



HARDTACK

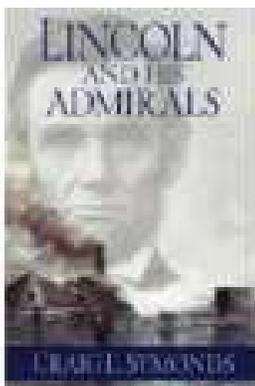
Indianapolis Civil War Round Table Newsletter

<http://indianapoliscwrt.org/>



October 13, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.

Meeting at Indiana History Center



The Plan of the Day

Lincoln and His Admirals is a serious study of the US Navy leaders during the Civil War. It describes Lincoln's efforts to develop a navy sufficient to effect his anaconda plan, while seeking leaders of sufficient vision and knowledge to suppress the rebellion without widening the war. The book begins with a presidential crisis where Lincoln must decide whether to reinforce or withdraw Fort Sumter troops. When Confederate commissioners en route to Europe are seized in the *Trent* affair, Lincoln is forced to defuse the affair or risk fighting both a Civil War and a third war with England. Lincoln also faces

conflicts between the Treasury, US Navy and War Departments. Lincoln works with Navy leaders as they faced the *Monitor* and *Merrimac*, rebel commerce raiders *Alabama* and *Florida*, and river battles at Forts Henry and Donelson, New Orleans, and Mobile Bay. Lincoln learns from his mistakes and eventually develops a coordinated national war strategy. His skills and talents allow him to bring key leaders to share his vision through stories, humors, and his well-known habit of writing letters that he never mailed.

Special Notices: Our speaker, Craig Symonds, will be interviewed about his book by Doug Housemeyer on "Indy Arts and Entertainment" between 9:15 and 9:30 a.m. on WICR (98.7 FM) on Monday, October 6, 2008.

The History Center Book Store will be open late Monday, October 13, 2008, so guests may purchase *Lincoln and His Admirals* for a book signing with our speaker before his presentation. The book is \$27.95 plus 7% tax. Indiana Historical Society members will get a 10% discount on the cost of the book.

Our Guest Speaker

Craig L. Symonds is professor emeritus of the United States Naval Academy where he taught for more than three decades. He also taught at the Britannia Royal Naval College in Dartmouth, England, and at the US Navy War College. He is the author of ten books and over one hundred articles and chapters for popular and academic journals. He is Chief Historian for the *U.S.S. Monitor* Center at The Mariners' Museum in Newport News, Virginia.



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.

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

2008-2009 Campaign Plans

Nov. 10, 2008	"Andy Smith's Medal of Honor"	Sharon MacDonald
Dec. 15, 2008	to be announced	Please note this is the 3rd Monday.
Jan. 12, 2009	to be announced	
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)	to be announced	

*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 location has not been determined yet.

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.

2nd Annual Nathan Bedford Forrest Seminar on Saturday, October 18th, 2008 will be held at Clarksville's Customs House in Clarksville, Tennessee and will include guided tours at Ft. Donelson and the Battle of Dover. Speakers include Thomas Cartwright and Jim Jobe. Tour guides are Greg Biggs and John Walsh. The cost of the event is \$40, which includes lunch or \$30 for no lunch. To register or to see more information, please visit <http://www.tennessee-sev.org/forrest08.pdf>.

Hoover's Gap Marker, photo courtesy of Greg Biggs



Upcoming Lincoln Events in Spencer County

October 31, 2008 – Catch the Spirit of Lincoln at the Haunted Lincoln Pioneer Village
Event will feature games, music and portrayals of the spirits of Lincoln's Indiana friends and neighbors.

November 1, 2008 – Reenactment of Lincoln's Last Visit, Spencer County Courthouse
Lincoln last visited Rockport on November 1, 1944 while campaigning on behalf of Henry Clay. A commemorative ceremony will be held to pay tribute to this special visit. Guests may also walk down to the nearby Ohio River and pause for reflection at the landing where Lincoln once embarked on a flatboat trip to New Orleans.

November 22, 2008 – Lincoln Thanksgiving Dinner, Chrisney 4-H Community Center
Dine like the pioneers at this unique event inspired by the fact that while Lincoln was president he established the fourth Thursday in November as Thanksgiving Day.

Official Records

ICWRT attendance for September: 50

Book Raffle list:

The Photographic History of the Civil War: The Opening Battles, Francis Trevelyan Miller, Editor in Chief

The Civil War: A Narrative – Yorktown to Cedar Mountain by Shelby Foote

Letters of a Civil War Surgeon, edited by Paul Fatout

America Goes to War: An Introduction to the Civil War and its Meaning to Americans Today by Bruce Catton

(2 books) *Ghosts of Gettysburg: Spirits, Apparitions and Haunted Places of the Battlefield* by Mark Nesbitt AND *Gettysburg* by George Gordon Meade

***Please see Tony Roscetti if you have books to donate for upcoming raffles.**

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.

Audio tapes on Lincoln or Naval Topics available from ICWRT Archives:

- 05/14/84 – Cecil Hill on “Fortunes of War: Blockade Runners”
- 06/11/84 – James Jobe on “The Battle of Fort Donelson, Tenn.”
- 02/09/87 – Wayne Sanford on “The Many Faces of Abraham Lincoln”
- 12/14/87 – Alan Hinds on “Battle of Mobile Bay”
- 12/12/88 – Don Stelzer on “*CSS Alabama* and Economic Impact thru WWI”
- 03/13/95 – Dr. Bruce Wissel on “Lincoln’s Political Cabinet”
- 05/15/95 – David Roth on “The Four-Year Siege of Charleston”
- 06/08/98 – Dale Philipps on “The Red River Campaign”
- 02/09/04 – Ken Knouf on “Napoleon Collins and the *USS Florida*”
- 10/10/05 – Steven W. Hill on “Indiana’s Naval Contributions to the Civil War”
- 04/09/07 – Craig Symonds on “The *USS Monitor* Center”

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. What was “peas on a trencher”?

2. Who introduced Lincoln at his 1st Inaugural?

3. Where was Harwood’s Tobacco Factory? For what was it used during the war?

4. About whom did McClellan write, “There is no doubt that he was the best infantry soldier developed on either side during the Civil War”?

5. Where was “Fort Damnation” and “Fort Hell”? Who coined these names?

Answers to September Quiz:

1. Name the Federal unit known as the “millionaires’ regiment.” Who was its commanding officer? 1st Rhode Island; William Sprague
2. What was the unusual feature of the Lindsay rifle-musket?
It was double-barreled.
3. Name the two battlefields that had a Peach Orchard.
Antietam & Gettysburg
4. Referring to Confederate leaders, who said, “If you bring these leaders to trial it will condemn the North, for by the Constitution secession is not rebellion?”
Chief Justice Salmon P. Chase
5. What is “ramrod bread?” Cornbread made by plastering cornmeal on a ramrod and baking over an open fire.

The Soldiers Speak

About FARRAGUT:

Welles describing Farragut, quoted in Robert J. Schneller, Jr.'s *Farragut: America's First Admiral*:

“All who knew him gave him credit of being a good officer of good sense and good habits ... who had faithfully and correctly discharged his duty in every position to which he had been assigned.”

John Russell Bartlett, describing Farragut prior to the attacks on Forts Jackson and St. Philip, quoted in Robert J. Schneller, Jr.'s *Farragut: America's First Admiral*:

“Farragut was about the fleet from early dawn until dark ... and if any officers or men had not spontaneous enthusiasm he certainly infused it into them. I have been on the morning watch, from 4 to 8, when he would row alongside the ship at six o'clock, either hailing to ask how we were getting along, or, perhaps, climbing over the side to see for himself.... much impressed with his energy and activity and his promptness of decision and action. He had a winning smile and a most charming manner and was jovial and talkative.... The officers who had the good fortune to be immediately associated with him seemed to worship him.”

Farragut discussing Craven's reaction to his upbraiding after *Brooklyn's* failure to run the Vicksburg batteries, quoted in Robert J. Schneller, Jr.'s *Farragut: America's First Admiral*:

“Some are bitter against me... because I tell them when I think they don't do their duty.... My fault is not oppression, but being too lenient; but a man *must* do his work, particularly when that work is *fighting*, and if he doesn't I'll tell him of it. I don't want such men under my command, and am too glad for them to go home and get their 'rights.'”

Quartermaster Knowles describing Farragut's reaction to seeing the dead being laid out on the port side after the Battle of Mobile Bay, quoted in Robert J. Schneller, Jr.'s *Farragut: America's First Admiral*:

“It was the only time I ever saw the old gentleman cry... The tears came in his eyes like a little child.”

Welles describing Farragut, after his request for time off after Mobile Bay, quoted in Robert J. Schneller, Jr.'s *Farragut: America's First Admiral*:

“Farragut is earnest, unselfish, devoted to the country and the service... He sees to every movement, forms his line of battle with care and skill, puts himself at the head, carried out his plan, if there is difficulty leads the way, regards no danger to himself, dashes by forts and overcomes obstructions.”

Porter writing to Fox about Farragut, quoted in *The Civil War – The Coastal War: Chesapeake Bay to Rio Grande*, by Peter Chaitin and the Editors of Time-Life Books:

“Men of his age in a seafaring life are not fit for the command of important enterprises, they lack the vigor of youth... He talks very much at random at times, and rather

underrates the difficulties before him, without fairly comprehending them.... He is full of zeal and anxiety, but has no administrative qualities, wants stability, and loses too much time in talking.”

About DU PONT:

Welles describing Du Pont, quoted in John Niven’s *Gideon Welles: Lincoln’s Secretary of the Navy*:

“This indicates what I have lately feared, that Du Pont shrinks from responsibility, dreads the conflict he has sought; yet is unwilling that any other should undertake it, is afraid the reputation of Du Pont will suffer.”

Du Pont speaking to his captains about not renewing the attack on Charleston Harbor, quoted in *The Civil War – The Coastal War: Chesapeake Bay to Rio Grande*, by Peter Chaitin and the Editors of Time-Life Books:

“We have met with a sad repulse... I shall not turn it into a great disaster.”

Du Pont’s chief of staff, quoted in *The Civil War – The Coastal War: Chesapeake Bay to Rio Grande*, by Peter Chaitin and the Editors of Time-Life Books:

“The ironclad captains... stood like a wall of iron about Admiral Du Pont’s reputation, and there was no joint to be pierced in their armor.”

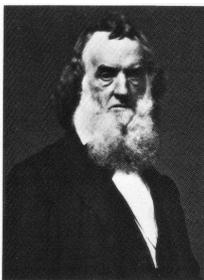
Welles describing his reaction to the loss at Charleston Harbor, quoted in *The Civil War – The Coastal War: Chesapeake Bay to Rio Grande*, by Peter Chaitin and the Editors of Time-Life Books:

“After all our outlay and great preparations... giving him all our force, and a large portion of our best officers, a fight of 30 minutes and the loss of one man satisfied the admiral.”

About PORTER:

Grant praising Porter after the surrender of Vicksburg, quoted in Paul Calore’s *Naval Campaigns of the Civil War*:

“The navy, under Porter, was all it could be, during the entire campaign. Without its assistance the campaign could not have been successfully made with twice the number of men engaged. It could not have been made at all, with any number of men, without such assistance. The most perfect harmony reigned between the two arms of the service. There never was a request made, that I am aware of, either of the flag officer or any of his subordinates, that was not promptly complied with.”



Secretary of the Month

Information from *Gideon Welles – Lincoln’s Secretary of the Navy* by John Niven

Gideon Welles was born July 1, 1802. He did not become a national figure until he was almost fifty-nine years old. As Lincoln’s Secretary of the Navy, he built up the tiny, largely obsolete Union fleet to a rank second only in size and firepower to Great Britain’s Royal Navy. During this time, Welles became both advisor and friend to Lincoln.

He kept voluminous diaries that form an intensely human picture of Lincoln, his successor Andrew Johnson, and of the Reconstruction era.

Historic Site of the Month



Fort Sumter: Decades of growing strife between North and South erupted in civil war on April 12, 1861, when Confederate artillery opened fire on this Federal fort in Charleston Harbor. Fort Sumter surrendered 34 hours later. Union forces would try for nearly four years to take it back.

Fort Sumter can be visited by Ferry or by private boat. The concession-operated ferry leaves from two locations: Liberty Square (340 Concord Street, Charleston, SC), and Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum (40 Patriots Point Road, Mount Pleasant, SC).

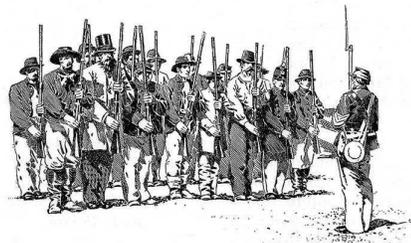
Fort Sumter is open year round except for New Years, Thanksgiving and Christmas Days. The Fort Sumter Visitor Education Center at Liberty Square is open daily from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. except for New Years, Thanksgiving and Christmas Days.

For ferry ticket prices, please visit the ferry concessioner's website. There is no entrance fee for visitors who arrive by private boat. Guided tours are generally not available at Fort Sumter. With each arriving ferry, visitors may listen to a 10-minute ranger history talk before beginning their self-guided tour or they may use their entire hour to explore on their own. Rangers are available to answer questions. For more information or for a link to the ferry concessioner, please visit <http://www.nps.gov/fosu>.

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:

Farragut's son, recalling the words of his father, quoted in Robert J. Schneller, Jr.'s *Farragut: America's First Admiral*:

“War is a terrible business... It is demoralizing and brings out the worst characteristics of men; but we must go to war, or more terrible things may follow.”

Indianapolis Civil War Round Table
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