



HARDTACK



Indianapolis Civil War Round Table Newsletter

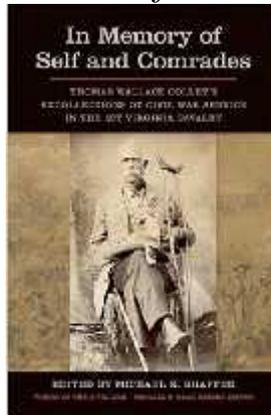
<http://indianapoliscwrt.org/>

October 12, 2020 at 6:45 p.m.

Meeting at MCL Cafeteria Township Line

2370 W. 86th Street

The Plan of the Day



Thomas W. Colley served in one of the most active and famous units in the Civil War, the 1st Virginia Cavalry, which fought in battles in the Eastern Theater, from First Manassas/Bull Run to the defense of Petersburg. Colley was born November 11, 1837, outside Abingdon, Virginia, and grew up knowing the daily demands of life on a farm. In May 1861, along with the other members of the Washington Mounted Rifles, he left his home in Washington County and reported to camp in Richmond. During the war, Colley received wounds on three different occasions: first at Waterloo Bridge in 1862, again at Kelly's Ford in 1863, and finally at Haw's Shop in 1864. The engagement at Haw's Shop resulted in the amputation of his left foot, thereby ending his wartime service.

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.

A SILENT AUCTION will be held, so bring your check book to purchase a framed CW picture.

"The High Water Mark" by Mort Kunstler, custom framed with a gray border, size 16 x 20 inches.

Muted colors, with smoke from cannons and rifles. Several flags are visible in this Gettysburg scene.

Our Guest Speaker



Michael K. Shaffer is a Civil War historian, instructor, lecturer, newspaper columnist, and author. He is a member of the Society of Civil War Historians, Historians of the Civil War Western Theater, Georgia Association of Historians, and Georgia Writers Association. Shaffer teaches Civil War courses at Kennesaw State University's College of Continuing and Professional Education, and at Emory University. He frequently lectures to various groups across the country. After the program, he will have copies of his book available for purchase! (\$40 for *In Memory of Self and Comrades*; \$20 for *Washington County Virginia in the Civil War*; \$55 for both books)

Roster of Officers and Committees for the 2020-2021 Campaign

Officers:

President: Angie Gilmer

Secretary: Bill Nicolai

Immediate Past President: Nikki Schofield

Vice President: William Ghormley

Treasurer: Tony Roscetti

Committees:

Preservation: Andy O'Donnell

Program Selection: Bob Gottschalk, Nikki Schofield, & Tony Trimble

Publicity: Peg Bertelli & Chris Smith

Website: Ed Pope

Tour Director: Peter Benner

Quiz Master:

Tony Trimble

HARDTACK Newsletter:

Editor: Robert Gottschalk

Assistant Editor: Peter Benner

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 flyingcircus2011@hotmail.com by the tenth day following the preceding month's meeting.

2020-2021 Campaign Plans

October 12, 2020 – Michael K. Shaffer – "In Memory of Self and Comrades."

November 9, 2020 – Danny Russell – "Abraham Lincoln and the Gettysburg Address"

December 14, 2020 – Tony Trimble – "Death Struggle in Missouri"

January 11, 2021 – Matt Penrod – "The Memorialization of Robert E. Lee"

February 8, 2021 – YOU! – "Civil War Show and Tell"

March 8, 2021 – John Fazio – "The Confederate Secret Service and the Assassination of Abraham Lincoln"

April 12, 2021 – Michael Eisenhut - "The Iron Brigade at Gettysburg."

May 10, 2021 — Kelsey Johnson and William Ghormley - "The Underground Railroad"

June 14, 2021 — Bruce Kolb and Mike Beck - "The Grand Army of the Republic"

Other Camp Activities

Hamilton County Civil War Roundtable: There will be no meetings allowed in the Carmel City Hall building for outside organizations for the month of September and further updates for October will not be issued until the end of September. Considering this fact and also in consideration for many of us who are senior citizens, we therefore decided to cancel our meetings scheduled for both September and October and will reschedule the speakers for 2021.

This year the November meeting happens to fall on Veterans Day and therefore the Carmel City Hall is closed for this recognized holiday. So, our November meeting has been rescheduled for December 9th, 2020. This meeting will be held in a forum fashion to discuss the Battle of Shiloh following the showing of the Shiloh Battlefield Park documentary. Further information will be forthcoming as we get closer to that date.

Madison County Historical Society Civil War Roundtable: Meetings have been cancelled for the remainder of 2020.

Official Records

September Attendance: 23

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.

October Book Raffle:

1. **Campaigning with Grant, by Horace Porter**
2. **Rock of Chickamauga: The Life of General George H. Thomas, by Freeman Cleaves**
3. **Shiloh – In Hell Before Night, by James Lee McDonough**
4. **The Civil War: Strange and Fascinating Facts, by Burke Davis**
5. **Lee's Lieutenants: A Study in Command (one-volume abridgment by Stephen W. Sears), by Douglas Southall Freeman**

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

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

1. Name the general who emancipated all slaves in Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina in 1862?
2. On 17 February 1864, the Confederate Congress passed a law to meet resistance to the Conscription Act. What did it do?
3. In soldier parlance, what was a "Holy Joe"?
4. Who wrote: "War without machinery, without means, and threatened by a powerful opposition; but I do not despond, and will not shrink from the task imposed upon me." To whom was it written?
5. On 7 August 1862, Confederates were defeated near Fort Fillmore. Where is it and who was the Union general in command.

Answers to the September Quiz:

1. \$600-\$10,000: 3%; \$10,000 +: 5%
2. Maj. Gen. John Sedgwick
3. Letter from Lincoln to Gen. Hooker appointing him commander of the Army of the Potomac
4. Wilmington, North Carolina
5. Munfordville, Kentucky

The Newspaper Speaks (From Newspapers.com)

Richmond Dispatch (Richmond, Virginia) 03 July 1900, Tuesday, page 4

FIRST VIRGINIA CAVALRY.

A movement to Have a Reunion at Staunton.

Abingdon, Va., June 28, 1900.

To the Editor of the Dispatch:

I met several of my old regiment at Louisville, Ky., at the reunion, and they were anxious that we have a reunion of our old regiment at Staunton some time this fall. The only way I know to bring about such a thing is for some one to take the initiative step. Therefore, I will ask you to be kind enough to publish this notice.

I would very much prefer to have a reunion of our old brigade, which was composed of the First Regiment of Virginia Cavalry, and the Second, Third, Fourth, and Fifth at one time. The First, Second, Third, and Fourth were the only regiments in the brigade during the last two years of the war, but our main object is to have a reunion of the old First, General J. E. B. Stuart's regiment, the one that gave him his start and helped him to achieve the high and worldwide reputation he attained before his glorious career ended in the last charge at "Yellow Tavern" in May, 1864, which broke the backbone of Sheridan's horde of mounted infantry, and caused him to seek safety by quickly withdrawing his "overwhelming" body of cavalry, infantry, and artillery, and saved our beloved capital city from the fire and sword of the at that time infuriated horde of northern vandals seeking revenge for the "burning" of Chambersburg, Pa., by our people. But I have diverged from my main object, that is a reunion of the old "First Virginia Volunteer" Cavalry, composed of Companies A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, L, and K. Companies A, B, F, and H came from the Lower Valley and Loudoun county; Companies C, E, and G from Rockingham, Augusta, and Rockbridge counties; Company G from Amelia county; D from Washington county and K from Baltimore and Elicot's Mills, in Maryland. All papers published in these localities will please publish this notice, and greatly oblige one of the survivors of Company D. I will also state that Mr. David Lowry, one of our comrades, has our old regimental battle-flag. Respectfully,

THOMAS W. COLLEY

Company D, First Regiment, Virginia Cavalry, C. S. A.

Soldier of the Month



Photo and information from Find A Grave memorial # 13862237

Thomas Wallace Colley was born November 30, 1837 (according to the date on his tombstone). He served as a second corporal in Company D of the First Virginia Cavalry. He married Anna Eliza Ryan in 1872. He died September 24, 1919 and lies buried in Washington Chapel Cemetery in Abingdon, Virginia.

Historic Site of the Month

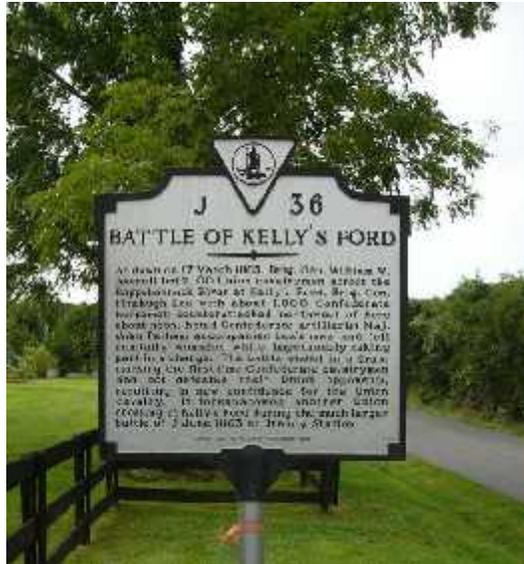


Photo from <https://www.nationalwarmemorialregistry.org/memorials/battle-of-kellys-ford-war-memorial-marker/>

The **Battle of Kelly's Ford marker** is located at 16589 Edward Shop Road in Remington, Virginia. The inscription reads: "J36, Battle of Kelly's Ford, At dawn on 17 March 1863, Brig. Gen. William W. Averell led 2,100 Union cavalymen across the Rappahannock River at Kelly's Ford. Brig. Gen. Fitzhugh Lee with about 1,000 Confederate horsemen counterattacked northwest of here about noon. Noted Confederate artilleryist Maj. John Pelham accompanied Lee's men and fell mortally wounded while impetuously taking part in a charge. The battle ended in a draw, making the first time Confederate cavalymen had not defeated their Union opponents, resulting in new confidence for the Union cavalry. It foreshadowed another Union crossing at Kelly's Ford during the much larger battle of 9 June 1863 at Brandy Station."

Edwin C. Bearss: Historian, Veteran, and Trustee

Leaving behind an insurmountable legend in the history and preservation community, Edwin Cole Bearss passed away on September 15, 2020, peacefully and surrounded by family, at the age of 97. Although a prolific author on topics in military history, Bearss was particularly dedicated to the importance of preserved landscapes to enhance our understanding of the past. He was among the originators of the modern battlefield preservation movement and a devoted tour guide, travelling up to 200 days per year into his 90s. He was an early board member of the Civil War Trust, a predecessor organization of the American Battlefield Trust, and served on our board until his passing in the capacity of historian emeritus.

Bearss was born in Billings, Montana, on June 26, 1923. He grew up on his grandfather's ranch near Hardin, Montana, in the shadow of the Rosebud Mountains within a bike ride of the Little Bighorn Battlefield. On the ranch, the E Bar S (E-S), he named the cattle for Civil War generals and battles. His favorite milk cow was Antietam.

Bearss attended a one-room school at Sarpy, Montana, until he went to St. Johns Military Academy in Delafield, Wisconsin, in 1937. After graduating from Hardin High School in 1941, he spent the summer hitchhiking across the country to visit battlefields. Bearss returned home and, after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, followed in the footsteps of his father and Medal of Honor–recipient older cousin to enlist in the U.S. Marine Corps. During World War II, he was with the 3rd Marine Raider Battalion and 1st Marine Division in the invasion of Guadalcanal and New Britain. Badly wounded by machine gun fire during the 1944 Battle of Suicide Creek, he spent 26 months in various hospitals. His injuries limited his dexterity for the remainder of his life.

Bearss studied at Georgetown University and received a B.S. degree in Foreign Service in 1949. He worked for 3 years in the Navy Hydrographic Office in Suitland, Maryland. Later, at Indiana University, he received his M.A. in history, writing his thesis on Confederate Maj. Gen. Patrick Cleburne.

His National Park Service career began in 1955 at Vicksburg, Mississippi, where he was Park Historian. While there, he did the research that led him and two friends to the long lost resting place of the Union gunboat Cairo. He also located two forgotten forts at Grand Gulf, Mississippi and helped transform Grand Gulf into a Mississippi State Military Monument. He was the founder of the Mississippi Civil War Round Table in 1956, which later consolidated with the Jackson Civil War Round Table.

In 1966, Bearss was transferred to Washington, DC. He became the National Park Service's Chief Historian in November 1981, a position he held until July 1994. He served as the Director's Special Assistant for Military Sites until his retirement on October 1, 1995. Upon retirement, Bearss, through lectures, television, writing, and as a renowned battlefield guide, continued his 50-year association with our nation's military history.

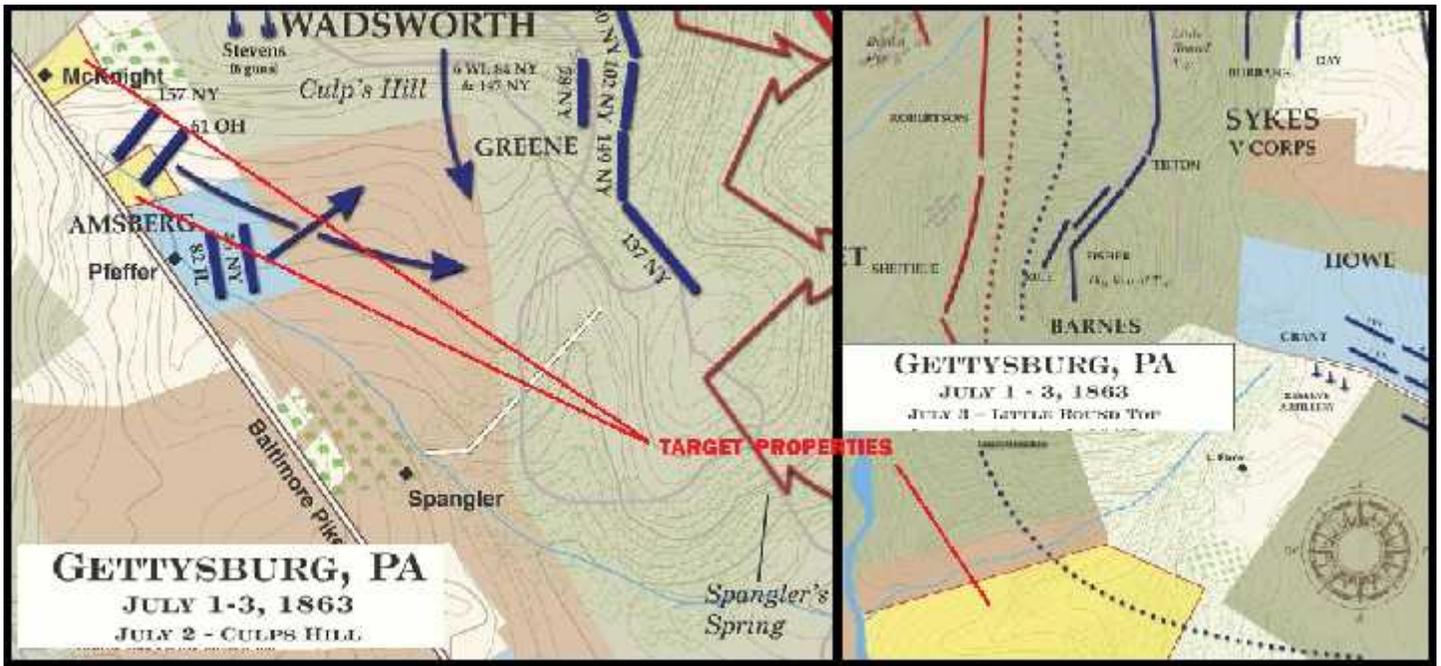
Bearss was the recipient of a number of awards in the field of history and preservation: the T. Harry Williams Award; the Bruce Catton Award; the Alvin Calman Award; the Bell I. Wiley Award and others. He was chosen Man of the Year at Vicksburg in 1963. He received the Harry S Truman Award for Meritorious Service in the field of Civil War History. In 1964 he was chosen to become a member of the Company of Military Historians and was voted a Fellow in that organization. In 1983, he won the Department of the Interior's Distinguished Service Award, the highest award given by the department. He received a commendation from the Secretary of the Army in 1985, as he was a veteran of 50 years of Government Service. The Trust also named its lifetime achievement award in his honor and dedicated a monument to his achievements on Champion Hill Battlefield in Mississippi.

He did detailed studies for the National Park Service for many areas: Vicksburg; Pea Ridge; Wilson's Creek; the Ray House; Fort Smith; Stones River; Fort Donelson; Battles around Richmond; Bighorn Canyon; Eisenhower Farm; the gold miners' route over Chilkoot Pass; LBJ Ranch; Fort Moultrie; Fort Point; William Howard Taft House; Fort Hancock; Boston Navy Yard; Herbert Hoover National Historic Site and others.

Bearss was a regular guest on programs for the History Channel, A&E Networks and TLC, as well as multiple appearances throughout Ken Burns's 1990 iconic documentary *The Civil War*.

(American Battlefield Trust)

PRESERVATION: THREE TRACTS AT GETTYSBURG



As Jim Lighthizer prepares to retire, will you join us in welcoming the Trust's new president, David Duncan, by donating a special gift to help preserve and restore 49 acres at Gettysburg?

With your support, we can restore three crucial tracts at Gettysburg and keep up the momentum to protect iconic hallowed ground at Gettysburg for future generations.

Join us today and be the hero of this preservation story, making an important and lasting impact on our nation and halting the longtime spread of commercialization at Gettysburg. Moreover, your continued support at this critical time, will help us make the transition to a new president as seamless as possible.

The Background

Today we are fighting to secure three tracts that will be vital additions to the preserved land at Gettysburg.

First, we look to the southern end of the battlefield in part on the south slope of Big Round Top and along the banks of Plum Run. On July 2, 3 and 4, 1863, anyone standing on this land would have seen the battle swirling around them – marching, fighting, and artillery fire over the course of all three days.

This tract abuts preserved land on two sides. If we are unable to save this property, it's likely that a housing subdivision of large-lot "McMansions" – interfering with the views of Big Round Top – will soon pop up on this parcel.

Next, is a small but crucial parcel on lower Cemetery Hill, in the shadow of Culp's Hill. It includes the historic home owned at the time of the battle by James McKnight. He had purchased the house, barn and five acres of land in 1860 and that year's census records him as a 42-year-old farmer who lived with his 30-year-old wife, Margaret Ann, and a one-year-old daughter Jane. Three years later, **the largest battle ever fought in North America** swept over their farm . . .

Tens of thousands of Union troops marched right in front of, paused on, passed over, fought on or were buried on the McKnight Farm on July 1 and 2. On July 1, as the Union met disaster north and west of Gettysburg, Northern troops fell back to and fortified Cemetery Hill. Union General Winfield Scott Hancock ordered Captain Greenleaf Stevens' 5th Maine Battery to occupy McKnight's Hill, now known as Stevens Knoll.

The final parcel is immediately south of the McKnight House on the Baltimore Pike and witnessed those same important events. In the last two decades, the construction of the Comfort Suites hotel directly across the Baltimore Pike – along with the popularity of the National Park Service Visitor Center – has made this tract, already zoned for commercial use, ripe for further development.

Please make your most generous gift today to help raise the \$276,700 we need to save these 49 vital acres at Gettysburg!

The Opportunity

The total amount we need for the acquisition and restoration of these 49 important Gettysburg acres is \$1,487,400 – almost a million-and-a-half dollars!

But the good news is that, through a combination of anticipated federal matching grants, a landowner donation, and some large gifts already received, our total need today is down to \$276,700 – a \$5.38-to-\$1 match of any gift you are able to contribute. This means that we should have 81.4% of the funding lined up, but need to raise the final 18.6% as soon as possible. All three transactions must close by the end of 2020, which will be here before we know it.

The need to preserve these tracts at Gettysburg is urgent and we can't do this without your support! We have the opportunity to change the fate of this land and protect it for future generations.

(American Battlefield Trust)

Re-enlist NOW for the 2020-2021 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 2020 thru June 2021

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
2450 Central Park Dr. S., 225
Plainfield, IN 46168