



# HARDTACK

Indianapolis Civil War Round Table Newsletter

<http://indianapoliscwrt.org/>




---

April 12, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.

Meeting at Indiana History Center

---

*The Plan of the Day*  
 Mary Surratt – Guilty or Innocent?



Mary Surratt at age 26

Photo and summary from [www.surratt.org/](http://www.surratt.org/)

Mary Elizabeth Jenkins was born in 1823 at Waterloo, Maryland. She married John Harrison Stuart in 1840. All three of their children were born on their farm near Oxon Hill, Maryland. In 1852, John Surratt purchased 287 acres of farmland in Prince George's County, where he built their new home, "Surratt's Hotel", which also served as a tavern, polling place and post office. His establishment quickly became a community gathering place. John Surratt died suddenly in August 1862 and Mary was left deeply in debt. She rented the tavern and farm to John Lloyd, an ex-policeman and moved in 1864 to a townhouse the family owned in Washington. This is where she met John Wilkes Booth. After Lincoln's assassination, Booth stopped at "Surratt's Hotel" during his escape from Washington. Mary was arrested April 17 and taken to the Carroll Annex of the Old Capitol Prison. She was moved to the Washington Arsenal Penitentiary on April 30. Her trial was held in one of the administration buildings at the Penitentiary from May 9 until the end of June.

## **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.

### *Our Guest Speaker*

**Nikki Schofield**, Living History Presenter

**Mrs. Stonewall Jackson** was the first Civil War lady that Nikki Schofield portrayed, in 1995. Since then, she has presented, in first person: **Anzolette Page Pendleton** (wife of Gen. William Nelson Pendleton and mother of Sandi Pendleton), **Susan Pendleton Lee** (wife of Brig.Gen. Edwin Gray Lee, head of the C.S.A. Secret Service in Canada), **Mary Jenkins Surratt** (Lincoln conspirator), **Belle Boyd** (most famous Confederate spy), **Mrs. Lucinda Burbank Morton** (wife of Indiana's great war governor), **Clara Barton** (Civil War nurse), **Laura Keene** (actress at Ford's Theater when Lincoln was shot), **Delia Webster** (first woman imprisoned for aiding slaves to escape) and **Mrs. Helen Pitts Douglass** (second wife of Frederick Douglass).



Nikki served twice as president of the Indianapolis Civil War Round Table (1996-97 and 2008-09). She served as secretary for many years, newsletter editor, co-chairman of the 2000 Mid-West Civil War Conference, and director of the club's annual trip.

Since 1974, Nikki has been director of the law library at Bingham McHale LLP, the fourth largest law firm in Indiana.

Ms. Schofield is a Sunday School teacher, business meeting moderator, president of Global Women (missionary organization) and deacon at Speedway Baptist Church.

She has two sons (one of whom is a Civil War buff), six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Nikki is writing a Civil War romance novel, based in East Tennessee, about a Confederate captain and a Yankee nurse, which will be published by AuthorHouse of Bloomington, Indiana. AuthorHouse is the publisher of our club's 50 year history. You will hear more about the publication of "Bondage and Freedom" in future Hardtacks.

### *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:*

Tony Trimble

### *2009-2010 Campaign Plans*

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| May 10, 2010  | “Lincoln, Terrorism Abroad & the Coming of the Civil War”<br>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:**

- 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*

#### **North/South Magazine:**

Submitted by Andrew S. Bowman

“The February/March issue of the North/South magazine features a story about Andrew Jackson Smith at the Battle of Honey Hill where his heroic action during the Civil War led to the eventual awarding of the Medal of Honor posthumously in 2001. Andrew Jackson Smith was my grandfather. Our efforts started as a genealogy search. This is a true story especially befitting for Black History studies.”

#### **National Archives Upcoming Civil War Noontime Lectures:**

Friday, April 30, McGowan Theater – *At the Edge of the Precipice: Henry Clay and the Compromise that Saved the Union*, Robert V. Remini

Friday, May 6, Jefferson Room – *Justice in Blue and Gray: A Legal History of the Civil War*, Stephen C. Neff

Wednesday, May 26, Jefferson Room – *John Brown’s Trial*, Brian McGinty

Book Signings will follow each of the programs. Use the Special Events Entrance on the Corner of Constitution Avenue and 7<sup>th</sup> Street, NW. Free admission. For more information, visit [www.archives.gov/nae](http://www.archives.gov/nae), email [public.program@nara.gov](mailto:public.program@nara.gov), or call 1-877-874-7616.

**Indiana War Memorial:** The Indiana War Memorials Commission is the repository for the State Battle Flags. There are approximately 400 flags. All 400 were stabilized and installed in the sealed cabinets from 1994-1997 at which point 350 of them required some attention. Approximately 109 flags that were displayed at the State House and Monument Circle for 75 years need the most treatment. Of these, 35 require treatment ASAP or they may not be recoverable. Treatment of these flags is estimated at \$500,000. Our restoration expert from Purdue University can complete approximately 10 flags per year. The longer we wait, the more expensive the project will be because those that need immediate attention continue to deteriorate, while those that are in emergency need will be unrecoverable at some point. The paint on the flags that is curling, cracking, and peeling is becoming loose chips in the drawers, and the worse they get, the more of a puzzle there will be to reassemble the original image, if possible at all. These flags

represent the legacy of our state. There was only one state, Delaware, who sent more soldiers to the Civil War per capita than Indiana. Of the 18 states that represented the Union Army, Indiana provided 10 percent of that force. Three out of four eligible aged Hoosiers served in this conflict. All funds donated to the Indiana Civil War Battle Flag Restoration Fund should be directed to the “Indiana War Memorials Foundation”. The address is 431 North Meridian St, Indianapolis, IN 46204. This organization is a private not for profit 501c that is not connected to the State of Indiana in any way. We guarantee all donations will be used for the restoration of the flags. Please contact J.Stewart Goodwin, Brig. Gen, IN ANG, Executive Director, Indiana War Memorials at 317-232-7616 (office) with any additional questions.

### **Search for information about shooting of Confederate POW ancestor in Terre Haute:**

Contributed by Mike Thompson and Kenneth Byrd

The enlisted men of the 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion Tennessee Cavalry, after a portion were captured at Donelson were held temporarily at Terre Haute at the Williams Hog Barn for a month or so before being shipped over to Camp Morton. The story passed down over the years stated there was a disturbance outside the prison walls and when the prisoners looked they were fired upon. Mike Thompson is searching for a newspaper article about whoever may have shot his grandfather, Reverend Gresham, who survived another 20 years with a half dollar size scar on his forehead. Mike did find the following item in the Terre Haute paper, “Isaac Ball, a prominent Terre Haute businessman and undertaker, interred 11 Confederate soldiers – who died while incarcerated at a makeshift prison established in a former Terre Haute pork packing plant – at Woodlawn Cemetery.” Before the Civil War, caskets were made to order. Obviously business was so good Ball then switched from cabinet making to undertaking and casket making. You could also say the CSA prisoners at Terre Haute did get a wooden casket courtesy of the US Government. If you can assist in this search, please contact Ken Byrd at [kbyrd@iupui.edu](mailto:kbyrd@iupui.edu), who will get you in touch with Mike Thompson.

## *Official Records*

### **Attendance:**

March – 64

### **Book Raffle list:**

*Captured!: A Boy Trapped in the Civil War*, by Mary Blair Immel

*Sword Over Richmond: An Eyewitness History of McClellan’s Peninsula Campaign*, by Richard Wheeler

*Indiana in the Civil War Era, 1850-1880*, by Emma Lou Thornbrough

*Gettysburg: The Long Encampment*, by Jack McLaughlin

*Distant Thunder: A Photographic Essay on the American Civil War*, photography by Sam Abell, text by Brian C. Pohanka

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

**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.

**War in Tennessee Summer Trip – July 10-14, 2010:** We will be visiting Stones River National Battlefield in Murfreesboro; Chickamauga National Military Park, Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge and Orchard Knob, Chattanooga National Cemetery, Buttonwillow Church in Chattanooga; Bleak House, 2<sup>nd</sup> Presbyterian Church, Cherokee Heights, Fort Hill, Forts Dickinson & Stanley, Battery Wiltsie, National Cemetery, Fort Sanders in Knoxville; and John Hunt Morgan house, Todd House, John Hunt Morgan Equestrian Statue, and City Cemetery in Lexington. Cost is \$529.00 per person (double occupancy). Deadline to sign up is May 1. Please see Tony Trimble for more information.

**Annual Dinner Meeting:** Reservation form can be found near the back of the Hardtack.

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

1. At what battle would you find a salient known as the "Horseshoe?"
2. Where would you find Horseshoe Ridge?
3. What Federal installation was nicknamed "Sheal" by the Confederates?
4. To what event did Confederate Senator Clement Clay refer when he said, "Then God help us! It is the worst blow that has yet been struck the South."
5. For what action was the Gillmore Medal awarded?

Answers to the March quiz:

1. What contribution did Isaac Requa make to the technology of war? \*\*\* invented the Billinghamst-Reque Battery Gun
2. What is the military term for a temporary, oversized grouping of troops preparing to launch an all-out attack? \*\*\* Grand Division
3. What regiment was known as the "Mozarts?" Why? \*\*\* 40<sup>th</sup> New York; named for the Mozart Hall faction of the Democratic Party
4. Who asked, "Great God? Where is the splendid division you had this morning?" Of whom was this asked and after what battle? \*\*\* Robert E. Lee asked this of John Bell Hood after Antietam
5. In southern parlance, what was an "outbreak?" \*\*\* a slave uprising

## *The Testimony Speaks*

Taken from [www.surratt.org](http://www.surratt.org)

Louis J. Weichmann, for the prosecution, May 13:

“I have been clerk in the office of General Hoffman, Commissary-General of prisoners, since January 9, 1864.

My acquaintance with John H. Surratt commenced in the fall of 1859, at St. Charles College, Maryland. We left college together in the summer of 1862, and I renewed my acquaintance with him in January, 1863, in this city. On the 1<sup>st</sup> of November, 1864, I went to board at the house of his mother, Mrs. Surratt, the prisoner, No. 541 H Street between Sixth and Seventh, and boarded there up to the time of the assassination.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April, Mrs. Surratt asked me to see J. Wilkes Booth, and say that she wished to see him on “private business.” I conveyed the message, and Booth said he would come to the house in the evening, as soon as he could; and he came.

On the Tuesday previous to the Friday of the assassination, I was sent by Mrs. Surratt to the National Hotel to see Booth, for the purpose of getting his buggy. She wished me to drive her into the country on that day. Booth said that he had sold his buggy, but that he would give \$10 instead, that I might hire one. He gave me the \$10, and I drove Mrs. Surratt to Surrattsville on that day, leaving this city about 9 and reaching Surrattsville about half-past 12 o’clock. We remained at Surrattsville half an hour, or probably not so long. Mrs. Surratt stated that she went there for the purpose of seeing Mr. Nothe, who owed her some money.

On Friday, the day of the assassination, I went to Howard’s stable, about half-past 2 o’clock, having been sent there by Mrs. Surratt for the purpose of hiring a buggy. She herself gave me the money on that occasion, a ten-dollar note, and I paid \$6 for the buggy. I drove her to Surrattsville the same day, arriving there about half-past 4. We stopped at the home of Mr. Lloyd, who keeps a tavern there. Mrs. Surratt went into the parlor. I remained outside a portion of the time, and went into the bar-room a part of the time, until Mrs. Surratt sent for me. We left about half-past 6. Surrattsville is about a two-hour drive to the city, and is about ten miles from the Navy Yard bridge.

Just before leaving the city, as I was going to the door, I saw Mr. Booth in the parlor, and Mrs. Surratt was speaking with him. They were alone. He did not remain in the parlor more than three or four minutes; and immediately after he left, Mrs. Surratt and I started.”

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.

## *Civilian of the Month*



Louis J. Weichmann

Photo and info from <http://en.wikipedia.org/>

Louis Weichmann was born in Baltimore, Maryland, in 1842. He reluctantly agreed to study for the Roman Catholic priesthood and attended St. Charles College in Maryland, where he met John Surratt. Both men left the seminary in 1862, without becoming priests. Weichmann taught school for two years at St. Matthew's Institute for Boys in Washington, D.C. In 1864, he became a clerk in the Department of War. Surratt had become a courier and agent for the Confederacy. Weichmann took lodgings at Mary Surratt's boarding house. Living there, he came in contact with the major conspirators involved in Lincoln's assassination and his testimony helped to convict Mary Surratt and Dr. Samuel Mudd. In his later years, Weichmann moved to Anderson, Indiana, and opened a business school. His testimony caused a lot of controversy for him. Shortly before his death, he swore out an affidavit, reaffirming that testimony was true. He died a few days later in Anderson and is buried there in St. Mary's Cemetery.



Photo from <http://www.findagrave.com>

# Indianapolis Civil War Round Table

Annual Dinner Meeting

*Monday, June 14, 2010*

*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 \$22 per person (includes tax and tip)***

Menu: Baked or Fried Chicken; Savory, slow simmered swiss steak; mashed potatoes; gravy; green beans; corn; coleslaw/pasta salad; fresh baked bread/butter; cheese cake/carrot cake; coffee/tea/soda

## **Our Guest Speaker: Michael Willever**

**\* 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. **A round of golf could be arranged for the afternoon. Contact Jean Bly to arrange times (phone 823-6425 or cell 697-1280)**

Reservation form (attached below) should be completed and submitted, along with payment, by **June 1, 2010**. Reservation form and payment can be brought to the 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 14, 2010  
dinner meeting, including the buffet dinner:**

**Name**

**Name**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Reservation form and payment must be received by June 1, 2010.

Cost: \$22 per person. Please make check payable to *Indianapolis Civil War Round Table*

## Re-enlist NOW for the 2010-2011 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:*

---

### ***ICWRT Membership Enlistment for July 2010 thru June 2011***

*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:

\_\_\_\_\_

## *Historic Site of the Month*



Photo and info from [www.surratt.org/](http://www.surratt.org/)

Surratt House Museum is located at 9118 Brandwine Road, Clinton, Maryland. This middle-class plantation home was built in 1852 and served as a tavern, hostelry, post office and polling place before the Civil War. During the war, it was the county home of Mary Surratt and a safehouse for the Confederate underground. It was restored in 1976 by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission. The museum is open for public tours from mid-January through mid-December, except for Easter and major holidays. Hours are 11am to 3 pm on Thursday and Friday, and noon to 4 pm on Saturday and Sunday. During the months of July and August, it is also open on Wednesday from 11 am to 3 pm. The last tour begins one-half hour before closing. Group tours can be arranged by appointment. Admission is \$3.00 adults, \$2.00 senior citizens and groups of 10 or more adults, \$1.00 for children ages 5-18 and FREE for children under 4.

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