



HARDTACK

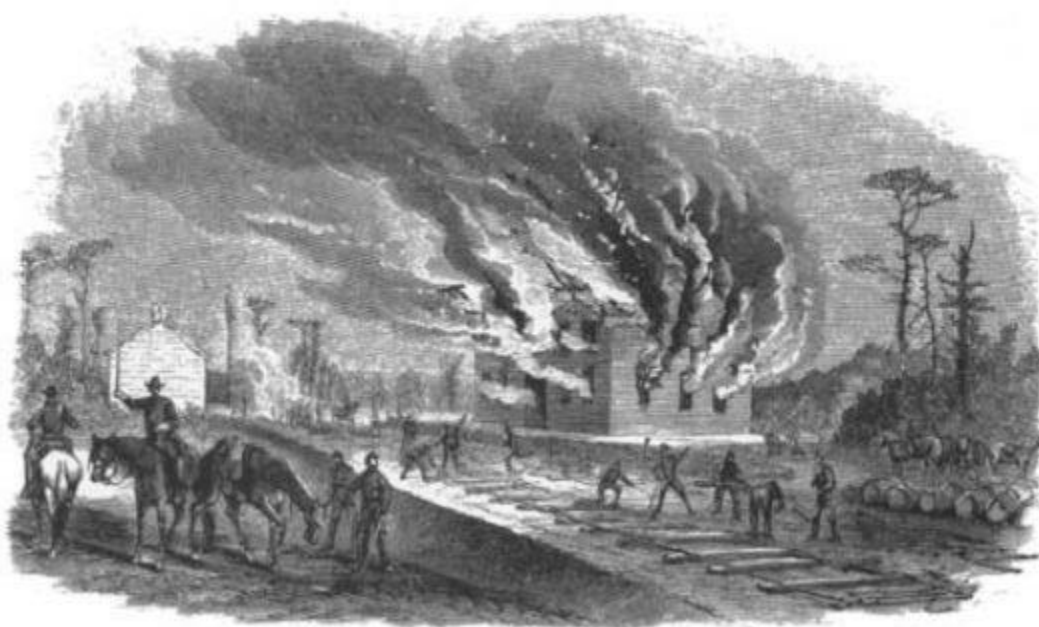


Indianapolis Civil War Round Table Newsletter

<http://indianapoliswrt.org/>

Monday, April 10, 2023 at 6:45 p.m.
Meeting at MCL Cafeteria Township Line
2370 W. 86th Street

The Plan of the Day



Alchetron

“Grierson’s Raid”

In April 1863 General Grant is making plans to again assault Vicksburg, Mississippi. This time he wants to cross the Mississippi below Vicksburg and attack from the east. Grant is looking to distract the Confederates in Mississippi while he begins his attack. Part of this distraction is the 6th and 7th Illinois Cavalry and the 2nd Iowa Cavalry leaving their base at LaGrange, Tennessee commanded by Colonel Benjamin Grierson. For sixteen days they’ll ride south through Eastern Mississippi to Baton Rouge Louisiana. Gerald will discuss how and why this movement of troops worked and the outcome of the maneuver.

Our Guest Speaker



Gerald Jones

Gerald G. Jones is a lifelong resident of Madison County. He has retired from Guide Corporation, General Motors after 37 years. A graduate of Ball State University and past president of the Indianapolis Civil War Roundtable, he has been studying the Civil War since 1970. He has been Chairman of the Madison County Historical Society Civil War Roundtable since its inception in 1992. He also serves as Treasurer and on the board of the Madison County Historical Society. Gerald is married with three children, one granddaughter, and one grandson.

Remainder of the 2022-2023 Campaign

May 8, 2023 – Jonathan Tracey – “The 27th Indiana”

June 12, 2023 – Steve Jackson - “50th Anniversary of the Blue & Gray at Gettysburg”

Roster of Officers and Committees for the 2022-2023 Campaign

Officers:

President: Steven Magnusen

Vice President: Pete Brenner

Secretary: Eric Dove

Treasurer: Pete Mohr

Immediate Past President: Bill Ghormley

Committees:

Preservation: Andy O'Donnell

Website: Ed Pope

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

Publicity: Peg Bertelli & Chris Smith

Quiz Master:

Tony Trimble

HARDTACK Newsletter:

Editor: Bob Gottschalk

Other Camp Activities

Hamilton County Civil War Roundtable: Meetings are on the 2nd Wednesday each month, September through May (excluding December) in Carmel City Hall. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., and meetings start at 7:00 p.m.

Madison County Historical Society Civil War Roundtable: Meetings take place on the third Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Bowman Room at the Museum of Madison County History, 15 West 11th Street, Anderson, Indiana.

Here is the list of programs for the Madison County Historical Society Civil War Roundtable for 2023.

March 20-- Phil DeHaven--"Quantrill"

April 17 -- Bruce Kolb and Michael Beck-- "The G.A.R."

May 15-- David Fraley--"Battle of Franklin, Tennessee"

June 19-- Ray Boomhower--"Lew Wallace: Savior of Washington DC"

July 17-- Gerald Jones--"The Common Soldier"

August 21--Brian Dirck--"Abraham Lincoln: The Honored Dead of the Civil War"

September 18--Linda Jones--"Civil War Veteran Pensions"

October 16--Roundtable discussion.

November 20--Stephen Ritchie--TBA

Official Records

March Attendance: 40

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.

IRONCLAD

At the March meeting, Nikki Schofield passed around the first two issues of the new publication, Ironclad, published by the American Civil War Museum, based at the Tredegar Iron Works, in Richmond. If you are interested in subscribing, the cost is \$65 for seniors or \$75 for individuals. There is a veteran's discount. You can mail your check or credit card info to: American Civil War Museum, 490 Tredegar Street, Richmond, VA 23219. Their web site is: acwm.org.

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John Copeland

Jerry Thompson recently received a call from longtime ICWRT member John Copeland's wife. He is suffering from cancer and is under hospice care. She said he would appreciate cards and prayers. His address is:

**6133 S. Ct. Rd. 121 E.
Clayton IN 46118**

CROWN HILL CIVIL WAR TOUR

Nikki Schofield will not be the guide on the July 1 Crown Hill Cemetery tour. Check the Crown Hill Heritage Foundation web site, under Events, to confirm that tour is being offered.

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American Battlefield Trust Annual Park Day

By Andy O'Donnell

This annual event brings history enthusiasts together in an effort to help keep our nation's heritage not only preserved, but also pristine. Since 1996, the American Battlefield Trust has sponsored Park Day, an annual hands-on preservation event to help Civil War — and now Revolutionary War & War of 1812 — battlefields and historic sites to take on maintenance projects large and small. Activities are chosen by each participating site to meet their own particular needs, and can range from raking leaves and hauling trash to painting signs and building trails.

**Saturday, April 15, 2023
9:00 - Noon**

**General Lew Wallace Study & Museum
200 Wallace Ave.
Crawfordsville, Ind. 47933**

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This Month In Civil War Era History

- April 16, 1862 - Slavery was abolished in District of Columbia.
- April 20, 1862 - Louis Pasteur and Claude Bernard completed their first pasteurization tests.
- April 2, 1863 - The Bread Riots took place in Richmond, Virginia.
- April 29, 1863 - William Randolph Hearst was born in San Francisco, California.
- April 22, 1864 - "In God We Trust" is first stamped on a US coin (the 2-cent piece).
- April 30, 1864 - New York becomes 1st state to charge a hunting license fee.



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

by Tony Trimble

1. In February 1863 an attack was made on Ft. Donelson. Name the Confederate commander who was repulsed?
2. What is a movable electric train?
3. Who said, "Poor Kearny! He deserved a better death than this."
4. What regiment was known as the Red Legs?
5. Who pursued Phil Sheridan north from Cedar Creek in August, 1864?

Answers to the March Quiz:

1. The Ketchum Grenade
2. Missouri
3. Failure to leave the Knights of the Golden Circle
4. Thaddeus Lowe's observation balloon
5. Drewry's Bluff

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160th Anniversary Events

Helena, Arkansas (April 14 - 16, 2023)

<https://www.arkansasheritage.com/events/2023/04/14/default-calendar/battle-of-helena-160th-anniversary-reenactment>

Gettysburg, Pennsylvania (June 30 - July 2, 2023)

[160th Battle of Gettysburg Anniversary | Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association \(gbpa.org\)](https://www.gettysburgbattlefield.org/160th-battle-of-gettysburg-anniversary)

Vicksburg, Mississippi (July 1 - 2, 2023)

**160th Surrender Anniversary
75th Museum Anniversary**

Old Courthouse Museum
Eva W. Davis Memorial
Vicksburg, MS
July 1-2, 2023

Be a part of this historic event and help celebrate the museum's anniversary.

Museum Hours 8:30am - 5:00pm Museum Admission: Adult \$7 Children \$4

Join The Cavalry For Better Health?

From Emerging Civil War. Sarah Kay Bierle Posted on September 8, 2022

“The very young soldier, it has been remarked, wears better in the cavalry than in the infantry brand of the service, and in that sphere he may have a chance to cope successfully with his hardier comrades. It is perhaps the exciting and healthy life he thus leads, the attachment he quickly forms for his horse, and his ambition to excel, that buoy up his spirits against contagion in its worst forms.”



Dr. Peters (*FamilySearch*)

Dr. De Witt C. Peters makes cavalry enlistment and service during the American Civil War sound like the perfect option. In his essay for an 1863 medical journal, Peters decries the enlistment of youthful soldiers, claiming that they did not have the mental steadiness or development to endure hardships and combat. According to his view, this resulted in increased cases of “nostalgia” and other difficulties of the mind and body and was ruining the lives of young men, eighteen or younger. Instead, he advocated for enlisting older men (implied mid-twenties and upward) who were more “sturdy.”

How realistic was Peters’s idea of the cavalry, though?

Military reports and primary sources suggest that an active cavalry unit worked just as hard—and maybe harder—than the infantry. True, they didn’t have to walk, but they could be expected to cover longer distances. They had their long hours of picketing or patrol and campaign marches. Combat experiences differed for cavalymen, sometimes more and sometimes less intense than infantry fighting—depending on circumstances and range of the enemy. And when camp was made, cavalymen had to look after their horses in addition to get their own food and figuring out some place to sleep. (Some Confederate cavalymen took enslaved men with them specifically to look after the horses and do camp chores.)



Don Troiani

The “attachment” a cavalryman supposedly felt for his horse according to the medical man is a little fuzzy in actual primary sources. Horses were tools, sometimes they were property. For Federal cavalrymen, their mounts were provided by the government and usually quickly replaced if sick, injured, or dead. Confederates usually provided their own horses, leading to much consternation and “dismounted” cavalry as the war progressed and horses were harder and more expensive to procure. Some cavalrymen did seem to have a fondness for their horses, but this rarely reached levels that the modern era would recognize as equine therapy. Nor does equine therapy seem to be what Dr. Peters had in mind. It seems more likely that he saw the “attachment” as something relying on the young soldier, bringing out the feelings of responsibility and caring for something dependent. Perhaps this would have a steadying effect on the young soldier’s mind.

Then the good doctor buys into the “glory story” of the cavalry. He proposes that ambition to excel along with the exciting life style would protect the young cavalrymen from melancholy. Their minds would be constantly occupied and perhaps their minds and physical health would not fall prey to homesickness or physical ailments as easily.

The theory is fascinating, the reality was more complicated. The life of a cavalryman – in blue or gray – was complicated. Diaries suggest there were lonely and depressed cavalrymen. The image around cavalry then and in memory may help to obscure the realities, but simply joining the cavalry instead of the infantry was not the likely cure-all that Dr. Peters theorized. Still, he raised interested thoughts in his medical essay, and ideas worth considering. Did the branch of service—or did a particular unit’s experiences—have a greater impact on the mental and physical trauma (or lack of)? Generally, primary sources suggest “yes,” but the patterns are not always immediately seen or predictable. Nor are the patterns confirmed to the “very young” enlistees.

Sources:

Dr. De Witt C. Peters, “Remarks on the Evils of Youthful Enlistments and Nostalgia,” Published in The American Medical Times, February 14, 1863. Accessed through HathiTrust: American Medical Times: Being A Weekly Series of the New York Journal of Medicine, Volume 6-7, 1863. Page 75.

R. Gregory Lande, Psychological Consequences of the American Civil War (Jefferson, McFarland & Company, 2017.

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A Few Words from Steve Magnusen

The month of April seems to have kicked off significant campaigns in the western theater of the Civil War. In 1862 it was Shiloh. A year later it was Grierson's Cavalry Raid through the length of Mississippi. Our own Gerald Jones will speak to us on April 10 about this unique diversion that is said to have inspired a John Wayne and William Holden movie. Don't miss it. Sorry, you will have to watch the movie on your own.

Membership continues to grow! We now have 60 members on the sign-in sheet. It is a testimony to the interesting programs and encouragement by many to invite friends. Guests are always welcome. We have further meetings scheduled for the second Mondays of May and June before our July and August break. So, think about bringing a friend in May to hear about the 27th Indiana regiment and in June for details of the historic 50th Gettysburg anniversary event in 1913. There are a number of events planned this summer in Gettysburg for the 160th anniversary that I will mention at the April 10 meeting.

See you April 10!

Steven R. Magnusen

RE-ENLIST NOW FOR THE 2023-2024 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 Pete Mohr, ICWRT Treasurer, at the next Round Table meeting, or mail your re-enlistment form and payment to:

Pete Mohr
6308 Breamore Road
Indianapolis, Indiana 46220

Phone: (317) 828-5176
Email: pmohr2@gmail.com

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

ICWRT Membership Enlistment for July 2023 thru June 2024
Please print legibly!

Name..... Date

Address.....
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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 add their name. _____

Indianapolis Civil War Round Table
1162 Thistlewood Way
Plainfield, IN 46168