

HARDTACK

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

President – Steven Hill
Vice President – Anthony Roscetti

Secretary – Dr. Betty Enloe
Treasurer – Doug Wagner

Hardtack Editor – Debby Chestnut

Distribution Managers – Dorothy Jones & Peg Bertelli

Quiz Master – Tony Trimble

October 13, 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)

Memories of the Blue and Gray

Presented by Steve Jackson

Steve's program examines the lives of his family members who wore both blue and gray during the Civil War. He will share with us what he has discovered about their experiences, and how those findings help us see the war and its aftermath through their eyes. "Memories" will present some fascinating stories and facts about the Civil War that his research has uncovered. The large number of family member participants has produced a cornucopia of wonderful stories and tales. The presentation will feature five family members, who will be presented in first person. They will share memories with us, which will provide a truly unique look at the Civil War. Highlighted by photographs taken during the war, as well as more recent depictions, this program promises to be both informative and entertaining.

About the Speaker: A graduate of Anderson High School and Indiana University, Steve is an active member in several Civil War groups. He is a founding member of the Madison County Civil War Round Table and a member of the Indianapolis Civil War Round Table, where he served as President during the 2000-2001 campaign. He has served the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War as both Camp Commander and Indiana Department Commander. He also belongs to the Sons of Colonial New England, Sons of the American Revolution, the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States and the Madison County Historical Society, in which he has served as President. A lifetime resident of Anderson, he is retired from the Guide Lamp Division, General Motors Corporation, after thirty-eight and one-half years of service.

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 or chestnud@mail.ips.k12.in.us. Phone: 356-5117 (home) or 226-4101 (work):Fax: 226-3444. Deadline for November Hardtack: October 27.**

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. Name General Hindman's Chief of Staff who was cited for "conspicuous courage" at Missionary Ridge. Who was his famous granddaughter?
2. Only six people are enshrined in the military category at the Hall of Fame of Great Americans. Of the six, only one died in combat. Name him.
3. To a Federal soldier, what were "forty dead men?"
4. What unusual fate befell the crew of the U.S.S. Rattler in 1863?
5. Name the Episcopal priest who gave Biblical names to his cannon. What were the names?

Answers to September Quiz: 1) Father-in-law was Gen. Samuel Cooper; 2) Garibaldi Guard: Both were court-martialed for misuse of government property; 3) Led an African expedition that ended with, "Dr. Livingstone, I presume?"; 4) Braxton Bragg; 5) George B. McClellan.

Crown Hill Cemetery Tour

By Nikki Schofield

On Saturday, October 25, I will lead a tour of the Civil War burials at Crown Hill Cemetery from 10:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Enter the cemetery at the 34th Street entrance, off Boulevard Place, which is on the east side of the cemetery. Go past the Administration Office on the right (where you could stop and get a free map) and the fountain where three roads converge. Drive up the hill in front of you to the Gothic Chapel, in front of the National Cemetery with the flagpole. We will meet beside the Gothic Chapel. However, we have been asked not to park in front of the chapel. Use one of the side roads. Bug spray and a bottle of water are good to bring. If you have questions, call me at 328-8782. I will be out of town from October 6-14, but have an answering machine.

Sutlers: An Integral Part of the Civil War

Sutlers were looked upon as a necessary evil by both Union and Confederate troops. The sutler was a camp follower civilian selling goods at high prices set by a committee of military unit officers, and who was doing so because he received a special appointment from the government, a governor or the brigade commander on the recommendation of the brigade's commissioned officers.

Sutlers sold all types of goods not provided by the government and some that were provided but never arrived on time. They had few competitors because peddlers were not allowed in camp. In a town, a commander may ban a sutler, allowing men to purchase from town's people. In many cases, the men bought from the sutler or went without. But they weren't always satisfied. They claimed prices were too high, weights short, and inferior goods.

Military rule did not allow a sutler to carry a soldier's debt to more than a third of the soldier's monthly pay, and the sutler got his money before the soldier—paid directly from the paymaster. That is why sutlers always showed up on payday, but were noticeably absent when goods were short or their customers had used up their credit. In addition, the sutlers were taxed by their unit, usually a percentage of their total month's business. This money went into special funds like the band, education of children born to members of the regiment, or to stock the regimental library. It also bought fruits and vegetables and special items for wounded members of the unit who were hospitalized.

When the troops were really upset, they would raid the sutler's tent with no interference by superior officers. In the main, sutlers were regarded as holding a semi-official position in their regiments and were subject to orders. The armies also moved their goods in government wagons, which didn't please commanders who needed the wagons and horses. When the action got hot, the army also had the responsibility of moving the sutlers to the rear.

One sutler of the 1st New York Cavalry had been commissioned by the governor and thought himself a commissioned officer, so dressed like a field officer minus the shoulder straps. One day on the road he met Gen. Phil Kearny, who was a stickler for officers dressing perfectly. He inquired of the sutler about missing shoulder straps, demanding to know his rank and regiment. The sutler explained that he was the sutler. As Kearny's order reported, "Kearny fairly frothed at the mouth, and the atmosphere almost turned blue as the general shot out vocabulary of oaths newly coined for the occasion. He dismounted the sutler in knee-deep mud and made him walk back to the camp under the threat of putting a ball and chain on his leg." The next morning the sutler was missing and never returned from New York until he heard of Kearny's death at Chantilly.

Much of the army food was wormy and rotten and many soldiers threw away their rations and went to the 1860's version of the fast-food restaurant—the sutler. Whereupon, according to one regimental surgeon, they would eat "villainous" pies fried in condemned lard a week before, resulting in camp diarrhea, dysentery and "all their concomitant evils."

Confederate units had their sutlers, but they were few and far between because the Confederacy suffered from an almost complete lack of items considered as sutler supplies during the war. Most goods for the Confederacy, civilian and military, were brought in by blockade-runners.

In Halltown, VA, a sutler sold cat and dog meat pies at 25 cents an ounce. A captain of the 137th Illinois described a sutler's inventory: "Effete cigars—bunch of grass filling wrapped in genuine Havana onion leaves at Weathersfield, Conn; rancid sardines, plug tobacco in advanced state of ossification; misfit imitations of standard monarchical beverages; wrinkled pocket mirrors, spoiled ink, spongy paper, eyeless needles, pointless pins, bologna sausages of the conglomerate era, petrified."

And yet, every soldier became accustomed to answering two basic questions....where his regiment was camped and where the sutler had set up his hut or tent.

Volunteers Needed

We need an editor for the publish-on-demand 50th anniversary of the Indianapolis Civil War Round Table. You will need a computer, to compile the information contributed by the committee members, and then to forward it to the publisher.

We also need co-chairmen for the Mid-West Civil War Conference scheduled for Indianapolis in May 2005. The program must be planned in time to advertise it at the Mid-West Conference in Detroit in May 2004.

Contact Nikki Schofield at 328-8782 if you are interested in serving any of these positions.

More Civil War Humor

Soldiers in both armies sometimes went to extraordinary lengths to get sent home. Here is an amusing one passed on to us by Col. Thomas Van Buren:

The boys set up camp one night opposite Arlington Heights in Virginia. After a heavy night of rain, the men began to stir – boiling coffee, making breakfast and such. One fellow, however, tied a string to his bayonet and began fishing in a shallow pool formed by the rain. Hours and hours the man sat there, methodically lowering the string into the pool, lifting it up occasionally as if expecting a fish to be at the end. It soon became obvious to those who looked at the man that he was crazy. The boys began to tease and jeer at the poor fellow, but nothing distracted him from his rhythmic raising and lowering of his stringed-tied rifle into the pool. Finally, a captain took note and demanded, “What are you doing there?” The fellow said nothing, just kept dipping and raising his string.

Soldiers, of course, are trained to respond to commands without thinking, so the officer shouted, “Shoulder, Arms!” The fisherman stared blankly at the string, lowering it again and again into the water. The captain thought the matter should be raised to the colonel and went off to report the strange fishing soldier. The captain, with the colonel accompanying, soon returned and spent several moments investigating the fisherman. The colonel decided to refer the matter to the surgeon – who came and examined the fisherman’s incessant raising and lowering of his gun. The surgeon finally declared that the man had cracked and recommended to the colonel that the man be given his discharge from the army. The colonel agreed and wrote the order and gave it to the captain. Before the captain gave the paper to the fisherman, the colonel asked: “What are you fishing for?” No reply, up and down went the gun.

“Well, I guess you can give him the document,” continued the colonel. The captain handed the paper over to the fisherman, saying loudly: “Here! Take this!”

“That’s what I was fishing for,” yelled the fisherman as he threw down his gun, stuffed the discharge into his pocket, and immediately left camp!

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