



HARDTACK



Indianapolis Civil War Round Table Newsletter

<http://indianapoliscwrt.org/>

Monday, November 11, 2024 at 6:45 p.m.
Meeting at MCL Cafeteria Township Line
2370 W. 86th Street

The Plan of the Day



CBS News

“Admiral David G. Farragut”

David Glasgow Farragut served in the United States Navy for 60 years, first seeing service in the War of 1812. Orphaned before he turned seven, he was adopted by Commodore David Porter, and received a midshipman’s commission before he turned 10. In addition to fighting pirates in the Caribbean and serving in the Mexican War, Farragut oversaw the construction of the Mare Island Navy Yard in California. Appointed to command the Gulf Blockading Squadron in 1862, he ran the Confederate forts on the lower Mississippi to capture New Orleans, and later ran the batteries at Vicksburg. He went on to see action at Port Hudson and gained lasting glory at Mobile Bay. In late December 1864, President Abraham Lincoln promoted Farragut to vice admiral, the senior ranking officer in the Navy.

Join **John Chalfin** to learn about the lengthy and legendary career of David Farragut.

Remainder of the 2024-2025 Campaign

December 9, 2024 - Dan Heitman - "August Willich"
 January 13, 2025 - YOU - Annual Show & Tell
 February 10, 2025 - Gerald Jones - "Northern Prison Life"
 March 10, 2025 - Carl Kramer - "Indiana Generals in the Civil War"
 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	Director of Membership: Roy Agnew

Committees:

Preservation: Andy O'Donnell	Website: Ed Pope	Publicity: Peg Bertelli
Program Selection: Chairman Steve Magnusen; Members: Bob Gottschalk, David Finney, & Tony Trimble		

Quiz Master:

Tony Trimble

Book Raffle Master

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

October Attendance: 75

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. A prominent Confederate staff officer shared his name with a well-known NFL quarterback. Who was he?
2. On December 20, 1864, Confederates evacuated a large southern city. Which one?
3. What was Cook & Brother?
4. What battle site was known as the "March of Death"?
5. What crops did Jefferson Davis discourage plantation owners from planting?

Answers for the October quiz:

1. *George Meade.*
2. *His Confederate force was defeated, and Zollicoffer himself was killed.*
3. *A meeting in March 1865 between Lincoln and a southern delegation to negotiate a possible peace.*
4. *A Union women's organization formed to boycott anything not made in the U.S.*
5. *The Emancipation Proclamation.*

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This Month in Civil War Era History

November 6, 1860 - Abraham Lincoln was elected president of the United States with 180 electoral votes, in spite of having received less than 40 percent of the popular vote.

November 6, 1861 - Jefferson Davis was elected 1st Confederate President, with a 6-year term.

November 4, 1862 - Richard J. Gatling patented his hand cranked machine gun in Indianapolis.

November 15, 1864 – General William Tecumseh Sherman's armies departed Atlanta, Georgia for his 36-day march to the sea.



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Indianapolis Civil War Round Table
Established 1955
Save the Date!

- The Date: Monday, April 14, 2025
 The Time: 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., or thereabouts
 The Event: **Celebrating the 70th Anniversary of the Indianapolis Civil War Round Table, Dinner and Program**
 The Location: Northside Events & Social Club, 2100 E. 71st Street, Indianapolis, Dining Room.
- The Price: Very Reasonable. To be determined.
 Adult Beverages: Cash Bar
 Extras: Be part of a special evening for the Round Table

Enjoy a Civil War Musical program presented by Steve and Lisa Ball
 (www.steveballcivilwarmusic.com)

Round dinner tables (very appropriate)

Convenient venue

Keepsakes for all (free)

Group Photo

Learn and Be a Part of Round Table History

Show off among invited guests

Be sure to **place it in your calendar.**

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A Moving Experience. A Historical Marker Dedication for an Exceptional Civil War Family.

By Steve Magnusen



Rufus and Mary Gates Dawes

On August 3rd I was privileged to participate in the dedication of a historical marker honoring Rufus and Mary Dawes in Marietta, Ohio. The marker has been placed in front of the home they shared for almost thirty years, at 508 Fourth Street. Here they raised six children. The four sons became prominent national business and political leaders. The two daughters preserved the remarkable family documents that inspired me to write and publish a book about Brevet Brigadier General Rufus Dawes of the Sixth Wisconsin Volunteers and the famed Iron Brigade, and the exceptional wartime sweetheart, bride, mother, grandmother – Mary Beman Gates Dawes. Rufus and Mary were both leading citizens of the historic Marietta community located on the Ohio River.

It was a great day! I highly recommend a visit and stay.

Many know that in the course of book research I happened to meet a great-great-granddaughter of Rufus and Mary in a serendipitous Marietta restaurant encounter. Barb Moberg and husband Jack have become close friends. Barb arranged a Dawes family reunion in Marietta to coincide with the marker dedication, and over forty family members from various locations attended. It was a treat to meet them. The ceremony was held at the historic First Congregational Church on Front Street, where pre-Civil War Rufus became infatuated with Mary while he was a student at Marietta College. Wonderful friends with the Mid-Ohio Valley Civil War Round Table, including master of ceremonies Mr. Leight Murray, organized the event. This is the MOV-CWRT's *sixth* historical marker sponsorship and installation! Perhaps an example of what our own CWRT should consider doing for any number of prominent Indianapolis Civil War figures.



Presentation of colors was performed by three members of the Milwaukee CWRT-Iron Brigade Association, several Sons of Union Veterans, and past Indy speaker Phil Spaugy, representing the 19th Indiana. All wore their period uniforms on a warm day in the un-airconditioned church! A family member and expert bagpipe player in Scottish dress escorted the colors. Scott Britton (past ICWRT Speaker) and I related the life stories of Rufus and Mary before Barb and several 3x-great grandchildren unveiled the two-sided marker. I had been honored to draft the verbiage, refined by edits from Scott and Barb.



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Jenny Thompson

Indianapolis Civil War Roundtable member and former HARDTACK editor Jenny Thompson passed away on October 30. Married for 44 years to roundtable member Jerry Thompson, she was the mother of Jeremy Thompson and Rose Loppe, and the grandmother of five. She attended Open Door Baptist Church, where she was married.



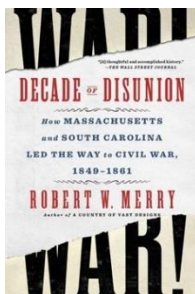
Conkle Funeral Homes.

Jenny received her B.A. from IN University in 2002 and an M.A. with honors in Civil War Studies in 2006. She was an adjunct professor at American Military University. In addition to the ICWRT, she was a member of the Indiana Historical Society, the Daughters of the American Revolution, and the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War. She was a published author and had written a four-volume study of the 8th Indiana Infantry Regiment. In addition to her interest in the Civil War, Jenny enjoyed crafts.

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Book Review

Decade of Disunion. Robert W. Merry. Simon & Schuster. 2024.
Reviewed by Chris Smith.



The staff at the Indiana Historical Society asked Tony Roscetti to review a new book, “Decade of Disunion” by Robert W. Merry. Since Tony is busy and still gainfully employed he asked me if I would do it. Here goes.

This book is one of the best analyses of how fire eaters from South Carolina and radical abolitionists from Massachusetts led the way to a horrific war that claimed the lives of over 750,000 Americans. Merry is a wonderful writer and his clear-headed descriptions of events like the publication of “Uncle Tom’s Cabin,” the caning of Charles Sumner on the floor of the Senate, John Brown’s ill conceived, homicidal actions at Osawatomie and Harpers Ferry served to inflame moderates in both the North and the South.

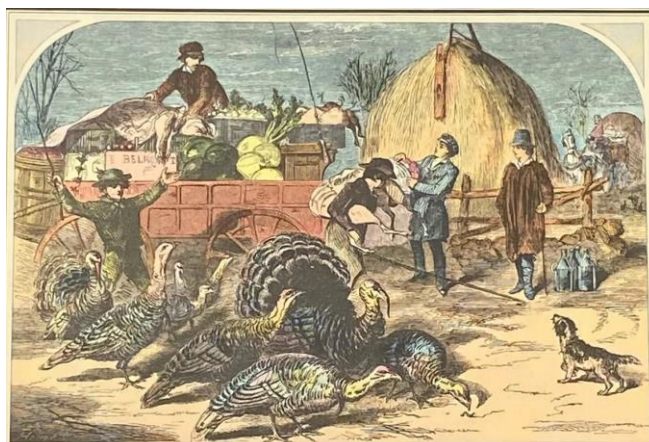
Those events also illuminated how differently each side viewed each other and themselves.

Merry explores the origins of South Carolina’s culture which, unlike any other state, it was settled by slave owners from Barbados, probably the most brutal slavocracy in the world. Massachusetts was settled by moralistic Puritans who reveled in controlling and reforming the actions of others whose behaviors they found reprehensible. It was a recipe for disaster.

Merry also emphasizes the enormity of the loss of Clay, Webster, and Calhoun in a short period of time, which deprived the country of essential leadership that had helped bind the country together for almost half of its existence.

This book is a must read for anyone who wants a better understanding of how the U.S. stumbled into the disaster we puckishly call the “Civil War.”

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RE-ENLIST NOW FOR THE 2024-2025 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 2024 thru June 2025

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 their name. _____

Indianapolis Civil War Round Table
1162 Thistlewood Way
Plainfield, IN 46168