



# HARDTACK

Indianapolis Civil War Round Table Newsletter

<http://indianapoliscwrt.org/>



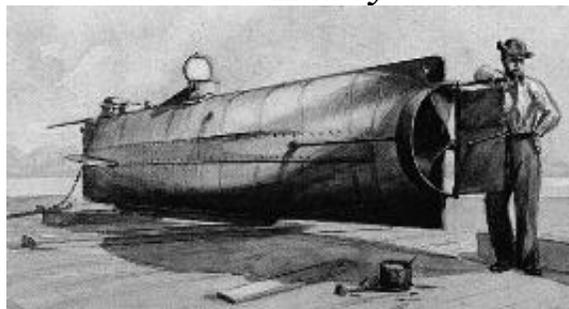

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May 11, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.

Meeting at **Speedway Baptist Church, 2986 Moller Road**

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## *The Plan of the Day* *CSS Hunley*



Drawing of the *H.L. Hunley*, based on a photograph taken in 1861 by George S. Cook

Gary Johnson stated that his desire to learn more about the Civil War probably started after he saw two famous Civil War classic movies, "The Great Locomotive Chase" and "The Horse Soldiers," and because two excellent history teachers in junior and senior high school taught him the Civil War subject the "right way." While Gary was stationed at Charleston with the U.S. Navy, he gained much exposure to Civil War history, which stirred up his childhood interests in the war. Then, author and oceanic archaeologist Clive Cussler discovered the sunken wreck of the Confederate *CSS Hunley* in Charleston harbor on May 3, 1995. The combination of submarines and Civil War was too much to resist for Gary. He eagerly joined the 501(c)(3) organization "*Friends of the Hunley*" to learn more about the world-famous vessel. Since that time, Gary has made multiple visits to the Charleston shipyard site where the *Hunley* is being restored for public display.

Mr. Johnson plans to share his deep knowledge of the *CSS Hunley* submarine using a submariner's perspective – a viewpoint that Gary is uniquely qualified to give. He first will review the general situation that led to the Confederacy's use of an unproven weapon like the *Hunley*, and then he will discuss the problem-solving and sacrifices made to develop a working submersible that could destroy an enemy ship. Gary will highlight the famous mission of the *CSS Hunley* on the night of February 17, 1864, when the vessel earned its rank in the annals of military history by becoming the first submarine to successfully sink an enemy ship (the *USS Housatonic*) in combat. Mysteriously, however, the *CSS Hunley* and its entire crew were lost minutes after the *Housatonic* went to the bottom of the harbor. Why?

Gary will present some details surrounding the recovery of the *Hunley* wreck and, most importantly, what facts it has revealed about the *Hunley*, its operators, and that fateful evening in 1864.

### *Our Guest Speaker*



Cincinnati Civil War Round Table member Gary Johnson will speak for the first time to the organization at its March meeting. Gary is a chemical engineering graduate of the Ohio State University. He attended college on a Naval ROTC scholarship and served five years after graduation as an officer qualified in submarines and nuclear propulsion. His ships were home-ported in Charleston, South Carolina. After leaving the Navy, he worked for Procter & Gamble for 27 years in a variety of Health, Safety, and Environment roles to support manufacturing sites. About six years ago, he left P&G to become an Industrial Ventilation Consultant.

### *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 Sutherland & Tony Roscetti

#### *Quiz Master:*

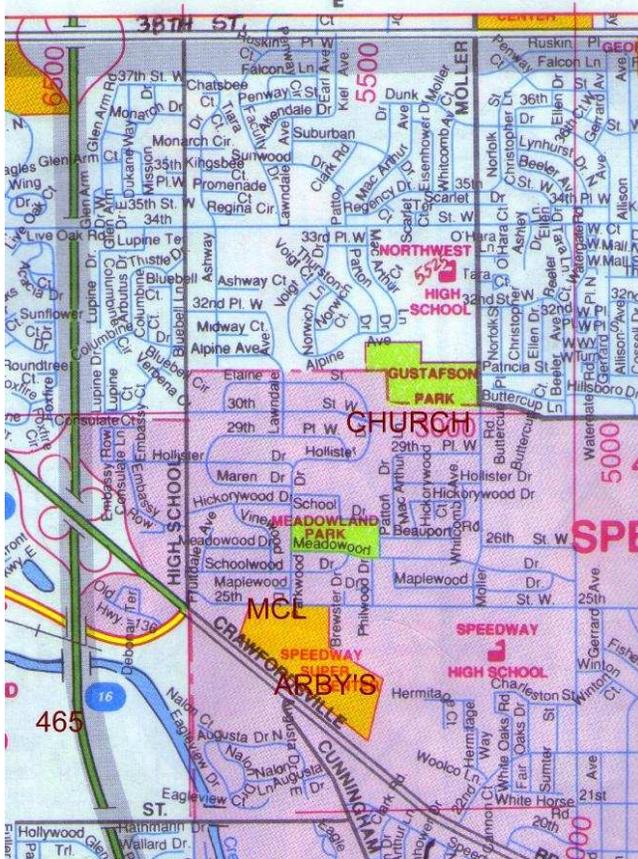
Tony Trimble

#### *Summer Campaign:*

Nikki Schofield

#### *HARDTACK Newsletter:*

Editor: Jenny Thompson



## JOIN US BEFORE THE MEETING AT MCL CAFETERIA!

All ICWRT members and guests are invited to join us at 6:00 P.M. in the meeting room at MCL Cafeteria, 6002 Crawfordsville Rd, (on the left side of the Speedway Shopping Center access road, between Arby's and Goodyear Tire) before the meeting to enjoy dinner and fellowship.

**Directions to the church:** From the MCL, continue on the access road to 25<sup>th</sup> Street, turn right (east). If you are coming from the south on 465, take Crawfordsville Road, turn left (north) on High School Road, then turn right (east) on 25<sup>th</sup> Street. At the three-way flashing stoplight, turn left (north) on Moller Road. The church is just south of 30<sup>th</sup> Street, on the west

side of Moller. If you are coming from the north on 465, take the 38<sup>th</sup> Street exit, heading east. Turn right (south) on Moller Road. The church is after the second stoplight.

## 2008-2009 Campaign Plans

June 8, 2009 (Banquet) "Thinking Bigger: Gettysburg in Space and Time" Troy Harman  
**\*\*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:

- May 20 – a documentary DVD entitled "The Battle of Perryville – The Invasion of Kentucky" filmed on site at the 144<sup>th</sup> anniversary National Reenactment
- September 16 – Tony Trimble, "Lewis Addison Armistead, Genl. CSA 1817-1863"
- October 21 – TBA
- November 18 – Dr. Wesley Hanson, "Rare and Unusual Music of the Civil War"

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.

## *Special Orders*

### **Chambersburg Civil War Seminars:**

Stonewall Jackson in the Valley, July 22-26, Plaza Hotel, Hagerstown, MD

Riding with Jeb Stuart, Oct. 9-11, Four Points Sheraton, Chambersburg, PA

For more information, visit <http://www.chambersburgcivilwarseminars.org> or call Cindy Baker at 717-264-7101.

**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, 2009.

### **Smithsonian Uncovers Secret Message Inside Abraham Lincoln’s Watch**

Smithsonian Press Release

“The Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History announced it has found a ‘secret’ message engraved in President Abraham Lincoln’s watch by a watchmaker who was repairing it in 1861 when news of the attack on Fort Sumter reached Washington, D.C.

In an interview with *The New York Times* April 30, 1906, 84-year-old Jonathan Dillon recalled that he was working for M.W. Galt and Co. on Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, where he was repairing Lincoln’s watch. The owner of the shop announced that the first shot of the Civil War had been fired. Dillon reported that he unscrewed the dial of the watch, and with a sharp instrument wrote on the metal beneath: ‘The first gun is fired. Slavery is dead. Thank God we have a President who at least will try.’ He then signed and dated the inscription and closed the dial. Dillon told *The New York Times* in 1906 that to his knowledge, no one ever saw the inscription.

After being contacted by Dillon’s great-great-grandson, Doug Stiles of Waukegan, Ill., the museum agreed to remove the dial to see if the watchmaker’s message was inside. The museum did find a message inscribed on the brass underside of the movement. The wording was slightly different from Dillon’s own recollection. The actual engraving says: ‘Jonathan Dillon / April 13 – 1861 / Fort Sumpter [sic] was attacked / by the rebels on the above / date J Dillon April 13 – 1861 / Washington / thank God we have a government / Jonth Dillon.’ Other markings of one or more watchmakers also appear on the watch.

‘Lincoln never knew of the message he carried in his pocket,’ said Brent D. Glass, director of the National Museum of American History. ‘It’s a personal side of history about an ordinary watchman being inspired to record something for posterity.’ ...”

## *Official Records*

**ICWRT attendance for April:** 33

**New Book Raffle:** We plan to hold a raffle of new Civil War books at the banquet in June. We already have *The Fighting McCoys*. Please donate new books to Tony Roscetti for the banquet raffle.

**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.

**Annual Trip:**

Our annual trip (to the Shenandoah Valley) will be Sat., July 11, to Friday, July 17. See Nikki for more information.

**June Banquet:** The June banquet will be held at Indian Lake Country Club, 10502 E. 75<sup>th</sup> Street in Indianapolis on June 8, 2009. The sign up sheet is at the back of the Hardtack.

**Book Raffle list:**

*The Civil War*, by Robert Paul Jordan

*The Civil War – A Narrative: Tullahoma to Meridian – Riot and Resurgence*, by Shelby Foote

*Matthew Brady's Illustrated History of the Civil War*, by Benson J. Lossing, LL.D.

*R.E. Lee*, by Douglas Southall Freeman

*Uniforms of the Civil War: 186 – 65*, by Philip Haythornthwaite

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

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

Name the Civil War personality associated with each of these nicknames.

1. "Old Reliable"
2. "Bluff Ben"
3. "Gath"
4. "War Eagle"
5. "Stovepipe"

Answers to May quiz:

1. What unit was known as the "Jackass Regiment?" \*\*\* 1<sup>st</sup> Indiana Heavy Artillery
2. What is a "shoupade?"\*\*\* A three-sided fort designed by Gen. Francis Asbury Shoup
3. Who said, "I just took the short cut and got there first with the most men"? \*\*\* Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest
4. Why was the Colt Repeating Rifle never distributed to the troops? \*\*\* Firing one round tended to ignite all of them.
5. Name the composer inspired by the sight of, "a hundred circling camps," surrounding Washington. \*\*\* Julia Ward Howe

## *The Statistics Speak*

From Wikipedia.org

### The Statistics of the *CSS Hunley*

General characteristics	
Displacement:	7.5 <a href="#">short tons</a> (6.8 <a href="#">metric tons</a> )
Length:	39.5 feet (12.0 meters)
Beam:	3.83 feet (1.17 meters)
Propulsion:	hand-cranked propeller
Speed:	4 knots (7.4 kilometers/hour) (surface)
Complement:	1 officer, 7 enlisted
Armament:	1 × <a href="#">spar torpedo</a>

Career ( <a href="#">C.S.A.</a> )	
Name:	H. L. Hunley
Builder:	Horace L. Hunley
Laid down:	early 1863
Launched:	July 1863
Acquired:	August 1863
In service:	<a href="#">February 17, 1864</a>
Out of service:	<a href="#">February 17, 1864</a>
Fate:	sunk
Status:	awaiting conservation

## *Soldiers of the Month*

From [www.bivouacbooks.com/bbv3i2s1.htm](http://www.bivouacbooks.com/bbv3i2s1.htm)

### The final crew of the *CSS Hunley*

Lt. George E. Dixon

Seaman Arnold Becker

Quartermaster C. Simpkins

Seaman Frank G. Collins

Corporal J. F. Carlsen

Private J. Miller

Boatswains Mate James A. Wicks

Quartermaster Joseph Ridgeway

“April 17, 2004.... 140 years and two months to the day when the confederate submarine H. L. Hunley made her fateful voyage into history. All of Charleston, South Carolina turned out to pay their respects to the brave men of the third and final crew.... Military and civilian reenactors numbered near 10,000 as they took their places in the procession lineup.... The religious Service was conducted by Father Dow Sanderson, a Charleston native, who expounded upon the significance of the deed performed by these eight brave men; Sen. Glenn McConnell gave the homily, after which the caskets were removed from the semicircle in front of the monument to the Confederate Defenders of Charleston and placed upon eight horse-drawn caissons by the pallbearers. The procession to the Hunley

plot at Magnolia cemetery was led by the caissons bearing the dead, followed in order by the Citadel Bagpipe Band, the Crucifer, representatives from Admiral Raphael Semmes SCV Camp #11 (Mobile AL-the birthplace of the Hunley), the official Color Guard, the pallbearers, over 40 direct descendants of the crew and their families, and finally the massed troops.... Prior to the graveside service, a delegation of high-ranking Masonic officials from the SC Grand Lodge and Masonic Lodge #40 (Mobile, AL) performed the ritual Masonic Burial Rites for Lt. George Dixon - a member Lodge #40 before the War.... After the ritual Roman Catholic burial ceremony was conducted, the caskets were lowered into the ground; the remains were placed side-by-side in the same order in which they were found at their battle stations inside the Hunley. A 50-gun Infantry Musket Salute was held, followed by a 50-gun Artillery Salute; the playing of Tattoo and Taps concluded the ceremony.”

### *Historic Site of the Month*

City Museum, 355 Government St., Mobile, Alabama (official home of the *CSS Hunley*)

From [www.walkaboutcity.com/mobile/hunley-page.htm](http://www.walkaboutcity.com/mobile/hunley-page.htm)

The original plans of the *C.S.S. Hunley* were smuggled to Mobile by a confederate loyalist after the fall of New Orleans in 1862. Privately built in 1863 by Parks and Lyons of Mobile Alabama, the *Hunley* was fashioned from a cylindrical iron steam boiler, which was deepened and also lengthened through the addition of tapered ends. *Hunley* was designed to be hand powered by a crew of nine: eight to turn the hand-cranked propeller and one to steer and direct the boat. As a submarine it was equipped with ballast tanks, which could be flooded by valves or pumped dry by hand pumps. Extra ballast was added through the use of iron weights bolted to the underside of the hull. In the event the submarine needed additional buoyancy to rise in an emergency, the iron weights could be removed by unscrewing the heads of the bolts from inside the vessel. After testing the *Hunley* in Mobile Bay and successfully sinking a coal flat in the Mobile River, it was determined that Mobile Bay was too shallow for its purpose and sent to Charleston, South Carolina. On February 16, 1864, the *Hunley* made a daring late night attack on the *USS Housatonic* in Charleston Harbor off the coast of South Carolina. The *Hunley* rammed the *Housatonic* with a spar torpedo packed with explosive powder and attached to a long pole on its bow. The spar torpedo embedded in the sloop's wooden side was detonated by a rope as *Hunley* backed away. The resulting explosion that sank the *Housatonic* sending it to the bottom of Charleston Harbor, also sank *Hunley* with its crew of nine. According to Mr. Sid Shell, a local maritime historian in Mobile, the replica of the *Hunley* is a full-scale model based upon all known information at the time it was built. It was one of many projects of a local sheet metal union to give apprentice sheet metal workers experience. It is now on exhibit behind the City Museum located at 355 Government St. and worth seeing.

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](mailto: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. 75<sup>th</sup> 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 56<sup>th</sup> Street exit. Go east to Pendleton Pike and turn left. Turn left (north) on to Sunnyside Road. At the stop light at 75<sup>th</sup> Street, turn left to the entrance on your right. \*\*\* From Castleton: Come east on 82<sup>nd</sup> Street, which becomes 79<sup>th</sup> Street at Fall Creek Road. Continue east to the stoplight at Sunnyside Road. Turn right (south) to the stoplight at 75<sup>th</sup> 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 75<sup>th</sup> 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

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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*

## Re-enlist NOW for the 2009-2010 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](mailto:anthony.roschetti@nationalcity.com)

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

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### ***ICWRT Membership Enlistment for July 2009 thru June 2010***

*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:

\_\_\_\_\_

Lieutenant William A. Alexander describing the operation of the CSS Hunley, quoted in Webb Garrison Jr.'s *Strange Battles of the Civil War*:

“Two men experienced in handling the boat, and seven others composed the crew. The first officer steered and handled the boat forward, and the second attended to the after-tank and pumps and the air supply, all hands turning on the cranks except the first officer. There was just sufficient room for these two to stand in their places with their heads in the hatchways and take observations through the lights of the combings. All hands aboard and ready, they would fasten the hatch covers down tight, light a candle [to monitor the amount of air within the vessel], then let the water in from the sea into the ballast tanks until the top of the shell was about three inches under water. This could be seen by the water lever showing through the glasses in the hatch combings. The seacocks were then closed and the boat put under way. The captain would then lower the lever and depress the forward end of the fins very slightly; then bring the fins to a level; the boat would remain and travel at that depth. To rise to a higher level in the water he would raise the lever and elevate the forward end of the fins, and the boat would rise to its original position in the water.”

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