



# THE GENERAL'S REPORT

The Newsletter of the Southern Indiana Civil War Roundtable

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SOUTHERN INDIANA  
CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

OCTOBER 2016



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## SEPTEMBER MEETING —

Reminder — Make your November dinner reservation by the October meeting. Cost is \$12.00 per person.

Treasurer Ron Sproatt reported we have a balance of \$1,036.01.

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

**SEPTEMBER PROGRAM:** This month we did not have a speaker, so two members, George Payne and Larry Morris, showed some programs through the video projector. First, Larry played a video titled “The Civil War in Four Minutes”. I purchased this video at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum in Springfield, IL. The Museum displays this animated program continuously. In a scale of one week equals one second, the video shows the ever changing battle lines as a nation tears itself apart. In the corner, a casualty counter tracks the mounting numbers lost to disease, capture, disfigurement and death.



Prof. Gary Gallagher

George Payne showed two videos from the “Great Courses” program “The American Civil War” presented by well know history professor Gary Gallagher. Dr. Gallagher is Professor of History of the American History at University of Virginia. He has received numerous awards for his research and writing.

This course presents 48 lectures presented by Dr. Gallagher with various photos, illustrations, and maps; some of which are included below. George showed lecture #30 , The Naval War and lecture #31, The River War and Confederate Commerce Raiders. George felt those subjects would be appropriate since we will have a program on *The Hunley* next month.

The Great Courses are college-level courses on CD, DVD and digital formats. There are a variety of subjects presented by professors chosen for their ability to teach. There is also an option to purchase a complete transcription of the lectures in a course guidebook.



## JOURNALS, DIARIES and LETTERS, ETC.:



**EYEWITNESS: THE CIVIL WAR** — Lt. Silas T. Grisamore was a quartermaster of the 18<sup>th</sup> Louisiana infantry regiment on the day before the Confederate attack on the Union army at Shiloh. As the Confederate army marched toward Pittsburgh Landing on Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup> Grisamore recorded in his journal:

“April 5<sup>th</sup> — This morning it was late ere the troops were put in motion. As we had left with three days cooked rations, our provisions were getting scarce, and a detail was left with the commissary train to cook. The march was slow and tedious, the roads being blocked with wagons and advancing troops. At sunset I reached the camp of our brigade, being in line near the enemy on the left of the road leading from Purdy to Pittsburg Landing. Col. Mouton immediately ordered me back to bring up a wagon with cooked rations. It was with difficulty that I could get back on horseback. The roads were full of the troops of Gen. Polk’s division and the numerous wagon trains. However, I finally got a start, but after striving and working until midnight, I was compelled to halt. It was a beautiful clear night, and when I woke in the morning I found everything covered with white frost. The whole army was encamped in the line of battle extending from Lick Run to Owl Creek, and a distance of four or five miles, and directly in front of the enemy.”

(BE)

Source: *The Civil War Reminiscences of Major Silas T. Grisamore, CSA*  
Ed. by Arthur W. Bereron, Jr.

**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](mailto:nmkohler@twc.com) and we can get all the supplies to you.” Martha

**OCTOBER PROGRAM:** Roundtable member Erin Boszor will present the program “Honor and Family in the Old South.’ Ms. Boszor graduated from Ball State University where she majored in history.



**FUTURE PROGRAMS:**



Oct. 20, 2016 — Erin Boszer — Honor and Family Life in Old South  
Nov. 17, 2016 — Tom Murray — The Hunley (?) Dinner  
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 September were: Bill Hale, George Payne, and Bill LaFief. 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)



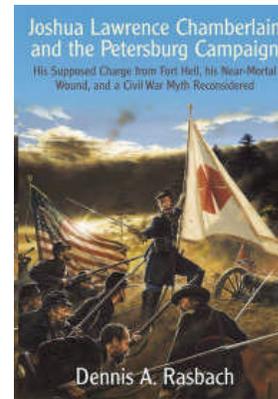
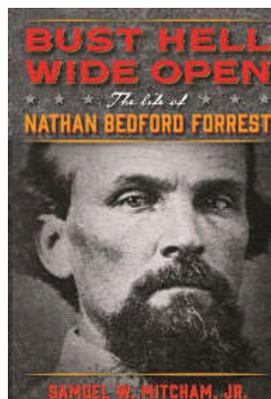
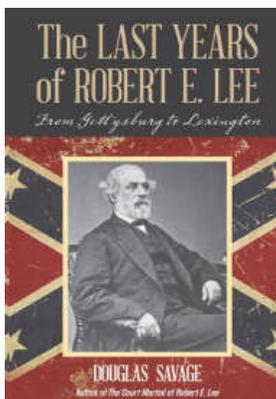
**FORAGER’S LIST:**

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.

**NEW CIVIL WAR TITLES:**





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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

### **SPECIAL NOTE:**

I received this note from member Kent Andrew and he asked that I share it with the members:

“Several days ago (Sat., Oct. 8) my wife and I walked into a yard sale in Rockport, IN. It was at a house on a high bluff overlooking the Ohio River, and I gotta tell ya, there can’t be very many places anywhere with a better view. The items for sale were pretty standard, but books were mentioned in the newspaper ad, among which was a quantity of Civil War books. I’m enclosing a copy of the obituary for Ronald Straughan. The books were his, and we didn’t get there in time to see all of them. His speciality was C.W. in Missouri. He grew-up in, or had ancestral connections with, the Pilot Knob area. His widow and daughter did not think he had ever had any affiliation with SICWRT, and that’s a shame (!) Because he looked like our kind of guy. Anyway, I picked-out the ones I wanted to buy, and after a very pleasant conversation with these very nice folks, the rest of his C.W. collection was donated to SICWRT. I kept 4 of my 7 selections (3 were duplicates which I considered for upgrade) and boxed the rest — 12 of them — to present to SICWRT, along with a request that...

1. We acknowledge these as “From the family of Ronald Straughan and in his memory”, and
  2. We send a copy of our newsletter telling that we have done this (and that I am keeping my promise). (The Robert Straughan obituary was published in the Courier-Press on 8-1-15.)
- Kent Andrew

Rather than bringing all of those books at this month’s meeting I will try to bring a few books during the next two months. We will discuss the best way to utilize the gift of these books. (LM)



## 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*