



# HARDTACK



Indianapolis Civil War Round Table Newsletter

<http://indianapoliscwrt.org/>

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Monday, October 12, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.  
Meeting at MCL Cafeteria Township Line  
2370 W. 86th Street

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## *The Plan of the Day*



THE DAWES BROTHERS IN BATTLE

## *Our Guest Speaker*



**Steven Magnusen**

**Steve Magnusen** enjoyed a nationally recognized management and engineering career in north suburban Chicago after receiving his degree from Purdue University. He has led several professional and non-profit organizations, as well as serving fifteen years as an infantry and armor officer in the US Army Reserve.

Steve's particular interest in the Civil War's elite "Iron Brigade" led him to diligently research the life of Rufus Dawes, the intrepid young commander of the Sixth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry. Extensive original documentation revealed new details of battlefield heroism and his incredible wartime romance with young Mary Beman Gates of historic Marietta, Ohio. Steve was inspired to bring their captivating personal saga to life in *To My Best Girl*. Steve's new book, *The Dawes Brothers in Battle*, is due out in December 2026.

## **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](mailto: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**

- **November 9, 2026** – Rob Webb, My 30-Year Journey to Becoming a Licensed Gettysburg Battlefield Guide
- **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.

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

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

*by Tony Trimble*

1. What Federal installation was known as "Freedom Fort"?
2. In November 1863 there were skirmishes in the Fouché-le-Faix Mountains. Where are they?
3. Who said, "This has been a sad day for us, Colonel." Who was the Colonel and where was it said?
4. What was abolished by the Union Navy in 1862?
5. What was a "Holy Joe"?

#### **Answers to the September Quiz:**

1. Newspaper in New Orleans taken over by order of Gen. Butler
2. Bridge across the James River built in one day
3. Side of a fort containing the Sally Port
4. Gen. Stonewall Jackson
5. Skirmishes during Sherman's Atlanta Campaign

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

### **1861**

**October 2:** U.S. Senator John C. Breckinridge of Kentucky flees that state before being expelled from Congress and arrested as a traitor. He then joins the Confederate army.

**October 4:** The U.S. Navy authorizes construction of its first ironclad warship, which will later be named the "Monitor."

**October 7:** Confederate Brigadier General "Stonewall" Jackson is promoted to Major General.

**October 8:** A Confederate force attacks the 6<sup>th</sup> New York regiment staying on Santa Rosa Island in Pensacola Harbor, burning the camp and taking supplies.

**October 9:** Union troops repel a Confederate attack at Pensacola Harbor, Florida.

**October 13:** Confederate troops under Gen. Turner Ashby make a daring raid on Harpers Ferry, Virginia. Shells fired on the village burn mills and storehouses.

**October 17:** Confederate Secretary of the Treasury Christopher Memminger reports that treasury notes totaling \$100 million have been issued to carry on the war.

**October 21:** Union troops under Col. Joseph Plummer rout Confederates at Frederickstown, Missouri. The next day, Plummer is promoted to Brigadier General.

**October 22:** The Confederacy creates the Department of Northern Virginia commanded by General Joseph Johnston.

**October 24:** William Brownlow, a Tennessee Unionist, publishes the final edition of his Knoxville Whig newspaper. He is later arrested and in March 1862 is expelled to the North.

**October 31:** Missouri's "Rebel Legislature" meets at Neosho and votes to secede from the Union.

### **1862**

**October 1:** The Union's Western Gunboat Fleet is transferred from the War Department to the Navy.

**October 1:** Confederate Gen. "Jeb" Stuart's first cavalry raid into Pennsylvania.

**October 3:** In one of the few bayonet charges of the war, Union troops rout Confederates at Corinth, Mississippi.

**October 4:** Richard Hawes is inaugurated in Frankfort, Kentucky as the unofficial Confederate governor.

**October 5:** Galveston, Texas is captured by the U.S. Navy.

**October 8:** The Battle of Perryville, Kentucky is a tactical Confederate victory, but troops under Gen. Braxton Bragg withdraw from the state. Casualties: Union - 4,211; Confederate - 3,396

**October 10:** Confederate Major Gen. "Stonewall" Jackson is promoted to Lieutenant General and given command of the New II Corps of the Army of Northern Virginia.

**October 11:** The Confederate government amends the Conscription Act to exempt people in charge of 20 or more slaves.

**October 13:** Gen. John Pemberton is given command of the Confederacy's Department of Mississippi, Tennessee and East Louisiana.

**October 22:** Confederates re-occupy the Garrison at Cumberland Gap, Tennessee, which was abandoned by Union Forces on September 17<sup>th</sup>.

**October 22:** Confederates repulse a Union attack on Yemassee, South Carolina.

**October 26:** Gen. McClellan's army crosses the Potomac River into Virginia.

**October 28:** The first Black regiment to see combat, the 79<sup>th</sup> U.S. Colored Infantry from Kansas, is involved in action at Island Mounds, Missouri.

**October 30:** Union Gen. Rosecrans replaces Gen. Don Buell as Commander of the Army of the Cumberland.

### **1863**

**October 4:** Colonel William Quantrill's Confederate guerrillas, disguised in U.S. uniforms, capture and kill some 100 Union Cavalry on the way to Fort Smith, Arkansas.

**October 5:** The Confederate submarine CSS David damages the new USS Ironsides with a spar torpedo at Charleston, South Carolina.

**October 6:** Colonel William Quantrill's raiders – wearing Union uniforms – surprise and murder 65 Union soldiers at Baxter Springs, Kansas.

**October 10:** At Blue Springs, Tennessee, Gen. James Shackelford's Union cavalry attacks Gen. John S. Williams' force, which withdraws to Virginia.

**October 13:** Confederates under Gen. Joseph Shelby are defeated by Union troops of Gen. E.B. Brown at Arrow Rock, Missouri.

**October 15:** The Confederate submarine H.L. Hunley sinks for the second time in Charleston Harbor, killing its owner and a crew of seven.

**October 16:** President Lincoln assigns General Grant command of all armies in the west.

**October 19:** Union General William Rosecrans is relieved of his command as a result of defeat at Chickamauga, Georgia. General George Thomas replaces him.

**October 19:** Confederate Gen. "Jeb" Stuart's cavalry routs the troops of Gen. Hugh Kilpatrick at Buckland Mills, Virginia, calling the action "The Buckland Races."

**October 20:** Confederates attack Union forces at Philadelphia, Tennessee, capturing 300-400 prisoners and 38 wagons.

**October 21:** Union Gens. Grant, Rosecrans and Hooker meet in Nashville to plan the assault on Chattanooga.

**October 28:** The Great Northwestern Sanitary Commission Fair in Chicago auctions Lincoln's copy of the Emancipation Proclamation for \$3,000 to raise funds for this relief organization.

**October 28:** The Battle of Wauhatchie, Tennessee frightens some 200 mules that stampede toward Confederates. Believing it to be a cavalry attack, some troops panic and flee.

**October 28:** Union Gen. Quincy Gillmore announces the Gillmore Medal for his enlisted men who distinguished themselves in operations before Charleston from July to September 1863

## **1864**

**October 1:** Confederate Gen. Joseph Wheeler's cavalry begins a week-long raid into Tennessee, to disrupt communication and supply lines of Gen. William Rosecrans.

**October 2:** Confederates repulse a Union attack on Saltville, Virginia, the Confederacy's main source of salt.

**October 2:** Confederate Gen. Wheeler's cavalry captures a large Union wagon train at Anderson's Cross Roads, Tennessee.

**October 2:** General George Armstrong Custer is given command of the U.S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Cavalry division.

**October 3:** Gen. Wheeler's Confederate cavalry captures McMinnville, Tennessee

**October 3:** The Confederate Army of Gen. John Bell Hood captures Big Shanty and Acworth in Georgia.

**October 7:** The Confederate cruiser CSS Florida is captured by the USS Wachusett off Bahia, Brazil.

**October 11:** The Butler Medal is announced by Union Gen. Benjamin Butler for Black soldiers in his command at New Market Heights.

**October 12:** U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice Roger Taney, a Confederate sympathizer who authored the infamous Dred Scott decision, dies.

**October 13:** Maryland, a slave-holding Union state, adopts a new constitution that abolishes slavery.

**October 15:** Union prisoners begin to arrive at Camp Lawton near Millen, Georgia, a new prison twice the size as Andersonville, from where they are transferred. In total, more than 10,000 are moved.

**October 16:** General Nathan Bedford Forrest begins his raid into Tennessee.

**October 19:** General Sheridan defeats General Early at Cedar Creek, Virginia, virtually ending Confederate resistance in the Shenandoah Valley.

**October 19:** The CSS Shenandoah, bought in England in September as the Sea King, is commissioned off the Madeira Islands.

**October 20:** Lincoln proclaims the last Thursday in November as Thanksgiving, now an annual holiday.

**October 22:** Confederate Gen. John Bell Hood begins his campaign into Tennessee.

**October 23:** Gen. Alfred Pleasonton's Union troops battle Confederates under Gen. Sterling Price at Big Blue River in Missouri, forcing the invaders to repeat.

**October 25:** Gen. Pleasonton, pursuing Gen. Price overtakes the rear guard of Gen. John Marmaduke's cavalry and captures nearly 1,000 prisoners, including Gens. Marmaduke and William Cabell.

**October 27:** The CSS Albemarle, the last Confederate ram is sunk by a small launch's torpedo in Virginia's Roanoke River.

### **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:**

In a major win for the Manassas Battlefield, and the wider preservation movement, the years-long fight to halt a colossal data center complex adjacent to Manassas National Battlefield Park ended in victory. Data center developer QTS dropped its appeal to the Virginia Supreme Court, effectively ending the project threatening the historic landscape of Prince William County. The announcement came two days before America celebrated its 250th birthday, July 4, 2026.

### **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. The admission will be free that day.
2. Warning. Please be careful when buying any book about the Sultana. There are some books there are being independently published that are written by AI. The context of the books are not always accurate. If interested in buying a book only by Jerry Potter and Gene Eric Salecker. These are the authors who were spent almost their entire lifetime researching the events of this Sultana.

## 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](mailto: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. \_\_\_\_\_