



HARDTACK

Indianapolis Civil War Round Table Newsletter

<http://indianapoliswrt.org/>



January 10, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.

Meeting at Indiana History Center

The Plan of the Day

A Dark and Bloody Ground: Reaping the Whirlwind



The saga continues...

Perryville, Kentucky, October 8, 1862. The small town of just under 400 residents has the notable distinction of unwittingly hosting the largest battle ever fought in the State of Kentucky. From before sunrise until well after dark, 70,000 soldiers waged war, smashed homes, dismantled fences, trampled crops, shattering the trees and killing one another wholesale. The struggle was, according to one Southern general who was there, "...the severest and most desperately contested engagement to my knowledge." The reader witnesses this historic carnage through the eyes of eleven different protagonists, both Northern and Southern, both infamous and common. From Brigadier General Phil Sheridan to Private George Kilpatrick and from Brigadier General Pat Cleburne to Private Sam Watkins, the Battle of Perryville is revealed and revered in this strikingly particular fictional narrative.

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



An ordained Baptist minister and a graduate of the Faith Bible Institute in Corpus Christi, Texas, **Michael Willever** 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 early 2004 and the first installment, *A Dark and Bloody Ground: Sowing the Wind*, was completed in late 2007. The second and final installment, *A Dark and Bloody Ground: Reaping the Whirlwind*, will be released in the near future.

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

February 14, 2011	Confederate Industrialization	Sam Mitrani
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:

- January 11: “Modern President: Lincoln and High Technology in the Civil War” Vernon Dahlstrom
- February 8: “Steamships and the Civil War: The Role of Cornelius Vanderbilt, American’s First Tycoon” Jim Kaiser
- 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. 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.

Special Orders

Battleground of Barboursville: The original site of the battlefield in Barboursville, West Virginia is joining more than 1,000 sites in West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland, North Carolina and Tennessee in the Civil War Trails program. “This program identifies, interprets and creates driving tours centered on Civil War sites and stories.” The trail marker was installed this fall, and a dedication ceremony is scheduled for spring, just in time to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the battle. (source: The Roanoke Times, December 3, 2010)

Official Records

Attendance:
December – 26

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:

Soldiering: The Civil War Diary of Rice C. Bull, edited by K. Jack Bauer

Hoosiers in the Civil War, by Arville L. Funk

Gallant Fourteenth: The Story of an Indiana Civil War Regiment, by Nancy Niblack Baxter

Lincoln Finds a General: A Military Study of the Civil War, by Kenneth P. Williams

Bruce Catton's Civil War (3 volumes), by Bruce Catton

***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.**

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

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

1. On what battlefield would you find Germanna Flank Road?
2. Name the regiment with the greatest actual one-day losses of the war. Where?
3. Name the Englishman who invented the canister shell.
4. Who coined the phrase, "Battle Above the Clouds" to describe the action at Lookout Mountain?
5. Where would you find Billy Goat Hill?

Answers to the December quiz:

Name the Civil War personality associate with each of these nicknames:

1. "Old Buck" (2 persons) *** Adm. Franklin Buchanan; Maj. Gen. Robert Buchanan
2. "Old Fuss and Feathers" *** Gen. Winfield Scott
3. "Old Slow Trot" *** Maj. Gen. George Thomas
4. "Prince John" *** Maj. Gen. John B. Magruder, CSA
5. "The Savior of Gettysburg" *** Maj. Gen. Gouverneur K. Warren

The Soldiers Speak

Private Sam Watkins, Company H, 1st Tennessee Infantry: “We did not recoil, but our line was fairly hurled back by the leaden hail that was poured into our very faces. Eight color-bearers were killed at one discharge of their cannon. We were right up among the very wheels of their Napoleon guns. It was death to retreat now to either side. Our Lieutenant Colonel Patterson hallooed to charge and take their guns, and we were soon in a hand-to-hand fight --- every man for himself --- using the butt of our guns and bayonets. One side would waver and fall back a few yards, and would rally, when the other side would fall back, leaving the four Napoleon guns; and yet the battle raged. Such obstinate fighting I never had seen before or since. The guns were discharged so rapidly that it seemed the earth itself was in volcanic uproar. The iron storm passed through our ranks, mangling and tearing men to pieces. The very air seemed full of stifling smoke and fire which seemed the very pit of hell, people by contending demons.”

Major General Braxton Bragg, report to the Confederate Secretary of War: “For the time engaged it was the most desperately contested engagement within my knowledge. Fearfully outnumbered, our troops did not hesitate to engage at any odds, and though checked at times, they eventually carried every position. But for the intervention of night we should have completed the work. We had captured 15 pieces of artillery by the most daring charges, killed 1 and wounded 2 brigadier generals and a very large number of inferior officers and men, estimated at not less than 4000 and captured 400 prisoners...The ground was literally covered with his dead and wounded.”

Doctor Quintard, Chaplain C.S.A. and second bishop of Tennessee: “How well I remembered the wounded men! One of the Rock City Guard, brought to me mortally wounded, cried out: ‘Oh, Doctor, I have been praying ever since I was shot that I might be brought to you.’ One of the captains was wounded mortally, it was thought at first, but it was afterwards learned that the ball which struck him in the side, instead of passing through the body, had passed around under the integuments. Lieutenant Wooldridge had both eyes shot out and still lives. A stripling of fifteen years fell in the battle apparently dead, shot through the neck and collar-bone, but is still living. Lieutenant- Colonel Patterson was killed at his side. The latter was wounded in the arm early in the action. He bound his handkerchief around his arm and in the most gallant and dashing style urged his men forward until a grape shot struck him in the face killing him instantly.”

Sergeant Mead Holmes, Jr., Co. K, 21st Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry: “The battle raged during the afternoon, but the field was so hilly we could not know the result. At sunset the flashes sent a glare over the scene. Soon we were ordered to go to the regiment. What was my surprise to find only twenty out of at least sixty of our company who went in.... The captain said, ‘Who will volunteer to carry off the dead?’ Four or five of us started, laying off our arms, and carrying a handkerchief tied to a stick, for flag of truce. We found our poor major dead and stripped. Oh, I loved him! What a loss to us! Others were dead, and many wounded; I helped carry off four, and then gave out from exhaustion. This is a strange word for me, but no other express it. The moon shone full upon the scene; it was utterly useless to describe the sight, -- men and horses dead and wounded,

wagon-wheels, army caissons scattered, and the moans and shrieks of the wounded. Oh, may you never see such a sight! I helped carry off one poor fellow with his mouth and lower jaw shot off – stop, stop! I can't say more.”

Corporal George W. Morris, 81st Indiana Infantry: “...we felt sad over the sights we had seen, but all the boys felt that our flag must be upheld, and that the country should not be divided.”

Officer of the Month



Info and photo from <http://www.findagrave.com> and <http://www.perryvillebattlefield.org>

Civil War Union Brevet Brigadier General Daniel F. Griffin, served during the War as Lieutenant Colonel and Commander of the 38th Indiana Volunteer Infantry. He died in New Albany, Indiana in February 1865, and was posthumously brevetted Brigadier General, US Volunteers on March 13, 1865 for “gallant and meritorious service during the war.” He described the battle of Perryville as: “‘Twas a trying ordeal to pass through, but all did it manfully, for myself I tried to do my duty and I hope I succeeded.”



Historic Site of the Month



Info and photo from <http://www.perryvillebattlefield.org>

The Museum at the Perryville Battlefield State Historic Site: The museum is a must visit for Civil War buffs. The Museum walls tell the story of the Battle of Perryville in graphics. Photos and quotations from actual soldiers capture the feeling of what it was like in 1862. Display cases house artifacts, uniforms and weapons. Perryville is located at 1825 Battlefield Rd., 45 miles southwest of Lexington. Take US 68 west to US 150 west. The park is open from daylight to dark seven days a week. The museum is open April 1 to October 31, Monday – Saturday 9-5 and Sunday 1-5. For hours November 1- March 31, call (859) 332-8631, for information.

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.

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6019 Allendale Dr.
Indianapolis, IN 46224