



HARDTACK

Indianapolis Civil War Round Table Newsletter

<http://indianapoliscwrt.org/>

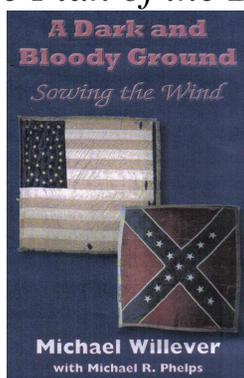


June 14, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.

Meeting at Indian Lake Country Club

10502 E. 75th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46236 (see page 2 for directions)

The Plan of the Day



A Dark and Bloody Ground: Sowing the Wind

A Dark and Bloody Ground, the first in a book series, chronicles the week of October 4-9, 1862, when the fate of Kentucky lay literally in the balance. As vast foraging armies swept the countryside, soldiers from the North and the South lived, fought and died staining Kentucky's soil with their blood and fulfilling Kentucky's prophetic sobriquet as "A Dark and Bloody Ground." Michael Willever chronicles the events leading up to the Battle of Perryville, through the eyes of seven protagonists, four Southern and three Northern.

Our Guest Speaker



Michael Willever, an ordained Baptist minister and a graduate of the Faith Bible Institute in Corpus Christi, Texas, has been an avid writer and Civil War enthusiast since childhood. Having read and reread Michael Shaara's *The Killer Angels* when the book first came out in 1975, Michael says he was permanently affected and longed to someday write his own Civil War historical fiction novel. Research for the book series, *A Dark and Bloody Ground*, began earnestly in 2004 and the first installment, *A Dark and Bloody Ground: Sowing the Wind*, was completed in late 2007. The second and final installment,

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

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:

Official Records

Attendance:

May – 45

Speakers for 2010-2011: We need three more speakers for the 2010-2011 campaign (for January, February, and March). If you are interesting in giving a presentation, please contact Jerry Thompson at jetup59@att.net or by phone at (317)328-2752.

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.

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

Answers to the May Quiz:

1. What is "dandyfunk"?***Stew made of hardtack, molasses and salt pork
2. Name 3 generals who shared the nickname, "Pap".***George Thomas, Sterling Price, Felix Zollicoffer
3. Who was the "southern" governor who said, "Let me tell you what is coming.... Your fathers and husbands, your sons and brothers will be herded at the point of the bayonet.... You may, after the sacrifice of countless millions of treasure and hundreds of thousands of lives, as a bare possibility, win Southern independence... But I doubt it."***Sam Houston
4. What Federal installation was known as the "American Bastille"?***Old Capitol Prison
5. What was special about the James River Bridge?***At the time, the longest pontoon bridge ever built (2100 ft.)

Civilians and Soldiers Speak

About the battle of Perryville:

"The battle began at break of day by an artillery duel, the Federal battery being commanded by Colonel Charles Carroll Parsons and the Confederates by Captain William W. Carnes....With the advance of Cheatham's division the battle of Perryville began in earnest....It was a fierce struggle. Until nightfall the battle raged with unexampled fury, - a perfect hurricane of shell tore up the earth and scattered death on all sides, while the storm of musketry mowed down the opposing ranks....It was shortly after noon that the battle began with a sudden crash followed by a prolonged roar. I was resting at the time in the woods, discussing questions of theology with the Rev. Dr. Joseph Cross, a Wesleyan chaplain whom I had first met on the march into Kentucky. I sprang to my horse at once and said to him: 'Let us go! There will be work enough for us presently!' He mounted his horse and followed me up a hill where we paused in full view of the enemy's line. I dismounted and sat down in the shelter of a large tree, saying as I did so: 'You better get off your horse! The enemy is training a battery this way and there will be a shell here in a short time!' Scarcely was the warning words uttered than a shell struck the tree twenty feet above my head and a shower of wooden splinters fell about

me. I jumped into my saddle again and rode at full speed down the hill, followed by my friend, who shouted with laughter at what he called my resemblance to an enormous bird in flight, with my long coat-skirts like wings lying horizontal on the air. When he overtook me at the creek, I said to him: 'This is the place. You will remain with me and I shall give you something more serious to do than laughing at a flying buzzard.' Dr. Cross assisted me that fearful day...When the wounded were brought to the rear, at three o'clock in the afternoon, I took my place as a surgeon on Chaplain's Creek, and throughout the rest of the day and until half past five the next morning, without food of any sort, I was incessantly occupied with the wounded. It was a horrible night I spent, - God save me from such another. I suppose excitement kept me up. About half past five in the morning of the 9th, I dropped, - I could do no more. I went out by myself and leaning against a fence, I wept like a child. And all that day I was so unnerved that if any one asked me about the regiment, I could make no reply without tears." - Doctor Quintard, Chaplain C.S.A., and Second Bishop of Tennessee

"Captain Olmstead of Company A, raised his sword and called 'Come on, Boys,' and turned to go down the hill. He met his death at that moment, for a bullet pierced his brain. My partner and I were six feet, two and one half inches tall, and were the two first men in the regiment. The bullet which killed Captain Olmstead went between us, and Captain Olmstead's brains blinded us, as he fell directly before us, and we jumped over him with the determination to avenge his slaughter.

About half way down the hill two Johnnies were sitting behind a rail cut log, with their guns cocked and ready, and one of them shot for my head, his bullet passing right below my ear, clipping the hair; the other drew blood from Lockwood my file leader.

As soon as they shot they squatted close to the log, and threw up their old gray hats and said, 'We will surrender.' I don't know just how it was, but others said they saw two guns come down on those two Johnnies' heads, and I found my gun broken, and do not know how it happened. The whole thing was all over in thirty seconds or less." - Pvt. George Kilpatrick, Company A, 42nd Indiana

"On the 2nd of October the army began to move and marched on the Springfield Pike at an early hour in the morning. We passed through Springfield and on to Perryville... We were now getting close enough to see the Federal line extended away to the right with a gap to the left. When we were within about four hundred yards of their line of battle, the enemy's sharpshooters opened fire on us from behind trees and stumps, and all along the front of their line, which was a long distance in both directions, but we moved on as though nothing had happened. The sharpshooters of the enemy continued their fire while we were halted, but our line was close behind us now, and suddenly the brass bands broke loose and filled the woods full of music, the troops began to cheer and the enemy's artillery began to roar." - John E. Headley, *Confederate Operations in Canada and New York*

"On the second morning after the battle of Perryville, or Chaplin Hills, I visited the battle-field...I reached Mr. Russell's white house, that has been made famous in the report of General Buell. Here was the center of great battle. The house was dotted over with hundreds of marks of musket and cannon balls. All around lay dead bodies of the

soldiers – Union and Rebel. Many long trenches were made ready for their burial. In a skit of woods close by were scattered hundreds of the dead of both armies. The whole scene beggars description. The ground was strewn with soiled and torn clothes, muskets, blankets and the various accouterments of the dead soldiers. Trees not more than one foot in diameter contained from twenty to thirty musket-balls and buck-shot, put into them during the battle. Farms all around were one unfenced common. I counted four hundred and ten dead men on a small spot of ground. My heart grew sick at the sight, and I ceased to enumerate them....Turning my steps south toward Perryville, I saw dead rebels piled up in pens like hogs. I reached my home, praying to God that I might never again be called to visit a battlefield.” – Dr. Jefferson J. Polk, from *Autobiography of Dr. J.J. Polk*

“We found the first hospital for the wounded at [Mackville]. This was a tavern, with sixteen rooms, containing 150 wounded and 30 sick, mostly from a Wisconsin regiment. Twenty-five were on cots; some on straw; the others on the floor, with blankets....From this place in Perryville, some ten miles, nearly every house was a hospital. At one log cabin we found 20 of the 10th Ohio, including the Major and two Captains. At another house were several of the 92nd Ohio; and the occupants were very poor, but doing all in their power for those in their charge. The mother of the family promised to continue to do so, but said, with tears in her eyes, she feared that she and her children must starve when the winter came. As at the other houses on this road, the sick had no regular medical attendance.” – Dr. A.N. Read, Inspector, U.S. Sanitary Commission

“Thirty-three of our regiment were trenched; no coffin or mark, except a rail or stone. Our major, noble man! Was among the number, - no sheet nor shroud, not even a coat, for he was stripped. If I had the dearest friend killed in battle, I could only bury him. You can not realize our situation. The people flee because their houses are used for hospitals....It seems hard to throw men all together and heap earth upon them, but it is far better than to have them lie moldering in the sun. Oh! To see the dead rebels in the woods! From one point I counted thirty-one, in a fence corner twenty-four; every where the eye rests on one, and this is not on the field proper. In our short march we passed at least two hundred, and of horses I made no count. It is a fearful sight; and to think of all these soldiers friends who would give any thing for their bloated, decaying bodies, now torn by swine and crows, - oh, it is sad!” – Sgt. Mead Holmes, Jr., Co. K, 21st Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, *A Soldier of the Cumberland: Memoir of Mead Holmes, Jr.*



Officer of the Month

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

George Henry Thomas was born July 31, 1816 at Newsom’s Depot, North Carolina. He was appointed to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1836, where he earned the nickname “Slow Trot Thomas” (he moved slowly because of a back injury), became friends with William T. Sherman, and graduated 12th in his class of 42 in 1840. He had a long Army career. He led a gun crew with distinction at the battles of Fort Brown, Resaca de la Palma, Monterrey, and Buena Vista during the Mexican War. In 1851, he returned to West Point as

a cavalry and artillery instructor and became close friends with Lt. Col. Robert E. Lee. He married Frances Lucretia Kellogg on November 17, 1852. In 1854, his regiment was transferred to California. In 1855, he was appointed major of the 2nd U.S. Cavalry and traveled extensively with Robert E. Lee for court-martial duty. In 1857, he assumed command of the regiment. He was wounded August 26, 1860, during a clash with a Comanche warrior, but still continued to lead the expedition. This was his only combat wound throughout his career. When the Civil War broke out, 19 of the 36 officers of the 2nd U.S. Cavalry resigned; Thomas did not, probably influenced by his wife and his dislike of slavery. His Southern family destroyed his letters and never spoke to him again. He won one of the first Union victories of the war, at Mill Springs in Kentucky. He served in commands at Perryville and Stones River. His defense at Chickamauga earned him the nickname of the “Rock of Chickamauga”. Earning the nickname “The Sledge of Nashville”, he destroyed Hood’s army at the Battle of Nashville, one of the most decisive victories of the war. He had a reputation of being a slow, deliberate general who shunned self-promotion and turned down advancements if he felt they were not justified. He continued to serve in the Army after the war - protecting freedmen from abuse, setting up military commissions to enforce labor contracts, and to protect places threatened by Ku Klux Klan violence. He died of a stroke March 28, 1870 and was buried in Oakwood Cemetery in Troy, New York. None of his Southern family attended the funeral.

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.

Historic Site of the Month

Old Bardstown Village Civil War Museum of the Western Theater:



The Civil War Museum is located in an 8500 sq. ft. building and is the fourth-largest Civil War Museum in the United States. This museum focuses mainly on the War of the Western States through geographical and chronological segments as visitors move through a series of exhibits featuring both Union and Confederacy artifacts. The Women’s Civil War Museum, which depicts the roles women played as nurses, spies,

soldiers, and homemakers during the Civil War, is located in the Historic Wright Talbott House, adjacent to the Civil War Museum. The Pioneer Village depicts a colonial village dating from 1776 to 1820. The War Memorial of Mid America Museum honors those who serve to preserve freedom from the Revolutionary War to Desert Storm. The Wildlife Museum depicts North American wildlife in their natural habitat. The museum hours are March 1 – December 15, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday – Sunday. The cost is \$6.00 for the Civil War Museum and \$4.00 for each of the other museums for adults; and \$2.00 for each museum for children ages 7-12; and free for children 7 and under. Combination tickets for three museums \$8.50 and for all five museums \$10.00 for adults; and all museums \$4.00 for children ages 7-12. Bardstown is located in Central Kentucky between I-65 and I-75, just off the Bluegrass Parkway. From Lexington, take Route 60 to the Bluegrass Parkway. Continue on the Bluegrass until you reach exit 25. Take a right at the exit and follow the road into town. From Louisville, take I-65 South to exit 112, and turn left at the exit. Follow this road about 16 miles until you reach Bardstown. The Civil War Museum is located at 310 E. Broadway.

For more information, visit <http://www.civil-war-museum.org/index.html> or call 502-349-0291.

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