

# HARDTACK

Indianapolis Civil War Round Table Newsletter

<http://indianapoliscwrt.org/>



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May 9, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.

Meeting at Indiana History Center

Due to neighborhood problems, the parking gate will be closed from now on and you will need to take a ticket to enter. It will be open when we leave, so you will not need to pay.

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## *The Plan of the Day*

### History of the Gun:

### From the Hand Cannon to the Cartridge Gun of the Civil War



The history of the gun as we know it has roots that can be traced back to the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, with the invention of gunpowder. Three simple chemicals, when mixed together, gave the fuel necessary to propel a projectile faster than man had ever accomplished before. As time marched on, advances in gun mechanisms improved their reliability. Early guns started out using a match cord to light the gunpowder. Next, the self-sparking device followed with a major improvement in the percussion system. By the time the Civil War started, a gun hammer could fall onto seventy grains of gunpowder, propelling a bullet with deadly accuracy never seen previously. The Civil War saw some of the most rapid advances in guns than ever seen previously. We will trace this history from simple hand cannons of the 1200s through the flintlock of our forefathers to the modern age cartridge gun of the later Civil War era.

### *Our Guest Speaker*



Mike F. Marsh is a re-enactor and Ordinance Sergeant for the First Wisconsin Light Artillery unit Battery B of Indianapolis. Mike received a BS in Mechanical Engineering from Milwaukee School of Engineering. Mike has been a practicing engineer, Registered Profession Engineer in Wisconsin, and part time instructor in Engineering for the past thirty-five years. Mike is also a Hunter Ed. Instructor, Black Powder Instructor for 4H Shooting Sports, and Certified NRA Rifle Instructor. “As a mechanical engineer, the history of technology and how things work has always fascinated me. As a re-enactor, I have been able to put technology and history together as it relates to small arms.”

### **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*

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:

- May 10: "Demobilizing Union Soldiers: The Grand Review Victory Parade in Washington" Bob Bain

**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*

**Archaeologist Mines Atlanta Landscape for Remains of the Clash Between Union and Confederate Armies:** (Wall Street Journal, January 31, 2011) Garrett Silliman, an archaeologist for an environmental and land-use consulting firm, is working to identify forgotten battlefields in the Atlanta region before bulldozers plow them under. His goal is to reconstruct a battle using his years of education and his "mastery of sensitive equipment, including global positioning systems, ground-penetrating radar, advanced metal detectors and extremely precise mapping software." Very few of the battle lines around Atlanta have been surveyed. "Like many archaeologists, he considers his work on these forgotten battlefields to be more of a calling than a job."

***The Bracken Rangers:*** The Bracken Rangers were from Indianapolis. Merged into a squadron of Company K and I of the 1<sup>st</sup> Indiana Cavalry, the unit served three years as headquarters' scouts and escort for a series of Union generals during the Civil War. Their stories are told using first person accounts and contemporary documents. Soldiers do the fighting while generals get their names in the history books. This book views the war as experienced by individuals in camp and on horseback. This book is available at [www.lulu.com](http://www.lulu.com) for \$30.00. Jenny Thompson will have a copy of this book at the May meeting if you would like to look at it.

**Gettysburg Casino Proposal Rejected Again:** (Civil War Trust News Update, April 14, 2011) The Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board rejected a second proposal for a casino near Gettysburg National Military Park. Civil War Trust president Jim Lighthizer remarked, "This is a great day, not just for Gettysburg, but for all historic sites....Now that two such proposals have been denied – clearly demonstrating the resonant power this iconic site and the widespread desire to protect it – I sincerely hope that those would seek personal profit and financial gain will think twice about trading on the blood of 50,000 American casualties."

### *Official Records*

**Attendance:**

April – 45

**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:**

*The Life of Billy Yank: The Common Soldier of the Union*, by Bell Irvin Wiley

*The Iron Brigade: A Military History*, by Alan T. Nolan

*The Diary of Calvin Fletcher, Volume VIII 1863-1864*, edited by Gayle Thornbrough and Paula Corpuz

*Battle Cry of Freedom: The Civil War Era*, by James McPherson

*Rebel: A Novel of the Civil War*, by Bernard Cornwell

**\*Anyone wishing to donate books for upcoming raffles should either bring them to Tony Roscetti at the May meeting or contact him to make arrangements for pick up.**

**Golf Before the June Banquet:** If anyone is interested in playing golf before the banquet on Monday, June 13, please contact Jean Bly at 317-823-6425. The course opens for play at noon. The cost is \$18.00 for 9 holes with a cart and \$30.00 for 18 holes with a cart.

**War in Tennessee: CHATTANOOGA & KNOXVILLE, JULY 12-16, 2011**

Tour Coordinator: Tony Trimble, 1714 Beech Dr. N. Plainfield, IN 46168;

Phone: 317-839-5817; email: [tonytrimble@comcast.net](mailto:tonytrimble@comcast.net) **Sign Up Deadline: May 1, 2011**

**WE MUST HAVE 38 PEOPLE MINIMUM FOR THE TRIP. IF WE DO NOT REACH THAT NUMBER, THE TRIP WILL BE CANCELLED.**

## **ITINERARY**

**Tuesday, July 12**—Depart from Holiday Inn Airport Indianapolis, 7:30 AM; Lunch in Hendersonville, Tn.; Stones River National Battlefield, Murfreesboro, Tn.; Arrive in Chattanooga; Dinner

**Wednesday, July 13**—Tour Chickamauga National Military Park, Visitors Center & Museum; Lunch on the Battlefield;

**Thursday, July 14**—Battles for Chattanooga Electric Map; Tour Lookout Mtn. Battle Sites; Lunch; Tour Missionary Ridge & Orchard Knob; Visit Chattanooga National Cemetery; Dinner at Buttonwillow Church;

**Friday, July 15**—Depart Chattanooga, 8:00 AM; Arrive in Knoxville 10:00 AM; Tour Civil War sites including: Bleak House (Confederate Hall); 2<sup>nd</sup> Presbyterian Church; Cherokee Heights; Fort Hill; Forts Dickinson & Stanley; Battery Wiltsie; National Cemetery; Fort Sanders (Lunch & Dinner at appropriate times)

**Saturday, July 16**—Depart Knoxville, 8:00 AM; Tour Richmond Battlefield (KY) and Civil War sites in Lexington including John Hunt Morgan house; Todd House; John Hunt Morgan Equestrian Statue; and City Cemetery; Arrive Indianapolis 7:00 PM.

***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](mailto:mwillever@comcast.net).

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

1. Name the Confederate officer who rode a horse whose original name was "Fancy."
2. What does it mean to "pay tribute to Neptune"?
3. Name the group whose purpose was known as the "Southwestern Conspiracy."
4. What general said, "I accept this war as the providence of God. He intended the slave should be free, and now he is free."?
5. Name the commander who retaliated against bushwhackers who fired on his men by burning the town of Olive Hill, Kentucky.

Answers to the April quiz:

1. Who was the last Civil War soldier to serve as President of the United States? \*\*\* William McKinley
2. Name the Confederate guerilla commander whose men rescued Gen. Jo Shelby at the Battle of Prairie Grove. \*\*\* William Quantrill
3. What is a "bummer's roost"? \*\*\* A place far enough in the rear to be considered safe during battle
4. What was unique about the USS Modoc? \*\*\* It was built for \$523,000 and never used
5. What was "horizontal refreshment"? \*\*\* A colloquial term for sexual intercourse

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](mailto: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.

### *The Soldiers Speak*

A Union brigadier described the artillery at the Battle of Corinth: “It was grand... The different calibers, metals, shapes, and distances of the guns caused the sounds to resemble the chimes of old Rome when all her bells rang out.”

Private Joseph P. Glezen, 80<sup>th</sup> Indiana Infantry: “Many of our guns were defective and when I rammed down my second cartridge I discovered my gun contained two loads I re-primed, however and thought I would ‘double the dose’ by firing two balls at once; but my gun again refused to fire. I retired down the hill, took off the tube [nipple], picked the powder in the touch hole, primed, advanced and made the third effort to fire, but there was not sufficient power in the lock to burst the cap. I stood and snapped four times, but in vain. I then threw down my gun in disgust, picked up another, tried it with the ramrod and found it like mine – containing two loads. [I] picked up the second and it was in the same condition – the third ditto – the fourth had lead just about one foot from the muzzle. I then concluded to get out of the way myself, as I did not like to be a target for traitors without at least an equal chance at them.”

“There is one revealing picture of a pea-green Ohio regiment which was in that fix, drawn up in line of battle under a heavy fire. The colonel had run for the rear at the first shock; the men were leaderless, not knowing what they were supposed to do or how they were supposed to do it, but game enough to want to stick around and find out. From somewhere there came a private soldier from another regiment. He had fought at Fort Donelson, and compared with these recruits he was a veteran. He carefully went along the firing line, showing the boys how to load these muskets and how to use them; and as he went, he kept explaining: ‘It’s just like shooting squirrels, only these squirrels have guns – that’s all.’ And the regiment stayed there, unled, and fought all day long.”

A member of the Second US Sharpshooters: “Our guns keep up a constant shelling both day and night, which is seldom responded to by the rebels, because of the terrible Berdan sharpshooters, who cover the guns to such an extent that they cannot work them. I never before saw such a set of men as these same Berdan sharpshooters. They are armed with the telescope sighted rifles peculiar to their calling, some of which weigh the extraordinary heft of 57 to 60 pounds. These men speak confidently of killing, without the slightest difficulty, at a mile distant.”

Anonymous account: “Smith had a self-loading, self-priming field-piece, that would fire a hundred times a minutes, and never miss. Each gun would only weigh twenty tons, and cost 10,000 dols. He had asked a commission to make a thousand of them only, was willing to give Government the patent right gratis; and they would not listen to him! How *could* the South succeed when neglecting such men as Smith?”

Major Henry C. Connelly, 14<sup>th</sup> Illinois Cavalry: “We are armed with Springfield rifles which after the first volley were about as serviceable to a cavalryman thus hemmed in as a good club. The men could not reload while mounted, in the excitement of horses as well as soldiers. The only thing that could be done was to get out as promptly as possible.”

### *Civilian of the Month*



Photo from Wikipedia.com and information from Answers.com:

**Samuel Colt** was sixteen years old on a ship to India, “when he carved a single-barreled pistol with automatically revolving chambers.” His unique design changed single-shot handguns into more deadly multi-shot weapons. He also developed a submarine telegraph and mine. He helped advance the use of interchangeable parts and the assembly line in his factory. Because of his guns, people said, “God created man, Sam Colt made them equal.”

### *Historic Site of the Month*

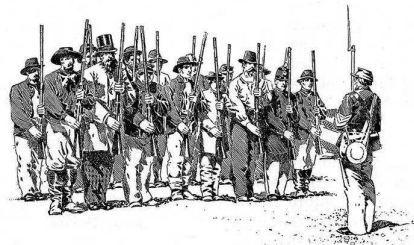


Photo and information from <http://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/indianapolis/arsenaltech.htm> and The Story of Technical High School (found on the school’s IPS website)

In 1861, Governor Oliver P. Morton established a State Arsenal in Indianapolis, which supplied munitions to Indiana regiments and the National Government. On July 11, 1862, Congress passed an act purchasing land and establishing “a permanent National Arsenal at Indianapolis for the deposit and repair of arms and munitions of war.” The Indiana Arsenal was closed April 8, 1864, and the National Government built the main Arsenal in 1865. They also built a residence, shops, and a powder magazine. By 1893, they added a barn, another residence, guard house, gateway and a work shop. Fifty soldiers maintained the site and thirteen officers have commanded the Arsenal over the years. The Arsenal was abandoned in 1903. Winona Technical College owned and used the property from 1904 to 1910. Indianapolis Public School opened Arsenal Technical High School on the grounds in 1912. Many of the original buildings still remain.

## Re-enlist NOW for the 2011-2012 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  
6260 Green Leaves Road  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46220

Phone: (317) 475-9227  
Email: [anthony.roschetti@nationalcity.com](mailto:anthony.roschetti@nationalcity.com)

*Please complete and detach the form below and include with your check:*

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### ***ICWRT Membership Enlistment for July 2011 thru June 2012***

*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:

\_\_\_\_\_



## Indianapolis Civil War Round Table

Annual Dinner Meeting

Monday, June 13, 2011

at

**Indian Lake Country Club \***

10502 E. 75<sup>th</sup> Street, Indianapolis, IN 46236  
(317) 823-4484

**Buffet dinner will be served starting at 6:30 PM.**

**Cost is \$22 per person (includes tax and tip)**

Menu: Fried chicken; savory, slow simmered Swiss steak; mashed potatoes and gravy; green beans; corn; coleslaw; fresh baked bread & butter; carrot cake; coffee/tea/soda

### Our Guest Speaker: Howard Strouse

\* **Directions:** From I-465: Take the 56<sup>th</sup> Street exit. Go east to Pendleton Pike and turn left. Turn left (north) on to Sunnyside Road. At the stop light at 75<sup>th</sup> Street, turn left to the entrance on your right. \*\*\* From Castleton: Come east on 82<sup>nd</sup> Street, which becomes 79<sup>th</sup> Street at Fall Creek Road. Continue east to the stoplight at Sunnyside Road. Turn right (south) to the stoplight at 75<sup>th</sup> Street. Turn right to the club entrance on your right. \*\*\* From the Southeast: Come north on German Church Road, which becomes Sunnyside Road at Pendleton Pike. Continue north to the stoplight at 75<sup>th</sup> Street. Turn left to the club entrance on your right. **A round of golf could be arranged for the afternoon. Contact Jean Bly to arrange times (phone 823-6425 or cell 697-1280)**

Reservation form (attached below) should be completed and submitted, along with payment, by **June 1, 2011**. Reservation form and payment can be brought to the March, April or May meeting or mailed to:

**Tony Roscetti**  
**6260 Green Leaves Road**  
**Indianapolis, Indiana 46220**

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*Please detach and mail this form, along with payment, to Tony Roscetti*  
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**Individuals attending the Indianapolis Civil War Round Table, June 13, 2011  
dinner meeting, including the buffet dinner:**

Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Reservation form and payment must be received by June 1, 2011.

Cost: \$22 per person. Please make check payable to *Indianapolis Civil War Round Table*

Indianapolis Civil War Round Table  
6019 Allendale Dr.  
Indianapolis, IN 46224