



HARDTACK

Indianapolis Civil War Round Table Newsletter

<http://indianapoliswrt.org/>



October 12, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.

Meeting at Indiana History Center

The Plan of the Day

Attack on the Confederate Right July 2, 1863: Did Hood Disobey an Order at the Battle of Gettysburg?



This Confederate sniper was probably killed by Union batteries, July 2, 1863. (Gettysburg postcard)

The fury of battle raged around the Devil's Den and Round Tops July 2, 1863 as Law's Alabama Brigade attempted to wrest the now famous landmarks from Federal hands. When he entered the battle, Evander McIver Law, age twenty-six, was one of Robert E. Lee's most promising generals. His brigade of Alabamians shared the Army of Northern Virginia's sense of invincibility. After a grueling twenty-five mile march to the battlefield, Law's men made a valiant three-hour effort to gain control of the high ground that is the now famous Round Tops. Two days after it arrived, the brigade retired from the field with the realization that the Federals had matched their own fighting ability. Law himself departed with the seeds of discord planted that would ultimately culminate in a devastating feud between himself and Longstreet.

Much has been written about the conduct of the Confederate commanders on July 2. General Longstreet is generally criticized for being too slow. But, why did the attack on the Federal left fall apart? Some historians too hastily conclude that Brigadier General Evander Law deliberately disobeyed an order to attack up the Emmitsburg Road on the afternoon of July 2, 1863. None seem to consider the role played by General John B. Hood and the discretion he believed was his as the division commander. The presentation examines the situation prior to the attack on Devil's Den and Little Round Top and the Confederate plan of attack.

Our Guest Speaker



Morris Penny was born in Piedmont, Alabama and reared on a small farm eight miles south of there in the Nances Creek Community. He graduated from White Plains High School in Calhoun County; is an alumni of Auburn University, having earned a BSAE degree and received an MBA from Alabama A&M University. Morris was associated with the Aerospace University almost 40 years and employed by Lockheed Martin Missiles and Space in Huntsville, Alabama for 33 of those years. His interest in the Civil War grew out of his research into the genealogy of his mother and father. Young men from his ancestral families served in the 44th, 47th and 48th Alabama Infantry Regiments. He and co-author, Gary Laine of Austin, Texas, have published a history of "Law's Alabama Brigade" to which these regiments were attached. Their

latest publication, entitled "Struggle for the Round Tops," chronicles the fighting of Law's Brigade at the Battle of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania and was honored as the Military Book Club book of the month shortly after its publication. Morris and his wife, Peggy, now reside on the little farm where he grew up. Morris was the recipient of the Jefferson Davis Historical Gold Medal for the year 1999, which was awarded by the Alabama Division, United Daughters of the Confederacy, for historical work related to the Confederacy. He is currently working on several Civil War related topics, one of which is the Federal raid across North Alabama in late April 1863 commanded by Colonel Abel D. Streight. An avid amateur photographer and photo restorer, Morris is currently restoring over 500 photographs from his and Peggy's families.

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:

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.

2009-2010 Campaign Plans

November 9, 2009	“Cade’s Cove: A Community at War”	Tony Trimble
December 14, 2009	<i>Lt. Gen. James Longstreet: The Confederacy’s Most Modern General</i>	Harold Knudsen
January 11, 2010	“The Affective Struggles of Abraham Lincoln”	John Wernert, M.D.
February 8, 2010	“If Not for the Ladies: Ladies’ Memorial Associations and the Lost Cause”	Carolyn Janney
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:

- October 21 – TBA
- November 18 – Dr. Wesley Hanson, “Rare and Unusual Music of the Civil War”
- January 20 – Al Harris, “June 25, 1862 - The Day the War Could Have Been Won”

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.

Portraits of Lincoln: The Robert Lang Collection: This special exhibit will be on display until January 2, 2010 at the Wabash County Historical Museum, 36 E. Market Street, Wabash, IN. Hours: Tues – Sat. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission: \$5 Adults; \$3 Seniors (60+); \$3 Children (6-12). For more information, visit www.wabashmuseum.org or call 260-563-9070.

Pioneer Day: This event will be held October 3, 2009 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Rockport Lincoln Pioneer Village. Step back in time as you tour 14 replica cabins from the Lincoln Era in Spencer County. Costumed interpreters will be demonstrating life in the village and trade techniques commonly used during the period when Lincoln grew up in Southern Indiana. Also include in your visit the museum where a cabinet built by Thomas Lincoln and a dress worn by Sarah Grisby are on display along with many other artifacts. Free admission. Donations accepted. For more information, visit <http://www.lincolnpioneermuseum.org> or call 812-649-9147 or 812-686-2553.

Battle of Belzer – Civil War Days: This event will be held October 23, 24, and 25 at Camp Belzer on the northeast side of Indianapolis, for the first 600 registered Boy Scouts. An organizer for this event is looking for anyone who would like to do any type of living history on Saturday morning and early afternoon on the Civil War era (both Federal and Confederate). If you are interested in helping with this event, please contact Kevin Stickels by email at kevin_stickels@sbcglobal.net or by phone at (317)271-2791.

Buffalo & Mistletoe: This event will be held December 12 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and December 13 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Buffalo Run Farm, Grill & Gifts in Spencer

County. See pioneers, frontiersmen and Native Americans demonstrating the life skills of the Lincoln Era. For more information visit <http://www.legendaryplaces.org/buffalorun/> or call 812-937-2799.

Special Orders

Watson Article in Summer Issue of *Traces*: Member Elbert Watson, who served as ICWRT President in 1980-1981 and who now patrols our Southern front down in South Carolina, has an article appearing in the Summer issue of *Traces*: “The Last Battle of the Civil War: The Thirty-Fourth Indiana at the Battle of Palmito Ranch.” Fought along the banks of the Rio Grande River May 12-13, 1865, the battle resulted in a Confederate victory. Fortunately, the Thirty-Fourth, which was part of the Union force, fought bravely and saved the command from a complete debacle. A sad sidelight to the story was the death of Jay County’s Private John Jefferson Williams, regarded as the last Union soldier to fall in battle during the war.

Central Virginia Battlefields Trust Saves Endangered Wilderness Battlefield Land: The Fredericksburg based Central Virginia Battlefields Trust (CVBT) has acquired an option to purchase approximately 93 acres of historic ground on the Wilderness battlefield for \$930,000.00. This newly preserved land, which “looks much as it did in 1864,” is on the south side of Route 3, adjacent to the Wilderness Tavern site, and protects the historic crossroads, through which a large portion of the Union army marched as they were fed into battle in the Wilderness. The Fredericksburg CWRT and CVBT have joined forces to create a unique DVD entitled “Civil War: Fredericksburg – ‘Then and Now’”. This DVD, filmed in high definition, will include five segments: “The Battle Overview;” “Then and Now;” “Then Remembered;” “Preservation Challenges;” and “Planning Your Visit.” The DVD, scheduled for release on October 28, 2009, will cost \$14.95 plus S/H. For more information on purchasing the DVD, please visit CVBT’s web site at www.cvbt.org.

Farewell to the Star Spangled Banner: Member Wes Hanson has created a CD of rarely heard songs and instrumental solos tracing the course of the Civil War era. They are available for \$16. Please see him if you would like a CD. *Editor’s note:* The music is delightful!

Official Records

Book Raffle list:

The Iron Brigade: A Military History, by Alan Nolan

Dissonance: The Turbulent Days Between Fort Sumter and Bull Run, by David Detzer

The Civil War, A Narrative: Yellow Tavern to Cold Harbor, by Shelby Foote

Matthew Brady: Historian With a Camera, by James D. Horan

The Civil War Day by Day: An Illustrated Almanac of America’s Bloodiest War, by John S. Bowman

***Anyone wishing to donate books for upcoming raffles should either bring them to Tony Roscetti at the October 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.

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

1. What improvement did the Fretwell-Singer torpedo bring to warfare?

2. Who was Nero?

3. On what battlefield was Slaughter's Field?

4. Where was the Burnt District? Whose activities was it meant to curtail?

5. What regiment was known as the Mozarts?

Answers to September Quiz:

1. Who or what were the "Secret Six"? *** New England Abolitionists who funded John Brown's Raid
2. Who were Privates Daniel Hough & Edward Galloway? *** The only casualties of the bombardment of Ft. Sumter
3. In military parlance, what is a "marker"? *** A soldier designated to maintain the alignment of a company during drill or parade
4. Where was the Horseshoe Ridge? *** Snodgrass Hill at Chickamauga
5. What was the Emerald Light Infantry? *** A South Carolina Militia unit made up entirely of Irishmen

The Soldiers and A Civilian Speaks

General Robert E. Lee, quoted in *The Oxford Dictionary of Civil War Quotations*, edited by John D. Wright:

"As to the battle of Gettysburg, I must again refer you to the official accounts. Its loss was occasioned by a combination of circumstances. It was commenced in the absence of correct intelligence. It was continued in the effort to overcome the difficulties by which we were surrounded, and it would have been gained could one determined and united blow have been delivered by our whole line. As it was, victory trembled in the balance for three days, and the battle resulted in the infliction of as great an amount of injury as was received and in frustrating the Federal campaign for the season."

Captain Augustus P. Martin, commander of Union V Corps artillery at Gettysburg, *Gettysburg Compiler*, October 24, 1899, quoted on <http://en.wikipedia.org>:
 “Among the interesting incidents that occurred on Little Round Top was the summary way in which a sharpshooter was disposed of in rear of Devil’s Den. He had concealed himself behind a stone wall between two boulders and for a long time we were annoyed by shots from that direction, one of which actually combed my hair over my left ear and passed through the shoulder of a man a little taller than myself who was standing behind me for a cover. At last we were able to locate the spot, by the use of a field glass, from whence the shots came by little puffs of smoke that preceded the whizzing of the bullets that passed by our heads. We then loaded one of our guns with a percussion shell, taking careful and accurate aim. When the shot was fired the shell struck and exploded on the face of one of the boulders. We supposed the shot had frightened him away, as we were no longer troubled with shots from that location. When the battle was ended we rode over to the Devil’s Den and found behind the wall a dead Confederate soldier lying upon his back and, so far as we could see, did not have a mark upon his body, and from that fact became convinced that he was killed by the concussion of the shell when it exploded on the face of the boulder.”

On July 2, just as the attack on Little Round Top started, Hood was a victim of an artillery shell exploding overhead, severely damaging his left arm, which incapacitated him. He recuperated in Richmond, Virginia. In August 1863, Mary Chestnut described him in her diary, *Mary Chestnut’s Civil War*, edited by C. Vann Woodward:
 “When he came, with his sad Quixote face, the face of an old crusader who believed in his cause, his cross, his crown – we were not prepared for that type exactly as a beau ideal of wild Texans. Tall – thin – shy. Blue eyes and light hair, tawny beard and a vast amount of it covering the lower part of his face – an appearance of awkward strength. Someone said that great reserve of manner he carried only into ladies’ society. Mr. Venable added he had often heard of the ‘light of battle’ shining in a man’s eyes. He had seen it once. He carried him orders from General Lee and found [him] in the hottest of the fight. ‘The man was transfigured. The fierce light of his eyes – I can never forget.’”

Officer of the Month

John Bell Hood

Information taken from <http://ngeorgia.com/people/hood.html>

John was born the son of a rural doctor in Owingsville, Kentucky. Against the wishes of his father who urged him to pursue a medical career and with the assistance of his uncle Congressman Richard French, John enrolled in the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1849. He graduated 44th out of 52 in the class of 1853. He received his commission as a brevet second lieutenant in the U.S. Army and was assigned to duty at Fort Scott, California in February 1854. In October 1855, he was promoted to second lieutenant of cavalry and was assigned to the Second Cavalry Regiment at Fort Mason, Texas. On July 20, 1857, he received his first combat wound, when a Comanche arrow pierced his left hand at Devil’s River, Texas. On April 16, 1861, he resigned from the U.S. Army. He enlisted in the Confederate Army in May 1861 as a lieutenant and was assigned to the Army of Northern Virginia, where he received several rapid promotions. He was severely wounded on July 2, 1863 at Gettysburg, forever losing the use of his left

arm. He was severely wounded again at Chickamauga, resulting in the amputation of his right leg. By 1864, he was a temporary full general in command of Army of Tennessee. His attacks against Sherman failed and he evacuated Atlanta on September 2, 1864. In November, he launched he suffered more defeats at Franklin and Nashville. He resigned his command on January 23, 1865, reverting back to lieutenant general. He was ordered to Texas to raise an army. After the capture of Jefferson Davis and the surrender of Gen. Kirby Smith in Texas, Hood surrendered in Natchez, Mississippi on May 31, 1865. After the war, Hood worked in the cotton brokerage and insurance businesses in New Orleans. He married Anna Marie Hennen on April 30, 1868. They had eleven children, including three sets of twins. He lost all of his fortune during the winter of 1878-1879 due to a yellow fever epidemic. On August 30, 1879, Hood died of yellow fever shortly after the deaths of his wife and oldest child. Seven different families in Louisiana, New York, Mississippi, Georgia and Kentucky adopted his ten orphaned children, all under the age of ten.



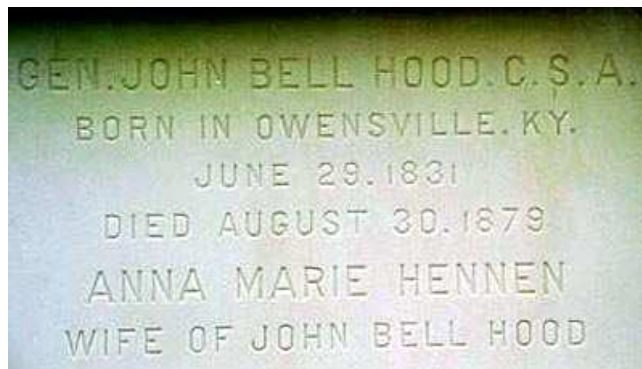
Historic Sites of the Month

General Hood Birthplace Marker and his grave location

Information from <http://www.waymarking.com> and <http://findagrave.com>



The birthplace marker is located on E. Main Street or US60 in Owingsville, Kentucky.

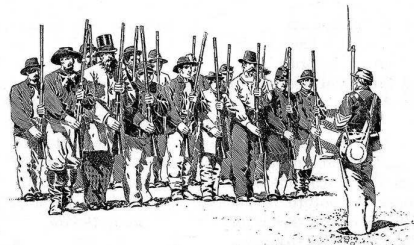


Hood and his wife are buried in Metairie Cemetery in New Orleans, Louisiana.

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 2009-2010 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 2009 thru June 2010

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:

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

“As a soldier [General John B. Hood] was brave, good, noble, and gallant, and fought with the ferociousness of the wounded tiger, and with the everlasting grit of the bulldog; but as a general he was a failure in every particular.”

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