



HARDTACK



Indianapolis Civil War Round Table Newsletter

<http://indianapoliscwrt.org/>

March 11, 2019 at 6:45 p.m.

Meeting at MCL Cafeteria Township Line

2370 W. 86th Street

The Plan of the Day

Valor, Gallantry and Remembrance: The Medal of Honor, Taps, and Memorial Day



Photos from <http://www.cmohs.org/medal-history.php>; <http://tapsbugler.com/learning-to-play-the-bugle/>; and <http://www.memorialdayfoundation.org/>.

There are many ties that bind Americans to the Civil War era. These innumerable ties include literature, music, poetry, Thanksgiving as a national holiday, Thomas Nast's Santa Claus, The Emancipation Proclamation, the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments to the Constitution, and an almost indeterminable number of military innovations. This conflict witnessed the first amphibious operations from beginning to end and it gave us iron clad warships and submarines and witnessed the first use of the rifle, machine gun, and siege artillery on railroads and river barges. It also produced an organized military signal service, the use of the telegraph, and aerial surveillance with the use of balloons. It was the first time large scale use of African-American troops were utilized in combat and it marked the first time in history that women entered the fields of nursing and teaching in large numbers and they have dominated those fields since the Civil War. Think about the great figures produced during that cataclysmic era. The war produced Lincoln, Lee, Grant, "Stonewall" Jackson, "Billy" Sherman, Julia Ward Howe, Clara Barton, and so many other significant and talented contributors to our nation's history. The great American historian Bernard DeVoto stated, "The Civil War is the crux of our history. You cannot understand any part of our past, from the convening of the Constitutional Convention of 1787, down to the events of this morning without eventually arriving back at the Civil War." Indeed, the Medal of Honor, TAPS, and Memorial Day, provide

significant and compelling ties connecting us to the Civil War in a very visceral and emotional way. Our Nation's highest military award, The Medal of Honor, is presented to members of the armed forces for extraordinary heroism. Anyone that has attended a funeral for an individual who served in America's armed forces has heard the bugler play the mournful notes of TAPS. May 30, 1868, was designated by Major General John A. Logan's as the day for citizens in every city, village, and churchyard in the country to decorate the graves of those who died in defense of their country. A National holiday, a day of remembrance, Memorial Day provides an occasion for all Americans to give thanks. This month's program, *Valor, Gallantry and Remembrance: The Medal of Honor, TAPS, and Memorial Day*, will provide a historical overview regarding these three ties that bind us to the Civil War.

JOIN US BEFORE THE MEETING AT MCL CAFETERIA!

All ICWRT members and guests are invited to join us at 6:00 P.M. at MCL Cafeteria, 2370 W. 86th Street before the meeting to enjoy dinner and fellowship.

Our Guest Speaker

Dave Finney is a nationally recognized scholar, author and lecturer regarding the Civil War. He received degrees from Indiana State University and Wayne State University and is a U.S. Army veteran. Dave served for thirty-seven years as a history teacher and chairman of the History and Social Studies Department at North Farmington High School as well as an adjunct faculty member at Oakland Community College and the University of Detroit/Mercy. For five summers, he was a seasonal historian at Fredericksburg-Spotsylvania and Petersburg National Military Parks. Dave is an author of many articles, two books, and recipient of numerous awards. His most recent book is *Remembering Michigan's Civil War Soldiers* by Arcadia Publishing. Dave contributed to documentaries produced by Michigan Government Television, Media Magic, and Historical Films Group. Dave served on the board of advisors for the CW Preservation Trust and the Association for Preservation of CW Sites and was recognized as American History Teacher of the Year by both the Michigan Council for the Social Studies and the Daughters of the American Revolution. Dave resides in Carmel and is a member of several Civil War Round Tables.

Roster of Officers and Committees for the 2018-2019 Campaign

Officers:

President: Tony Trimble

Vice President: Nikki Schofield

Secretary: Linda Smith

Treasurer: Tony Roscetti

Immediate Past President: Dave Sutherland

Committees:

Preservation: Andy O'Donnell

Website: Ed Pope

Program Selection: Dave Sutherland, Jenny Thompson, Nikki Schofield

Publicity: Peg Bertelli, Dave Sutherland & Tony Roscetti

Quiz Master:

HARDTACK Newsletter:

Tony Trimble

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.

2018-2019 Campaign Plans

April 8, 2019 – Kraig McNutt – "Battle of Franklin"

May 13, 2019 – Gary Johnson – "Countering Mallory's Infernal Machines"

June 10, 2019 – David Koehler – "Census in the Civil War"

NOTE: Our meetings will start at 6:45 p.m. and now will be held at MCL Cafeteria, 2370 W. 86th St.

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.

March 13, 2019 - Rob Girardi - Jefferson Davis

April 10, 2019 - Mac Wyckoff - Bombardment of Fort Sumter

May 8, 2019 - Curt Fields - General Grant, part II

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 Museum of Madison County, 13 West 11th Street, in downtown Anderson.

March 18, 2019 - Steve Jackson - "History of the Loudon Rangers"

April 15, 2019 - Gib Young - "Indiana at Gettysburg"

May 20, 2019 - Dave Gillespie - "Confederate Reenactor"

June 17, 2019 - Jim Orr - "Jedediah Hotchkiss"

July and August - no meeting

September 16, 2019 - Stephen Ritchie - "Robert E. Lee, West Point Cadet"

October 21, 2019 - TBA

November 28, 2019 - "The War in the West"

December - no meeting

Special Orders

Reconstruction: America After the Civil War: PBS recently announced a new four-hour documentary, produced and hosted by Henry Louis Gates, Jr., the Alphonse Fletcher University Professor at Harvard University and director of the Hutchins Center for African and African American Research, will premiere next spring. <https://to.pbs.org/2OmMpRT>

Crossroads of America Civil War, Political Postcard, and Paper Show: This event will be held on March 22, 2019 (4 - 6:30 p.m.) and March 23, 2019 (9 a.m. - 4 p.m.) at Beech Grove High School, 533 Hornet Ave, Beech Grove (exit 52 on I-465). For more information contact Harvey W. Warrner at www.ironbrigaderelics.com or 317-784-2617.

Dinner with Oliver P. Morton: Governor, now Senator, Oliver P. Morton will be returning to his Centerville, Indiana home to speak about his career which will be preceded by a tour of the home and a traditional 1850s spring meal on Saturday, May 4. Tickets are available from the Canal Society of Indiana indcanal@aol.com

Book Review by Nikki Schofield: *Civil War Barons, The Tycoons, Entrepreneurs, Inventors, and Visionaries Who Forged Victory and Shaped a Nation* by Jeffry D. Wert, was published in 2018. The subtitle tells it all. Some of the "barons" Mr. Wert writes about are John Deere, whose plows provided food for large armies; Gail Borden, who canned condensed milk for soldiers; the Studebaker brothers, who built wagons to move military supplies; and Robert Parrott, who manufactured rifled cannon. The postscript tells about these men after the war. There are extensive end notes. I recommend this book.

Official Records

Attendance: 30

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.

Book Raffle:

The Richmond Raid: A Novel About One of the Most Dramatic Episodes of the Civil War, by John Brick

Your True Marcus: The Civil War Letters of a Jewish Colonel, edited by Frank L. Bryne and Jean Powers Soman

Chattanooga: A Death Grip on the Confederacy, by James Lee McDonough

First with the Most: Nathan Bedford Forrest, by Robert Selph Henry

Memoirs of Robert E. Lee, by A.L. Long

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

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

1. Name the Confederate commander who entered Kentucky for the last time in June, 1864.
2. To whom did Native Americans refer to as, "Little Chief"?
3. A skirmish at Messinger's Ferry occurred in the aftermath of what major battle?
4. Who said, "Here is a paper with which if I cannot whip Bobbie Lee, I will be willing to go home"?
5. What was "boiled rye"?

Answers to the February Quiz:

1. What was "McClellan Pie"? *** Soldier's nickname for hardtack
2. Vicksburg was not Grant's only siege operation. Where did he begin a siege in June, 1864? *** Petersburg
3. On what battlefield would you find Benner's Hill? *** Gettysburg
4. To what position did Lincoln appoint John S. Phelps in July 1862? *** Military Governor of Arkansas
5. What term did Lincoln commonly use to describe the Civil War? *** Insurrection

The Newspapers Speak

From Newspapers.com

National Republican (Washington, District of Columbia) Friday, July 11, 1862, page 2

The House of Representatives have [sic] passed the Senate joint resolution to provide for the presentation of "medals of honor" to the enlisted men of the army and volunteer forces who have or who may distinguish [sic] themselves in battle during the present rebellion.

Burlington Weekly Free Press (Burlington, Vermont) Friday, October 10, 1862, page 1

MEDALS. - During the late session of Congress two hundred medals of honor were ordered to be prepared, to be bestowed upon such seamen, landsmen and marines,

as should distinguish themselves. Specimens have just been forwarded from the mint to Washington. The medals are about two inches in diameter, bronze, silver and gold, beautifully and elaborately executed.

Orleans Independent Standard (Irasburgh, Vermont) Friday, February 7, 1862, page 2
From the Cavalry Regiment.

CAMP HARRIS, ANNAPOLIS, Jan. 28, 1862.

FRIEND EARLE: When I bid you good by [sic] as I left my native town for the army, at your request I promised to write to you, as I did to many others, many more than I have had time to write to. But I have not forgotten my promise to you or any one of the thoughtful friends I have left behind; and nothing gives me more pleasure (and I speak the feelings of every soldier) than to hear from home, if but a word.

...

It is a pretty dry place here for news now. The same dull routine of duty from day to day gets to be an old story after a while. Most of our time since we have been here has been employed in fitting up our camp for winter. Not so much but we could have done it in a very short time, but the great difficulty has been in getting lumber and stuff to work with. Our lumber is pine, and is shipped as near to us as possible [sic] - a distance of two miles - and then is drawn to our camp by the baggage wagons. Our stables are nearly completed now. Our time when not employed on the stables, or in fitting up our camp, or other duty, is spent in drilling. At half past six in the morning the chief bugler sounds the roll call, or the call for the assembly of buglers, and is immediately answered by the company buglers in each street. They then proceed to the main street near the center of the camp, and in ten minutes the revilee [sic] sounds. Every man must turn out and answer to his name, or be accounted for. Then comes the breakfast call. Sufficient time allowed to eat, and the call is sounded to turn out and groom our horses. Then a call to feed - then drill, recall from drill, water call, guard mounting, and at noon another roll call - division drill again, recall, water call and feed, retreat at ten minutes before sundown when the roll is again called, and then supper. At eight in the evening, we must turn out, fair or foul, to roll call. At nine the taps sound, which means lights out. So you see everything is done to the sound of the bugle.

The Rutherford Star (Rutherfordton, North Carolina) Tuesday, June 9, 1868, page 2
Memorial Day.

We notice, in accordance with the orders of the General of the Grand Army of the Republic, Gen. JOHN A. LOGAN, that the graves of the Union dead throughout the country are decorated. [sic] All honor to the brave dead, who fell in defence [sic] of the Union, and the Constitution; and while we say all honor to the Federal dead, we do not wish to be understood to say anything in disparagement of our own dead. We honor a brave soldier, let him be Confederate or Union. The memory of both should be, and are with us, held sacred, and the graves of both decorated. We hope the time will come when not difference will be made between the two; and that the hand which strews flowers over the grave of a Confederate soldier, will do the same for the Union soldier. We notice one instance of this kind in Georgia. We hope to see some in this State.

To the Confederate dead, we say, sleep on brave dead, ye fell in defence [sic] of what you believed to be right. For all times your memory will be cherished by your

countrymen and women, and thy graves decorated by those left behind you. To the Federal dead, we say: Rest in peace; the cause for which you gave your life has triumphed; the nation of Washington is preserved; peace to thy ashes; a nation saved will ever remember you, and thy graves will be decorated to all future generations.

Officer of the Month



Photo and information from Find A Grave memorial # 1653

John Alexander "Black Jack" Logan was born February 9, 1826 in Murphysboro, Illinois. He fought in the Mexican War as a second lieutenant in the First Illinois Infantry. He earned a law degree at Louisville University and served as county clerk and U.S. Representative. He left Congress to form the Thirty-first Illinois Infantry, served as its colonel, and became a major general. After the war, he returned to Congress in 1867 and then as senator from 1871 until his death. He unsuccessfully ran for vice president in 1884. He is best remembered for his role as Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic and his General Order No. 11 on May 5, 1868, which established Decoration Day (Memorial Day). He died December 17, 1886 and lies buried in US Soldiers' and Airmen's Home National Cemetery in Washington, D.C.

Historic Site of the Month



Photo from Find A Grave memorial # 23895450

The **General John A. Logan Memorial** located in Mount Hope Cemetery in Lansing, Michigan honors General John A. Logan and shows General Order No. 11, which established "Decoration Day," now called "Memorial Day."

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Indianapolis, IN 46224