



HARDTACK

Indianapolis Civil War Round Table Newsletter

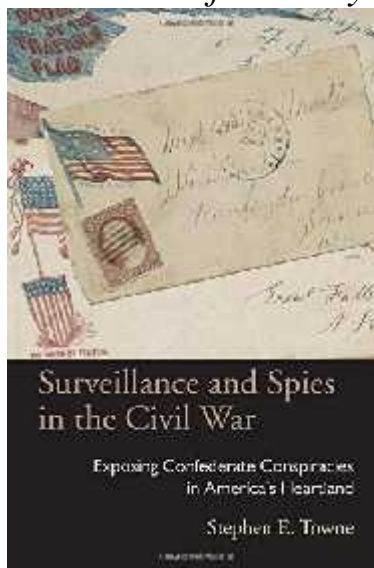
<http://indianapoliscwrt.org/>



January 8, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.

Meeting at Indiana History Center Auditorium
450 West Ohio Street

The Plan of the Day



Surveillance and Spies in the Civil War represents path-breaking research on the rise of U.S. Army intelligence operations in the Midwest during the American Civil War and counters long-standing assumptions about Northern politics and society. At the beginning of the rebellion, state governors in Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois cooperated with federal law enforcement officials in various attempts—all failed—to investigate reports of secret groups and individuals who opposed the Union war effort. Starting in 1862, army commanders took it upon themselves to initiate investigations of antiwar sentiment in those states. By 1863, several of them had established intelligence operations staffed by hired civilian detectives and by soldiers detailed from their units to chase down deserters and draft dodgers, to maintain surveillance on suspected persons and groups, and to investigate organized resistance to the draft. By 1864, these spies had infiltrated secret organizations that, sometimes in collaboration with Confederate rebels, aimed to subvert the war effort. Stephen E. Towne is the first to thoroughly explore the role and impact of Union spies against Confederate plots in the North. This new analysis invites historians to delve more deeply into the fabric of the Northern wartime experience and reinterpret the period based on broader archival evidence.

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

Stephen E. Towne is university archivist at IUPUI. He has written and edited books and articles on the American Civil War in the Midwest.

Roster of Officers and Committees for the 2017-2018 Campaign

Officers:

President: Dave Sutherland

Vice President: Tony Trimble

Secretary: Mark Thornton

Treasurer: Tony Roscetti

Immediate Past President: Chris Smith

Committees:

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

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.

2017-2018 Campaign Plans

February 12, 2018 – Fred Schaefer– Indianapolis and the War of the Rebellion

March 12, 2018 – Jenny Thompson – *Above Us or Around Us: The Story and Men of the Bloody Eighth*

April 9, 2018 – Mark Laubacher – Cold Blooded Envenomation of 1861-65

May 14, 2018 – Meredith and Judy Wilson - James Davy's Civil War Diary

June 11, 2018 – Jennifer Murray – *On a Great Battlefield: The Making, Management, and Memory of Gettysburg National Military Park, 1933-2013*

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'Toole's Restaurant at 160 E. Carmel Dr., Carmel, IN 46032. Meetings will be on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, September through May, excluding December.

January 10, 2018 - Brian Dirck, "Lincoln and the Constitution"

February 14, 2018 - Mike Murphy, "The Fighting Kimberlin Family"

March 14, 2018 - John Heiser, "1913 Gettysburg Reunion"

April 11, 2018 - Dave Finney - "Stonewall Jackson's Last Days"

May 9, 2018 - Dr. E.C. Fields , "General U.S. Grant"

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.

Special Orders

Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library and Williams Collection of Lincolniana:

Mississippi State University opened a \$10 million 21,000 sq. ft. addition to the Mitchell Memorial Library on November 30. This library is the home of the Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library and the Frank J. and Virginia Williams Collection of Lincolnia. For more information about these exhibits, please visit www.usgrantlibrary.org and library.msstate.edu/williamscollection.

Gettysburg Cyclorama: Civil War Trust has a video telling about the Battle of Gettysburg as they show a tour of the Gettysburg Cyclorama. You can view it at <https://www.civilwar.org/learn/videos/gettysburg-cyclorama-360%C2%B0>.

Official Records

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:

The Causes of the Civil War, edited by Kenneth M. Stampp

The Haskell Memoirs: The Personal Narrative of a Confederate Officer, by John Haskell, edited by Gilbert E. Govan and James W. Livingood

Lee and Longstreet at Gettysburg, by Glenn Tucker

Lincoln and His Generals, by T. Harry Williams

Letters from the Iron Brigade: George W. Partridge, Jr. 1839-1863: Civil War Letters to His Sisters, by Hugh L. Whitehouse

***Anyone wishing to donate books for upcoming raffles should either bring them to Tony Roscetti at the January 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 Dead Angle?
2. Name the Confederate commander who rode Coquette.
3. Who wrote: "We are without machinery, without means, and threatened by a powerful opposition; but I do not despond and will not shrink from the task imposed upon me."?
4. In what state was a skirmish fought at Big Black River Bridge in 1863?
5. On October 5, 1864, Indiana authorities arrested a prominent Copperhead. Name him.

Answers to the December Quiz:

Identify the Civil War personage(s) associated with each of the nicknames below.

1. "Fitz" *** Gen. Fitzhugh Lee, CSA
2. "Old Lundy" *** Gen. Winfield Scott, USA
3. "Old Rock" *** Gen. Henry Benning, CSA
4. "Dirty Dick" *** Gen. James Shields, USA
5. "Doodle" *** Sarcastic Southern nickname for Union soldiers referring to "Yankee Doodle"

The Newspaper Speaks

From www.newspapers.com

The Star Press (Muncie, Indiana) Sunday, July 31, 1927, page 28

Knights of Golden Circle Sought Overthrow of Union in Civil War

Disloyal Organizations in Indiana Met Behind Closed Doors to Plot Against President Lincoln and Governor Morton ---Activities Counteracted by Vigilance of Patriotic Citizens.

BY WILLIAM HANDFORD HERSHMAN.

Since writing the story of the Rensselaer raid it has been suggested that further reminiscences be written of the operations of the Knights of the Golden Circle during the Civil War.

While it is my aim to set before the young people a true story, it is not the purpose or desire to hold up to ridicule the men who took part in that organization whose only object was the overthrow of the government under Abraham Lincoln and Oliver P. Morton. The time of their activities has long since passed, and they have had ample time to repent of their sins, and the descendants now living are as loyal to the flag as are those of the Union League whose purpose was to maintain the Union at all hazards. For these reasons the names of those connected with disloyal conduct will be suppressed, though most of them are well known and may be used if necessary.

These disloyal organizations were located in various places throughout Indiana, and held their meetings behind closed doors, a guardian being appointed to see that none passed or repassed without the proper countersign. What was said or done behind these doors can never be known to the outside world, except as revealed by spies at the peril of their lives. To get information through to Governor Morton, it was necessary to use the "grapevine system" of telegraphy - such as was in daily use throughout the South in connection with the "underground railroad" which was instituted for the use of the slaves in making their escape from their masters. The names of the spies who operated the grapevine will also be suppressed.

Knights Possessed Guns.

The writer at this time will mention only two organizations of the Knights of the Golden Circle. One was located about seven or eight miles east of North Manchester, Wabash County, and the other in what was known as the Funk neighborhood, about three miles farther east. Those two organizations were in weekly and sometimes daily communication with each other by means of footmen or horseback in pursuit of some other important business. What these knights intended to do with guns can only be surmised, but the facts are they had them.

It finally leaked out through the spies that both organizations were heavily armed, and that they kept their guns at the home of Judson Smith (fictitious name). In the community was a preacher by the name of George Abbott, a well-known character throughout northern Indiana, and another preacher by the name of Fowler, both of whom have long since died. These two preachers, being informed of the whereabouts of the enemy's artillery, proceeded to the home of Smith to see if they could prevail upon him to surrender the guns. Just before reaching the house they met Mrs. Smith and learned from her that none of the men was at home. They then inquired of her where the guns were hidden. She, although a loyal woman, and a member of Abbott's congregation, could not

be induced to betray, [sic] openly, the secret of her husband. "But," she said, "I am now on my way to visit a neighbor about a half mile down the road. I always leave the key under the root of a stump in the front yard, so that if my husband should come home while I am away he will know how to get into the house." She then turned and left them. What broader hint could have been given for them to help themselves? Anyway that is what they did.

After Mrs. Smith was well out of sight, these two preachers went to the stump, got the key, unlocked the door, went upstairs, found the guns and took them away somewhere and buried them on the ground. They then fell upon their knees, clasped their hands and pledged themselves before the Almighty God that neither of them would ever tell where the guns were hidden. And this underground arsenal still remains unseen by mortal eyes even to this day.

Ministers Keep Secret.

Many years after the event narrated above the Rev. Mr. Fowler was carrying on a protracted meeting at Tetersburg, about six miles northeast of Tipton, where he told this story to an old friend, but could not be induced to break the secret pertaining to the hidden place of those guns. He regarded his oath with the Rev. George Abbott as too sacred to be broken even though Abbott was now dead, and the smoke of battle between the North and South had cleared away and been absorbed by the vegetation now grown up between them. There is nothing now that is likely to bring those guns to light, except the angels of heaven in the last day, when they may be brought forward as witnesses against the disloyal character of the Knights of the Golden Circle in their vain and unhallowed attempts to "put asunder what God had joined together." Let us hope that God's mercy may pardon their acts on the ground that "they knew not what they were attempting to do."

Shortly after the hiding of these guns, the organization at the Funk neighborhood felt pretty sure that a certain war Democrat - a leader in the Union League - had taken a leading part in removing these guns from the Smith home, and resolved that the suspected one should pay the penalty. But as said awhile ago, there were Union spies on their trail at all hours of night or day. "So at the risk of his life," as my informant says, "one of these spies, who happened to be a neighbor, called at our house, just as night was coming on, and informed us that we were to be burned out that night. (This informant, by the way, is the son of the man just mentioned as taking a leading part in the workings of the Union League, and is well known to most of the older citizens of Indiana, as a man thoroughly reliable for anything that he says, though he requested his name not to be mentioned.)" After imparting his information," my informant continues, "he left as suddenly as he came. I was then but a stripling of a boy of about 14 years, alone in the house with mother and aunt; or my father and uncle had gone early in the evening to attend a meeting of the Union League at school house No. 14. Their purpose was to thwart the efforts of the Knights of the Golden Circle, though they might have to shed their neighbors' blood, and sacrifice their own to do it. While at the league these two men, along with other members, received a number of navy revolvers, furnished by Governor Morton.

"After receiving this warning from our neighbor, as just narrated, I said to my mother and aunt, 'Well, if they are going to burn us out we had better be prepared.' Mother and aunt said, 'We had better go over to the home of George Abbott.' But they

remained and helped me to bar the doors and windows. I loaded the rifle and double-barreled shotgun and molded bullets until I had used up all the lead on the place. At about that time - 11 o'clock - father and uncle came home. We told them of the warning we had received. On hearing this report father, with determination in his countenance, drew one of those big navy revolvers from his pocket and laid it on the table. Then my uncle pulled out one of the same kind; father, another; uncle, another. We had thus, including my rifle and shotgun, twenty-three shots, altogether.

Knights Threaten Home.

"Quite a number of knights met on the hill at the east end of our farm, and came by the house on horseback, yelling and shooting, but no one shot towards the house. They went back to the west end of the farm, then back to the east, yelling and shooting as before. This they did two or three times. Like the Comanche Indians, they seemed to be trying to work up a courage or frenzy that would be sufficient to enable them to apply the torch to the house. Then father said, 'We'll just stop that!'"

"He stationed me with my two guns at the west end of the lot, my uncle at the gate, while he himself took his station at the east end.

"When the knights again came riding toward the house I let go with my double-barreled shotgun. Then as they approached uncle and father, each of them fired his revolver as fast as the trigger could be pulled. When I shot that gun, both barrels at once, it sounded like a cannon, and I think every one of those knights thought so, too, for they never returned."

From that time on quietude prevailed in that locality - all knights seemed to be willing after that to let Oliver P. Morton manage the belligerent affairs in Indiana without hindrance of their part.

This might seem like the end of my story; but the writer does not wish to close this article without focusing his lenses upon the life and character of the Rev. George Abbott, who had more to do with thwarting the efforts of the Knights of the Golden Circle than any other man within fifty miles of North Manchester. Religiously, he was a follower of Alexander Campbell, and believed and preached baptism by immersion as the only salvation for a sin-sick soul; but when it came to the war for the maintenance of the Union, he believed and practiced the baptism of fire and red-hot lead as the only cure for a rebel sympathizer. His sincerity and ternal [sic] vigilance won hundreds of friends to his standard in both cases. He gave his three sons in defense of the Union.

When his youngest son - about 18 years old - was in camp near Kokomo, his father went there to visit him. While there he met a man that lived near the old town of Nevada, Tipton County. Learning that Abbott was a preacher, this gentleman invited him to come to Nevada on the following Sunday evening to hold services. This he consented to do. When the Knights of the Golden Circle heard about the arrangements, they decided that Mr. Abbott could not preach in their church. They had heard about his patriotic sermons all over the North, and did not want any of those repeated before their congregation. So they notified the gentleman who had made the announcement that he had better call it off, for if Abbott attempted to preach those fiery sermons in their church, there would be trouble. The gentleman met Abbott at Kokomo and tried to persuade him not to come, and explained that his life would be in danger. But Abbott was not the man to be thus easily disposed of. Like Martin Luther of Luxemburg, he said: "I will go to Nevada and preach, though there be as many devils between here and there, as there are

clapboards on the roofs of the cabins. I never make an engagement that I do not fill - and not only that, but I'll preach the same kind of sermon that I always preach. Go back and tell the people that I will be there at early candle lighting."

So Abbott with Bible in one pocket and gun in the other went to Nevada. He took his son and another soldier with him - all riding horseback. The church was filled with people largely from the ranks of the Golden Circle, evidently congregated for the purpose of making trouble. There were two or three men on the outside when he arrived. Abbott spoke to them very pleasantly and said: "Well, I see it is church time. Let's go in." These men tried to excuse themselves - they did not want to go in.

Sermon Is Delivered.

Abbott left the horses in charge of the soldier, took his son inside the church with him, and compelled the three men also to enter. He then turned the key in the lock, went to the pulpit and commenced the services. He announced that he had been advised not to come there - that there would be trouble if attempted to preach the kind of sermon that he usually delivered, and then added: "I serve notice right now that I expect to deliver the same kind of sermon tonight as usual. I have on the outside a soldier standing guard, and my son, also a soldier, at the door. Any man can come in; but woe to the man who attempts to pass out before I am through with my discourse. I came prepared to deliver a sermon, and I will keep order with this gun, if necessary." And he laid the gun on the table, and proceeded to preach his sermon.

To show the spirit of sincerity of the man, the writer will be pardoned for giving an extract from the parson's closing prayer:

"Oh, Lord God, may every word that I utter in this prayer be the cause of the death of forty rebels, and the death of forty copperheads, butternuts and Knights of the Golden Circle."

Is it any wonder that the spirit of hatred existed between the loyalists and disloyalists, when the former were led by such bitter earnestness as shown by the sermons and prayers of devout ministers of the gospel; and latter by such men as Clement L. Vanlandingham who persistently and vehemently advised his followers to stain the rivers with blood rather than submit to a draft of soldiers to fight in what he called an unholy war.

But we are proud to say, that with the passing of years, all elements of sectional discord and passion have ceased, and brotherly love prevails throughout our beloved land.

"God reigns, and the government at Washington still lives." - Garfield.

Civilian of the Month



Photo and information from Find a Grave Memorial # 32555234

George Abbott was born September 18, 1816 in Preble County, Ohio, the son of James and Catharine (Tillman) Abbott. They moved to Wabash County in 1834. He married Nancy Barrett in August 1839. They had eight children. He became a minister of the Christian Church in 1845. He died March 30, 1894 and lies buried in Pleasant Grove Cemetery in Liberty Mills, Indiana.

Historic Site of the Month

Treason in Indianapolis Public Walking Tour at Crown Hill Cemetery: This tour explores the lives of men and women who were involved in the Indianapolis Treason Trials, which began in the Indianapolis federal courthouse in September 1864. Contact Nikki Schofield to learn when the next tour will be in 2018.

Last minute Announcement: The Indiana Historical Society is requesting volunteers to help dismantle the trees that are part of Festival of Trees. They will be taking them down between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. January 8 - 10. They need help removing and packing the decorations and moving the trees to on-site storage (some heavy lifting will be required). They will provide snacks and beverages. Please respond to Lori Murray at 317-234-7640 or email her at lmurray@indianahistory.org by January 4.

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