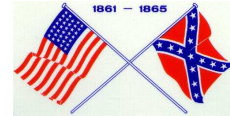


HARDTACK

Indianapolis Civil War Round Table Newsletter

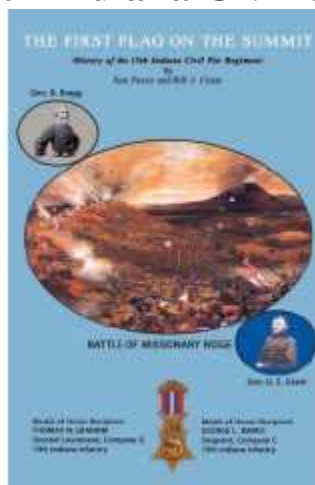
<http://indianapoliswrt.org/>



January 12, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.

Meeting at Indiana History Center

The Plan of the Day
**First Flag On The Summit –
 History Of The 15th Indiana Civil War Regiment**



The 15th Indiana Infantry Regiment was in the forefront of two of the most decisive battles in the Western Theater of the Civil War. In the Battle of Stones River, the 15th played a crucial role in reversing the tide of the battle, which was almost a total disaster for the Union forces. At the battle of Chattanooga, the 15th claimed to be the first regiment to plant a flag on the summit of Missionary Ridge during the famous charge up the slope. At both of these battles, the 15th paid a tragic price in dead and wounded. However, these battles were key to defeating the Rebels in the west.

The book starts out with recruitment in Lafayette, Indiana, and follows the regiment's campaign in western Virginia, then to Kentucky and the march to Shiloh where they participated in the second day of the battle at Shiloh. From Shiloh, they took part in the occupation of Corinth and the invasion of northern Mississippi and Alabama. Afterwards, with great frustration, they took part in the "grand retreat" that was a 275 mile "skedaddle" back to Louisville, Ky.

The book then follows the 15th as the Union army went on the offensive and drove the Rebels out of Perryville, Murfreesboro, Tullahoma and eventually occupied Chattanooga, setting up the battle of Missionary Ridge. Their last campaign was to help lift the siege of Knoxville, Tennessee.

The author will have books with him on sale for \$20.

Our Guest Speaker Bill J. Crane



Billie J. Crane was born in Pine Village, Indiana, also the hometown of Colonel George D. Wagner, who in 1861 organized and was appointed commander of the 15th Indiana Infantry Regiment. Bill had an interest in this regiment because his great grandfather, Corporal Elijah T. Crane, was one of Wagner's 15th Indiana recruits. Elijah was also a resident of Pine Village. In addition to his great grandfather, he (Bill) had at least 15 other relatives in the Civil War of which nine died for their country. A few lines are written in this book about these heroes in hopes that they will not be forgotten.

Bill was a Navy Signalman for three years during World War II. He and his wife Barbara have been married for 57 years and have two children. Bill is retired from Eli Lilly Co.

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

Feb. 9, 2009	“Fort Pillow” Gerald Jones
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:

- 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

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

Of the People: Stories and Images of Abraham Lincoln: To commemorate the 200th anniversary of our 16th president’s birth, Hope Baugh will premiere her original piece *Of the People: Stories and Images of Abraham Lincoln* on Sunday, January 18th, 2009, from 4-6 p.m. as part of the Sharing Hoosier History Through Stories Series presented by Storytelling Arts of Indiana and the Indiana Historical Society. This event will take place at the Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana History Center Basile Theater, located at 450 W. Ohio Street. The Basile Theater is wheelchair accessible and has a state-of-the-art sound system. Tickets are \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door. To order tickets or for more information, call the History Center at (317) 232-1882 or (800) 447-1830. To order tickets on-line visit, www.storytellingarts.org/store/category/Tickets Free parking is available at the History Center in its parking lot at the corner of West and New York streets.

Official Records

ICWRT attendance for December: 32

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:

The nominating committee is Nikki Schofield, Jerry and Jenny Thompson.

June Banquet: The June banquet will be held at Indian Lake Country Club, 10502 E. 75th Street in Indianapolis on June 8, 2009. The signup sheet is on page 9 of the Hardtack.

Book Raffle list:

General Philip Sheridan: Civil War Memoirs, edited by Paul Andrew Hutton

Abraham Lincoln Great Speeches, edited by Stanley Appelbaum

On the Bloodstained Field II: 132 More Human Interest Stories of the Campaign and Battle of Gettysburg, by Gregory A. Coco

Great American Writers: The Civil War, by Stephen Crane, Ambrose Bierce and Harriet Beecher Stowe

The Civil War, A Narrative: Fredericksburg to Steele Bayou, by Shelby Foote

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

Audio tapes about battles fought by the 15th Indiana available from ICWRT**Archives:**

10/16/86 Gordon Whitney on "Second Day at Chickamauga"

10/17/86 Gordon Whitney on "Battle for Chattanooga"

101886 Bob Ragland on "Murphreesboro (A); Stones River (B)"

9/13/04 Jim Lewis on "The Battle of Stones River"

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

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

1. Who or what was "Coquette"?

2. What unit was known as the "Nottaway Grays"?

3. By what name is Robert H. Hendershot better known?

4. Who wrote the following: "...we know of no other instance ever having occurred – surely never in the United States – and what has this helpless people done that they should be driven from their homes, to wander as strangers, outcasts, and exiles, and to subsist on charity?" To what does he refer?

5. What was the principal function of a "donkey"?

Answers to December Quiz:

Who is the Civil War personality identified with these nicknames?

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 1. "Commissary" | Nathaniel Banks |
| 2. "Krupp of the Confederacy" | John B. Anderson, CSA |
| 3. "Old Bory" | P.G.T. Beauregard |
| 4. "Rans" | Ambrose Ransom Wright, CSA |
| 5. "Bohemian Brigade" | Northern War Correspondents Collectively |

The Soldiers Speak

MOH CITATIONS, from *The Medal of Honor of the United States Army*, 1948 printing:

WHITEHEAD, JOHN M., Chaplain, 15th Indiana Infantry, at Stone River, Tenn., 31 Dec. 1862:

“Went to the front during a desperate contest and unaided carried to the rear several wounded and helpless soldiers.”

BANKS, GEORGE L., Sergeant, Company C, 15th Indiana Infantry, at Missionary Ridge, Tenn., 25 Nov. 1863:

“As color bearer, led his regiment in the assault, and, though wounded, carried the flag forward to the enemy’s works, where he was again wounded. In a brigade of eight regiments this flag was the first planted on the parapet.”

BROWN, ROBERT B., Private, Company A, 15th Indiana Infantry, at Missionary Ridge, Tenn., 25 Nov. 1863:

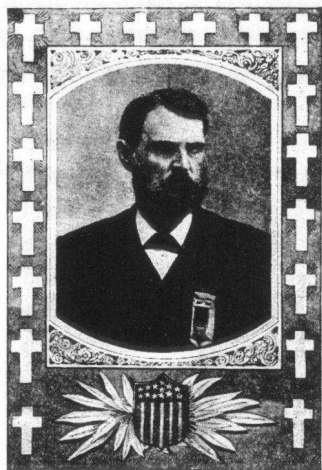
“Capture of flag.” [capture of Ninth Mississippi flag and its color-bearer – photo from *Deeds of Valor*]



GRAHAM, THOMAS N., Second Lieutenant, Company G, 15th Indiana Infantry, at Missionary Ridge, Tenn., 25 Nov. 1863:

“Seized the colors from the color bearer, who had been wounded, and, exposed to a terrible fire, carried them forward, planting them on the enemy’s breastworks.”

John M. Whitehead, quoted in *Deeds of Valor: How America’s Civil War Heroes Won the Congressional Medal of Honor*, edited by W.F. Beyer and O.F. Keydel:



“On the night of December 30, 1862, my regiment, the Fifteenth Indiana, was ordered to cross Stone River, at the ford. The command was obeyed, but as we advanced up the hill on the opposite side, we met the enemy in force, and, countermarching, recrossed the river. Here we bivouacked. Early the next morning our colonel passed along the officers’ lines and said: ‘Get your men up. Our pickets are falling back. The enemy is advancing.’ In a second we were all astir, and at the dawn of day the bloody battle of Stone River commenced.

“Our position was between Stone River on our left and the railroad and turnpike on our right, and directly in front of Breckenridge’s Corps. The firing from the Confederate batteries was terrible and very destructive.

“Colonel G.A. Wood, who commanded our regiment, was ordered to hold our position on the left, nearest to the river, at all hazards. Three times he charged Jackson’s Brigade and three times put the enemy to flight, capturing a

greater number of prisoners than there were men in our own command when we went into battle. But this was accomplished only with a fearful loss of life. Of my own regiment every alternate man was either killed or wounded. Though a non-combatant, I was with my regiment during the entire battle, comforting the dying, carrying off the wounded and caring for them.

“During the struggle Captain Templeton fell, fatally wounded. I carried him to the rear and remained at his side, until he breathed his last. I copied his last message and sent it to his friends at home. My own next-door neighbor in Westville, Ind., Captain J.N. Forster, dropped mortally wounded into my arms, the same ball killing two other brave soldiers.

“Colonel I.C.B. Surnan, of the Ninth Indiana, was shot twice, one ball severing the artery in the arm, the other penetrating the body and lodging between two ribs, whence I pulled it out.

“One boot was filled with blood and he was bleeding his life away. I dressed his wounds and helped him on his horse and he rode back into the raging battle. John Long, a private, had one leg shot to pieces. He cut the dangling limb off with his pocketknife and hobbled off using his gun for a crutch, until I took him up and carried him to the rear. Calvin Zenner of Company G, received a fatal wound. I carried him back. A number of soldiers gathered around the dying comrade and I offered a prayer for him. He talked to all of us and then said: ‘Now boys, let us all once more sing a song together.’ And he struck up the hymn, ‘O Sing to Me of Heaven.’ Then he said: ‘Good-bye boys, I am going home. I am mustered out.’ And he closed his eyes and ceased to breathe. After nightfall, when both armies were quiet along the front lines, I helped to bring the wounded to the general hospital, carrying those who could not walk on my shoulder to the ambulance.”

Soldier of the Month

George L. Banks

From http://skyways.lib.ks.us/genweb/civilwar/George_L_Banks.htm; <http://www.in.gov/iwm/2339.htm>;
<http://www.in.gov/iwm/2639.htm>



George Banks was born October 13, 1839. He spent his youth and early manhood in LaPorte County, Indiana, where he had the advantage of a good county school education. He enlisted June 6, 1861 in Company C, 15th Indiana under Colonel George D. Wagner. He took part in the battles of Greenbriar, Elk Water, Shiloh, Perryville, and Stones River. The regimental battle flag was so shredded at Stones River that new colors

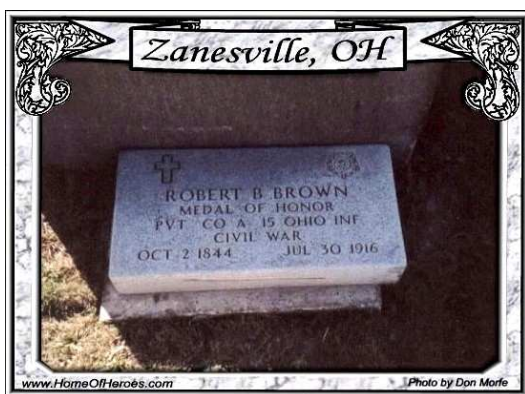
were requested from the State. A group of girls from Haskell Station in northwestern Indiana raised nearly \$35 to purchase a cotton bunting replacement flag, which they presented to the soldiers on May 1, 1863. The soldiers chose to carry the "Little Girl's Flag" into battle instead of the silk flag provided by the State.

George Banks was carrying that flag at Missionary Ridge, where he was wounded and rendered unfit for service for several weeks. When the regiment was ordered forward, Color-Sergeant Banks got to his feet waving the Regimental Standard and calling his comrades to follow the Colors. The whole regiment surged forward to rally around the flag. Suddenly Banks, already wounded in the left thumb, was struck by a minie ball in the chest and was soundly knocked to the ground. While Banks was stunned and senseless, four fellow soldiers carried the Colors forward into a hailstorm of bullets. Of the four gallant defenders of the flag: two were wounded, two were killed. Coming to his senses, Banks realized he was not disabled. Luckily, the ball had struck a novel and two letters inside his shirt. He jumped to his feet running up the hill and seized the flag as it went down for the fifth time. Once more, Banks raised the Colors and called on his compatriots to follow the Colors! As the 15th Indiana reached the Ridge, they saw the Confederates lower their guns. The men of the 15th dropped to the ground to avoid the volley and inescapable death. Before the rebels could reload the 15th Indiana stormed the Ridge. The chants of "Chickamauga! Chickamauga!" were heard from the Union soldiers. Banks scrambled up the earthworks waving the stars and stripes and calling to his fellow soldiers. As the regiment captured the works on the crest of the Ridge, Color-Sergeant Banks received a second wound. This second wound was to the side of his head. As Banks fell backwards off the earthworks, Second Lieutenant Thomas Graham, of Company G, seized the flag and moved forward. Finally, the day was won by the Union troops. Color-Sergeant George L. Banks received three wounds during this charge on Missionary Ridge.

He later participated in the battle at Charleston and Dandridge, Tennessee. He was discharged from the army June 25, 1864. On October 9, 1864, George married Olive W. Chandler. They were married for thirty-eight years and had three sons. After the war, Mr. Banks resumed farming in Indiana until the spring of 1871, when he moved to Montgomery County, Kansas. There he aided in organizing things in this county. He served as the first clerk of school district No. 91 and the schoolhouse was named "The Banks School House" in his honor. He purchased property and lived there until December 1886. He moved to Angola, Indiana to become the proprietor of a hotel for a short time, then he moved to Camden, Hillsdale County, Michigan for six years. He returned to Montgomery County, Kansas and resided in Independence from 1892 to 1895. In 1897, he was awarded the Medal of Honor for carrying the flag at Missionary Ridge. Mr. Banks was active in the Republican Party and filled all the offices of Fawn Creek Township. He was prominent in the State Grand Army and was commander of the Southeast Kansas Association of Old Soldiers. He was also a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

Historic Sites of the Month

Photos from www.HomeofHeroes.com



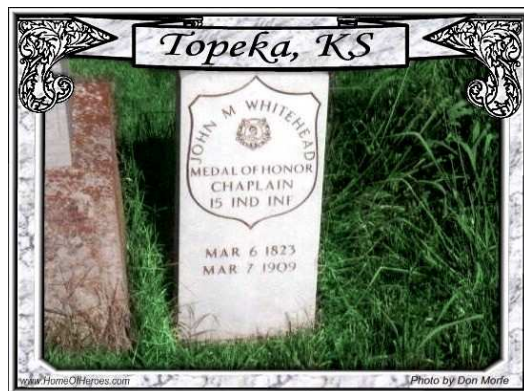
Greenwood Cemetery



Mount Hope Cemetery



Oak Hill Cemetery



Topeka Cemetery

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 8, 2009

at

Indian Lake Country Club *

10502 E. 75th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46236

(317) 823-4484

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

Cost is \$21 per person

Menu: 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; coffee/tea/soda

Our Guest Speaker: Troy Harmon

* **Directions:** From I-465: Take the 56th Street exit. Go east to Pendleton Pike and turn left. Turn left (north) on to Sunnyside Road. At the stop light at 75th Street, turn left to the entrance on your right. *** From Castleton: Come east on 82nd Street, which becomes 79th Street at Fall Creek Road. Continue east to the stoplight at Sunnyside Road. Turn right (south) to the stoplight at 75th Street. Turn right to the club entrance on your right. *** From the Southeast: Come north on German Church Road, which becomes Sunnyside Road at Pendleton Pike. Continue north to the stoplight at 75th Street. Turn left to the club entrance on your right.

Reservation form (attached below) should be completed and submitted, along with payment, by **June 1, 2009**. Reservation form and payment can be brought to the February, March, April or May meeting or mailed to:

Tony Roscetti

6270 Brixton Lane

Indianapolis, Indiana 46220

----- Please detach and mail this form, along with payment, to Tony Roscetti -----

Individuals attending the Indianapolis Civil War Round Table, June 8, 2009 dinner meeting, including the buffet dinner:

Name

Name

Reservation form and payment must be received by June 1, 2009.

Cost: \$21 per person. Please make check payable to *Indianapolis Civil War Round Table*

Colonel I.C.B. Suman, quoted in *Deeds of Valor: How America's Civil War Heroes Won the Congressional Medal of Honor*, edited by W.F. Beyer and O.F. Keydel:

“I was severely wounded at the battle of Stone River. When Chaplain Whitehead gave me his assistance, he was all besmeared with the blood of the wounded he had cared for. He seemed to be an angel among the wounded, Yankees and Johnnies alike. He thought nothing of the danger he was in, caring for the wounded, looking after the dead, directing and assisting their burial. I came in contact with many chaplains during my long service in the army and can truthfully state, that Rev. John M. Whitehead was the most worthy one that ever came under my notice. In camp, on the march, and on the field of battle, especially that of Stone River, his services were performed admirably, and without the hope of reward or promotion.”

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