



# HARDTACK



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

March 14, 2016, at 7:30 p.m.  
 Meeting at Indiana History Center Auditorium  
 450 West Ohio Street

## *The Plan of the Day* The Battle of New Market



View of the Field of Lost Shoes seen from Battery Heights; this was the position of Snow's Maryland Battery and Carlin's West Virginia Battery. The Bushong Barn is at the right of the photo.

On May 15, 1864, Union forces commanded by Maj. Gen. Franz Sigel engaged Confederate forces commanded by Lt. Gen. John Breckinridge at New Market in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley. The resulting Battle of New Market occurred as part of Lt. Gen. U.S. Grant's grand plan to conduct simultaneous, multiple attacks all across the Confederacy thus denying Richmond the opportunity to shift rebel troops from one theater to another.

The Battle of New Market is chiefly remembered today because Virginia Military Institute cadets fought there as a single military unit. Yet thousands of other soldiers, blue and gray, played key roles that shaped that battle's outcome. Some of these battle leaders, such as Union Capt. Henry du Pont and Confederate Col. George S. Patton, are familiar names. Decisions by field commanders kept the battle's outcome from turning into a complete Union disaster. Though the battle resulted in a rebel victory, Union forces quickly recovered and within weeks had resumed the offensive in the Shenandoah Valley. The speaker will share how several key leaders' decisions and their soldiers' battlefield performances determined the Battle of New Market's outcome. VMI cadets and alumni played some key roles in deciding this battle.

## **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*



**Dave Sutherland** is a past president of the Indianapolis Civil War Round Table. He is a VMI graduate and Army veteran. He has presented to Indiana Civil War Round Tables from Lake County to Jefferson County. Dave practices law in Brownsburg, IN.

### *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](mailto:jkt60jet@gmail.com) by the tenth day following the preceding month's meeting.

### *2015-2016 Campaign Plans*

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 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month, September through May, excluding December.

March 9, 2016 – Steve Martin – Hoosiers and the Civil War

April 13, 2016 – Phil DeHaven – Bedford Forrest Johnsonville Campaign

May 11, 2016 - Chuck Beemer – Tragedy on the Tennessee

**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.

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

**2016 Civil War Tours:** Chambersburg Civil War Seminars and Tours is offering a special Civil War Round Table discount of \$10 off when three or more members from the same round table register for our complete weekend package. Please contact Lark Plessinger with any questions at [717\) 264-7101 ext. 206](tel:7172647101). Their 2016 Civil War tours are listed below and more information can be found at [www.civilwarseminars.org](http://www.civilwarseminars.org).

#### **Ed Bearss Symposium: Military Leadership & Combat**

**April 7-10** – This event features speakers and guides including Ed Bearss, Lt. Colonel Ralph Peters, Tom Clemens, Dana Shoaf, Steve Bockmiller, and others. Covering Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Civil War, WWII and bus tours of Gettysburg Day 2 and Brandywine Battlefield. Based in Chambersburg, Pa.

#### **Stonewall Jackson in the Valley**

**May 19-22** - Weekend will include tours of Lexington, Va. and Jackson battle sites of 1862 in the Valley. Featuring the following speakers and guides: Ed Bearss, Dr. James “Bud” Robertson, Keven Walker, Jeff Wert, Jerry Holdsworth, and others. Based in Harrisonburg, Va.

#### **Gettysburg Day 3 & Beyond**

**July 27-31** – With Ed Bearss, Jeff Wert, Carol Reardon, Eric Wittenberg, Wayne Motts, Steve French, and others. Tours of Gettysburg off the beaten path, East Cavalry Field, the Retreat, and more. Based in Chambersburg, Pa.

#### **Lincoln at Gettysburg**

**Sept. 22-25** - Featuring Joe Mieczkowski, John Schildt, David T. Dixon, Ed Steers, and others. Includes bus tour following Lincoln’s path to giving the Gettysburg Address, sessions on the sixteenth president, and tour of Civil War sites in Harrisburg. Based in Chambersburg, Pa.

## *Special Orders*

***Confederates in Canada:*** Nikki Schofield's newest book, *Confederates in Canada*, will be published soon. This historical novel tells about a Union soldier serving as a spy in Canada as Confederates do all they can to sabotage the federal war effort. As with her previous books, Nikki has a "Resources" section listing the books which she used for research, so you can do further reading on the subject. She hopes to have the books available by the April meeting. Let her know if you plan to buy a printed copy, so she can bring enough. You can also purchase the book in electronic format.

## *Official Records*

**February Attendance:** 22

**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 Sable Arm: Black Troops in the Union Army, 1861-1865*, by Dudley Taylor Cornish

*The Web of Victory: Grant at Vicksburg*, by Earl Schenck Miers

*The Gleam of Bayonets*, by James V. Murfin

*The Prevailing South: Life & Politics in a Changing Culture*, edited by Dudley Clendinen

*Bull Run Remembers...*, by Joseph Mills Hanson

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

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

1. A skirmish occurred at Sharpsburg but not in Maryland. What state was the other Sharpsburg in?
2. Name the brick fort found on a long, sandy island near Beaufort, North Carolina.
3. In 1862, Lincoln signed a bill allowing a substitute for coinage, which was in short supply. What was substituted?
4. Who commanded Confederate troops in skirmishes near Springfield and Steubenville?
5. Who issued a proclamation which read: "Our army has come among you, and is prepared to assist you with the power of its arms in regaining the rights of which you have been despoiled." To whom was it issued?

#### Answers to the February Quiz:

1. Who were "Joe Brown's Pets"? \*\*\* Georgia State Militia
2. For what is Robert Smalls remembered? \*\*\* Slave who stole the USS *Planter* from the Confederates and returned it to the Union.
3. For what famous "musical" poem did the *Atlantic Monthly* pay the sum of \$4.00? \*\*\* "Battle Hymn of the Republic"
4. Who was Nero? \*\*\* A fierce guard dog belonging to Capt. George Alexander, Commandant of Castle Thunder
5. Who wrote this impassioned plea? "Immediate action is of great importance. The treasury is nearly empty." \*\*\* Salmon P. Chase

### *The Officer Speaks*

From "Battle of New Market VMI Orders, May 1864," Virginia Military Institute, accessed 29 April 2015, <http://www.vmi.edu/archives.aspx?id=38785>.

#### **"Headquarters Va. Military Institute, Staunton, May 21, 1864, General Orders No. 19: I.**

The Supt. communicates the following dispatch received from the Adj't Gen'l.

Richmond, Va., May 16, 1864

Maj. Gen'l. F. H. Smith

March the Cadets to Richmond and report to Sec. of War.

{Copy of his letter of to day to the Governor} "The signal victory just achieved by Gen'l Breckinridge in the Valley with the retreat of the enemies' forces that lately threatened along the line of the Va. and Tenn. Rail Road, and relieved forces acting as reserves in the quarter, while on the other hand all [our] reserved forces at command would be entirely serviceable in strengthening our defenses and enabling us to send veteran troops to the Battle Field. Under these circumstances I have thought the gallant Corps of Cadets at the Institute, might be most advantageously summoned here. Where else could they more appropriately signalize their valor and patriotism than in the defense of the Capitol of their native State. I therefore venture on the suggestion and make the request that they be called here to aid in defense of the Capitol and within the entrenchments or in

guarding some of our most important lines of communications as circumstances may require.

{Signed} J. A. Seddon, Secretary of War. By Command of W. H. Richardson, Adj't Gen'l.

II. As soon as the command can reach Staunton and transportation can be furnished, the Infantry Battalion and Section of Artillery of the Corps of Cadets will be moved to Richmond.

III. Two days cooked rations will be taken.

IV. Subsistence stores have been brought from the Institute to accompany the Command.

V. The wagons, ambulance and unnecessary servants will be relieved and ordered back to Lexington.

VI. Surgeon Madison will remain with the wounded and sick Cadets and see that they are properly cared for. Supplies are left in Staunton to meet their wants.

VII. The Superintendent has no words to express his sense of the gallant conduct of the Corps of cadets in the decisive but sanguinary battle of New Market on the 15th inst. The patriotic heart of the Commonwealth and Confederacy responds with proud and grateful emotion at the fortitude, courage and gallant bearing of these brave sons of the South. We have to mourn the loss of the dead - but the names of Cabell, Stanard, Jones, Crockett, McDowell, and Jefferson will be honored among the most valued heroes of this eventful struggle, and the scarred bodies of the wounded will be trophies of valor and patriotism of which the Va. Mil. Institute will ever be proud. The Sup't would return this thanks to Lt. Col. Shipp and all the Officers and Cadets for their conduct in this trying service.

By Command Maj. Genl. F. H. Smith {signed} J. H. Morrison, A. A. V. M. Inst.”

### *Officer of the Month*



Photos and information from Find a Grave memorial #8882111.

**Scott Shipp** “was Commandant of the Corps of Cadet and led them during the Battle of New Market.” He later became a V.M.I. professor of military tactics and the Second

Superintendent (in 1890). “He also served on the Board of Visitor of the United States Military Academy and as President of the Board of the United States Naval Academy.” He died 4 December 1917 and lies buried at Stonewall Jackson Memorial Cemetery in Lexington, Virginia.

### *Historic Site of the Month*



Photo and information from “The Bushong Farm: Caught in the Crossfire,” *The Historical Marker Database*, accessed 11 April 2015, <http://www.hmdb.org/marker.asp?marker=13193>.

“On May 15, 1864 seven family members took refuge in their sturdy cellar as the Battle of New Market raged across their farm. Peering through the windows, they saw VMI cadets pass on the east and west sides of the house as they marched to join the Confederate battle line. After the battle the house and barn, like most buildings in and around New Market, served as a hospital.” Today the site is part of the New Market Battlefield State Historical Park, 8895 George Collins Parkway, New Market, Virginia. The museum and grounds are open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (closed New Year’s Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day). Admission is \$10 adults; \$9 seniors (65+), \$6 youth (6-12), and free (children 5 and under).

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