



HARDTACK



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

February 10, 2014 at 7:30 p.m.
 Meeting at Indiana History Center Auditorium
 450 West Ohio Street

The Plan of the Day VMI's Civil War Legacy



On June 18, 1920, General of the Armies John J. Pershing, America's senior World War I soldier, and future World War II US Army Chief of Staff and General of the Army George C. Marshall, visit the grave of Confederate Lt. Gen. Thomas J. Jackson in Lexington, Virginia. Photo courtesy of the George C. Marshall Research Library.

In June 1920, Colonel George C. Marshall, a VMI graduate, persuaded his mentor, General John J. Pershing, a West Point graduate, to visit the Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, Virginia. In Lexington, VMI's Superintendent hosted General Pershing and toured him around the Institute and the VMI cadet corps conducted a dress review parade in Pershing's honor. After the parade, General Pershing addressed VMI's cadets, noted the Institute's alumni's roles in the Civil War and Great War and remarked on how sharp the cadets had appeared that day at parade.

Pershing then added that while he had often heard VMI called the "West Point of the South," after having witnessed the VMI cadets at review parade, perhaps West Point should be called the "VMI of the North." Pershing received considerable applause from his largely southern audience, but news of Pershing's remarks were not as well received in the North. Letters criticizing Pershing's remarks and visit to VMI reached the War Department. Pershing directed Marshall to answer the letters.

In 1920, the Civil War was two generations removed, yet scars from that war remained for thousands of Civil War veterans and their families. Pershing was correct though, VMI has long been called the "West Point of the South." Confederate President Jefferson Davis appointed 53 cadets to VMI's new cadet class matriculating in 1862. Though VMI has remained a Virginia state school throughout its 175 year existence, in the summer of 1861, the Confederate Congress discussed transferring VMI from state to Confederate control.

The Civil War greatly impacted VMI and the Institute's alumni profoundly influenced Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. Evidence of VMI's Civil War heritage can be seen today around the post, and this Civil War heritage has shaped her alumni. The Virginia Military Institute is our nation's second oldest public military college. VMI's citizen-soldier graduates and alumni have served in our nation's conflicts from the Mexican War through to today's war in Afghanistan. VMI is the only US college whose graduates have served as chief or senior officer for three of our nation's four Armed Services. In World War II, both the US Army Chief of Staff and Deputy Chief of Staff were VMI graduates and fifty-four other VMI alumni were World War II general or flag officers. Over 270 VMI alumni have attained general or flag officer rank. Thousands of VMI alumni served as leaders in World Wars I and II, Korea, Vietnam, and our 21st century wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

West Point came of age during our Mexican War. VMI did so in our Civil War. Ninety-three percent of VMI's then living alumni wore either Union blue or Confederate gray. This presentation will discuss VMI's Civil War legacy and how this legacy shaped the Institute and molded her alumni.

Our Guest Speaker



Dave Sutherland is a past president of the Indianapolis Civil War Round Table. He is a VMI graduate and Army veteran. He has presented to Indiana Civil War Round Tables from Lake County to Jefferson County. Dave practices law in Brownsburg, IN.

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 2013-2014 Campaign

Officers:

President: Dave Klinestiver

Vice President: Nikki Schofield

Secretary: Frank Bynum

Treasurer: Tony Roscetti

Immediate Past President: Dr. John Wernert

Committees:

Preservation: Andy O'Donnell

Website: Ed Pope

Program Selection: Nikki Schofield, Jenny Thompson, Dr. John Wernert

Publicity: Peg Bertelli, Dave Sutherland & Tony Roscetti

Quiz Master:

Tony Trimble

HARDTACK Newsletter:

Editor: Jenny Thompson

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

2013-2014 Campaign Plans

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| Mar. 10, 2014 | Justin Ellison – Sundered by Memory: The Confederate Flag, Black Confederates, and the Racialization of Civil War Memory |
| Apr. 14, 2014 | Gail Stephens – <i>The Shadow of Shiloh: Major General Lew Wallace in the Civil War</i> |
| May 12, 2014 | Fred Leickly – The Battle of Cedar Creek, by Col. W.H. Polhamus |
| June 9, 2014 | Anita Morgan – State & County Governments providing material & financial relief for soldiers' families |

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.

2/19 Jim Johnson – “Religion During the Civil War”

3/19 Brian McCutcheon – “Ft. Donaldson”

4/16 Robert May – “Origins of the Confederacy”

5/21 Mark Jaeger – “The 10th Indiana Volunteers”

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 11th Street, in downtown Anderson.

2/17 DVD program “Early Union Triumphs in the West”

3/17 Richard Nottingham – “Battlefield Photos”

4/21 Gib Young – “Words of Glory, Words of Romance”

5/19 Steve Ritchie – “The Relationship Between Robert E. Lee and Thomas Jackson”

6/16 Donna Schmink – “Indiana’s Battle Flags”

July and August – no meetings

9/15 Gerald G. Jones – “Northern Civil War Prisons”

10/20 Kevin & Lucinda Rushton – “US Christian Commission”

11/17 DVD program “Shiloh and Corinth”

December – no meeting

Crossroads of America Civil War / Political Show: National Dealers will offer thousands of Civil War and political items on April 4 (4-8 p.m.) and April 5 (9 a.m. – 4 p.m.) at Beech Grove High School, 5330 Hornet Ave (Exit 52 on I-465). For more information, contact Harvey W. Warrner at www.ironbrigaderelics.com or 317-784-2617.

Special Orders

How the Civil War Changed Your Life: 8 things to think about as we mark the conflict’s 150th anniversary by Betsy Towner:

1. We have ambulances and hospitals.
2. We prize America as a land of opportunity.
3. We begin summer with a tribute to fallen soldiers.
4. We let technology guide how we communicate.
5. We identify ourselves as Democrats and Republicans.
6. We see war “up close and personal.”
7. We hold certain rights to be sacred.
8. We’re all Americans.

To read her article to learn more about each of the items listed above, visit:

<http://www.aarp.org/politics-society/history/info-04-2011/8-ways-civil-war-changed-lives.html>.

Tell It With Pride: The 54th Massachusetts Regiment and Augustus Saint-Gaudens’ Shaw Memorial: This exhibit, which ended on January 20, was in two galleries at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. The first room included a copy of the 1863 Emancipation Proclamation, photographs of activists such as Frederick Douglass and Sojourner Truth, the original enlistment roll, a list of those missing after Fort Wagner, the Medal of Honor awarded to Sgt. William H. Carney and photographs of the enlisted men. The second room had the Shaw Memorial plaster and some of Saint-Gaudens’ studies for the memorial. This provides a great tribute to the 54th Massachusetts. To see pictures from the exhibit, visit: <http://www.nga.gov/content/ngaweb/exhibitions/2013/shaw.html>. To read this Wall Street Journal article about this exhibit, visit:

<http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304347904579308602341001132>

The Field of Lost Shoes: This upcoming film is a coming of age story focused on several VMI cadets who are called into service and then fight as part of VMI's Corps of Cadets in Confederate service in the May 15, 2014, Battle of New Market. Jason Isaacs, a British actor and lawyer, who excellently portrayed the sinister, fictitious British Lt. Col. Tavington, modeled after British Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton, in the 2000 film, *The Patriot*, that also starred Mel Gibson, will portray Confederate Lt. Gen. John C. Breckinridge in *The Field of Lost Shoes*. This film is scheduled for release this spring around the time of the 150th anniversary of the Battle of New Market.

War Comes to Georgia: The 150th Anniversary of the Atlanta Campaign: Ringgold Through Kennesaw, March 27-30, 2014: This four day tour with Greg Biggs and Thomas Cartwright features the four days of the Atlanta Campaign, which secured the re-election of Lincoln in November 1864. The tour departs Franklin, TN on Thursday, March 27 and returns there on Sunday afternoon, March 30. The tour fee includes three nights of hotels (with free breakfast); bus transport; admission fees to the Tunnel Hill Civil War and Railroad Museum, the Southern Museum for Civil War and Locomotive History and the Pickett's Mill State Battlefield Park; and a complete set of tour maps for each battlefield. A lecture on the Atlanta Campaign will be held in Franklin on Wednesday night (March 26) to orient participants to what they will be touring. Rates are \$495 (single person per room); \$390 each (double per room); and \$360 each (triple per room), payable to the Lotz House Museum. To pay by credit/debit card, call the Lotz House at (615) 790-7190 or mail your check to Lotz House Museum, 1111 Columbia Ave., Franklin, TN 37064. Make sure you inform them how many are attending (single, double, triple) and let them know it is for the "Atlanta tour." The tour needs 30 people minimum up to 52 people maximum. For questions, please contact J.T. Thompson of the Lotz House at jtt@lotzhouse.com or Greg Biggs at Biggsg@charter.net (or call Greg on his cell phone at (931) 217-4265).

Official Records

January Attendance: 33

***Shadow of Shiloh* Books on Sale in April:** The author of this book is our April speaker and we will have books on sale that night, which she will autograph. If you would like to pre-order a book, please contact Nikki Schofield.

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.

Help Sponsor a Meeting: We are accepting donations in increments of fifty dollars to help pay the cost of our monthly rental: \$50 (Brigadier General); \$100 (Major General); \$150 (Lieutenant General); and \$200 (General). Those who donate \$200 will be given the honor of leading the pledge to the flag before the meeting. Checks should be written to the Indiana Historical Society with "ICWRT" noted in the memo line and given to treasurer Tony Roscetti, so we can keep a record of the donations. Our sponsor for tonight's meeting is Dave Sutherland.

Book Raffle:

Ordeal of the Union: A House Dividing 1852-1857, by Allan Nevins

Lee's Real Plan at Gettysburg, by Troy D. Harman

The Haskell Memoirs: The Personal Narrative of a Confederate Officer, by John Haskell, edited by Gilbert E. Govan and James W. Livingood

The Civil War, A Narrative: Red River to Appomattox, by Shelby Foote

Terrible Swift Sword, by Bruce Catton

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

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

1. On what battlefield would you find the Slaughter Pen Farm?
2. Describe a hospital flag.
3. What Union general lent his name to the French kepi?
4. Who wrote, "He is gone and sleeps in the Valley he loved so much."? To whom did he refer?
5. On what battlefield would you find the Nicodemus house?

Answers to the January quiz:

1. What was the "Peripatetic Coffin"? *** C.S.S. H.L. Hunley
2. What unit was known as the "Bully Dutchmen"? Where was it raised? *** 9th Ohio; Cincinnati
3. Who wrote, "When any female shall by word, gesture, or movement insult or show contempt for any officer or soldier of the United States she shall be regarded as a woman of the town plying her avocation."? *** Gen. Benjamin Butler, General Order No. 28
4. What was invented by William F. Ketchum? *** The Ketchum Grenade
5. On what battlefield would you find "Slaughter's Field"? *** Port Hudson

The Officer Speaks

Lt. Col. and Commandant S. Shipp, July 4, 1864 (from Official Records, Series I, Vol. 37, Part I, 89-91): “I have the honor to submit the following report of the operations of the Corps of Cadets under my command in the field from May 11 to June 25... In obedience to orders from Major-General Breckinridge...the Corps of Cadets...took up the line of march for Staunton. The march to Staunton was accomplished in two days...the 13th I received orders to march at daylight on the road to Harrisonburg...marched eighteen miles and encamped...marched sixteen miles and encamped...the night of the 14th received orders to prepare to march immediately, without beat of drum and as noiselessly as possible...The general having determined to receive the attack of the enemy, made his dispositions for battle, posting the corps in reserve. He informed me that he did not wish to put the Cadets in if he could avoid it, but that should occasion require it, he would use them very freely. He was also pleased to express his confidence in them, and I am happy to believe that his expectations were not disappointed, for when the tug of battle came they bore themselves gallantly and well...The battalion of Cadets, brigaded with Echols, was the last battalion but one from the left of the second line...Great gaps were made through the ranks, but the cadet, true to his discipline, would close in the center to fill the interval and push steadily forward...We had before this gotten into the front line. Our line took a position behind a line of fence. A brisk fusillade ensued; a shout, a rush, and the day was won. The enemy fled in confusion, leaving killed, wounded, artillery, and prisoners in our hands....The Cadets did their duty, as the long list of casualties will attest...Wet, hungry, and many of them shoeless – for they had lost their shoes and socks in the deep mud through which it was necessary to march – they bore their hardships with that uncomplaining resignation which characterizes the true soldier.”

Soldier of the Month



Photo and information from <http://www.civilwar.org/hallowed-ground-magazine/summer-2010/and-may-god-forgive-me.html> and Find a Grave

Private William Hugh McDowell would have graduated from VMI in 1867. He was killed on May 15, 1864 at the Battle of New Market. He is buried under the New Market Battle Monument on the VMI campus and is the subject of the novel *The Ghost Cadet*.

Historic Site of the Month



Photo and information from Find a Grave and <http://www.civilwar.org/hallowed-ground-magazine/summer-2010/and-may-god-forgive-me.html>

New Market Battle Monument, “Virginia Mourning Her Dead”: VMI Cadets pass this monument, sculpted by Cadet Moses Ezekiel, in front of Nichols Engineering Hall when they pass the parade grounds on the campus. The VMI Corps of Cadets with 257 young men ages 15-24 ended up in the front lines during the charge at the Battle of New Market. These cadets captured a number of prisoners and one Union cannon. Fifty-seven of them were wounded, and ten were killed or mortally wounded. The monument bears the name of all the cadets who fought in the battle, and six of the cadets who died (Corporal Samuel Francis Atwell, Private Charles Gay Crockett, Private Thomas Garland Jefferson, Private Henry Jenner Jones, Private William Hugh McDowell, and Private Joseph Christopher Wheelwright) were buried in a copper box under this monument.

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.

Indianapolis Civil War Round Table
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