



HARDTACK

Indianapolis Civil War Round Table Newsletter

<http://indianapoliscwrt.org/>



May 8, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.

Meeting at Indiana History Center Auditorium
450 West Ohio Street

The Plan of the Day
The Murder of Major General William “Bull” Nelson



Photo from civilwardailygazette.com

Our speaker investigates the shooting of Union General William “Bull” Nelson by fellow Union Gen. Jefferson C. Davis in the Galt House in Louisville, KY. This took place in front of a number of witnesses, mostly fellow officers. Yet in 1864, Davis commanded troops in the Atlanta Campaign and the March to the Sea as well before then. How did he murder a fellow officer and get away with it?

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



Robert I. Girardi earned his M.A. in Public History at Loyola University of Chicago in 1991. He is a past president of the Civil War Round Table of Chicago, a fellow of the Company of Military Historians and is an associate member of the Sons of Union Veterans. He is on the Board of Directors of the Illinois State Historical Society as well as the editorial review board of the *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society*. He has consulted for the Chicago Historical Society and the Bureau County Historical Society on their Civil War exhibits. In 2013 he joined the Board of Directors for the Camp Douglas Restoration Foundation, and was awarded a research grant by the Friends of Andersonville. He was the 2010 recipient of the Chicago CWRT's Nevins-Freeman Award for service and scholarship. In 2014, he was awarded the Iron Brigade Association Award for Civil War Scholarship by the Milwaukee CWRT.

Robert has a lifelong interest in the Civil War and has studied all facets of the conflict. He speaks to groups of all ages and levels of expertise on multiple aspects of the Civil War, especially the experience of the common soldier, and the role of Illinois in the war. He has written numerous essays and book reviews and was the guest editor for the 2011-2014 Sesquicentennial of the Civil War issues of the *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society*. His most recent essay appeared in the Winter 2015 issue of *Chicago History* magazine. In his spare time, he is employed as a homicide (violent crimes) detective by the Chicago Police Department. He has been a policeman since 1986, and a detective since 1992, on the South Side of Chicago.

Robert I. Girardi has authored or edited ten books: *The Soldiers' General: Major General Gouverneur K. Warren and the Civil War* (2016); *The Civil War Generals: Comrades, Peers, Rivals, in Their Own Words* (2013); *Gettysburg in Art and Artifacts* (2010) *The Civil War Art of Keith Rocco* (2009); *Campaigning with Uncle Billy: The Civil War Memoirs of Sgt. Lyman S. Widney, 34th Illinois Volunteer Infantry* (2008); *The Soldier's View: The Civil War Art of Keith Rocco* (2004); *The New Annals of the Civil War* (2004); *The Memoirs of Brigadier General William Passmore Carlin, U.S.A.* (1999); *The Military Memoirs of General John Pope* (1998); *Captain H.W. Chester: Recollections of the War of the Rebellion* (1996)

Roster of Officers and Committees for the 2016-2017 Campaign

Officers:

President: Chris Smith

Vice President: Dave Sutherland

Secretary: Mark Thornton

Treasurer: Tony Roscetti

Immediate Past President: Peg Bertelli

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.

2016-2017 Campaign Plans

June 12, 2017 – Thomas Bogar – *Backstage at the Lincoln Assassination: The Untold Story of the Actors and Stagehands at Ford's Theatre* (see * note below)

* June meeting will be at MCL Cafeteria – Township Line, 2370 W. 86th Street. The banquet room doors open at 6:00. The building closes at 9:00, so the meeting will begin at 6:45. **Directions:** From the North on I-465, take the Meridian St. / US 31 N exit. Keep left to take the Meridian St. ramp. Turn left (south) on N. Meridian Street. Turn right (west) on 86th St. MCL is on the right before you reach Township Line Road. From the east, travel west on 86th St., passing Meridian St., Spring Mill Rd., and Ditch Rd. MCL is on the right before you reach Township Line Road. From the South, take Meridian St. north until you reach 86th Street. Turn left (west). MCL is on the right before you reach Township Line Road. From the west, travel east on 86th St. to Township Line Rd. MCL is on the left just after you pass Township Line Road.

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 2nd Wednesday of the month, September through May, excluding December.

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.

May 15, 2017 - Dr. Thomas Hamm, "Quakers in the Civil War"

June 19, 2017 - TBA

July - no meeting

August - no meeting

September 18, 2017 - Tony Roscetti, "Acoustic Shadow"

October 16, 2017 - TBA

November 20, 2017 - "Filling the Ranks"

Special Orders

CWRT Congress on September 16, 2017: Over the past several years, at least 64 CWRTs have closed their doors. The result of those tragic closures was brought on by insufficient membership, a lack of a sustaining organizational structure, no succession planning and insufficient funding. We will explore other intervening factors at the Congress. Many of us are very distressed by that and have a desire to assist the remaining CWRTs to ensure that doesn't happen to your organization. We have developed a forum for leaders to learn how the country's most successful CWRTs have addressed those issues and more. This one-day event will feature leaders from the Brunswick CWRT (NC) with 1,185 members and the Scottsdale (AZ) CWRT with over 400 who will tell you how they have succeeded and inspire you to replicate their results in your community. *We have nothing to sell; our advice comes simply from a genuine desire to see all Civil War Roundtables succeed.* Additionally, the forum will provide ample opportunity to interact with presenters, renew old friendships and make new friends with those who have a similar love for Civil War history. The Congress is hosted by the Bull Run CWRT in Centreville, VA. Cost is \$30 and includes a box lunch.

Optional tours of Bull Run and Balls Bluff battlefields on the days following the Congress are also offered. Event details are on the attached [CWRT CONGRESS FLYER](#). Click [REGISTER](#) to save a seat at this informative event. Seating is limited, so register now! If you want to go or will be in that area, please contact Chris Smith and let him know.

Nikki's New Book: Nikki Schofield's newest book, Washington City Citadel, is expected to be published in time for purchase at the June banquet. This is the story of a doctor and nurse caring for wounded in the federal capitol during the final months of the war. The estimated cost is \$20.00.

Book Review: Psychological Consequences of the American Civil War by R. Gregory Lande, McFarland & Company Publishers, 2017, is a treasure of interesting stories about veterans in the ten years after the war ended. A few of the consequences were intemperance, suicide, crime, loss of faith, occult activities, and insanity. Dr. Lande spoke about one aspect of the war's aftermath, based on his chapter "Carnival of Crime," at the Indiana Medical History Museum on Easter Sunday afternoon. I recommend the book. -- Nikki Schofield

Official Records

April Attendance: 18

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:

Confederate Strategy from Shiloh to Vicksburg, by Archer Jones

Civil War Treasury of Tales, Legends, & Folklore, edited by B. A. Botkin

First Blood: The Story of Fort Sumter, by W. A. Swanberg

The Civil War: An Unvarnished Account of the Late But Still Lively Hostilities, by James Street

Lincoln, by David Herbert Donald

***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.**

Final Roll Call: Long time member Allan Arkush passed away March 31, 2017 and his funeral was on April 2. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.



Auction: Allan Arkush donated a framed picture by Dale Gallon of the thirty-seven members of the Seventy-second Indiana Infantry Company A guarding the bridge at Chickamauga Creek. They were supported by Eli Lilly's Eighteenth Battery, who are pictured in the background. They held off Walker's Division and prevented them from crossing at the bridge. Wilder's Lightning Brigade had two regiments from Indiana; one of those was the Seventy-second Infantry from Lafayette, Indiana. Wilder was from Greensburg, Indiana and supplied the entire brigade, including two Illinois regiments, with Spencer seven-shot repeating rifles. The artillery battery was led by Col. Eli Lilly, making this print an interest for any Hoosier collector. All proceeds from the auction will go to the Indianapolis Civil War Round Table. Starting bid for this auction is \$100. There is a reserve that must be met for the picture. The auction will continue until the June banquet and the picture will go to the winner that night. Please see Nikki Schofield to enter your bid for this picture.

New Officers Elected: Our new slate of officers for 2017-2018 have been elected: President: Dave Sutherland; Vice President: Tony Trimble; Secretary: Mark Thornton; Treasurer: Tony Roscetti; Immediate Past President: Chris Smith; Preservation: Andy O'Donnell; Website: Ed Pope; Program Selection: Chris Smith, Jenny Thompson, & Tony Trimble; Publicity: Peg Bertelli, Dave Sutherland, & Tony Roscetti; Quiz Master: Tony Trimble; and Hardtack Editor: Jenny Thompson.

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

1. Special medals were created to commemorate the defense of what Civil War installation?
2. Fighting occurred during a Federal expedition up the White River in what state?
3. Who said, "We didn't take Washington but we scared Abe Lincoln like hell"?

4. Where were forces under Gen. Samuel Sturgis routed by Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest?
5. The 1st Indiana Artillery was known by what unusual nickname? Why?

Answers to the April Quiz:

1. Which participant in the Lincoln assassination had a descendent who was Sherlock Holmes? *** Major Henry Reed Rathbone
2. On the Peninsula, McClellan continued to believe he was outnumbered even after Johnston evacuated what city? *** Yorktown
3. In 1862, a skirmish was fought at Watkins Ferry. In which state would you find it? *** Georgia
4. Where did John Hunt Morgan fight his last skirmish before his capture? *** Salineville, OH
5. What nickname was given to the First Louisiana Battalion? *** Jefferson Davis's Pet Wolves

The Officer Speaks

Quote from: Wright, John, ed. *The Oxford Dictionary of Civil War Quotations*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2006.

Final words of General William Nelson: "Send for a clergyman, I wish to be baptized. I have been basely murdered." (322)

Officer of the Month



Photograph and information from Find a Grave Memorial # 8605

Jefferson Columbus Davis was born March 2, 1828 in Clark County, Indiana, the son of William and Mary (Drummond) Davis. He served during the War with Mexico, during the Civil War, and was still on active duty when he died November 30, 1879 in Chicago, Illinois. He lies buried in Section 29, lot 1 of Crown Hill Cemetery in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Historic Site of the Month



Photograph and information from Find a Grave Memorial # 5894212

William “Bull” Nelson was born September 27, 1824 in Maysville, Kentucky, the son of Thomas Washington and Francis (Doniphan) Nelson. He served twenty years in the U.S. Navy and transferred to the Army after the Civil War began. He lies buried in **Maysville Cemetery** in Maysville, Kentucky.

Indianapolis Civil War Round Table

Annual Dinner Meeting

Monday, June 12, 2017

at

MCL Cafeteria – Township Line *

2370 W. 86th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46260
(317) 334-1875

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: Thomas Bogar

Speaker's Topic: *Backstage at the Lincoln Assassination: the Untold Story of the Actors and Stagehands at Ford's Theatre*

*** Directions:** From the North on I-465, take the Meridian St. / US 31 N exit. Keep left to take the Meridian St. ramp. Turn left (south) on N. Meridian Street. Turn right (west) on 86th St. MCL is on the right before you reach Township Line Road. From the east, travel west on 86th St., passing Meridian St., Spring Mill Rd., and Ditch Rd. MCL is on the right before you reach Township Line Road. From the South, take Meridian St. north until you reach 86th Street. Turn left (west). MCL is on the right before you reach Township Line Road. From the west, travel east on 86th St. to Township Line Rd. MCL is on the left just after you pass Township Line Road.

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.

Re-enlist NOW for the 2017-2018 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 2017 thru June 2018

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