



HARDTACK



Indianapolis Civil War Round Table Newsletter

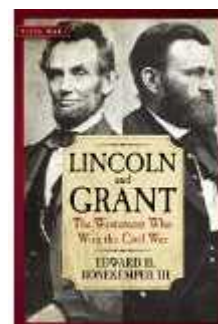
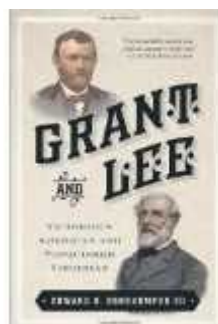
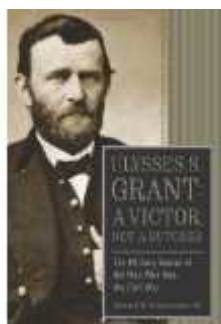
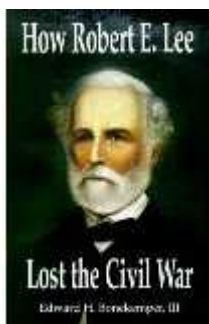
<http://indianapoliswrt.org/>

June 8, 2015 at 6:45 p.m.
Meeting at MCL Cafeteria - Castleton
5520 Castleton Corner Lane

The Plan of the Day Six Turning Points of the American Civil War

What were the most decisive military battles of the Civil War? Of the 10,000 battles and skirmishes of that war, which were the most crucial, decisive turning points? Which battles changed the course of the war? Which battles led to Union control of western rivers? Which ones split the Confederacy into pieces? Which ones destroyed the offensive and even counter-punching capability of Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia? Which battle opened the door for President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation? Which battle ensured Lincoln's reelection? Which ones were uniquely significant in hastening the Union victory?

Civil War and military historian Ed Bonekemper delivers a stimulating presentation on this selection of the six turning points of the Civil War: Ulysses S. Grant's February 1862 capture of Forts Henry and Donelson in Tennessee; Lee's September 1862 strategic loss to George B. McClellan at Sharpsburg (Antietam), Maryland; George Meade's July 1863 defeat of Lee at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania; Grant's mid-1863 capture of Vicksburg, Mississippi; Grant's November 1863 breakout at Chattanooga, Tennessee; and William T. Sherman's September 1864 capture of Atlanta, Georgia. Bonekemper will set the stage for each of these major clashes, describe how they occurred, and conclude with an explanation of their significance to the outcome of the war.



Our Guest Speaker



Edward H. Bonekemper, III is Book Review Editor of *Civil War News*, a frequent Civil War speaker across the country, a former visiting lecturer in military history at Muhlenberg College, and the author of several books and articles on Civil War history. His newest book, *Myth of the Lost Cause: Why the South Fought the Civil War and Why the North Won*, will be published in October 2015. Four of his Civil War books, *Grant and Lee: Victorious American and Vanquished Virginian*; *Lincoln and Grant: The Westerners Who Won the Civil War*; *A Victor, Not a Butcher: Ulysses S. Grant's Overlooked Military Genius* and *How Robert E. Lee Lost the Civil War* will be available for signing before and after dinner.

Book Information:

How Robert E. Lee Lost the Civil War – \$20 softcover / \$25 hardcover

A Victor, Not a Butcher: Ulysses S. Grant's Overlooked Military Genius – \$25 hardcover

Grant & Lee: Victorious American & Vanquished Virginian – \$20 softcover / \$35 hardcover (\$50 retail)

Lincoln & Grant: Westerners Who Won the Civil War – \$20 softcover / \$30 hardcover

4 different hardcovers: \$100 (save \$40 over retail) cash or check

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 jkt60jet@gmail.com by the tenth day following the preceding month's meeting.

Roster of Officers and Committees for the 2015-2016 Campaign

Officers:

President: Peg Bertelli

Vice President: Chris Smith

Secretary: Frank Bynum

Treasurer: Tony Roscetti

Immediate Past President: Nikki Schofield

Committees:

Preservation: Andy O'Donnell

Website: Ed Pope

Program Selection: Chris Smith, Jenny Thompson, Dave Klinestiver

Publicity: Peg Bertelli, Dave Sutherland & Tony Roscetti

Quiz Master:

Tony Trimble

HARDTACK Newsletter:

Editor: Jenny Thompson

2015-2016 Campaign Plans

Sept. 14, 2015 - Peter Mullen – Civil War Feuds: A Family Tradition

Oct. 12, 2015 - Steve Rolfe – Alexander Gardner: Civil War Photographs and More

Nov. 9, 2015 - David Moore – William S. Rosecrans and the Union Victory

Dec. 14, 2015 - Mark LaPointe – The Irish Volunteer

Jan. 12, 2016 - Tony Roscetti – Acoustic Shadows During the Civil War

Feb. 9, 2016 - Alan Teller – Abraham Lincoln's Boyhood Years

Mar. 9, 2016 - Dave Sutherland – The Battle of New Market

Apr. 13, 2016 - Gary Joiner – Brown Water Navy

May 11, 2016 - Brian Jordan – Marching Home: Union Veterans and Their Unending Civil War

June 8, 2016 - Shelby Harriel – Forbidden, Hidden, & Forgotten: Women in the Ranks During the Civil War

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.

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.

6/15 – Steve Jackson – Remembering the Civil War in Madison County

No meetings in July and August

9/21 – Gerald G. Jones – Part 2, Northern Civil War Prisons

10/19 – Margaret Hobson – Researching the 44th Indiana

11/16 – The Kentucky Campaign in 1862

No meeting in December

Special Orders

Gettysburg Seminary Ridge Museum: The museum has free special activities planned June 26- July 2, which include a living history encampment June 26-June 28, and musical performances and special speakers in the evenings. The speakers include Robert Brugler; Phil Spaugy and Lance Herdegen; Tom McMillan; Dr. Carol Reardon; Eric Wittenberg; and Michael Dreese and Ben Neely. For more information, please visit http://www.seminaryridgemuseum.org/visit/event-calendar/battle-of-gettysburg-anniversary-programs/?utm_source=May+2015&utm_campaign=ENewsletter&utm_medium=email.

Film Premiere: Young filmmaker Luke Broyles will premiere his historical drama “The Battles That Changed Us” on June 7 at 3 p.m. at the Howard Schrott Center at Butler University. Free general seating. VIP reception tickets are available only online prior to the event at LukeProductions.org.

Official Records

May Attendance: 12

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.

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

Answers to the May quiz:

1. What are "inundations" and where was the only place they were used during the war? *** Damned waterways in front of defensive works; Knoxville
2. What were "Sherman's Sentinels"? *** Chimneys left standing after Georgia homes were burned by Sherman's troops
3. On what battlefield would you find the Trostle Farm? *** Gettysburg
4. What state contributed the Emerald Light Artillery to the war? What was the origin of its name? *** South Carolina; All troops were Irish
5. Following Lincoln's reelection, who wrote the following: "For four years have I waited, hoped and prayer, for the dark clouds to break, and for a restoration of our former sunshine. To wait longer would be a crime." *** John Wilkes Booth

The Soldiers Speak

Sources: Commager, Henry Steele, ed. *The Civil War Archive: The History of the Civil War in Documents*. New York: Black Dog & Leventhal Publishers, 2000; Gallman, J. Matthew, ed. *The Civil War Chronicle*. New York: Gramercy Books, 2000; Grant, Ulysses S. *Memoirs and Selected Letters: Personal Memoirs of U.S. Grant, Selected Letters 1839-1865*. New York: Literary Classics of the United States, 1990; Hoehling, A.A. *Vicksburg: 47 Days of Siege*. Mechanicsburg, PA: Stackpole Books, 1996; Korn, Jerry, ed. *The Civil War: War on the Mississippi, Grant's Vicksburg Campaign*. Alexandria, VA: Time-Life Books, 1985; Robertson, James I., Jr. *The Stonewall Brigade*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1977.

Reactions to the loss of Gettysburg and Vicksburg

The battles of Vicksburg and Gettysburg were turning points of the Civil War. The loss of Vicksburg divided the Confederacy, and the defeat at Gettysburg caused Lee to never invade the North again. Brigadier General John B. Gordon declared, "The shock of Vicksburg's fall was felt from one end of the Confederacy to the other." (Hoehling, 284)

Mississippi planter O.G. Eiland wrote a letter to President Davis asking that slaves serve in the Rebel army: "Vicksburg is gone and as a consequence Mississippi is gone and in the opinion of all most every one here the Confederacy is gone....The negro men will all go to the enemy if not taken to our army. I believe fully half of them had rather go into our ranks than the Yankees." (Gallman, 340)

Grant remarked that Vicksburg inspired new hope for the Union cause and praised the navy's role in this campaign. "The navy under Porter was all it could be, during the entire campaign. Without its assistance the campaign could not have been successfully made with twice the number of men engaged. It could not have been made at all, in the way it was, with any number of men without such assistance. The most perfect harmony reigned between the two arms of the service." (Grant, 385-386)

President Lincoln rejoiced with the news of the Vicksburg victory and wrote to Grant, "My Dear General...I do not remember that you and I ever met personally. I write this now as a grateful acknowledgement for the almost inestimable service you have done the country. I wish to say a word further. When you first reached the vicinity of Vicksburg, I

thought you should do what you finally did – march the troops across the neck, run the batteries with the transports, and thus go below; and I never had any faith, except a general hope that you knew better than I, that the Yazoo Pass expedition and the like could succeed. When you got below and took Port Gibson, Grand Gulf and vicinity, I thought you should go down the river and join General Banks; and when you turned northward, east of the Big Black, I feared it was a mistake. I now wish to make a personal acknowledgement that you were right and I was wrong. “(Korn, 157, 159)

Vicksburg and Gettysburg affected the mood of those in the South and the North. A member of the Fifth Virginia blamed the failure of Pickett’s charge on those in command: “The plain truth and incontestable solution of the matter is this: Lee blundered; Stuart blundered; Longstreet, Ewell and Pickett blundered; the whole difference being, some of them blundered forward and others blundered backwards. The whole campaign was a blunder.” (Robertson, 208)

Many Confederate soldiers were ready for the war to be over, like John Garibaldi, who wrote to his wife: “It is the general belief that the war will be over by next spring and that we shall come home. I wish I was at home now and [could] be with you for I am getting tired of this war and would like to come home to see you!” (Robertson, 210)

Harriet Beecher Stowe waited anxiously to hear news about her son who fought at Gettysburg. She finally learned he was not as seriously wounded as the paper had reported and eagerly wanted to see him, as she rejoiced, “At last you have helped win a glorious victory. The cause is triumphant!” (Gallman, 333)

William Lusk described the mood in Wilmington, Delaware: “The dawn has broken, and the collapsed confederacy has no place where it can hide its head. Bells are ringing wildly all over the city. Citizens grim at one another with fairly idiotic delight....It would be worth while to die, in order that one’s friends might say, ‘He died at Gettysburg.’ But to live to hear all the good news, and now to learn that Vicksburg has surrendered, is a little too much happiness for poor mortal men. I can laugh, I can cry with joy....Slavery has fallen, and I believe Heaven as well as earth rejoices.” (Commager, 437)

Officer of the Month



Photo and information from <http://www.civilwar.org/education/history/biographies/robert-e-lee.html>.

Robert E. Lee graduated second in the 1829 class at West Point. He married Mary Custis in 1831. He served seventeen years in the Corps of Engineers in the construction of the nation's coastal defenses. He served during the Mexican War. He was superintendent of West Point from 1852 – 1855. He resigned and turned down Lincoln's offer to command the Federal forces in April 1861 and became a general in the Confederate Army. He served as Davis' military advisor until June 1862, when he took command of the Army of Northern Virginia. He took command of all Confederate forces in February 1865, but was forced to surrender to Grant on April 9, 1865. After the war, he became president of Washington College (now Washington and Lee University) until his death on October 12, 1870.

Historic Site of the Month



Photo and information from: <http://www.nps.gov/ulsg/index.htm>.

Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site: White Haven, Missouri: Ulysses met Julia at her family home White Haven. From 1854-1859, the Dents, Grants and their slaves lived on this property. The park is open daily, 9-5, but is closed Thanksgiving, Christmas Day and New Year's Day. It is free to visit the site and home, but time-specific tickets are required for the home. Advanced reservations are suggested for groups of ten or more.

Re-enlist NOW for the 2015-2016 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 Indianapolis Civil War Round Table, and give it 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

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

ICWRT Membership Enlistment for July 2015 thru June 2016

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 8, 2015

at

MCL Cafeteria - Castleton *

5520 Castleton Corner Lane, Indianapolis, IN 46250
(317) 845-5717

Doors to the banquet room will be open by 6:00 pm

Food and drinks can be purchased in the cafeteria

Meeting will begin at 6:45 pm

Our Guest Speaker: Ed Bonekemper

Speaker's Topic: Six Turning Points of the American Civil War

* **Directions:** From I-465: Take the Allisonville Road North exit. Proceed north on Allisonville Road to 86th Street (the first intersection after the exit ramp). Turn right (east) on 86th Street and proceed east to Castleton Corner Drive (the first intersection after Allisonville Road). Turn right (south) on Castleton Corner Drive and proceed south to Castleton Corner Lane (the first intersection after 86th Street). Turn right (west) on Castleton Corner Lane and proceed past Pier 1 Imports. The entrance to the MCL Cafeteria is on the right immediately west of Pier 1 Imports.

Reservations are not required. All members and guests are invited to attend.

Please contact Tony Roscetti at 317-475-9227 or
anthony.roschetti@pnc.com if you have any questions or comments.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the meeting.

Indianapolis Civil War Round Table
6019 Allendale Dr.
Indianapolis, IN 46224