



HARDTACK



Indianapolis Civil War Round Table Newsletter

<http://indianapoliscwrt.org/>

November 11, 2019 at 6:45 p.m.
Meeting at MCL Cafeteria Township Line
2370 W. 86th Street

The Plan of the Day

Weapons of Mass Destruction Considered during the Civil War

In an effort to bring resolution to the Civil War, creative suggestions and research was offered by individuals, many of whom were civilians. Several of such suggestions involved the use of chemical and biological agents as unconventional weapons by both Confederate and Union forces against their adversaries. The Confederacy considered weaponizing numerous chemicals and biological agents. A Southern civilian offered a detailed plan to take Fort Pickens by the deployment of a poison gas from a balloon. Another suggested using red pepper and veratria, or hydrocyanic acid and arseniuretted hydrogen in artillery shells. To combat a tunneling operation by Union forces, Confederate troops created fuse activated sulfur smoke cartridges. Chinese stink balls were considered as an adjunct to break the siege of Petersburg. Chloroform was to be used in a plan to thwart USS *Monitor*. A plot to sell smallpox contaminated clothing to Union forces was devised by a Southern sympathizer. A high ranking Confederate surgeon suggested the use of potassium cyanide and hydrochloric acid in artillery shells. A medical doctor from Kentucky schemed to contaminate the New York water supply with strychnine, arsenic, and prussic acid. This same physician executed a plan to infect the population of major Northern cities and President Lincoln with yellow fever. The Union also researched and discussed uses of chemicals on Rebel troops. A New York City schoolteacher thoroughly researched a chlorine ordinance to be contained in an artillery shell. Another idea was to fill a hand-pump fire engine with chloroform for dispersal on troops. A captain proposed using a cacodyl glass grenade for ship-to-ship fighting. The grenade would also have contained arsenious acid. In a letter to President Abraham Lincoln, a professor envisioned the combination of hydrochloric and sulfuric acids on Confederate lines. There were over 1500 different schemes, suggested by Northern citizens, for disposing of CSS *Virginia (Merrimack)*, including a plot to poison the crew. A Wisconsin citizen wrote to the governor, and suggested using kites to drop red pepper over Confederate camps. With the exception of the yellow fever scheme, weapons of mass destruction were not sortied as neither President Lincoln nor President Davis gave authorization, as both disapproved of unconventional warfare. Both feared the negative propaganda, the infuriation of the citizens, and reprisals from irregular warfare. As a result, on April 24, 1863, President Lincoln issued General Order No. 100, which prohibited the use of poison in any manner. This presentation, complete with photos and descriptions, will discuss and illustrate the chemical and biological poisons

considered by both militaries during the War Between the States. It is imperative that history shows that such weapons of mass destruction were considered, but not utilized. **Objectives:** List three chemicals considered to be used as a weapon by Union or Confederate forces during the US Civil War. Name the disease involving a plot to infect citizens of major Northern cities and President Lincoln. State two explanations mass destruction weapons during the US Civil War were not utilized.

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

Mark Laubacher is a RN and paramedic working as a Certified Specialist in Poison Information since 1992 at the Central Ohio Poison Center located at Nationwide Children's Hospital, Columbus, Ohio. Prior to this, he was a full time staff nurse at Children's Emergency Department for 4 years. He received his Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Capital University in 1989. He is also currently a faculty member for Grant Medical Center Paramedic Program in Columbus, Ohio. Having delivered over 500 presentations, he routinely presents at the state and national levels on various topics of toxicological emergencies. A student of US Civil War history, Mark presented a paper on snake bites at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine Conference in 2013. He did the same at the Society of Civil War Surgeons Conference in May 2014. A review of unconventional weapons that were considered during the Civil War was given in New Orleans in September 2014 to the North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology. He is an active member of the following: 1st Ohio Light Artillery Battery A, Central Ohio Civil War Roundtable, Society of Civil War Surgeons, National Museum of Civil War Medicine, and Society of Civil War Historians. His publications include:
 Laubacher, Mark. "Snake Bit--Perpetuated Error: No Snake Bites to Civil War Soldiers." *Blue & Gray Magazine* 30, no. 5 (July 2014): 45-52.
 Laubacher, Mark. "The First Medical Man aboard USS *Monitor*," *Journal of Civil War Medicine* 19, no. 2 (April/May/June 2015): 60-71.

Roster of Officers and Committees for the 2019-2020 Campaign

Officers:

President: Nikki Schofield

Vice President: Angie Gilmer

Secretary: Bill Nicholai

Treasurer: Tony Roscetti

Immediate Past President: Tony Trimble

Committees:

Preservation: Andy O'Donnell

Website: Ed Pope

Program Selection: Tony Trimble & Angie Gilmer

Publicity: Peg Bertelli, Dave Sutherland & Tony Roscetti

Quiz Master:

Tony Trimble

HARDTACK Newsletter:

Editor: Jenny Thompson

Editors in Training: Pete Benner & 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

December 9, 2019 – Steve Magnusen – *To My Best Girl: Courage, Honor, and Love in the Civil War: The Inspiring Life Stories of Rufus Dawes and Mary Gates*

January 13, 2020 – Greg Biggs – "The Question was One of Supplies: The Logistics for William T. Sherman's Atlanta Campaign"

February 10, 2020 – David Fraley – "Colors and Color Bearers (U.S. and C.S.) on the 1864 Tennessee Campaign"

March 9, 2020 – Kurt Vettters – *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.

November 13, 2019 - David Powell - Chickamauga

December - no meeting

January 8, 2020 - Craig Dunn - 19th Indiana Regiment

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.

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

December - no meeting

Special Orders

The five black men who raided Harpers Ferry with John Brown have been forgotten (by Eugene L. Meyer, special to The Washington Post, published October 13, 2019 in Stars and Stripes): Five African Americans were with Brown when he raided Harpers Ferry, but each October on the anniversary of the raid, they are overlooked as the focus remains on Brown. The author of this article names them as Osborne Perry Anderson, "Emperor" Shields Green, John Anthony Copeland, Dangerfield Newby, and Lewis Leary. To read more about them, please visit: https://www.stripes.com/the-five-black-men-who-raided-harpers-ferry-with-john-brown-have-been-forgotten-1.602963?utm_medium=email&utm_source=Stars+and+Stripes+Emails&utm_campaign=Daily+Headlines

Free Civil War Items: A former long time member, Charles Fields, has a couple hundred books, over twenty-five years of Civil War Times Illustrated magazines, maps from the Civil War Trust, and photographs that he would like to give to anyone interested in the Civil War. Contact him by phone at 317-293-0358.

Official Records

October Attendance: 37

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 Second Day at Gettysburg: Essays on Confederate and Union Leadership, edited by Gary W. Gallagher

Grant and Lee: Victorious American and Vanquished Virginian, by Edward H. Bonekemper III

The Iron Brigade, by Alan T. Nolan

The Kimberlins go to War: A Union Family in Copperhead Country, by Michael B. Murphy

In the Hands of Providence: Joshua L. Chamberlain & the American Civil War, by Alice Rains Trulock

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

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

1. On 26 May 1862, there was a skirmish at Calico Rock. In what state is it?
2. Grant attacked along a 3-mile line from Stockade Redan to Fort Garrott. Of what campaign was this a part?
3. Who were the "Lost Children"?
4. Who was restored to command by Gen. Lee on 22 February 1865?
5. "Retreat is a weak term to use when speaking of this disgraceful rout." Name the journalist who wrote this and to what battle did he refer.

Answers to the October Quiz:

1. On 6 October 1864, a notorious Copperhead was arrested in Indiana. Name him. *** Lambdin P. Milligan
2. What was "forty rod"? *** The worst whiskey said to be lethal at forty rods
3. Who coined the phrase, "Lost Cause"? *** Edward A. Pollard
4. On 27 November 1862, Gen. Burnside rejected a plan to avoid a direct attack against Fredericksburg during a meeting at Aquia Creek. Whose plan did he reject? *** Abraham Lincoln
5. Who said, "Here is a paper with which if I cannot whip Bobbie Lee, I will be willing to go home."? To what paper does he refer? *** George McClellan referring to the lost orders at Antietam

The Newspaper Speaks

From Newspapers.com

The Philadelphia Inquirer (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania), 16 May 1863, Saturday, page 2
The Policy of the War.

Instructions for the Government of Armies of the United States in the Field.

GENERAL ORDERS No. 100. - WAR DEPARTMENT, ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE, WASHINGTON, April 24, 1863. - The following "Instructions for the Government of Armies of the United States in the Field," prepared by FRANCIS LIEBER, LL.D., and revised by a Board of Officers, of which Major-General E.A. HITCHCOCK is President, having been approved by the President of the United States, he commands that they be published for the information of all concerned.

By order of the Secretary of War, E.D. TOWNSEND, Assistant Adjutant-General.

...

SECTION III.

Deserters - Prisoners of War - Hostages - Booty on the Battle-field.

...

70. The use of poison in any manner, be it to poison wells, or food, or arms, is wholly excluded from modern warfare. He that uses it puts himself out of the pale of the law and usages of war.

Civilian of the Month

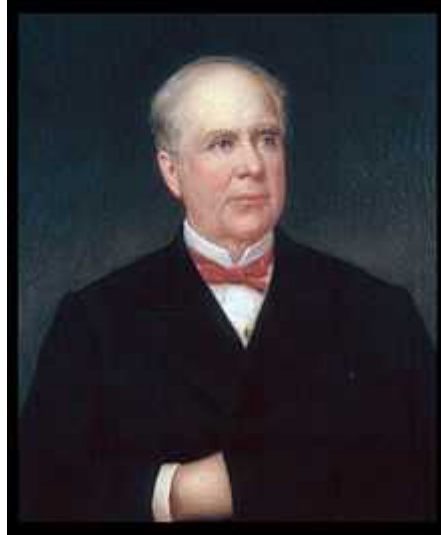


Photo from Wikipedia and information from <http://www.doctorsreview.com/history/the-beginnings-of-bioterrorism/>

Dr. Luke Blackburn was born in 1816 in Woodford County, Kentucky. His work with his uncle Charles Blackburn who treated cholera outbreaks inspired him to also become a doctor. "He was well known for setting up the first effective quarantines in the US during the 1853 yellow fever outbreaks in the Mississippi River Valley. Before too long, however, his intimate knowledge of the virus took on an altogether different tone...The year was 1864, and things weren't going well for the Confederate Army. Blackburn hatched a plan that was to make macabre use of his area of expertise. In April of that year, he heard that there was a fresh yellow fever outbreak in Bermuda, so he set sail for the island, "volunteering" to help out. Over the next few months and two trips to the disease-plagued isle, Blackburn set about the grotesque task of secretly collecting his patients' blood-, vomit-, and feces-stained dressings, blankets and clothes. He then packed them into trunks and sent them to Halifax. Once the outbreak had passed, Blackburn returned to Canada and arranged to smuggle the trunks south across the border and deliver them to cities like Washington, D.C. where he believed they would cause widespread infection once opened. Legend has it that one particularly fetid trunk was supposed to be delivered to President Lincoln...His infected trunks never reached their targets, though they would have failed in their task as biological bombs, since mosquitoes are the real culprits behind the spread of yellow fever. Instead of returning to the US to face murder conspiracy charges, Blackburn chose to stand trial in Toronto for breaking Canada's neutrality act. The shamed doctor, ever bitter about the fall of the South and fearful of prosecution at home, elected to remain here after he was acquitted. He only dared return to the South in 1873 during a new yellow fever outbreak. Despite the outstanding warrants for his arrest in the United States, he received a hero's welcome.

Luke Pryor Blackburn would go on to become the Governor of Kentucky in 1879, serving in office for four years and then continuing his medical practice until his death on September 14, 1887. As a physician in the Antebellum South, he would be remembered as a humanitarian for his efforts at combatting countless viral outbreaks."

Historic Site of the Month



Marker at Hickman City Cemetery in Hickman, Kentucky, Find a Grave memorial #153836187.

Inscription on marker: "YELLOW FEVER EPIDEMIC, August - November 1878. 462 Cases, 150 Deaths. Dr. Luke Blackburn, Governor of Kentucky, 1879-83. Together with Local & Visiting Doctors Rendered Heroic Services."

Re-enlist NOW for the 2019-2020 Campaign

All ICWRT members may continue to receive the monthly newsletter, HARDTACK, via email at no additional charge. Members who prefer to receive the HARDTACK by U.S. Mail are asked to pay an additional \$12.00 to help cover printing and mailing costs.



Please bring your completed re-enlistment form (below) together with your payment to Indianapolis Civil War Round Table, and give it to Tony Roscetti, ICWRT Treasurer, at the next Round Table meeting, or mail your re-enlistment form and payment to:

Tony Roscetti
6260 Green Leaves Road
Indianapolis, Indiana 46220

Phone: (317) 475-9227
Email: anthony.roschetti@pnc.com

Please complete and detach the form below and include with your check:

ICWRT Membership Enlistment for July 2019 thru June 2020

Please print legibly!

Name..... Date

Address.....
.....

Phone: (.....) Email Address:

We must have a valid email address if you wish to receive the HARDTACK newsletter free of charge!

(please specify Membership Level):

_____ **\$30 Individual** _____ **\$35 Family** _____ **\$15 Student**

_____ **I wish to receive the newsletter via U.S. Mail for an additional \$12**

In addition to my membership dues, please accept my generous gift of \$ _____
to the ICWRT general operating account (This donation is not tax deductible)

If someone invited you to join the ICWRT, please list his or her name below:

Indianapolis Civil War Round Table
1346 Brookwood Circle
Danville, IN 46122