



HARDTACK

Indianapolis Civil War Round Table Newsletter

<http://indianapoliscwrt.org/>



May 12, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.

Meeting at Indiana History Center

The Plan of the Day

William C. Oates in War and Peace



William C. Oates is best remembered as the Confederate officer defeated at Gettysburg's Little Round Top, losing a golden opportunity to turn the Union's flank and win the battle – and perhaps the war. Oates was no moonlight-and-magnolias Southerner. Raised in the hard-scrabble Wiregrass Country of Alabama, he ran away from home as a teenager, roamed through Louisiana and Texas – where he took up card sharking – and finally returned to Alabama, to pull himself up by his bootstraps and become a respected attorney. During the war, he rose to the rank of colonel, served under Stonewall Jackson and Lee, was wounded six times and lost an arm. Returning home, he launched a successful political career, becoming a seven-term congressman and ultimately governor. For Oates, the war never really ended – he remained devoted to the Lost Cause, and spent the rest of his life waging the political battles of Reconstruction.



Our Guest Speaker

Dr. Glenn LaFantasie

For as long as he can remember, Dr. Glenn LaFantasie has loved history and studying the past – a love that was instilled and nurtured by his parents, who took him to visit Civil War battlefields on numerous day trips in New England and on summer vacations throughout the South. His first trip to Gettysburg fired

his interest and made him want to learn more about the Civil War and its participants, making him curious about the generals and soldiers who fought there and about Abraham Lincoln, his presidency and the Gettysburg Address.

LaFantasie is the Richard Frockt Family Professor of Civil War Studies and director of Center for the Study of Civil War in the West, both at Western Kentucky University. He has written articles for several magazines and newspapers and is the author of *Twilight at Little Round Top* and *Gettysburg Requiem: The Life and Lost Causes of Confederate Colonel William C. Oates*.

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

This banquet meeting will be held at Jonathan Byrd's. See flyer at the end of the Hardtack.

June 9, 2008

Topic to be Announced

Peter Carmichael

Other Camp Activities

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:

* May 21, Paul May on "The Battle of Little Round Top"

"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, May 11 - Civil War Generals; 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.

144th Anniversary of the Battle of the Wilderness: The Friends of the Wilderness Battlefield (FoWB) will commemorate the 144th Anniversary of the Battle of the Wilderness on the weekend of May 9-11, 2008. Highlights include the 6th annual Dinner & Auction on Saturday and a Civil War conference (Fri. May 9 – Sun. May 11) at the Culpeper Best Western. Guest speakers include Chief Justice Frank Williams, Gordon Rhea, Clark Hall, and Greg Mertz. Visit www.fowb.org for complete event details.

Battle of Fall Creek: On May 10 and 11, the second battle of Fall Creek, part of the Civil War, will be re-enacted at Fort Harrison State Park. The camp will be open to the public from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. The public "battle" will begin at 3 p.m. on May 10; 2 p.m. is the start time on May 11. For more information, call Jeff Cummings at (317) 591-0122, email him at JCummings@dnr.IN.gov or write to M20CW, Museum of 20th Century Warfare, PO Box 501277, Indianapolis, IN 46250.

Lincoln Bicentennial – Mother’s Day Celebration: May 11, 2008 at Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial. A special day honoring the mother of our 16th president, Nancy Hanks, who is buried on the Southern Indiana farm where Lincoln lived from 1816 to 1830. A Regional Boy & Girl Scout Campout will be held during this event at Lincoln State Park and Buffalo Run Farm. For more information, contact thinklincoln@psci.net.

Civil War Days: May 17 & 18, 2008 at Conner Prairie. Step back to the 1860s for this annual event. Encounter this piece of American history brought to life by reenactors from around the country. Discuss battle tactics with Union and Confederate soldiers, pay a visit to their camps and march right along with them. You may be the army’s newest recruit! Highlights include: Storytellers Drum: Life in the “28th U.S. Colored Troops” – Saturday & Sunday, 12 p.m.; Saxton’s Cornet Band – Saturday & Sunday, 1 & 4 p.m.; Battle – Saturday & Sunday, 2 p.m.; and Abraham Lincoln – Saturday & Sunday. Free with general admission of \$11 adults; \$10 seniors (65+); \$7 children 2-12; and free for children under two and for members. For more information, call Guest Services at 317-776-6006 or 800-966-1836 or email info@connerprairie.org.

Civil War Graves to be marked at the Gosport Cemetery, Gosport, IN on May 26, 2008: The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) will be dedicating a new plaque at the Gosport Cemetery, Gosport, IN, marking the final resting place of 12 Civil War soldiers who died while at Camp Hughes. The dedication will take place on Memorial Day, Monday, May 26, 2008 at 11:00 AM EDT. For over two years the SUVCW has embarked on a project to appropriately mark the final resting place of soldiers who died while at Camp Hughes located in Gosport Indiana. Camp Hughes was a Civil War training camp for the 59th Indiana and was located one-half mile southwest of Gosport on the White River and named for former Indiana Congressman James Hughes. Camp Hughes was the only known Civil War camp ever established in Owen County. The Sons of Veterans Reserve honor guard, the 27th Indiana Co. D, as well as Civil War re-enactors from the 11th Indiana Reenactment Group will be present at the dedication. The ceremony is free and open to the public. For more information please contact Tim Beckman at 317-353-6322 or by e-mail timbeckman@gmail.com or visit their web site at: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~inbhsuv/>.

Encampment of 42nd Indiana: 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!

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

Official Records

Officer Nominations for the Round Table 2008-2009 Campaign:

President: Nikki Schofield

Vice-President/ President Elect and Program Chair: Tom Dean

Secretary: Frank Bynum

Treasurer: Tony Roscetti

Gettysburg Campaign: July 12-18, 2008. We will visit Gettysburg, the Harrisburg Cemetery, National Civil War Museum, Civil War Medical Museum, Monocacy, Antietam and Harper's Ferry. The trip brochure is available on the website. Space is still available on the bus. Contact Nikki Schofield to sign up at 317-328-8782 or by email at Nikki1942@sbcglobal.net.

Youth Scholarship recipient: Jon Elliott has been awarded the Youth Scholarship toward his expenses for the annual trip. He will also be the baggage handler, to help cover his costs.



Perryville Dedication: Andy O'Donnell reports that the plaques look wonderful. The group that attended the dedication were warmly welcomed and enjoyed a very pleasant visit.

Photo: (From left to right) Alex Hauck, Andy O'Donnell, Mary Timmers, Monty and Holly Evans, Frank Timmers, Bob and Frank Bynum, Chris Kolakowski, Jim Bynum, and Kurt Homan.

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

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

1. "Black Jack"
2. "Old Joe"
3. "Old Davy"
4. "The Old Hero of Gettysburg"
5. "Tribe of Dan"

Answers to April Quiz:

1. What was the "Lady Bell"? For whom was it named? An 8-ton Dahlgren gun, largest CSA cannon at Ft. Donelson; Named for Mrs. John Bell, wife of 1860 presidential candidate.
2. Name the two CSA guns named for prominent ladies and captured at Missionary Ridge. Lady Breckinridge and Lady Buckner
3. For what lady was the gun known to Federals as "Old Demoralizer" named? Lady Davis (Varina Howell Davis)
4. Where was the Lady Richardson captured? For whom was it named? Corinth; Mrs. William Richardson whose husband was Senator from Illinois
5. Name the gun that fired, "iron gateposts." Where was it first fired? Lady Polk; Belmont, Missouri.

The Officers Speak

William C. Oates, at Bristoe Station, 1862, quoted in Otto Eisenschiml and Ralph Newman's *The Civil War, Volume I: The American Iliad as Told by Those Who Lived It*: "We reached the Alexandria Railroad at Bristoe Station after sunset. A number of Yankee officers were just sitting down to an excellent supper when they were captured....Trains which had been run over the Rappahannock carrying reinforcements to Pope were now heard returning. A cross tie was put across the track, for the purpose of throwing the train from the track, but the cowcatcher threw off the obstruction, and the train escaped and made its way to Washington. Another obstruction was arranged. Then came three long trains in close proximity to each other. The engine of the first struck the obstruction, leaped into the air and then tumbled down the embankment. The engine of the second plowed through the cars of the first train, throwing them high in the air and overturning them, until it was itself overturned. The engine of the third came plowing and crashing along like its predecessor, but stopped on the track. The engineer was captured, and also two or three other prisoners, one of whom proved to be a civilian who had been on a visit to the army....We were ordered to remove the debris but soon found that the whole regiment could not do it without tools and proper implements. What should we do? General Jackson walked with me down to the wreck and said, 'Just set fire to it and rejoin your brigade, which had gone to capture Manassas Junction.'"

William C. Oates, about the march to Fredericksburg, December 1862, quoted in Otto Eisenschiml and Ralph Newman's *The Civil War, Volume I: The American Iliad as Told by Those Who Lived It*:

“Sometime after dark, I suppose between eight and nine o'clock, a staff officer from General Jackson passed along our lines giving orders to regimental commanders to fix bayonets and move forward the moment that the line to the left began to move. I ordered bayonets to be fixed and the men to get up and stand in line. Within a few minutes I saw the line begin to move and ordered the regiment forward. Of course all knew it meant an attack with the bayonet in the dark, for it was a dark night. It was a desperate and hazardous undertaking. Some men remained in the trench until driven out of it, and I would have preferred to stay in it myself if I could honorably have done so.

But just as we crossed the railroad between us and the Federal lines, we were halted. I had been informed that the origin of that night movement was with General Jackson; that he set his corps in motion and then informed General Lee, who ordered a halt and summoned his generals for a consultation, which was held late that night. Jackson slept while other generals gave their opinions, and when all were through someone slapped him on the shoulder and said, ‘Now, General, give us your opinion.’ He yawned and half asleep mumbled out, ‘Drive them in the river! Drive them in the river!’ and the sequel proved that he was right. Had Lee’s whole army advanced to that night attack it would have created a panic which would have driven the Federals into the river or forced the whole army to surrender. It would have been a bloody conflict and a great risk but would have proved an economy of human life in the end.”

William C. Oates, about Gettysburg, July 1863, quoted in Otto Eisenschiml and Ralph Newman's *The Civil War, Volume I: The American Iliad as Told by Those Who Lived It*:
 “General Law rode up to me as we were advancing and informed me that I was then on the extreme right of our line, and for me to hug the base of Big Round Top and go up the valley between the two mountains until I found the left of the Union line, to turn it and do all the damage I could.... In places the men had to climb up Big Round Top, catching to the rocks and bushes and crawling over the boulders in the face of the fire of the enemy, who kept retreating, taking shelter and firing down on us from behind the rocks and crags which covered the side of the mountain thicker than gravestones in a city cemetery. As we advanced about halfway up the mountain, they ceased firing. I saw from the highest point of rocks that we were then on the most commanding elevation in that neighborhood. But I knew that my men were too much exhausted to make a good fight without a few minutes’ rest....

Captain Terrell...inquired why I had halted. I told him. He then said for me to press on, turn the Union left and capture Little Round Top, if possible, and to lose no time.

I then called his attention to my position: a precipice on the east and north, right at my feet; a very steep, stony wooded mountainside on the west. The only approach to it by our enemy, a long wooded slope on the northwest. Within half an hour I could convert Big Round Top into a Gibraltar that I could hold against ten times the number of men I had; hence, in my judgment, it should be held and occupied by artillery as soon as possible, as it was higher than Little Round Top and would command the entire field....

Notwithstanding my conviction of the importance of holding and occupying Big Round Top with artillery, I considered it my duty to leave. It looked to me the key point of the field. But my order was to find and turn the left of the Union line.”

William C. Oates, at Little Round Top, Gettysburg, July 1863, quoted in Time Life’s *The Civil War: Gettysburg – The Confederate High Tide*:

“My dead and wounded were nearly as great in number as those still on duty. They literally covered the ground. The blood stood in puddles in some places on the rocks; the ground was soaked with the blood of as brave men as ever fell on the red field of battle.”

William C. Oates, at the Battle of Chickamauga, quoted in Glenn W. LaFantasie’s article “Like a Fire With Heat But No Light: William C. Oates and the Perils of Command,” found in October 2006 edition of *Civil War Times*:

“[I] made an appeal to the State pride of the regiment, and asked the men not to go where I directed merely, but to follow me.

William C. Oates, about Billy Bethune, quoted in *A Civil War Treasury of Tales, Legends, and Folklore*, edited by B.A. Botkin:

“Before the Battle of Chickamauga [September 19-20] “Billy” Bethune, a little red-haired boy from Columbus, Georgia, came to the regiment and requested me to muster him into the service; but I declined upon the ground that he was too young and too small. He was barely fifteen years old, and not well grown at that. After we went over in the valley he came to me again and said that if I would not give him a gun and let him perform service as a soldier he would go off and join some other command. I compromised with him by giving him a gun and agreeing that he might go into the next fight, but would not put him on other duty. On the morning of the 28th of October he went through the engagement unhurt. During the next night, when the enemy routed the regiment, little “Billy” got shot in the back. Down near Lookout Creek one of the Irishmen of Company K came along with the wounded boy on his back.

Major Lowther called out, ‘Who is that?’

The answer was, ‘Jimmie Rutledge, sir.’

‘Who is that you have there?’

‘Billy Bethune, sir,’ was the response.

‘Is he wounded?’

‘He is, sir,’ said Jimmie.

‘How is he wounded?’

The reply was, ‘He is shot in the back, sir.’

That moment Billy’s childish voice rang out in a sharp tone of indignation, ‘Major, he is a d---d liar; I am shot *across* the back.’”

John B. Gordon, about the Battle of Lookout Mountain, quoted in his book *Reminiscences of the Civil War*:

“Nearly 10,000 Federals under General Hooker had forced a passage of the Tennessee below Lookout Point, driving back the two Confederate regiments, numbering about 1000 men, commanded by the gallant Colonel Oates, of Alabama, who fell severely wounded while making a most stubborn resistance. The night battle at Wauhatchie had

also been fought and the small Confederate force had been defeated. It was in this fire in the darkness that the brave little Billy Bethune of Georgia made his debut as a soldier and his exit on an Irishman's shoulder."

William C. Oates, about Cold Harbor, quoted in *The Blue and the Gray Volume II: From the Battle of Gettysburg to Appomattox*, edited by Henry Steele Commager:

"After a lapse of about forty minutes another charge was made by the Twenty-third and Twenty-fifth Massachusetts regiments...The charging column, which aimed to strike the Fourth Alabama, received the most destructive fire I ever saw. They were subjected to a front and flank fire from the infantry, at short range, while my piece of artillery poured double charges of canister into them.... I could see the dust fog out of a man's clothing in two or three places at once where as many balls would strike him at the same moment. In two minutes not a man of them was standing."

Soldier of the Month

William J. "Billy" Bethune

According to www.civilwardata.com, 17-year-old William J. Bethune, enlisted on July 3, 1861 at Barbour County, Alabama as a 3rd Lieutenant and was commissioned into Company K of the 15th Alabama Infantry. He was promoted to Captain on October 1, 1862. He was severely wounded in the face at Gettysburg on July 2, 1863 and returned to duty on October 1, 1863. He was detailed to post duty on November 1, 1863 and never returned. After the War, he lived in Eufaula, Alabama; Tennessee and was alive at Fort Smith, Arkansas in 1904.



15th Alabama flag

Historic Site of the Month

The Cravens House



Information from <http://ngeorgia.com/tenn/cravens.html>

Robert Cravens is best known for the house he built in 1855 on a small outcrop of level land about half-way up Lookout Mountain south of Chattanooga. During the battle of Chattanooga, both the Union and Confederate armies used Cravens' home as an observation post and headquarters. The heaviest fighting occurred November 24, 1863 on the level plateau on which the house was built. Shortly after capturing the house, the 10,000 man Union advance was halted by a weak line of some 1,200 entrenched Confederates under the command of Stevenson. Although the home sustained minor damage during the fighting, it would later be destroyed by Union soldiers during a drunken brawl. Cravens returned after the war and rebuilt the house. The home is now part of the Chickamauga-Chattanooga National Military Park. It is located off SR148 on Lookout Mountain. Guided 30 minute tours are available daily from 9-4 mid-June through Labor Day. Admission is \$3; Family rate is \$6; and over 61 rate (with a Golden Age Passport) is \$1.50.

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.

Indianapolis Civil War Round Table

Annual Dinner Meeting

Monday, June 9, 2008

at

Jonathan Byrd's Cafeteria *

*100 Byrd Way, Greenwood, IN 46143
(317) 881-8888*

Buffet dinner will be served starting at 6:30 PM.

Cost is \$23 per person

Individuals not wishing to attend the buffet dinner can arrive after 7:00 pm to attend the ICWRT meeting and listen to the speaker free of charge.

Our Guest Speaker: Peter Carmichael

* **Directions:** On the south side of Indianapolis, Take I-65 south from I-465 to Exit 99 (Greenwood Exit). Turn right (west) off the exit ramp onto Main Street, then turn left (south) onto Sheek Road at the first traffic light past the exit. Jonathan Byrd's is just off Sheek Road (to the right).

Reservation form (attached below) should be completed and submitted, along with payment, by **June 1, 2008**. Reservation form and payment can be brought to the May meeting or mailed to:

***Peg Bertelli
11827 Corbin Drive
Fishers, Indiana 46038***

----- *Please detach and mail this form, along with payment, to Peg Bertelli* -----

Individuals attending the Indianapolis Civil War Round Table, June 9, 2008 dinner meeting, including the buffet dinner:

Name

Name

Reservation form and payment must be received by June 1, 2008.

Cost: \$23 per person. Please make check payable to *Indianapolis Civil War Round Table*. Payment and this reservation form can be brought to the May Indianapolis Civil War Round Table meeting or mailed to Peg Bertelli, 11827 Corbin Drive, Fishers, IN 46038, and must be received by June 1, 2008.

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:

William C. Oates, description of Lee at the Battle of the Wilderness, May 1864, quoted in Otto Eisenschiml and Ralph Newman's *The Civil War, Volume I: The American Iliad as Told by Those Who Lived It*:

“To reach our position we had to pass within a few feet of General Lee. He sat his fine gray horse Traveler, with the cape of his black cloak around his shoulders, his face flushed and full of animation.... I thought him at that moment the grandest specimen of manhood ever beheld. He looked as though he ought to have been, and was, the monarch of the world.”

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