



HARDTACK



Indianapolis Civil War Round Table Newsletter

<http://indianapoliscwrt.org/>

February 10, 2020 at 6:45 p.m.

Meeting at MCL Cafeteria Township Line

2370 W. 86th Street

The Plan of the Day

Colors and Color Bearers (U.S. & C.S.) on the 1864 Tennessee Campaign



photo from <https://www.historynet.com/union-army>

Physical stamina and unflinching courage were requisite qualities of a good color bearer. The color bearer did not carry a weapon and their casualty rate was very high. His protection, and that of his flag, belonged to the color guard. This color party could range in size from two to nine men. If the flag bearer was wounded or was killed, someone else would pick up the flag. Both armies tended to be organized as regiments from particular states. The regimental flags represented their home states or region. The colors served as a symbol of ideals and values that the men were fighting to uphold such as family, duty, and honor. Flags were also tied to the idea of victory and the capture of enemy territory. They could also mark one's own territory. Civil War battle flags served several practical purposes. The flags marked the position of a regiment on the battlefield, which could often be a very confused place. In the noise and smoke of battle, regiments could become scattered, so a visual rallying point was essential, and soldiers were trained to follow the flag. The loss of a battle flag was considered a disgrace. The entire regiment would feel ashamed if the flag was captured and carried away by the enemy. Conversely, to capture the enemy's flag was considered a great feat. After the Civil War, some states returned the captured flags to their former owners.

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



David Fraley, an Indiana native, spent eighteen years in Franklin, Tennessee, as a historian, curator and interim director of the Carter House Museum. Semi-retired, he still occasionally conducts battlefield tours and lectures on the War Between the States. He is currently writing a book on colors and color bearers on the 1864 Tennessee Campaign.

Roster of Officers and Committees for the 2019-2020 Campaign

Officers:

President: Nikki Schofield

Vice President: Angie Gilmer

Secretary: Bill Nicolai

Treasurer: Tony Roscetti

Immediate Past President: Tony Trimble

Committees:

Preservation: Andy O'Donnell

Website: Ed Pope

Program Selection: Tony Trimble, Bob Gottschalk, Angie Gilmer

Publicity: Peg Bertelli, Dave Sutherland & Tony Roscetti

Quiz Master:

Tony Trimble

HARDTACK Newsletter:

Editor: Jenny Thompson

Editors in Training: Pete Benner and Robert Gottschalk

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.

2019-2020 Campaign Plans

March 9, 2020 – Kurt Veters – *Freedom Spring*

April 13, 2020 – John Fazio – *Decapitating the Union: Jefferson Davis, Judah Benjamin and the Plot to Assassinate Lincoln*

May 11, 2020 – Michael K. Shaffer – *In Memory of Self and Comrades: Thomas Wallace Colley's Recollections of Civil War Service in the 1st Virginia Cavalry*

June 8, 2020 – Mike Beck and Bruce Kolb – "G.A.R."

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.

February 12, 2020 - Stephen Towne - Surveillance & Spies in the Civil War

March 11, 2020 - Tom Williams - Stonewall Jackson's Valley Campaign

April 8, 2020 - Ray Boomhower - Pres. Harrison's Role in the Civil War

May 13, 2020 - Ted Chamberlain - General Chamberlain

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.

February 17, 2020 - DVD "Winter, 1862-1863"

March 16, 2020 - David Fraley, "Medal of Honor Recipients for Actions on the 1864 Tennessee Campaign"

April 20, 2020 - Gerald G. Jones, "The Fort Pillow Massacre"

May 18, 2020 - Stephen Lee Ritchie, "Lee in Defeat: An Examination of Character and Resilience"

June 15, 2020 - Ray Boomhower, "President Harrison"

September 21, 2020 - Stephen T. Jackson, "Gettysburg: After 50 Years - The Great Reunion"

October 19, 2020 - Linda Jones, "Desertion: One Man's Story"

November 16, 2020 - DVD "Virginia 1882-63"

Special Orders

Comanche and His Captain: The Warhorse and The Soldier of Fortune by Janet Barrett: This new book is available on Amazon. "Janet Barrett remembers her father first telling her about Comanche when she was about eight years old, a simple story about a horse that survived a battle." This book tells "the whole story of the horse that brought fame to himself and his rider, and a renewed sense of pride to the U.S. Seventh Cavalry. Against the fury of the Civil War and the challenges of securing the frontier, the intertwined stories of the tough Mustang, Comanche, and the courageous soldier of fortune, Captain Myles Keogh, move toward a climax that spells the end for one and a beginning for the other. Keogh was one of the many Irishmen whose profession was soldiering but who would not fight under the English flag. They took their talents elsewhere, Keogh coming to America to fight, first for the Union through more than 80 battles in the Civil War and then with the newly formed U.S. Seventh Cavalry. At Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, among a shipment of Mustangs just in from Indian Territory, the captain saw the horse he wanted and took the unusual step of buying Comanche with his own money. The two rode together for the next eight years, a partnership that took them

to the Battle of the Little Bighorn. No soldier survived that fight, not one of the 210 men under General Custer's command. But the Indians remembered Keogh as the bravest man they had ever seen. He was killed as he crouched under Comanche's front legs, firing his final shots. In death he continued to hold his horse's reins. The Indians left them be, Comanche standing alone on a battlefield covered with the dead. It was 1876, our country's 100th anniversary. As grand July 4th celebrations began, news of the Little Bighorn disaster sent shock waves across the country. Yet, people took comfort in knowing that the brave Comanche had survived. The soldiers brought him back to Fort Abraham Lincoln and nursed him back to full health. He became the most famous horse in America, Second Commanding Officer of the Seventh Cavalry, his presence helping to restore the cavalry's image of strength and courage."

Crown Hill Tours: Nikki Schofield is guiding the following tours at Crown Hill Cemetery. They are all on Saturday from 9:30 to 11 a.m. The cost is \$10 in person or \$7 if the ticket is purchased on Event Bright.

May 9 - Tombstones and Trees (this tour will be held again on October 17)

July 18 - Civil War

August 8 - Treason in Indianapolis (based on Nikki's book *Treason Afoot*)

September 5 - Drama and Disaster

More information from last month's speaker Greg Biggs: "Tied into the program, I made mention of Union regiments coming back to Tennessee after their re-enlistments and veteran furloughs having to walk from Nashville to Chattanooga since Sherman held all rail cars for supplies only and how they had to drive cattle with them. In the book *Civil War Memoirs of Alvareze B. Coggeshall* he notes that he and several friends enlisted in the 57th Indiana Infantry while they were home for their veteran's furlough in March 1864 in Williamsburg, IN. Rees, as he was called, was less than 18 at the time. After joining he and his mates took a train down to Nashville from Indianapolis, his first train ride ever. Arriving in Nashville I found this passage - 'One evening an officer came thru all the rooms. calling for the 57 IN boys...to report down on the ground floor at 10 O'clock. we left Nashvill at mid night on a freight train for Chattanuga Tenn wher we was to wait for our regiment witch was marching thru from Nashvill to Chattanuga...we would be thar for a fue days till our regiment got in from Nashvill.' Love his spelling! What I take from this is that since he and his mates were new recruits they got a train ride from Nashville to Chattanooga while the rest of the regiment marched - and probably drove cattle while doing so!"

Official Records

Attendance: 41

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:

Lincoln and His Generals, by T. Harry Williams

The Mind of the South, by W. J. Cash

Crisis at the Crossroads: The First Day at Gettysburg, by Warren W. Hassler, Jr.

Harvestfields of Death: The Twentieth Indiana Volunteers at Gettysburg, by Craig L. Dunn

George Henry Thomas: As True as Steel, by Brian Steel Wills

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

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

1. A skirmish at Springfield Landing was a part of what larger battle?
2. Who wrote in 1865 that he had, "been laboring without much progress to advance the raising of negro troops"?
3. In soldier parlance, what was a "soubrette"?
4. What was Edith and where would you find it?
5. After the fall of Island #10, the Mississippi was open to Memphis except for 1 fort. Name it.

Answers to the January Quiz:

1. Who was the officer ordered by Lincoln to organize troops in Indiana during Fall, 1862? *** Maj. Gen. John McClernand
2. The escape of Braggs' troops from Kentucky led to the removal of what General? *** Don Carlos Buell
3. Who were the "Kid-glove Dandies"? *** the personal guard of Gen. John C. Fremont
4. What were "Kilpatrick's Monuments"? *** Burned out southern homes order destroyed by Gen. Hugh Judson Kilpatrick
5. When Sherman abandoned his flanking movement, a day of tragic losses occurred where? *** Kennesaw Mountain

The Newspaper Speaks

From Newspapers.com

The Evansville Daily Journal (Evansville, Indiana) 30 Dec 1864, Friday, page 1

General Wagner.

General George Wagner was at Indianapolis on Thursday, the 15th, on his way to join Sherman. His division lost one thousand and three hundred men in the battle of Franklin. Of the desperation of the rebels, the General says, "nothing like it had been seen before." One of their regiments, the 31st Alabama, he thought, during one of the headlong charges, struck the 74th Ohio with a terrific crash, and the two veteran bodies fought hand to hand for some minutes, each losing all its color bearers and each capturing the colors of the other and losing its own. So the gallant Ohio boys now carry the flag of the Alabamians. A singular fact indicating the fearful reduction of the numbers of the rebels is stated by General Wagner. In one of the charges seventy-one men were captured in a body, and these forty-one *were officers*.

Soldier of the Month



photo and information from Find A Grave memorial # 8400016

James C. Walker was born November 30, 1843 in Harmony, Ohio. He served as Color Sergeant in Company K, 31 Ohio Infantry. He received the Medal of Honor for his actions at Missionary Ridge, Tennessee. "After two color bearers had fallen, seized the flag and carried it forward, assisting in the capture of the battery. Shortly thereafter he captured the flag of the 41st Alabama and the color bearer."

Historic Site of the Month



Photo and information from <https://47thpennsylvania.wordpress.com/known-resting-places/regimental-memorials-by-city-47th-pennsylvania-volunteers/lehigh-county-soldiers-and-sailors-monument/>
Lehigh County Soldiers and Sailors Monument in Allentown, Pennsylvania: This monument was dedicated October 19, 1899 to honor the 47th Pennsylvania Volunteers. This column "dedicated to the theme of unity, depicts two soldiers - one Union, one Confederate, linking arms in the spirit of 'One Flag, One Country.'"

Indianapolis Civil War Round Table
1346 Brookwood Circle
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