



HARDTACK

Indianapolis Civil War Round Table Newsletter

<http://indianapoliswrt.org/>

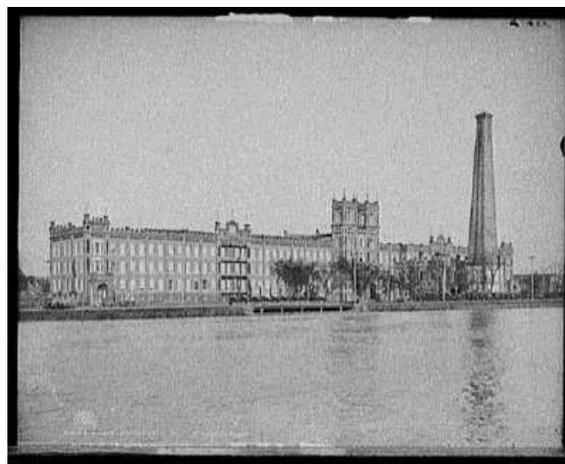


February 14, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.

Meeting at Indiana History Center

The Plan of the Day

Stumbling into Power: How the Confederacy Accidentally Created the World's First Centrally Planned Industrial Economy



The tower on the right is all that remains of the Confederate Powder Works in Augusta, Georgia. The building to the left is the Sibley Cotton Mill, which was constructed on the Powder Works' site in 1880. (Photo from www.kennesaw.org)

At the outset of the Civil War, the North's largest advantage appeared to be that it already possessed an industrial economy. In 1860, Northern factories produced about 10 times as much as their Southern counterparts, which meant more rifles, more artillery, more ammunition, more wagons and more of everything else that made armies powerful in the middle of the nineteenth century. Yet in fact, industrial superiority did not determine the outcome of the war. In 1865, when Lee's forces surrendered at Appomattox, they may have been starving, but each man had 75 rounds of manufactured ammunition. While many Confederate troops marched barefoot, Southern armies retained artillery and shells throughout the war. The Southern Ordinance Bureau accomplished this feat by constructing one of the world's first centralized industrial economies. In doing so, it violated the Confederate ideology of "free" property rights – the government forced owners of mines and forges to produce for the military, rather than speculate, and it used of states' rights or individual property rights, the Confederacy in this regard was a precursor to the centralized European war economies of the twentieth century – Germany Ordinance Bureau also ironically proved the effectiveness of a planned economy in producing for war.

Our Guest Speaker



Sam Mitrani received his PhD in history from the University of Illinois at Chicago in 2009. He is currently a part-time instructor at Purdue Calumet, Saint Xavier University, American Military University and Morton College. His main area of study is nineteenth century state formation. He recently completed a manuscript titled *Order in the Metropolis: The making of the Chicago Police Department, 1850-1890*. He lives in Chicago with his partner, Juanita, and their Chihuahua mix, Peanut.

JOIN US BEFORE THE MEETING AT SHAPIRO'S DELI!

All ICWRT members and guests are invited to join us at 6:00 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 2010-2011 Campaign

Officers:

President: Chris Smith

Secretary: Frank Bynum

Vice President & Programs: Jerry Thompson

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

2010-2011 Campaign Plans

March 14, 2011	The history of the GAR badge	Dan Mitchell
April 11, 2011	Theodore Roosevelt and the Civil War	Gib Young
May 9, 2011	To Be Announced	Mike Marsh
June 13, 2011	The Trent Affair: Lincoln Dodged a Bullet	Howard Strouse

Other Camp Activities

Camp Tippecanoe Civil War Round Table meetings at 7 p.m. at the Tippecanoe Arts Federation Building, 638 North Street, Lafayette, only a few blocks northeast of the downtown square and historic courthouse:

- March 8: “Confederates in Indiana: The Raid of John Hunt Morgan” Jim Turley
- April 12: “The Real First Day of Chickamauga (September 18, 1863)” Dale Philipps
- May 10: “Demobilizing Union Soldiers: The Grand Review Victory Parade in Washington” Bob Bain

Indianapolis Crossroads of America 2010 Civil War/ Political Show: This show will be held Friday, April 1 (4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.) and Saturday, April 2 (9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) in the main gym of Beech Grove High School, 5330 Hornet Avenue, Beech Grove, IN. All profits will be donated to the Beech Grove High School Student Incentive Fund. For more information, contact Harvey W. Warrner at Ironbrigaderelics.com or 317-784-2617.

Civil War Heritage Days – Hendricks County: The Danville Public Library and Hendricks County Historical Museum are sponsoring Civil War Heritage Days – Hendricks County. Currently plans are being made for the festival which will be June 25 & 26, 2011. If you or someone you know would be interested in helping with the festival, please contact Gail at 696-3129 or Cindy at 745-2604. Events will include Civil War Units, Agriculture & Transportation Display, Music, Civil War Ancestor Show & Tell, High Tea, Quilt Display, Church Service and many other activities.

Special Orders

Daniel Day-Lewis to play Lincoln: (Chicago Tribune, November 20, 2010) Dream Works Studio announced that Day-Lewis will star as the president in the Steven Spielberg film “Lincoln,” which is based on the book *Team of Rivals* by Doris Kearns Goodwin. Filming is expected to begin in fall 2011 and the movie will be released in late 2012.

Indiana’s historic battle flags: You can help the Indiana War Memorial in their project to restore more than 450 flags from Indiana regiments that served in the Civil War and the Mexican-American War. The Indiana Civil War Flags Commission is raising funds to pay for this project. Since the beginning of the project, only ten flags have been restored. According to IWM’s executive director, Brig. Gen. J. Stewart Goodwin, “The goal is to eventually return these flags to courthouses in the areas they originally represented.” For

more about the battle flags, visit www.in.gov/iwm/2339.htm. If you would like to donate, visit the Indiana War Memorial or call J. Stewart Goodwin at (317) 232-7616.

Restoration of Civil War steam engine: (Newport News Daily Press, December 18, 2010) When the Monitor's 30-ton steam engine was rescued from the Atlantic in 2001, it was covered in a 2 – to 3 inch-thick layer of marine concretion, which still envelops the engine after nine years of desalination treatment. In December, the conservators drained the tank and began removing the layer of concretion with hammers, chisels and other hand tools. In their first week, they removed over two tons of encrustation. "Once the concretion is gone, the engine will be submerged in a new solution of purified water and sodium hydroxide. It also will be exposed to a low-level electrical current that speeds up the release of potentially damaging chloride through a process called electrolytic reduction." Sometime this spring, they hope to start the disassembly of the engine. Each of the thousands of parts will be individually treated and documented before the engine is reassembled and put on exhibit at the USS Monitor Center at the Mariners' Museum. The most seriously corroded parts will be replaced with carefully crafted replicas. The whole process may take another 15 years to complete.

Walmart Abandons Plans to Build Supercenter on Wilderness Battlefield: (Civil War Trust News Update, January 26, 2011) "In an unexpected development, Walmart announced this morning that it has abandoned plans to pursue a special use permit previously awarded to the retail giant for construction of a supercenter on the Wilderness Battlefield. The decision came as the trial in a legal challenge seeking to overturn the special use permit was scheduled to begin in Orange County circuit court."

Did Abe Lincoln's Assassin Escape? DNA May Solve Mystery: (Aol news, December 23, 2010) "Descendants of John Wilkes Booth have agreed to exhume his brother's body for DNA testing in an attempt to determine whether the assassin of President Abraham Lincoln escaped capture and eluded justice, as the family has been told....Most believe he was tracked down 10 days later and shot inside a tobacco barn in rural Virginia by Union soldiers and buried in an unmarked grave in Baltimore's Green Mount Cemetery. That, however, is not the story that has been passed down in the Booth family. According to family members, Booth escaped capture and lived for 38 more years....In an effort to end the speculation, [Joanne] Hulme [a Booth family historian] and her family want to compare DNA from Booth's brother, Edwin, to that of a bone specimen at the National Museum of Health and Medicine in Washington. The bone is from the man who was gunned down inside the barn. Before an exhumation of Edwin Booth in a cemetery in Cambridge, Mass., the family wants to get permission from the museum to obtain the DNA sample from the bone specimen. A panel of judges will make the final decision."

Morningside Bookshop of Dayton, Ohio: Morningside Bookshop has a new owner. Andy Turner, associated with Morningside since 1993 and owner of *The Gettysburg Magazine*, has taken over ownership of Morningside. His goal is to continue on in the tradition of quality books that was established by Bob and Mary Younger. Morningside, along with *The Gettysburg Magazine*, are now part of Gatehouse Press. Gatehouse will continue to print and sell Morningside titles with the Morningside name on them.

Official Records

Attendance:

January – 36

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:

Lincoln: A Novel, by Gore Vidal

The Union Reader: As the North Saw the War, edited by Richard B. Harwell

The Battles for Spotsylvania Court House and the Road to Yellow Tavern, May 7-12, 1864, by Gordon C. Rhea

Grant Comes East: A Novel of the Civil War, by Newt Gingrich and William R. Forstchen

This Mighty Scourge: Perspectives of the Civil War, by James M. McPherson

***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.**

War in Tennessee

Another trip is being planned for next summer. Dates are July 13-17. We will try again for a tour of Civil War sites in Chattanooga, Knoxville, and Richmond, KY. More information in the form of a handout similar to last year will be forthcoming soon. In the meantime, put the dates on your calendar and I hope to see you on the bus!!

– Tony Trimble

A Dark and Bloody Ground: Reaping the Whirlwind: If you would like to pre-order a copy of Michael Willever's book, please send your name and address to him at mwillever@comcast.net.

June Banquet: Our June banquet will be held again at the Indian Lake Country Club on June 13. The price will be \$22.00 for a buffet similar to the past two years. The menu and the sign-up form will be in the next Hardtack.

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

1. Name the general whose great grandfather was a signer of the Declaration of Independence.
2. What nickname was adopted by the 40th New York following the death of a beloved officer?
3. Who were the "Immortal 600?"
4. What was the "Petersburg Express?"

5. What unit was known as the “La Garde Lafayette” and “Les Gardes des Fourchettes?” Who was its commanding officer?

Answers to the January quiz:

1. On what battlefield would you find Germanna Flank Road? *** The Wilderness
2. Name the regiment with the greatest actual one-day losses of the war. Where? *** 1st Maine Heavy Artillery; Petersburg
3. Name the Englishman who invented the canister shell. *** Henry Shrapnel
4. Who coined the phrase, “Battle Above the Clouds” to describe the action at Lookout Mountain? *** General Montgomery Meigs, USA
5. Where would you find Billy Goat Hill? *** Missionary Ridge

The Soldiers Speak

An excerpt from Walt Whitman’s “Song of the Broad-Axe” (1856), quoted in Alex Groner’s *The American Heritage History of American Business and Industry*:

“The shapes arise!

Shapes of factories, arsenals, foundries, markets;

Shapes of the two-threaded tracks of railroads;

Shapes of the sleepers of bridges, vast frameworks, girders, arches;

Shapes of the fleets of barges, towns, lake and canal craft, river craft.

The shapes arise!

Ship-yards and dry-docks along the Eastern and Western Seas, and in many a bay and by-place,

The live-oak kelsons, the pine planks, the spars, the hackmatack-roots for knees,

The ships themselves on their ways, the tiers of scaffolds, the workmen busy outside and inside,

The tools lying around, the great auger and little auger, the adze, bolt, line, square, gouge, and bead-plane.”

John Mackey’s December 26, 1799 report of the completion of the main armory building, quoted in Merritt Roe Smith’s *Harpers Ferry Armory and the New Technology*:

“The Smith shop and Factory are finished. The Arsenal is built but not entirely finished.

Two upper floors are yet to be laid. All, even my numerous Democratic Enemies, agree that the Buildings are elegant.

The Smith Shop is 80 by 26 ft. clear of the walls; The Factory 120 by 26 feet, and the Arsenal 120 by 27 feet within. The [smith] shop contains 10 forges, one of which is designed for a Tilt-hammer; The ground floor of the factory is designed for the boring, grinding & polishing machinery; the filers and stockers will occupy the upper floor. The Garrett will receive Gun Stocks lumber etc. The Mill is almost built, but will not be put together until the Water is in the Canal. The Arsenal has three floors. This building stands within the confluence of [the Potomac and Shenandoah] Rivers.”

James Stubblefield, quoted in Merritt Roe Smith's *Harpers Ferry Armory and the New Technology*:

"I determined to adopt a new plan of manufacturing the arms for the United States, and in the Spring of 1809 commenced making tools and machinery for the purpose of distributing the component parts of the guns so as to make the work more simple and easy. In June, 1810, we got our tools and machinery ready for making arms; and it is upon this uniform plan that they are now made throughout the United States.... By this division of labor, a great deal of expense and trouble are saved, a great amount of tools is saved, and the work can be executed with infinitely more ease, more rapidly, as well as more perfectly and uniformly; and, moreover, a hand can be taught, in one-tenth part of the time, to be a good workman when he has but one component part to work upon."

John H. Hall, in his May 15, 1822 letter to Secretary of War John C. Calhoun, quoted in Merritt Roe Smith's *Harpers Ferry Armory and the New Technology*:

"I have succeeded in an object which has hitherto completely baffled (notwithstanding the impressions to the contrary which have long prevailed) all the endeavors of those who have heretofore attempted it – *I have succeeded in establishing methods for fabricating arms exactly alike, & with economy, by the hands of common workmen, & in such a manner as to ensure a perfect observance of any established model, & to furnish in the arms themselves a complete test of their conformity to it.*

One of the many advantages of this perfection will be to render the fabrication of each part of a gun totally independent of all the other parts & thus to prevent a great loss of time which is constantly occurring & at the same time to facilitate such a complete division of labor as will, ultimately, reduce the expense of manufacturing arms to its lowest possible amount."

Jefferson Davis, letter to his wife, Varina, February 20, 1861, quoted in John D. Wright's *The Oxford Dictionary of Civil War Quotations*:

"We are without machinery, without means, and threatened by a powerful opposition; but I do not despond, and will not shrink from the task imposed upon me."

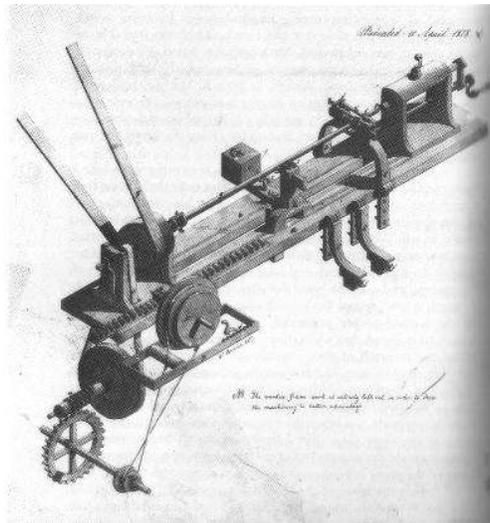
William Tecumseh Sherman, quoted in John D. Wright's *The Oxford Dictionary of Civil War Quotations*:

"Atlanta was known as the "Gate-City of the South," was full of foundries, arsenals, and machine-shops, and I knew that its capture would be the death-knell of the Southern Confederacy."

William Tecumseh Sherman, telegram to Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton, March 12, 1865 (as he was destroying the arsenal at Fayetteville, North Carolina), quoted in John D. Wright's *The Oxford Dictionary of Civil War Quotations*:

"I take it for granted the United States will never again trust North Carolina with an arsenal to appropriate at her pleasure."

Civilian of the Month



Sylvester Nash lathe for turning musket barrels
(photo and information from Merritt Roe Smith's *Harpers Ferry Armory and the New Technology*)

Sylvester Nash devised a lathe at Springfield similar to the one constructed by Simeon North in 1816. The Ordinance Department liked the lathe and instructed Roswell Lee to send Nash for Harpers Ferry to perfect his model and to help Stubblefield with various technical problems of uniform production. Nash was appointed as a machinist at forty-five dollars a month, five dollars higher than the regular machinists. He had difficulty in getting the lathe to operate correctly and spent eight months making important changes to the prototype. On December 4, 1817, Stubblefield took credit for the invention when he informed Lee, "I have nearly completed our Barrel turning Machine, and find it will answer a Grand purpose, and if I meet you in Phila. I will take a barrel with me for your Inspection." Nash applied and received a patent for his invention on April 11, 1818. Nash's lathe was "'a common turning Engine' moved by water power and equipped with a slide rest and a rack-and-pinion feed," but "the principal parts which I claim as my invention in this machine are the steadying supporters, and the wrought iron plate so shaped upon the top as to give the carriage the necessary motion for giving the barrel the true and regular taper or scolop." He sold the rights to use his improvement at Harpers Ferry for \$500 and returned to Springfield. "Nash's lathe required constant adjustment of the cutting tool and a full-time attendant for each machine', but it continued to be used at Harpers Ferry as late as 1829.

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



Harpers Ferry Armory, circa 1862-1865

(Photo from National Park Service, Information from Merritt Roe Smith's *Harpers Ferry Armory and the New Technology* and National Park Service)

Harpers Ferry, West Virginia: Before 1794, all military arms were purchased from importers or private manufacturers and delivered under contract to depots located in Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania and Virginia. Problems with the contract system led George Washington to sponsor a bill, which Congress approved in April 1794, “for the erecting and repairing of Arsenals and Magazines.” Up to four national armories could be built at Washington’s discretion; Springfield, Massachusetts was the first one. Instead of rebuilding three of the four smaller Revolutionary War armories at Philadelphia and Carlisle, Pennsylvania, West Point, New York and New London, Connecticut, Washington decided to build one large arsenal at Harpers Ferry, an area he had inspected in 1785. The land was purchased in 1796 and construction began in 1799. Full-scale reproduction of muskets and rifles began three years later; all pistols were manufactured there after 1805. Harpers Ferry underwent renovation between 1845-1854, with seven new workshops, 121 new machines, an enlarged Armory Canal, and heavier millwork with new Boyden turbines. It became known as the “U.S. Musket Factory.” Virginia seceded on April 17, 1861, and Virginia militia advanced toward Harpers Ferry the next day. U.S. Lt. Roger Jones, unable to defend the armory from attack, set fire to the Armory and Arsenal buildings before retreating. During the Confederate occupation in the spring of 1861, they confiscated the ordnance stock, machinery and tools before burning many of the remaining Armory buildings. By the end of the war, only the fire engine and guard house (John Brown’s Fort) remained.

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6019 Allendale Dr.
Indianapolis, IN 46224