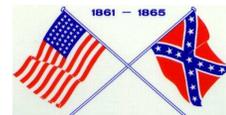


HARDTACK

Indianapolis Civil War Round Table Newsletter

<http://indianapoliswrt.org/>



January 14, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.

Meeting at Indiana History Center

The Plan of the Day

Civil War Burial at Crown Hill Cemetery



The Civil War was still being fought when Crown Hill opened its gates on June 1, 1864. In fact, the sheer volume of Civil War dead had been one of the factors that had led to its opening. The existing city cemetery, Greenlawn, among its other deficiencies, was running out of room. By 1866, 707 Union dead had been moved from the old cemetery and re-interred in Crown Hill's new national cemetery. By the time of the passing of the last veteran many years later, many thousands of individuals whose lives had been touched by the war, several thousand of those who had died as a result of it, and over a hundred who rose to some level of prominence during its course, including seventeen generals, were buried there.

At its dedication ceremony in 1864, Albert S. White, judge and former U.S. Congressman from Lafayette, made repeated references to the war, which was then dividing the nation. "Surely one day," he stated, "citizens will come to Crown Hill to visit the burial sites of those gallant heroes fighting to bind the nation's wounds." The many who come to Crown Hill's tours about Civil War figures prove he was right.

Our Guest Speaker

Tom Davis

Tom Davis has developed twenty different tours for Crown Hill Cemetery, including two on Civil War themes. The cemetery's tours program has twice been named "Best Indy Walking Tours" by Indianapolis Monthly and have been featured in local, regional, and national media. His talk will highlight the Civil War's influence on the founding and early years of the cemetery and provide glimpses into a sampling of the

many thousands buried there whose lives were either greatly influenced by or brought to an end by it.

Tom is a CPA with a B.A. in English from Indiana State University (magna cum laude) and a B.S. in Accounting from Indiana University.

Roster of Officers and Committees for the 2007-2008 Campaign

Officers:

President: Dave Sutherland

Secretary: Frank Bynum

Vice President: Nikki Schofield

Treasurer: Peg Bertelli

Committee Chairs:

Programs: Nikki Schofield

Preservation: Andy O'Donnell

Website: Paul Watson

Publicity: Dave Buchanan & Tony Roscetti

Quiz Master:

Tony Trimble

Summer Campaign:

Nikki Schofield

HARDTACK Newsletter:

Editor: Jenny Thompson

2007-2008 Campaign Plans

Unless otherwise noted, we meet at the Indiana History Center, 450 West Ohio Street.

Feb. 11, 2008	Galvanized Yankees, the U.S. Volunteers	Jim Goecker
March 10, 2008	Union Cavalry at the Battle of Shelbyville	Greg Biggs
April 14, 2008	Spring Hill Affair & the Battle of Franklin	Eric Jacobson
May 12, 2008	"William C. Oates in War and Peace"	Glenn LaFantasie
June 9, 2008*	<i>Topic to be Announced</i>	Peter Carmichael

* meeting at Primo Banquet & Conference Center, 5649 Lee Road

JOIN US BEFORE THE MEETING AT SHAPIRO'S DELI!

All ICWRT members and guests are invited to join us at 5:30 P.M. at Shapiro's Delicatessen, 808 S. Meridian St. (just south of McCarty Street) before the meeting to enjoy dinner and fellowship.

Other Camp Activities

BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION

***** Response from Steve Buyer to David Sutherland:

"Thank you for contacting me regarding H.R. 2933, the Civil War Battlefield Preservation Act of 2007. I appreciate hearing from you.

H.R. 2933 was introduced by Representative Gary Miller on June 28, 2007. The bill would amend the American Battlefield Protection Act of 1996 to extend the American Battlefield Protection Program until September 30, 2013. The legislation is

currently being reviewed by the House Committee on Natural Resources. No hearings have been held.

I will recall your views should this matter come to the floor for a vote. Please do not hesitate to contact me again in the future.”

***** Response from Mike Pence to David Sutherland:

“Thank you for contacting me regarding H.R.2933, “Civil War Battlefield Preservation Act of 2007.” It was a pleasure to hear from you.

Representative Gary Miller introduced this bill on 6/28/2007, and it was referred to the following Committee(s): House Natural Resources: Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands. Please know that I will keep your thoughts in mind should I have the opportunity to vote on this legislation.

Again, thank you for contacting me. It is an honor to serve in the United States House of Representatives and have the benefit of your advice. If you would like more information on this or any other issue, please visit my website at <http://mikepence.house.gov>.

CARMEL CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

We meet at 7:00 PM on the third Wednesday of the month at the Carmel Clay Historical Society's Monon Depot Museum at 221 First St. SW in Carmel. This is our schedule until our summer recess:

- * Jan. 16, Tom Williams on "Tempest Along the Turnpike, Battle for the West Woods-Sharpsburg"
- * Feb. 20, Wesley Hanson on "Rare and Unusual Music of the Civil War (Songs you have not heard yet)"
- * Mar. 19, Nikki Schofield on " Mrs. Frederick Douglas"
- * Apr. 16, Bruce Kolb on "Attempted Abduction of Lincoln's Body"
- * May 21, Paul May on "The Battle of Little Round Top"

CIVIL WAR CANNON TO BE REDEDICATED IN NEWBURGH, IN



Submitted by Tim Beckman

Rose Hill Cemetery in cooperation with the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) will be rededicating a Civil War era cannon on April 5th, 2008. The cannon has been an occupant of this Newburgh, Indiana cemetery for over a century. On April 13, 1904, the Newburgh Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) Post No. 262 was granted permission to place a cannon and a flagpole on a previously purchased lot in this cemetery as a memorial to their fallen comrades. The cannon is a Smooth Bore Flank Howitzer.

It was cast in 1846 by the Cyrus Alger & Co. in Boston, Massachusetts. These cannons were also known as 24-pounder siege guns with a total weight of 1480 pounds, a length of 69 inches, and a bore of 5.82 inches. It would fire a ball orientated at 5 degrees a maximum of 1322 yards. Total production of these model 1844 iron flank howitzers was 577 from 1846 to 1864; known survivors, 269. These howitzers were essentially an iron copy of the 24-pounder model 1841 bronze field howitzer, without handles (source: <http://www.cwartillery.org/ve/howsiege.html>). The cemetery tentatively plans to

construct and install a new stone base for the cannon along with a memorial plaque detailing the history of the cannon and the G.A.R. post. The time of the rededication is to be announced at a later date. Rose Hill Cemetery is located on State Road 261 in Newburgh. For more information please contact Tim Beckman of the SUVCW Ben Harrison Camp at the following e-mail address: timbeckman@gmail.com

Special Orders

A Civil War Oddity

Submitted by Vernon Earle

One of the oddest was a double-barreled cannon. The Confederates hoped this formidable weapon would give them a decisive edge in artillery duels. The weapon was designed by John Gilleland, who was a private in the Confederate Army. This weapon was designed to shoot two solid shots.

The weapon fired both barrels at the same time. The effect on an advancing enemy was to mow them down with a wide swath.

The cannon was a failure, however, in that the firing of the two tubes could never be achieved at the same instant. It was test fired with the results that one upright pole was knocked down and a cow was killed.

The cannon was restored and presented to the city of Athens. It is now mounted on the front lawn of the City Hall in Athens, Georgia.

It is on display as one of the most well known attractions in the city. The cannon is still pointing northward in a symbolic gesture of defiance against the North it was built to fight.



Lincoln had cancer, doctor theorizes

From *The Indianapolis Star*, November 27, 2007 and www.chicagotribune.com, November 29, 2007

Dr. John Sotos, a California cardiologist, connoisseur of rare ailments and amateur historian, believes that Lincoln had a genetic syndrome called MEN 2B and that he was dying from cancer, with only six months to a year to live. He is publishing his idea in a Web-based book, *The Physical Lincoln*, which should be available soon. He shared his findings at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore on Wednesday, November 28. Some doubt his theory, which could be proved or rejected with a DNA test for the single mutation in the RET gene on chromosome 10 that causes MEN 2B.

Lee Tree saplings for sale to benefit Va. Battlefields

From *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, December 9, 2007 and *Hallowed Ground*, Winter 2007

A year before the massive white oak tree of eastern Hanover County, believed to have provided shade to Robert E. Lee and his staff as they camped in June of 1862 during the Seven Days Battles of Gaines Mill, finally met its demise from the winds of Hurricane Isabel, volunteers filled 43 grocery bags with its acorns. These acorns have been grown into about 2,000 saplings, each 2 to 3 feet tall, and are being offering for sale at \$60 (which includes \$10 for shipping and a certificate of authenticity) by the Douglas Southall Freeman Branch of the Virginia Association for the Preservation of Virginia

Antiquities. Proceeds will support their Civil War Battlefield Preservation Fund and a portion will be donated to the Civil War Preservation Trust.

Checks should be payable to DSF Branch-APVA and mailed with your name, shipping address, phone number and email address to: Capt. Wm. Latane Camp #1690 SCV, c/o Art Taylor, 15548 Tyler Station Road, BeaverDam, VA 23015-1413. For more information, contact them at tee1776@hotmail.com

Lost Soul – A Confederate Soldier in New England by Les Rolston

From Mariner Publishing Press Release ** Cost \$19.95 ** for more info, contact info@marinermedia.com

“There were no Civil War battles in New England, so how did a Southern soldier end up in a Rhode Island cemetery in an unmarked grave? Researcher and historian Rolston encountered this curious grave in the early 1990s as he planned a family trip to visit Civil War battlefields. Discovering a note about the unmarked grave of Confederate veteran Samuel Postlethwaite in Greenwood Cemetery, (Coventry, Rhode Island), Rolston abandoned his planned trip and visited the cemetery instead. When he found the supposed location of the grave, there was no marker. That curiosity evolved into a sense of purpose and Rolston set on a quest to discover more about this mystery soldier. “Sam” came to represent forgotten soldiers of all wars – a lost soul.

Rolston had no idea what a fascinating journey through time lay before him. Through an impressive amount of research he discovered how Samuel Postlethwaite, whose records had been lost in time, served as a private in Company D, 21st Mississippi Infantry during the Civil War, and how he ended up buried next to William Rogers Greene, a member of one of Rhode Island’s most famous families. Rolston visited the battlefields where both Postlethwaite and Greene fought. His descriptions of the battles vividly illustrate the hardships of soldiers both North and South. Primary source materials express their fears and celebrate their successes. Letters from home reflect the difficult lives of those left behind. Rolston follows the men home from war and through the difficult years of Reconstruction.

Lost Soul is a Yankee’s fight for a Rebel’s dignity – the story of how war-time enemies chose forgiveness and understanding over bitterness and hate, and became family. As a result of Rolston’s research and writing, Sam’s grave was marked in 1995 with a bronze marker provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs, recognizing his service as an American soldier. He is no longer a lost soul.”

Test Your Civil War Knowledge (with Trimble’s Trivia)

In keeping with this month’s subject, let’s see how much you know about deaths and burials during and after the war.

1. Name the battle referred to in this quotation: “Wounded rebels at _____ had fallen in heaps...On the hillside near a deep hollow our men were hauling them down and throwing them into the deep gully. Men were in on top of the dead, straightening out their legs and arms and trampling them down so as to make the hole contain as many as possible.”
2. Name the Confederate general who died in the midst of a long-standing feud with James Longstreet over Lee’s command decisions at Gettysburg.

3. This prominent Confederate chose suicide over living under the American flag. Name him.

4. Name the common soldier who wrote in his memoir, "The death angel was there to gather its last harvest. It was the grand coronation of death." To what battle does the author refer?

5. Name the Union general who is buried at West Point with one of the most ornate monuments even though he never attended the academy. Ironically, he is also the author of a famous tribute to the dead which continues today.

Answers to the December quiz:

Name the Civil War figure who was known by each of the nicknames below.

1. "Old Bald Head" - Richard Ewell
2. "Baldy" - William F. Smith
3. "Tardy George" - George McClellan; George Sykes
4. "The Horse" - David Twiggs
5. "Old Blizzards" - William Loring

Poets Speak to honor Civil War Soldiers

Forceythe Willson's lament for "**Boy Brittan**," a New Albany lad, "fair-haired and sixteen," who was killed at the battle of Fort Henry in 1862, quoted in Anna Nicholas' *The Story of Crown Hill*:

"The day is ours – thanks to the brave endeavor of heroes, boy, like thee!
The day is ours – the day is ours!

"Glory and deathless love to all who shared with thee,
And bravely endured and dared with thee –
The day is ours – the day is ours
Forever!

"Laurels and tears for thee, boy,
Laurels and tears for thee –
Laurels of light and tears of love forevermore –
For thee!

"And laurels of light and tears of truth
And the mantle of immortality;
And the flowers of love and immortal youth,
And the tender heart-tokens of all true ruth –
And the everlasting victory!

"And the breath and the bliss of Liberty;

And the loving kiss of Liberty;
 And the welcoming light of heavenly eyes,
 And the overcalm of God's canopy;
 And the infinite love-span of the skies
 That cover the Valley of Paradise –
 For all of the brave who rest with thee;
 And for one and all who died with thee;
 And now sleep side by side with thee;
 And for every one who lives and dies,
 On the solid land or the heaving sea,
 Dear warrior boy – like thee.”

Henry Timrod's poem, “**Ode**,” sung on the occasion of decorating the graves of the Confederate dead, at Magnolia Cemetery, Charleston, South Carolina, 1867, quoted in *The Columbia Book of Civil War Poetry*, edited by Richard Marius:

“Sleep sweetly in your humble graves,
 Sleep, martyrs of a fallen cause;
 Though yet no marble column craves
 The pilgrim here to pause.

In seeds of laurel in the earth
 The blossom of your fame is blown,
 And somewhere, waiting for its birth,
 The shaft is in the stone!

Meanwhile, behalf the tardy years
 Which keep in trust your storied tombs,
 Behold! your sisters bring their tears,
 And these memorial blooms.

Small tributes! but your shades will smile
 More proudly on these wreaths to-day,
 Than when some cannon-moulded pile
 Shall overlook this bay.

Stoop, angels, hither from the skies,
 There is no holier spot of ground
 Than where defeated valor lies,
 By mourning beauty crowned.”

Dudley Randall's poem, “**Memorial Wreath**,” written for the more than 200,000 Negroes who served in the Union Army during the Civil War, quoted in *The Columbia Book of Civil War Poetry*, edited by Richard Marius:

“In this green month when resurrected flowers,
 Like laughing children ignorant of death,
 Brighten the couch of those who wake no more,
 Love and remembrance blossom in our hearts

For you who bore the extreme sharp pang for us,
And bought our freedom with your lives.

And now,
Honoring your memory with love we bring
These fiery roses, white-hot cotton flowers
And violets bluer than cool northern skies
You dreamed of in the burning prison fields
When liberty was only a faint north star,
Not a bright flower planted by your hands
Reaching up hardy nourished with your blood.

Fit gravefellows you are for Lincoln, Brown
And Douglass and Toussaint...all whose rapt eyes
Fashioned a new world in this wilderness.

American earth is richer for your bones;
Our hearts beat prouder for the blood we inherit.”

Officer of the Month



WALLACE FOSTER
1837 – 1919
LIEUT. CO. H. 11TH IND. VOL. INF.
CAPT. CO. H. 13TH IND. VOL. INF.
1861 – 1863
SPONSOR FOR THE AMERICAN FLAG
ERECTED BY THE NATIONAL WOMAN’S RELIEF
CORPS
AUXILIARY TO THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC
JUNE 11, 1927

Captain Wallace Foster

From Anna Nicholas’ *The Story of Crown Hill*:

“...Captain Wallace Foster, known far and wide as “the flagman.” A brave and gallant soldier who enlisted as a private in the Eleventh Indiana, with a long record of active service, he was honorably discharged near the end of the war on account of defective hearing caused by exposure and hard work in the Chickahominy Swamp. This ailment grew into total deafness and to the end of his life was a disability that shut him out of ordinary pursuits and activities. His experience, however, in no wise caused depression or melancholy. The war had developed in him a passionate patriotism that found expression in a crusade in behalf of the Stars and Stripes. He conceived the idea of teaching patriotism to children by a display of flags above their school buildings. He had in mind chiefly the children of immigrants, ignorant of our customs and institutions, but he was entirely impartial and was as anxious for the country school which knew no foreigners to be equipped with a flag as any other. His idea was that the emotional sentiment aroused by the sight of the flag and in the teaching of its history and its meaning would lead to further interest in public questions. As a result of his activities, and with the consent of the board of school commissioners, he erected on the twentieth of

February, 1891, mainly at his own expense, a flagstaff with a flag on the ground of school number thirty-two in Indianapolis. This was followed up with patriotic instruction in the school, and it is said to be the first school in the United States to raise a flag in the interest of patriotism. The story of the proceeding was widely circulated and much commented on by the press of the country, and the example was followed by other schools not only in Indiana but in other states.

Captain Foster, with the aid of the Women's Relief Corps and other patriotic societies, distributed many thousands of silk and bunting flags and issued several small primers and other publications containing the history of the flag and other patriotic matter. He traveled much in the interest of his cause, attending G.A.R. encampments and other patriotic meetings. He never lost his enthusiasm, and with his handsome, eager face and absorption in his undertakings, he easily aroused the interest of his listeners. While he was admired and honored by all who knew him, there was a pathos associated with him and his ardor for the flag that aroused a sympathy akin to tears. To a large extent shut away from the active world by his deafness, he found forgetfulness in an undertaking to which others gave only casual thought. He was a picturesque figure in Indianapolis life. Born in Vernon, Indiana, in June, 1837, he died in Indianapolis March 30, 1919."



[Note: School No. 32 was located at 2110 N. Illinois Street.]

Historic Site of the Month

The Confederate Burial Mound

From Wayne L. Sanford's *Memories of the Past: A Tour of Historic Crown Hill Cemetery*

Buried at Crown Hill Cemetery in Section 32, Lot 285

"**The Confederate Burial Mound.** An area next to the road and marked off by a white chain. This is the final burial place for 1,616 Confederate prisoners of war confined to Camp Morton (the old Fair Grounds, then located north of the city – at what is now 22nd and Delaware), 1862-1865. Most of these prisoners died at City Hospital and were originally buried in City Cemetery. All were removed to Crown Hill Cemetery in 1931. A two-year project to identify these veterans was completed by Stephen Stalevich, an Indianapolis police officer, and the Crown Hill Society. As a result of their work, ten bronze plaques mounted on granite bases were placed at the site. Each bears the names of all Southerners who died at Camp Morton. The monument and plaques were rededicated on October 3, 1993."



If you have a short article, book review, or some other item that may be of interest to our members, please submit it via email to the editor at jkt60@att.net by the tenth day following the preceding month's meeting. Please list HARDTACK in the subject line and include your email address in case I need to contact you.

PLEASE NOTE MY EMAIL ADDRESS HAS CHANGED!

From Wayne L. Sanford's *Memories of the Past: A Tour of Historic Crown Hill Cemetery*

Buried at Crown Hill Cemetery in Section 35, Lot 1

“**Daniel H. Prunk** (1829-1923). Large family marker on the northwest corner. An ‘embalmer of the dead’ during the Civil War. His advertisements in the local newspaper made some amazing claims. For example, ‘Dr. Prunk...offers his improved mode of embalming bodies. It restores the natural colors, arrests decomposition, and effectually eradicates all infection, leaving the corpse free from the slightest unpleasant odor, and in a fit condition for home funerals.’ He became a physician on the south side of Indianapolis in the years following the war.”

Indianapolis Civil War Round Table
6019 Allendale Dr.
Indianapolis, IN 46224