



HARDTACK



Indianapolis Civil War Round Table Newsletter

<http://indianapoliscwrt.org/>

Monday, September 14, 2026 at 6:45 p.m.
Meeting at MCL Cafeteria Township Line
2370 W. 86th Street

The Plan of the Day

The Indianapolis Civil War Roundtable
Presents:

THE FLOWER OF GALLANTRY:
Lew Wallace &
The Montgomery Guards Militia

Speaker: Thomas R. Meeks Jr.
Associate Director of the General Lew Wallace Study & Museum

September 14, 2026
6:45 pm
MCL Cafeteria - Township Line
2370 West 86th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46260

Indianapolis Civil War
Roundtable




Our Guest Speaker



Tom Meeks

My name is Thomas R. Meeks Jr., and I serve as the Associate Director of the General Lew Wallace Study & Museum. I was born and raised in the suburbs of Chicago, but in 2012, I moved to Indiana to attend Purdue University, where I earned a history degree in 2018.

I then moved to Crawfordsville, Indiana and married my wonderful wife, Heidi. We have a six-year-old son named Henry.

Crawfordsville is a community deeply proud of its rich and storied history. That pride is evident from the moment you step one foot downtown. I quickly became immersed in the community's history and began working for the Carnegie Museum of Montgomery County. Its collection gave me a hands-on education in the history of Crawfordsville as well as Montgomery County. Every object told a story, and the more I learned, the more fascinated I became with the events and people who shaped this community.

When a position at the General Lew Wallace Study & Museum became available, I applied. By that point, I had already developed a familiarity with Lew Wallace and an appreciation for his remarkable life and connection to Crawfordsville. I joined the Museum in 2022, and since then, I've enjoyed the opportunity to do a little bit of everything.

My work at the museum includes designing and building annual exhibits, managing collections, creating promotional and educational materials, overseeing social media, and giving tours. Each day brings something different, but at the heart of everything I do is helping people discover and appreciate the remarkable history of Lew Wallace.

Chris Smith Memorial Book Review

A new Lincoln book will be reviewed at the September meeting. 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

- **October 12, 2026** – Steve Magnusen, The Dawes Brothers in Battle
- **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.

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 was “Delta” and why was it taken over by Federal authorities?
2. At 2100 feet, what was the longest structure built during the war? How long did it take?
3. What was the “gorge”?
4. Who said, “Let the Federals get very close before your infantry fire; They won’t stand long”?
5. What do Cassville, Noonday Church, and Noyes’ Creek have in common?

This Month in Civil War Era History

1861

September 2: President Lincoln revokes Gen. Fremont's emancipation of Missouri slaves and transfers him.

September 3: Confederate troops invade Kentucky and seize Columbus.

September 4: Union forces under General Ulysses S. Grant occupy Paducah, Kentucky.

September 7: Union troops capture Ship Island off Biloxi, Mississippi.

September 10: Confederates withdraw after an engagement at Carnifex Ferry, West Virginia. Union Gen. William Rosecrans is slightly wounded.

September 11: Kentucky's legislature unsuccessfully demands the unconditional withdrawal of Confederate troops.

September 11-13: In General Robert E. Lee's first campaign, his troops attack but fail to capture Cheat Mountain, West Virginia.

September 13: Chicago clergymen visit President Lincoln, asking for an emancipation proclamation. He tells them that would drive border states to the Confederacy.

September 17: Judah Benjamin is appointed Secretary of War for the Confederacy, replacing Leroy Walker.

1862

September 1: Confederates win the battle of Chantilly (or Ox Hill), Virginia, under Generals Lee and Jackson. Two Union generals are killed – Isaac Stevens and Philip Kearny.

September 2: Lincoln relieves General Pope of command of the Army of Virginia, replacing him with McClellan, and reverts to calling it the Army of the Potomac.

September 5: Gen. Lee's army crosses the Potomac River into Maryland, his first invasion of a Union state.

September 5: Gen. Braxton Bragg's Confederate troops enter Kentucky.

September 6: An engagement occurs at Washington, North Carolina.

September 13: Union General McClellan is given a copy of battle plans lost by Lee, but he hesitates, fearing a trap.

September 14: The Battle of South Mountain, Maryland is won by Union troops led by Gen. Jesse Lee Reno, who is killed. Casualties: Union – 1,813; Confederate – 2,685

September 15: Harpers Ferry, Virginia captured by Gen. Jackson's Confederate troops.

September 16: Confederates led by Ge. Braxton Bragg capture Mumfordsville, Kentucky and its garrison.

September 17: The war's bloodiest day – the Battle of Antietam – is a draw, but Lee halts the invasion of Maryland. Casualties: Union – 12,410; Confederate – 13,724

September 17: Union forces at Cumberland Gap, Tennessee are cut off and forced to abandon the garrison.

September 19: Union success at the Battle of Iuka, Mississippi forces Confederate troops to retreat.

September 20: Union troops cross the Potomac River to attack Gen. Lee's forces at Blackford's Ford, Virginia, but are driven back with losses.

September 22: Lincoln issues his Emancipation Proclamation to take effect on January 1st, liberating slaves in the Confederacy but not in border states loyal to the Union.

September 25: Confederates withdraw from Sabine City, Texas after a bombardment by Union ships.

September 26: Confederate Gen. Braxton Bragg in Bardstown, Kentucky issues a proclamation to the those fighting for the Union, insisting that “the Union is a thing of the past.”

September 27: The first Union regiment of free Blacks is formed – the 1st Regiment Louisiana Native Guards.

September 27: The Confederate government extends its conscription law to call into service all men between the ages of 35 and 45.

September 29: Union Gen. William “Bull” Nelson is shot dead by Union Gen. Jefferson C. Davis at Louisville, Kentucky during an argument. A court-martial later acquits Davis.

September 30: Confederates lose an engagement at Newtonia and are forced out of Missouri.

1863

September 2: Confederates under Edmund Kirby Smith occupy Lexington, Kentucky.

September 2: Union Gen. Ambrose Burnside captures Knoxville, Tennessee and establishes headquarters there.

September 4: Gen. Grant is thrown by his horse in New Orleans. He is unable to walk or mount his horse without assistance until late October.

September 6: Confederates abandon Fort Wagner on Morris Island in Charleston Harbor after almost two months of Union bombardments.

September 8: The Davis Guards, a mostly Irish Confederate regiment, successfully defend Fort Grigsby, Texas, on the Gulf of Mexico, from four Union gunboats.

September 8: Union Adm. John Dahlgren orders a night boat attack to capture Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor, but it fails.

September 9: Union troops capture Cumberland Gap, Tennessee and its Confederate garrison.

September 10: Confederates evacuate Little Rock, Arkansas, which is then occupied by Union troops under Gen. Frederick Steele.

September 13: An engagement of cavalries occurs at Culpeper, Virginia.

September 18-20: Confederates under General Bragg win the Battle of Chickamauga, Georgia
Casualties: Union -- 16,170; Confederates --18,454

September 19: Cavalries clash at Rockville, Maryland.

September 27: Confederate Col. Joseph Shelby leads a cavalry raid into Missouri. (It lasts until October 28th)

1864

September 1: Gen. Hood’s Confederates evacuate Atlanta, but torch the city.

September 2: General Sherman’s troops occupy Atlanta, Georgia, but much of the city has been destroyed.

September 4: Confederate cavalry raider John Hunt Morgan is surprised and killed by Union troops at Greeneville, Tennessee.

September 7: Gen. Sherman orders civilians to evacuate Atlanta.

September 8: General George McClellan accepts the Democratic nomination as the party's presidential candidate, stating that the Union must be reunited.

September 16: Confederate Gen. Wade Hampton captures 2,500 U.S. Army cattle 6 miles from Grant's headquarters in Virginia.

September 16, 18: Confederate troops fail to take Fort Gibson in Oklahoma.

September 17: Gen. John C. Fremont withdraws as a Republican presidential candidate to avoid splitting his party.

September 19: Despite higher casualties, General Philip Sheridan's Union forces defeat those of General Jubal Early in Winchester, Virginia.

September 19: Confederate Gen. Sterling Price's army, with several cavalry divisions added, raids Missouri, continuing through October.

September 21: Confederate Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest begins his cavalry raid to middle Tennessee.

September 22: Union Gen. Sheridan's troops win over Gen. Early's at Fisher's Hill, Virginia.

September 23-24: Gen. Forrest's cavalry captures the Union garrison at Athens, Alabama.

September 27: Union forces of Gen. Thomas Ewing repulse the troops of Gen. Sterling Price at Fort Davidson, Missouri, but then evacuate and blow it up.

Fun Fact

Were you aware that our Indianapolis Civil War Round Table is the third largest in America? Write to danny@famousoosiers.com and notify him of how many years you've belonged! Has your membership lasted one year? Two? Three? Five? Ten or more? We'll include your submissions in the next Hardtack newsletter.

Preservation

In June, an impressive \$1,000 was donated in preservation funds, with \$200 apiece benefitting these organizations...

- Sultana Disaster Museum
- Battle of Richmond Association
- Tebbs Bend Battlefield Association
- President Lincoln's Cottage
- General Lew Wallace Study & Museum

From the American Battlefield Trust:

New Videos Highlight Civil War History

The American Civil War Trust continues to bring the past to life with a lineup of videos that highlight historic conflicts and sites from the Civil War. Two additions to its Step Into History video series take viewers into Robert E. Lee's Headquarters at Gettysburg and the historic Farley House at Brandy Station, and two new animated map videos on the First and Second Battles at Manassas and the Battle of Atlanta showcase these iconic engagements.

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 that 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

Beginning in October – and for the remainder of this season -- our business meeting will begin promptly at 6:30 (rather than 6:45).

During our September meeting, Nikki Schofield will speak about assistance needed with installation of our annual Christmas tree display at the Indiana Historical Society.

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. _____