HARDTACK

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

Monday, November 9, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.
Meeting at MCL Cafeteria Township Line
2370 W. 86th Street

The Plan of the Day



For many Civil War enthusiasts, becoming a Gettysburg Licensed Battlefield Guide is the ultimate challenge in historical interpretation. In this presentation, Rob Webb shares his 30-year journey from curious student to Licensed Battlefield Guide. He will explain the four stages of the qualification process, discuss the knowledge and skills candidates must master, and answer the question he hears most often: "How hard is that exam anyway?" Along the way, Rob will share humorous stories from his preparation, testing, and training experiences, providing a brief history of guiding at Gettysburg, and offering a collection of resources valuable to both serious students of the Civil War and casual historians interested in learning more about America's most famous battlefield.

Our Guest Speaker



Robert Webb

Rob Webb lives in Carmel, Indiana with his wife Mikele and became a Licensed Battlefield Guide at Gettysburg National Military Park in May 2026. His fascination with Gettysburg began with a visit to the 135th Anniversary events in 1998 and grew after taking his first Licensed Battlefield Guide tour in 2002. After years of returning to Gettysburg, studying the battle, and attending historical programs, he fulfilled his longtime ambition of becoming a guide.

Rob earned a bachelor's degree in Economics from Western Illinois University and an MBA from Indiana University's Kelley School of Business. He spent his professional career in the investment industry, but his passion for history remained constant throughout. As a Licensed Battlefield Guide, he now enjoys the opportunity to share stories of Gettysburg and the people who shaped its history.

Chris Smith Memorial Book Review

If you have a publication you'd like to review for the club, please speak to Nikki Schofield, who keeps a record of those. All meetings are open except September and January. Our January meeting is Show & Tell -- anyone can display a book and speak about it. Nikki can be reached by phone at 317-500-2811 or email at nikki1942@sbcglobal.net.

Roster of Officers and Committees for the 2026-2027 Campaign

Elected Officers:
President: Danny Russel
Vice President: David Hughes
Secretary: Gregg Herke
Treasurer: Peter Mohr
Immediate Past President: Tony Roscetti

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: Rob Webb (Chair), Roy Agnew, David Finney, Steve Magnusen
Publicity: **Vacant**
Membership: Roy Agnew
Nominating: Nikki Schofield (Chair), Linda Smith

Please note: In subsequent meetings, Charlotte Carmichael will bring a generous supply of Civil War battleground maps, magazines and books for our perusal. Feel free to donate your unwanted volumes each month, as it's a marvelous way to generate additional funds for our group.

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.

Remainder of the 2026-2027 Campaign

- **December 14, 2026** – Gene Salecker, Nathan Bedford Forrest's September 1864 Railroad Raid
- **January 11, 2027** --YOU (members present their collectibles) - Annual Show & Tell
- **February 8, 2027** – Mike Eisenhut, Indiana Regiments at Gettysburg
- **March 8, 2027** – Matt Atkinson, Vicksburg: Confederate Gibraltar (popular Gettysburg Park Ranger explores the importance and eventual fall of the Confederate stronghold on the Mississippi)
- **April 12, 2027** – John Chalfin, The Confederate Sea Raiders
- **May 12, 2027** – Olivia Treen, The Spinning Wheel, the Civil War Home Front, and Life on a Civil War Film Set
- **June 14, 2027** – A. Wilson Greene, Hampton's "Beefsteak" Raid (acclaimed author of the definitive study on the Petersburg Campaign discusses the daring 1864 cavalry raid that captured thousands of cattle from Union supply lines)

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.

Contact our Vice President, 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. What two songs did Lincoln request at the end of his speech on April 9, 1865?

2. What California territory was occupied by Union troops on 2 January 1864? Why was it occupied?

3. Who said, "Poor Kearney! He deserved a better death than this."

4. What was "Peas on a trencher"?

5. Instead of attacking, McClellan laid siege to what place in 1862?

Answers to the October Quiz:

1. Fortress Monroe
2. Arkansas
3. Robert E. Lee to Col Freemantle at Gettysburg, 3rd Day
4. Daily grog rations
5. Military Chaplain

This Month in Civil War Era History

1861

November 1: Lincoln appoints McClellan as General-In-Chief of all forces.

November 7: The U.S. Navy and Army capture Port Royal Harbor, South Carolina, and establish a base on Hilton Head Island.

November 8: The U.S. Navy seizes two Confederate commissioners heading to England on the British ship "Trent."

November 11: Observation of Confederate forces is made by the Union balloon-boat G.W. Parke Curtis in the Potomac River.

November 12: The ship Fingal (later, the CSS Atlanta), purchased in England, runs the Union blockade to enter Savannah with military supplies.

November 18: An unofficial convention in Russellville, Kentucky declares the state independent and elects George Johnson as governor.

November 18: The Confederate Provisional Congress meets in Richmond (until February 1862).

November 19: Confederate President Jefferson Davis asks his Congress for a railway linking the east and west through the Confederacy's interior. It is soon built.

November 23: A Union garrison repulses a Confederate attack on Fort Pickens on Santa Rosa Island, Pensacola, Florida.

November 25: Confederate Secretary of War Judah Benjamin orders "traitors of east Tennessee" to be tried and, if found guilty, "executed on the spot by hanging."

November 26: Cavalries skirmish in Dranesville, Virginia.

1862

November 1: Napoleon III urges that France, England, and Russia cooperate to help fund the war.

November 3: The Union Naval Squadron withdraws from Berwick Bay, Louisiana after suffering heavy damage from guns of the CSS Cotton and Shore batteries.

November 3: Union troops and five gunboats engage the enemy at Bayou Teche, Louisiana.

November 4: Republicans suffer setbacks in the Congressional elections.

November 5: President Lincoln relieves McClellan for the second time as Commander of the Army of the Potomac and appoints General Ambrose Burnside as his replacement.

November 5: A Union cavalry of about 1,500 under Gen. Alfred Pleasonton attack some 3,000 cavalrymen of Gen. Wade Hampton at Barbee's Crossroads, Virginia, forcing their withdraw.

November 17: Britain's Minister in Washington informs his government that the Democrats want to end the war even at the risk of losing southern states.

November 21: Union Gen. Edwin Sumner demands the surrender of Fredericksburg, Virginia, threatening a bombardment. Almost the entire population evacuates.

November 23: A grand military display is held in New Orleans and 28,000 troops are reviewed, including a regiment composed of 1,400 "free colored men."

November 24: Confederate President Jefferson Davis appoints Gen. Joseph E. Johnston to command the Army in the West.

November 28: Confederate General Wade Hampton leads a cavalry raid, capturing 92 enemy soldiers at Hartwood Church, Virginia.

November 28: Union troops come off best during a skirmish with the enemy at Cane Hill, Arkansas.

November 29: The Kearny Medal for Officers is created for all those who "honorably served in battle" under Union Gen. Philip Kearny who was killed September 1, 1862.

1863

November 2: Confederate Gen. Henry Allen is elected Louisiana's Governor. He was wounded at the Battle of Baton Rouge, August 5, 1862, and his left leg was amputated.

November 2: Union troops secure a position on the Mexican border at Brazos Santiago, Texas.

November 6: Union troops move up the Rio Grande to occupy Brownsville, Texas.

November 6: The Western Sanitary Commission informs President Lincoln that hundreds of former slaves would "gladly return to bondage to avoid the hardships of freedom."

November 7: In an unusual bayonet attack at dusk, Union Troops overcome the enemy at Rappahannock Bridge, Virginia.

November 10: U.S. Secretary of War Edwin Stanton orders the Signal Corps to transfer all its telegraph equipment to the Military Telegraph Service.

November 13: The Confederate Commissioner to Europe, Colonel A. Dudley Mann, meets with Pope Pius IX at the Vatican, presenting a letter from Jefferson Davis.

November 17: Union troops take Aransas Pass, Texas, off Corpus Christi Bay.

November 18: Confederate forces of Gen. James Longstreet push a Union cavalry back into Knoxville, Tennessee, and begin a siege of the town.

November 19: President Lincoln delivers his Gettysburg Address during the dedication of a military cemetery at the battlefield of that Pennsylvania town.

November 19: At Mattagorda Bay, Texas, Union forces attack Fort Esperanza, which the Confederates partially destroy and evacuate.

November 23-25: General Grant's army scales heights overlooking Chattanooga, Tennessee, routing Confederate forces under General Bragg and breaking their siege of the city. Casualties – Union 5,824; Confederate, 6,667.

November 24: Union Gen. Meade's forces advance to attack Gen. Lee's army at Mine Run, a brook in Virginia.

November 26: Sherman and Hooker pursue the enemy's retreat from Chattanooga for some distance, with Hooker encountering severe resistance.

November 26: Confederate cavalry raider General John Hunt Morgan and six of his officers escape by digging out of the Ohio State Penitentiary in Columbus.

November 29: Gen. Meade decides to call off his attack on Gen. Lee after seeing the large Confederate force.

November 29: Union troops at Fort Sanders, overlooking Knoxville, Tennessee, repulse a Confederate attack.

1864

November 4: Confederate raiders capture three Union gunboats on the Tennessee River (near Johnsonville), driving back the Union fleet's coordinated attack from the north and south.

November 8: President Lincoln wins re-election over former General George McClellan, the Democrats' candidate.

November 16: General Sherman begins his march through Georgia, destroying railroads, supplies and private homes over an area 60 miles wide.

November 21: Gen. Hugh Kilpatrick's Union cavalry skirmishes with the Georgia state troops of Gen. Howell Cobb at Griswoldville, driving them back into Macon.

November 21: Confederate Gen. John Henry Winder is put in charge of all war prisoners east of the Mississippi River.

November 22: Sherman spends the night in Georgia at the plantation home of Confederate General Howell Cobb, which his troops then destroy.

November 23: A Union powder boat explodes 290 pounds of powder about 830 yards from Fort Fisher, North Carolina, but has no significant effect on the enemy.

November 23: Gen. Sherman's troops capture and ravage Milledgeville, the capital of Georgia.

November 25: Eight Confederate agents from Canada start 19 fires in New York City.

November 25-26: Gen. Joseph Wheeler's Confederate cavalry attack Gen. Sherman's army at Griswoldville, Georgia, but is forced to withdraw.

November 29: Gen. Hood's Confederates encircle Gen. John Schofield's army at Spring Hill, Tennessee, but allow the Union troops to escape to Franklin.

November 30: The battle of Franklin, Tennessee, is decisively won by Union General John Schofield's army over General John Hood's Confederates. Casualties – Union 2,326; Confederate 6,252.

November 30: An engagement occurs at Honey Hill (or Grahamville, South Carolina) and Union troops withdraw.

1865
November 6: The last official Confederate flag is lowered on the CSS Shenandoah as it arrives in Liverpool, England.

Fun Fact

Were you aware that our Indianapolis Civil War Round Table is the third largest in America? Here are some members who joined many years (or decades!) ago:

- Tom Krasean (1965)
- Dr. Tony Trimble (1979)
- Nikki Schofield (1980)
- Gerald Jones (1985)
- David Sutherland (1997)
- Peg Bertelli (1999)

From the American Battlefield Trust

House of Representatives Passes Major Preservation Bill

ABPP reauthorization measure receives overwhelming bipartisan support

In a major win for the protection of America's hallowed ground, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the American Battlefields Protection Program Amendments Act (HR 7618) in early June in an overwhelming bipartisan vote of 404-13. The legislation reauthorizes the nation's most effective historic battlefield preservation grant program in time for America's Semiquincentennial and the 250th anniversary of the Revolutionary War.

The bill reauthorizes three American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) grant programs through 2036, designating $20 million annually to battlefield protection efforts, including historic property acquisition, landscape restoration and site interpretation. It also directs the National Park Service (NPS) and the Department of the Interior to prepare strategic studies toward possible expansion of program eligibility to French and Indian War and Mexican-American War sites.

For a quarter-century, the ABPP's Battlefield Acquisition Grant Program (BLAG) has been the principal mechanism for protecting America's irreplaceable historic landscapes -- with nearly 40,000 acres saved. These matching grants are more important than ever as land prices skyrocket throughout the nation, driven by an explosion in data centers and related commercial development that is driving per-acre costs to record highs. Nearly $200 million in federal grants have been competitively awarded through the program, matched many times over by private donations and grants from states and localities.

Oliver P. Morton Fund

The Oliver P. Morton fund was established by the Indianapolis Civil War Round Table to help cover the costs of speakers at our monthly meetings. Members are encouraged to donate to the fund in any amount. Those donors who give $100 or more over and above regular dues during one campaign year will be recognized in a list in The Hardtack newsletter.

Speakers who we engage often require the Round Table to cover the costs of travel to Indianapolis and sometimes require honorariums for speaking. Those costs continue to go up over time. Using donations to the fund to defray a portion of these costs allows the Indianapolis Civil War Round Table to hold down the costs of our annual dues.

Please consider a donation over and above the annual dues so that we can continue to bring in quality speakers to the Round Table and keep our annual dues affordable.

2026-2027 Donors:

- Ralph & Leigh Earle
- David Finney
- Steven Magnusen
- Peter Mohr
- Leight Murray
- Danny Russel

The Sultana Museum

1. The Sultana Museum will have its grand opening on November 14 at 10 AM. Admission is free that day.

2. Warning -- please be careful when buying any book about the Sultana disaster. There are some volumes that are being independently published, written by AI. The context of those books is largely inaccurate. If interested, select only a book by Jerry Potter and Gene Eric Salecker. Those authors spent almost their entire lifetimes researching Sultana events!.

RE-ENLIST NOW FOR THE 2026-2027 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 2026 thru June 2027
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 has invited you to join the ICWRT, please add their name. _____