



HARDTACK



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

February 8, 2016, at 7:30 p.m.
 Meeting at Indiana History Center Auditorium
 450 West Ohio Street

The Plan of the Day



Photo from www.lincoln-institute.org

Abraham Lincoln's Boyhood Years

Tragedy filled Lincoln's life and the first of his life was the loss of his mother, Nancy Hanks Lincoln, to a disease called "milk sick." From that moment on, Lincoln always said, "All I am and ever will be is due to my angel mother." After she died, Thomas Lincoln, Abe's father, remarried a woman named Sarah Bush Johnson, who had three children. When Sara married Thomas, she asked him to make many renovations to the cabin in which they lived. Along with the renovations, Sara brought something that had a huge impact on Abe, a Bible, which he read repeatedly. Around the age of 15, Abe began to grow apart from his father, who sold his labor to many people, including James Gentry and James Taylor. While working for Mr. Taylor, two men paid Abe a dollar to ferry them to a ship in the middle of the river, but the Dell brothers, who had ferrying rights to the river, took him to court. This may have been the start of his interest in law, but he had over twenty professions and even has a patent for bellows on the hull of a ship that raises the boat off the sandbar. Through all his success, there was also melancholy. Death surrounded him. His sister Sarah died during childbirth. Many childhood friends and some of his children also died. Through all his melancholy, Abraham had one companion with him at all times since the age of seven, his axe, which he used to chop wood, fell trees, notch wood, and any other thing he could need it for. When he would visit Civil War camps, he would take his axe and hold it straight out by the handle for extended

amounts of time. He also liked to measure his height among soldiers; he nearly always was taller. Our speaker will speak about Abraham Lincoln's life as a child in Indiana. Through a series of questions, he will bring his perspective as a student and interpreter of his youthful history. The program will incorporate some audience participation along the way. He looks forward speaking to the Indianapolis Civil War Round Table.

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



Alan Teller has lived in Kokomo for the past 39 years, but still calls Connorsville, IN home. Alan's love affair with his high school sweetheart, Lee Ann, covered 55+ years. We have two children and two grandsons. Family is near and dear to us. We have lived in four states and yet spent most of our lives in Indiana. We are Hoosiers! Having traveled extensively we visited all 50 states, 30 countries, and 6 continents. Belonging to many genealogy and lineage societies, I have served in many different offices on local, state, and national levels. I am a Civil War "nut" and have spoken all over Indiana about Abraham Lincoln's life in Indiana for years. I also currently speak about "Gliders and Glider Pilots in WW II; and have presented other programs through the years. My work career covered various fields, but spent the last 18 years in Sales & Marketing with Haynes International, Inc. in Kokomo. Haynes is a like a steel mill, but produces high performance alloy metals.

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

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, excluding December.

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.

February 15, 2016 – Antietam

March 21, 2016 – Stephen Ritchie – The Christian Character of Lee and Jackson

Special Orders

The lingering health effects of the Civil War (*Stars and Stripes*, January 4, 2016): A map showing the number of deaths from heart disease reveals that eight of the ten highest are below the Mason-Dixon Line. Economist Richard Steckel feels that decades of poverty caused by the Civil War affected those in the South that when lifestyles changed in the 1950s to include more food and less manual labor, they became more vulnerable to heart disease. To read more about this study, please visit http://www.stripes.com/military-life/military-history/the-lingering-health-effects-of-the-civil-war-1.387088?utm_source=Stars+and+Stripes+Emails&utm_campaign=Daily+Headlines&utm_medium=email.

Official Records

January Attendance: 28

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:

Grant: The Man Who Won the Civil War, by Robin H. Neillands

The American Civil War and the Origins of Modern Warfare, by Edward Hagerman

George B. McClellan: The Young Napoleon, by Stephen W. Sears

Intrepid Warrior: Clement Anselm Evans, compiled and edited by Robert Grier Stephens

Lee's Miserable: Life in the Army of Northern Virginia from the Wilderness to

Appomattox, by J. Tracy Power

***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. Who were "Joe Brown's Pets"?
2. For what is Robert Smalls remembered?
3. For what famous "musical" poem did the *Atlantic Monthly* pay the sum of \$4.00?
4. Who was Nero?
5. Who wrote this impassioned plea? "Immediate action is of great importance. The treasury is nearly empty."

Answers to the January Quiz:

1. Name the officer appointed Inspector General of the District of Columbia in 1861? *** Col. Charles P. Stone
2. Where would you find Port Royal Ferry? *** Coosaw River, South Carolina
3. What battle included skirmishes at La Vergne and Stewart's Creek? *** Stones River
4. In what Confederate state did a skirmish occur at Sylamore Creek? *** Arkansas
5. What went wrong when General Butler ordered a canal to be cut on the James River at Dutch Gap? *** Dirt from the blast fell back into the cut filling it back in.

BONUS: What do these five things have in common? *** Each event occurred on January 1, 1861-1865 in chronological order.

Lincoln Speaks

Quotations from *Abe Lincoln's Jokes, Wit and Humor, Yarns and Stories, History-Chronology*. Chicago: Max Stein, 1963.

LINCOLN'S FIRST SPEECH: "Lincoln made his first speech when he was a mere boy, going barefoot, his trousers held up by one suspender, and his shock of hair sticking through a hole in the crown of his cheap straw hat. 'Abe,' in company with Dennis Hanks, attended a political meeting, which was addressed by a typical stump speaker—one of those loud-voiced fellows who shouted at the top of his voice and waved his arms wildly. At the conclusion of the speech, which did not meet the views either of 'Abe' or Dennis, the latter declared that 'Abe' could make a better speech than that. Whereupon he got a dry-goods box and called on 'Abe' to reply to the campaign orator. Lincoln threw his old straw hat on the ground, and, mounting the dry-goods box, delivered a speech which held the attention of the crowd and won him considerable applause. Even the campaign orator admitted that it was a fine speech and answered every point of his own 'oration.'" (p. 15)

LINCOLN'S PROPHECY: "An old copy-book of Lincoln's has the following written when he was fourteen years old: ' 'Tis Abraham Lincoln holds the pen, He will be good, but God knows when!'" (p. 21)

ONE THING "ABE" DIDN'T LOVE: "Lincoln admitted that he was not particularly energetic when it came to real hard work. 'My father,' said he one day, 'taught me how to work, but not to love it. I never did like to work, and I don't deny it. I'd rather read, tell stories, crack jokes, talk, laugh — anything but work.'" (p. 58)

Civilian of the Month



Photo from Find A Grave Memorial #9270712 and information from: "Abraham Lincoln's Sister, Sarah Lincoln Grigsby," *Abraham Lincoln Research Site*, accessed 11 April 2015, <http://rogerjnorton.com/Lincoln89.html>.

"Descriptions of Sarah vary although most accounts indicate she was more like her father than her mother. She was solid in build and had dark brown hair which was straight and rather course. Like Abraham she had gray eyes. Most people agreed she was good-natured, kind, and a wonderful companion for her younger brother. She had a good-humored laugh. She was a hard worker who was intelligent and modest. On August 2, 1826, Sarah married Aaron Grigsby. Reverend Charles Harper, minister of the Little Pigeon Creek Baptist Church, conducted the marriage ceremony. The Grigsby family had been neighbors of the Lincolns for many years. Sarah first met Aaron in late 1816 when the two were at the wash-place below the spring on the Grigsby's property. When they first met Aaron was 15 and Sarah was 9. For years the two met regularly at the spring on washdays. Once Elizabeth Crawford's four-year-old son saw the couple together and said to his mother, 'I saw Aaron sparking Sally (Sarah). I saw him kiss her.' Sarah and Aaron moved to a new cabin only two miles from the Lincoln home. Sarah became pregnant in 1827. In January, 1828, Sarah experienced severe labor problems. Aaron ran to his parents house for help. Eventually Sarah was loaded onto a sled and taken to the Grigsby home. A doctor and several midwives were called, but it was too late. On Sunday, January 20, 1828, Sarah died in childbirth. Her child, a boy, was stillborn. She was only

20 years old. When Abraham heard the sad news he buried his face in his hands and his body shook with sobs. He had been very close to his sister, and her passing profoundly impacted him.”

Historic Site of the Month



Photo and information from National Park Service.

Gravesite of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial: “The autumn frosts of 1818 had already colored the foliage of the huge trees of oak, hickory, and walnut when neighbors of the Lincolns became desperately ill, stricken with the dreaded milk sickness. The disease resulted when cows ate the white snakeroot plant and the poison from the plant contaminated the milk. People who drank this poisoned milk or ate its products faced death, though that was not clearly known by the pioneers at the time. Nancy became ill when she went to help care for her sick neighbors. On October 5, 1818, within two weeks of the first symptoms, Abraham's mother died. Death in a one-room log cabin was a grim experience for the survivors. Nancy's body was prepared for burial in the very room in which the family lived. Thomas and nine-year old Abraham whipsawed logs into planks, and with wooden pegs they fastened the boards together into a coffin. After the body was properly prepared and dressed by the neighbor women, it was placed into the casket. Nancy was then taken to her final resting-place on the hill just south of the family's farm. Thomas probably followed pioneer custom and placed fieldstones at the head and foot of the grave and may have carved the letters, N.L., into the headstone. It is impossible to accurately assess the full impact of Nancy's life on Abraham Lincoln. The people who touch our lives do so in a variety of ways. But by all accounts she had been a fine and loving mother. Undoubtedly she left her mark on the young boy in the countless small and intimate ways that mothers do with their children. The experience of her death also prepared her son for facing the tragedy and loss that is a part of life as well. The intangible effects of both her life and her death became a part of Abraham's life and helped shape the man he became.” The Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial is open daily 8a.m. to 5 p.m. (April 6 to early fall) except Thanksgiving, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day (winter hours Oct. 5 – March 7: Monday and Tuesday 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Wednesday through Sunday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.) The grounds are open from dawn to dusk. Park entrance fee is \$3 per person (children 16 and under are free), \$5 per family. This fee provides a 7-day entrance permit.

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6019 Allendale Dr.
Indianapolis, IN 46224