



# HARDTACK



Indianapolis Civil War Round Table Newsletter

<http://indianapoliscwrt.org/>

October 12, 2015, at 7:30 p.m.

**The October meeting will be at the Waiting Station at Crown Hill Cemetery. The Waiting Station is the red brick building just inside the 34th Street gate to Crown Hill Cemetery off Boulevard Street. Parking is available along the road and behind the building. Do NOT go to the funeral home north of 38th Street.**

## *The Plan of the Day*

Alexander Gardner: Civil War Photographer & More

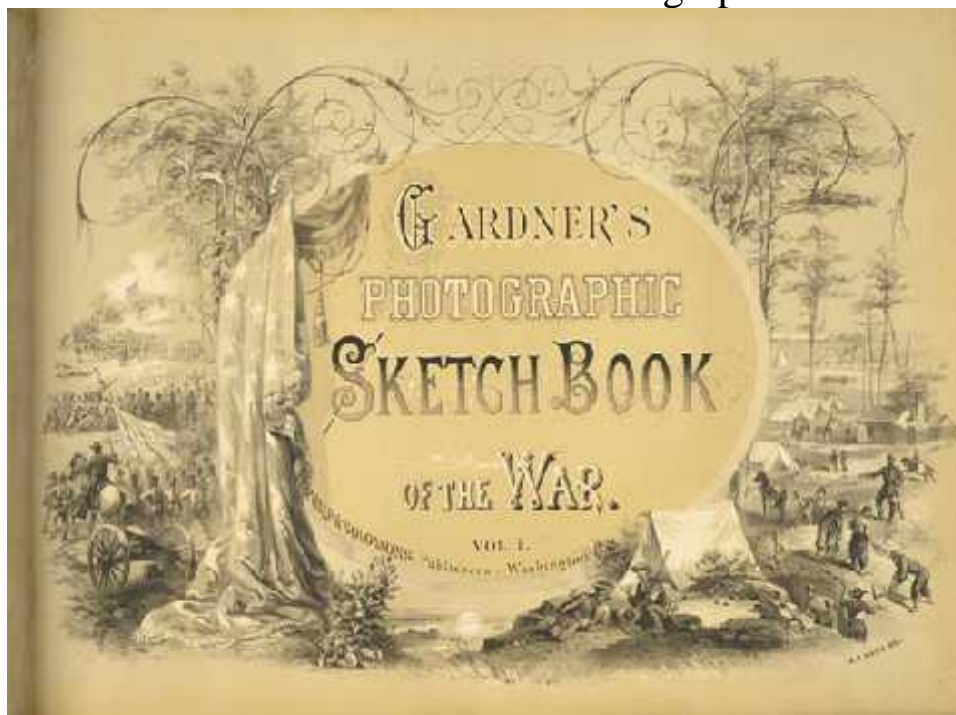


Photo from: <http://rmc.library.cornell.edu/7milVol/titlepage2.html> and information from: March 2013 "The Sentinel" (Monroe County Civil War Roundtable)

Alexander Gardner had seen the work of Matthew Brady and the new "art" of photography at the Crystal Palace Exhibition in London in 1851. After he moved to the US, he got a job running Brady's gallery in New York. Brady sent him to Antietam to take pictures after the battle. The New York Times editorialized that if not actually having done so, he has seemingly brought the dead of war and laid them on the doorsteps of the populace. Shortly after Antietam, Gardner broke with Brady and opened his own studio in Washington, D.C. They took pictures at Gettysburg and Grant's Virginia campaigns. He also changed forever the business end of photography by copyrighting his photos and insisting that every photographer that work for him got full credit for the work they did, something he had been denied when still in Brady's employ. He photographed

Lincoln more than any other photographer and his image of Lincoln is on the \$5 bill. After the war, he gathered 100 of his photos and published them in his *Sketchbook of the Civil War*. He photographed the completion of the first transcontinental railroad and Indians of the Northern Plains.

## **JOIN US BEFORE THE MEETING AT BURGER KING!**

**All ICWRT members and guests** are invited to join us at 5:30 P.M. at Burger King, 3740 N. Illinois St. (which is one-way going north, just south of 38th Street) before the meeting to enjoy dinner and fellowship.

### *Our Guest Speaker*



**Steve Rolfe** is a property manager (apartments) for IU for the last 25 years. He is not a scholar or author, just someone who has been interested in the Civil War since his parents took him to Virginia's battlefield a couple of times when he was a kid. While he did major in history and political science at IU (class of '70), he never went that direction after graduating. He and his wife, Linda, will be celebrating 45 years of marriage this August and she has been the best sport in the world to be dragged to virtually every CW site east of the Mississippi over the years. They don't have children but have lots of nieces and nephews who he is attempting to make CW buffs out of. He is the only remaining founding member of the Monroe County CW roundtable and they are in their tenth year. He is a past president and currently the secretary and newsletter writer/editor/publisher. He sweeps the floors, too. You know how that goes. They are fortunate in Bloomington to be affiliated with the Monroe County History Center who supports their group and provides gallery space for several small exhibitions over the last few years. His interest in Gardner began many years ago when a park ranger at Gettysburg urged him to buy William Frassanito's book *Gettysburg: A Journey in Time*. He did, and has been hooked on CW photography in general and Gardner specifically ever since. Being able to see and study the *Sketchbook* at the IHS in Indy was an epiphany event in his life.

## *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*

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

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

Jan. 11, 2016 - Tony Roscetti – Acoustic Shadows During the Civil War

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 them 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.

October 14, 2015 – Norris Darrell – Civil War Battle Tactics

November 11, 2015 – Bruce Kolb – The *USS 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 Jacksonville 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 11<sup>th</sup> Street, in downtown Anderson.

10/19 – Margaret Hobson – Researching the 44<sup>th</sup> Indiana

11/16 – The Kentucky Campaign in 1862

No meeting in December

### *Special Orders*

**Memoir:** The following is a dialogue summary based on R.M. Heater's memoir *How I Became a Confederate Soldier* presented by Peter Mullen to the Palm Beach Civil War Round Table on September 17, 2015. "R.M. Heater lived on a farm near Pleasant Hill, Kentucky, in Mercer County. After the Battle of Perryville in October of 1862, the Union Army occupied the Bluegrass Region of Central Kentucky, imposing martial law on all civilian communities; ever since President Jefferson Davis awarded the Commonwealth of Kentucky the center star on the Confederate Battle Flag on December 10, 1861, the Union Army considered most civilians as disloyal citizens and pro-southern sympathizers. Heater's older brother had already joined the 30<sup>th</sup> Tennessee Regiment, CSA; when his brother sent a letter home, Heater came under arrest for treason at the age of 20, and was sent to jail in Franklin, Kentucky. Heater was offered freedom if he would join the Union Army...when he refused, he was sent to a military prison in Bowling Green. Here he took into his confidence two fellow prisoners, O.W. Laney from Col. John S. Scott's 1<sup>st</sup> Louisiana Cavalry and a fellow Son of the Commonwealth, John Gafford from General John Hunt Morgan's command. Heater, Laney, and Gafford escaped the prison only to be recaptured and sent back to be shackled with a thirty-pound ball and handcuffed....All three were told they would never see their homes again. A turn of fate resulting in the escape of fourteen prisoners, afforded Heater and his two Rebel Compatriots the chance to regain their freedom from the Union Army by using the Louisville and Nashville Railroad as a guide away from Bowling Green. This dialogue documents their successful efforts to evade Union Patrols, returning to Heater's home in Mercer County Kentucky and being secretly escorted by neighbors to Robertson County, Tennessee, where he was reunited with his brother and joined the 30<sup>th</sup> Tennessee Regiment under the command of Capt. George Page in the spring of 1864."

### *Official Records*

**September 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:**

*A History of the Southern Confederacy*, by Clement Eaton

*Battle at Bull Run*, by William C. Davis

*Crisis at the Crossroads: The First Day at Gettysburg*, by Warren W. Hassler, Jr.

*The Road to Glory: Confederate General Richard S. Ewell*, by Samuel J. Martin

*Davis & Lee at War*, by Steven E. Woodworth

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

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

1. On what battlefield would you find the Nicodemus house?
2. What unit was known as Rush's Lancers?
3. What was a Stake Torpedo?
4. How many ranks were in a "column of companies"?
5. Who said, "Relieved from the necessity of guarding cities...with our army free to move from point to point...nothing is now needed to render our triumph certain, but...our own unquenchable resolve."?

Answers to the September Quiz:

1. What was Lady Bell? Where would you find it? \*\*\* An 8-ton Dahlgren cannon; Ft. Donelson
2. On what battlefield would you find the Orange Plank Road? \*\*\* Chancellorsville
3. Name the Union prison that became known as the "Andersonville of the North." \*\*\* Rock Island
4. What unit was known as the Lead Mine Regiment? Where was it formed? 45<sup>th</sup> Illinois; Galena, Illinois

5. What event was James Knox describing in the following letter to his father:  
 “Mounted patrols dashed everywhere, bells tolled the alarm, and excited crowds rushed about the avenues. Despair was on every countenance.” \*\*\* Lincoln’s Assassination

### *Alexander Gardner Speaks*

Quotations from: <http://photoquotations.com/a/259/Alexander+Gardner>.

“Verbal representations of such places or scenes may, or may not, have the merit of accuracy; but photographic presentments of them will be accepted by posterity with an undoubting faith.”

“[My work] is designed to speak for itself. as mementos of the fearful struggle through which the country has just passed, it is confidently hoped that it will possess an enduring interest.”

“Such a picture [*A Harvest of Death*, Gettysburg battlefield, July, 1863] conveys a useful moral: It shows the blank horror and reality of war, in opposition to the pageantry. Here are the dreadful details! Let them aid in preventing such another calamity falling upon the nation. (1866)”

### *Civilian of the Month*



Photo from: [en.wikipedia.org](http://en.wikipedia.org) and information from: <http://americanart.si.edu/collections/search/artist/?id=3600>.

**Timothy O’Sullivan** also learned photography from Matthew Brady and left with and worked for Gardner. Several of his photographs were included in Gardner’s book. He took part in several geologic surveys after the Civil War: Clarence King’s survey of the



fortieth parallel in 1867; Lt. George Wheeler's survey of the one hundredth meridian in 1871; and an independent expedition for Wheeler of the Zuni and Magia pueblos and the Canyon de Chelly in 1873.

### *Historic Site of the Month*



Photo and information from: <http://www.si.edu/Exhibitions/Details/Alexander-Gardner-4705>.

**Smithsonian Portrait Gallery, March 6, 2015 – September 13, 2015:** Alexander Gardner's "cracked-plate" portrait of President Abraham Lincoln was taken 150 years ago, on February 5, 1865. Arguably the most iconic likeness of the 16th president today, it was created by a man whose life and photographic career remain relatively undocumented and underappreciated. This oversight is notable, as Gardner (1821-1882) was perhaps the most progressive photographer of the Civil War era; he was influential not only in advancing photographic portraiture beyond traditional compositional conventions, but also in realizing photography's power as a documentary tool. In his mind, photographs were more than static likenesses; they were active images capable of conveying narrative and recording history. The author of the first American photographic book, a leading contributor of photographic views to the illustrated press, and a dedicated abolitionist, Gardner was a pioneer in his field.

## 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](mailto:anthony.roschetti@pnc.com)

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

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### **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  
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Indianapolis, IN 46224