



# HARDTACK



Indianapolis Civil War Round Table Newsletter

<http://indianapoliswrt.org/>

September 9, 2013 at 7:30 p.m.

Meeting at Indiana History Center Auditorium

450 West Ohio Street

## *The Plan of the Day* Embalming in the Civil War



The Civil War in America, 1861-1865, resulted in casualties that were unprecedented in the history of warfare. The total number of victims who died, either as a direct result of battle or from disease and illness, has not been equaled nearly one hundred fifty years later. The bodies of those who died either on the battlefield or in military hospitals were generally buried quickly and near the place of death in an effort to avoid the unpleasant condition of the decomposition and decay that were inevitable. Unlike the animal kingdom, humankind affords the dignity of a ritualistic disposition of the Dead to fellow humans, which for the time period in the Judeo-Christian world translated to burial in the Earth. Surviving family members and friends accepted the impracticality of viewing the body of a loved one who had died and had been buried on a distant battlefield; however, they longed to have the soldier's body located and returned to their community for burial among other family members. A technique to disinfect the remains and to offer the living some hope that a loved one would be preserved following death was introduced to the American medical community in 1840 through a translated French text authored by Jean Nicholas Gannai. While doctors adopted embalming as a means of preserving remains for anatomical study, undertakers generally did not adopt it. Families who they served were comfortable burying dead within twenty-four hours in order to avoid the unpleasantness of decay. The advent of War offered a practical application for embalming. A soldier's body could be sanitized at the place of death, and it could be shipped home where it could be viewed safely weeks or month later without decay. Nearly 40,000 cases are believed to have been treated during the War, including the body of Abraham Lincoln, but despite proof of its effectiveness, embalming fell out of use as soon as the War ended. It would take nearly another fifteen years to be rediscovered by the young and developing funeral profession, which readily embraced and actively advocated its use as modern medicine

and bacteriology became known. During the War, a small number of doctors – familiar with the technique of embalming as well as human physiology and chemistry – established themselves as “embalming surgeons” to perform their services of locating soldiers’ bodies, disinterring remains, treating them, supplying a coffin, and shipping the body home for burial.

## **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*



Jon Austin, a full-time museum professional since 1987, portrays embalming surgeon Dr. Benjamin F. Lyford. Since 2000, he has studied the subject, becoming an authority on the history of American funeral service. He has appeared on MSNBC, The Discovery Channel, The History Channel, National Geographic Explorer, WGN-TV Chicago, National Public Radio, and local public television stations. He has appeared in USA Today, the New York Times, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, and the Chicago Tribune. He presents first-person, period demonstrations to schools, community groups, and historical organizations appropriate for many age levels.

### *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.**

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.

### *2013-2014 Campaign Plans*

Oct. 14, 2013	Professor James & Patience Barnes – <i>500 Strong: Wabash College Students in the Civil War</i>
Nov. 11, 2013	Kevin & Cindy Rushton – U.S. Christian Commission
Dec. 9, 2013	Dan Moll – Edmund Ruffin
Jan. 13, 2014	Dennis Haskett – Sutler Tokens
Feb. 10, 2014	Dave Sutherland – VMI's Civil War Legacy
Mar. 10, 2014	Justin Ellison – Civil War in popular culture
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 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.

9/18 Scott Trostle – “Lincoln’s Funeral Train”

10/16 Daniel Moll – “A Portrayal of Edmund Ruffin”

11/20 Harvey Warner – “Confederate Finances

Dec. – no meeting

1/15 Brian Dirck – “Lincoln and Civil Liberties”

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 10<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> Street, in downtown Anderson.

9/16 Donna Schmink – “Indiana’s Battle Flags”  
 10/21 TBA  
 11/18 DVD Lecture Series “Border States”

### *Special Orders*

**Crown Hill Tours:** Nikki Schofield will be doing several walking tours on Saturdays at Crown Hill this year.

- October 5, 9:30 a.m. - **NEW! "Treason in Indianapolis"** walking tour
- October 19, 9:30 a.m. - **"Tombstones & Trees"** walking tour



**Colonel Owen Bust Rededication:** The bust of Colonel Owen at the Indiana Statehouse was rededicated on June 10. One of the items on display was a copy of the 30-foot-long petition signed by six hundred Confederate soldiers to keep Owen from being reassigned from Camp Morton. These soldiers considered him so kind that they collected the money to place this bust at the Statehouse in 1913. Like the dedication one hundred years ago, the bust was covered with the American flag early in the ceremony. The women and child holding the flag are Owen’s descendants.

**Book Review by Lee Peters - *Gettysburg – the last invasion* by Allen C. Guelzo, Alfred A. Knopf: New York, 2013:** Just when you thought you had read everything about Gettysburg, a new provocative publication appears. Guelzo recounts hundreds of fights in the May to July campaign at the regimental level – regimental! He meticulously weaves the threads of each unit into fascinating chronology. Even the large battle is broken into dozens of separate fights. See through an objective set of eyes skewering all leadership equally. What did Lee lose with Jeb Stuart running around the country? Reynolds and Buford really expected to find the Rebel Army – it was not a surprise. There were two college steeples. The Little Round Top in many ways was a useless piece of real estate. Longstreet came within five minutes of sweeping the Union Army off Cemetery Ridge. Lee’s orders habitually gave corps commanders responsibility for implementation. Ewell could not mount a horse leaving him in a complete smog (explained) of battle. Pickett’s charge was not a foolish strategy having worked in a

number of other European battles. The soldiers were exposed for 5 to 20 minutes (how long did you think it took to cover the mile?) where one in one thousand bullets finds a human target. Mead was not on the field of battle during Pickett's charge – he was preparing to retreat! Brave, incredibly brave, and intelligent leadership is applauded on both sides. Wonderful book!

***The Battle of Mill Springs, Kentucky* by Stuart W. Sanders:** This new book examines an important battle that helped keep Kentucky under Union control. Fought near Somerset, Kentucky, on a foggy January 19, 1862, many of the Confederates' antiquated flintlock muskets failed to fire in the rain. The Southerners' poor weaponry, coupled with fragmented unit cohesion, the death of Confederate General Felix Zollicoffer, and a Union counterattack, ultimately led to the rebels' defeat. The Federal victory at Mill Springs broke a Confederate defensive line across Kentucky, opened large sections of Tennessee to Union invasion, and provided a boost for flagging Northern morale at an important period. It was also Union General George Thomas's first victory. The book is available through Amazon.com, from the History Press, and local bookstores.

**Battle of Chickamauga and the Civil War in 1863:** Wabash College is holding a seminar day Friday, September 27 in Crawfordsville with the following speakers: Keynote speaker: Dan Crofts, North & South regional conflict; 1:00 – Patience & Jim Barnes, the unusual research for their new book *500 Strong: Wabash College Students in the Civil War*; 2:00 – Brent Harris, Battle of Chickamauga; 3:00 Bob Quirk & Ezra Ball, descendants of Wabash men who fought in the Civil War; 4:15 – Tracey Salisbury, “A Colored Regiment in the Civil War”; 5:00 – Roger Billings, Abraham Lincoln in the Civil War and his book, *Abraham Lincoln, Esq.: The Legal Career of America's Greatest President*; 5:45 – book signing in Detchon Hall by Billings, the Barneses, and Nancy N. Baxter (*Gallant Fourteenth: The Story of an Indiana Civil War Regiment*); 6:00 – cocktails and dinner. Our group would be invited to sit with Jim & Patience and probably other speakers. Cost \$20 per person.

**“Where the River Campaigns Began” Civil War Tour:** Greg Biggs will be hosting a Civil War tour on Sept. 27-28. The group will meet and stay in Paducah, KY on Friday. That night they will head downtown in a vehicle caravan and see the Ohio Riverwall which has wonderful historic murals depicting Paducah history including the arrival the arrival of Union regiments under J.S. Grant as well as Nathan Bedford Forrest's raid of March 1864. They will also drive by CS Gen. Lloyd Tilghman's home as well. On Saturday, they will visit the following cities: Cairo, IL [Fort Defiance site; Fort Defiance park (confluence of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers) where we'll see where the Union forts at Bird's Point, MO and Fort Holt, KY were located; Grant's headquarters and the home he visited after he was president; location of the Mississippi River Flotilla; Cairo Museum and the recent Civil War Museum]; Mound City, IL [site of the naval ways where three of the City Class ironclads were built (USS Cincinnati, USS Mound City, USS Cairo); location of the massive naval base and naval hospital; Mound City National Cemetery]; Wickliffe, KY [This town did not exist during the Civil War but was where the Federals rebuilt Fort Jefferson (George Rogers Clark built the original in the late 1700s), an advance base to protect Cairo from Confederate incursions from Columbus];

Columbus, KY [site of the Columbus-Belmont State Park. This site interprets the massive Confederate fortifications built there (some 142 heavy guns) and the Battle of Belmont which was fought across the river. This park is seasonal and closes at the end of October for the year. A lot of the huge earthworks still remain there]. The cost is \$30 per person and payments and contact info (including phone numbers) should be sent to Greg Biggs, 2600 W. Henderson Way, Clarksville, TN 37042.

**Civil War Battlefield Preservation Grants:** Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell announced August 15 that 13 grants totaling \$2,252,663 will be awarded to Central Virginia Battlefields Trust, Civil War Trust, Richmond Battlefields Association, and Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation. These groups will match the grant money to help protect more than 1,265 acres associated with battles at Appomattox Court House, Ball's Bluff, Beaver Dam Creek (Mechanicsville), Brandy Station, Cedar Creek, Chancellorsville, Deep Bottom, Kelly's Ford, Malvern Hill, Rappahannock Station (I and II), Second Manassas, and Sailors' Creek.

### *Official Records*

**Attendance:** 47

**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.

**Book Raffle:**

*All for the Union: The Civil War Diary and Letters of Elisha Hunt Rhodes*, edited by Robert Hunt Rhodes

*Chancellorsville 1863: The Souls of the Brave*, by Ernest B. Furguson

*To the Gates of Richmond: The Peninsula Campaign*, by Stephen W. Sears

*The Unregimented General: A Biography of Nelson A. Miles*, by Virginia W. Johnson  
*No Turning Back: The Beginning of the End of the Civil War – March-June, 1864*, by Don Lowry

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

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

1. Name the only regiment in the Union army to have two future presidents in its ranks. Who were they?
2. What was Gratiot St.?
3. Name the general who rode Lexington in the Grand Review.
4. What is a "shoupade"? For whom was it named?
5. Who sent a telegram to Lincoln reading, "I have the plans of the rebels, and will catch them in their own trap."? What battle followed?

### *The Soldiers Speak*

Quotes from: John D. Wright, ed., *The Oxford Dictionary of Civil War Quotations* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2006).

CS Private Sam R. Watkins, 1<sup>st</sup> Tennessee: "Dying on the field of battle and glory is about the easiest duty a soldier has to undergo." – Wright, 417.

James E. Hall, CS Corporal, October 5, 1861 diary entry: "We found several dead. Among others was a young man who more particularly took attention. He was lying by the edge of the forest – having been struck by a cannon ball. His name was Abbott, from an Indiana Regt. In his portmanteau we found three twists of nicely braided hair, from his sisters. He had a furlough for several days. He had written a letter to his sisters saying he would not start home as soon as he expected, as the army was going down the mountain to whip the rebels, and he was going to accompany it so he could tell them about it when he came home. Poor fellow. His furlough was exchanged into a *fur-long*." – Wright, 132-133.

U.S. Colonel John A. Cockerill: "I passed...the corpse of a beautiful boy in gray who lay with his blond curls scattered about his face and his hands folded peacefully across the breast. He was clad in a bright and neat uniform, well garnished with gold, which seemed to tell the story of a loving mother and sisters who had sent their household pet to the field of war. His neat little hat lying beside him bore the number of a Georgia regiment....At the sight of the poor boy's corpse, I burst into a regular boo-hoo, and started on." – Wright, 51.

Wilbur F. Crummer, 45<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry: “The soldiers gathered up the bodies [at Shiloh] and placed them in wagons, hauling them near to the trench, and piling them up like cord wood. We were furnished with plenty of whiskey, and the boys believed that it would have been impossible to have performed the job without it....It was night when we finished the task, some of the squad, ‘half seas over’ with liquor, but they could not be blamed, for it was a hard job.” – Wright, 55.

Chaplain Thomas B. Van Horne, 13<sup>th</sup> Ohio Regiment: “In expression of the value of each citizen who fell in the war, the body of each was placed in a separate grave. And so thorough was the search for the dead upon every battlefield and over the whole country, that their friends may be assured that, whether identified or not, all rest in grounds consecrated for their abode forever.” – Wright, 413.

Fitzgerald Ross, Austrian captain and observer in the Confederate army: “A month after the battle of Chickamauga, we rode over the field of battle, which is seven or eight miles to the rear of our camp. The Yankee dead are still unburied, which is a great shame....If there be one good feeling to be found in the North, it is the respect they show to their dead; and doubtless, if these poor fellows had been identified and properly buried, very many of them would have been brought to their homes after the war, and their bones laid amongst their own kindred. Now the pigs are fattening on them – a disgusting sight to behold.” – Wright, 347.

### *Doctor of the Month*



Photo and information from [www.forensicgenealogy.info/contest\\_65\\_results.html](http://www.forensicgenealogy.info/contest_65_results.html) and Find A Grave  
**Dr. Thomas Holmes** is known as “The Father of Modern Embalming.” He perfected his techniques in the 1850s and improved the chemicals during the Civil War to enable him to offer embalming to the public for \$100. He obtained exclusive rights from the U.S. government to embalm Union soldiers and employed salesmen to sell embalming coupons to families in the North and the South. Families sent these coupons to their soldiers. His crew would set up camp near battlefields. After battles, they would embalm bodies found with a coupon and ship them back home to their families. Holmes embalmed over four thousand soldiers and officers and several other prominent figures during the war. He is buried in Cypress Hills Cemetery, Lot 92 – 92 ½, Section 3, Brooklyn, New York.

## *Historic Site of the Month*



Photo and information from [www.noehill.com/marin/nat1976000497.asp](http://www.noehill.com/marin/nat1976000497.asp)

Lyford's Stone Tower, 2034 Paradise Drive, Tiburon, California: "The plaque above the fireplace reads: **THE STONE TOWER** (also called the Stone Lodge, the Castle, or just Lyford's Tower) was designed and built about 1889 by the San Francisco architect Gustav A. Behrnd for Dr. Benjamin F. Lyford, retired inventor, physician and scientist, as the gateway to the southern portion of his Utopian tract, 'Hygeia, or goddess of Health.' Originally a stone archway crossing Paradise Drive was attached to the tower, but it was removed in the 1920's. The open space under the roof was enclosed as a wood-framed office with shingles painted in striped patterns.

Architecturally, the tower is a fine example of the simplified form of Richardson Romanesque built in local cut ashlar sandstone, according to Dr. Joseph A. Baird, Jr., architectural historian.

Dr. Lyford's 'Hygeia' was the first subdivision of the Tiburon Peninsula. Married to the owner of the land, the former Hilarita Reed, his tract skirted the edge of the Bay for several miles at Point Tiburon. Part of the Mexican land grant Rancho Corte Madera dei Presidio, 'Hygeia' was planned for a townsite and suburban homes. Streets were given Spanish names that survive today. 'Vistazo' for view, 'Solano' for sunshine, 'Diviso' for dividing, 'Mar East' for east sea.

Through the efforts of the Belvedere-Tiburon Landmarks Society, a campaign was launched to preserve the Stone Tower. It was designated the first historical land mark in the Town of Tiburon, California, on Nov. 25, 1974, and was listed on the National Register of Historical Places on Dec. 2, 1976 by the National Parks Service, U.S. Department of the Interior.

Tiburon Heritage Commission, 1980"

## Re-enlist NOW for the 2013-2014 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@pnc.com](mailto:anthony.roschetti@pnc.com)

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

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### ***ICWRT Membership Enlistment for July 2013 thru June 2014***

*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  
6019 Allendale Dr.  
Indianapolis, IN 46224