



HARDTACK

Indianapolis Civil War Round Table Newsletter

<http://indianapoliscwrt.org/>

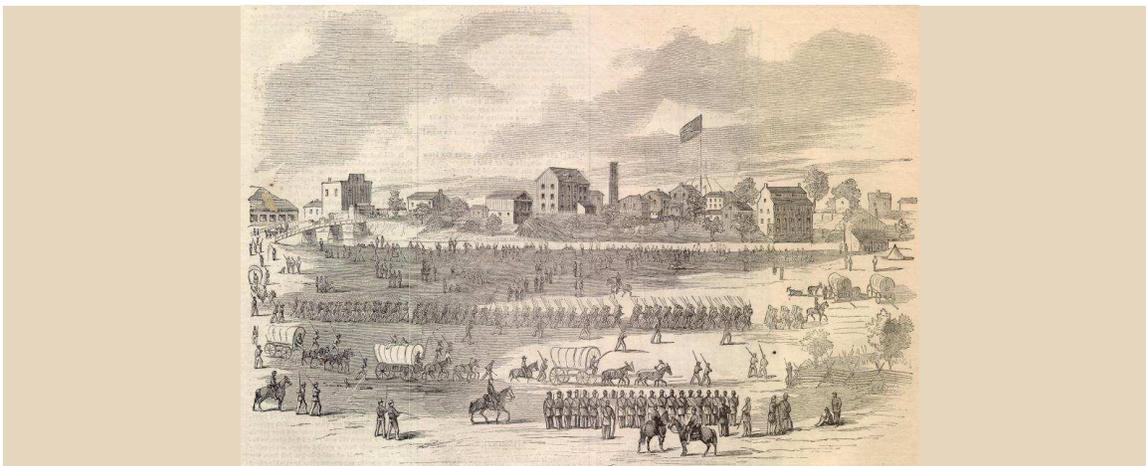


March 10, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.

Meeting at Indiana History Center

The Plan of the Day

Turning the Tide: Union Cavalry at the Battle of Shelbyville, Tennessee



Shelbyville, the only Union town of Tennessee – sketched by Mr. H. Hubner, 3rd Ohio Volunteers
Harper's Weekly, October 18, 1862

From <http://www.sonofthesouth.net/leefoundation/civil-war/1862/october/shelbyville-tennessee.htm>

Prior to the cavalry engagement fought literally within the town of Shelbyville, Tennessee on June 27th, 1863, as part of Union Gen. William S. Rosecrans' brilliant Tullahoma Campaign, Confederate cavalry in the West had been dominating their Union counterparts at most every turn. Dynamic and bold leaders like Nathan Bedford Forrest, Joe Wheeler and the "Kentucky Thunderbolt", John Hunt Morgan, coupled with officers like Thomas Woodward and Adam Rankin Johnson, lead raids throughout the Tennessee and Kentucky theaters of war, beating Union cavalry at almost every turn. But all of that started to change just before and at Shelbyville, when Wheeler's vaunted troopers were routed out of town by an aggressive Union cavalry brigade under Col. Robert Minty. Indeed, the performance of the Union cavalry in the entire campaign outshone their Rebel counterparts and served as a wake-up call that the days of being dominated were over. From Shelbyville forward, Union cavalry in the West would start to dominate the Confederates for the rest of the war.

Our Guest Speaker Greg Biggs

Greg Biggs has served as Civil War Tour Guide for a number of tours, including two for our Roundtable – The Atlanta Campaign Tour in June 2004 and The Birthplace of the River Campaigns in June 2006. He is a member of Sons of Confederate Veterans (Sam Davis Camp). He has served on the Western Ohio Civil War Round Table, Ohio Civil War Association, and Montgomery County Civil War Preservation Society. He is currently President of the Friends of Ft. Donelson Campaign and President and Program Chair for the Clarksville, TN Civil War Roundtable. He is a flag researcher, the text editor for the Flags of The Confederacy website (www.confederateflags.org), and a published author. He received the “All-Time Favorite Speaker” Award from the Toledo, OH CWRT in August 2005.

Roster of Officers and Committees for the 2007-2008 Campaign

Officers:

President: Dave Sutherland

Secretary: Frank Bynum

Vice President: Nikki Schofield

Treasurer: Peg Bertelli

Committee Chairs:

Programs: Nikki Schofield

Preservation: Andy O'Donnell

Website: Paul Watson

Publicity: Dave Buchanan & Tony Roscetti

Quiz Master:

Tony Trimble

Summer Campaign:

Nikki Schofield

HARDTACK Newsletter:

Editor: Jenny Thompson

2007-2008 Campaign Plans

Unless otherwise noted, we meet at the Indiana History Center, 450 West Ohio Street.

April 14, 2008	Spring Hill Affair & the Battle of Franklin	Eric Jacobson
May 12, 2008	“William C. Oates in War and Peace”	Glenn LaFantasie
June 9, 2008*	<i>Topic to be Announced</i>	Peter Carmichael

* meeting at Primo Banquet & Conference Center, 5649 Lee Road

Other Camp Activities

“Faces of Lincoln: Lincoln and Politics” Indiana Historical Society

The exhibit will include a political cartoon by Thomas Nast, illustrative prints, Horace Greeley editorials, portraits, and campaign materials. The display will be in the Lanham Gallery, Fourth Floor of the Indiana Historical Society, 450 West Ohio Street in downtown Indianapolis from Feb. 11, 2008 through June 21, 2008.

Civil War Saturday at Pritzker Military Library, 610 N. Fairbanks Court, 2nd floor, Chicago, Illinois. Steve Mayeux will discuss and sign *Earthen Walls, Iron Men: Fort Derussy, Louisiana* and *The Defense of the Red River* at 9:30 a.m. Marc Leepson will discuss and sign *Desperate Engagement: How a Little-Known Civil War Battle Saved Washington D.C. and Changed American History*. Reservations are suggested. Please contact Senior Librarian, Theresa Embrey, at tembrey@pritzkermilitarylibrary.net or at (312)587-0234.

Carmel Civil War Round Table

We meet at 7:00 PM on the third Wednesday of the month at the Carmel Clay Historical Society's Monon Depot Museum at 221 First St. SW in Carmel. This is our schedule until our summer recess:

- * Mar. 19, Nikki Schofield on " Mrs. Frederick Douglas"
- * Apr. 16, Bruce Kolb on "Attempted Abduction of Lincoln's Body"
- * May 21, Paul May on "The Battle of Little Round Top"

Civil War Living History Exhibit at the Brownsburg Public Library, Saturday, March 22, 2008, 1 to 4 p.m.

Civil War Parks Preservation Day April 5, 2008

Civil War Cannon to be Rededicated in Newburgh, IN



Rose Hill Cemetery in cooperation with the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) and the American Legion will be rededicating a Civil War era cannon on April 5th, 2008 at 1:30 PM CDT. The cannon has been an occupant of this Newburgh, Indiana cemetery for over a century. On April 13, 1904, the Newburgh Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) Post No. 262 was granted permission to place a cannon and a flagpole on a previously purchased lot in this cemetery as a memorial to their fallen comrades. The cannon is a Smooth Bore Flank Howitzer. It was cast in 1846 by the Cyrus

Alger & Co. in Boston, Massachusetts. These cannons were also known as 24-pounder siege guns with a total weight of 1480 pounds, a length of 69 inches, and a bore of 5.82 inches. It would fire a ball orientated at 5 degrees a maximum of 1322 yards. Total production of these model 1844 iron flank howitzers was 577 from 1846 to 1864; known survivors, 269. These howitzers were essentially an iron copy of the 24-pounder model 1841 bronze field howitzer, without handles (source: <http://www.cwartillery.org/ve/howsiege.html>). The cemetery tentatively plans to construct and install a new stone base for the cannon along with a memorial plaque detailing the history of the cannon and the G.A.R. post. Rose Hill Cemetery is located on State Road 261 in Newburgh. For more information please contact Tim Beckman of the SUVCW Ben Harrison Camp at the following e-mail address: timbeckman@gmail.com or call 317-353-6322.

“War in the Ozarks: Trans-Mississippi and Missouri”

Civil War Preservation Trust Annual Conference at Springfield, Missouri, April 17-20, 2008, at the University Plaza and Conference Center, 333 John Q. Hammons Parkway, Springfield, MO 65806. For more information, please telephone (800) 298-7878 or visit the website, www.civilwar.org/travelandevents/ac2008.

The Long Road to Richmond: How Colossal Miscalculations and Audacious Generals Lengthened the Civil War

Seminar at the College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA, April 20-25, 2008
Gain a detailed understanding of the battles and consequences of the crucial Civil War campaigns of the Virginia Peninsula in 1861-62. Lectures investigate battles from Big Bethel (one of the first) to the clash of the ironclads Monitor and Merrimack to the “murderous” charge at Malvern Hill. Witness the war’s impact on towns caught in the middle, women left behind, and slaves hungry for freedom. Hike on half a dozen battlefields and experience them from the perspective of the soldiers who fought and died there. Investigate how events on a narrow Virginia peninsula tremendously impacted the politics, strategies, and even the length of the Civil War. Program tuition includes all hotel lodging, meals, and admission fees. For additional information or to register for this week long program, call the William and Mary Elderhostel office directly at 757-221-3649 or email elderh@wm.edu. Please note that this program is sponsored solely by the William and Mary office and is not an Elderhostel program.

Tours at Crown Hill Cemetery

Join Nikki Schofield for the following tours this year:

Sunday, April 13	Civil War Women
Sunday, May 11	Civil War Generals
Sunday, June 1	Civil War Tour
Sunday, August 3	Civil War Generals and Their Wives (a new tour)
Sunday, August 17	Civil War Tour
Sunday, Sept. 21	Tombstones and Trees (a new tour)
Sunday, Sept. 14	Around the Gothic

Battle of the Wilderness

Friends of Wilderness Battlefield (FoWB) will commemorate the 144th Anniversary of the Battle of the Wilderness on the weekend of May 9-11, 2008. Highlights of the weekend will be the 6th annual Dinner & Auction on Saturday and a Civil War conference (Fri. May 9-Sun. May 11). Guest speakers include Chief Justice Frank Williams, Dr. John Simon, Gordon Rhea, Clark Hall and Greg Mertz. Visit www.fowb.org for complete event details, including a flier describing the weekend’s activities.

Lincoln Bicentennial – Mother’s Day Celebration

May 11, 2008 at Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial

A special day honoring the mother of our 16th president, Nancy Hanks, who is buried on the Southern Indiana farm where Lincoln lived from 1816 to 1830. A Regional Boy &

Girl Scout Campout will be held during this event at Lincoln State Park and Buffalo Run Farm. For more information, contact thinklincoln@psci.net.

Special Orders

Civil War Re-enactment

Fred Swift from the Carmel Historical Society is interested in hosting a CW re-enactment, and would like to get in touch with re-enactors who are interested. His office phone number is 776-9719 and home number is 846-0218.

Civil War Traveler

Don Pierce, the editor of the all-new <http://www.CivilWarTraveler.com>, invites you to visit his website when planning visits to Civil War sites or events while on trips or to discover new places and activities in your local area. Sites and events from more than 20 states have been added to the website. He invites you to look at the website and give your comments. It is their goal to list all Civil War events open to the public. Your input is invaluable to him and folks planning Civil War-related visits.

Official Records

Perryville Markers

Both of our signs are in the ground at Perryville, and they look great. They will be “unveiled” on Park Day, April 5. Members of the ICWRT are invited to attend the unveiling at 11 a.m. The following is a schedule of events:

- I. Introductory Remarks at 38th Indiana Sign
 - Christopher L. Kolakowski, Executive Director, Perryville Enhancement Project
- II. The 38th Indiana at Perryville
 - Kurt Holman, Park Manager, Perryville Battlefield State Historic Site
- III. Remarks
 - Indianapolis CWRT Representative
- IV. Sign Unveiling
- V. Relocation to 80th Indiana Sign
- VI. The 80th Indiana at Perryville
 - Mr. Holman
- VII. The High Water Mark of the Confederacy in the West – Preservation Plans
 - Mr. Kolakowski
- VIII. Remarks
 - Indianapolis CWRT Representative
- IX. Sign Unveiling
- X. Concluding Remarks
 - Mr. Kolakowski

For more information, visit www.perryville.net or call (859)332-1862.

Annual Civil War Trip

Reserve the dates Saturday, July 12 through Friday, July 18 for the annual Civil War bus trip. Our destinations are Gettysburg, Harpers Ferry, Antietam and Appomattox. More information will soon be available in an upcoming Hardtack.

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

In keeping with this month's subject, let's see what you know about cavalry!!

1. What was the unusual result of an 1864 Confederate cavalry action near Alexandria, Louisiana?
2. Name the largest cavalry battle ever fought in the Western Hemisphere. Who won and who commanded each side?
3. Who or what was "Old Wristbreaker?"
4. Name the officer who organized the 7th Kansas Cavalry. What was its nickname?
5. Name the Confederate Brigadier General of Cavalry who was nearly killed by one of his own Lieutenants. Name the Lieutenant.

Answers to February Quiz:

1. Name the Civil War prison that is now the location of a modern city correctional facility. Riker's Island
2. By what name was the 6th Pennsylvania popularly known? Rush's Lancers
3. What is a "coehorn"? Portable smoothbore mortar firing 17 or 24 pound projectiles
4. Who said, "I think I am the proper person to advise Mr. Davis and if I were he, I would be hung before I submit to the humiliation." To what "humiliation" did the speaker refer? Varina Davis; Being forced by the CSA Congress to appoint a commander-in-chief for all the armies.
5. "God disposes. This ought to satisfy us," was a last message left on the desk of a well known soldier and found there after his death. Name him. Robert E. Lee

The Soldiers Speak

Lt. Col. Gilbert C. Kniffen, U.S.V., quoted in *Battles and Leaders of the Civil War: Volume III, Part II*:

"Sending his supply trains out on the Shelbyville road, the cavalry under Stanley was ordered to Eagleville, twenty miles west, and a little south of Murfreesboro', with orders to advance on Shelbyville on the 24th of June in bold array, and at night to fill the country to their rear with camp-fires extending from Hardee's left to the Shelbyville road and beyond, indicating the presence of a heavy infantry force in his support. This ruse had the desired effect, and held Hardee at Shelbyville, while the real movement was against his right....in front of Tullahoma.... The unforeseen inclemency of the weather retarded Crittenden's advance to such an extent that, notwithstanding the continued exertions of both officers and men, he was four days in marching seventeen miles. Horses and mules,

floundering in the mud, were unhitched, and artillery and ammunition wagons dragged through deep morasses by the infantry. In some places mules perished in the mud, unable to extricate themselves. But for the heavy rains Crittenden would have joined McCook and Thomas two days earlier, and the campaign, might have had a different ending. When he came up, line of battle was formed fronting the works at Tullahoma... Between the lines the treacherous soil was filled with quicksand, which only needed the soaking of the week's rain to render it impassable. To advance against the Confederate works over this ground, through a dense abates of tangled tree-tops, in the face of a storm of grape-shot and minie-balls, would have been to doom one-half of the army to destruction."

Description of the defense of Hoover's Gap by Major James A. Connelly and General Thomas response, quoted in *The Civil War: The Fight for Chattanooga – Chickamauga to Missionary Ridge* by Jerry Korn

"We held our ground with continual fighting until 7 o'clock in the evening, when we discovered a battery coming up to our support as fast as the horses could run, and such a cheer as was sent up does one good to hear"

"We were nearly exhausted with the rapid march since before daylight in the morning, the continual rain, the half day's fighting, and nothing to eat since about two o'clock in the morning, yet the prospect of assistance nerved the men to maintain the unequal conflict a little longer.... [when two brigades of Reynolds' infantrymen arrived] We greeted them with such lusty cheers as seemed to inspire them with new vigor and they were soon in position; then came two more regiments of infantry, weary and footsore, but hurrying the best they could."

[the response of General Thomas to Wilder] "You have saved the lives of a thousand men by your gallant conduct today. I didn't expect to get this gap for three days."

Captain Alfred Lacey Hough, staff officer in the Army of the Cumberland, quoted in Time-Life's *Voices of the Civil War: Chickamauga*:

"The rains have been the means of preventing us from entirely intercepting Hardee's Corps, which I can see now was part of our campaign. We have driven them hard all the time, but they having the start, destroyed the bridges, and the swollen streams could not be forded, we would have to wait for them to subside, and then another rain before we reached the next stream, we aimed to get into the mountains before they did, but they passed over on the 3rd of July, and will be safe in Chattanooga before we get over. If we could have had fine weather I verily believe we would have destroyed Hardee's Corps this side of the mountains. This has been the hardest work I ever experienced, and Gen. Negley says the hardest one he ever had at this season of the year. We left Murfreesboro on the 24th ult I believe and it has rained every day but two since we left. The elements obstructed us, but we pushed the enemy so hard they could do nothing to stop us except burning the bridges, until they got into the Mountains, and there they felled trees across the passes, that will take us some time to clear away....we have been eminently successful in driving them across the Mountains, compelling them to evacuate two strongly fortified towns Shelbyville & Tullahoma (good depots for us) and opening up a large space of country in a few days with but little loss to ourselves, but at the same time we feel disappointed at not having destroyed Hardee's Corps, which was in the rear."

John A. Wyeth, quoted in *A Civil War Treasury of Tales, Legends and Folklore*, edited by B.A. Botkin:

“The Cavalry fight at Shelbyville [Tennessee] was the liveliest engagement which marked the retreat of Bragg’s army from Tullahoma to Chattanooga in the summer of 1863. Inasmuch as the Confederates were finally driven from the field, the honors of the day rested with the Union troopers, although they stopped short of reaping the full success which was in their grasp as the result of the brilliant fighting they had done. The Southern troops, who for more than three hours, in the outskirts of Shelbyville, stood up before and held at bay a largely superior force of Federals were a forlorn hope numbering 1200 men, placed there and commanded by Major General Joseph Wheeler, in the desperate effort to protect from capture or destruction an immense wagon-train loaded with supplies invaluable to Bragg’s army. While the fighting was going on, this immense train was filing across the narrow bridge which two miles from the battle-field spans Duck River, and was making its snail-like progress over the muddy and almost impassable road to Tullahoma.... [Wheeler also protected this bridge to allow Forrest time to escape, but almost got trapped himself.] The bridge had become blocked by one of the caissons, which had been overturned, and now, thinking they had them in a trap, the Union forces formed a line of battle parallel with the bank of Duck River and across the entrance to the bridge. The idea of surrendering himself and his command had not entered the mind of General Wheeler.... He now shouted to his men that they must cut their way through and attempt to escape by swimming the river.... Without a moment’s hesitation, and without considering the distance from the top of the river-bank, which was here precipitous, to the water-level, these gallant soldiers followed their invincible leader and plunged at full speed sheer fifteen feet down into the sweeping current. They struck the water with such velocity that horses and riders disappeared, some of them to rise no more. The Union troopers rushed to the water’s edge and fired at the men and animals struggling in the river, killing or wounding and drowning a number. Holding to his horse’s mane, General Wheeler took the precaution to shield himself as much as possible behind the body of the animal, and, although fired at repeatedly, he escaped injury and safely reached the opposite shore.”

Officer of the Month

Colonel Josiah Robins

Information from http://www.civilwarfamilyhistory.com/new_page_30.htm

Photo courtesy of Glenda McWhirter Todd, found on <http://www.tarleton.edu/~kjones/morgan.html>

In 1861, Josiah Robins recruited a cavalry company called the “River Rangers”, which became known as Company C of the 3rd Alabama Cavalry after the Battle of Shiloh. The men elected Josiah captain of the company. Josiah was severely wounded in the Battle of Shelbyville. His wife, Sarah Strother (Gregg) Robins, took a great risk to come to Shelbyville to nurse him back to health and to deliver some horses. By 1864, Josiah had risen to the rank of colonel and was in command of the regiment.



3rd Alabama Cavalry flag

Historic Site(s) of the Month

Information from <http://www.CivilWarTraveler.com>

Tullahoma Campaign

Following the battle of Stone's River (ending Jan. 2, 1863), Union Gen. William Rosecrans consolidated his position in Murfreesboro while his opponent Confederate Gen. Braxton Bragg set up a defensive line near Tullahoma, blocking the route to Chattanooga. Despite frantic urgings from Washington, Rosecrans didn't move against Bragg until June 24. But his campaign was conducted skillfully as well-armed Union cavalry spearheaded the Union offensive that constantly outmaneuvered Bragg, forcing the Confederates into a series of retreats. By the end of June, Bragg finally was forced to withdraw south of the Tennessee River, giving up all of Middle Tennessee and opening the door to Chattanooga.

A detailed driving tour brochure of the Tullahoma Campaign has been printed by the Tennessee Backroads Heritage Association. Highlights include historic buildings and the battles of Liberty and Hoover's Gaps. Call 800-799-6131 or write Tennessee Backroads Heritage Inc., P.O. Box 52, Tullahoma, TN 37388 for a free copy.



Beech Grove

Photo by Bob Price

Beech Grove Confederate Cemetery Park

Near the intersection of I-24 and US 64

Interpretive kiosk with maps and other information describes the action at Hoover's Gap where heavy rain and Confederate resistance delayed the Union advance. Open daily during daylight hours.

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 jkt60@att.net by the tenth day following the preceding month's meeting. Please list **HARDTACK** in the subject line and include your email address in case I need to contact you.

Description of the weather by a soldier and Major James A. Connelly in Wilder's Brigade, quoted in *The Civil War: The Fight for Chattanooga – Chickamauga to Missionary Ridge* by Jerry Korn

“On the morning of June 24, as the Federal troops were marching out of Murfreesboro, rain began to fall. It fell steadily for the next 17 days – and ‘no Presbyterian rain, either,’ recalled one soldier, ‘but a genuine Baptist downpour.’ Roads turned to quagmires; an artilleryman said the guns in his unit traveled not on the roads but under them. Major James A. Connolly, an officer in Wilder’s brigade, recalled, ‘We lived in the rain, slept in the mud and rain, and were as wet as fish in the river....’ ‘Our regiment lay on the hillside in mud and water, the rain pouring down in torrents, while each shell screamed so close to us as to make it seem that the next would tear us to pieces. Presently the enemy got near enough to us to make a charge on our battery, and on they came; our men are on their feet in an instant and a terrible fire from the Spencers causes the advancing regiment to reel and its colors fall to the ground.’”

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