

# HARDTACK

*A Publication of the Indianapolis Civil War Round Table – March 2004*

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President – Steven Hill

Vice President – Anthony Roscetti

Hardtack Editor – Debby Chestnut

Secretary – Dr. Betty Enloe

Treasurer – Doug Wagner

Distribution Managers – Dorothy Jones & Peg Bertelli

Quiz Master – Tony Trimble

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## March 8, 2004

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)**

## Civil War Telegraphy

*Presented by Marshall Brinkman*

Communication was needed from the very beginning to the last shot of the war. The Telegraphic Corps worked day and night to fulfill their jobs. North and South, how did they live through the war? We will hear about the young lads that worked for the War Department. They were not part of the military but civilians in the field of battle. The discussion will look at the telegraph from the ground up – including uniforms, equipment, and a personal touch – with a few stories and facts.

***About the Speaker:*** Marshall was born in Fort Wayne, Indiana in 1949, and currently resides just outside of that city, in Hoagland, Indiana. His interest in the Civil War started when he was just five years old when his parents went east on vacation and stopped at the Gettysburg battlefield. Marshall started to read and study everything on the war, but books were not enough. In 1975, he joined the 44<sup>th</sup> Indiana Volunteer Infantry Regiment re-enactment organization in northeast Indiana to find out how the common soldier lived and fought.

In 1977, wanting to learn even more from other Civil War sources, he joined the Fort Wayne Civil War Round Table and has served as an officer ever since. Marshall loves to share the history of the Civil War with others and enjoys going to schools and historical organizations all across the country. He professes that he can truly be called a Civil War-haulic.

**Please bring a friend to hear our 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: [dchad@indy.net](mailto:dchad@indy.net) or [chestnud@mail.ips.k12.in.us](mailto:chestnud@mail.ips.k12.in.us). Phone: 356-5117 (home) or 226-4101 (work); Fax: 226-3444.** Deadline for April Hardtack: **March 22.**

### 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 [ioejones@iquest.net](mailto:ioejones@iquest.net) and Doug Wagner [dougwag@msn.com](mailto:dougwag@msn.com).

### Preservation Committee

A newsletter was received from Gettysburg National Military Park thanking all of the volunteers who assisted the park during the fall program. Approximately 700 volunteers helped the park maintain its resources, donating 2,409 hours of time in maintaining monument sites, leaf removal, litter pick up, debris and brush removal, and the clearing of fence lines and stone walls. The Adopt A Position has 228 groups (over 1,000 volunteers) who have adopted over 350 sites within the park.

The GNMP has developed a five-year plan to return the park's landscape to the historic scene of the 1863 battle era. Some areas will be cleared or partially cleared, while others are allowed to return to wooded landscape. This means that some positions that are part of the AAP program may require different work to be performed in the future. Additionally, the park will be adding historic fencing and removing non-historic fencing as part of the return of the battlefield of 1863.

**ICWRT Note:** Our round table volunteers who have participated in the AAP Program over the last two years have transformed the tract around the 27<sup>th</sup> Indiana Volunteer Infantry monuments by:

- cleaning out dead wood and cut out saplings, vines and brush at Spangler Spring so that the branch flushes out its watercourse from the road to Rock Creek.
- cleaning out brush along the bank of Rock Creek
- clearing out a 10' swath on both sides of a Civil War era rock wall paralleling Rock Creek.

After our work detail this last November we decided that our work over the last two years has put the site in a "maintenance" status, requiring only one trip per year. Our next work detail will be **Remembrance Day in November, 2004.**

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## Upcoming Events

- ❖ **March 18** - Plainfield-Guilford Township Public Library – 1120 Stafford Road – 7:00 p.m. Registration required. Call 839-6602, ext. 115. – Topic: **Battle Flags of the Civil War** – presented by Steve Hill of the Indiana World War Memorial. US Army regulations called for each regiment to carry two flags, the national flag, and a regimental flag. Steve will show pictures of some of central Indiana's regimental flags and discuss their history.

## 99<sup>th</sup> Indiana Inquiry

Ms. Rose Overstreet Stein emailed the ICWRT through our website asking whether any of our members might have information about the 99<sup>th</sup> Indiana or could suggest sources of information about the regiment. She has the regimental history by Lucas and has visited the State Archives and the Historical Society. Some of her questions are: 1) whether there are artifacts relating to the regiment; 2) information on where Camp Joe Reynolds was located and for whom the camp was named. If you have any information for Ms. Stein, you can write her at: 1854 Leonard NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504 or email at [rosieostein@comcast.net](mailto:rosieostein@comcast.net)

# Civil War Quiz

By Tony Trimble

1. By what name did General A.J. Smith refer to his troops as a result of their frequent reassignment to so many different regions?
2. Why was Hamilton R. Gamble elected by a convention to be governor of Missouri?
3. Name the Georgia West Point graduate who served as Robert E. Lee's Chief of Staff.
4. What was "winged shot"?
5. Where was Prairie Dog Village?

**Answers to February Quiz:** 1) Lewis B. Parsons; 2) Horse theft & pillaging; 3) Greyhound Division or Walker's Greyhounds; 4) Audie Murphy in Red Badge of Courage; 5) Jackass Regiment

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## Recollections of a Private's War Experiences and Homecoming

*Wars are fought and victories won,  
by the private soldier who shoots the gun,  
When war is over and history's writ,  
the private soldier's not in it.*

*By H. Clay Sharkey*

H. Clay Sharkey, 3<sup>rd</sup> Mississippi Co. C, and 5<sup>th</sup> Alabama Cavalry, Co. D, tells how he manages to transfer from the infantry to cavalry, then, during Wilson's Raid of Alabama, he escapes possible capture at the battle of Selma by a quick trade of horses. Clay Sharkey was in the hospital when General Hood attacked the Federals outside Alabama as they crossed Peach Tree Creek. Clay Sharkey's regiment, as well as several other Mississippi regiments, was decimated in the fierce battle. Casualties included two of Clay's brothers.

"When I came home from the War I had not heard from my mother in five months, nor had she heard from me in that time. You know by December 1864 most of Mississippi was occupied by Federal troops. All Confederate troops had been moved out and no mail came to us in Alabama, nor went from us to our home state.

While I belonged to Company C, 3<sup>rd</sup> Mississippi, I had been sent to the 5<sup>th</sup> Alabama Cavalry regiment where I lost my name; they called me "Old Missip."

I had been in the hospital at Iuka when the order came that all those in the hospital who could afford a mount would be detailed to the Cavalry. I was in better health than I had been for some time but my feet had been so frost-bitten that I couldn't walk; neither could I wear shoes, but you did not need shoes in the Confederate Cavalry at the time.

I had the money, and I bought a horse, such as it was, from the mother of the man who waited in the hospital. I paid \$1200 for a two and a half-year-old colt. He was very poor and I had neither bridle nor saddle. A farmer gave me some old bits, and he said that another farmer, whom he had named, made his own ropes. I went to him for a rope and he put his girls and wife to work; the old lady spun the cotton and the girls strung the

threads. The farmer had fixed a board and box by which he manipulated the threads somehow, and made a good rope. I tied my blanket and haversack on the horse and was equipped for the Cavalry! It was then that I was placed in Company D, 5<sup>th</sup> Alabama Cavalry, Captain Brown's Company.

This is the way I lost my horse and got another to ride home. Our company was detailed to follow Wilson's Raid and the Captain was instructed to send a man every day to report which way Wilson was going. Just a day or two before the surrender I was sent with dispatches and came near being in the battle of Selma. I went by old Elyton, now a part of Birmingham. There I was arrested because the Home Guard didn't understand that the dispatches that I carried amounted to a pass. (Evidently he was released)

I started back the way I had come and soon I heard firing in my rear and realized that our troops were retreating. I came to slough through which I had safely come on my way to Selma, but troops had passed through it since until it was awful. They had thrown blankets and all sorts of things in it. My horse went down and we both went under. I came up covered with slime and mud and made my way to shore, but the horse went back to the opposite shore. The Federals were too close for me to think of attempting to go back for him. A Confederate lieutenant colonel rode into the slough about that time and down he went. His horse came out on my side but the Colonel was too far from that side to get through, so I guess he was captured. Anyway, my horse was on his side and his horse was on my side, and the slough between us, so I thought it a fair exchange and rode his horse on back to my command. That was the horse I rode home after the surrender. I surrendered with Company D at Danville, Alabama, on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of May, 1865, and started for home, reaching there on June 4<sup>th</sup>.

Well, no words can picture that "homecoming" of a boy to a mother who had lost in the war three sons, Captain J.W. Sharkey, Lieutenant McM. and Ed Sharkey in battle, and who had not known in five months whether the remaining one might have suffered a like fate. Ah, my mother was a wonderful woman and a loyal Confederate. "

## **INDIANAPOLIS CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE CAMPAIGN 2003-2004**

(Programs Co-Sponsored by the Col. Eli Lilly Civil War Museum)

<u>MEETING DATE</u>	<u>PRESENTOR</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>
Sept. 8, 2003	Greg Briggs	N.B. Forrest and Napoleonic Cavalry Tactes
Oct. 13, 2003	Steve Jackson	My Boys in Blue
Nov. 10, 2003	Patrick Field	A.P. Hill, A First Person Presentation
Dec. 8, 2003	Gerald Jones	Munfordville, The Forgotten Battle
Jan. 12, 2004	Nikki Schofield	The Perils of Spying by Belle Boyd
Feb. 9, 2004	Ken Knouf	Napoleon Collins
Mar. 8, 2004	Marshall Brinkman	Civil War Telegraphy
Apr. 12, 2004	Richard McMurry	Two Great Rebel Armies
May 10, 2004	Jeff Johnston	Recovery and Restoration of the USS Monitor
Jun. 14, 2004	Lloyd Hunter	18 <sup>th</sup> Indiana Infantry Regiment

