

The Sentinel

Snowed Out Again!



This is a small cemetery along the Jackson Creek Nature Preserve Trail in Yellowwood State Forest between Bloomington and Nashville, IN. Huh, you say? What does this have to do with the Civil War? As in many local cemeteries, there is an Ohio CW veteran buried here. Since our regular program was cancelled, this “mood shot” will have to do!

As seems to happen at least once a year, Mother Nature played a trick on us and weather forced the late cancellation of our February meeting. Stalwart member Deborah Cronin was going to tell us about a “River Journey” by some members of the Kiantone, NY, social experimentation community down the Mississippi and back in 1859, a trip that was a precursor to the Civil War in many ways. Deborah has graciously accepted our offer to come back in June and try again! The entire story of the Kiantone community and a number of very unique and interesting individuals is available to anyone who would like a “jump” on the June program by contacting Deborah and getting her recently published book, *Kiantone: Chautauqua County’s Mystical Valley*. If you don’t see her at our meetings, her number is at the end of the newsletter.

Civil War Encampment Downtown in June

It appears now that our “resident re-enactor,” Joel Foust, will be bringing his group to the lawn of the Monroe County History Center in June for a weekend encampment to help kick off the summer Civil War exhibit at the center (more on that in a moment). The actual date is still being determined. The tentative plans call for several tents, some camp cooking, manual of arms drill and general interaction with folks downtown and perhaps more. Plan to stop by and see the guys in action. We may be looking for volunteers to “meet and greet” passersby in order to generate some knowledge and interest for the roundtable, too.

Reminders of Upcoming Events

ABRAHAM LINCOLN’S INDIANA YEARS — Lincoln class to be held at the Monroe County Historical Center, 202 E. 6th St.; coordinated by IU Continuing Studies; three Wednesdays (2/28, 3/7 and 3/21), 7:00-9:30 pm; cost: \$50 before 2/21, \$55 after; call 855-5108.

SLAVERY, CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELDS AND THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN HISTORIANS — by retired National Parks Historian Professor Dwight Pitcaithley; Saturday, 2/24, 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the home of Paul and Charlotte Zietlow, 213 S. Bryan, RSVP to Susan Lyons at 855-7345 or slyons@indiana.edu.

ROUNDTABLE MEETING MARCH 13, 7:00 P.M. — **Bob Willey on the Sharpshooter in the Devil’s Den**

MCHM to Host 90-day Civil War Exhibit

The Monroe County History Center, our gracious and always appreciated “parent” organization, will be putting together a three-month exhibit in one of their two rotating galleries that will be focused on the Civil War, and especially anything to do with connections to local city and county residents. This will be an excellent opportunity for the Roundtable members to show off their personal memorabilia, artifacts, etc. While the center has some Civil War related material on hand, much more will be needed. If you have anything that you would like to donate permanently, it will, of course, be accepted, but it is anticipated that most of the items will be loans from our members and other enthusiasts.

Loans are by far the most common way the museum gets items to exhibit. Such items are guaranteed to be kept as secure as any of the museums permanent collections. If you have any artifact or reproduction, any letters, photos or documents, anything at all that is related to the war, and that you would like to be considered, they can be brought to the History Center and left with the staff. All items will be documented, a receipt will be issued and the usual museum security will be, as mentioned previously, apply.

So, bring out that Minie ball, that old artillery shell, the uniform great-great Grandpa wore at Shiloh, those discharge papers for some long forgotten relative, the musket you really aren’t sure about, the photo of third cousin Harvey in his spiffy new uniform at Camp Morton as he mustered in...anything at all.

A Message from Your Roundtable President

As the end of our second year as a formal group approaches, it should be noted that the election of a new slate of officers is scheduled for the April meeting. The bylaws adopted last year limit the term of an officer to two years, and the end of that term is approaching for me and for all of us on the “board.”

I cannot begin to express the satisfaction and sheer fun that being your president has been for me. Not only have I learned a great many things and met some truly wonderful and endlessly interesting people along the way, but the experience has provided me a springboard from which I have branched out into other areas of local and regional history pursuits.

I encourage any of you who have enjoyed this roundtable as I have to consider stepping up and helping us move it forward. While I do not intend to “abandon ship,” it is time for someone with perhaps some fresh ideas to take the reins. I will assist in any way I can, both in a transition period and down the road as a plain, old member.

Our officer “corps” is small, as indicated in the box below, and those of us who have been working together have developed, I believe I can safely say, a respect and appreciation of each other that extends beyond the confines of “second Tuesdays.”

If you feel that you might consider a position on the executive board, please let us know. We will be happy to answer questions, explain the “rules of the road” and give our honest (and biased!) opinion of the MCCWR.

— Steve Rolfe

CONTACTS

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