



HARDTACK



Indianapolis Civil War Round Table Newsletter

<http://indianapoliscwrt.org/>

Monday, March 10, 2025 at 6:45 p.m.
Meeting at MCL Cafeteria Township Line
2370 W. 86th Street

The Plan of the Day



“Indiana Generals in the Civil War”

Based on his book “Civil War Generals of Indiana,” Dr. Carl Kramer highlights the lives of approximately 125 Hoosiers Civil War generals of all ranks. It’s a demographic biography that explores origins, prewar occupations, wartime service, and postwar service. Hoosier generals were a diverse, highly mobile, and generally youthful lot, characteristics that reflected American society at large. A significant number were professional soldiers, but the majority had little or no military experience. As commanders, most acquitted themselves honorably, but were undistinguished, especially at higher commands, as exemplified by Don Carlos Buell and Ambrose E. Burnside.

Our Guest Speaker



Dr. Carl Kramer

Dr. Carl E. Kramer is founder and vice president of Kramer Associates, Inc., a Jeffersonville public history consulting firm, and taught at Indiana University Southeast for 35 years. He received his Ph.D. in American history from the University of Toledo in 1980. Dr. Kramer is the author of fourteen books, including “Civil War Generals of Indiana.” and has also authored scores of book chapters and articles published in peer-reviewed academic journals, trade publications, and popular magazines. Dr. Kramer has served on the board of directors of the Urban History Association, and the Publications Advisory Boards of the Register of the Kentucky Historical Society and the former Filson Historical Quarterly and on award juries for the Urban History Association, the Society for American City and Regional Planning History, the Filson Historical Society, and the Kentucky Historical Society. He is the former historian of the Indiana Planning Association and currently serves on the boards of directors of the Clark County Museum and the Louisville Historical League and on the Indiana Lewis and Clark Expedition Commission. Dr. Kramer His recent professional honors include the Indiana Historical Society’s Dorothy Riker Hoosier Historian Award in 2012, the Louisville Historical League’s Founders Award for 2018, and the Captain Donald T. Wright Award for Maritime Journalism, presented in 2019 by the Herman T. Pott National Inland Waterways Library in St. Louis. That award honors Kramer’s book Rivers of Time. He was honored in 2013 as a Sagamore of the Wabash, Indiana’s highest civilian award, by former Governor Michael Pence.

Remainder of the 2024-2025 Campaign

April 14, 2025 - 70th ANNIVERSARY EVENT
 May 12, 2025 - Scott Diezman - “Wilder's Lightning Brigade”
 June 9, 2025 - Gene Eric Salecker - “The Sultana Disaster”

Roster of Officers and Committees for the 2024-2025 Campaign

Officers:

President: Chris Smith

Vice President: Tony Roscetti

Secretary: Eric Dove

Treasurer: Pete Mohr

Immediate Past President: Pete Benner

Committees:

Preservation: Andy O’Donnell

Website: Ed Pope

Program Selection: Chairman Steve Magnusen; Members: Bob Gottschalk, David Finney, & Tony Trimble

Publicity: Peg Bertelli

Quiz Master:

Tony Trimble

Book Raffle Masters

Roy Agnew/Charlotte Carmichael

HARDTACK Newsletter:

Bob Gottschalk

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

Alan T. Nolan Memorial Youth Scholarship Fund: The Executive Board of the Indianapolis Civil War Round Table has established this fund to provide membership dues, annual tour expenses or other worthwhile purpose for any full-time student of any age. Please see Tony Roscetti to donate to this fund.

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. If you are interested or want more info, call Chris Smith at 450-7430.

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

by Tony Trimble

1. Dr. James Salsbury invented a dish which improved the diets of Union soldiers. What was it?
2. On June 20, 1863, the President Lincoln issued a controversial proclamation. What was it?
3. If you were a soldier, where would you find mercury fulminate?
4. What is langrage?
5. On December 2, 1862, Lee and Burnside faced each other in a skirmish. Where was it?

Answers to the February Quiz:

1. *A unit of young, unmarried men.*
2. *Pea Ridge, Arkansas*
3. *Near Fayetteville, Arkansas*
4. *Chattanooga, Tennessee*
5. *A unit of Texas Rangers under the command of B.F. Terry.*

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This Month in Civil War Era History

March 2, 1861 - The Dakota & Nevada Territories were created by dividing the Nebraska & Utah territories.

March 3, 1862 - Major General John Pope began the siege of New Madrid, Missouri, on the Mississippi River.

March 25, 1863 - The First U.S. Medals of Honor were awarded by Secretary of War Edwin Stanton to six survivors of James Andrew's raid on the Western & Atlantic Railroad in April 1862.

March 9, 1864 - Ulysses S. Grant was promoted to Commanding General of the U.S. Army.

March 2, 1865 – Major General Phillip Sheridan destroyed what little remained of Jubal Early's Army of the Valley, ending any opposition in the Shenandoah Valley.

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2025 Civil War Institute Summer Conference • June 13 - 18, 2025

Join us for a very special CWI conference honoring the life and scholarship of CWI's late director, Dr. Peter S. Carmichael. Our line-up of over 45 distinguished speakers and tour guides, including Gary Gallagher, Kent Masterson Brown, Carol Reardon, Jennifer Murray, Caroline Janney, Aaron Sheehan-Dean, Joseph Glatthaar, and Scott Hartwig will explore some of the major topics that animated Pete's scholarly work, such as the culture of the common soldier, gender, politics, and honor in the Old South, doing Civil War history in public, Robert E. Lee in history and memory, and Indianans at Gettysburg.

Other topics include Gettysburg documents from the National Archives, the generalship and postwar life of James Longstreet, the Battle of Perryville, archaeological discoveries from Little Round Top, emancipation and early Reconstruction in the South, and more.

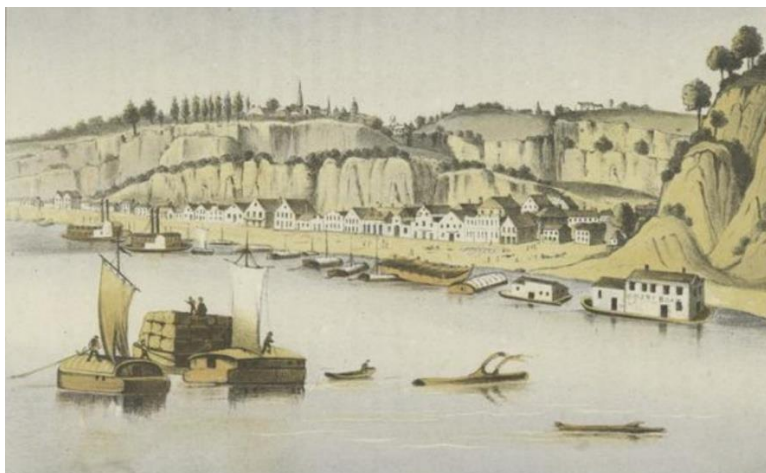


For more information, please go to: <https://www.gettysburg.edu/civil-war-institute/summer-conference/2025-cwi-conference>

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Yankee Sentiment in a Southern Town

John M. Taylor, February 14, 2025, blueandgrayeducation.org



In a May 15, 2023, article for the Mississippi Free Press, Virginia Sciolino wrote, “Union troops burned some southern cities, including Atlanta and Richmond, to destroy supplies and property that could benefit the Confederate Army. . . . However, Natchez was never burned.”

Like many 19th-century river trade towns, Natchez, Mississippi, was home to a diverse population. Often compared to the “Wild West,” the town’s residents ranged from devout Christians to hardened criminals and all points in between. The Natchez City Cemetery—once named the South’s most interesting cemetery by Turner South Network—reflects this diversity, with sections designated for Whites, Blacks, Jews, Catholics, Confederates, Unionists, and more. Over its long and complex history, Natchez was governed by the French, Spanish, English, and, eventually, Americans

As a thriving commercial hub, Natchez was not particularly dependent on state or federal support. As a result, enthusiasm for secession was lukewarm. Many wealthy slaveholders echoed Alexander Stephens’ belief that slavery was more secure within the Union than outside it.

In a 2004 article for *Prologue* titled “Not Quite Southern: The Precarious Allegiance of the Natchez Nabobs in the Sectional Crisis,” historian William K. Scarborough summarized: “The Natchez nabobs never quite became Southerners, and they elected to remain loyal to the land of their heritage when the long-smoldering sectional conflict erupted into open warfare in 1860s.”

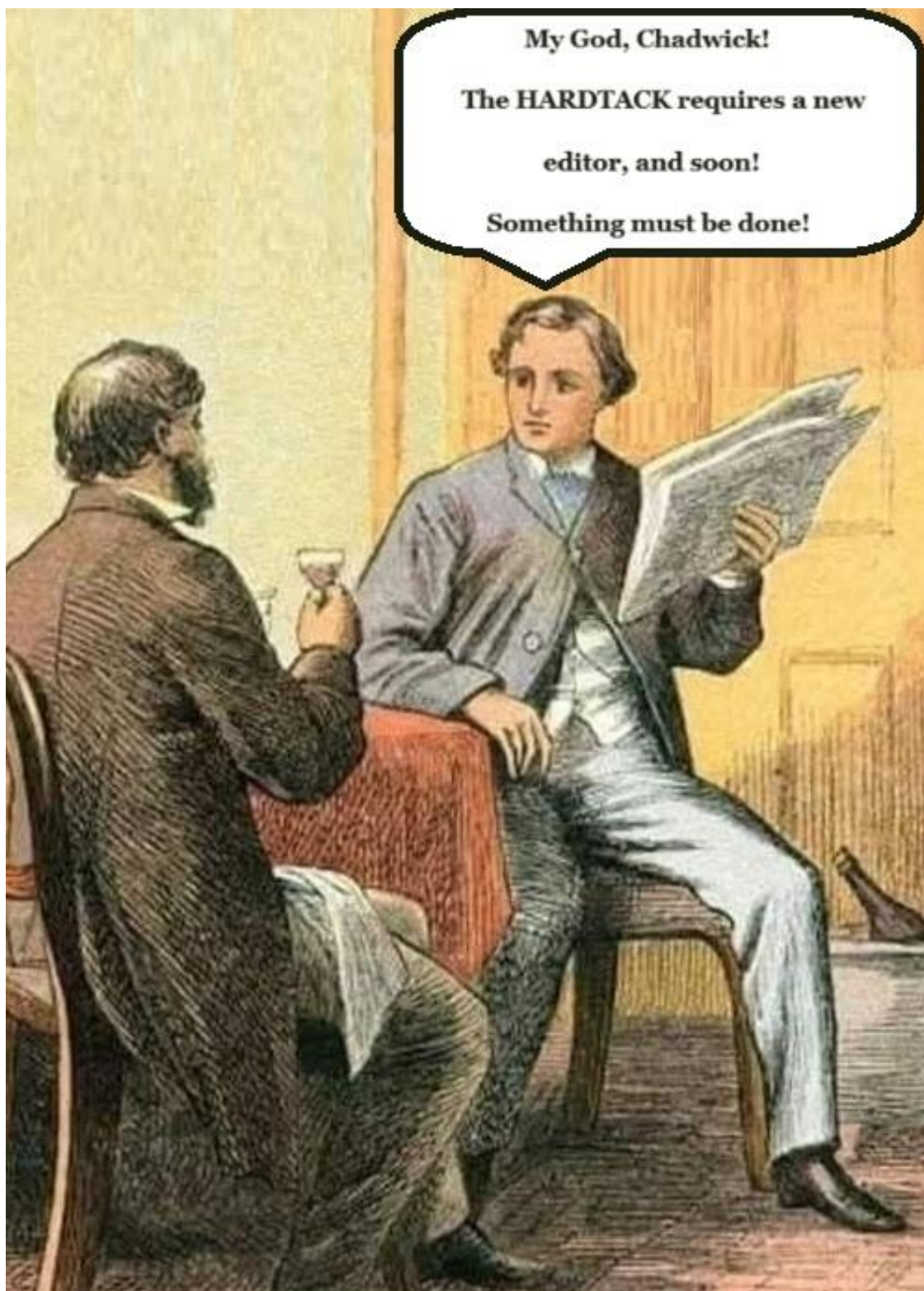
The National Park Service supports this view, stating, “For the most part, the wealthy Natchez planters did not support secession from the Union in 1861 . . . but their sons joined the Confederate Army nonetheless.” In addition, at the outset of the war, many Northern laborers who had been building plantations left immediately to return home, with some likely joining the Union Army.

Today, this divided allegiance is evident to the thousands of tourists who visit the area’s grand historic houses. Brandon Hall was owned by New Yorker William Bolling; Homewood Plantation belonged to Pennsylvanian John Hardeman; and Glenfield Plantation was owned by New Yorker William S. Balfour. In addition, slave ownership in Natchez was not limited to white Southerners—Blacks and Native Americans also owned enslaved people. For example, William Johnson, a mixed-race man known as “The Barber of Natchez,” owned at least fifteen slaves, and his contributions to the town remain a tourist attraction.

The Mississippi River divides Natchez, Mississippi, from Vidalia, Louisiana, with what is now known as Giles Island lying between them. This island was the site of the famous 1827 “Sandbar Fight,” which popularized the Bowie knife, the large blade used by Jim Bowie during the conflict. The region is steeped in history, and both sides of the river have capitalized on its past.

Unlike some other Southern cities, Natchez emerged from the Civil War relatively unscathed. Why? Perhaps because many of the area’s largest slaveholders were Northerners. Today, Natchez boasts one of the greatest collections of antebellum architecture in the country.

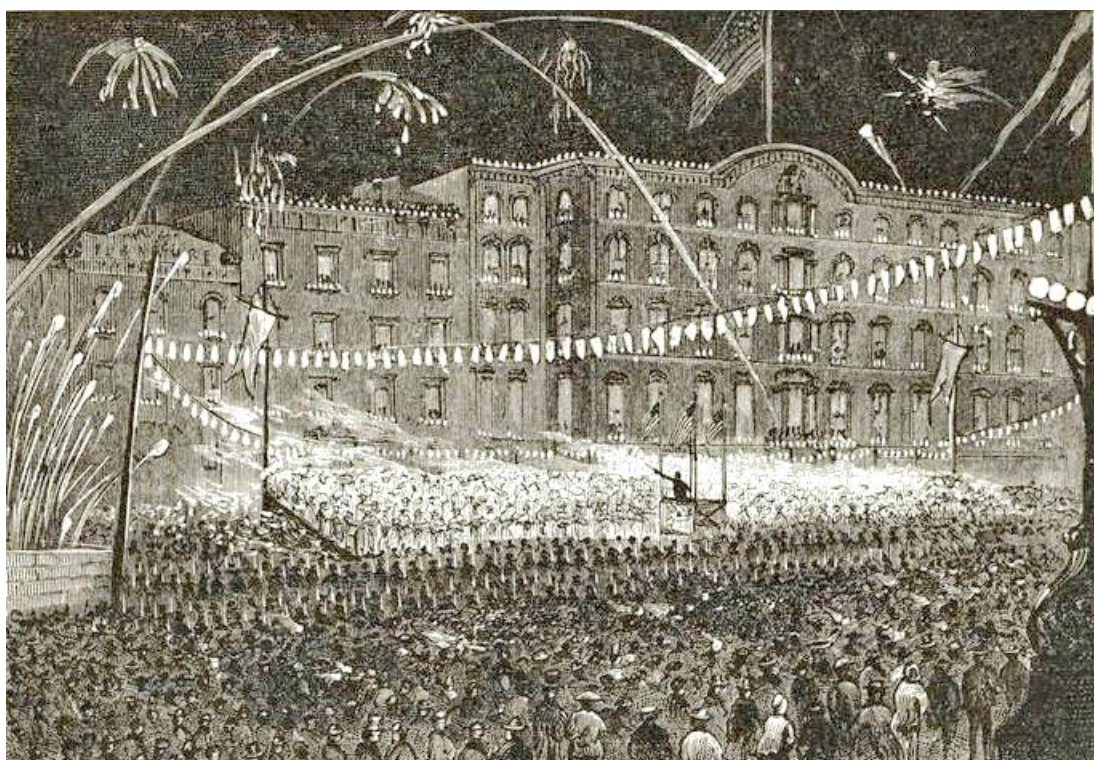
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Anyone interested? If so, please contact Bob Gottschalk at the next meeting or at flyingcircus2011@hotmail.com

The 70th Anniversary of the Indianapolis Civil War Round Table Dinner and Program

The Date: Monday, April 14, 2025
The Time: 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
The Location: Northside Events & Social Club, 2100 E. 71st Street,
Indianapolis, Dining Room.
Who: Members and Guests (spouses, significant others, friends)
Adult Beverages: Cash Bar
Purpose: Meet & Greet, Recognize and Celebrate our History, Look to the
Future
Program: Enjoy a Civil War Musical program presented by Steve and Lisa Ball.



If you have not received an invitation, text either Steve Magnusen at 847-525-6564, or David Finney at 517-404-1328.

The dinner will be held at Northside Events & Social Club, 2100 E. 71st Street, just west of Keystone.

The cost is only \$45 per person, so bring your spouse or guest. If you have not paid already, please do so as soon as possible. Checks should be made out to the Indianapolis Civil War Round Table and forwarded to Treasurer Peter Mohr.

Finally, the evening includes a musical program by Steve and Lisa Ball of Civil War Music. They have performed and been well received at many venues. Their very busy schedule can be viewed at this link: <https://steveballcivilwarmusic.com/schedule>

Once this land is gone, it's gone

This is not a drill!

Over two square miles of hallowed battlefield — where soldiers fought and fell — are on the verge of being wiped from existence.

The Prince William County Board of Virginia has approved a disastrous plan to build the world's largest data center campus just steps from these sacred grounds. If this project moves forward, the land where our nation's history was written will be buried under concrete, erased by bulldozers, and lost forever to unchecked development.

Despite overwhelming public opposition, decision-makers ignored the voices of preservationists and chose developers over history.

The fight isn't over. We're taking this battle to the Virginia Court of Appeals—but we can't win without you.

In the past two years, we've seen data center threats that would not only impact Manassas, but also Brandy Station, Deep Bottom, Glendale, North Anna and the Wilderness. And they're spreading, creeping into Maryland and Pennsylvania! Virtually any battlefield from Gettysburg to Petersburg might find itself in the crosshairs.

Every moment we wait, the threat grows. Once this land is gone, it's gone forever.



American Battlefield Trust
1156 15th Street NW, Suite 900
Washington, D.C. 20005