

HARDTACK

Indianapolis Civil War Round Table Newsletter

<http://indianapoliscwrt.org/>



June 9 at 7:30 p.m.

Banquet Meeting at Jonathan Byrd's

The Plan of the Day

Rising Above the Slaughter of Fredericksburg:

Hoosier soldier David Beem finds universal meaning in a futile defeat



Photo from cover of *Gallant Fourteenth* by Nancy Niblack Baxter

Captain David Beem of the 14th Indiana participated in the first charge against Maryes Heights at the Battle of Fredericksburg. This suicidal assault nearly annihilated his regiment. Those who survived and returned to their camps on the other side of the Rappahannock, they had to explain to themselves and to the Northern public why the human sacrifice at Fredericksburg was worth it. Many Union soldiers in the Army of the Potomac believed that they had endured enough at the hands of bungling generals and deserted their colors. Beem, on the other hand, stood firm, refusing to give up his idealism about the Northern war effort. After the battle he wrote poignantly to his wife about the higher purpose of the Union cause, its place in world history, and the need to defeat the Confederate army as a way to preserve his most cherished and loved loyalties that resided in his Owen County home. In the writings of David Beem, we can better appreciate the thinking and actions of those Union soldiers who were the most appreciate the thinking and actions of those Union soldiers who were the most patriotic and politically committed to the Union.

Professor Carmichael's presentation will draw heavily from David Beem's letters, which are located at the Indiana Historical Society.

Our Guest Speaker

Dr. Peter S. Carmichael

Dr. Carmichael is from Indiana and earned his Bachelor's Degree from Indiana University at Indianapolis. He earned his Master's and Doctorate Degrees from Pennsylvania State University. He is currently Eberly Professor of Civil War Studies at West Virginia University. He is the author of *Lee's Young Artillerist: William R.J. Pegram* and *The Last Generation: Young Virginians in Peace, War, and Reunion*.



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

Other Camp Activities

“Faces of Lincoln: Lincoln and Politics”: The exhibit includes a political cartoon by Thomas Nast, illustrative prints, Horace Greeley editorials, portraits, and campaign materials. The display is in the Lanham Gallery, Fourth Floor of the Indiana History Center, 450 West Ohio Street in downtown Indianapolis through June 21, 2008.

Tours at Crown Hill Cemetery: Join Nikki Schofield for the following tours this year: Sunday, June 1 - Civil War Tour; Sunday, August 3 - Civil War Generals and Their Wives (a new tour); Sunday, August 17 - Civil War Tour; Sunday, Sept. 21 - Tombstones and Trees (a new tour); Sunday, Sept. 14 - Around the Gothic.

Fort Defiance 1860 Encampment: Fort Defiance in Clarksville, Tennessee, will host a living history encampment on June 6-8 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Some of the units attending will be the USCT Living History, Frederick Douglas and Robert E. Lee reenactors, the 19th Alabama, Baxter Battery, 50th Tennessee and 17th Tennessee reenactment units.

Encampment of 42nd Indiana: This encampment will be held Saturday, June 7 on the front lawn of Monroe County History Center in Bloomington with firing demonstrations,

cooking, medical tent, speech by Governor Morton, kids' program with Lincoln, etc. If interested, come on down!

200th Birthday of Jefferson Davis: The birthday commemoration will be on June 7th and 8th at the birthplace site of Davis in Fairview, Kentucky, just north of Clarksville. The event will include the "Miss Confederacy" Scholarship Pageant. William C. Davis will be there to autograph his books and speak about the War Between the States. Judge Bill Cunninigham, William Turner and Gary Roper will also sign books. Joan Howard will portray First Lady Varina Davis and will have a special presentation about the Memoirs of Varina Davis. Cliff Howard will portray President Davis.

Capture of the Federal tinclad *USS Petrel* historical marker: The dedication of the Mississippi Department of Archives & History historical marker for the capture of the Federal tinclad *USS Petrel* will be held Sunday, June 15 at 3:00 p.m. in Yazoo City, Mississippi. There is a new 4 lane Highway 49W, some miles above and east of Yazoo City. The marker will not be put on that highway because it is too far away from the scene of the action. The site of the marker will be a mile or so above (going north) Yazoo City on **Old Highway 49W**, where it meets an old blacktop farm road, Schaefer Road. Visitors are encouraged to turn to the left at this point and park on the blacktop. The special guest will be Mr. Ed Bearss, Historian Emeritus of the National Park Service. Mr. Bearss wrote the 1982 article about the *Petrel* capture which was published in *Morningside Notes*. Please contact Mr. Sam Olden, the President of the Yazoo City Historical Society at 662-746-4781 or Mr. Harold Fisher at 662-746-5015 for more information.

The Contested Legacy of Jefferson Davis: Friday, June 27 at the Kentucky Historical Society in Frankfort, Kentucky. This symposium is scheduled for 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., with a break for lunch. Events include two topical panels (1. Jefferson Davis and the Civil War; 2. Jefferson Davis and Lost Cause Memory) followed by a roundtable discussion. Deadline for registration is Friday, June 20, and seating is limited to the first 200 people. Fee includes lunch. Cost: \$25 general public; \$20 Kentucky Historical Society members; \$10 students (photocopy of student ID must accompany registration form). To register, please contact Julia Curry at 502-564-1792, ext. 4414 or email her at Julia.curry@ky.gov

Hoover's Gap Marker Dedication: A historical marker describing the part that the 18th Indiana Light Artillery played in the battle of Hoover's Gap will be dedicated at 1 p.m. on Saturday, June 28 at the Beechgrove Confederate Cemetery in Beechgrove, Tennessee. It is located just off Interstate 24, 15 miles south of Murfreesboro, Tennessee. This location is where part of Colonel Eli Lilly's battery was placed on the first day of the battle. The property is owned and maintained by the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

Nashville Southern Civilian Conference: This conference, which is only held every two years, will be held August 8-10 at the Belmont Mansion in Nashville, Tennessee. It also includes a tour of Battle of Nashville Civil War sites by Ross Massey. The cost is \$145

prior to July 1. For more information, contact Lynda Massey at (615) 352-6384 or by email at MasseyLA@aol.com.

Special Orders

General James Longstreet: the Confederacy's Most Modern General by LTC Harold M. Knudsen: Interpreting Longstreet through the comparison of his methods to twentieth century methods shows Longstreet was a very modern general. Even more important than identifying Longstreet's originality is identifying how his actions greatly added to the changing complexion of warfare. Some of his innovations were the early origins of prominent facts in twentieth century warfare, and he clearly established his legacy as a modern innovator as early as 1862. But only now are the postwar negative portrayals of Longstreet faded enough for him to emerge as the Confederacy's most modern general. This book can be ordered directly from the publisher at <http://www.wordassociation.com/military-book-publisher.html>

The Stone's River Campaign: 26 December 1862 – 5 January 1863 by Lanny Kelton Smith: Limited to 330 copies, this 732 page volume is a detailed study of the Union forces in the Stone's River Campaign. The movements and actions of units down to and including the regimental level are covered in detail. This work covers and includes several important actions in the battle that heretofore have been glossed over or completely ignored. This book can be ordered from the author by sending a check or money order for \$60.00 plus \$4.00 S & H to Lanny K. Smith, 976 Redbud Lane, Jasper, TX 75951. For more information, contact the author at lannysmith1861@hotmail.com.

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

Answers to May Quiz:

Identify the Civil War figure or figures associated with each of the nicknames below.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 1. "Black Jack" | Gen. John Logan |
| 2. "Old Joe" | Gen. Joseph E. Johnston |
| 3. "Old Davy" | Gen. David Twiggs |
| 4. "The Old Hero of Gettysburg" | John L. Burns |
| 5. "Tribe of Dan" | Fighting McCooks fathered by Daniel McCook |

The Soldiers Speak

Quoted from Edward J. Hagerty's *Collis' Zouaves: The 114th Pennsylvania Volunteers in the Civil War*

"Even the darkness provided little refuge from the singing projectiles that whizzed incessantly over their heads. 'It is a dreadful duty, but we did it,' wrote Lieutenant Williams. As the stars came out in the clear winter sky, the sounds of battle slowly abated. With the exception of stray shots, the only sound then heard was the groaning of the thousands of wounded men scattered about the field. 'Poor fellows,' recalled Williams, 'we could only listen and suffer with them,' thanking God for his own escape from a similar fate. Two days after the battle, the still-shaken lieutenant wrote in a letter: 'Oh Mother if ever a Mortal offered up a sincere prayer of thanks I did it that night. I can only attribute my escape to Providence and a Mothers prayers. Men who have been all

through this war say we came in under the hottest fire they had ever seen....God grant that we may never go into another Battle. I dont mind it while I am in but going in and coming out is hard to bear....One of our Lieut was laying alongside of a man who lay with his head on his arm. The enemies sharpshooters began firing on them pretty sharp. The Lieut kept ordering him to lie closer down but he would not mind so he took hold of him and found he was dead.’ Yet Williams, like many others, was so exhausted that he was able to lie down beside his brother Willie and ignore the cries of the wounded that night. ‘I lay down within a few feet of 3 dead men with the wounded screeching in our front...and as soon as the firing ceased I slept as sound as if I had been in bed beside you,’ he wrote to his wife.”

Quoted from Bruce Catton’s *Reflections on the Civil War*

“At the great Battle of Fredericksburg, down at the far end of the line where the fighting was not very heavy, there was a woodland stretch held by the Confederates on one side and the Yankees on the other. The pickets, again, were quite close together, and the skirmish lines not much farther apart. The men got to cat-calling and jeering at each other and making insulting remarks. This went on for quite a while in much the same way that a couple of high school football cheering sections might yell back and forth at each other. Finally, a couple of soldiers, a Confederate and a Yankee, got really angry. They got so angry that they had to have a fight. So all along the line in this particular section of the woodland, the soldiers called an informal truce, and the riled-up Yankee and Southerner got out and had a very fine, soul-satisfying fist fight. I don’t know who came out on top, but at last the fight ended, as all such fights do, and the men went to a nearby stream and washed the blood off their faces and shook hands. Then both sides went back, picked up their weapons, and started shooting at each other again.”

Quoted from Douglas S. Freeman’s *Lee’s Lieutenants: A Study in Command*

“Darkness fell, but not for the undisputed reign of the long December night. Soon from beyond the Confederate left, far up the Rappahannock, there rose a glow. The sky flushed and grew dark again. Now shining white, it reddened and dimmed and blazed once more till it lighted the faces of the marveling soldiers – ‘northern lights’ it must be, the fantastic sky-painting of the aurora borealis. The spectacle awed but it flattered. Wrote one Confederate: ‘Of course, we enthusiastic young fellows felt that the heavens were hanging out banners and streamers and setting off fireworks in honor of our victory.’”

Jesse B. Young, quoted in Otto Eisenschiml and Ralph Newman’s *The Civil War Volume I: The American Iliad as Told by Those Who Lived It:*

“The army, driven back from the hills of Fredericksburg, settled down into camp life with a sad and heavy heart. The boys all knew that a blunder had been committed; that the attack against the frightful heights ought never to have been made; and although General Burnside gallantly took all the responsibility on himself yet there sprang up a brooding spirit of discontent, which soon spread throughout the entire army from the privates in the rear rank to the generals in command of corps and grand divisions. Soon after the battle an address from President Lincoln was read to the soldiers which began like this:

To THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC:

Although you were not successful the attempt was not an error, nor the failure

other than an accident.

When this was read to our regiment, there was an undercurrent of comment which would have given the President some light on the situation, if he had overheard it.”

Soldier of the Month

Richard Kirkland, The Angel of Marye’s Heights



Photo from

http://ehistory.osu.edu/uscw/features/regimental/south_Carolina/Confederate/KershawsBrigade/Kirkland.cfm

Copied from Civil War Tours.net April 2008 newsletter

How many people do you know who would try to save the life of an enemy knowing it may well result in their own death? That is exactly what Richard Rowland Kirkland did during the Battle of Fredericksburg.

Born in August 1843, he was the fifth son of Mary and John Kirkland. They lived in the rural community of Flat Rock in the Kershaw District, South Carolina. A friend described him as a slender, but well-proportioned muscular man at 5’8”, who weighed about 150 pounds. His photograph reveals a handsome young man with a mustache. Kirkland was a good marksman and excelled in horsemanship. His war letters reflect a religious young man of moderate education typical of the thousands of young men who went to war in 1861.

Despite his youth, Kirkland was eager to fight for his country. He enlisted before his older brothers and friends in Company E, 2nd South Carolina. After a year of service as a private, he switched to Company G to be with his friends and was soon promoted to Sergeant. By December of 1862, Kirkland had become a combat veteran, having seen action at 1st Manassas, Savage Station, Maryland Heights and Antietam. He had also witnessed the deaths of several of his friends.

Then came the Battle of Fredericksburg on Dec. 13, 1862. Kirkland’s unit formed behind the Stone Wall at the base of Marye’s Heights and helped level the Union attackers. Sergeant Kirkland was among a section of riflemen six ranks deep and protected by a stone wall. The Confederates rained musket fire down on the advancing

enemy soldiers, and by day's end nearly 6,300 dead or wounded soldiers lay along the front of the stone wall. After a day of severe fighting, the scene shifted from severe fighting to tremendous suffering. Darkness came allowing both doctors and soldiers to care for the injured. The walking wounded made their way to the rear while those with disabling wounds remained lying helpless on the field.

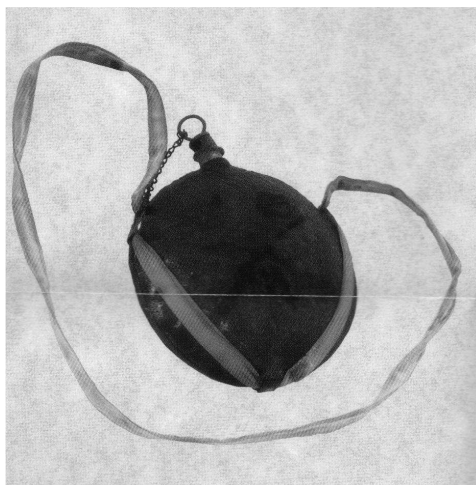
Daylight on the 14th revealed a ghastly scene! As hours passed without food, water or medical treatment, the suffering increased. Soldiers from both sides listened to the painful cries and pleas for help. While the pleading moved many emotionally, none dared face almost certain death to provide assistance.

By early morning, Kirkland could no longer stand the cries of the wounded soldiers lying on the frozen ground, and in near-zero temperatures. Kirkland approached Confederate General Joseph B. Kershaw, also from Kershaw County, South Carolina, and informed him that he wished to help the wounded Union soldiers. By Kershaw's own account, at first he denied the request, but later he relented.

Kirkland gathered all the canteens he could carry and filled them at the nearby water well. Then, at enormous risk to himself, he jumped the wall and ventured out across the field of wounded to administer aid to the enemy soldiers. He ran to the first wounded soldier he could reach. As he went, gun fire from Union sharpshooters threatened the humanitarian. When it became obvious that his purpose was a mission of mercy, a Union officer shouted, "Cease fire! Don't shoot that man! He is too brave to die!"

Throughout the morning the young South Carolinian made trips back and forth from water well to wounded soldier, trying to provide some measure of comfort. Both Union and Confederate soldiers looked on in amazement.

Nine months later, on September 20, 1863, Richard R. Kirkland was mortally wounded at the Battle of Chickamauga, Tennessee. His body lies under the spreading trees in the Quaker cemetery in Camden, South Carolina. A large headstone reads, "Richard Kirkland, C.S.A. At Fredericksburg he risked his life to carry water to wounded and dying enemies, and at the Battle of Chickamauga laid down that life for his country. 1843-1863."



Historic Site of the Month

Monument to Richard Rowland Kirkland, the Angel of Marye's Heights



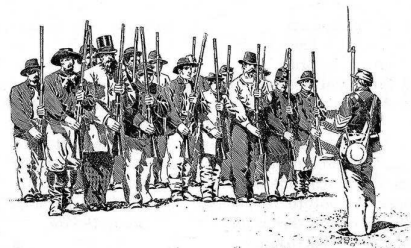
This monument to Richard Rowland Kirkland sculpted by the famous artist Felix DeWeldon was dedicated in 1965. It is located in front of the Stone Wall along the Sunken Road at the Fredericksburg Battlefield where Kirkland performed his humanitarian acts.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR: Some of you are still not receiving the Hardtack each month. If you ever miss an edition of the Hardtack, please do not hesitate to email me or call me so I can resend it to you.

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.

Re-enlist NOW for the 2008-2009 Campaign

All ICWRT members may continue to receive the monthly newsletter, HARDTACK, via email at no additional charge. Members who prefer to receive the HARDTACK by U.S. Mail are asked to pay an additional \$12.00 to help cover printing and mailing costs.



Please bring your completed re-enlistment form (below) together with your payment to Peg Bertelli, ICWRT Treasurer, at the next Round Table meeting, or mail your re-enlistment form and payment to:

Peg Bertelli
11827 Corbin Drive
Fishers, Indiana 46038

Phone: (317) 596-9193
Email: pbbertelli@insightbb.com

Please complete and detach the form below and include with your check:

ICWRT Membership Enlistment for July 2008 thru June 2009

Please print legibly!

Name..... Date

Address.....
.....

Phone: (.....) Email Address:

We must have a valid email address if you wish to receive the HARDTACK newsletter free of charge!

(please specify Membership Level):

_____ **\$30 Individual** _____ **\$35 Family** _____ **\$15 Student**

_____ **I wish to receive the newsletter via U.S. Mail for an additional \$12**

In addition to my membership dues, please accept my generous gift of \$ _____
to the ICWRT general operating account (This donation is not tax deductible)

If someone invited you to join the ICWRT, please list his or her name below:

Samuel Kosciuszko Zook writing about the aftermath of the Battle of Fredericksburg in a letter to his friend E.I. Wade, quoted in *Faith in God and Generals*, edited by Ted Baehr and Susan Wales

“I walked over the field, close under the enemy’s picket line, last night about 3 o’clock. The ground was strewn thickly with corpses of the heroes who perished there on Saturday. I never realized before what war was. I never before felt so horribly since I was born. To see men dashed to pieces by shot & torn into shreds by shells during the heat and crash of battle is bad enough God knows, but to walk alone amongst slaughtered brave in the ‘still small hours’ of the night would make the bravest man living ‘blue.’ God grant I may never have to repeat my last night’s experience.”

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