

The Sentinel

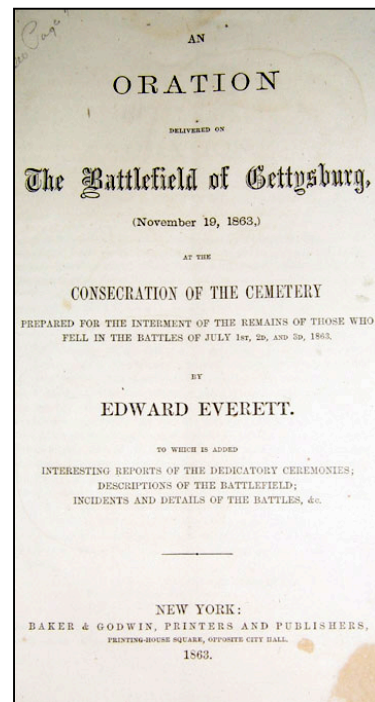
The Remnant Trust Documents

The September program pushed a bit beyond a direct association with the Civil War this month as Donn Hall, Associate Professor of History at Ivy Tech Community College in Bloomington, brought the Roundtable a sampling of the fifty Remnant Trust Documents currently on display (through December) at their west side campus. These documents are a collection of historically significant books, pamphlets and broadsides from the last 400 years that cover the development of thought on individual human rights, democracy and government. One of the more interesting facets of this exhibit is that almost all of these documents can be handled and actually read and studied by anyone who wishes.

Professor Hall brought about 25 documents to the History Center for members and guests to see and learn about. These included *The Philosophers* (1727) by John Locke, which helped lay the basis for the American form of government; *The Works of Machiavelli* (1640) by Niccolo Machiavelli, a much deeper investigation into the aspects of government and power than his better known work *The Prince*; *The Discourse Concerning Government* (1763) by Algernon Sydney, a primary influence on the Declaration of Independence; *The Complete Proceedings of the Continental Congress* (1775) and *The Minutes of the Second Continental Congress* (1775), the proceedings that were precursors to our Constitution; *Travels to the Source of the Missouri River* (1814) by Lewis and Clark; A Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass (1846), the first of three autobiographical accounts this great black leader published in his lifetime; and *The Gettysburg Address* (1863) which included the entire text of Edward Everett's two-hour oration at the cemetery dedication. As mentioned, this is only a sampling.

This extraordinary collection was amassed by Brian Bex, a former Bloomington resident, and his son, Chris Bex, who have spent many years and many, many dollars to bring these articles together to promote the concepts of democracy, human rights and government in America. They will eventually be on display with the rest of Mr. Bex's complete collection of some 800 documents in a center currently in the planning stages for southern Indiana.

In his program, Professor Hall traced the development of thoughts and ideas, many times conflicting, that began with Locke and Sydney (and even before) and led to the Revolution and eventually on to the Civil War. It was clear that the disputes which erupted into bloodshed had



Title page of a Remnant Trust document. Note that there is no reference to Lincoln.

their roots in the past and were natural outcomes of the many points of view that had developed. Some ideas can even be seen as pertinent to today, such as the statement by Machiavelli that factionalism is the enemy of government, a fact that we saw clearly in the Civil War but which can be seen in Afghanistan, Iraq and, one could even argue, our own congress today.

The Remnant Trust Documents will be on display through December in the library at Ivy Tech and are available for viewing and studying at any time the library is open. Call 812-332-1559 or go to <http://www.ivytech.edu/Bloomington/remnant>

Ed Bearss to Speak in Indiana

One of the most noted Civil War historians, and certainly one of the most magnetic and engaging speakers on the war, will be in Indiana in October. Former Chief Historian for the National Park Service, now Historian Emeritus, and the person instrumental in raising and restoring the gunship USS Cairo, now on display at Vicksburg National Military Park, Ed Bearss will speak at the Honeywell Center in Wabash Indiana on October 16 at 7:00 pm. Bearss is a well-known lecturer and presenter among Civil War enthusiasts and historians.

The Honeywell Center is a venue for many groups, including musicians, actors, etc. The event is sponsored by the Wabash County Historical Museum. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$5 for students. Wabash is about 3+ hours north of Bloomington and just southwest of Fort Wayne. At least one MCCWR member is planning to attend, so if you are interested, contact President Steve Rolfe at 336-0757 and find out about car-pooling possibilities.

Program Help Needed

Due to a bout of illness that our stalwart Program Chair and multiple presenter John Crosby is dealing with (and hopefully only for a short time before he is back with us), any and all ideas for programs should be forwarded to one of the folks in the list at the bottom of this page. We still have three open spots in the spring of 2007. Share your favorite CW story!

Gettysburg Class Offered

by Roundtable Member Mark Acres

This fall a class on the Battle of Gettysburg will be offered by People's University, a branch of the City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department. The class will be taught by Roundtable member and former presenter Mark Acres, a local expert on the subject. It will consist of four two-hour sessions from 6:30 to 8:30 pm on consecutive Thursday evenings, Sept. 21, Sept. 28, Oct. 5 and Oct. 12.

The class will meet in the Hooker Conference Room at the Showers Building in Bloomington. The cost is \$15 for city residents and \$18 for non-city residents. The proceeds all go to the Parks and Rec Department strictly to defray costs of space and equipment. Mark's class will enlighten both the beginner and intermediate student of the battle. Call Bloomington Parks and Rec, 349-3700, for details and an application form.

For more information call 349-3737 or e-mail PUB@bloomington.in.gov .

The History Train Returns to Southern Indiana

On October 26-28, the History Train will again be in the area, specifically Columbus, after taking a "year away" in the northern half of the state last fall. If you missed this unique event in 2004, be sure to put it on your schedule this fall.

The train is a collection of three refitted 65-foot boxcars that will have a new exhibition called *Faces of the Civil War*. Activities for families and students will include an orientation about the Civil War, the video "Well Done, Indiana: Tales of the Tragedies and Triumphs of Indiana in the Civil War," hands-on learning opportunities and much more. Train and Civil

War-related items will be available for purchase at the event.

The train is free to the public. For more information, call 317-232-1882 or 1-800-447-1830. You can also visit the web at www.indianahistory.org for more details. Don't miss this event. It is a wonderful opportunity to see the history of the war in a really different way.

Archiving Project Still On

While smaller than originally thought, there are still archiving possibilities for interested members with the Monroe County History Center. If you would like to read some Civil War era letters, transcribe them, learn how such items get archived in a museum, and help in that process, contact Erica Kendall, Collections Assistant, at 332-2517 or collection@monroehistoy.org.

Second Annual Veterans' Day Commemoration

Plans are still being made for the second annual Veterans' Day Commemoration honoring local Civil War and other military heroes. Last year about twenty people enjoyed a remarkably moving candlelight ceremony at dusk at the Buskirk-Abel-Wampler Cemetery in northwest Monroe County. The hope is to repeat this ceremony, but perhaps as a daytime event since Veterans' Day falls on a Saturday this year.

Anyone interested in attending or, especially, in participating by doing some readings or re-enacting of veterans is encouraged to contact MCCWR President Steve Rolfe.

Help Needed to Preserve a Piece of Libby Prison

The estate of local Monroe County native Rod Wampler will be auctioned on October 7th and 21st. Some unique Civil War-related items to be auctioned are some floor joists from Libby Prison, the infamous Confederate prison in Richmond, Virginia. Since the prison itself no longer exists, these artifacts are all the more rare and important. Help is needed for an individual to use contributed money to bid on these items at the auction since the principal bidder is unable to attend. The eventual plan is to contribute these items to a venue where they can be preserved and enjoyed by all. Anyone who would like to help should contact Vivian Zollinger at 829-4466

Contact Information

Steve Rolfe, President	336-0757
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Deborah Cronin, Hospitality	323-9615

Call any of the above people for questions, suggestions or comments regarding the Roundtable.