



HARDTACK

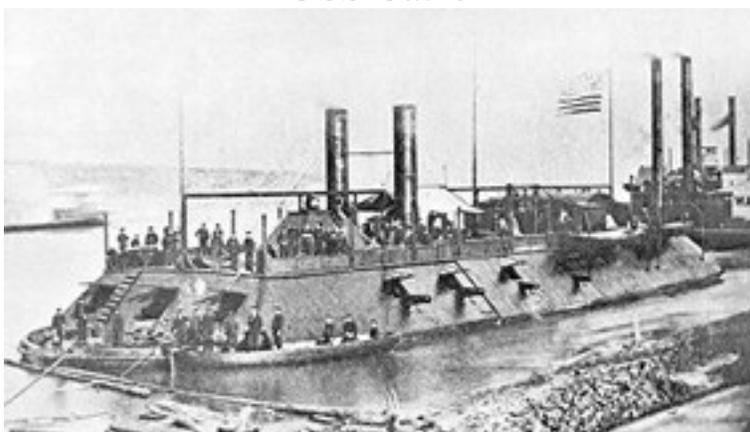
Indianapolis Civil War Round Table Newsletter

<http://indianapoliscwrt.org/>



April 9, 2012 at 7:30 p.m.
Meeting at Indiana History Center Auditorium
450 West Ohio Street

The Plan of the Day *USS Cairo*



National Park Service

In December 1862, three months before the historic battle between the ironclads *Monitor* and *Virginia*, the USS *Cairo*, a federal “ironclad” gunboat on patrol in the Yazoo River, became the first ship in the world to be sunk by a mine. One hundred years later, she was located and salvaged from the river’s bottom and is now on display in Vicksburg, MS. She is the only survivor of the seven “City Class” boats that were built as a part of the Lincoln’s “Brown Water Navy.” Our discussion will range from the introduction of the *Cairo* and other ironclad warships, her sinking, salvage, and restoration and the “cutting edge” technologies of naval warfare of the time period.

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

Kevin Stickels became interested in the USS *Cairo* back in the early 1970s when he read an article on the salvage of the gunboat in the June 1965 issue of *Popular Mechanics* he found in his father’s garage. As a fifth grader, he did both an oral and written report to his class based on the article. Later, as an engineering student at Purdue University, he would

revisit the *Cairo* a number of times for courses he took in military and technological history. He finally received his BS in Mechanical Engineering Technology from Purdue and later an MBA from Indiana Wesleyan University. He spends the majority of his days working as a design engineer or spending time with his lovely wife Rhonda, his seven children ranging in age from 14 to 22 or with the Boy Scouts of America. He has been an adult leader for over 14 years and is Scoutmaster of Troop 183 (PF). He also helps spearhead the annual BSA Civil War Days at Camp Belzer near Ft. Harrison. In his free time, he still enjoys studying the *Cairo* and hopes to someday finish construction of a large scale model of the gunboat, complete with operating steam engines.

Roster of Officers and Committees for the 2011-2012 Campaign

Officers:

President: Jerry Thompson
Secretary: Frank Bynum
Programs: Jenny Thompson

Vice President: Dr. John Wernert
Treasurer: Tony Roscetti
Immediate Past President: Chris Smith

Committees:

Preservation: Andy O'Donnell
Publicity: Dave Klinestiver, Dave Sutherland & Tony Roscetti

Website: Paul Watson

Quiz Master:

Tony Trimble

HARDTACK Newsletter:

Editor: Jenny Thompson

Summer Campaign:

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.

2011-2012 Campaign Plans

May 14, 2012	Confederates in Indiana: The Raid of John Hunt Morgan Jim Turley
June 11, 2012	Battle of South Mountain John Hoptak

Other Camp Activities

Hamilton County Civil War Roundtable: The Carmel-Clay Civil War Roundtable is now the Hamilton County Civil War Roundtable. They meet at the Conner Prairie Interactive History Park located at 13400 Allisonville Road. Doors open at 7:00 p.m., and the program will start at 7:30 in the Lilly Theater on the 2nd floor of their main office building. We will have plenty of free parking, and people should enter through the main entrance where the ticket office is located. Camp coffee and hardtack should be available. Meetings will be on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, September through May, excluding December.

4/18 Phil DeHaven – “CSA Brig. Gen. William E. ‘Grumble’ Jones”

5/16 Norris Darrall – “The Battle of Pea Ridge / Elkhorn Tavern”

Civil War Clothing Informational Meeting and Workshops: On April 12th in the Danville Library, the Civil War Clothing Workshop Informational Meeting will start at 6 p.m. Seamstress Candy Smith will discuss how to begin making Civil War clothing. Information about patterns and materials will be available.

The Civil War Clothing Workshops will be held on April 21st, May 12th, and June 9th. From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day, experienced seamstresses will be available to answer questions and help you work on outfits for the Civil War Heritage Days. Registration is requested. To register, call 745-2604 or go online at www.dplindiana.org.

Lew Wallace Study and Museum: In honor of International Museum Day, there will be free admission to the Lew Wallace Study and Museum on May 18.

Civil War Heritage Days: The second annual Civil War Heritage Days will be held June 23 – 24, 2012 in Danville, Indiana. Contact Cindy, 745-2604 or Gail, 696-3129, for details.

Special Orders

Central Kentucky Civil War Relic Show and Logistics of War Battle: This show will be held May 4-6 (9-9 Saturday and 9-5 Sunday) at the Cave City Convention Center in Cave City, Kentucky. There will be 300 tables (\$7 table or 3 for \$15) with CDs, tapes, books, memorabilia, currency, documents, stamps, weapons, photographs, uniforms and other collectibles. There will also be a tea party, fashion show, two meals and standard amenities. There is no fee for reenactors if received by April 15, and there is no charge for sutlers and period artisans. For more information, visit www.cityofcavecity.com or call Cave City – City Hall 270-773-2188, Gary Hogan 270-473-1747, or Ed Keiley 270-531-3115.

With Hood's Texas Brigade in Virginia Earning their Reputation, 1861-1862 Sesquicentennial Tour: Join Ed Bearss, Susannah Ural and other noted historians for three days in the footsteps of the brave on June 26-29, 2012. This tour is sponsored by the Hood's Texas Brigade Association, Re-Activated (HTBAR). Membership in HTBAR is not required. Advance as Hood did at Gaines' Mill to secure Lee's first victory. Access Marine Corps Base Quantico by special permission to see the Confederate Potomac defenses. See the sites (now private property) at Elthan's Landing where Texan blood was first shed. Special memorial tour of graves of soldiers in Oakwood and Hollywood Cemeteries. View selected items not seen in over 40 years in a PRIVATE showing of the Museum of the Confederacy collections. Follow Ed Bearss on the field of Manassas and hear Mr. Bearss appraise the Texas Brigade's first year in combat in a wrap-up dinner in the Fredericksburg area. The 3+ days, including 3 lunches and 3 dinners, is only \$595. A block of rooms at Country Inns & Suites at Ashland, VA has been set aside for tour participants at \$89.99 per standard room per night. Reservations: +1(800)830-52222 or +1(804)798-7378. Deposit deadline: \$100 due May 1, 2012. Final payment deadline: due May 15, 2012. For more information or a detailed itinerary and registration packet, visit the HTBAR website: <http://www.hoodstexasbrigade.org>. You may also contact Ann

Oppenheimer at oppenheimer.ann@gmail.com or call her at cell 210-857-6420, home 210-545-6420, or contact Martha Hartzog at 512-431-2682.

No More Gallant a Deed: First Minnesota Films LLC is producing this two-hour documentary film on the history and achievements of the 1st Minnesota Volunteer Regiment. This regiment was described by President Calvin Coolidge “as saviors of their country,” but their story has been mostly forgotten. Through the use of archival photographs, newspaper reports, paintings, maps, music, and, most importantly, the voices of the soldiers and the citizens of Minnesota as captured in their letters and diaries, the story of the 1st and the state they called home will be brought to life. The group is asking Civil War memorabilia collectors to see if they have any information, photos, or artifacts related to the 1st Minnesota. Of particular interest just now is information about Cadmus Wilcox and the 9th, 10th, 11th, and 14th Alabama Infantry Regiments and well as the Virginia Regiments who were part of Pickett’s Charge at Gettysburg. If you have any of these items, would like to donate to support this project, or for more information, please visit www.firstminnesotafilms.org.

Official Records

March attendance: 33

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.

Facebook: The Indianapolis Civil War Round Table is on Facebook. We invite you to join our group. Feel free to post Civil War related messages on our site.

Charitable Sponsors: In an effort to upgrade our speakers and programs, the board of ICWRT is asking members and organizations with which they are involved (companies or charitable organizations) to consider sponsoring one or more speakers. This could be done as a gift now, or a person could opt to make a bequest in a will for that purpose. Because of our limited membership, we can't bring in as many national speakers as we would like to. If you are interested or want more info, call Chris Smith at 450-7430.

Book Raffle:

Lee Considered: General Robert E. Lee and Civil War History, by Alan Nolan

Covered with Glory: The 26th North Carolina Infantry at the Battle of Gettysburg, by Rod Gragg

Clash of Cavalry: The Battle of Brandy Station, by Fairfax Downey

Mary Todd Lincoln: A Biography, by Jean H. Baker

The Civil War Day by Day: An Almanac 1861-1865, by E.B. Long

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

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

1. What was Lincoln's salary as president?
2. How many states had seceded by Lincoln's inauguration on March 4, 1861?
3. How did Island #10 get its name?
4. Name the last surviving general officer from either side during the Civil War.
Hint: He was from Maine.
5. What anthem was played at the inauguration of Jefferson Davis?

Answers to March quiz:

1. Name the only African-American reported to work for a daily newspaper during the war. *** Thomas Morris Chester, *Philadelphia Press*
2. In what northern city was the first Sanitary Fair held? *** Chicago
3. What Protestant denomination split into northern and southern factions and did not reunite until 1993? *** Presbyterian Church
4. Who was the only cabinet member with Jefferson Davis when he was captured?
*** John H. Reagan, Postmaster General
5. What is the name commonly used for the Battle of Ocean Pond? *** Olustee

The Soldiers Speak

From "Life Aboard the USS *Cairo*" Teaching with Museum Collections Lesson Plans, National Park Service web site:

"Daily routine for the crew began at the early hour of 0530, at which time the men would be awakened and told to 'turn to.' They would roll out of their **hammocks**, dress, roll and store their hammocks and report to the top deck or **hurricane deck** where they would store their hammocks and perform the morning ritual of scrubbing, **swabbing**, and **holystoning** the decks. Following this part of the morning's routine, the men would be given a brief time to clean and tidy themselves and get ready for inspection, which took place every morning to check for general bodily cleanliness. During one of these inspections, if a man was found to be unclean, the **penalty** was very heavy; on the night of his offense, his fellow crewmen would give him a sand bath using buckets of sand and scrub brushes. All the top layers of the crewman's skin would be scrubbed off. After undergoing such harsh treatment, the crewman would always be very sure to pass each morning's inspection by taking extra precautions to be clean."

"Following inspection, the men's breakfast was served. This meal consisted of a hard biscuit (**hardtack**) and coffee. One sailor made the comment that the coffee was actually nothing more than hot, colored water **facetiously** called coffee. Meals aboard the gunboat were very bland, as evidenced by the number of **condiment** bottles (mustard and pepper bottles) found aboard the *Cairo*. These meals consisted mainly of salted beef or pork with beans and occasional fresh meat. Sometimes the crew would catch fish to

supplement these meals. Although the cook on board *Cairo* was French, he was by no means a gourmet chef.”

“On the morning of November 17, Third Assistant Engineer George Aiken faced a long, hot shift, watching gauges in the engine room. His captain, Thomas O. Selfridge, wanted to run engine tests and needed a ‘working power of steam at noon.’ Aiken saw that the fires were well-fueled, then he opened the dampers and steam began to build. The engineer was officially on-duty, but he grew restless. Sure that everything was in order, he decided to slip away and challenge another sailor to a game of dominos. In the deserted room, steam pressure increased. As George Aiken played dominos, the temperature in the belly of the ship reached a new high. Andrew Lusk was just a fireman aboard the *Cairo*. He was officially off-duty that morning and simply passing when he noticed an unusual amount of heat in the boiler room. When he checked the steam gauge, he saw the needle passing 205 pounds of pressure! He knew if something wasn’t done right away the mounting steam pressure would cause an explosion-which could spell disaster within the *Cairo*’s ironclad wall. Lusk couldn’t locate Aiken, so he ran up on deck and found another engineer. That officer immediately made adjustments and lowered the steam pressure. Once the situation was under control, and a level of safety restored, the search went out for George Aiken. He was found intent over his dominos, unaware of the tragedy just averted. The game came to an abrupt end when officers burst in and dragged Aiken forward to face his furious captain. No one knows if George Aiken won or lost at dominos that day. He did lose his job - Selfridge immediately suspended him from duty. Andrew Lusk, was cited for his quick actions, and was eventually promoted - to Third Assistant Engineer.”

Officer of the Month



Photo and information from Wikipedia

Rear Admiral **Thomas O. Selfridge, Jr.** helped with efforts to destroy Norfolk Navy Yard at the beginning of the Civil War and left the base on the *Cumberland*. He was on board the *Cumberland* when she was sunk on March 8, 1862 by the CSS *Virginia*. He

briefly commanded the *Monitor* after Lieutenant John Worden was wounded. He also commanded the experimental submarine, the *Alligator*, in testing operations at the Washington Navy Yard. In August, he joined the Mississippi Squadron and commanded the *Cairo* and *Conestoga* when these ships were sunk in action. The Vicksburg National Military Park website noted, “Thomas O. Selfridge, captain of the USS *Cairo*, commanded three boats which sank during the war. Each began with the letter “C” – *Cumberland*, *Cairo*, and *Conestoga*. The coincidence was noted after the *Conestoga* sank, and Selfridge was assigned to the USS *Osage*, which survived to the end of the war.” He later commanded the *Huron* during attacks on Fort Fisher and participated in the bombardment of Fort Anderson and the capture of Wilmington. He commanded other ships after the war and served as Commander in Chief of the European Squadron from 1895 until he retired in 1898. He died February 4, 1924.

Historic Site of the Month



National Park Service

The *Cairo* and her artifacts can be seen at the USS *Cairo* Gunboat and Museum in Vicksburg National Military Park. The park and museum are open all year except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year’s Day. The museum hours are 8:30-5 October-March and 9:30-6 April-September. The park entrance fee is \$8 per vehicle.

Re-enlist NOW for the 2012-2013 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

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

ICWRT Membership Enlistment for July 2012 thru June 2013

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 11, 2012

at

Indian Lake Country Club *

10502 E. 75th 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; warm bread & butter; carrot cake; coffee/tea/soda

Our Guest Speaker: John Hoptak

* **Directions:** From I-465: Take the 56th Street exit. Go east to Pendleton Pike and turn left. Turn left (north) on to Sunnyside Road. At the stop light at 75th Street, turn left to the entrance on your right. *** From Castleton: Come east on 82nd Street, which becomes 79th Street at Fall Creek Road. Continue east to the stoplight at Sunnyside Road. Turn right (south) to the stoplight at 75th 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 75th 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, 2012**. 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

----- *Please detach and mail this form, along with payment, to Tony Roscetti* -----

**Individuals attending the Indianapolis Civil War Round Table, June 11, 2012
dinner meeting, including the buffet dinner:**

Name

Name

Reservation form and payment must be received by June 1, 2012.

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