



THE GENERAL'S REPORT

The Newsletter of the Southern Indiana Civil War Roundtable

www.sicwrt.org

AUGUST 2014



JULY MEETING —

Tom Murray stated that he is making arrangements to have our dinner meeting in August. Treasurer Ron Sproatt reported we have a balance of \$801.86.

AUGUST PROGRAM: Doug Richardson — “Lincoln and McClellan”



Photo by Steve Kweskin

Doug Richardson is in his twenty-first year with the National Park Service. He has spent 17 years working in a collection of five National Parks in western Pennsylvania, including Johnstown Flood National Memorial and Flight 93 National Memorial, and briefly worked at Abraham Lincoln National Historic Park.

Having a life-long fascination with the American presidents, specifically Abraham Lincoln and Ulysses Grant, Richardson came to Fort Donelson National Battlefield in September of 2010 to have the opportunity explore this part of Grant's life.

Lincoln and McClellan were two of the most compelling and larger-than-life personalities of the Civil War. Theirs could have been a powerful partnership, yet proved to be a disastrous one that had a serious effect on the time line of the Civil War.

George McClellan received an appointment at age 16 to West Point. Along with many of his classmates he served as an officer in the Mexican War. Peacetime in the 1850s for military men like Grant, Lee, Sherman, and McClellan was a time in which they were “lost in the wilderness”. McClellan left the army for a while and was a lawyer for the Illinois Central railroad.

On May 3, 1861 he re-entered federal service by being named commander of the Department of Ohio. On Nov. 1, 1861 Winfield Scott retired and McClellan became general-in-chief of all the Union armies. At age 35 he was referred to as a “Young Napoleon”. McClellan brought a great degree of organization to his new army and he greatly improved the morale of his troops. Lincoln was constantly pressing McClellan to be more aggressive in battle, but McClellan was often insubordinate to Lincoln. When McClellan failed to pursue Lee aggressively after Antietam, Lincoln ordered that he be removed from command on Nov. 5, 1862. In 1864 the Democrats nominated McClellan as their presidential candidate, but his campaign was inconsistent and difficult. After the war his family traveled in Europe and when he returned he became involved in various businesses and served a term as Governor of New Jersey.



Photo of Lincoln and McClellan taken after Antietam.

SESQUICENTENNIAL — 1864-2014: 150 YEARS AGO:

Aug. 1, 1864 — Grant appoints Maj. Gen. Philip Sheridan as commander of the Army of the Shenandoah and was sent to Harpers Ferry.

Aug. 5, 1864 — Naval Battle of Mobile Bay ends in a Union victory

Aug. 9, 1864 — The Siege of Atlanta continues.

Aug. 18, 1864 — Grant refuses a Confederate request to exchange prisoners.

Aug. 21, 1864 — Forrest makes a raid on Memphis and captures several Union officers.

Aug. 23, 1864 — Ft. Morgan on Mobile Bay falls to Union forces.

Aug. 25, 1864 — CSS *Tallahassee* pulls into port at Wilmington, N.C. having captured 31 Union vessels in three weeks.

Aug. 30, 1864 — Sherman cuts one of Hood's two remaining rail lines at Atlanta. Hood orders an attack on Jonesboro.

Aug. 31, 1864 — Hood's attack at Jonesboro turned back with heavy losses. Atlanta is doomed.

Aug. 31, 1864 — George B. McClellan was formally nominated as Democratic Presidential candidate in Chicago.

(BE/LM)

THE REST OF THE STORY: Soldier's Quotes – What They Carried —

Confederate Knapsack

“On the outside were two great blankets and rubber or oil cloth. This knapsack weighed from fifteen to twenty-five pounds, sometimes more. The knapsack vanished early in the struggle. It was inconvenient to change the underwear too often. The better way to dress out and wear that outfit until the enemy's knapsacks, or the folks at home supplied a change.”



One Outfit Later in the War

“Reduced to the minimum, the private soldier consisted of one man, one hat, one jacket, one shirt, one pair of pants, one pair of drawers, one pair of shoes and one pair of socks. His baggage was one blanket, one rubber blanket, and one haversack.” (BE)

Source: *Arms and Equipment of the Civil War* by Jack Coggins

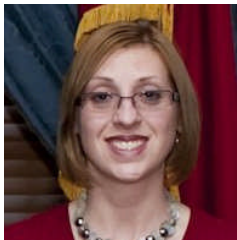
WHERE ARE THEY? Sherman's Hat Pin: As Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman's Union troops marched through the South during the latter part of the Civil War, they tore up Confederate railroads and made them unusable. Marietta Museum of History, Marietta, GA. www.mariettahistory.org

CIVIL WAR QUOTE:

"Damn the Torpedoes, Full Speed Ahead!

— Rear Admiral David G. Farragut, orders to Captain of the U.S.S. *Hartford* during the Battle of Mobile Bay, August 5, 1864

AUGUST PROGRAM: Krista Castillo — "From the Pages of *Harpers Weekly*: The Illustrations of Thomas Nast"



In 2000, Krista graduated from Mount Union College in Alliance, Ohio with a BA in history. One year later she moved to Ft. Campbell, KY with her husband. From 2004 to 2008 she worked at the Customs House Museum and Cultural Center. In November 2008, Krista came to Fort Negley as the Education manager and received a promotion to Museum coordinator in April 2010. Krista completed coursework toward a MA in Military History in 2009.

That same year, she and Greg Biggs founded the Nashville Civil War Roundtable which meets monthly at Fort Negley Visitors Center. She is currently president of the Nashville Civil War Roundtable.

Krista's presentation will focus on the illustrations of Thomas Nast, prominently displayed in Harper's Weekly and how they reveal popular attitudes towards Reconstruction politics and emerging radical ideologies.



FUTURE PROGRAMS:

- August 21, 2014 — Krista Castillo – "From the Pages of *Harper's Weekly*: The Illustrations of Thomas Nast"**
- Sept. 18, 2014 — Jim Goecker – Galvanized Yankees**
- October 16, 2014 — David L. Mowery – "Morgan's Great Raid: Taking the War North"**
- Nov. 20, 2014 — Greg Biggs – Atlanta Campaign, Part II**
- Dec. 18, 2014 — Trivia Contest and Show & Tell**

Please see Tom Murray if have suggestions for a future program speaker in 2015.

****The 2014 membership dues should soon be paid to Ron Sproatt. Your dues enable us to bring have good programs with very knowledgeable speakers. Dues of \$15.00 can be paid at the meeting or mailed to Ron Sproatt at: 1716 Madison Av., Evansville, IN 47714.**

BOOK RAFFLE WINNERS:



The Book Raffle winners for July were: Tom Arflack, Bill Bartelt, and Bill Hale. Remember, if you have any books that you would like to donate for the raffle, please bring them to the next meeting. (LM)

FORAGER'S LIST:

August 21, 2014 — Dinner Meeting
September 18, 2014 — Gary Rhodes
October 16, 2014 — George Payne
November 20, 2014 — Jim Hayden
December 18, 2014 — Phil Hare



Thanks to Martha and Norm Kohler for maintaining our Forager's List.

WEB SITE — Josh Claybourn has set up a web site for the Southern Indiana Civil War Round Table. Go to this link: <http://www.sicwrt.org>

SPECIAL INDIANA CIVIL WAR NEWS:

Crown Hill Cemetery Tours — Nikki Schofield will be leading the following Civil War tours at Crown Hill Cemetery in Indianapolis: August 23, 9:30-11:00 a.m., "Civil War Generals" learn about Civil War Generals who led the Union; Oct. 4, 9:30-11:00 a.m., "Treason in Indianapolis" learn about those involved in Civil War treason. The cost is \$5.00 for adults, \$4.00 for seniors, and \$3.00 for students. Reservations are not required. (Indianapolis Civil War Round Table)

AUGUST DINNER MEETING:

As part of our August meeting we will also have a dinner. Reservations are due by Monday, August 18. Mr. Stewart Van Meter of the F.O.P. Lodge will prepare the following menu for the dinner:

Fried Chicken

Twice Baked Mash Potatoes

Green Beans

Salad

Roll

Dessert

Iced Tea (The Kohlers will bring coffee)



COST: Estimated - \$10.00 – Adult beverages are available from the F.O.P. lounge.

MEMBERSHIP:

The Southern Indiana Civil War Roundtable is open to membership to anyone interested in learning more about the U.S. Civil War. Meetings are held monthly on the third Thursday of each month at the Evansville Fraternal Order of Police Lodge at 801 Court St., Evansville, Indiana at 7:00 p.m. Dues are \$15.00 per family for a year and are due in January of each year. If you still owe dues for this year, be sure to see Ron Sproatt at our next meeting.

Members are always encouraged to share information they have about any civil war topic by passing it along to the newsletter editors.

SICWRT officers are: Chairman – Alan Elsner; Treasurer – Ron Sproatt; Program Committee – Tom Murray and Larry Harms; Newsletter Editors – Bill Emmick and Larry Morris; Book Raffle Chairman – Larry Morris.



North



South