

HARDTACK

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

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Quiz Master – Tony Trimble

November 10, 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)

The Man in the Red Battle Shirt:

The Life of General A. P. Hill

Presented by Patrick Falci

Confederate General A. P. Hill was a fiery commander widely known for wearing his signature red battle shirt and time and again arriving on the battlefield at a critical moment to preserve victory or stem the tide of defeat. But there is so much more to know about this legendary soldier. With a keen perspective, we will learn of his life before the war, his rise in command during the war, his often-stormy relationship with Stonewall Jackson, and his unfortunate demise shortly before Lee's surrender. There is no better way to get to know this historic figure than to hear of his life from the General himself.

About the Presenter: Actor Patrick Falci is closely associated with one of the finest Civil War movies ever made. In addition to portraying General Hill in the movie *Gettysburg*, Patrick served as director / screenwriter Ronald Maxwell's historical advisor. During filming, he assisted Mr. Maxwell, provided photographs and research for the actors and casting director, and aided the music supervisor. Patrick was also the historical coordinator for Maxwell's latest release, *Gods and Generals*, including scouting locations, leading battlefield tours, and providing critical character research. Patrick provided historical advice and research to Jeff Shaara for the books *Gods and Generals* and *The Last Full Measure*, and assisted author John Jakes with his book, *On Secret Service*. He has traveled across the country to give presentations on a wide variety of Civil War subjects. Among the many honors bestowed on Patrick are the CWRT-NY Distinguished Service Award, Ft. A. P. Hill Commander's Award for Excellence, U.S. Army M.D. of Washington, DC Commanding General's Award, U.D.C. Jefferson Davis Historical Gold Medal, S.U.V. Commander's Award for Excellence, and the North Carolina Old North State Award. Patrick currently resides in New York with his wife, Joan.

Please bring a friend to hear this entertaining 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 or chestnud@mail.ips.k12.in.us. Phone: 356-5117 (home) or 226-4101 (work); Fax: 226-3444. Deadline for December Hardtack: November 21.**

Treasurer

Remember your enlistment for the 2003-2004 Campaign. Please mail your dues to Doug Wagner at 5245 Kathcart Way, Indianapolis, IN 46254. 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

1. In the Valley Campaign, Jackson won 5 consecutive battles. Which one did he lose?
2. Brig. Gen. John Berry died at age 27 after his health was destroyed by stress and depression. What caused him to feel this way?
3. Name the battle that featured the crushing defeat of Benjamin Grierson at the hands of Nathan Bedford Forrest.
4. To whom is the phrase "irrepressible conflict" generally attributed?
5. Where was the "Mule Shoe"?

Answers to October Quiz: 1) Col. Charles W. Adams; Helen Keller; 2) Thomas J. Jackson ; 3) Allotment of forty cartridges issued before battle; 4) 20 captured by CSA cavalry while attending church in Rodney, Miss.; 5) William N. Pendleton; Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

Congratulations to Ray Shortridge

Ray has won the Thornbrough Award for the best article featured in the Indiana Magazine of History for 2003. Ray's article on "The Indiana Bonds' Fraud, 1861-1862" appeared in the March 2003 issue. Based on wide research in archival records, printed primary sources, and secondary interpretive works, the article was a remarkable piece of investigative research. It charts the investigation by the New York Stock Exchange, and prosecution by the New York County district attorney, of the Indiana State stock frauds perpetrated by Samuel Hallett and Daniel C. Stover. The article places the scandal in the context of finance and politics during the Civil War.

The Thornbrough Award, established in memory of the sisters Gayle Thornbrough, former executive secretary of the Indiana Historical Society, and Emma Lou Thornbrough, former professor of history at Butler University, and supported by a gift from the late Allen W. Clowes, is an annual prize of \$1,000.

Dawn E. Bakken, associate editor of the Indiana Magazine of History, will present the Thornbrough Award at the Indiana Historical Society's annual meeting, which starts at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 8.

Elizabeth Van Lew

written by Molly Nash

On a tombstone for Elizabeth Van Lew in Richmond's Shockoe Cemetery, the inscription reads:

"She risked everything that is dear to man -- friends, fortune, comfort, health, life itself all for the one absorbing desire of her heart -- that slavery might be abolished and the Union preserved."

Crazy Bet, as she was known to her Richmond, Virginia neighbors, was the centerpiece of the Richmond Underground, a group of Union sympathizers who managed to accomplish much for the Union cause in the Confederate Capital...

Born October 12, 1818, in Richmond, the daughter of a New York businessman, John Van Lew, and granddaughter of Hilary Baker, a mayor of Philadelphia, The Van Lews settled in Richmond after a business failure in New York. The hardware store he built in Richmond was quite successful and the Van Lews became part of the city's society and merchant class. Elizabeth, who was educated in Philadelphia, expressed her contempt for slavery, "Slave power is arrogant, is jealous and intrusive, is cruel, is despotic. John Van Lew owned a dozen slaves who were freed upon his death shortly before the war began. Those slaves, honorably treated, remained loyal to the Van Lew women and several of them were part of the successful espionage operation in Richmond throughout the war.

At the outset of the war, Bet remembered an old family story about her father's Aunt Letitia who was then resident in New York City during the Revolutionary War. When the British occupied that city and Continental soldiers were being brought into prisons, Letitia asked for and was granted permission to care for the wounded men of Washington's army. Bet and her mother determined to care for the Union soldiers now being brought to Richmond after the Battle of Big Bethel in June 1861. Bet applied to Colonel Henry Winder for permission to visit and provide food and medicines. Not only did she bring baskets of food, medicine and books to the Union prisoners, she left with valuable information on Confederate troop strengths, dispositions and camp gossip. Tapping this source, she managed to cloak her visits as charitable in part because she was already known around Richmond as extremely eccentric, hence the nickname "Crazy Bet." When a Union sergeant gave her facts and figures she, incredibly, sent that first information to General Sharpe by regular mail!

After she was warned about the dangers of the mail, she organized a network of agents and devised a code. Aware that her neighbors watched her with suspicion, she affected a bizarre behavior that encouraged others to truly think her crazy. She kept gossips busy discussing the fact that she was preparing her guest room for General George McClellan for his successful capture of the city.

Among the most audacious acts was her recruitment of Mary Elizabeth Bowser, one of the Van Lew freed Negroes who had moved to Philadelphia. Bet implored Bowser to return to Richmond and seek employment at the Confederate White House. With Bowser within the President's residence and a cadre of couriers, the Richmond Underground was very successful; Bet managed her spy ring with such efficiency, we do not know the names of most of her agents. We know that her couriers frequently transported coded messages inside emptied eggshells and within vegetables and fruits carried into and out of Richmond by her family servants.

Grateful for her services during the war, U. S. Grant appointed Bet as Postmistress of Richmond for eight years. She died at the age of 81 on September 25, 1900. Her sentimental tombstone was the gift of the people of Massachusetts.

27th Indiana Volunteer Infantry Fall Work Detail

A reminder that the fall work detail is scheduled for Saturday, November 15. This weekend is also Remembrance Weekend at Gettysburg and will commemorate President Abraham Lincoln delivering his Gettysburg Address. The work detail is scheduled for Saturday morning, providing ample time to clean up and enjoy the afternoon's festivities. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Ray Shortridge at 634-7546 x119 or email at rayshortridge@netscape.net for more detailed information.

Looking for Information

My great-grandfather, J.J. Traub, was the flugelmeister for the 15th Indiana Light Artillery Battery. There is a two volume regimental history entitled "The Dark Days of the Civil War" written by Frederick Fout, the Medal of Honor winner who was with the battery. I have both volumes, but unfortunately the second volume is in old script German. To anyone's knowledge, has anyone translated this volume? Are there any other histories of the regiment available? Thanks for your help.

If anyone in the ICWRT can provide information, please contact: **John A. Busch, Michael Best & Friedrich, LLP, 100 East Wisconsin Ave., Suite 3300, Milwaukee, WI, 53202. Phone: 414-271-6560, or e-mail at jabusch@mbf-law.com**

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 |
| Tactics | | |
| Oct. 13, 2003 | Steve Jackson | My Boys in Blue |
| Nov. 10, 2003 | Patrick Falci | A.P. Hill, A First Person Presentation |
| Dec. 8, 2003 | Jeff Johnson | Recovery and Restoration of the USS Monitor |
| Jan. 12, 2004 | Nikki Schofield | The Perils of Spying by Belle Boyd |
| Feb. 9, 2004 | Ken Knouf | Napoleon Collins |
| Mar. 8, 2004 | To Be Announced | |
| Apr. 12, 2004 | Richard McMurry | Two Great Rebel Armies |
| May 10, 2004 | To Be Announced | |
| Jun. 14, 2004 | Lloyd Hunter | 18 th Indiana Infantry Regiment |

*"For Our Tomorrow,
They Gave Their Today"*

Remember our Veterans on November 11th