



# HARDTACK

Indianapolis Civil War Round Table Newsletter

<http://indianapoliswrt.org/>



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November 12, 2012 at 7:30 p.m.  
Meeting at Indiana History Center Auditorium  
450 West Ohio Street

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## *The Plan of the Day* Camp Morton



Camp Morton image from Wikipedia

The program covers the history and legacy of Camp Morton in Indianapolis. Named after then Governor Oliver Morton, the camp was initially the site where Hoosiers trained at the start of the Civil War. As war raged on, the camp became a Union P.O.W. camp. The camp suffered from disease and over-population, yet was also heralded for its humane treatment of soldiers under the command of Col. Richard Owen. Come learn about the Indiana's Civil War camp.

### *Our Guest Speaker*

**Brent Abercrombie** is a manuscript librarian at the Indiana State Library. Brent earned his undergraduate degree in History at Butler University. He earned his master's degree in History (concentration in Public History) from Indiana University – Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI). His master's thesis "How America Remembers: Analysis of the Academic Interpretation and Public Memory of the Battle of Tippecanoe," examined the how historical interpretation regarding the Battle of Tippecanoe changed over time, while the public's memory generally remained the same since the early twentieth century. Brent has worked at the Indiana State Library since 2008. Previously, Brent worked in the library of the Indiana Historical Society and at the University Archives at IUPUI.

## 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.

### *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*

	Dec: Andy O'Donnell	March: Dave Sutherland
	Jan: Nikki Schofield	April: Jerry Thompson
Nov: Frank Bynum	Feb: Frank Bynum	May: John Wernert

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

### *2012-2013 Campaign Plans*

December 10, 2012	Kathi Badertscher – "Civil War and Philanthropy"
January 14, 2013	Meredith Clark-Wiltz – "Unexpected Soldiers: Gender, Duty, and Women's Experiences in the Civil War"
February 11, 2013	Tom Mason – "The Papers of Lew and Susan Wallace"
March 11, 2013	Bob Bain – "The Armies Gather"
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"
June 10, 2013	Phil Tichenor – "Andersonville: A Visual Presentation"

<p>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 <a href="mailto:jkt60@att.net">jkt60@att.net</a> by the tenth day following the preceding month's meeting.</p>
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### *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.

11/21 Tom Williams – “The Stonewall Brigade”

No December meeting

1/16 James Tremblay – “Railroad Men of the Civil War”

2/20 John Rutherford – “From Riding with Morgan’s Raiders to General Counsel of the L&N Railroad – The Adventures of a Southern Rebel from the Hoosier State”

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 at 7 p.m. at the Madison County History Center, 15 West 11<sup>th</sup> Street, in Anderson.

11/19 roundtable study of the war, topic will be First Manassas

No December meeting

**Greater Orlando Civil War Roundtable:** For those who travel to the South in the winter, you might want to visit this roundtable which meets monthly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month starting at 7 p.m. at the Pine Castle Women’s Club at 5901 South Orange Ave. (just off Oakridge Ave.) in Orlando, Florida. “No foraging will be necessary because the Commissary will serve a bounty of snacks. GUESTS are invited, *even encouraged*, to attend.” For more information, contact General Marilyn Witko Rosinski at [coachr@wcnet.org](mailto:coachr@wcnet.org) or 419-704-2635 or Scribe Jack L. Brooks at 407-622-1205, or visit their website at [www.gocwrt.com](http://www.gocwrt.com).

### *Special Orders*

**Whitewater Canal Historic Site Civil War Program:** In April of this year, 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).

**John Bell Hood Documents Discovered:** Sam Hood, a collateral descendent, who is conducting research on Hood, was invited to inspect a collection of Hood's papers, held by a Pennsylvania descendent. The collection includes his medical journal, promotion recommendations, wartime correspondence, his four commission papers, other correspondence used to compose Hood's memoir. Many biographers assumed these documents were lost or destroyed. Sam plans to release his book *John Bell Hood: The Rise, Fall and Resurrection of a Confederate General* in the spring.

## *Official Records*

### **October attendance: 21**

**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.

**2013-2014 Possible Changes:** We are considering moving to a different location for our meetings in 2013-2014, or we may have to raise dues to cover expenses of meeting at the Indiana History Center. Our monthly cost is \$190. If you would like to continue meeting at the Indiana History Center, would you be willing to donate money to cover the cost of a monthly meeting? If so, please contact Tony Roscetti.

### **Book Raffle:**

*The Spy of the Rebellion*, by Allan Pinkerton

*They Followed the Plume: The Story of J.E.B. Stuart and His Staff*, by Robert J. Trout

*Soldiers Blue and Gray*, by James I. Robertson, Jr.

*From Manassas to Appomattox*, by General James Longstreet

*The Army of the Potomac: A Stillness at Appomattox*, by Bruce Catton

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

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

1. Name the only Texas-born general to serve in the Civil War?
2. Name three sets of brothers who served as generals in the war, one on each side.
3. Which of Robert Gould Shaw's brothers-in-law was killed at Cedar Creek?
4. In what state was the Battle of Byram's Ford fought?
5. Name the Brigadier who served on the Michigan Supreme Court before the war. Who was it that replaced him on the eve of Gettysburg?

Answers to the October quiz:

1. What famous general changed the name of his horse because of an incident during the war? \*\*\* Phil Sheridan
2. How many "dead men" was the typical Civil War soldier expected to carry? \*\*\* 40
3. What did General John Bell Hood always take with him, along with a spare, when he went into battle? \*\*\* His artificial leg
4. What figure is featured on the Great Seal of the Confederacy? \*\*\* George Washington
5. What was "Long Tom" and where would you find it? \*\*\* A huge Whitworth rifled cannon placed at Cumberland Gap

### *The Press and Soldiers Speak*

Quotes from "Camp Morton – Civil War Camp and Union Prison, 1861-1865, Indianapolis, Indiana," accessed May 16, 2012,  
<http://freepages.history.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~indiana42nd/campmorton.htm>.

"The Indianapolis *Journal*, on March 4, 1862, described the health of the newly arrived prisoners as follows: 'Of the sick prisoners at the military prison and hospitals of this city, the greater proportion are Mississippians. Though some of the Tennesseans and Kentuckians are quite ill, their maladies are not so deep seated as those of the First, Fourth, and Twenty-Sixth Mississippi prisoners. These regiments were at Fort Henry, and at the time of the attack made upon it by Commodore Foote they retreated so rapidly that they left behind most of their baggage, including many articles of clothing much needed for their comfort. On arriving at Fort Donelson they were (thinly clad as they were) put at work immediately upon the fortifications, and were compelled to labor upon the trenches constantly. During the siege of the Fort, they lay in the ditches and rifle pits, day and night. Such exposure would produce disease in the ranks of the most able-bodied soldiers, but when incurred by men of feeble constitutions, the seeds of disease are so firmly planted that no medical skill can remove them. Of the latter class are those now in hospitals. Many are under eighteen years of age, and the large majority are

persons of feeble constitution. They receive the best medical treatment, and the nursing care of female attendants; but in many cases, the best of attention cannot save them from the grasp of death.”

Dr. John A. Wyeth, described conditions at Camp Morton in 1863 in his article “Cold Cheer in Camp Morton,” which appeared in the April 1891 *Century* magazine: “These barracks had been erected as cattle sheds and stables...When they served as shelter for us, however, the planks had shrunk, and many of the strips had disappeared, leaving wide cracks, through which the winds whistled and the rain and snow beat in upon us...The scarcity of blankets forced us to huddle together in cold weather, usually three in a group, with one blanket between us and the planks, and the other two to cover us with...The entire ration for one day was not enough for a single meal...With little to do, except to try to get something to eat, and keep from being eaten by vermin, the hours and days were necessarily long and weary.”

“Adjutant Thomas Sturgis, while a member of a Union regiment on guard detail at Camp Morton, describes the conditions in the camp during the summer and autumn of 1864: ‘At the time of which I write the cooking at Camp Morton was done by my details. We baked daily from 5,000 to 7,000 loaves, about six inches cube, of good white bread, which gave to each prisoner a loaf, appetizing and healthful. Our own men were then drawing only hard tack as an equivalent. On their arrival the prisoners were given necessary clothing and blankets. Each man received one of the latter, and as two usually bunked together, they joined forces. As the cold weather of autumn approached we made a further issue of a blanket apiece, and some of the men fashioned the old ones into capes or cloaks, and the sight of a sturdy Confederate strolling about with the Uncle Sam’s U.S. branded between his shoulders was not uncommon.’”

### *Officer of the Month*



Image of Colonel Owen from: “Statue of Colonel Richard Owen at Indiana University, Bloomington,” accessed 16 May 2012, <http://faculty.evansville.edu/ck6/bstud/owenstatue.html>.

Colonel Richard Owen served in the Mexican War, and when the Civil War began, he became lieutenant colonel of the 15<sup>th</sup> Indiana. He was promoted to colonel of the 16<sup>th</sup> Indiana. During the winter of 1861-1862, he guarded four thousand Fort Donelson prisoners at Camp Morton. In 1864, he became Professor of Natural Science at Indiana University, and in 1872, he was elected President of Purdue University. Statues honoring him can be found in the Indiana State Capitol and in the Indiana Memorial Union of the campus of Indiana University in Bloomington.

### *Historic Sites of the Month*

Photos from Thompson Family Album



NE marker at 22<sup>nd</sup> St. and Central Av.



SE marker at 19<sup>th</sup> St. and Central Av.



NW marker at 22<sup>nd</sup> St. and Talbot St.



SW marker at 19<sup>th</sup> St. and Talbot St.

These four Camp Morton boundary markers were installed on July 15, 2000 by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Ben Harrison Camp #356, in cooperation with the Sons of Confederate Veterans. A marker dedication ceremony was held on October 25, 2003.

## 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](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 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  
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Indianapolis, IN 46224