



HARDTACK

Indianapolis Civil War Round Table Newsletter

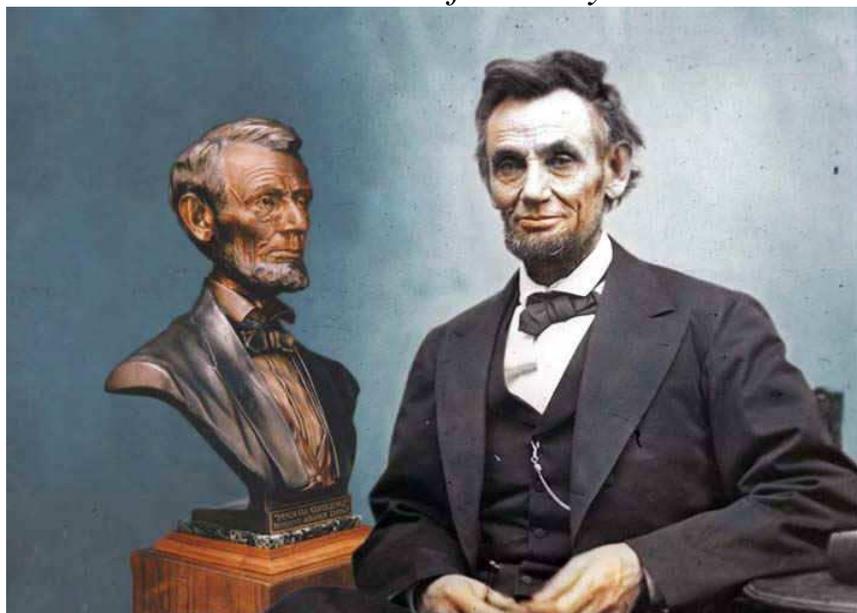
<http://indianapoliswrt.org/>



January 11, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.

Meeting at Indiana History Center

The Plan of the Day



The Affective Challenges of Abraham Lincoln

Anyone familiar with Abraham Lincoln knew of his gloomy demeanor and spells of “melancholia.” Lincoln often told friends, “I have been all my life a fatalist.” He often wept in public and recited maudlin poetry. According to his law partner Herndon, Lincoln frequently told jokes because, “...he needed the laughter.”

There is little doubt that Lincoln suffered from clinical depression, but was his mood disorder a flaw in his character or serious enough to disqualify him today from political leadership? Recent writings, including the popular *Lincoln's Melancholia* by Joshua Wolf Shenk, bring new light to the affective struggles of our oft misunderstood 16th President. Did Lincoln's depression “spur him to painfully examine the core of his soul” as Shenk contends, with Lincoln taking strength from the piercing insights of his sadness? Or did the biochemical and emotional imbalances hinder his ability to respond or make wise decisions?

In this lecture, Dr. John Wernert, a Geriatric Psychiatrist and cognitive specialist, explores the science behind the myths associated with Lincoln's moods. Lincoln's familial predispositions and life stressors will provide the backdrop for a discussion of his response to painful challenges, personal perseverance and ultimate triumphs.

Our Guest Speaker



Dr. John J. Wernert began the full-time medical practice of psychiatry in 1989. He obtained his M.D. degree from the University of Louisville School of Medicine in 1985. His postdoctoral training included an internship and residency at the Indiana University School of Medicine through the Department of Psychiatry. He is a Clinical Associate Professor of Psychiatry, Indiana University School of Medicine. Dr. Wernert completed a Master's Degree in Health Administration from Indiana University in 1996. He is board certified in Adult Psychiatry, and has received added certification in Geriatric Psychiatry and Administrative Medicine. Dr. Wernert has been awarded Distinguished Fellowship in the American Psychiatric Association.

Dr. Wernert is currently the Chief Medical Officer and Vice President of Medical Affairs for MDwise, Inc, a 300,000 member Medicaid Managed care plan covering the state of Indiana. Dr. Wernert is a geriatric psychiatrist, and works with adult and geriatric patients, with special interest in familial mood and cognitive disorders. John is an avid Civil War enthusiast and reenactor. John and his family are members of the Hoosier Civil War Artillery Association and reenact with the 4th Indiana Light Artillery and Green's Battery from Kentucky. John and his children have attended the last two ICWRT annual trips.

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.

Special Orders

First Flag on the Summit: The History of the 15th Indiana Civil War Regiment: Bill Crane, who spoke about his book in January 2009 to ICWRT, wishes to thank “all” of those you have helped them and took the time to share your stories about family and friends that participated in the Civil War. He and co-author, Sam Passo, wish to share a link to their book, which includes “picture albums” of Book Reviews and Book Signings from this year. <http://firstflagonthesummit.shutterfly.com/> They still have books available if anyone needs a copy.

The American Civil War: A Military History, by John Keegan:

This recent book is receiving mixed reviews on Amazon.com. Editorial reviews praise the book, such as Hugh Brogan of the London *Telegraph*, who writes: “Instead of adding to the pile of chronicles of the American Civil War, [Keegan] has written a critique of them, from the point of view of a deep-thinking, distinguished military historian [with] penetrating insight, a trenchant style and unexpected angles of approach...a delightful conceit, elegantly executed.... The emphasis on geography is...most original...full of unexpected treasures.... All Civil War buffs will enjoy this study and learn something from it.” Readers are not as impressed, such as John Wark, who writes: “I’m a big John Keegan fan. I’m also a serious reader of Civil War history. On both counts I’m very disappointed in this book. This book falls short in both areas. I can’t recommend the book even for serious Civil War buffs as, at best, there’s nothing new here. The book has annoying factual errors...related to details...But even more seriously the book is almost unreadable in a number of sections....serious problems with continuity throughout the book....significant repetition...poor editing...There are many good single volume treatments of the American Civil War. This is unfortunately not one of them.”

Official Records

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.

Attendance:

December – 49

Book Raffle list:

The Civil War Almanac, introduction by Henry Steele Commager

The Civil War, A Narrative: The Longest Journey, Fredericksburg to Chancellorsville, by Shelby Foote

Reveille in Washington, 1860-1865, by Margaret Leech

High Tide at Gettysburg, by Glenn Tucker

Poems and Songs of the Civil War, edited by Lois Hill

***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 pick up.**

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

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

Answers to the December quiz:

Identify the Civil War personality who was given each of the nicknames below.

1. "Owl-eyed Billy" *** Gen. William E. "Grumble" Jones
2. "Old Wooden Head" *** Gen. Henry Halleck
3. "Hard Backsides" *** Gen. George Armstrong Custer
4. "Calico Colonel" *** Mary Ann Bickerdyke
5. "Hero of Pea Ridge" *** Gen. Franz Sigel

Lincoln and the Soldiers Speak

Abraham Lincoln, quoted in *Famous Statements, Speeches, and Stories of Abraham Lincoln*, edited by J. Donald Hawkins:

"A tendency to melancholy.... let it be observed, is a misfortune, not a fault."

Abraham Lincoln's comments to journalists in Springfield, Illinois, November 7, 1860, quoted in *The Oxford Dictionary of Civil War Quotations*, edited by John D. Wright: "Well, boys, your troubles are over now; mine have just begun."

Abraham Lincoln, from *The Oxford Dictionary of Civil War Quotations*, edited by John D. Wright:

"I hope, however, that I may never have another four years of such anxiety, tribulation and abuse. My only ambition is and has been to put down the rebellion and restore peace, after which I want to resign my office, go abroad, take some rest, study foreign governments, see something of foreign life, and in my old age die in peace with all of the good of God's creatures."

Abraham Lincoln, quoted in *The Oxford Dictionary of Civil War Quotations*, edited by John D. Wright:

"Thank God that I have lived to see this! It seems to me that I have been dreaming, a horrid dream for four years, and now the nightmare is gone. I wish to see Richmond."

Abraham Lincoln, quoted in *The Oxford Dictionary of Civil War Quotations*, edited by John D. Wright:

"I have been driven many times upon my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go. My own wisdom and that of all about me seemed insufficient for

that day.

Francis B. Carpenter, quoted in *The Oxford Dictionary of Civil War Quotations*, edited by John D. Wright:

“All familiar with [Lincoln] will remember the weary air which became habitual during his last years. This was more of the mind than of the body, and no rest and recreation which he allowed himself could relieve it. As he sometimes expressed it, ‘no remedy seemed ever to reach the tired spot.’”

Francis B. Carpenter, quoted in *The Oxford Dictionary of Civil War Quotations*, edited by John D. Wright:

[Lincoln] continued always the same kindly, genial, and cordial spirit had been at first; but the boisterous laughter became less frequent, year by year; the eye grew veiled by constant meditation on momentous subjects; the air of reserve and detachment from his surroundings increased. He aged with great rapidity.”

Horace Porter’s description of Lincoln as Grant left City Point, in his book *Campaigning With Grant*:

“Mr. Lincoln looked more serious than at any other time since he had visited headquarters. The lines in his face seemed deeper, and the rings under his eyes were of a darker hue. It was plain that the weight of responsibility was oppressing him. Could it have been a premonition that with the end of this last campaign would come the end of his life?”

Francis B. Carpenter, quoted in *The Oxford Dictionary of Civil War Quotations*, edited by John D. Wright:

“In repose, [Lincoln’s] was the saddest face I ever knew. There were days when I could scarcely look into it without crying.”

Lincoln’s recurring dream, from Time-Life Books *The Civil War – The Assassination: Death of the President*:

“He found himself on board a vessel that was moving swiftly along toward an indefinite shore. In every instance, he continued, the dream had preceded some momentous event – for example, the battles of Fort Sumter, First Bull Run, Antietam, Gettysburg, Stones River. Said the President: ‘I had this strange dream again last night, and we shall, judging from the past, have great news very soon. I think it must be from Sherman. My thoughts are in that direction, as are most of yours.’”

Lincoln’s recurring nightmare, from Time-Life Books *The Civil War – The Assassination: Death of the President*:

“There seemed to be a deathlike stillness about me... Then I heard subdued sobs, as if a number of people were weeping. I thought I left my bed and wandered downstairs.... I kept on...until I arrived in the East Room, which I entered. There I met with a sickening surprise. Before me was a catafalque, on which rested a corpse in funeral vestments. Around it were stationed soldiers who were acting as guards; and there was a throng of people, some gazing mournfully upon the corpse, whose face was covered, others

weeping pitifully. ‘Who is dead in the White House?’ I demanded of one of the soldiers. ‘The President,’ was his answer. ‘He was killed by an assassin!’”

Lincoln’s attitude regarding danger, from Time-Life Books *The Civil War – The Assassination: Death of the President*:

“I cannot possibly guard myself against all dangers...unless I shut myself up in an iron box, in which condition I could scarcely perform the duties of a President.... If anyone is willing to give his life for mine, there is nothing that can prevent it.”

Lincoln’s last words spoken to Crook the day of his assassination, from Time-Life Books *The Civil War – The Assassination: Death of the President*:

“Crook... do you know, I believe there are men who want to take my life.... And I have no doubt they will do it.... [about his prospective theater trip] It has been advertised that we will be there, and I cannot disappoint the people. Otherwise I would not go. I do not want to go.... Goodbye, Crook.”

Civilian of the Month

William Henry Herndon



Photo from <http://www.mrlincolnanfriends.org/inside.asp?pageID=43&subjectID=3>

Herndon was born December 25, 1818 in Kentucky. His family moved to Springfield when he was five. After attending Illinois College, he returned to Springfield and clerked until he joined Lincoln in his law practice in 1841. Following Lincoln’s assassination, Herndon collected stories about Lincoln’s life from those who knew him and hoped to write a book based on his research. He was destitute by 1869 when Ward Hill Lamon approached him for assistance for his Lincoln biography. Herndon promised not to publish his book for at least 10 years in exchange for \$2,000 and an agreement to receive up to \$2,000 in book royalties. By that time, Herndon’s alcoholism and personal problems left him unable to finish the book. Indiana-born Lincoln admirer, Jesse W. Weik, met Herndon in the late 1870s and the two men worked together to create *Herndon’s Lincoln: The True Story of a Great Life*, which was published in 1889. Herndon died in 1891 and is buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield, the same cemetery where Lincoln is buried.

Historic Site of the Month



Photo from <http://www.lincolncottage.org/visit/index.htm>

President Lincoln's Cottage:

This home was built in 1842 by a banker, George Washington Riggs. It was sold to the government in 1851. Buchanan was the first President to stay here in 1857. During his presidency, Lincoln used the Cottage as a quiet setting for important meetings, family relaxation, and solitary reflection as he pondered important national decisions. Hayes spent the summers here from 1877 – 1880. Arthur was the last President to stay here in the winter of 1882 while the White House was being repaired. The home is located on the Armed Forces Retirement Home Campus on Rock Creek Church Road, in NW Washington, D.C. The visitor center is open Monday – Saturday from 9:30 - 4:30 and on Sunday from 11:30 – 5:30, except for Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years' Day. The cottage can be visited on guided one hour tours. Admission is \$12 adults, \$5 children (6-12), and \$10 for National Trust and military members with ID.

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