



THE GENERAL'S REPORT

The Newsletter of the Southern Indiana Civil War Roundtable

www.sicwrt.org



SOUTHERN INDIANA
CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

FEBRUARY 2015



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JANUARY MEETING —

Tom Murray gave us a report on the schedule of future programs. There will be some change of dates due to our arrangement of sharing speakers with other roundtables. The July 21 meeting will be on the third Tuesday and the Oct. 22 meeting will be on the fourth Thursday. The July date will also be our annual dinner meeting.

In December there was discussion about raising our dues. At the January meeting members approved a new set of dues. Individuals will be \$20.00 and Family will be \$25.00.

JANUARY PROGRAM: Mark LaPointe — The Irish Volunteer

Mark LaPointe presented a story told through the songs of Irish immigration to America and the immigrants' proud service in the Union Army during the Civil War. Mark performs in the uniform of a Union soldier and uses period instrumentation. Mark's music is backed by a slide show of Civil War photos which show the faces of the men who fought and died under their beloved flags of green. More than 150,000 Irishmen, most of whom were recent immigrants and many of whom were not yet U.S. citizens, joined the Union Army during the Civil War. Some joined out of loyalty to their new home. Others hoped that such a conspicuous display of patriotism might put a stop to anti-Irish discrimination.

Mark LaPointe is a singer/songwriter who has performed in venues throughout New England, Tennessee, and the Indianapolis area, which he now calls home.



Photo by S. Kweskin

The 91st Annual Lincoln Day Program was held on Sunday, February 8, 2015 at Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial. Josh Claybourn and Dennis Hutchinson, as members of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War participated in the program. Four members of the roundtable were also in the audience viewing the pilgrimage to the Nancy Hanks grave site.

Photos by L. Morris





SESQUICENTENNIAL — 1865-2015: 150 YEARS AGO:

Feb. 1, 1865 — Sherman's Army sets out on its march through the Carolinas. The men are determined to "make the state pay".

Feb. 1, 1865 — President Davis accepted the resignation of Secretary of War Seddon, with reluctance, and under considerable pressure from the Confederate Congress.

Feb. 3, 1865 — Lincoln meets with Confederate peace commissioners on board the "River Queen" off Hampton Roads to discuss possible peace. The talks last four hours with no positive results.

Feb. 3, 1865 — Sherman's right wing battles Confederates at River's Bridge, S.C. and scatters them.

Feb. 5, 1865 — Siege of Petersburg continues as Grant extends his lines westward.

Feb. 12, 1865 — Electoral votes from Nov. election are counted: Lincoln 212 votes, George McClellan, 21.

Feb. 17, 1865 — Columbia, S.C. surrenders to Sherman without a fight, although fire breaks out and destroys two-thirds of the city.

Feb. 17, 1865 — Charleston is evacuated.

Feb. 17, 1865 — U.S. Senate votes to repudiate all Confederate debt.

**Feb. 27, 1865 — Union cavalry begins to destroy resources in the Shenandoah Valley.
(BE/LM)**

THE REST OF THE STORY: Union Coffee —

Coffee was one of the most cherished items in the ration for soldiers. Of this article the men in blue, in striking contrast with the experience of their opponents, usually had an ample supply. The effect on morale must have been considerable. And if it cannot be said that coffee helped Billy Yank win the war, it at least made his participation in the conflict more tolerable.

Soldiers who liked the beverage sweet commonly carried coffee and sugar ready mixed in a cloth bag. At mealtimes, and often in between, they would bring water to a boil in pint dippers or tin cans rigged with wire bails (handles) and then dump in the mixture and let it boil until until the desired hue is attained. As a general rule the longer a man served, the darker he liked his coffee.

(BE)



Source: *The Life of Billy Yank* by Bell Irvin Wiley

WHERE ARE THEY?

Stonewall's Raincoat — Raincoat worn by Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson, mortally wounded in May 1863 during the Battle of Chancellorsville, VA. He was shot three times by friendly fire, and the raincoat shows two bullet holes in the left sleeve. His arm was amputated. Virginia Military Institute Museum, Lexington, VA, www.vmi.edu/museum

CIVIL WAR QUOTE:

"The truth is, the whole army is burning with an insatiable desire to wreck vengeance upon South Carolina. I almost tremble at her fate, but feel she deserves all that seems in store for her."

— U. S. Gen. William T. Sherman, February 1865.

FEBRUARY PROGRAM: Shannon Brown — Lincoln's Funeral Train

Shannon Brown will present a program on President Lincoln's Funeral Train and its modern day recreation planned in 2015. On April 21, 1865 President Lincoln's body and the body of his son, Willie, left Washington, D.C. on the funeral train that would return them to Springfield, IL. Over 12 days the train traveled about 1,600 miles through more than 160 communities. In 12 major cities formal funerals were held, and many more memorial services were organized in communities along the train route.



FUTURE PROGRAMS:

Feb. 19, 2015 — Shannon Brown — The 2015 Lincoln Funeral Train

Mar. 19, 2015 — Josh Claybourn — Lincoln's Almanac Trial

Apr. 16, 2015 — Steve Schroeder — Lee's Lost Order/27th Indiana at Antietam

May 21, 2015 — Tom Frew — Hermit of the Wabash — Robert A. Caskie

June 18, 2015 — Thomas Rodgers — Copperheads

July 21, 2015* — Robert Dunkerly — Battle of Seven Pines (*Note date change)

Aug. 20, 2015 —

Sept. 17, 2015 —

Oct. 22, 2015* — Wayne Motts — Civil War Artifacts (*Note date change)

Nov. 19, 2015 —

Dec. 17, 2015 —

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

****The 2015 membership dues are \$20.00 individual or \$25.00 family. Your dues enable us to have good programs with very knowledgeable speakers. Dues 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 January were: Mary Erickson, Richard Gibson, Jerry Dills, and Steve Kweskin. 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:

Feb. 19, 2015 — Gail LaFief
Mar. 19, 2015 — Dennis Hutchinson
April 16, 2015 — Patsy & Ron Sproatt
May 21, 2015 — Tom Arflack
June 18, 2015 — Richard Gibson
July 21, 2015 — Dinner
Aug. 20, 2015 — Rose Beck
Sept. 17, 2015 — George Payne
Oct. 22, 2015 — Gary Rhodes (Note date change)
Nov. 19, 2015 — Ed Irick
Dec. 17, 2015 —



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

In Remembrance: Andrew Brookman, a former member of SICWRT, has passed away. He was an active member in our group for several years and attended meetings and events regularly. He enjoyed everything related to the Civil War. Andrew's family is asking friends and family to consider making donations to causes that were important to Andrew's life, including the Civil War Trust.

WEB SITE & FACEBOOK— Josh Claybourn has set up a web site for the Southern Indiana Civil War Round Table. Go to this link: <http://www.sicwrt.org>
Also you can view our club activities on Facebook. Be sure to "Like" us on FB.



**SOUTHERN INDIANA
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Our President, Josh Claybourn, has designed for our roundtable the new logo that you see above. Several years ago member Kay Lant had t-shirts, caps, and sweat shirts made for our club. Tom Murray and I were talking to Josh about once again ordering clothing items. If you go to our web page at <http://www.sicwrt.org> and on the home page in the upper right corner, look for the "shop" button. Click on that and it will take you to the order page for CafePress. Besides clothing, there are also items like coffee mugs, tote bags, vintage field bag, etc. Additionally, for every \$25.00 in orders, the club receives a percentage. I will bring some of the items I ordered and will display them at our next meeting.

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 \$25.00 per family or \$20.00 for an individual 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 – Josh Claybourn; Treasurer – Ron Sproatt; Program Chairman – Tom Murray; Newsletter Editors – Larry Morris and Bill Emmick; Book Raffle Chairman – Larry Morris.



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North



South