



HARDTACK



Indianapolis Civil War Round Table Newsletter

<http://indianapoliscwrt.org/>

December 14, 2015, at 7:30 p.m.

Meeting at Indiana History Center Auditorium

450 West Ohio Street

Our scheduled speaker had to leave town for a family emergency, so our schedule has changed.

The Plan of the Day

Acoustic Shadows during the Civil War

During the Civil War, a unique phenomenon, termed an acoustic shadow, was described by officers and soldiers alike. These occurrences, often described as zones of silence, prevented soldiers from hearing the sounds of battle even when only a very short distance from combat. Even more perplexing was the fact that other soldiers and civilians, often many times more distant to the fighting, described hearing the sounds of battle very clearly. We will discuss how acoustic shadows occur and if it is possible for the sometimes deafening sounds of battle to be inaudible within a zone of silence. We will also consider several battles wherein acoustic shadows are reported to have occurred to determine if the phenomenon actually occurred and, if so, did it affect the outcome of the battle and course of the war.

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 Speaker

Tony Roscetti's interest in the Civil War dates back to middle school when he would race his U.S. history teacher to complete exams on the Civil War. After college, his interest in the conflict was rekindled after several trips to Civil War battlefields. He still enjoys exploring battlefields and makes an effort to locate famous and obscure Civil War battlefields on every family vacation. Tony was introduced to the Indianapolis Civil War Round Table by a former member, Elbert Watson. He joined the organization in 2001, is a past President and Vice President, and is currently the Treasurer.

When he is not reading about the Civil War or visiting battlefields, Tony stays busy as a credit manager at PNC Bank. He recently discovered his great great-grandfather was a member of Company K, 22nd Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment. He is currently researching his great great-grandfather and the 22nd Illinois regiment. He has also developed an interest in President Lincoln's Cottage in Washington, DC after a recent visit to the home where Abraham Lincoln and his family lived during the summer months of his presidency. Tony is looking to get more involved in the organization dedicated to

the preservation of this historic home. The cottage was once the home of George Washington Riggs, co-founder of Riggs National Bank, which was acquired by PNC Bank.

Roster of Officers and Committees for the 2015-2016 Campaign

Officers:

President: Peg Bertelli

Vice President: Chris Smith

Secretary: Mark Thornton

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

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.

2015-2016 Campaign Plans

Jan. 11, 2016 - Mark LaPointe – The Irish Volunteer

Feb. 8, 2016 - Alan Teller – Abraham Lincoln's Boyhood Years

Mar. 14, 2016 - Dave Sutherland – The Battle of New Market

Apr. 11, 2016 - Gary Joiner – Brown Water Navy

May 9, 2016 - Brian Jordan – Marching Home: Union Veterans and Their Unending Civil War

June 13, 2016 - Shelby Harriel – Forbidden, Hidden, & Forgotten: Women in the Ranks During the Civil War

Other Camp Activities

Hamilton County Civil War Roundtable: They meet at the Carmel City Hall, located at 1 Civic Square, Carmel, IN 46032. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., and the program will start at 7:00 in the Second Floor Counsel Room. Join us for dinner at 5:15 p.m. at Dooley O'Tools Restaurant at 160 E. Carmel Dr., Carmel, IN 46032. Meetings will be on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, September through May.

December 9, 2015 – Bruce Kolb – The *U.S.S. Constitution* in the Civil War

January 13, 2016 – TBA

February 10, 2016 – Danny Russel – Honest Abe Impersonation
 March 9, 2016 – Steve Martin – Hoosiers and the Civil War
 April 13, 2016 – Phil DeHaven – Bedford Forrest Johnsonville Campaign
 May 11, 2016 - TBA

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.
 No meeting in December

Official Records

November Attendance: 30

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:

The Baraboo Guards: A Novel of the American Civil War, by John K. Driscoll
Chattanooga: A Death Grip on the Confederacy, by James Lee McDonough
Lee and Jackson, by Paul D. Casdorff
A Turn in the South, by S. Naipaul
Embattled Courage: The Experience of Combat in the American Civil War, by Gerald F. Linderman

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

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

Name the Civil War figure associated with each of the nicknames below.

1. The Bishop Militant
2. Little Powell
3. Rooney
4. Old Cock Eye
5. Old Prayer Book

Answers to the November Quiz:

1. What object did the 4th Illinois Cavalry use for target practice? *** A portrait of Jefferson Davis
2. What was "Lady Breckinridge?" Where did it become famous? *** A cannon named for Mrs. John C. Breckinridge; Missionary Ridge
3. Name the regiment known as La Garde Fourchettes? Why? Who was its commander? *** 55th New York Infantry; large number of French chefs in the unit; Col. Regis de Trobriand
4. On what battlefield would you find Bloody Hill? *** Wilson's Creek
5. Who sent the following ultimatum: "No terms except an unconditional and immediate surrender can be accepted. I propose to move immediately upon your works." To whom was it sent? *** U.S. Grant to Simon Bolivar Buckner

The Poet Speaks

Scott, J. Suzanne Carr. "Acoustic Shadows." *Southern Voice*. 20 April 2015.
<http://deepsouthmag.com/2015/04/acoustic-shadows/> accessed 28 April 2015.

Acoustic Shadows, by J. Suzanne Carr Scott
 "There were no sounds when the first 10,000 men died
 Or when 20,000 men departed this life
 Men stacked by no one, just cannon fire
 Some dead, some wounded, just barely alive
 Not hearing the battle made no sense
 Seeing became the dark, stark evidence
 The officers' orders disappeared in the air
 Silence and confusion; no killing to hear
 No one knew we fought
 Even clouds on that cold, wet day swallowed up the shots
 The mud muttered back the stifled screams
 as men fell face down and drown among bulrushes and reeds.
 And so it was on that crucial day,
 the shadows played their acoustic tricks
 on the battle-weary blue and gray."

Officers of the Month



The site of the shad bake, photo and information from “Five Forks Tour: June 5, 2004.”
<http://www.pickettsociety.com/fiveforkstour/index.html> accessed 29 April 2015.

General George Pickett received orders to hold the crossroads of Five Forks at all costs to keep the supply line open for the troops. He and Fitzhugh Lee were at a shad bake hosted by General Thomas Rosser north of Hatcher’s Run. General Rosser and Colonel Thomas T. Munford created the “shad bake controversy” in their post war publications. Some complain that Pickett should have told his subordinate where he was, but a courier rode to where he was to tell him of the approach of the Union troops at Five Forks. Pickett quickly left to join his men. Within two hours, the Union troops overran and outflanked the Confederates. General Lee relieved Pickett (and Richard Johnson and Bushrod Johnson) of command after this because they had no troops left to command.

Historic Sites of the Month

Information from “Echoing Questions: Acoustic Shadows and the Battle of Gettysburg.” *Perspectives*.
<http://perspectives.jhu.edu/2011/07/echoing-questions-acoustic-shadows-and-the-battle-of-gettysburg/>
 accessed 28 April 2015; Allen, Jonathan R. “Acoustic Shadow During the Civil War.” *Ezine Articles*.
<http://ezinearticles.com/?Acoustic-Shadow-During-the-Civil-War&id=3932292> accessed 28 April 2015.

Gettysburg: People in Pittsburgh (over one hundred miles away) could hear the cannons thunder, while families just down the road heard nothing.

Gaines’s Mill: People in Staunton, Virginia (over one hundred miles away) could hear the battle, but Confederates less than two miles heard nothing yet could see the smoke and flashes from the battle.

Five Forks: George Pickett and Fitzhugh Lee never heard the battle that occurred a short distance from their location north of Hatcher’s Run.

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
6019 Allendale Dr.
Indianapolis, IN 46224