termed it. This included enslaved Black men, the value of whose labor was being stolen.

Boritt would write, co-author or edit 15 other books about Lincoln or the Civil War, including "The Historian's Lincoln" and "The Gettysburg Gospel." His influence extended beyond his published work. After joining the faculty of Gettysburg College in 1981, where he would teach until his retirement in 2009, he founded the school's Civil War Institute; established with two colleagues the prestigious, \$50,000 Gilder Lehrman Lincoln Prize; and organized frequent gatherings at his home for historians from around the country. Over time, colleagues and former students became friends; some called themselves the "FOG Society": Friends of Gabor. In 2008, he received the National Humanities Medal at the White House.

Lincoln had fallen out of fashion among historians when Boritt began publishing in the 1970s. He speculated that scholars and Americans in general were too disheartened by Vietnam to want to contemplate a traumatic rupture like the Civil War.

But Boritt's work, and his optimistic sensibility, helped bring about a renaissance for the field. Even by closely examining "that extraordinary moment of near national suicide," Burns explained, Boritt "absorbed and inhabited the sense of promise of the United States.... He had experienced things which many in the United States had never experienced, and so he was one of those guideposts who, just by his very being, his very presence, reminded us of things we often take for granted."

'Sick of this Nazi business'

In 1968, Boritt married Elizabeth Lincoln Norseen (the "Lincoln" is pure coincidence), who survives him, as do their three sons. For four decades, the Boritts lived on an 18th-century farm in Gettysburg that had once served as a stop on the Underground Railroad and an ad hoc hospital during the battle.

In 2007, one of their sons, filmmaker Jake Boritt, made a biographical documentary about his father, "Budapest to Gettysburg," in which the renowned historian repeatedly resists discussing his own history.

In one scene, returning to the hospital closet in Budapest with his sister, Judy, Boritt grows increasingly impatient as Judy describes the bloodstained floors and other atrocious conditions of their refuge during the war. Finally, he blurts: "I'm just so sick of this Nazi business." Judy, it turns out, has become a psychiatrist—as inclined toward introspection as Boritt was averse. "These people believe that you take the scab off of a wound and take it off again and again until something miraculous happens," Boritt grumbles to the camera. "I happen to think that that's self-defeating and it doesn't do any good."

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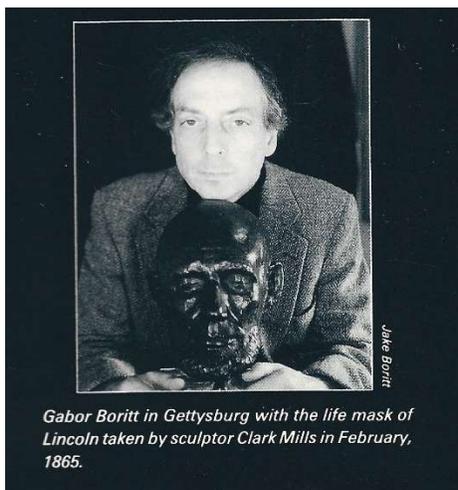
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By Jon Mooallem

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Boritt was born Gabor Roth-Szappanos on Jan. 26, 1940, in Budapest, Hungary, the youngest of three children to Rozsa and Pal Roth-Szappanos. Forced from their home as Hungary fell under fascist rule, then further displaced when the Nazis arrived in 1944, the family moved into a janitor's closet at a makeshift hospital in Budapest's Jewish ghetto, sheltering there alongside other Jews for the duration of World War II.

After the war, his mother, whose family had been murdered in Auschwitz, grew ill and died. It was 1948; Boritt was 8. Hungary was being overtaken by an authoritarian, Communist regime, which would soon imprison both Boritt's father and brother, shunting him into an orphanage for a time. Boritt would later describe "the death of my mother and the death of a dream that my father had of a better country, a better society" as simultaneous shocks. "So there are two deaths," he said.

He was 16 when the Hungarian Revolution erupted in October 1956, and he joined a crowd in Stalin Square laboring to tear down a colossal statue of the Soviet leader. (Boritt recalled going off to find some heavy ropes to pull it down and missing the moment the sculpture finally toppled.) For the first time, he imagined a future in which he might actually go to college—a future in which he was free. But days later, Soviet tanks arrived and squashed the uprising at once.

Boritt and his older sister, Judy, fled through the woods on foot, eventually reaching Vienna, where his priority, he later explained, was to taste Coca-Cola. He didn't like it—too sweet. "It was the great disappointment of my life," he said.

He immigrated to New York City with Judy in 1957, part of an emergency program by the Eisenhower administration that welcomed nearly 40,000 Hungarian refugees to America. Boritt had a single U.S. dollar bill in his pocket, he said later. He got a job at a hat factory. He'd been told the real America could be found out west. But apparently no one said where exactly, because Boritt soon set out for Yankton, S.D., where he graduated from the now-defunct

Yankton College in 1962. He completed his master's degree at the University of South Dakota the following year and earned a Ph.D. from Boston University in 1968.

Shortly after arriving in Yankton, in 1959, Boritt sent away for a pamphlet of Lincoln's speeches, published to celebrate Lincoln's 150th birthday that year. The booklet was free, and Boritt was trying to teach himself English. He knew nothing about Abraham Lincoln, and not much about America either. But he was moved so deeply by what he was reading—so enthralled by the man's articulation of that nation's ideals—that he'd devote the rest of his life to studying them both.

A Civil War Renaissance

Boritt's first book, 1978's "Lincoln and the Economics of the American Dream," praised as "pathbreaking" in *The Wall Street Journal*, argued that a key to understanding Lincoln was his conviction, fundamentally more economic than moral, that all men must be furnished with an opportunity to improve their lives and benefit from their own labor—"the right to rise," as Boritt termed it. This included enslaved Black men, the value of whose labor was being stolen.

Boritt would write, co-author or edit 15 other books about Lincoln or the Civil War, including "The Historian's Lincoln" and "The Gettysburg Gospel." His influence extended beyond his published work. After joining the faculty of Gettysburg College in 1981, where he would teach until his retirement in 2009, he founded the school's Civil War Institute; established with two colleagues the prestigious, \$50,000 Gilder Lehrman Lincoln Prize; and organized frequent gatherings at his home for historians from around the country. Over time, colleagues and former students became friends; some called themselves the "FOG Society": Friends of Gabor. In 2008, he received the National Humanities Medal at the White House.

Lincoln had fallen out of fashion among historians when Boritt began publishing in the 1970s. He speculated that scholars and Americans in general were too disheartened by Vietnam to want to contemplate a traumatic rupture like the Civil War.

But Boritt's work, and his optimistic sensibility, helped bring about a renaissance for the field. Even by closely examining "that extraordinary moment of near national suicide," Burns explained, Boritt "absorbed and inhabited the sense of promise of the United States.... He had experienced things which many in the United States had never experienced, and so he was one of those guideposts who, just by his very being, his very presence, reminded us of things we often take for granted."

'Sick of this Nazi business'

In 1968, Boritt married Elizabeth Lincoln Norseen (the "Lincoln" is pure coincidence), who survives him, as do their three sons. For four decades, the Boritts lived on an 18th-century farm in Gettysburg that had once served as a stop on the Underground Railroad and an ad hoc hospital during the battle.

In 2007, one of their sons, filmmaker Jake Boritt, made a biographical documentary about his father, "Budapest to Gettysburg," in which the renowned historian repeatedly resists discussing his own history.

In one scene, returning to the hospital closet in Budapest with his sister, Judy, Boritt grows increasingly impatient as Judy describes the bloodstained floors and other atrocious conditions of their refuge during the war. Finally, he blurts: "I'm just so sick of this Nazi business." Judy, it turns out, has become a psychiatrist—as inclined toward introspection as Boritt was averse. "These people believe that you take the scab off of a wound and take it off again and again until something miraculous happens," Boritt grumbles to the camera. "I happen to think that that's self-defeating and it doesn't do any good."

His view was, he was an American now, living an American life, with his family and his pickup truck and his dogs: "I created myself a new identity, in which I'm very comfortable," he explained.

Of course, Boritt had devoted much of that life, as a historian, to picking at one of the gnarliest scabs in American history. But its resolution was altogether different, and more hopeful, than the story he fled. "My dad would say he came out of the worst failures in human history—Hitler and Stalin," Jake Boritt explained. "They were demagogues whose fascist and Communist ideologies led to violence and mass murder and ripped away people's freedoms. For him, Lincoln was a heroic counterexample: how government can free people. It can create freedom too."

*** SPECIAL OFFER for CWRT MEMBERS ***



ATTN: CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLES
Gather your members and save \$\$\$ on registrations for the May Civil War conference. A roster of tremendous historians will deliver a full weekend of intriguing presentations in the Stanton Theater. Book sales, book signing, and exhibits. The theater has easy parking, and is in walking distance of a wide variety of restaurants. Select your own lodging from the nearly unlimited options on the Monterey Peninsula.

3 ways to save on registration (regularly \$295)

1. Buy three / get one free
2. Buy five / get two free
3. BEST GROUP DEAL: 10 for \$1000 (only \$100 each)

For information on these exclusive Civil War Round Table discounts, visit the CWRT Special Offer Page, where you'll find registration info, a schedule of talks, speaker bios, and more: <https://whytours.org/cwrt-offer.html>
Hosted by WOODBURY HISTORICAL TOURS, whytours.org

Select titles by some of the 2026 featured speakers



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 a name.



HARDTACK



Indianapolis Civil War Round Table Newsletter

<http://indianapoliswrt.org/>

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

The Plan of the Day



“The First Fighting Irish: 35th Indiana Volunteer Infantry Hoosier Hibernians in the War for the Union”

Organized and mustered into Federal service at Indianapolis in December 1861, the 35th Indiana Volunteer Infantry contained recruits from across the state, and even had one company of men from Dayton, Ohio. Initially issued green kepis, the regiment saw action at Perryville, Dobbin's Ferry, Stone's River, Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge, the Atlanta Campaign, Franklin, and Nashville. Stationed briefly in Texas after hostilities ended, the 35th was mustered out on September 30, 1865, and discharged at Indianapolis in October.

Our Guest Speaker



Kevin Charles Murray

Kevin Charles Murray, an Indianapolis attorney, covering state, local and municipal matters, was selected as a Super Lawyer in 2005, 2006 and 2008. This peer designation is awarded merely to an elite number of accomplished attorneys in each state. The Super Lawyer selection process considers peer recognition, professional achievement in legal practice, and other cogent factors. Prior to his career, Kevin studied at Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law, graduating in 1979. After passing the bar exam, he was admitted to legal practice in the same year.

Chris Smith Memorial Book Review

The book reviewers for the months remaining in this campaign are:

March - David Finney will review 'Hoosier Spies & Horse Marines: A History of the Third Indiana Cavalry, East Wing.'

April - Mike Eisenhut

May - Kathryn Lerch

June - Bob Gottschalk

At the February meeting, Tom Jones reviewed "Midnight on the Potomac" by Scott Ellsworth.

Remainder of the 2025-2026 Campaign

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

VP WANTED

We need a Vice President for the Round Table. This is a two-year commitment because after serving one year as VP, that person becomes president the following year. If you are interested in serving the club as VP and then President, please contact Nikki Schofield at 317-500-2811 or Nikki1942@sbcglobal.net.

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) for participation with the Indiana Antique Arms Collectors. Membership is free, with meetings at our West 86th 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.

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

by Tony Trimble

1. Name the CSA General whose failure at Champion Hill threatened the Confederate attack there.
2. In 1865, a controversial CSA general was restored to command. Who was he?
3. Who wrote, "Be careful, you're a general now; it's a good job, don't lose it." To whom was it written?
4. What is lignum vitae? How was it used?
5. What unit was known as the "Magnolia Regiment"?

Answers for the February Quiz:

1. Arkansas
2. Both were killed moments after assuring troops they could not be killed
3. Gen. Winfield Scott Hancock
4. A soldier who has not yet seen battle
5. Fort Macon

This Month in Civil War Era History

1861

March 2: Tennessee Senator Andrew Johnson declares that if he were President, he would hang anyone who fought the Union.

March 4: Lincoln is inaugurated as President. In his address, he states, "I have no purpose...to interfere with the institution of slavery."

March 4: The Confederate Congress approves the first national Confederate flag, nicknamed the Stars and Bars.

March 4: Gideon Welles, U.S. Secretary of the Navy, reports that he has 90 vessels, but that only 42 are in commission carrying 555 guns.

March 5: Three Confederate commissioners arrive in Washington. Their request to present credentials is rejected by Secretary of State William Seward.

March 21: Confederate Vice President Stephens speaks in Savannah, Georgia, insisting that “the negro is not equal to the white man,” and that slavery is “his natural and normal condition.”

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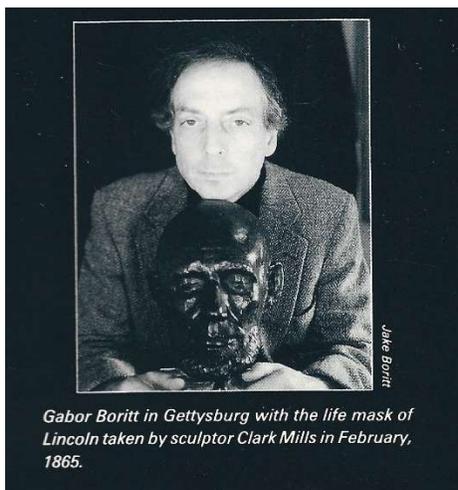
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In one scene, returning to the hospital closet in Budapest with his sister, Judy, Boritt grows increasingly impatient as Judy describes the bloodstained floors and other atrocious conditions of their refuge during the war. Finally, he blurts: "I'm just so sick of this Nazi business." Judy, it turns out, has become a psychiatrist—as inclined toward introspection as Boritt was averse. "These people believe that you take the scab off of a wound and take it off again and again until something miraculous happens," Boritt grumbles to the camera. "I happen to think that that's self-defeating and it doesn't do any good."

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Hosted by WOODBURY HISTORICAL TOURS, whytours.org

Select titles by some of the 2026 featured speakers



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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 a name.



HARDTACK



Indianapolis Civil War Round Table Newsletter

<http://indianapoliswrt.org/>

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

The Plan of the Day



“The First Fighting Irish: 35th Indiana Volunteer Infantry Hoosier Hibernians in the War for the Union”

Organized and mustered into Federal service at Indianapolis in December 1861, the 35th Indiana Volunteer Infantry contained recruits from across the state, and even had one company of men from Dayton, Ohio. Initially issued green kepis, the regiment saw action at Perryville, Dobbin's Ferry, Stone's River, Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge, the Atlanta Campaign, Franklin, and Nashville. Stationed briefly in Texas after hostilities ended, the 35th was mustered out on September 30, 1865, and discharged at Indianapolis in October.

Our Guest Speaker



Kevin Charles Murray

Kevin Charles Murray, an Indianapolis attorney, covering state, local and municipal matters, was selected as a Super Lawyer in 2005, 2006 and 2008. This peer designation is awarded merely to an elite number of accomplished attorneys in each state. The Super Lawyer selection process considers peer recognition, professional achievement in legal practice, and other cogent factors. Prior to his career, Kevin studied at Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law, graduating in 1979. After passing the bar exam, he was admitted to legal practice in the same year.

Chris Smith Memorial Book Review

The book reviewers for the months remaining in this campaign are:

March - David Finney will review 'Hoosier Spies & Horse Marines: A History of the Third Indiana Cavalry, East Wing.'

April - Mike Eisenhut

May - Kathryn Lerch

June - Bob Gottschalk

At the February meeting, Tom Jones reviewed "Midnight on the Potomac" by Scott Ellsworth.

Remainder of the 2025-2026 Campaign

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

VP WANTED

We need a Vice President for the Round Table. This is a two-year commitment because after serving one year as VP, that person becomes president the following year. If you are interested in serving the club as VP and then President, please contact Nikki Schofield at 317-500-2811 or Nikki1942@sbcglobal.net.

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) for participation with the Indiana Antique Arms Collectors. Membership is free, with meetings at our West 86th 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.

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

by Tony Trimble

1. Name the CSA General whose failure at Champion Hill threatened the Confederate attack there.
2. In 1865, a controversial CSA general was restored to command. Who was he?
3. Who wrote, "Be careful, you're a general now; it's a good job, don't lose it." To whom was it written?
4. What is lignum vitae? How was it used?
5. What unit was known as the "Magnolia Regiment"?

Answers for the February Quiz:

1. Arkansas
2. Both were killed moments after assuring troops they could not be killed
3. Gen. Winfield Scott Hancock
4. A soldier who has not yet seen battle
5. Fort Macon

This Month in Civil War Era History

1861

March 2: Tennessee Senator Andrew Johnson declares that if he were President, he would hang anyone who fought the Union.

March 4: Lincoln is inaugurated as President. In his address, he states, "I have no purpose...to interfere with the institution of slavery."

March 4: The Confederate Congress approves the first national Confederate flag, nicknamed the Stars and Bars.

March 4: Gideon Welles, U.S. Secretary of the Navy, reports that he has 90 vessels, but that only 42 are in commission carrying 555 guns.

March 5: Three Confederate commissioners arrive in Washington. Their request to present credentials is rejected by Secretary of State William Seward.

March 21: Confederate Vice President Stephens speaks in Savannah, Georgia, insisting that “the negro is not equal to the white man,” and that slavery is “his natural and normal condition.”

1862

March 3: U.S. Assistant Adjutant General N. H. McLean issues a warning in St. Louis, that members of Confederate guerrillas “will be hanged as robbers and murderers.”

March 5: General Beauregard takes command of the Confederacy’s Department of the Mississippi. He tells his soldiers to return home if they are not up to the task.

March 6: Lincoln sends Congress a message advocating “compensated emancipation” to free slaves and reimburse their owners. This is aimed at slave-holding Union border states.

March 7-8: Battle of Pea Ridge, Arkansas is a Union victory. “Wild Bill” Hickok is present, as is a Confederate Cherokee cavalry.

March 8: Confederate Colonel John Hunt Morgan leads a cavalry raid around Nashville, Tennessee.

March 9: The world’s first battle between ironclad warships – the Union’s Monitor and Confederacy’s Virginia (formerly the USS Merrimack) – ends in a draw at Hampton Roads, Virginia.

March 10: Worried about Union General George McClellan’s army, General Joseph Johnston evacuates his Confederate troops from Manassas, Virginia, burning materials that cannot be taken with them.

March 11: President Lincoln removes McClellan’s title of General-In-Chief but keeps him in command of the Army of the Potomac.

March 11: The U.S. military Department of the Mississippi is created, to be supervised by General Henry Halleck.

March 13: General Robert E. Lee begins serving as military adviser to Confederate President Davis (holding that role until June 1st).

March 14: Union Troops, led by General Ambrose Burnside with naval support, capture New Bern, North Carolina. They occupy it until war’s end.

March 17: General McClellan begins to move his army towards Richmond.

March 23: Confederate troops led by Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson meet a larger Union force at Kernstown, Virginia, but are forced to retreat.

March 31: Union General David Hunter takes command of Department of the South.

1863

March 3: The first U.S. Conscription Act passes. Males aged 20 to 45 must enroll, but can exempt themselves by finding substitutes or paying \$300

March 3: Congress passes a resolution opposing any foreign intervention in the war.

March 3: Congress authorizes the award of an honorary brevet rank to officers of the United States Volunteers.

March 3: Confederate General Robert Toombs resigns his commission to return to Georgia as a critic of the Confederacy and the Davis Administration.

March 6: Anti-black rioting breaks out in Detroit.

March 14: Admiral Farragut's Union fleet runs past enemy batteries at Port Hudson, Louisiana but receives considerable damage.

March 15: General Ambrose Burnside is assigned to command the Union's Department of the Ohio.

March 17: Grant's Yazoo Pass expedition is blocked at Fort Pemberton.

March 17: Cavalries engage at Kelly's Ford, Virginia.

March 17: The New Jersey legislature passes a resolution calling for the Federal Government to negotiate peace with the Confederacy.

March 18: The U.S. Government creates the Provost Marshall Department to police the army and organize conscription.

March 21: General Sherman rescues Admiral Porter's ironclads, trapped in Steele's Bayou, ending another attempt to reach Vicksburg's rear.

1864

March 2: Documents are found near Richmond, Virginia on the body of Union Colonel Ulric Dahlgren, detailing plans to burn Richmond and assassinate Jefferson Davis.

March 5: General Sherman's army returns to Vicksburg after completing the Meridian Campaign.

March 8: About 100 Copperheads (northerners sympathizing with the Confederacy) murder five Union soldiers on furlough in Charleston, Illinois.

March 9: General Sherman is put in command of the Union Armies in the west.

March 9: Major General Grant is promoted to Lieutenant General.

March 12: Lincoln appoints Grant as General-In-Chief of all Union armies, replacing General Henry Halleck.

March 14: Confederate General Edmund Kirby Smith orders the burning of 150,000 bales of cotton valued at \$60 million, to keep them from Union troops in Louisiana.

March 18: Union forces occupy Alexandria, Virginia without opposition.

March 21: About 250 Confederate soldiers are surprised and captured at Henderson's Hill, Louisiana.

March 24: Confederate troops of General Nathan Bedford Forrest capture Union City, Tennessee and its garrison.

1865

March 2: President Lincoln rejects General Lee's request for negotiations.

March 2: At Waynesboro, Virginia, General Sheridan's cavalry captures the remainder of General Jubal Early's army, including 1,600 Confederates and eleven guns.

March 3: Congress creates the Freedmen's Bureau to aid former slaves.

March 4: President Lincoln is inaugurated for his second term and calls for "malice toward none; with charity for all."

March 13: Confederate President Davis signs a bill that permits slaves to enlist, thereby earning their freedom.

March 17: Actor John Wilkes Booth's plot to kidnap Lincoln fails when the President does not visit the Campbell House in Washington as expected.

March 24: Lincoln arrives at General Grant's headquarters at City Point, Virginia for a three-week stay, conferring with Grant, Sherman and others.

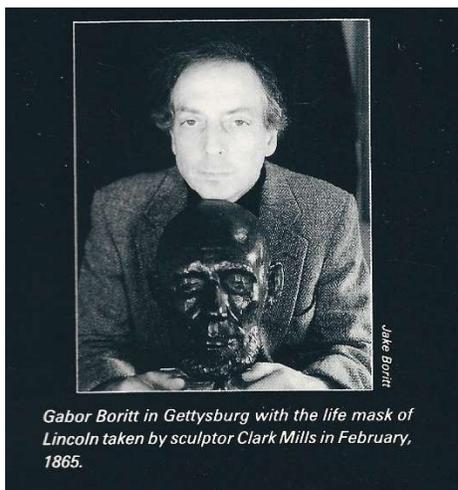
March 25: The Battle of Fort Stedman, Virginia is won by Union forces. Casualties: Union – 2,080; Confederates – about 4,500.

March 26: The siege of Mobile, Alabama begins.

March 27-28: President Lincoln confers with Generals Grant and Sherman at City Point, Virginia, suggesting that generous terms of surrender be offered to the Confederacy.

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

Gabor Boritt, a Hungarian Refugee and Scholar of Lincoln, Dies at 86



Gabor Boritt in Gettysburg with the life mask of Lincoln taken by sculptor Clark Mills in February, 1865.

When he arrived in the U.S., he knew little about the country or Lincoln. He devoted his life to studying both.

By Jon Mooallem

Feb. 12, 2026

Gabor Boritt, a Hungarian refugee, became a scholar of Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War, dying at 86 on Feb. 2.

Gabor Boritt, one of America's pre-eminent scholars of Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War, lived in Gettysburg, Pa., for 43 years, and often leapt at the opportunity to give tours of the famous battlefield near his home. "To me, it's the most peaceful place on earth," he said, "in spite of it being [where] the bloodiest battle of American history took place."

Boritt's guests ranged from President George W. Bush to gaggles of fidgety schoolchildren on field trips, and he had a way of transmitting to all of them both his deep understanding of the site and his almost childlike exuberance for it. "He's the guy who knows the whole story," said filmmaker Ken Burns, who made numerous visits to Gettysburg with Boritt and became a friend. "To walk around with him, you revel in his stories, you revel in his interpretations. He made the landscape come alive."

Karl Rove, who as senior adviser to President Bush organized a tour with Boritt for senior White House staff members and their families early in Bush's first term, recalled Boritt leading their group, step by step, on the path of Pickett's Charge during the battle of Gettysburg: "And Gabor

says, 'I'm going to tell you, as we walk along, how many of you are being killed.' " Boritt proceeded to describe each grisly twist of the battle unfolding spectrally around them. "We'd crest a high ridge, and he would say, 'OK, you two: you're dead,' " Rove said. "By the time we got to the High-Water Mark of the Confederacy [the area of the battle's turning point], three people are left alive out of our group of 15."

Crucially, Rove went on, Boritt helped them inhabit that history through the eyes of its combatants on both sides—young men, many of them still teenagers. And it wasn't lost on Rove that the spindly, excitable man narrating that story for them in a thick Hungarian accent "was once a 16-year-old picking up paving blocks and heaving them at Soviet tanks."

Boritt, a Hungarian refugee who became an influential historian of two archetypical American subjects—Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War—died on Feb. 2 in Chambersburg, Pa. He was 86.

A janitor's closet

Boritt was born Gabor Roth-Szappanos on Jan. 26, 1940, in Budapest, Hungary, the youngest of three children to Rozsa and Pal Roth-Szappanos. Forced from their home as Hungary fell under fascist rule, then further displaced when the Nazis arrived in 1944, the family moved into a janitor's closet at a makeshift hospital in Budapest's Jewish ghetto, sheltering there alongside other Jews for the duration of World War II.

After the war, his mother, whose family had been murdered in Auschwitz, grew ill and died. It was 1948; Boritt was 8. Hungary was being overtaken by an authoritarian, Communist regime, which would soon imprison both Boritt's father and brother, shunting him into an orphanage for a time. Boritt would later describe "the death of my mother and the death of a dream that my father had of a better country, a better society" as simultaneous shocks. "So there are two deaths," he said.

He was 16 when the Hungarian Revolution erupted in October 1956, and he joined a crowd in Stalin Square laboring to tear down a colossal statue of the Soviet leader. (Boritt recalled going off to find some heavy ropes to pull it down and missing the moment the sculpture finally toppled.) For the first time, he imagined a future in which he might actually go to college—a future in which he was free. But days later, Soviet tanks arrived and squashed the uprising at once.

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Phone: (.....) Email Address:

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(please specify Membership Level):

_____ \$30 Individual _____ \$35 Family _____ \$15 Student

_____ **I wish to receive the newsletter via U.S. Mail for an additional \$12**

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