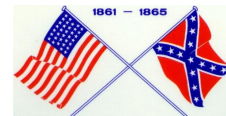


HARDTACK

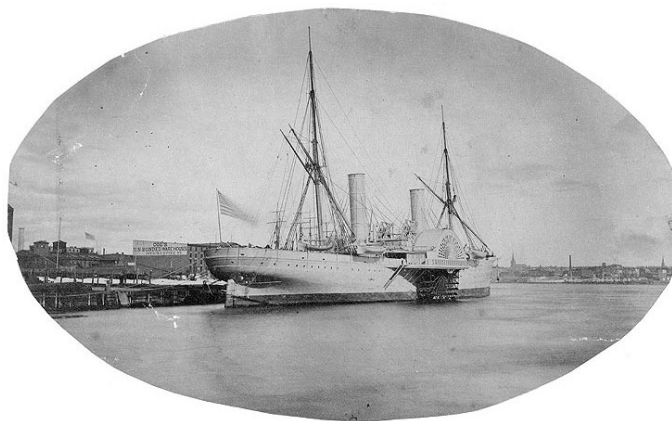
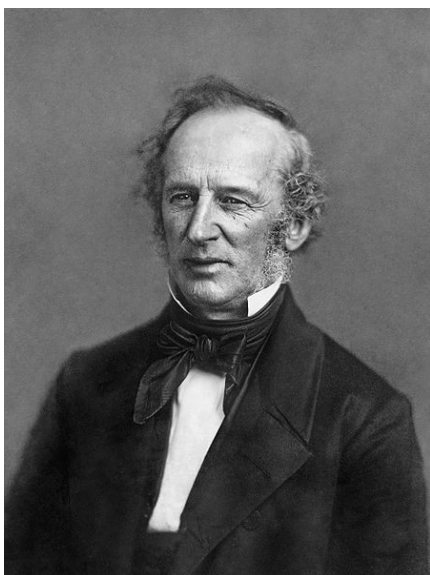
Indianapolis Civil War Round Table Newsletter

<http://indianapoliscwrt.org/>



January 9, 2012 at 7:30 p.m.
Meeting at Indiana History Center Auditorium
450 West Ohio Street

The Plan of the Day
Steamships and the Civil War:
Cornelius Vanderbilt, America's First Tycoon



At the outbreak of the Civil War, Cornelius Vanderbilt was one of the wealthiest men. At age 66, he had already left an indelible mark on American history. What was his response to the conflict? Where did his sympathies lie, and what role did he play in the war? A self-made man whose financial empire stretched across the sea lanes to Europe and the Pacific, the war brings the Commodore face-to-face with President Lincoln and Secretary of War Edwin Stanton. On the high seas, his steamships will have encounters with the Merrimack, and with the most famous Confederate raider, Captain Raphael Semmes. Much of this discussion will draw from author T.J. Stiles' incredible biography of Vanderbilt *The First Tycoon* (2009).

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



Jim Kaiser is a Purdue graduate (MA '73) who retired in 2010 after 35 years of teaching high school mathematics and social studies. He was the head football coach at two Indianapolis area schools for 19 seasons, and was inducted into the Indiana Football Hall of Fame in 2005. For the past nine years, he has been working on a second career in financial services. He and his wife live in Monrovia, Indiana.

Roster of Officers and Committees for the 2011-2012 Campaign

Officers:

President: Jerry Thompson
Secretary: Frank Bynum
Programs: Jenny Thompson

Vice President: Dr. John Wernert
Treasurer: Tony Roscetti
Immediate Past President: Chris Smith

Committees:

Preservation: Andy O'Donnell
Publicity: Dave Klinestiver, Dave Sutherland & Tony Roscetti

Website: Paul Watson

Quiz Master:

Tony Trimble

HARDTACK Newsletter:

Editor: Jenny Thompson

Summer Campaign:

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.

2011-2012 Campaign Plans

| | | |
|-------------------|---|----------------|
| February 13, 2012 | Merrill Rifle | Mike Beck |
| March 12, 2012 | Four Civil War Persons of Note from Randolph County | Phil DeHaven |
| April 9, 2012 | USS Cairo | Kevin Stickels |
| May 14, 2012 | Confederates in Indiana: The Raid of John Hunt Morgan | Jim Turley |
| June 11, 2012 | Battle of South Mountain | John Hoptak |

Other Camp Activities

Hamilton County Civil War Roundtable: The Carmel-Clay Civil War Roundtable is now the Hamilton County Civil War Roundtable. They meet at the Conner Prairie Interactive History Park located at 13400 Allisonville Road. Doors open at 7:00 p.m., and the program will start at 7:30 in the Lilly Theater on the 2nd floor of their main office building. We will have plenty of free parking, and people should enter through the main entrance where the ticket office is located. Camp coffee and hardtack should be available. Meetings will be on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, September through May, excluding December.

1/18 Al Harris – “Combat Generals of Indiana 1861-1865”

2/15 T.B.D.

3/21 Ron Durrah – “Brother vs. Brother Genealogy”

4/18 Phil DeHaven – “CSA Brig. Gen. William E. ‘Grumble’ Jones”

Lincoln Day Program: Dr. Robert Bray, author of *Reading with Lincoln*, will be the featured speaker at the annual Lincoln Day program on Sunday, February 19, 2012. The program will include presentation of colors by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, special music, and other ceremonial activities. It will begin at 2:00 p.m. CST at the Abraham Lincoln Hall of Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial, Lincoln City, Indiana (8 miles south of Interstate 64 on Indiana Highway 162, adjacent to Lincoln State Park). The part entrance fee will be waived for this event. This program will also kick off the park’s year-long observance of its 50th anniversary as part of the National Park System.

Crossroads of America Civil War / Political Show: This Civil War show will be held at Beech Grove High School, 5330 Hornet Avenue in Beech Grove on Friday, March 30, 2012 – 4pm – 8 pm and Saturday, March 31, 2012 – 9am – 4pm. Thousands of Civil War and political items will be offered by national dealers. For more information, contact Harvey W. Warrner, www.ironbrigaderelics.com or call 317-784-2617.

Civil War Heritage Days: The second annual Civil War Heritage Days will be held June 23 – 24, 2012 in Danville, Indiana. Contact Cindy, 745-2604 or Gail, 696-3129, for details.

Special Orders

Gettysburg in the Civil War: The Civilians Struggle: This new e-book by R.J. Musto is available at Barnes and Noble and Amazon. There are more books than one can count on the Battle of Gettysburg; however, very few books have been written on the civilians of Gettysburg. The battle left the town's residents in terror and their homes turned into hospitals. The civilians of Gettysburg found safety by leaving town or hiding in the cellars of their homes. As residents came back to town, they found homes ransacked for food, clothing and valuables. The homes and churches which served as field hospitals had blood stained walls and floors. Farmers found damage to their homes and barns, trampled farm crops, and soldiers buried in shallow graves on the farm fields. Life slowly came back to normal; however, the scars of the battle stayed with the civilians of Gettysburg for years.

Civil War Newspapers: The U.S. Naval Landing Party website is posting weekly news reports from period newspapers online. Each Wednesday or Thursday, one week's worth of articles from a variety of papers is added. Visit their website www.usnlp.org and click on the U.S. Flag behind the words "War News" to read these reports.

Stolen Sword Recovered: The stolen copper sword from the top of Lincoln's tomb was recovered. The sixteen-year-old boy claims he grabbed the sword, and it broke into two pieces when it fell to the ground. He has been charged with theft and criminal trespassing. Security has been tightened for now.

Official Records

December attendance: 39

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.

Alas Richmond: A Civil War Romance: This new book by Nikki Schofield is available now. Please see Nikki if you are interested in purchasing one of her books. The paperback books are \$15, and the hardcover books are \$25.

Book Raffle:

Four Years with General Lee, by Walter H. Taylor

The Road to Harpers Ferry, by J.C. Furnas

The Confederate War, by Gary W. Gallagher

Civil War in Pictures, arranged by Fletcher Pratt

Letters From the Iron Brigade: George W. Partridge, Jr. 1839-1863, 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. Name the commander of the Iron Brigade whose son won the Noble Peace Prize.
2. Name the Wisconsin soldier who won the Medal of Honor and whose son also won it.
3. Name the colonel of the 36th Wisconsin who wrote a memoir of Gettysburg.
4. Old Abe was the mascot of the 8th Wisconsin. What was Old Abe?
5. Name the wartime governor of Wisconsin who later became postmaster general.

Answers to the December Quiz:

Identify the Civil War personality known by each of these nicknames.

1. The Bard of Wall Street *** Edmund C. Stedman (*New York World*)
2. Bluff Ben *** Sen. Benjamin Wade (Ohio)
3. Old Blue Light *** Gen. Thomas J. Jackson, C.S.A.
4. Old Blinker *** Gen. William H. French, U.S.A.
5. Hero of Pea Ridge *** Gen. Franz Sigel, U.S.A.

Civilians and the Newspaper Speak

Louis Auchincloss, description of Vanderbilt: "He had a clear complexion, ruddy cheeks, a large bold head, a strong nose, square jaw, a high, confidence-inspiring brow, and thick, long gray hair which turned magnificently white."

Macon Telegraph (Macon, Georgia), January 10, 1861, about the steamship *Star of the West*: "The Ball Opened"

"The transactions in Charleston yesterday open the grand and terrible drama of civil war. The sinking of the *Star of the West* was, as we are informed, the achievement of a battery on Morris Island, and the two hundred and fifty troops destined to reinforce Major Anderson's garrison at Fort Sumter, were rescued from cold water by a ship passing out of port at the time.

Unquestionably this unsuccessful attempt to reinforce Fort Sumter will be promptly followed by an assault of the South Carolina troops on that Fortification, and we may expect to hear of bloody work in a few days. To leave it in possession of the enemy when a strong military and naval force may be soon daily expected from the North to “avenge the insult,” would be to invite destruction. The Palmettoes will take the Fort, or try to do it – for we fear it will prove a very difficult feat with their present means and appliances to accomplish.

Events will now crowd upon us rapidly. Histories will be born of a day. We anticipate active and unsparing efforts to subjugate the South and allow about six months for the North to get satisfied. She cannot do it.”

Lincoln asked Vanderbilt if he could stop the *Virginia*. **Vanderbilt** later wrote, “I replied to him that it was my opinion that if the steamship *Vanderbilt*” – his largest and fastest vessel – “was there properly manned, the *Merrimac* would not venture to come out; or if she did, that the chances were ten to one that the *Vanderbilt* could sink and destroy her.” He insisted, “No vessel had been, or could be, made by the rebels that could stand the concussion or stand before the weight of the *Vanderbilt*.”

Civilian of the Month



Find a Grave

Cornelius married his first cousin, **Sophia Johnson** on December 19, 1813, when he was only nineteen and she was only eighteen years old. They had twelve children. In 1868, Sophia died. This was a great loss to Cornelius, as she had provided support and advice to him for many years. She was buried at Moravian Cemetery in New Dorp, New York.

Historic Site of the Month



aviewoncities.com

In 1869, Vanderbilt commissioned architect John B. Snook to build the largest railway station in the world on a large property located on 42nd Street. It featured a large glass and steel train shed and was named Grand Central Station. A statue of Vanderbilt, “the Commodore,” is located in front of the current Grand Central Station, located on that same property.

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