



HARDTACK

Indianapolis Civil War Round Table Newsletter

<http://indianapoliswrt.org/>



February 8, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.

Meeting at Indiana History Center

The Plan of the Day

If Not for the Ladies: Ladies' Memorial Associations and the Lost Cause



Immediately after the Civil War, white women across the South organized to retrieve and rebury the remains of Confederate soldiers scattered throughout the region. In Virginia alone, these Ladies' Memorial Associations (LMAs) relocated and reinterred the remains of more than 72,000 soldiers, nearly 28 percent of the 260,000 Confederate soldiers who perished in the war. Challenging the notion that southern white women were peripheral to the Lost Cause movement until the 1890's, Caroline Janney restores these women's place in the historical narrative by exploring their role as the creators and purveyors of Confederate tradition between 1865 and 1915.

Although not considered "political" or "public actors," upper- and middle-class white women carried out deeply political acts by preparing elaborate burials and holding Memorial Days in a region still occupied by northern soldiers. Janney argues that in identifying themselves as mothers and daughters in mourning, Ladies' Memorial Association members crafted a sympathetic Confederate position that Republicans, northerners, and, in some cases, southern African Americans could find palatable. Long before national groups such as the Women's Christian Temperance Union and the United Daughters of the Confederacy were established, Janney shows local Ladies' Memorial Associations were earning sympathy for lost Confederates. Janney's exploration introduces new ways in which gender played a vital role in shaping the politics, culture, and society of the late nineteenth-century South.

Our Guest Speaker



Caroline E. Janney is an associate professor of history at Purdue University where she teaches courses on the Civil War, Civil War memory, and the women's history. She received her Ph.D. in 2005 from the University of Virginia. Her first book, *Burying the Dead but Not the Past: Ladies' Memorial Associations and the Lost Cause* (2008) explores the role of white southern women as the creators and purveyors of Confederate tradition in the immediate post-Civil War South. Her second book, a volume in the Littlefield History of the Civil War Era (University of North Carolina Press), will examine how the Civil War has been remembered between 1865 and the 1930s. She is particularly interested in how race, gender, and combat experience shaped the ways in which Americans thought about the war and its legacy.

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 2009-2010 Campaign

Officers:

President: Tom Dean

Secretary: Frank Bynum

Vice President & Programs: Chris Smith

Treasurer: Tony Roscetti

Committees:

Preservation: Andy O'Donnell

Website: Paul Watson

Publicity: Dave Klinestiver, Dave Sutherland & Tony Roscetti

Quiz Master:

Tony Trimble

HARDTACK Newsletter:

Editor: Jenny Thompson

Summer Campaign:

2009-2010 Campaign Plans

March 8, 2010	“Who Lost the Lost Order?”	Dave Klinestiver
April 12, 2010	“Mary Surratt – Innocent or Guilty?”	Nikki Schofield
May 10, 2010	“Lincoln, Terrorism Abroad & the Coming of the Civil War”	Robert May
June 14, 2010	<i>A Dark and Bloody Ground: Sowing the Wind</i>	Michael Willever

Other Camp Activities

Carmel Civil War Round Table:

- February 17 – DVD presentation, “The Fight for Murfreesboro, 12/31/62 – 1/3/63”
- March 17 – Phil DeHaven, “Toward Glorietta Pass, 3/26-28/1862, Part II”
- April 21 – Alan Hinds, “Battle of Mobile Bay”
- May 19 – Christopher Dennison Brooke, “William Dennison, War Gov. of Ohio and Member of Lincoln’s Cabinet”

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

Ft. Negley to Remain Open with Reduced Hours: Supporters led by Greg Biggs flooded the office of Mayor Karl Dean with letters and emails, causing Nashville Metro Parks to abandon their plans to eliminate seven full-time employees. Krista Castillo was the only employee at the Ft. Negley Visitor Center. Her job has been saved and the Visitor Center will remain open with reduced hours of Tuesday - Friday, noon to 4 p.m. and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Greg Biggs, in his Clarksville Civil War Roundtable newsletter, writes: “Thanks to all CWRT members from across the country that took a few minutes to send those emails. This shows what the national Civil War Roundtable movement can do! Well done and thanks for helping this great site and a very dedicated employee!”

Civil War Preservation Trust 2009 Update: Civil War Preservation Trust reports they rescued 2,777 acres of hallowed ground at 20 different Civil War battlefields in five states in 2009. Sites include: 55 acres at Natural Bridge in Florida; 60 acres at Wood Lake in Minnesota; 66 acres at Raymond and 12 acres at Tupelo in Mississippi; 643 acres at Davis Bridge and 5 acres at Parkers Crossroads in Tennessee; 68 acres at Aldie, 47 acres at Appomattox Station, 433 acres at Brandy Station, 50 acres at Cedar Creek, 85 acres at Chancellorsville, 110 acres at Cross Keys, 79 acres at Fisher’s Hill, 11 acres at Glendale, 178 acres at Malvern Hill, 451 acres at Port Republic, 35 acres at Sailor’s Creek, 209 acres at Third Winchester, 253 acres at Trevilian Station, and 94 acres at the Wilderness in Virginia.

Official Records

Attendance:

January – 44

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.

Book Raffle list:

Campaigning with Grant, by Horace Porter

They Fought Like Demons: Women Soldiers in the American Civil War, by DeAnne Blanton and Lauren M. Cook

Civil War Quiz and Fact Book, by Rod Gragg

The Civil War, A Narrative: Tullahoma to Missionary Ridge, by Shelby Foote

Matthew Brady: History with a Camera, by James D. Horan

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

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

1. Julia Dent was married to whom?
2. Who was known as, "Lincoln's Secret Weapon"?
3. Jesse Benton was married to whom?
4. Who was known as the, "Florence Nightingale of the South"?
5. Name the young lady who received this in a letter from her future husband:
"Jackson places no value on human life, caring for nothing so much as fighting unless it be praying."

Answers to the January quiz:

1. Near what battlefield would you find Pry's Ford? *** Antietam
2. On what battlefield would you find the Codori House? *** Gettysburg
3. What battle was fought near the "Cockade City"? *** Petersburg
4. Where would you find Shady Grove Church? *** Cold Harbor
5. What battle included fighting on Laurel Hill? *** Spotsylvania

The Soldiers and a Civilian Speak

Death of a soldier:

James E. Hall, quoted in *The Oxford Dictionary of Civil War Quotations*, edited by John D. Wright:

“So common has death become, that when a man dies, he is as soon forgotten. Yesterday I passed by the graveyard of our Regt., it being in a line of the timber which we were felling as a blockade. A few tall hemlock pines were left around them, in respect for the dead. They lie far from the road, in a secluded spot. This may possibly be our fighting ground. The din and clangor of battle may sweep over them, as opposing squadrons meet in terrible combat. But they will sleep on. In that bright sphere their pure souls shall forever stand unmoved during the wreck of time, and crush of worlds.”

The Lost Cause:

Sam R. Watkins, quoted in *The Oxford Dictionary of Civil War Quotations*, edited by John D. Wright:

“We were inured to privations and hardships; had been upon every march, in every battle, in every skirmish, in every advance, in every retreat, in every victory, in every defeat. We had laid under the burning heat of a tropical sun; had made the cold, frozen earth our bed, with no covering save the blue canopy of heaven; had braved dangers, had breasted floods; had seen our comrades slain upon our right and our left hand; had heard guns that carried death in their missiles; had heard the shouts of the charge; had seen the enemy in full retreat and flying in every direction; had heard the shrieks and groans of the wounded and dying; had seen the blood of our countrymen dyeing the earth and enriching the soil; had been hungry when there was nothing to eat; had been in rags and tatters. We had marked the frozen earth with bloody and unshod feet; had been elated with victory and crushed by defeat; had seen and felt the pleasure of the life of a soldier, and had drank the cup to its dregs. Yes, we had seen it all, and had shared in its hopes and its fears; its love and its hate; its good and its bad; its virtue and its vice; its glories and its shame. We had followed the successes and reverses of the flag of the Lost Cause through all these years of blood and strife.”

The origin of Memorial Day:

Mrs. Mary Logan, wife of General John A. Logan, Commander in Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), quoted (from an article originally published in the *Los Angeles Daily Times*, May 30, 1903) on <http://www.memorialdayorigin.info/logan.html> “...it is especially pleasant to know that the ideal of Memorial Day was unwittingly suggested by the devotion of the people of the South to their heroes. In the early spring of 1868 I was one of a party...to make a pilgrimage to the battlefields of Virginia. Gen. Logan had long been anxious to make a personal inspection of this section of the country over which the great conflict raged in order to enlarge his knowledge of the entire course of the war.... Unfortunately, however, circumstances prevented him accompanying me and he did not see with his own eyes what really prompted the first Decoration Day. It is my pleasure to revert to it and to pay a just tribute to the gentle people whose acts gave me the inspiration that resulted in the Decoration Day of today.... But it is not of this that I would speak, but of the incident that gave me the inspiration that resulted in Decoration Day. We were in Petersburg, Virginia, and had taken advantage of the fact to inspect the

oldest church there, the bricks of which had been brought from England. There was an old English air all about the venerable structure, and we passed to the building through a churchyard. The weather was balmy and spring-like, and as passed through the rows of graves I noticed that many of them had been strewn with beautiful blossoms and decorated with small flags of the dead Confederacy. The sentimental idea so enraptured me that I inspected them more closely and discovered that they were every one the graves of soldiers who had died for the Southern cause. The actions seemed to me to be a beautiful tribute to the soldier martyrs and grew upon me while I was returning to Washington. Gen. Logan was at that time the Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, with his headquarters in Washington, and as soon as he met me at the station I told him of the graves of the Southern soldiers in the cemetery at Petersburg. He listened with great interest and then said, 'What a splendid thought! We will have it done all over the country, and the Grand Army shall do it! I will issue the order at once for a national Memorial Day for the decoration of the graves of all those noble fellows who died for their country.'...He realized that it must be a time when the whole country was blooming with flowers, and May 30th was finally selected as the best season for the annual observance of the day....In Dixie they garland with one hand the mounds above the ashes of the northern soldiers while with the other they strew beautiful blossoms on the graves of their own heroes. We of the north do the same, for they were all heroes, each dying for the cause he thought was right. They gave their all to prove their sincerity, and they all died true Americans whatever their political affiliations may have been."

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.

Civilian of the Month



Photo from <http://www.craterroad.com/memorialday.html>

Info from http://en.Wikipedia.org/wiki/Nora_Fontaine_Davidson

Nora Fontaine Maury Davidson: “Miss Nora” was born in Petersburg, Virginia in 1836 and lived there her entire life, where she taught school for 59 years. During the war years, her school for young women was known as the Confederate School. In the postwar years, it was called the Davidson Seminary. In early 1861, she headed fund raising projects to buy equipment for companies of soldiers forming in Petersburg. Her efforts equipped the Ragland Guard, which became Company G of the 41st Virginia Infantry. She and other Petersburg citizens met and entertained the first troops arriving from other Southern states in 1861. Because there were no hospitals in the city, she and others established the Ladies Hospital on Bollingbrook Street and maintained it by money raised from various entertainments. She served as the hospital’s treasurer until more hospitals were needed. She served as linen matron at the large Confederate Hospital at Poplar Lawn in Petersburg until the end of the war. She was one of the charter members of the Petersburg’s Ladies Memorial Association, which was organized May 6, 1866. She and her students decorated graves of both Union and Confederate dead with flowers and flags at Blandford Cemetery, where her brother, Charles Davidson, was buried. This is the cemetery Mrs. Logan visited in 1868. “Miss Nora” passed away in 1929 and is buried in the same cemetery.

Historic Site of the Month



Photo from

http://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/WM7175_Confederate_Cemetery_Fredericksburg_VA

Info from <http://www.nps.gov/frsp/rebcem.htm>
 Fredericksburg City Cemetery and Confederate Cemetery are located at the corner of William Street and Washington Avenue, surrounded by a common brick wall. Six Confederate generals and more than 3,300 Southern soldiers (2,184 of them are unknown) are buried there. The Ladies Memorial Association purchased land for the Confederate Cemetery in 1867. They erected a monument of a Confederate soldier in 1884 amid the graves. The cemetery is open daily from dawn to dusk. A section map is displayed near the entrance, located on Washington Avenue. The Ladies Memorial Association continues to care for the cemetery and hold a Memorial Day observance there every year.

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 6019 Allendale Dr.
 Indianapolis, IN 46224