



HARDTACK

Indianapolis Civil War Round Table Newsletter

<http://indianapoliswrt.org/>

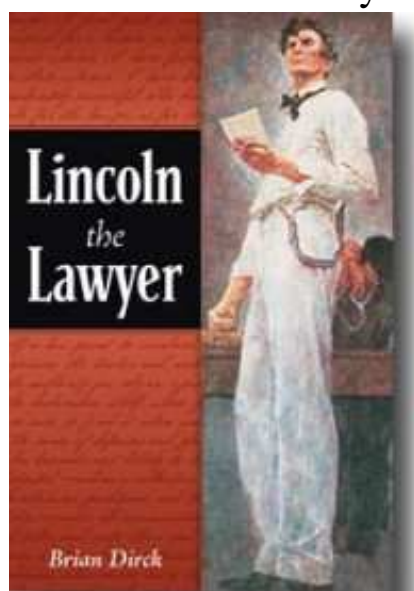


December 15, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.

Meeting at Indiana History Center

Note: this is the 3rd Monday of December.

The Plan of the Day
 “Lincoln’s Career as a Lawyer”



Dr. Brian Dirck’s new book, *Lincoln the Lawyer*, focuses on the law career of the 16th President of the United States. Published by the University of Illinois Press, the book examines what the law did to and for Abraham Lincoln, and its important impact on his future presidency. “A lot of people forget that Lincoln was a lawyer, and a very good one,” Dirck points out, “in fact, he is the most experienced trial attorney we ever put in the White House.” Despite historians’ focus on the man as president and politician, Abraham Lincoln lived most of his adult life as a practicing lawyer. It was as a lawyer that he fed his family, made his reputation, bonded with Illinois, and began his political career. Lawyering was also how Lincoln learned to become an expert mediator between angry antagonists, as he applied his knowledge of the law and of human nature to settle one dispute after another. Frontier lawyers worked hard to establish respect for the law and encourage people to resolve their differences without intimidation or violence. These were the very skills Lincoln used so deftly to hold a crumbling nation together during his presidency. The growth of Lincoln’s practice attests to the trust he was able to inspire, and his travels from court to court taught him much about the people and land of Illinois.

Lincoln the Lawyer explores the origins of Lincoln's desire to practice law, his legal education, his partnerships with John Stuart, Stephen Logan, and William Herndon, and the maturation of his far-flung practice in the 1840s and 1850s. Dr. Dirck provides a context for law as it was practiced in mid-century Illinois and evaluates Lincoln's merits as an attorney by comparison with his peers. He examines Lincoln's clientele, his circuit practice, his views on legal ethics, and the supposition that he never defended a client he knew to be guilty. This approach allows readers not only to consider Lincoln as he lived his life—it also shows them how the law was used and developed in Lincoln's lifetime, how Lincoln charged his clients, how he was paid, and how he addressed judge and jury.

Our Guest Speaker



Dr. Brian Dirck is an associate professor of history in the History and Political Science Department of Anderson University. Dr. Brian Dirck is the author of [*Lincoln and Davis: Imagining America, 1809-1865*](#) and [*Lincoln the Lawyer*](#). He received the 2008 Benjamin Barondess Award from the Civil War Round Table of New York for *Lincoln the Lawyer* on February 13, 2008. This award, in the form of a copy of a bust of Lincoln, honors persons or institutions for their contribution to the greater appreciation of the life and works of Abraham Lincoln.

Roster of Officers and Committees for the 2008-2009 Campaign

Officers:

President: Nikki Schofield
Vice President: Tom Dean

Secretary: Frank Bynum
Treasurer: Tony Roscetti

Committee Chairs:

Programs: Tom Dean
Website: Paul Watson

Preservation: Andy O'Donnell
Publicity: Dave Buchanan & Tony Roscetti

Quiz Master:

Tony Trimble

Summer Campaign:

Nikki Schofield

HARDTACK Newsletter:

Editor: Jenny Thompson

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.

2008-2009 Campaign Plans

Jan. 12, 2009	“Indiana’s 15 th Civil War Regiment”	Bill J. Crane
Feb. 9, 2009	to be announced	
March 9, 2009	to be announced	
April 13, 2009	to be announced	
May 11, 2009	to be announced	
June 8, 2009 (Banquet)	“Gettysburg National Battle Field NSPS”	Troy Harmon

***Note our meetings will be held at the Indiana History Center through March. Our April and May meeting will be held at Speedway Baptist Church at 2986 Moller Road. Our June banquet will be held at the Indian Lake Country Club on the northeast side of the city.**

Other Camp Activities

Carmel Civil War Round Table: We do not meet in December.

- January 21 – Harvey Warrner, “Civil War Ephemera”
- February 18 – Mike Beck, “Indiana Connection to the rare Merrill musket”
- March 18 – Tim Beckman, “The 42nd Indiana and His Family”

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.

Upcoming Lincoln Events in Spencer County

December 6-7, 2008 (at Rockport) / December 13-14, 2008 (at Santa Claus) – Christmas with Lincoln

Honest Abe will make special appearances at these annual holiday celebrations.

February 12, 2009 – Remembering Lincoln, Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial

Will include a wreath laying ceremony at the grave site of Nancy Hanks, guests speakers and an open house.

Third annual Civil War event at Fort Harrison: This event, “The Sunken Road at Shiloh”, will be held at Fort Harrison on September 19-20,2008.

Special Orders

Virtual Cemetery:

From “Virtual Cemetery honors veterans” by Beccy Tanner, *The Wichita Eagle*

By the mid-1880s, more than 100,000 Union Civil War veterans claimed Kansas as their home state. The numbers for the Confederate veterans are less certain. Traditions of honoring veterans with parades and flags are deeply rooted in Kansas, the “soldier state.” More than 100 monuments can be found in Kansas cemeteries and cities. John Jackson pays tribute to Civil War Veterans in Kansas and Missouri by posting photos of their tombstones, biographies and obituaries on his virtual cemetery website found at www.flickr.com/photos/civilwar_veterans_tombstones/sets. In his quest, Jackson has discovered Civil War veterans who were Kansas governors, state legislators, county clerks, treasurers, sheriffs and police chiefs. People can email Jackson at jajacks62@yahoo.com to share names of those veterans who have yet to be listed on the virtual cemetery.

Lincoln's Labels: America's Best Known Brands and the Civil War: This book by James Schmidt, published by Edinborough Press, describes the important role that companies such as Proctor & Gamble, Brooks Brothers, Borden's, Tiffany & Co., Du Pont, American Express, Wells Fargo, Scientific magazine, Squibb, and others played in the war and how the war -in turn- affected them. You can learn more about the book by visiting: <http://www.lincolnlabels.com>.

Official Records

ICWRT attendance for November: 62

Alan T. Nolan Memorial Youth Scholarship Fund: The Executive Board of the Indianapolis Civil War Round Table has established this fund to provide membership dues, annual tour expenses or other worthwhile purpose for any full-time student of any age. Please see Tony Roscetti to donate to this fund.

Nominating committee:

Volunteers are needed to serve on the Nominating Committee. The duties are to nominate officers for the 2009-2010 campaign year.

June Banquet: The June banquet will be held at Indian Lake Country Club, 10502 E. 75th Street in Indianapolis on June 8, 2009. The dinner menu is homemade fried chicken; savory, slow simmered swiss steak; mashed potatoes; beef and/or white pepper gravy; bacon infused green beans; kernel corn; coleslaw; dinner rolls/butter; carrot cake/chocolate cake; and coffee/tea/soda. The cost is \$21.00 per person, which includes tax and tip. Directions will be posted on the sign up sheet in the January Hardtack.

Book Raffle list:

The Beleaguered City: The Vicksburg Campaign, by Shelby Foote

Dear Sarah: Letters Home from a Soldier of the Iron Brigade, edited by Coralou Peel Lassen

Prison Life among the Rebels: Recollections of a Union Chaplain, edited by Edward D. Jervey

Indiana Quakers Confront the Civil War, by Jacquelyn S. Nelson

Brothers in Arms: The Lives and Experiences of the Men who Fought the Civil War – in their Own Words, by William C. Davis

***Anyone wishing to donate books for upcoming raffles should either bring them to Tony Roscetti at the December meeting or contact him to make arrangements for pick up.**

Audio tapes on Lincoln available from ICWRT Archives:

10/19/84 – James Honnert on “The Humorous Lincoln”

2/09/87 – Wayne Sanford on “The Many Faces of Abraham Lincoln”

Contact Marilyn Hoffman at 849-1906 if you would like to borrow any of the tapes.

intellect; without great quickness of perception – still, his mind was so vigorous, his comprehension so exact and clear, and his judgments so sure, that he easily mastered the intricacies of his profession, and became one of the ablest reasoners and most impressive speakers at our bar. With a probity of character known to all, with an intuitive insight into the human heart, with a clearness of statement which was itself an argument, with an uncommon power and facility of illustration, often, it is true, of a plain and homely kind, and with that sincerity and earnestness of manner to carry conviction, he was perhaps one of the most successful jury lawyers we have ever had in the State.”

Henry C. Whitney, quoted in *The Lincoln Reader*, edited by Paul M. Angle.

“As for Lincoln, he had three different moods: first, a *business* mood, when he gave strict and close attention to business, and banished all idea of hilarity, i.e., in counselling or in trying cases, there was no trace of the joker; second, his *melancholy* moods, when his whole nature was immersed in Cimmerian darkness; third, his *don't-care-whether-school-keeps-or-not* mood; when no irresponsible “small boy” could be so apparently careless, or reckless of consequences.”

John H. Littlefield, quoted in *The Lincoln Reader*, edited by Paul M. Angle.

“Lincoln’s favorite position when unraveling some knotty law point was to stretch both of his legs at full length, upon a chair in front of him. In this position, with books on the table nearby and in his lap, he worked up his case. No matter how deeply interested in his work, if any one came in he had something humorous and pleasant to say, and usually wound up by telling a joke or an anecdote. I have heard him relate the same story three times within as many hours to persons who came in at different periods, and every time he laughed as heartily and enjoyed it as if it were a new story. His humor was infectious. I had to laugh because I thought it funny that Mr. Lincoln enjoyed a story so repeatedly told.”

*Abe Lincoln’s Jokes – Wit and Humor – Yarns – Stories – History – Chronology
Gathered from Authentic Sources*

TELLING STORIES ON THE CIRCUIT

“The court circuit in those days was the scene of many a story-telling joust, in which Lincoln was always the chief. Frequently he would sit up until after midnight reeling off story after story, each one followed by roars of laughter that could be heard all over the country tavern, in which the story-telling group was gathered. Every type of character would be represented in these groups, from the learned judge on the bench down to the village loafer.

Lincoln’s favorite attitude was to sit with his long legs propped up on the rail of the stove, or with his feet against the wall, and thus he would sit for hours entertaining a crowd, or being entertained.

One circuit judge was so fond of Lincoln’s stories that he often would sit up until midnight listening to them, and then declare that he had laughed so much he believed his ribs were shaken loose.”

Notes for Law Lecture, c. July 1, 1850 quoted in *Lincoln Dictionary*, edited by Ralph B. Winn.

“The leading rule for the lawyer, as for the man of every other calling, is diligence. Leave nothing for tomorrow which can be done today. Never let your correspondence fall behind. Whatever piece of business you have in hand, before stopping, do all the labor pertaining to it which can then be done.”

“There is a vague popular belief that lawyers are necessarily dishonest. I say vague, because when we consider to what extent confidence and honors are reposed in and conferred upon lawyers by the people, it appears improbable that their impression of dishonesty is very distinct and vivid. Yet the impression is common, almost universal. Let no young man choosing the law for a calling for a moment yield to the popular belief – resolve to be honest at all events; and if in your own judgment you cannot be an honest lawyer, resolve to be honest without being a lawyer. Choose some other occupation, rather than one in the choosing of which you do, in advance, consent to be a knave.”

“Discourage litigation. Persuade neighbors to compromise whenever you can. Point out to them how the nominal winner is often a real loser – in fees, expenses, and waste of time. As a peacemaker the lawyer has a superior opportunity of being a good man. There will still be business enough.

Never stir up litigation. A worse man can scarcely be found than one who does this. Who can be more nearly a fiend than he who habitually overhauls the register of deeds in search of defects in titles, whereon to stir up strife and put money in his pocket? A moral tone ought to be infused into the profession which should drive such men out of it.”

Civilian of the Month

Information from <http://en.wikipedia.org> Photo from <http://www.mrlincolnanfriends.org>



William Herndon was the law partner and biographer of Abraham Lincoln. Herndon’s family moved from Kentucky to Springfield when he was five years old. He attended Illinois College from 1836-1837. He returned to Springfield, where he clerked until 1841, when he went into law practice with Lincoln. Herndon was a much stauncher opponent of slavery than Lincoln and claimed that he helped change Lincoln’s views on the subject. Following Lincoln’s assassination, Herndon began to collect stories of Lincoln’s life from those who knew him, aspiring to write a faithful portrait of his friend and law partner based on his own observations and hundreds of letters and

interviews. Numerous obstacles kept Herndon from writing the book until he met Jesse

W. Weik, who completed the project in 1888. *Herndon's Lincoln: The True Story of a Great Life* was published in 1889. Herndon died in 1891 and is buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield, the same cemetery as Lincoln.

Historic Site of the Month

LINCOLN-HERNDON LAW OFFICES

6th and Adams



(217) 785-7960

HOURS:

- Open Saturday 9:00 - 5:00 pm.

ADMISSION: Donation suggested

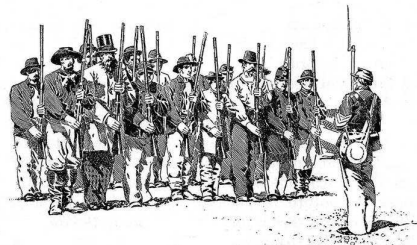


Abraham Lincoln practiced law in the offices above Seth Tinsley's store from 1843 until 1852. It was an ideal location for a rising young law firm — near the Capitol and Springfield's finest hotel of the day and just above the local post office and Federal Courtroom. Stephen Logan (1843-44) and William Herndon (1844-52) were his partners during this time. This is the only surviving structure in which Lincoln maintained working law offices.

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 Tony Roscetti, ICWRT Treasurer, at the next Round Table meeting, or mail your re-enlistment form and payment to:

Tony Roscetti
6270 Brixton Lane
Indianapolis, Indiana 46220

Phone: (317) 475-9227
Email: anthony.roschetti@nationalcity.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**

Donation to Alan T. Nolan Memorial Youth Scholarship Fund \$ _____
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:

*Abe Lincoln's Jokes – Wit and Humor – Yarns – Stories – History – Chronology
Gathered from Authentic Sources*

WELL WORTH THE MONEY

“During the early years of his career as a lawyer, Abraham Lincoln traveled the old Eighth Circuit in central Illinois. Lincoln and Judge David Davis were fast friends from the beginning, and the judge always showed a keen appreciation of Lincoln’s stories. ‘I was never fined but once for contempt of court,’ says a man who was a clerk of court in Lincoln’s day. ‘Davis fined me five dollars. Mr. Lincoln had just come in, and leaning over my desk, had told me a story so irresistible funny that I broke out in a loud laugh. The judge called me to order, saying, ‘This must be stopped. Mr. Lincoln, you are constantly disturbing this court with your stories.’
‘Then he said to me, ‘You may fine yourself five dollars.’ I apologized to the court, but told the judge that the story was worth the money. In a few minutes the judge called me to him. ‘What was that story Lincoln told you?’ he asked. I told him, and he laughed aloud in spite of himself. ‘Remit your fine,’ he ordered.”

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6019 Allendale Dr.
Indianapolis, IN 46224