



# HARDTACK



Indianapolis Civil War Round Table Newsletter  
<http://indianapoliswrt.org/>

March 11, 2013 at 7:30 p.m.  
 Meeting at Indiana History Center Auditorium  
 450 West Ohio Street

## *The Plan of the Day*

The Armies Gather: the recruitment, training, and first combat of  
 an Indiana regiment



Recruiting for the War – scene at the recruiting tents in the park, New York  
 Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, March 19, 1864, Library of Congress

Hundreds of regiments were organized, North and South, by combining companies raised in cities, towns and rural areas across America. Our speaker will tell the story of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Indiana, from the creation of its companies in counties across the state, thru its organization, training and initiation into combat. The story is told mostly in the words of the regimental history, contemporary newspapers and diaries, and letters of the soldiers.

## **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*

**Robert Bain** has a history degree from Indiana University, and recently retired after 37 years in financial management at Purdue. Bob has been studying the Civil War since discovering his great-grandfather spent four years in an Indiana regiment. A member of the Society of Civil War historians, he has made presentations before several groups and published reviews of Civil War conflict simulations. A strong believer in historic preservation since his first trip to Gettysburg in 1959, he's a member of the Civil War Trust and several other preservation groups.

### *Roster of Officers and Committees for the 2011-2012 Campaign*

#### *Officers:*

President: Dr. John Wernert

Vice President: Dave Klinestiver

Secretary: Frank Bynum

Treasurer: Tony Roscetti

Immediate Past President: Jerry Thompson

Programs: Jenny Thompson

#### *Committees:*

Preservation: Andy O'Donnell

Website: Paul Watson

Publicity: Peg Bertelli, Dave Sutherland & Tony Roscetti

#### *Quiz Master:*

Tony Trimble

#### *HARDTACK Newsletter:*

Editor: Jenny Thompson

#### *Schedule of Greeters*

March: Dave Sutherland

April: Jerry Thompson

May: John Wernert

**Members are encouraged to wear their badges to the meetings, so people will know who you are.**

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.

### *2012-2013 Campaign Plans*

April 8, 2013

Harry Bulkeley – “I Propose to Fight It Out: The Story of Ulysses S. Grant, A One Man Show”

May 13, 2013

Lee Peters – “The Battlefield Growth of Lew Wallace – a study in decision making – from Romney to Monocacy” **Please note that we are meeting in a Classroom at the Indiana History Center this month. There will be signs directing you to the location on the Canal level of the building.**

June 10, 2013

Phil Tichenor – “Andersonville: A Visual Presentation”

### *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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month, September through May, excluding December.

3/20 Chris Kolakowski – “Tullahoma Campaign”

4/17 Del F. Jarvis – “The Battle at Shiloh Church”

5/15 Donald Parman – “John T. Wilder’s Military Career – Wilder’s Lightning Brigade”

**Madison County Historical Society Civil War Roundtable:** They meet on the third Monday each month except July, August and December at 7 p.m. at the Madison County History Center, 15 West 11<sup>th</sup> Street, in downtown Anderson.

3/18 Larry Stuart – “Sacred Scars, Shadowed Ground” Battlefield Photo Program

4/15 Michael Beck – “J.H. Merrill Rifle”

5/20 Ron Itnyre – “Letters Home: One Family’s Involvement in the Civil War”

6/17 Michael Willever – “More on the Bohemian Brigade”

July and August – no meeting

9/16 Donna Schmink – “Indiana’s Battle Flags”

10/21 TBA

11/18 DVD Lecture Series “Border States”

### *Special Orders*

**2013 Basic Cemetery Preservation Workshop:** The Indiana Historical Society announced that registration for the 2013 Basic Cemetery Preservation Workshop is now available. The workshop will be held May 17 and 18 at the Spring Valley Cemetery in Lawrence (northeast side of Indianapolis, near Fort Benjamin Harrison State Park). You may now register online by going to [www.indianahistory.org/our-services/local-history-services/workshops/copy\\_of\\_upcoming-workshops#cemetery-preservation-basic](http://www.indianahistory.org/our-services/local-history-services/workshops/copy_of_upcoming-workshops#cemetery-preservation-basic) and clicking on “Register online”. PLEASE NOTE there are two options to choose from for the workshop:

Option 1: Friday Afternoon Classroom and Saturday All Day Cemetery Work

Option 2: Friday All Day Cemetery Work and Saturday Morning Classroom

**Crossroads of America Civil War / Political Show:** This Civil War Show will be held Friday, March 29, 4-8 p.m. and Saturday, March 30, 9-4 p.m. at Beech Grove High School, 5330 Hornet Avenue, Beech Grove (Exit 52 on I-465). Thousands of Civil War and Political items will be offered by National Dealers. All table rent and admission fees will be donated to BGHS school programs. Admission fee is \$3.00. For more information, contact Harvey W. Warner at [www.ironbrigaderelics.com](http://www.ironbrigaderelics.com) or 317-784-2617.

**Milledgeville:** In Milledgeville, Georgia, which was the second capital of the state, the tour guide, Joe Mobley, told of a recent incident when national media gathered there, because a popular quarterback was accused of attacking a coed. Joe said, “We haven’t had this much excitement since Sherman came through town.” A man asked, “What team did he play for?” Joe answered, “He played for the Yankees.”

**“Witness: Photographs of a Nation Divided”:** This exhibit at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, Kentucky, features 3-D images in a multimedia environment and reproduction photographs from the Civil War. The collection of over 60 Civil War images looks at the portfolios of several well-known and some more obscure photographers as well as a re-creation of Matthew Brady’s 1862 New York City gallery called “The Dead of Antietam.” The exhibit runs through March 29, excluding the week of March 11, in the university’s Mass Media and Technology Hall atrium and gallery, Monday – Wednesday, 9 am – 9 pm; Thursday – Friday, 9 am – 5 pm; and Sundays, 3 pm – 9 pm. The gallery is free and open to the public. Parking is available on the Chestnut Street South lot after 4:30 pm. For more information, call the Journalism and Broadcasting office at 270-745-4144.

**Whitewater Canal Historic Site Civil War Program:** In April of 2012, this site was able to have an incredible Civil War program for Franklin County fifth grade school children. Over 200 children and 100 adults were able to participate in this all day, hands-on program. This program was funded through the Franklin County Community Foundation and the Whitewater Valley REMC Foundation. They are hoping to offer this great educational program again in 2013. Both of the groups who helped in 2012 do not make grants for repeat programs. The site is looking for groups who might be able to help fund this program in 2013. If you are interested in helping, please contact Joanne M. Williams, Program Director and Cultural Administrator, (Whitewater Canal State Historic Site, 19083 Clayborn Street, P.O. Box 88, Metamora, IN 47030) at 765-647-6512 or [jwilliams@indianamuseum.org](mailto:jwilliams@indianamuseum.org).

**Confederate Parks to Be Renamed in Memphis, Tennessee:** The statue of Nathan Bedford Forrest is being removed from the park bearing his name in Memphis. The city council voted to remove the statue and rename that park and two other parks with Confederate-themed names. Nathan Bedford Forrest Park will be called Health Sciences Park. Confederate Park will be called Memphis Park. Jefferson Davis Park will be called Mississippi River Park. They have formed a committee to help decide on permanent names for the parks. To read more about these changes, see the following article: [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/02/07/nathan-bedford-forrest-park\\_n\\_2637953.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/02/07/nathan-bedford-forrest-park_n_2637953.html).

**Fire on the Rappahannock:** Heritage Media has released this commemorative DVD of the recent reenactment of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Fredericksburg held in December 2012. They are donating a portion of the proceeds of this film to support the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust. You can review the trailer and order a copy of the film for \$15.95 at [www.heritagemediallc.com](http://www.heritagemediallc.com).

**Recent Work at Fort Sumter:** In December, a reproduction metal carriage, purchased to replace the deteriorate wooden carriage, was placed in position and the 12-pounder mountain howitzer, cast in 1863, was mounted on the carriage and is located on the top of Fort Sumter, at the corner facing Morris Island. They also treated the three cast iron Parrott shells lodged in Fort Sumter's left face interior wall, to preserve and protect them for current and future visitors.

***Rough Enough*, Review by Jim Gallen:** *Rough Enough* is based on the correspondence and diary of Civil War and Indian War veteran, Richard Clow, as relayed and expounded upon by his great-grandson, author Richard McBee. As the Civil War ground toward its conclusion, Clow enlisted for 100 days in the 22<sup>nd</sup> Massachusetts. That enlistment completed, Clow, still in the Boston area, reenlisted, this time with the 56<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts. His letters home include the soldier's view of the assault on Petersburg, and the Grand Review in Washington, where he met up with his brother, a member of the 4<sup>th</sup> Minnesota. The simple words of real-time emotions are found in his letter of April 29, 1865: "I am felling tiptop and am glad that the war is over. It was to (sic) bad about Mr. Lincoln and I was very sorry when I heard of it." With the return of peace Richard tried to find a life on the farm but, after what he had seen, he was still too restless to settle down. Returning to his past experience, he reenlisted again, this time for the Indian Wars of Montana. Finally having had enough of military life, Clow found love, a job and a civilian life into which he fit. Gradually moving west he ended up in Oregon until his death in 1926. This book, like many based on participant accounts, brings out details that would have been widely known at the time but not later. The fact that Union troops would be short of rations because of the ones given to surrendering Confederates, that demobilized troops were given the opportunity to buy their guns and that Indian fighters in Montana would freeze in uniforms made for combat in Virginia, Mississippi and Georgia are things that I would have never thought of. The explanation of the protection provided by Forts Ellis and Shaw to settlers in Montana is an education in the nature and purpose of the Indian Wars. What I like the most about this book is the way author Richard McBee blended Clow's writings with his own research. I am amazed at how well McBee unearthed the truths behind Clow's references and the historical acts in which he played his roles. Often the combination of a veteran's observations and a descendant's writing leaves a lot to be desired. Such is not the case with *Rough Enough*. We could not have asked for more.

### *Official Records*

**February attendance:** 37

**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.

**Treason Afoot:** Nikki Schofield's newest book, *Treason Afoot*, about the Indianapolis Treason Trials, will be available soon. Softcovers are \$20; hardcovers are \$30; and e-books are \$6. If you are interested, see Nikki.

**Sponsor a Meeting:** Our monthly cost is \$190. Would you be willing to donate money to cover the cost of a monthly meeting? If so, please contact Tony Roscetti.

**Book Raffle:**

*Pictorial Field Book of the Civil War*, by Benson J. Lossing

*The Twenty-Fourth Michigan*, by Donald L. Smith

*A Dark and Bloody Ground: Sowing the Wind*, by Michael Willever

*The Vacant Chair: The Northern Soldier Leaves Home*, by Reid Mitchell

*Wearing of the Gray: Being Personal Portraits, Scenes & Adventures of the War*, by John Esten Cooke

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

**Special Raffle:** We are having a special raffle for a DVD box-set, *The Untold Secrets of the Civil War*. This 6 disc-set includes the following: *Civil War Minutes – Union*, *Civil War Minutes – Confederate*, *Gettysburg and Stories of Valor*, *Civil War Life*, *Horses of Gettysburg*, *Lincoln and Lee at Antietam*, and *Great Campaigns of the Civil War*. This special raffle will occur over the February through May meetings. Anyone can enter the raffle as often as they wish any time during the next three meetings. We will have the drawing at the June meeting for the winner. The winner needs not to be present at the June meeting to win the raffle. Chances are \$3 each and all proceeds will go the Indianapolis Civil War Round Table operating fund.

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

1. What unit was known as the Magnolia Regiment? Why did it disband?
2. Name the Confederate officer who rode a fast mare named Nellie Gray.
3. What nickname was given to the unit of unmarried men raised by Gen. Alvin Hovey?

4. Instead of sounding “tattoo,” the bugle call was replaced by \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Who wrote: “I have the honor...to tender my service...In view of my age and length of service, I feel myself competent to command a regiment, if the President should see fit to intrust (sic) one to me.”?

Answers to the February quiz:

1. What multi-volume series was billed as, “The South’s response to the *Official Records*? \*\*\* *Confederate Military History*
2. What was a “copperbottom”? \*\*\* A secessionist from Missouri or Kansas
3. What was it that soldiers referred to as a “contribution”? \*\*\* Items stolen from locals by foragers, looters, and pillagers
4. What was a “donkey” used for? \*\*\* Engine to rotate the turret on monitor-class vessels
5. Who said, “The central idea pervading this struggle is the necessity that is upon us, of proving that popular government is not an absurdity,”? To whom did he say it? \*\*\* Abraham Lincoln to John Hay

### *The Soldiers Speak*

Warren Goss of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Massachusetts Artillery, wrote about his enlistment: “It was the news that the Sixth Massachusetts Regiment had been mobbed by roughs on their passage through Baltimore which gave me the war fever....I lay awake all night thinking it over...the fever culminated that night, and I resolved to enlist....With a nervous tremor convulsing my whole system, and my heart thumping like muffled drum beats, I stood before the door of the recruiting office and before turning the knob to enter, read and re-read the advertisement for recruits posted thereon, until I knew all its peculiarities. The promised chances for ‘travel and promotion’ seemed good, and I thought I might have made a mistake in considering war so serious after all. ‘Chances for travel.’ I must confess now, after four years of soldiering, that the ‘chances for travel’ were no myth. But ‘promotion’ was a little uncertain and slow....It takes a raw recruit some time to learn that he is not to think or suggest, but obey. Some never do learn. I acquired it at last, in humility and mud, but it was tough.” – Henry Steele Commager, ed., *The Civil War Archive: The History of the Civil War in Documents* (New York: Black Dog & Leventhal Publishers, 2000), 89-90.

Warren Wilkinson wrote: “Bands of music have paraded about with whole companies of soldiers with them & the drums & fifes can be heard all day in any part of the city. Men are enlisting fast” - Warren Wilkinson, *Mother, May You Never See The Sights I Have Seen: The Fifty-Seventh Massachusetts Veteran Volunteers in the Army of the Potomac 1864-1865* (New York: Harper & Row Publishers, 1990), 88.

Leander Stillwell wrote: “The surgeon, at that time, was a fat, jolly old doctor by the name of Leonidas Clemmons. I was about scared to death when the Captain presented me to him, and requested him to examine me. I reckon the good old doctor saw I was

frightened, and he began laughing heartily and saying some kind things about my general appearance. He requested me to stand up straight, then gave me two or three little sort of “love taps” on my chest, turned me around, ran his hands over my shoulders, back, and limbs, laughing and talking all the time, then whirled me to the front, and rendered judgment on me as follows: ‘Ah, Capt. Reddish! I only wish you had a hundred such fine boys as this one! He’s all right, and good for the service.’” – Bell Irvin Wiley, *The Life of Billy Yank* (Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill Company, 1952), 23.

Wilkinson wrote: “all sort of games were played on recruits by men who liked nothing so well as a practical joke. I recall the case of a young man in my own company who had just arrived, and, having been to the quartermaster for his outfit of clothing and equipments, was asked by one of the practical jokers why he did not get his umbrella. ‘Do they furnish an umbrella?’ he asked.

‘Why, certainly,’ said his persecutor, unblushingly. ‘It’s just like that fraud of a quartermaster to jew a recruit out of a part of his outfit, to sell for his own benefit. Go back and *demand* your umbrella of him, and a good one too!’

And the poor beguiled recruit returned to the quartermaster in high dudgeon at the imagined attempt to swindle him, only to find, after a little breeze, that he had been victimized by one of the practical jokers of the camp.” – Wilkinson, 204.

“Buffalo Bill” William F. Cody stated: “after haveing [sic] been under the influence of bad whiskey, I awoke to find myself a soldier in the Seventh Kansas. I did not remember how or when I had enlisted.” – Stephen Z. Starr, *The Union Cavalry in the Civil War*, Volume II (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1981), 11.

An Illinois officer wrote to his wife about the Confederates: “They are fighting from different motives from us. We are fighting for the Union...a high and noble sentiment, but after all a sentiment. They are fighting for independence and are animated by passion and hatred against invaders...It makes no difference whether the cause is just or not. You can get up an amount of enthusiasm that nothing else will excite.” - James M. McPherson, *What They Fought For: 1861-1865* (New York: Anchor Books, 1994), 19.

An Ohio soldier wrote after three years of fighting: “I will confess it, I am very sick of war...the enthusiasm of the hour when we first enlisted, has greatly settled down to the firm resolve to do or die for our cause....[Our] tough experiences have but served to endear our institutions more firmly in our minds.” – McPherson, 43.



### *Officer of the Month*



Photo and information from Find a Grave

John Coburn was born October 27, 1825. He was a judge of the Court of Common Pleas before the Civil War. He served as Colonel and Commander of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Indiana Volunteer Infantry from September 1861 through September 1864. On March 13, 1865, he was brevetted Brigadier General in the US Volunteers for “gallant and meritorious services during the war.” He served Indiana in the US House of Representatives for the 6<sup>th</sup> District in 1867 and the 5<sup>th</sup> District from 1869 to 1875. He served as a Justice of the Montana Territorial Supreme Court from 1884 to 1885. He died January 28, 1908 and is buried at Crown Hill Cemetery.

### *Historic Site of the Month*



The Indiana State Museum, at 650 W. Washington Street, Indianapolis, has John Coburn’s presentation sword as part of their Indiana collection. They are open Monday – Saturday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Sunday 11a.m. – 5 p.m. Admission to the museum is \$7 for Adults, \$6.50 for Seniors, \$4 for children (ages 3-12), and free for Members.

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