



# THE GENERAL'S REPORT

The Newsletter of the Southern Indiana Civil War Roundtable

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SOUTHERN INDIANA  
CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

MARCH 2016



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## FEBRUARY MEETING —

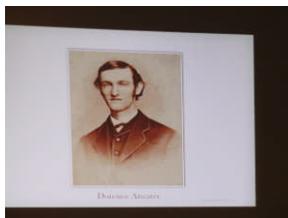
Tom Murray brought to the meeting a box of books from former member, Ben Sloan. These books can be purchased by the members and Ben will donate part of the proceeds to the club. Tom will bring more books at the next meeting. Norm and Martha Kohler have been responsible for maintaining our Forager List and bringing the coffee to our meetings. They would like to turn over that activity to someone else. If you are interested, please contact them. Remember to pay your dues at the March meeting or mail dues to Ron Sproatt. (1716 Madison Ave, Evansville, IN 47714).

**FEBRUARY PROGRAM: "Indiana at Andersonville."** Mr. John Urschel is an accomplished historian with degrees in history from Wright State University and extensive work as an archivist and records manager.



The Andersonville prison was located in Georgia and opened in February 1864. It was designed for 10,000 men but eventually it held 33,000 men. Approximately 13,000 men died while the prison existed. The prison held 2,025 Hoosiers from 130 units and 716 are buried at the Andersonville Cemetery. Indiana troops became POWs at battles such as Brices Crossroads, Tennessee and Atlanta Campaigns, Chickamauga and Wilderness. Mr. Urschel's program emphasized the Andersonville National Cemetery as it relates to the Hoosiers buried there. Mr. Urschel's book, *Indiana at Andersonville*, is a compendium of Indiana's soldiers held captive at that prison and survived. The book also contains photos of the Hoosier tombstones and information related to that soldier.

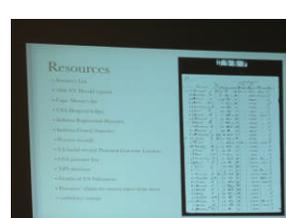
Dorence Atwater (1), while a Union prisoner, compiled a death register for the camp. In the summer of 1865, Atwater, along with Clara Barton (2), returned to Andersonville to find, identify, and properly bury the soldiers. Building upon Atwater's register Mr. Urschel consulted several research sources (3) to identify these soldiers. Often in the research Mr. Urschel found errors in the records that led to mistaken identities. While visiting Evansville, Mr. Urschel was able to research an Evansville survivor — William A. McFarland. (4)



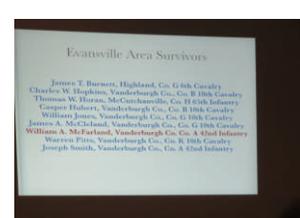
(1)



(2)



(3)



(4)

## JOURNALS, DIARIES and LETTERS, ETC.:

Confederate Chaplain Father James B. Sheeran of the 14<sup>th</sup> Louisiana Regiment records the following event which occurred in the Army of Northern Virginia on March 23, 1864.



“This morning the snow is 18 inches deep. I feel very much stiffened after my cold ride last evening. This was an exciting day about camp. Two of our divisions, Johnson’s and Rodes’, fought a regular scientific battle with snow balls. There were some 8,000 men engaged and the lines were so regularly formed, the movements so systematic, the officers displaying so much activity at the head of their commands, their men fighting so stubbornly, now advancing on their opposing column, now giving way before superior numbers that one would forget for a moment that it was merely a sham. At one time we would see a body of troops marching through an adjacent woods endeavoring to flank their enemy; soon a counter movement would be made. Now a charge and a yell and many prisoners captured. For nearly two hours this battle of snow balls lasted. Now commences a most amusing scene. Johnson’s whole division commences a rapid retreat but with solid and unbroken lines. Rodes’ division following them in utmost disorder and almost exhausted with laughter. Now the order is given, “Halt! Change front! Charge!” Now commences one of the most amusing and laughable scenes. Rodes’ division is routed and driven for over half a mile and even through their own camp. Our boys came home as proud as if they had gained a victory over the Yankees.”

Source: *Confederate Chaplain: A War Journal*  
Edited by Joseph T. Durkin



## CIVIL WAR QUOTE:

“We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battlefield and patriot grave to every living heart and hearthstone all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature.”

---- U.S. President Abraham Lincoln,  
March 4, 1861, First Inaugural Address

## FUTURE PROGRAMS:

Mar. 17, 2016 — Mark Laubacher — Cold Blooded Envenomation of 1861-1865

Apr. 21, 2016 — Dan Lee — The Louisville & Nashville Railroad in the Civil War

May 19, 2016 —

June 16, 2016 —

July 21, 2016 —

Aug. 18, 2016 —

Sept. 15, 2016 —

Oct. 20, 2016 —

Nov. 17, 2016 —

Dec. 15, 2016 —



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 February were: Mary Erickson, Jerry Dill, and Tom Arflack. 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:

Mar. 17, 2016 — Dennis & Donna Hutchinson

Apr. 21, 2016 — Tom Murray

May 19, 2016 — Allen Ahrens & Tom Van Wormer

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 —



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



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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

**NOTICE:** Dan Hartman, longtime member of the Southern Indiana Civil War Roundtable, passed away on February 29, 2016.

March 17th’s program will feature Mark Laubacher presenting on “Cold Blooded Envenomation of 1861-65”. Over the past 125 years, the literature authored by those who did not participate in the Civil War has continued to perpetuate the error that snake bites to the soldiers did not occur. Individuals, still today, generate theories to justify their belief of such erroneous statements. But from May 1861 through April 1865, *Medical and Surgical History of the War of the Rebellion* documents 178 snake bites with two being fatal on the Union side. One would expect similar snake bite numbers on the Confederate side. Unfortunately, during the Richmond fires of 1865, the Confederate Surgeon-General records were lost.

Letters to home, post war memoirs, and diaries from soldiers of both Union and Confederate sides detail not only snake bite, but envenomation. This presentation will examine seven snake bite cases on the Union side, three of which are clearly not captured in the Federal statistics with one being fatal. He will also review six snake bites on the Confederate side.

Mark Laubacher, RN, EMT-P; is a Certified Specialist in Poison Information at the Central Ohio Poison Center.



## 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*