

Monroe County Civil War Roundtable

“Exploring, preserving and sharing the history of the American Civil War”



The Sentinel



Volume 9, No. 2

October, 2012

Hoosiers from the Mexican War to the Civil War

Local high school history teacher and MCCWR member Matt Hoagland joined us this month to talk about the Hoosiers who were prominent figures in the Civil War but “cut their military teeth”, so to speak, in the Mexican War of 1846. This was the conflict that happened at just that time when many of the young participants were fresh out of West Point, went off to war in Monterrey, Vera Cruz, Mexico City and other exotic places south of the Rio Grande and put to use the training they had received on the Hudson. And the Hoosier experience of the conflict ended up being checkered at best, at least if you listened to some of the critics during and after the war. This led to some interesting results when Hoosiers were again called on to pick up arms some fifteen years later.

As background, and ignoring the Hoosier connections for the moment, one of the men who spanned both wars was, incredibly, the commanding general of all US military forces in *both* wars. This was Gen. Winfield Scott, shown at right in the very flattering portrait that now hangs in the National Portrait Gallery in Washington. Scott was, by 1861, a legend in the nation’s short military history, having written the *Manual of Arms* that had been used at West Point since it was introduced there years before. He was, in 1861, getting quite old and more infirm every day due to his weight and the gout he suffered from. His service would not last long. He was replaced by George McClellan in 1862.



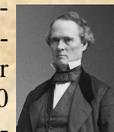
Other men who saw service in both wars included Thomas J. “Stonewall” Jackson (right), a member of the 1st US Artillery in the earlier conflict; the aforementioned McClellan (left) who was an engineering officer on Scott’s staff and who contracted malaria in the Mexican War, a malady that plagued him the rest of his life; U.S. Grant (shown at right as President after the war), who remembered, as a junior officer, meeting the already rising figure of the future CSA commander Robert E. Lee (at left as he might have looked during the Mexican War), who definitely did not remember Grant from their earlier encounter; and Jefferson Davis, the Confederate president who had had a very distinguished career after West Point (right) and had gone on to prominence in the government in Washington as a senator and Secretary of War in the decade preceding the Civil War.



Indiana troops in the Mexican War, it can be argued, led directly to the impressive number of men the state sent to the Civil War fifteen years later, a number that was second in supplying men to only one other state, a fact that most don’t realize. This was because one of the five regiments in the first conflict, the 2nd Indiana Infantry, was essentially accused by Jefferson Davis, the colonel of his own Mississippi Rifles there, of “skedaddling” when attacked by the forces of Gen. Santa Ana at the fight at Buena Vista .

There is not enough room here to explain the details of this engagement, but historians have generally agreed as time has passed that, while the Hoosiers were forced back, they did not exhibit anything like cowardice. It was, more aptly put, a “quick withdrawal” in the face of overwhelming enemy fire. Most members of the 2nd along with their comrades in the 3rd Indiana rallied around Davis’ own Mississippi Rifles and eventually turned the Mexicans back. But Davis’ post-battle report was not kind to the Hoosiers and the taint stuck. It then became easy for Indiana’s Governor, Oliver P. Morton, to recruit young men from the state to volunteer for the Union Army in 1861 so they could show that men from Indiana were not cowards and could stand with the best, a stance that was proved correct, in almost all counts,

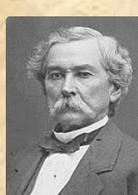
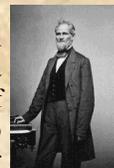
Who were the principal Indiana men who spanned both wars? To start with there were three individuals whose last name was Lane but were unrelated. The first of these was Joseph Lane (right), a slavery supporter who commanded the 2nd IN in 1846 and later moved to Oregon. His Civil War connection was that he ran for Vice President on the Breckinridge ticket in 1860 and lost, in the process helping to split the Democratic vote and assure Lincoln’s election.



James H. Lane (left), a Lawrenceburg, IN, native, commanded the 3rd IN in 1846, was an ardent abolitionist and detested Joseph Lane. By the time of the Civil War, he had moved to Kansas and became a US Senator and a leader of the Jayhawkers.



Henry Lane (right) was from Crawfordsville and commanded the 1st and 5th IN in 1846, became a Lincoln supporter and was elected Governor of Indiana, but served only two days, resigning so Oliver P. Morton, Lt. Governor, Indiana’s war governor, could succeed him and, in turn, appoint Lane to the US Senate where he served until 1877.



There is even a Bloomington connection between the two wars. Gen. Willis Gorman (left) graduated from the IU Law School in 1835, established a practice here then volunteered for service in the Mexican conflict, where he served with the 3rd IN. He returned to Indiana after the

[cont. on pg.2]

[from pg.1]

War but moved to Minnesota when appointed territorial governor there by Pierce. He became a Brig. General with the 1st Minnesota and served at First Bull Run, in the Peninsula Campaign and at Antietam. He lived out his post-war years in Minnesota where he went back to the practice of law.

Perhaps the best known Hoosiers who served in both wars, however, were, first, Jefferson C. Davis (right), who was a sergeant in the first war but stayed in the army and rose to be a corps commander for Sherman in Atlanta and on the March to the Sea. But he is probably better remembered for shooting Union general William "Bull" Nelson dead in the lobby of the Galt House in Louisville...and getting away with it!



Then there is also Gen. Ambrose Burnside, (left) a native of Liberty, Indiana, who was a Lt. in the 2nd IN Light Artillery in the Mexican War and saw little actual combat. As with Davis above, he remained in the army and rose to become the reluctant commander of the Army of the Potomac at Fredericksburg (see the "Quote of the Week" on page 5) where his military career was effectively destroyed along with most of his army that day. His greatest legacy is, perhaps, the coinage of the term "sideburns" to represent his then unique style of whiskers. After the war, he was a governor of Rhode Island.



Finally, and at long last, someone who stayed "back home in Indiana", there is Lew Wallace (right), who served as a lieutenant with the 1st IN in the Mexican War, came back to Crawfordsville and began a distinguished career there. At the outset of the Civil War, Wallace was still upset by the reputation that Hoosier men had gotten in 1846, so he was very active in 1861 in the recruitment of soldiers for the state, then went on to his own degree of infamy with Grant at Shiloh and eventually became the "Savior of Washington" at Monocacy.



There is much, much more to the story that Matt shared with us this month...more than we could fit here. If you weren't there to hear it, be sure to check out the DVD from our library at the History Center!

We Need Your Support

Please use the form below to send in your dues to the roundtable so we can continue to bring you the things that we think you want to see and hear about!

Monroe County Civil War Roundtable Annual Dues/Donation Form

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

E-mail _____

Membership 2012-2013 \$15 _____

Speakers' Fund \$ _____

| 2012-2013 Program Schedule | |
|--|--|
| Nov. 13 | Confederates Raid Newburgh, IN! by Ray Mulesky |
| Dec. 11 | Annual Holiday Dinner - Get your thinking caps on...there <i>will</i> be a quiz! [See the related story elsewhere in the newsletter.] |
| Jan. 8 | Christmas During the War by Scott Schroeder |
| Feb. 12 | The Causes of the End of the Civil War by Deborah Cronin |
| Mar. 12 | Alexander Gardner, Civil War Photographer by Steve Rolfe |
| April 9 | Nathan Bedford Forrest at Fort Pillow by Cassy Gray |
| May 14 | Poetry of the Civil War by Dick Durisen |
| June 11 | Battlefield Flag Preservation Project of the Indiana War Memorial by Donna Schmink |
| What would YOU like to present in 2013-2014! | |

Brrrrr!!



It's that time of year again. We want to remind everyone of our inclement weather policy and it is easy to remember. The History Center will be closed if the Monroe County Schools are closed. And if they are closed on a meeting day, we will not meet that night. It's that simple. Just check the media or call the History Center at 332-2517 if you are unsure. You can also contact anyone on the board listed at the end of this newsletter.

We're on Facebook Now!

The roundtable is now on Facebook! This is another way of communicating with each other, sharing photos, etc. We also feel it could be an excellent way to kindle the interest of some of the younger folks. You just need to go to www.facebook.com and type in "Monroe County Civil War Roundtable" in the search box. Be sure "like" us when you do!



[NOTE: unspecified donations over \$15 will be considered as membership first with the balance toward the Speakers' Fund.]

Thank you!!!

Gettysburg Electric Map Saved

Many of us remember the electric map at the old Gettysburg Visitors' Center. For kids, it was almost like toy soldiers on steroids. For adults, it gave an understanding of the battle that was both unique and entertaining, even for the non-scholar or buff.

The Visitors' Center itself was demolished a few years ago, but the map was saved and put in storage. Because of a low level of asbestos used in its creation in the 1960s, it came very close to being destroyed and disposed of as a "hazardous substance". However, it was recently determined that the asbestos level was low enough that, with some provisos, it could be auctioned...if anyone wanted to bid on it.

Fortunately, someone did. Hanover, PA, developer Scott Roland, who remembered seeing the map as a child, recently bought it from the government for a bit over \$14,000 and intends to refurbish it and place it in a building he is renovating for his business in Hanover, about fifteen miles east of Gettysburg. A lot of things still have to fall into place, but we should all give Mr. Roland a "Well done!" for preserving just a small bit of Civil War tourism history. For more details, see the article in the Hanover *Evening Sun* newspaper at :

http://www.eveningsun.com/news/ci_21552546/who-would-buy-12-ton-electric-map#



Remember this amazing piece of Civil War memorabilia? Send your memories to me at srolfe@indiana.edu and we will share them in a future issue. I remember that the seating was labeled N, S, E & W, and you quickly learned the best seats were on the "south" side so it would be configured like you would read a map in a book. The "rookies" sat on the N side (nearest the doors) and had to stand on their heads!

S.R.

150 Years Ago in November

- ◆ 2nd Gen. John C. Fremont relieved of command of the Western Department.
- ◆ 3rd Grant's army moves through La. to Vicksburg
- ◆ 4th US troops destroy Southern saltworks in Kingsburg, GA.
- ◆ 5th Lincoln replaces McClellan with Burnside.
- ◆ 9th 34 Confederates captured at Fredericksburg in US cavalry action.
- ◆ 10th McClellan delivers an emotional farewell to his men.
- ◆ 14th US partisans in New Orleans call for Congressional representation.
- ◆ 20th Troops from both sides begin build-up around Fredericksburg.

Don't Miss November's Meeting!

Ray Mulesky from the Southern Indiana Civil War Roundtable will be joining us to talk about the July 18, 1862, **Confederate Raid on Newburgh**, Indiana. Ray is an expert on this little known event that is far more "local" than we usually get in our programs. It will be enlightening!

Don't forget...7 pm, Tuesday, November 6th, at the Monroe County History Center.

Funeral Escorts in the War

Member Bob Willey, who prompted us to look at pay rates in the Union Army last month, also contributed this interesting look at the protocol for an all-too-familiar occurrence during the war. Who rated what when it came to the final journey and tribute to a fallen hero?

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Genl., cmdg. | One regiment infantry, one squadron cavalry and six pieces artillery |
| Maj. Genl. | One regiment infantry, one squadron cavalry and four pieces artillery |
| Brig. Genl. | One regiment infantry, one company. cavalry and two pieces artillery |
| Colonel | One regiment infantry |
| Lt. Col. | Six companies infantry |
| Major | Four companies infantry |
| Captain | One company infantry |
| Lieutenant | One-half company infantry |
| Sergeant | Fourteen rank and file |
| Corporal | Twelve rank and file |
| Private | Eight rank and file, commanded by a corporal |

It's a solemn list, but it is good to note that, when the concept of national cemeteries arose late in the war, the decision was made early on to *not* separate the final resting places of these brave soldiers by rank. A private is as likely to be buried next to a major as a sergeant. Think how you might feel if, at Arlington National Cemetery, there was a section for privates, for captains, for generals, etc. It simply would not be the same. May they all rest in peace.

Annual Holiday Dinner Plans Under Way

Last year we tried something a bit different and let the kind folks at Bell Trace host our holiday dinner. This worked very well and all who attended had a great time. The plan now is to repeat this in 2012. Final details are yet to be worked out, but set aside Tuesday evening, December 11, and join your comrades for a festive evening. And remember to bring your thinking caps because there will be a little quiz (OK, only voluntary!) with a prize or two for the winners. Specific prices and times will be announced in November.



Membership Bonus! - Ed Bearss DVD Available

Because we partnered with the great folks at the **Monroe County Public Library**, Bloomington Community Access Television (BCAT) recorded our Wiley lecturer, Ed Bearss, last month. There will be a DVD copy of his talk available to any *paid* member who would like to have one for his Civil War library. So get that check in and put a legend on your bookshelf. Just contact any board member to get a copy for your personal archives.



MCCWR Roster of Honor

[Note the addition of the picture next to our first honoree. If you have a photo of your ancestor, send it to srolfe@indiana.edu and we will try to include it in future newsletters.]



Capt. Ephraim Waterman Wiley, Co. H, 8th Maine Inf.—Grandfather of former MCCWR President David Wiley. Present or active at Port Royal, Fort Pulaski, Drewry’s Bluff, Cold Harbor, Chaffin’s Farm, Deep Bottom, Spring Hill, White Oak Road, Fort Gregg, Fort Baldwin, Petersburg and Appomattox.

Sgt. Charles Thomas Shanner, Co. A, 63rd Indiana Volunteer Inf.- Great-grandfather to MCCWR board member John Crosby. Chattanooga-Atlanta Campaign, Clay Springs, Battle of Atlanta.

Col. James McMannomy, Commander, 63rd Indiana Volunteer Inf.- Ancestor of MCCWR member Matt Hoagland. Second Manassas, fought Morgan’s Raiders at Shepherdsville, Kentucky.

Pvt. William Nicholas Shiflet, Co. I, 10th Alabama Infantry—2nd Great Grand Uncle to Kevin Shiflet, MCCWR member. Engaged, to some degree, at Dranesville, Yorktown, Williamsburg, Seven Pines, Gaines Mill, Frazier’s Farm, Second Manassas, Harpers Ferry, Sharpsburg, Hazel River, Fredericksburg, Gettysburg, Wilderness, Spotsylvania, Second Cold Harbor, Petersburg, High Bridge, Farmville and Appomattox. Pvt. Shiflet is only one of a total of seventeen of Kevin’s ancestors who served the Confederacy, including thirteen cousins, two third great granduncles and two second great granduncles.

Jacob Mann, Co. A, 16th Iowa Inf.- Ancestor of Allan Sather, MCCWR member. Fought at Resaca, Adairsville, New Hope Church, Kennesaw Mountain, Peachtree Creek, and Bald Hill (Atlanta) where he was captured and sent to Andersonville Prison.

Sgt. Miles M. Oviatt, US Marine Corps- Great grandfather of Mary Pat Livingston, MCCWR member. Served aboard *USS Vanderbilt*, *USS Brooklyn*. Fought in Battles of Mobile Bay and Fort Fisher. Commended for Medal of Honor for his service at Mobile Bay. Voyages included south Atlantic, Indian Ocean chasing blockade runners and capturing those renegades ships.

Pvt. Luther Oviatt, Pennsylvania 14th Cavalry, Co. I- Gr-Gr-Gr Uncle of Mary Pat Livingston, member MCCWR. Harper’s Ferry, Monocacy Bridge protection of B&O RR. Died at Hammond Hospital, Point Lookout while on duty. Buried Arlington Cemetery.

Pvt. Cyrenas A. Young, 85th New York Infantry, Co K.- Oviatt ancestor of Mary Pat Livingston. Plymouth, Kingston, New Bern, Petersburg, Suffolk. Spent time at Andersonville Prison, then sent to Florence Prison where he died days before the war ended.

Cpl. James Dickson- 10th Wisconsin Infantry, Co. D; 3rd great grandfather of MCCWR member Scott Schroeder. His only real engagement was at the Battle of Perryville where he was killed in action.

Pvt. William Taylor Neville- 8th Iowa Infantry, Co. A; 3rd great grandfather of MCCWR member Scott Schroeder. Engagements: Battle of Shiloh, Vicksburg, Red River Campaign. Captured at Shiloh in the Hornets’ Nest. Exch. Oct. ’62 and returned to his unit.

Reuben Newman—27th Indiana Infantry, Co. I, “Putnam County Grays”- Great-great-grandfather of member Eric Newman. Wounded at Antietam. Also fought at Gettysburg, Winchester, etc. Served Aug. ’61-Nov. ’64. Died June 13, 1905. Buried in New Providence Cemetery in Putnam County, IN.

Contact Information

| | | | |
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[Anyone is welcome to attend board meetings on the first Tuesday of each month at 11:30 at the History Center.]

Monroe County Civil War Roundtable
c/o Monroe County History Center
202 E. 6th St.
Bloomington, IN 47408
812-332-2517

<http://www.mccwr-in.org/>

150th Anniversary Events Page and More!

[It is the 150th anniversary of the war and there are so many special events scheduled in the upcoming months that we have added this page with anything that might be of interest to members and that are not too distant. If you have material to contribute to this “we-will-publish-it-as-long-as-we-have-stuff” page, send it to Secretary Steve Rolfe at srolfe@indiana.edu]

Civil War Trust 150th Events Site— The Civil War Trust is an excellent resource for information on both the timeline and upcoming events for the Sesquicentennial of the war. Just go to www.civilwar.org/150th-anniversary/150-events/.

The Civil War in Missouri Exhibit— Missouri History Museum, St. Louis— Now thru March, 2013- Explore the story of the Civil War in Missouri. Through documents, objects, and interactive activities you will get a view of this pivotal conflict in an immersive and engaging way only possible here. <http://www.mohistory.org/node/4591>

Lew Wallace Study and Museum— Crawfordsville, IN, is the home of perhaps the state’s most famous general of the war. Wallace, and the Civil War controversy arising from his division’s “tardiness” during the first day of the Battle of Shiloh, was the subject of his biographer, Gail Stephens, when she spoke at our roundtable last year. You can “read all about it” in her excellent new book *Shadow of Shiloh: General Lew Wallace in the Civil War* which is available in the Monroe County History center gift shop.

Missouri Civil War History— The Secretary of the State of Missouri, Robin Carnahan, has requested that we pass along the website for the new digital history collections for the state on-line at <http://www.sos.mo.gov/mdh/CivilWar/Resources.asp#coll>. These include **Community and Conflict: The Civil War in the Ozarks**, **St. Louis Daily Republican Newspaper: 1861-1865** and **St. Louis Area Civil War Digitization Project**.

Kentucky’s Generals- “Kentuckians in the Civil War” is an ongoing exhibit of portraits of prominent native sons who were US and CS generals— Battle of Richmond Visitors’ Center, Richmond, KY. Contact phillip.seyfried@madisoncountky.us.

Stones River Civil War Symposium - Oct. 26-27, Murfreesboro, TN. <http://www.nps.gov/stri/index.htm>

Southern Indiana Civil War Roundtable— Evansville- Upcoming meetings and topics:

November 15, 2012 — look for new program due to original speaker’s illness

December 20, 2012 — Trivia Contest/Show & Tell

[Contact Tom Murray if you have questions or need directions. tmurray50@gmail.com]

Indiana Historical Society—*The Civil War from Fort Sumter to the Emancipation Proclamation* is on display on the fourth floor of the Indiana History Center, 450 West Ohio Street, Indianapolis, (317) 232-1882, from Sept. 18 through Dec. 29 in recognition of the sesquicentennial of the Civil War. This first of a two-part exhibit includes items depicting the beginning of the war through the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation. The exhibit includes photographs of Abraham Lincoln, soldiers and battlefields; lithographs of Lincoln and his cabinet members; maps; sheet music; and engravings of images from the White House, the Emancipation Proclamation and more. And *always* remember, if you are not an IHS member...you should be! For more details, go to : <http://www.indianahistory.org/feature-details/civil-war-from-fort-sumter-to-emancipation>

“To Kill and To Heal—Weapons and Medicine of the Civil War” - through 2013 at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum in Springfield, IL. For more info, go to www.presidentlincoln.org.

Battle of Franklin 148th Anniversary Re-enactment—Carnton Plantation, Franklin, TN, Nov. 2 & 3. For more info, contact Bobby Hargrove at (615) 794-6179, bthargrove123@aol.com or Robert Huff, rg Huff123@aol.com.

10th Annual Remembrance Illumination—Soldiers’ National Cemetery, Gettysburg, PA, Nov. 17, 5:30-9:30 pm. For more, go to www.gettysburgfoundation.org or call (717) 339-2161.

Franklin Civil War Show—at the Williamson County Ag Expo Park, Franklin, TN, Dec. 1 & 2. For more, contact Mike Kent & Associates, (770) 630-7296, mlkshows@yahoo.com, www.mikekentshows.net.

Smithsonian Institution website—If you haven’t checked it out as of yet, bookmark this website! It has *tons* of great Civil War info. <http://www.civilwar150.si.edu/>

Quote of the Month

“That, Sir, is the *last* thing on which I wish to be congratulated!” - Ambrose Burnside, November 29, 1862, when an aide commented on his recent promotion to command of the Army of the Potomac, a promotion he had successfully avoided not once, but twice, previously. In a few weeks he would fulfill his own misgivings at Fredericksburg and in the infamous Mud March in January.

If you have information about an upcoming event, or if you want to share a book review, a Civil War travel experience or even comment on anything in this newsletter, just e-mail the editor, Steve Rolfe, at srolfe@indiana.edu and we will make every effort to include it in a future issue.