



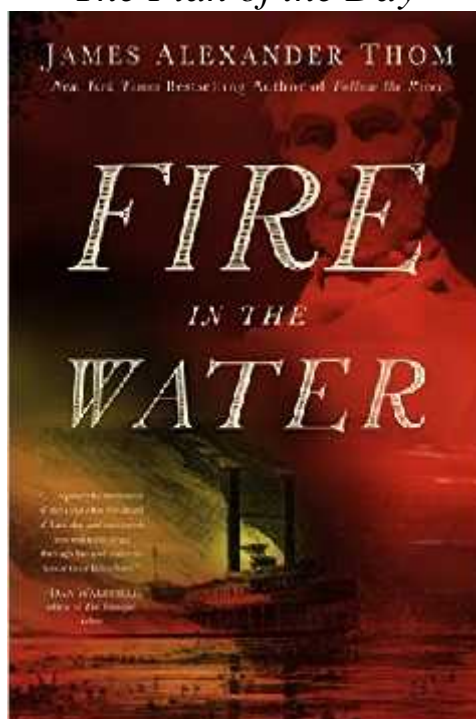
# HARDTACK



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

September 12, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.  
 Meeting at Indiana History Center Auditorium  
 450 West Ohio Street

## *The Plan of the Day*



*Fire in the Water* relates the fates of Andersonville prisoners trying to get home to Indiana, Ohio, etc., who unfortunately get aboard the steamboat SULTANA. One of the protagonists is a Harper's Weekly war correspondent on board the vessel, heading for Springfield to cover Lincoln's funeral. The SULTANA tragedy is the central action of the story, but the undercurrent is the spirit of Lincoln, and the determination of two war-addled men to get to his funeral. The book ends in the Saluda graveyard near Madison, Indiana.

### **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*



**James Alexander Thom** is a pretty well known Indiana historical author. His Civil War interest is deep and personal. He is old enough to remember attending funerals of Union veterans who were his relatives. His namesake was killed at Fredericksburg, and his great grandfather survived Andersonville. He was also a historical lecturer for several years on the Delta Queen line, which helped prepare him to tell a steamboat story.

### *Roster of Officers and Committees for the 2016-2017 Campaign*

#### *Officers:*

President: Chris Smith

Vice President: Dave Sutherland

Secretary: Frank Bynum

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

### *2016-2017 Campaign Plans*

- October 10, 2016 – Charlie Aiken – Who Was Private John Rooks? : Counties Named for Civil War Combat Deaths (see \* note below)
- November 14, 2016 – Robert Houghtalen – The War Not Forgotten – Civil War Soldiers, Central State Hospital, and PTSD
- December 12, 2016 – Lou Malcomb – Maps, Mapping, & Mapmakers of the Civil War: A Novice Explorer’s Perspective
- January 9, 2017 – Ray Boomhower – Lew Wallace’s Civil War career
- February 13, 2017 – Jim Floyd – Paying for the Civil War: Taxes, Internal Revenue, and Enrolled Agents
- March 13, 2017 – Gary Joiner – *Mr. Lincoln’s Brown Water Navy*
- April 10, 2017 – Connie Hansen – A Visit with Jennie Wade’s Mother
- May 8, 2017 – Robert I. Girardi – The Murder of Major General William “Bull” Nelson
- 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)

\*October and June meetings will be at MCL Cafeteria – Township Line, 2370 W. 86<sup>th</sup> 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 86<sup>th</sup> St. MCL is on the right before you reach Township Line Road. From the east, travel west on 86<sup>th</sup> 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 86<sup>th</sup> Street. Turn left (west). MCL is on the right before you reach Township Line Road. From the west, travel east on 86<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month, September through May, excluding December.

Sept. 14, 2016 – Ray Boomhower – Lew Wallace: A Hoosier Renaissance Man

Oct. 12, 2016 – Prof. Caroline E. Janney – Women in the Civil War

Nov. 9, 2016 – Greg Biggs – Turning the Tide: The Union cavalry in the Tullahoma Campaign

Dec. – no meeting

Jan. 11, 2017 – Jenny Terpening – Civil War Medicine

Feb. 8, 2017 – Bob Houghtalen – A War Never Forgotten...How Hoosier Soldiers Were Treated When They Returned Home

March 8, 2017 – David Sutherland – Virginia Military Institute’s Civil War Legacy

April 12, 2017 – open

May 10, 2017 – open

**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.

9/21 – Gerald G. Jones – Part 2, Northern Civil War Prisons

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

11/16 – The Kentucky Campaign in 1862

No meeting in December

### *Special Orders*

**Gettysburg and Antietam Leadership Tour 2016:** The Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department Leadership Academy Alumni Association is having their second annual “A Walk Through Leadership on Our Country’s Common Ground” tour at the Gettysburg National Battlefield and Cemetery and the Antietam Battlefield on September 18-22, 2016. The cost for non-alumni association members, family members and guests is \$495. If you would like more information about this tour, please contact Lieutenant Donald A. Bender at [dbender@indy.gov](mailto:dbender@indy.gov) or call him at 317-506-1510.

**Update on Gardner Sketch Books and Indiana History Center Library Tour on November 15, 6:15 – 7:15 p.m.:** Kathy will explain the treatment the books received and Suzanne will give us a tour of the library and show the books to us. Please join us for this tour on the second floor and then come to our meeting in the auditorium.

***Fire in the Water*** by James Alexander Thom, **A Review** by Dave Klinestiver:

Indiana’s own James Alexander Thom is well-known to readers of American historical fiction. As the author of books such as *Follow the River*, *Panther in the Sky*, *Long Knife*, and several other, well-received novels set in early 19<sup>th</sup> century America, Thom has long been at the forefront of the genre, combining his literary skills with in-depth research and an eye for period detail to vividly bring to life an authentic vision of the past.

*Fire in the Water* marks Thom’s first foray into the Civil War era. Set in the eventful days of April 1865, the story follows the travels and travails of Paddy Quinn, a character who first appeared in one of Thom’s previous novels, *Saint Patrick’s Battalion*, as a young camp boy during the Mexican War. Now a grown man, Quinn is a well-known War correspondent and sketch artist for one of the weekly papers of the time. Departing the city of New Orleans with his young bride, Felice, Quinn sets out for Springfield, Illinois, intent on writing an article on the internment of “Father Abraham” that he hopes to make the capstone of his Wartime career.

As the Quinns journey up the Mississippi River, fortune finds the newlyweds aboard the *Sultana* alongside hundreds of Union veterans returning home—many of them just released from the hellhole that was Andersonville prison. Thom’s latest tome excels at reimagining what conditions must have been like on that ill-fated riverboat, overcrowded with emaciated soldiers still suffering the effects of disease, dysentery, and man’s inhumanity to man.

Although the tragedy to which the title refers is well known to students of the Civil War, few historical accounts have captured the pathos of the *Sultana*’s final run and its aftermath as effectively as Thom’s dramatic retelling. The reader will find a number of

colorful characters aboard his “tub of doom,” and some might wish that the author would have allowed us more time in their company. Perhaps that is the point, as we can better sense the untimely loss of so many who survived the War and were, at long last, homeward bound—only to have their lives snuffed out midstream.

The historical writer has a great advantage over the reality from which his works are drawn, in that he is not constrained to a linear chronology that moves only in one direction. Throughout his novel, Thom has sprinkled the story with snippets of Paddy Quinn’s recollected adventures of the preceding years of the War that would provide rich fodder for a prequel volume (or two). Certainly there is much ground left to till should the author choose to set his one-handed, hard-drinking protagonist afield again in Civil War America. If he does, and if *Fire in the Water* is any indication, Mr. Thom can expect to find an enthusiastic audience.

## *Official Records*

**June Attendance:** 31

**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:**

*All for the Union: The Civil War Diary and Letters of Elisha Hunt Rhodes*, edited by Robert Hunt Rhodes

*The Lincoln Reader*, edited by Paul M. Angle

*Disunion: 106 Articles from the New York Times Opinionator*, edited by Ted Widmer

*Landscape Turned Red: The Battle of Antietam*, by Stephen W. Sears

*Freedom: A Novel of Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War*

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

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

1. At what Civil War site would you find Providence Spring and Sweetwater Creek?
2. Name the Union general who rode a black horse named Burns.
3. Name three battles in which a stone wall was a prominent feature.
4. What fort was located on Cockspur Island?
5. What was the "Gynaekocracy"? Where was the term coined?

*The Soldiers Speak*

Quotations from *Loss of The Sultana And Reminiscences Of Survivors* by Rev. Chester D. Berry

Chester Berry: "The horrors of that night will never be effaced from my memory – such swearing, praying, shouting and crying I had never heard; and much of it from the same throat – imprecations followed by petitions to the Almighty, denunciations by bitter weeping." (50)

A.C. Brown: "Hundreds of my comrades were fastened down by the timbers of the decks and had to burn, while the water seemed to be one solid mass of human beings struggling with the waves. The light and the screams at this time cannot be described." (79)

L.A. Deerman: "I could hear the boys, all up and down the river banks on logs, bushes and drift, smacking and rubbing themselves to keep warm, and crowing like chickens while many a poor boy was sinking or floating in the deep waters of the Mississippi." (109)

W.P. Madden: "I could not tell where I was, but could hear the groans of the wounded and the shrieks of the women mingling with the crackling noise of the flames and the hissing of the white steam that enveloped the boat for a time. All of this took place in a few moments, but those few moments were an eternity to me." (229)

Nathan S. Williams: "At sunrise a man came to me in a small dugout or canoe and took me to a steamboat that was picking up men below and some that were in the river....The boat soon rounded and we came to the wharf at Memphis. The sight there was most terrible. The bodies of the dying, wounded and scalded were to be seen on every hand." (379)

William Fies: “It was without doubt the greatest marine disaster on record, in either ancient or modern times, and I am surprised that so little is remembered about it at this time, and especially by persons who were at that time great readers and can to this day tell all about some battle or skirmish or other disaster where the loss of life was trifling compared to this.” (133)

*Officer of the Month*



Photo and information from Find A Grave Memorial # 22295288.

**Captain James Cass Mason** was the captain of the Sultana when it exploded. He agreed to transport the recently freed prisoners at a cost of \$5 per soldier and \$10 per officer, which led to the overcrowding of the steamer. “Although Mason objected to the overcrowding, the soldiers defiantly stormed aboard refusing to wait for other boats to transport them, trying to get home as soon as possible. Mason was last seen on deck trying desperately to save the passengers that were dumped into the water by throwing down whatever he could that would float so that they could grab hold and stay above the strong current.”

### *Historic Site of the Month*



Image and information from “S.S. Sultana Memorial.” Accessed April 25, 2016. <http://www.atlasobscura.com/places/s-s-sultana-memorial> Information from “The Sultana Descendants’ Association.” Accessed April 25, 2016. <http://thesultanadisaster.com/the-sultana-descendants-association/>

The S.S. Sultana Memorial is located in Mount Olive Cemetery at Knoxville, Tennessee. Survivors dedicated it July 4, 1916. A group of survivors from Eastern Tennessee founded the Sultana Survivors’ Association in 1885, which used to meet on April 27 each year. The last survivor, Pleasant Keeble, attended the last meeting alone in 1930 and died March 4, 1931. In 1987, descendants founded the Sultana Descendants’ Association, which now holds an annual reunion the end of April in a location associated with the Sultana and the Civil War. Reunions have been in Franklin, Tennessee (2008); Knoxville, Tennessee (2009); Chattanooga, Tennessee (2010); Mansfield, Ohio (2011); Cincinnati, Ohio (2012); Andersonville, Georgia (2013); Vicksburg, Mississippi (2014); Marion, Arkansas (2015), and Knoxville, Tennessee (2016). They also work to educate others about the Sultana disaster.



## Re-enlist NOW for the 2016-2017 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 2016 thru June 2017**

*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