

HARDTACK

A Publication of the Indianapolis Civil War Round Table – December 2003

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Quiz Master – Tony Trimble

December 8, 2003

Monday – 7:30 p.m. at the Indiana Historical Society – 450 W. Ohio St.

(Parking in lot north of the Society off New York St. – Please enter via Northeast Door)

Munfordville, The Forgotten Battle

Presented by Gerald Jones

In August 1862, Confederate Major General Edmond Kirby-Smith left Knoxville, Tennessee with 10,000 men in cooperation with General Braxton Bragg leaving Chattanooga, Tennessee with 30,000 men. These movements were part of a loose agreement to invade Kentucky. Bragg's forces approached the small town of Munfordville, Kentucky, which was the site of an important railroad bridge crossing the Green River. Munfordville lies sixty miles southwest of Cincinnati, Ohio and forty-five miles north of the Tennessee state line. Colonel John T. Wilder, with three Indiana regiments, protected the bridge at Munfordville. The defenses they manned consisted of Fort Craig and a long entrenchment ending in a log and earthen stockade. Confederate Brigadier General James Chalmers, in the lead element of Bragg's army, was looking at the glory of an easy victory over approximately 4,000 raw Union soldiers before moving on into Kentucky. Here, during September 14-17, 1862, a desperate battle was fought to hold Munfordville.

About the Speaker: Gerald Jones is a resident of Anderson, Indiana, and retired from General Motors after 34 ½ years. A graduate of Ball State University, he has been studying the Civil War since 1970. He is a long time member and past President of the Indianapolis Civil War Round Table. Gerald is an active member of the Ben Harrison Camp of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. He has been Chairman of the Madison County Historical Society Civil War Round Table since its inception in 1992. Gerald is married with three children.

Please bring a friend to hear this month's speaker.

Dinner At Shapiro's

**ALL MEMBERS AND GUESTS ARE INVITED TO SHAPIRO'S DELI AT 5:30 P.M.
TO ENJOY DINNER AND FELLOWSHIP PRIOR TO THE MEETING.**

From the Board

Hardtack Editor

Please send book reviews, interesting articles, etc. to place in the Hardtack to me at the following: **Debby Chestnut, 441 S. Catherwood Ave., Indianapolis, 46219; E-mail: chestnud@mail.ips.k12.in.us or dchad@indy.net. Phone: 356-5117 (home) or 226-4101 (work); FAX 226-3444.** The deadline for January Hardtack: **December 15.**

Treasurer

We still plan to deliver the Hardtack via e-mail for as many members as possible. Please make your e-mail address available to Dorothy Jones: joejones@iquest.net and Doug Wagner: dougwag@msn.com.

Civil War Quiz

By Tony Trimble

How many of these nicknames can you match with their owners? Merry Christmas!

1. “The Bengal Tiger”
2. “Irish Bridget”
3. “Old Allegheny”
4. “Old Straight” (2 names)
5. “Old Billy Fixin”

Answers to November Quiz: 1) Kernstown; 2) He gave the order to fire on Jackson; 3) Brices Crossroads; 4) William H. Seward; 5) Spotsylvania.

Book Review

The Battle Rages Higher: The Union's Fifteenth Kentucky Infantry by Kirk C. Jenkins – The University of Kentucky Press 2003 – 464 pages – Hardback.

This book tells, for the first time, the story of the Fifteenth Kentucky Infantry, a hard-fighting Union regiment raised largely from Louisville and the Knob Creek valley where Abraham Lincoln lived as a child. Although recruited in a slave state where Lincoln received only 0.9 percent of the 1860 presidential vote, the men of the Fifteenth Kentucky fought and died for the Union for over three years, participating in all the battles of the Atlanta campaign, as well as the battles of Perryville, Stones River and Chickamauga.

Using primary research, including soldiers' letters and diaries, hundreds of contemporary newspaper reports, official army records, and postwar memoirs, Kirk Jenkins vividly brings the Fifteenth Kentucky Infantry to life. The book also includes extensive biographical roster summarizing the service record of each soldier in the thousand-member unit.

Kirk C. Jenkins, a descendant of the Fifteenth Kentucky's Captain Smith Bayne, is a partner in a San Francisco law firm.

Carolyn Stuttle is wanting to sell a library of civil war books. She has around 130 Virginia regimental histories, signed by the author and numbered. The publisher is H.E. Howards and all are first editions. She also has a complete set of Millers photographic history of the civil war, all ten volumes; battles and leaders and too many more. She would like to sell the whole collection in one lot if possible. If anyone is interested, Carolyn can be contacted at e-mail address: cfstuttle@msn.com.

Girls! We Must Do Something!

During a lull in the Mississippi Campaign a young Confederate soldier decided to spend a night at the house of a local family with whom he had occasion in the past to spend some pleasant evenings, though whether it was because they laid a heavy table or because they had two charming young daughters cannot be determined. By chance, his habits had become known to the Yankees, for the family home lay within Federal lines, and on this night they decided to capture him. Not long after the lights in the house had gone out, a Union patrol began hammering on the front door, demanding entry. As the master of the house tried to stall the Bluecoats, his night gowned daughters rushed to the young man's bed to wake him. Alas, though he was up in an instant, there could be no escape, for the patrol was already rambling through the house, and there was neither a window nor a door, which would permit easy flight. Just ahead of the pushy Yankees the mistress of the house came rushing into the young man's room, shouting "Girls, we must do something—the Yankees are already in the passage!" Suddenly, even as the Yankees were opening the door, the two daughters of the South leaped into the bed, to lie one on each side of the young fellow, concealing him between them. Never was there such turmoil as when the Bluecoats entered the bedroom, for the young ladies screamed and carried on for their lost modesty, clutching the bed clothes close about them as the Yankees searched every corner of the room, peered into closets, and probed under the bed itself, but not once, not even for an instant, thinking to look in the bed. Finally, the search having proven fruitless, the Yankees left and the young man was safe.

INDIANAPOLIS CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE Program for 2003-2004 Campaign (Programs Co-Sponsored by the Col. Eli Lilly Civil War Museum)

<u>MEETING DATES</u>	<u>SPEAKER</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>
<i>Sept. 8, 2003</i>	<i>Greg Biggs</i>	<i>Nathan Bedford Forrest-Napoleonic Cavalrymen</i>
<i>Oct. 13, 2003</i>	<i>Steve Jackson</i>	<i>Memories of the Blue and Gray</i>
<i>Nov. 10, 2003</i>	<i>Patrick Falci</i>	<i>The Man in the Red Battle Shirt – Gen. A.P. Hill</i>
<i>*Dec. 8, 2003</i>	<i>Gerald Jones</i>	<i>Munfordville, The Forgotten Battle</i>
<i>Jan. 12, 2004</i>	<i>Nikki Schofield</i>	<i>The Perils of Spying: First Person Presentation by Belle Boyd</i>
<i>Feb. 9, 2004</i>	<i>Ken Knouf</i>	<i>Napoleon Collins and the Capture of the CSS Florida</i>
<i>Mar. 8, 2004</i>	<i>Marshall Brinkman</i>	<i>Civil War Telegraphy</i>
<i>Apr. 12, 2004</i>	<i>Richard McMurry</i>	<i>Two Great Rebel Armies</i>
<i>May 10, 2004</i>	<i>Jeff Johnston</i>	<i>Recovery and Restoration of the USS Monitor</i>
<i>Jun. 14, 2004</i>	<i>Lloyd Hunter</i>	<i>18th Indiana Infantry Regiment</i>

**Because of a conflict in travel arrangements, Jeff Johnston had to reschedule his speaking engagement until May.*

Christmas During the Civil War From the Diary of Robert Wagner of Key West, Florida

Dec. 25, 1861 (at Pinellas Point, today's St. Petersburg, as a member of Capt. Henry Mulrenan's Company of Florida Volunteer Coast Guard, the Key West Avengers)

"Took dinner with Mr. George Rickards and a splendid dinner it was. We spent a very agreeable day at his house and at night he had some of the best eggnog I ever drank."

Dec. 25, 1862 (at Tampa, as orderly sergeant of Co.K, 7th Florida Regiment, on parole following capture Sept. 2 near Boston, Ky.)

"Christmas Day and I was in bed all day from chills and fever. I ate nothing and as there is no liquor in the place of course I drank nothing. I have been sick ever since last date (Dec. 14) and I see no prospect of getting any better for I am in worse health than when I arrived here."

Dec. 25, 1863 (at Dalton, Ga., following action at Chickamauga)

"All the prisoners except the officers were armed with Colt's 5 shooting rifles. A bullet struck my knapsack at the right shoulder and came out at the left shoulder, making 23 holes in my blanket. Christmas day and a very dull one but I find a tolerable dinner. I had one drink of whiskey in the morning. There was some serenading last night but I took no part in it for I did not feel merry, as my thoughts were of home. We have been very busy building winter quarters since last date (Dec. 11) and they are now finished and quite comfortable."

Dec. 25, 1864 (at Charleston, S.C., following his transfer to the C.S. Navy, after firing the Ram Savannah in the Savannah River during that city's evacuation, and en route to Battery Buchanan at Fort Fisher)

"Christmas day. Turned out at 6 A.M., very cold. We were ordered to hold ourselves in readiness to leave at a moments warning. 20 men were sent to the Ram Charleston, all the balance except the Savannah's crew went to James Island. I went in a boat to carry a lot of officers and marines, head winds and tides, miserable old leaky boat, very slow. In coming back we were hailed by the Ram Chicora, went alongside and the officer in charge of the boat went aboard and remained there ½ hour and it was raining all the time. Our officer got in the boat and just as we shoved off he was ordered on board again for he did not have the countersign and they were not satisfied. He remained ½ hour longer when one of the officers came down with a lantern and looked at our faces. He knew one of the men that belonged to the Indian Chief so he was satisfied and let us go. Was hailed and brought to Castle Pickney and had the same trouble over again, finally started and got on board the Indian Chief At 10 P.M. tired and wet, put on my only suit of clothes and turned in. This ends Christmas day. The poorest I ever spent."

Following is the final verse of a poem *By The Christmas Hearth* published in the Christmas edition of Harper's Weekly and reflected the sentiment of many during the Civil War:



*Bring holly, rich with berries red,
And bring the sacred mistletoe;
Fill high each glass, and let hearts
With kindest feelings flow;
So sweet it seems at home once more
To sit with those we hold most dear,
And keep absence once again
To keep the Merry Christmas here*

Happy Holidays