

The Sentinel

4th Annual Holiday Dinner a Great Success

December 15th saw what has become a holiday tradition, the celebration of the Roundtable's fourth annual, and very festive, dinner at the Uptown Café.

Twenty stalwart members and their guests enjoyed an evening of great food and camaraderie. The evening started off, after cocktails and fellowship, with a round of sharing for those who brought along something Civil War related. Jerry Spore

shared some items from a Princeton, Indiana, gathering of the GAR in the early years of the twentieth century. His wife, Dot, brought some clippings from her great grandfather's Civil War scrapbook. And Steve Rolfe showed the recently acquired photo of the battle flag of the 27th Indiana Infantry from the collection of the Indiana War Memorial Commission's flag collection in

Indianapolis at the Indiana War Memorial. While the flag itself cannot travel any longer because of its fragile condition, the photo can provide the Roundtable with possibilities of a new logo to be used for letterheads, note cards, and perhaps even some monographed clothing like T-shirts or polo shirts.

The festive nature of the evening was then enhanced by a slightly competitive (but only a bit!) quiz which was passed out to all attending. Rather than ask for dates and names, the quiz was aimed more at opinions about war related personages and sites just to see how much everyone could argue about their favorite generals, battlefields, etc. It was fun to exchange ideas about those facts that everyone has absorbed over a lifetime of Civil War study. In the holiday spirit, the quiz is appended at the end of this article so you can join in if you could not make the dinner. Feel free to send your opinions to Steve Rolfe, the

Sentinel editor, at srolfe@indiana.edu so they could be included in a future edition.

The evening concluded with a cappella singing of tunes of the mid 1800s, such as *Tenting Tonight* and *When Johnny Comes Marching Home*. The results, while strong and festive, proved once again that the Roundtable members should be known for their zeal and scholarly command of the history of the war and not their singing abilities!

The Quiz:

1. What is your favorite Civil War battlefield to visit? Why? What do you think will be others' favorites?
2. What do you think the most decisive battle of the war was? Why? What do you think others will think?
3. Who is your favorite Union General? Why? What do you think others will say?
4. Same question, but which Confederate general?
5. Same questions as #3 above, but this time, your *least* favorite.
6. Same questions as #4 above, but this time, your *least* favorite.
7. Which side do you fall on—states' rights or slavery? Why?
8. Was the war won in the east or the west? Why?
9. Was Grant a "butcher"? Why or why not?
10. Excluding Lincoln (sorry, that would have made this one too easy!), who was the most influential political figure of the war on either side and why?



The Awkward Squad
detail from a drawing by Walter Taber in *Battles and Leaders of the Civil War*: I, 84

And our "bonus Question" as supplied by member John Crosby, was a real poser: "How did it come about that Brigadier General William Rufus Terrill was transferred from his eastern post, raising a battery of artillery at Reading, Pennsylvania, to the 33rd Brigade, Tenth Division, I Corps, of the Army of the Ohio under Carlos Buell?"

New Web Site!

Don't forget that our web site has "moved." The Monroe County Civil War Roundtable on the Internet is now located at www.mccwrt-in.org. All the old stuff is there, so drop in and take a look. We hope to expand this and add new features like videos, a chat feature, information access and more. Check it often!

Our Own Blog Is Coming

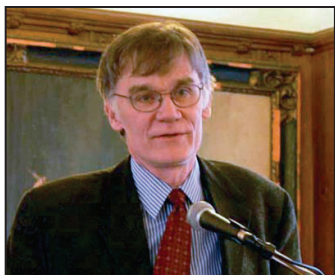
The final touches are being put on our very own blog in association with the new web site. If you are not familiar with "blogging," it is a form of direct interaction with others on an Internet site to discuss whatever you want. Give information; ask questions; tell a story; skewer a historical figure (or even a current one, for that matter!); critique a Roundtable presentation—in short, chat about whatever you want with other members from the Roundtable so you don't have to do it all in fifteen minutes before or after the monthly meetings. Look for our blog to be up and active soon, and be thinking about how you will make the best use of it. There will be more details at the January meeting, so don't miss it.

— Podcast News —

A WALKING TOUR OF POPLAR GROVE NATIONAL CEMETERY near Petersburg, Virginia, is the 21st podcast now included in the audio section of CivilWarTraveler.com. The 13-stop tour tells the stories of the cemetery itself and many of the soldiers buried there. Watch for a tour of Fort Fisher, North Carolina, coming this month. For more, go to www.CivilWarTraveler.com/audio.

LISTEN TO, OR WATCH, A BRILLIANT SERIES OF LECTURES by the noted scholar, David W. Blight, available free for download via the iTunes store: <http://www.apple.com/itunes/download>. (The iTunes application is free for MAC or PC).

Once in the store, click on iTunes U. Search under the title *The Civil War and Reconstruction Era 1845-1877*. Recorded in 2008 from one of Blight's courses at Yale, the twenty-seven lectures are available in video or audio formats. Blight will be known to Roundtable members as the author of *Race and Reunion: The Civil War in American Memory* and *A Slave No More* along with other distinguished works.



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A Day with Abe Lincoln

The IU Continuing Education program is offering a full day exploring resources about Abraham Lincoln in the city of Indianapolis, including a brief tour of the city with a guide from the Historic Landmarks Foundation. The morning will focus on the Soldiers and Sailors Monument on the Circle and the Colonel Eli Lilly Civil War Museum in its lower level. The day then proceeds to the Indiana State Museum for lunch in the delightful L.S. Ayres Tea Room. After lunch tour two Lincoln exhibits: The Library of Congress' traveling exhibition, *With Malice Toward None: The Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Exhibition*, which focuses on Lincoln the political leader, and the ISM's exhibition, *With Charity for All: The Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection*, which takes a more personal approach to Lincoln the son, husband, father, and friend. The instructor will be Jim Madison, the Thomas and Kathryn Miller Professor of History at IU, who believes that Lincoln is the greatest American of all time. NOTE: Enrollment is limited. Registration deadline is Monday, January 25, 2010. There will be NO REFUNDS after January 25th! For details, go to <http://webdb.iu.edu/Continue/Secure/index.asp>.

Virginia in the Civil War DVD available

Virginia was, no doubt, the epicenter of the war. A three-hour video produced by the Virginia Sesquicentennial Commission featuring Dr. James I. Robertson is now available for sale. The DVD set of two covers topics ranging from "The Coming Storm" to the "Overland Campaign." The cost is \$20 plus shipping. You can order online by going to: <http://virginiacivilwar.org>. Click on "Education."

Confederate Museum still Alive

The recent talk of the demise of the Museum of the Confederacy was a bit premature. While the MOC, as it is called, has undergone extensive change, it still exists. Learn more and take a look at new items that have been added to the museum's collection by going to http://www.moc.org/site/PageServer?pagename=ce_col_digitalcollection.

Next Meeting

- Join us for Jeff Allen's presentation on "Sally of the 11th Pennsylvania and Other Regimental Mascots."
- Jeff is a local dentist and long-time Roundtable member and supporter, so plan on being there back on our regular schedule on the second Tuesday, January 12, 2010!

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