



HARDTACK

Indianapolis Civil War Round Table Newsletter

<http://indianapoliscwrt.org/>



May 14, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting at Indiana State Library

315 West Ohio Street

Enter the building on the north side. We are meeting in the History Room on the second floor of the south side of the building. Free parking is available in the surface parking lot just north of the State Capital building.

Note: this meeting is on Thursday and at a different time and location than usual.

The Plan of the Day

Maj. Martin Delaney: Highest ranking black Civil War officer



Wikipedia

As Major Delany takes the audience back in time, he engages the onlookers in conversation regarding the participation of black soldiers during the war. Delany will recount points in his personal story that brought him to this time and place; he will recruit and instruct volunteers to participate in the 105th Colored Infantry, his second regiment. After the new recruits are honorably discharged from active service, Major Delany will enjoin the entire audience to join in singing one of the black regimental songs. The Major will revisit pertinent points given during his presentation as he concludes his story. If time permits, a Question and Answer Session will follow the presentation.

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



www.storytellersdrum.com/pages/civil-war-heroes.php

Known as Khabir the Storyteller, **Khabir Shareef** has been an actor since 1987. Khabir believes that "the story is a shared experience where the teller and the listeners become united through the use of their imaginations." First-person interpretation is one of many ways a story may be told and shared. Khabir's presentation has universal appeal and enhances understanding of African-American history and culture.

Roster of Officers and Committees for the 2014-2015 Campaign

Officers:

President: Nikki Schofield

Vice President: Peg Bertelli

Secretary: Frank Bynum

Treasurer: Tony Roscetti

Immediate Past President: Dave Klinestiver

Committees:

Preservation: Andy O'Donnell

Website: Ed Pope

Program Selection: Peg Bertelli, Jenny Thompson, Dave Klinestiver

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

2014-2015 Campaign Plans

June 8, 2015

Ed Bonekemper – Six Turning Points of the American 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.

5/20 Margaret Hobson – The Iron Men of Indiana's 44th Regiment

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.

5/18 – James Orr – A Missed Opportunity in the Wilderness

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

Final Muster for Former Member: Dr. Phillip E. Bly, 89, peacefully passed away in his sleep on Easter morning surrounded by family. Born in 1925 in Indianapolis to Mini and Garver Bly. Dr. Bly was a dentist in Indianapolis for 32 years retiring in 1987. He was proud to be a 60 year member of the Indianapolis Dental Association. He served as a naval officer near the end of WWII, was an active member of the Optimist Club many years, and active as an adult leader in Boy Scouts. Phil was a familiar face at the Indianapolis Racquet Club and was an active tennis player at the age of 88. A lifelong member of the Methodist Church and Indian Lake Country Club. Phil and his loving wife Jean, celebrated their 66th wedding anniversary last January surrounded by their family. He is survived by his wife, Jean, children; Betsy Bly, David (Tina) Bly, John Bly and Phillip (Linda) Bly. Eleven grandchildren: Jessica, Evan, Erin, Damian, Drew, Sarah,

Danny, Jeremiah, Todd, Chris, Ben and 20 great-grandchildren. Visitation was held on Wednesday, April 8, 2015 from 4-8 pm at Flanner and Buchanan - Geist, 7855 Cork Road, Indpls, IN 46236. A service was held on Thursday, April 9, 2015 at noon in the funeral center. Graveside services followed near Winchester, Indiana.

Book Review: Michael E. Haskew, in his well-written book *Appomattox: The Last Days of Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia*, covers the last year of the Civil War from the Overland Campaign to Appomattox. As Haskew introduces a new character into the events of this year, he provides a full history of each person's military training, service, and their role in this final year of the war. He discusses several battles around Richmond and the siege of Petersburg and explains how they led to the surrender of the Confederacy at Appomattox.

Official Records

April Attendance: 25

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.

President's Corner: You are in for a special memory this month when you hear our speaker, who is a friend of mine. Kabir and I, along with dozens of others, perform at Spirit of Freedom every year at Crown Hill Cemetery. This event is sponsored by the African-American soldiers who fought in the Civil War. Hundreds of middle school children come to sit on the grass and hear presentations of re-enactors. I portray Helen Pitts Douglass, second wife of Frederick Douglass, who was a white woman. You will be able to hear Kabir's presentation at our May meeting. Don't miss it! Remember the new date and location.

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:

Stormy Ben Butler, by Robert S. Holzman

Grant and Lee, by J.F.C. Fuller

A Rebel War Clerk's Diary, by John B. Jones

The Haskell Memoirs, by John Haskell

The Land They Fought For, edited by Lewis Gannett

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

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

1. What are "inundations" and where was the only place they were used during the war?
2. What were "Sherman's Sentinels"?
3. On what battlefield would you find the Trostle Farm?
4. What state contributed the Emerald Light Artillery to the war? What was the origin of its name?
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."

Answers to the April quiz:

1. What is the proper name for an honorary rank given to a Union officer for valor?
*** Brevet
2. What was a "movable electric train"? *** A mobile telegraph
3. Who was inspired by the "hundred circling camps" of volunteers surrounding Washington? What famous composition resulted? *** Julia Ward Howe; Battle Hymn of the Republic
4. Name the Sec. of the Treasury and future general who issued the American Flag Dispatch. *** John A. Dix
5. What nickname do the 73rd Illinois, 35th Ohio, and 100th Indiana have in common? *** Persimmon Regiment

The Soldiers Speak

Quotations from: Commager, Henry Steele, ed. *The Civil War Archive: The History of the Civil War in Documents*. New York: Black Dog & Leventhal Publishers, 2000; McPherson, James M. *What They Fought For: 1861-1865*. New York: Anchor Books, 1994; Rhodes, Robert Hunt, ed. *All for the Union: The Civil War Diary and Letters of Elisha Hunt Rhodes*. New York: Vintage Books, 1985; Ripley, C. Peter. *Witness for Freedom*. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1993; Smith, Page. *Trial by Fire: A People's History of the Civil War and Reconstruction*. New York: McGraw-Hill Book Co., 1982; White, Ronald C. *Lincoln's Greatest Speech: The Second Inaugural*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2002; Wright, John D., ed. *The Oxford Dictionary of Civil War Quotations*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2006.

Alfred M. Green wrote in the *Weekly Anglo-African* on October 19, 1861: “Can we be still or idle under such circumstances? If ever colored men plead for rights or fight for liberty, now of all others is the time. The prejudiced white men, North or South, never will respect us until they are forced to do it by deeds of our own. Let us draw upon European sentiment as well as unbiased minds in our own country by presenting an undaunted front on the side of freedom and equal rights; but we are blindly mistaken if we think to draw influence from any quarter by sitting still at a time like this. The world must know we are here, and that we have aims, objects and interests in the present great struggle...if, therefore, there is a chance for us to get armed and equipped for active military service, that is one point gained which never could be gained in a time of peace and prosperity in this country...The issue is here; let us prepare to meet it with manly spirit; let us say to the demagogues of the North, who would prevent us now from proving our manhood and foresight in the midst of all these complicated difficulties, that we will be armed, we will be schooled in military service, and if our fathers were cheated and disfranchised after nobly defending the country, we, their sons have the manhood to defend the right and the sagacity to detect the wrong; time enough to secure to ourselves the primary interest we have in the great and moving cause of the great American Rebellion.” (Ripley, 217-220)

Ted Upson wrote: “The truth is, none of our soldiers seem to like the idea of arming the Negroes. Our boys say this [is] a white man’s war and the Negro has no business in it, but a good many say they have stood [for] emancipation... But we don’t care to fight side by side with them. However, if Old Abe thinks it’s the best thing to do, all right: we will stand by him. Lincoln is solid with the boys all right.” (Smith, 308)

Sayles Brown addressed a meeting: “When we show that we are men...we can then demand our liberty, as did the revolutionary fathers – peaceably if we can, forcibly if we must. If we do not fight we are traitors to our God, traitors to our country, traitors to our race, and traitors to ourselves.” (Smith, 313)

A Louisiana soldier wrote in 1862: “I never want to see the day when a negro is put on an equality with a white person. There is too many free niggers...now to suit me, let alone having four millions.” (McPherson, 52)

An Illinois private wrote: “I am the Boy that Can fight for my Country...but not for the Negros.” (McPherson, 63)

Meunomennie L. Miami, a soldier of mixed white, black and Native American blood, wrote to his wife in March 1863: “Do you know or think what the end of this war is to decide? It is to decide whether we are to have freedom to all or slavery to all. If the Southern Confederacy succeeds, then you may bid farewell to all liberty thereafter and either be driven to a foreign land or held in slavery here. The government has torn down the only barrier that existed against us as a people. When slavery passes away, the prejudices that belonged to it must follow. The government calls for the colored man’s help and, if he is not a fool, he will give it.” (Ripley, 236)

Chauncey Cooke, a Wisconsin boy who enlisted, wrote home from Columbus, Kentucky on March 5, 1863: “The slaves, contrabands, we call them, are flocking into Columbus by the hundred. General Thomas of the regular army is here enlisting them for war. (Commager, 319)

On March 21, he wrote: “They had long known that something was going to happen because so many times their massa had visitors and they would tell the servants to stay in their cabins and not come to the ‘big house’ until they were called. Then some of the house servants would creep around under the windows and hear the white folks talking about war and that the slaves were going to be free.” (Commager, 319)

An editorial in the *New York Tribune* on March 28, 1863, stated: “Facts are beginning to dispel prejudices. Enemies of the negro race, who have persistently denied the capacity and doubted the courage of the Blacks, are unanswerably confuted by the good conduct and gallant deeds of the men whom they persecute and slander....” (Smith, 320-321) Thaddeus Stevens stated: “I despise the principle that would make a difference between [white soldiers and black] in the hour of battle and of death....The black man knows when he goes there that his dangers are greater than the white man’s. He runs not only the risk of being killed in battle, but the certainty, if taken prisoner, of being slaughtered instead of being treated as a prisoner of war.” (Smith, 325)

Thomas Wentworth Higginson, who commanded the 1st South Carolina Volunteers, wrote: “Nobody knows anything about these men who has not seen them in battle. I find that I myself knew nothing. There is a fiery energy about them beyond anything of which I have ever read, except it be the French Zouaves. It requires the strictest discipline to hold them in hand...No officer in this regiment now doubts that the key to the successful prosecution of this war lies in the unlimited employment of black troops. Their superiority lies simply in the fact that they know the country, while white troops do not, and, moreover, they have peculiarities of temperament, position, and motive which belong to them alone. Instead of leaving their homes and families to fight they are fighting for their homes and families....It would have been madness to attempt, with the bravest white troops, what I have successfully accomplished with the black ones.” (Smith, 309)

Frederick Douglass said in a speech on July 6, 1863: “Once let the black man get upon his person the brass letters U.S., let him get an eagle on his button, and a musket on his shoulder, and bullets in his pocket, and there is no power on earth or under the earth which can deny that he has earned the right of citizenship in the United States.” (Wright, 82)

Abraham Lincoln wrote in a letter to Albert G. Hodges on April 14, 1864: “...I believed the indispensable necessity for military emancipation, and arming the blacks would come, unless averted by that measure....I was, in my best judgment, driven to the alternative of either surrendering the Union, and with it, the Constitution, or of laying strong hand upon the colored element. I chose the latter....I hoped for greater gain than

loss...More than a year of trial...shows a gain of quite a hundred and thirty thousand soldiers, seamen, and laborers.” (White, 208)

Elisha Hunt Rhodes wrote about Petersburg, VA, June 19, 1864: “A division of colored soldiers charged over the same ground but were driven back. They fought well and left many dead on the field...I have not been much in favor of colored soldiers, but yesterday’s work convinced me that they will fight. So Hurrah for the colored troops!” (Rhodes, 155)

Warren Wilkinson wrote: “The Southerners were incensed beyond all reason at the North’s use of black soldiers against them. It was simply beyond comprehension to those men that the Federal government would stoop to the mustering of their former property as soldiers. It was insulting, mortifying, and outrageous to each and every officer and enlisted man in the Army of Northern Virginia, be he in civilian life an aristocratic slaveholding Virginia planter, a poor Georgia dirt farmer, or a West Texas plainsman. In fact, a few of the Texans quite probably never had even seen a black man until they came east to the war. To be shot by a former slave, a human of an inferior race in their eyes, would be the acme of humiliation, and the Rebels, to a man, vented their unabashed hatred of the black soldiers with ferocity at every opportunity....The Confederate government had passed a law by which Southerners could execute white Union officers commanding Negro troops, and those officers were not anxious to be taken prisoner. Men of any rank who were taken that day were treated far worse than usual for having fought with the blacks. The Southerners clearly were venting their rage.” (Wilkinson, 199, 257)

George E. Stephens, 54th Massachusetts Regiment wrote in the *Weekly Anglo-African* on August 1, 1864: “Two or three months ago, it was announced that Congress has passed a law equalizing the pay of colored troops. This was at the closing period of the session. The colored troops, which had been enlisted under the law of 1862, were unpaid....Thus free men were reduced to servitude. No matter what services he might render – no matter how nobly he might acquit himself – he must carry with him the degradation of not being considered a man, but a thing. The foreigner, the alien, of whatever color, or race, or country, are enrolled and paid like native Americans; but the latest refinement of cruelty has been brought to bear on us. In the Revolutionary War, and in the War of 1812, colored men fought, and were enrolled, and paid, the same as the whites; and not only this, were drilled and enlisted indiscriminately in the same companies and regiments....This matter of pay seems to some of those having slaveholding tendencies a small thing, but it belongs to that system which has stripped the country of the flower of its youth.” (Ripley, 242)

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

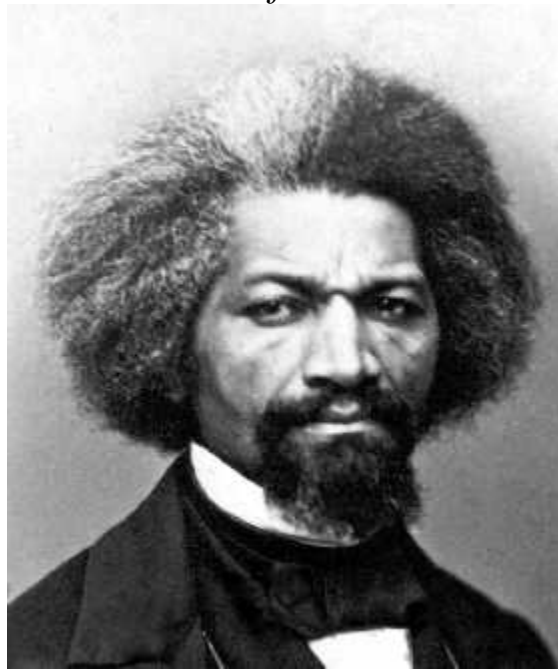
* **Directions:** From I-465: Take the Allisonville Road North exit. Proceed north on Allisonville Road to 86th Street (the first intersection after the exit ramp). Turn right (east) on 86th Street and proceed east to Castleton Corner Drive (the first intersection after Allisonville Road). Turn right (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.

Civilian of the Month



Wikipedia

Frederick Douglass hired Delaney to write for his paper, *The North Star*, in 1847. Delaney worked for him for five years.

Historic Site of the Month



Information and photo from http://www.peacepartnersintl.net/tourism_case.htm

This historical marker in Wilberforce, Ohio reads: "**Martin Robison Delany**. The son of an enslaved father and free Black mother, Martin Delany became one of the most prominent Black leaders in 19th Century America. Called the 'Father of Black Nationalism,' Delany promoted African American pride and self-determination. Delany was born May 6, 1812, in present-day Charles Town, West Virginia. Because education for Blacks was illegal there, his family moved to Pennsylvania. Delany studied medicine, founded a newspaper, the *Mystery*, and advocated rights for African Americans and women. He co-edited the *North Star* with abolitionist Frederick Douglass. Delany risked his life by demanding equality and by aiding Americans of African descent in their flight from slavery to freedom. (continued on other side)" "(continued from other side) In 1859

Delany traveled in Africa to secure a homeland for Black Americans. During the Civil War he came to believe a Union victory would end slavery. Delany recruited Black soldiers and met with President Lincoln to propose the formation of an African American army led by Black officers. Commissioned a Major, Delany was the highest-ranking Black field officer in the Regular Army. In 1864 he and his wife Catherine came to Wilberforce, Ohio to provide their children a quality education. He later served in the Freedman's Bureau to protect the rights of the formerly enslaved. Martin Delany fought to achieve justice for African Americans as an abolitionist, physician, leader in Prince Hall Freemasonry, inventor, judge, and writer. He died January 24, 1885 and is buried at Massies Creek Cemetery three miles from his Wilberforce home."

Indianapolis Civil War Round Table
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Indianapolis, IN 46224