



THE GENERAL'S REPORT

The Newsletter of the Southern Indiana Civil War Roundtable

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SOUTHERN INDIANA
CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

JULY 2016



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JUNE MEETING —

Again this month Tom Murray brought to the meeting a box of books from former member, Ben Sloan. These books can be purchased by the members and Ben will donate part of the proceeds to the club. Tom will bring more books at the next meeting. It was also decided that we will have our dinner meeting in September. Tom will meet with Mr. Vannover to plan the meal. Treasurer Ron Sproatt reported we had a balance of \$1,120.47

Remember to pay your dues at the July meeting or mail dues to Ron Sproatt. (1716 Madison Ave, Evansville, IN 47714).

JUNE PROGRAM: Brittney Westbrook — “Elizabeth Keckley” & Orlando Jackson — “ US Colored Troops”.

Ms. Brittney Westbrook is Curator of the Evansville African American Museum. Ms. Westbrook has worked in the museum field for thirteen years and recently moved to Evansville from Washington, D.C., where she earned a Master’s Degree in Public History from American University. While in D.C., she worked for the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African-American History and Culture. Also she worked for the National Museum of American History and for the National Park Service at Arlington House.

Mr. Orlando Johnson is a native of Evansville but he currently lives in East Chicago, IN. He was a registered nurse in East Chicago and is currently retired. He has presented Black History programs in many schools.

Ms Westbrook gave us a first person interpretation of Elizabeth Keckley. Mrs. Keckley was a former slave who became a successful seamstress, civil activist, and author in Washington, D.C. She was best known as the personal modiste and confidante of Mary Todd Lincoln.



Mr. Johnson gave a dramatic presentation highlighting contributions made by African American soldiers during the Civil War with focus on the 54th Massachusetts Infantry attack on Fort Wagner, S.C., July 18, 1863.



JOURNALS, DIARIES and LETTERS, ETC.:



Mrs. Sarah Jane Hill, wife of Major Eben Hill of the 1st Missouri Engineers, describes her and her son's visit to her husband's camp south of Memphis, Tennessee late January 1863.

“My husband took us right out to the camp which was about two miles from the city. It was a dark cold night and my first experience of camp life. His tent was a large round one called a Sibley tent. On one side boards were laid in cleats which raised it about two inches off the ground. A good thick covering of clean straw or hay was laid on this and then blankets tucked over the straw and that was the bed. The other furnishings were a couple of folding camp chairs and a camp chest which served for a table and trunk. In one side was a folding camp table with tin wash basin and bucket of water. It was all novel to me and I was rather pleased over sharing my soldier's real camp life, although he said this was quite luxurious. His cook was a fine young man named John Meek, a private in his company. He cooked over an open fire in a dutch ovens and he made the best biscuit and corn bread and coffee I ever tasted. We had a real camp fare and ate off tin plates and drank from tin cups, without table cloth or napkins.”

Source: Mrs. Hill's Journal — “Civil War Reminiscences”
by Sarah Jane Full Hill

NOTE FROM MARTHA KOHLER: Martha asked that I pass along this note:



“Months ago Norman and I reported that we wish to be relieved from making the coffee. I have had several health problems this year, and never seem to know when or if I can attend the meeting. Last month it was mentioned that “we'll just quit having coffee at our meetings”, is that what all of you want to do? It just takes a few hours each

Thursday before meeting to make a couple pots of coffee and transfer them to the thermos', that we have and deliver them to the meeting. We have everything you need, coffee pot, coffee, filters, and all the paper products you need, paper plates and cups. We have been doing this about eight years, and we are ready to retire. But if anyone wants to continue the tradition, please call 812-477-4060 or email, nmkohler@twc.com and we can get all the supplies to you.” Martha

JULY PROGRAM: Aly Gray — Long Remember: the 38th Reunion in History and Memory. Ms Gray is a librarian who has spent years doing academic research and lecturing on topics as varied as Women's Roles in the American Revolution, the symbolism of fairy tales, Veterans Day celebrations, the remembrance of the Gettysburg address and the history of how we remember. Her audiences have ranged from school groups to the officers of Ft. Knox.

FUTURE PROGRAMS:



July 21, 2016 — Aly Gray — Long Remember: the 1938 Reunion in History and Memory

Aug. 18, 2016 — Patrick Lewis — Relations between Kentucky Governors and Border States during the Civil War

Sept. 15, 2016 —

Oct. 20, 2016 — Erin Boszer — Honor and Family Life in Old South

Nov. 17, 2016 —

Dec. 15, 2016 — Trivia Contest and “Show ‘N’ Tell”

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

****The 2016 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 June were: Richard Gibson, Norma Faust, and Ed Irick Remember, if you have any books that you would like to donate for the raffle, please bring them to the next meeting.



Photo on right: Larry Morris conducting the book raffle. (LM)

FORAGER'S LIST:

June 16, 2016 — Ron & Patsy Sproatt

July 21, 2016 — Eric Sprouls

Aug. 18, 2016 — Gary Rhodes

Sept. 15, 2016 — George Payne

Oct. 20, 2016 — Jo Frohbieter-Mueller

Nov. 17, 2016 — Ed Irick

Dec. 15, 2016 — Richard Gibson



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

****We would like inform the members of the death of former member Ben Sloan on July 4. He recently provided several of his civil war books for sale to our membership. Also Beverly Thompson, wife of new member Wayne Thompson, passed away on May 27. Our condolences to their families.**



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WEB SITE & FACEBOOK— 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.

If you would like to order some of the logo items shown below, go to our web page at <http://www.sicwrt.org> and on the home page in the upper right corner, look for the red “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, the club receives a percentage of money on the orders that are placed. Be sure to use the product number for each item.



Photos by Larry Morris

LOCAL CIVIL WAR NEWS: Pictures from Newburgh Remembers: Newburgh Raid
[Photos by Larry Morris]



Member - Dennis Hutchinsion - Cobb's Battery



Past President - Josh Claybourn - Member - Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War





SOUTHERN INDIANA CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

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 – Keith Batteiger; Treasurer – Ron Sproatt; Program Chairman – Tom Murray; Newsletter Editors – Larry Morris and Bill Emmick; Web Page/Face Book Editor – Josh Claybourn; Book Raffle Chairman – Larry Morris.



North



South