



HARDTACK



Indianapolis Civil War Round Table Newsletter

<http://indianapoliswrt.org/>

Monday, April 8, 2024 at 6:45 p.m.
Meeting at MCL Cafeteria Township Line
2370 W. 86th Street

The Plan of the Day



Pinterest

“General George G. Meade”

Although he took command of the Army of the Potomac only three days before the first shots were fired at Gettysburg, Union general George G. Meade guided his forces to victory in the Civil War's most pivotal battle. Commentators often dismiss Meade when discussing the great leaders of the Civil War. But in this long-anticipated book, Kent Masterson Brown draws on an expansive archive to reappraise Meade's leadership during the Battle of Gettysburg. Using Meade's published and unpublished papers alongside diaries, letters, and memoirs of fellow officers and enlisted men, Brown highlights how Meade's rapid advance of the army to Gettysburg on July 1, his tactical control and coordination of the army in the desperate fighting on July 2, and his determination to hold his positions on July 3 insured victory.

Brown argues that supply deficiencies, brought about by the army's unexpected need to advance to Gettysburg, were crippling. In spite of that, Meade pursued Lee's retreating army rapidly, and his decision not to blindly attack Lee's formidable defenses near Williamsport on July 13 was entirely correct in spite of subsequent harsh criticism. Combining compelling narrative with incisive analysis, this finely rendered work of military history deepens our understanding of the Army of the Potomac as well as the machinations of the Gettysburg Campaign, restoring Meade to his rightful place in the Gettysburg narrative.

Our Guest Speaker



Kent Masterson Brown

Lexington, Kentucky native Kent Masterson Brown is an award-winning writer, filmmaker, and attorney. Kent helped form the Perryville Battlefield Association, was appointed to serve as the Chairman of the Perryville Battlefield Commission, received a Presidential appointment as Chairman of the Gettysburg National Military Park Advisory Commission, and served on the Board of the Gettysburg Foundation. His books include *Cushing of Gettysburg: The Story of a Union Artillery Commander*, *Retreat from Gettysburg: Lee, Logistics, and the Pennsylvania Campaign*, and *Meade at Gettysburg: A Study in Command*.

Kent was also the creator and first editor of the national magazine, “The Civil War.”

Remainder of the 2023-2024 Campaign

May 13, 2024 – Scott Britton – “But Not for My Children”

June 10, 2024 – Phil Spaugy - “19th Indiana & the Iron Brigade”

Roster of Officers and Committees for the 2023-2024 Campaign

Officers:

President: Pete Benner

Vice President: Chris Smith

Secretary: Eric Dove

Treasurer: Pete Mohr

Immediate Past President: Steven Magnusen

Committees:

Preservation: Andy O’Donnell

Website: Ed Pope

Program Selection: Chairman Steve Magnusen; Members: Bob Gottschalk, David Finney, & Tony Trimble

Publicity: Peg Bertelli

Quiz Master:

Tony Trimble

Book Raffle Master

Tony Roscetti

HARDTACK Newsletter:

Editor: Bob Gottschalk

Other Camp Activities

Hamilton County Civil War Roundtable: April 10, 2024 at the Cornerstone Lutheran Church, Main St. & Gray Rd., Carmel. Entrance Door #6. Opens at 6:30, and program begins at 7:00.

Madison County Historical Society Civil War Roundtable: Meetings take place on the third Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Bowman Room at the Museum of Madison County History, 15 West 11th Street, Anderson, Indiana.

Official Records

Alan T. Nolan Memorial Youth Scholarship Fund: The Executive Board of the Indianapolis Civil War Round Table has established this fund to provide membership dues, annual tour expenses or other worthwhile purpose for any full-time student of any age. Please see Tony Roscetti to donate to this fund.

Facebook: The Indianapolis Civil War Round Table is on Facebook. We invite you to join our group. Feel free to post Civil War related messages on our site.

Charitable Sponsors: In an effort to upgrade our speakers and programs, the board of ICWRT is asking members and organizations with which they are involved (companies or charitable organizations) to consider sponsoring one or more speakers. This could be done as a gift now, or a person could opt to make a bequest in a will for that purpose. Because of our limited membership, we can't bring in as many national speakers as we would like to. If you are interested or want more info, call Chris Smith at 450-7430.

Park Day

One day every Spring, called Park Day, the American Battlefield Trust invites volunteers to spend a few hours at the battlefield or Civil War site of their choice to help prepare the site for the tourist season. The Lew Wallace Study and Museum occupies an entire city block in Crawfordsville, and they invite volunteers on Park Day to help with picking up sticks, raking leaves and cleaning flower beds. Weather permitting, this will take place from 9am to noon on Saturday, April 13th. Volunteers should wear clothes appropriate for working outside. The Lew Wallace Study and Museum is located at 200 Wallace Ave., Crawfordsville, IN 47933.



Park Day 2023 volunteers at Kernstown Battlefield, Winchester, Va. (Michael Rosst)

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Test Your Civil War Knowledge (with Trimble's Trivia)

by Tony Trimble

1. There was a great deal of bitterness in Richmond over the punishment of William Mumford in New Orleans. What did he do and who punished him?
2. On the march, what was the minimum number of wagons to make up a "train"?
3. What were "Sherman's Sentinels"?
4. On August 22, 1863 Lawrence, Kansas was burned to the ground. By whom?
5. On March 13, 1865 the Confederate Congress passed a new slave law that provided what?

Answers to the November Quiz:

1. Cherokee Indian National Council
2. Lookout Mountain; Clouds obscured the top of the mountain
3. A gruel of cornmeal, army crackers mashed in boiling water, ginger, wine or whiskey
4. Braxton Bragg
5. Culpepper Courthouse

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This Month In Civil War Era History

April 3, 1860 - The Pony Express began mail service between St Joseph, Missouri and Sacramento, California by horse and rider relay teams.

April 12, 1862 - Confederate Col. Charles Olmstead surrendered Fort Pulaski, Georgia to Union forces after a 30-hour bombardment.

April 2, 1363 – More than 5000 Richmond, Virginia women rioted in the "Bread Revolt."

April 30, 1864 – The State of New York became the first to charge a fee for a hunting license.

April 12, 1865 - Maj. Gen. Edward R. S. Canby captured Mobile, Alabama after the fall of Fort Blakeley three days earlier.



Civil War Institute

Summer Conference 2024
June 7-12th



BLACK HISTORY MONTH FEATURE

Don't miss our panel discussions and lectures on:

- Lincoln and race, with noted scholars Harold Holzer, Ronald White, Jonathan White, and more
- Frederick Douglass, Andrew Johnson, and the failed promises of reconstruction
- The slave trade and the United States Colored Troops at the Battle of Fort Pillow
- Interpreting race at Civil War battlefields and historic sites, with historians and park rangers from numerous institutions





Can't come to the conference in person?
Sign up for our **paid livestreaming option** and enjoy the above lectures—and more—from the comfort of your own home! Register now at <https://www.gettysburg.edu/civil-war-institute/summer-conference/registration-form>

Be sure to inquire about our numerous discounts! Contact us at civilwar@gettysburg.edu or 717-337-6590 for questions and discount codes!



<https://www.gettysburg.edu/civil-war-institute/summer-conference/registration-form>

The Calling Card



The monthly e-newsletter of the
Society for Women and the Civil War

<http://www.swcw.org>

Lincoln Symposium



LINCOLN SYMPOSIUM

The Civil War Museum is partnering with Carthage College to co-host their 3rd Annual Lincoln Symposium on **April 25 and 26**. The event includes a dinner program at the Civil War Museum and a day of Lincoln talks on campus. They have really put together a first-class line up of Lincoln scholars.

LEARN MORE: <https://www.carthage.edu/news-events/special-events/lincoln-symposium/>

★★★★


Northwest Indiana
CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE
presents


HISTORY SPEAKS

Civil War Stories
JUNE 15, 2024
10 - 4
at
BUCKLEY HOMESTEAD

- Live Encampment
- Food Vendors
- Reenactors
- Authors
- Presentations
- Activities

"Don't make me repeat myself"
- History





Help Save “The Final Mile” at Franklin, Tennessee

The Opportunity

There is a key missing piece in the heart of the battlefield at Franklin, Tennessee: a 0.60-acre tract of land with a single-story, contemporary warehouse. It is the only obstacle preventing visitors from walking the final quarter mile of the Confederates’ desperate charge against the Union earthworks.

Securing this tract of land, is an act that will allow future generations to truly feel a sense of what happened in “Bloody Franklin” on that fateful day, walking on the land that witnessed some of the most desperate hours of the entire Civil War.

The cost of this small Franklin Battlefield property is an astonishingly expensive \$5 million. However, thanks to the collective efforts of local preservation organizations, Franklin’s Charge and the Battle of Franklin Trust, and anticipated support from local and state government and the American Battlefield Protection Program, this hallowed ground is within reach. However, we still need to raise \$100,000 to meet our goal.

Please donate today to help secure this critical tract of battlefield land at Franklin, Tennessee. Any amount you can donate to this effort will be matched 50-to-1 toward this historic battlefield completion effort.

The History

In November 1864, the Confederate Army of Tennessee found itself in relentless pursuit of a victory. Abraham Lincoln had just been re-elected president, meaning that the long fight which had already rent and ravaged the nation for nearly four years would continue. General William Tecumseh Sherman had captured Atlanta and was now in the thick of his scorched-earth March to the Sea. The Confederates were running out of options.

The desperation was palpable when Confederate General John Bell Hood attempted to defeat Union forces determined to reach Nashville. About 20 miles south of the Tennessee capital, Hood’s 27,000 soldiers encountered 28,000 Union forces under the command of General John Schofield. What ensued in that small country town on an unseasonably warm and bright afternoon would ultimately become known as “Bloody Franklin.”

Described by some as the “last gasp” of the Confederacy, Franklin, Tennessee, was one of the worst places on the planet to be on November 30, 1864. As one soldier recalled years after the battle, “It was as if the Devil had full possession of the Earth.”

Fighting began around 4 o’clock in the afternoon, when the Confederates launched a massive infantry charge against Union forces that had dug in behind well-prepared earthworks and abatis. An astounding force of 20,000 Confederate soldiers charged across nearly two miles of open ground with virtually no artillery support to make a frontal assault on the Union lines. The size of this assault dwarfs the famed “Pickett’s Charge” at Gettysburg by 50 percent.

Southern battalions slammed into the enemy lines and met intense resistance. Chaos and confusion reigned as soldiers on both sides engaged in fierce, often vicious hand-to-hand combat.

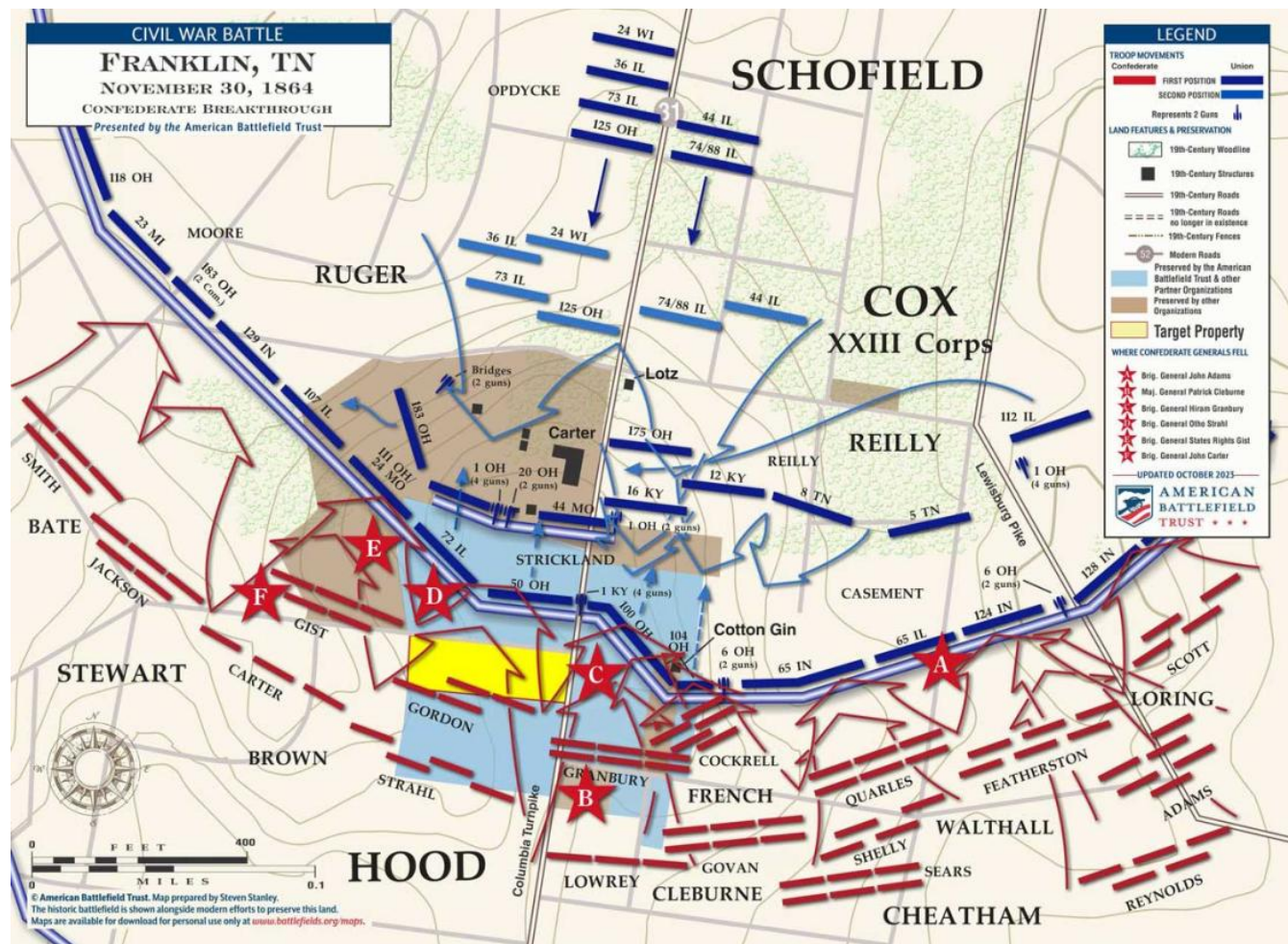
“Bloody Franklin” witnessed some of the most brutal fighting of the war, with opposing soldiers often separated only by a few feet of earthworks.

Beyond the sheer brutality and savagery of the fighting — the Battle of Franklin proved a calamitous defeat for the Confederates. More southern generals became casualties at Franklin than any other single battle of the war — eight were wounded or captured and six were killed.

Help Save “The Final Mile”

Help secure the last \$100,000 needed to save this historic land. Remember, your gift will be multiplied 50 times in value to nearly complete the once-lost battlefield at Franklin and preserve this hallowed ground forever.

Plus – if you can give \$64 or more, you will receive an exclusive Preservation Edition of Let Us Die Like Men: The Battle of Franklin, November 30, 1864.



American Battlefield Trust
P.O. Box 1751
Merrifield VA 22116-1751

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The Persimmon Regiment

Christopher L. Kolakowski, December 11, 2023, blueandgrayeducation.org

May 24, 1865, was the second day of the Grand Review of the Federal Armies in Washington. The previous day was all about the Eastern Army of the Potomac, and this day would showcase William T. Sherman's victorious soldiers of the Western Theater. Sherman led his forces down Pennsylvania Avenue, followed by Maj. Gen. John "Black Jack" Logan of XV Corps and his staff. Immediately behind them, and the lead infantry unit on the parade, was the 100th Indiana Infantry, a unit with a storied history.

The 100th Indiana entered service on September 10, 1862, for a three-year term. The regiment mustered at Fort Wayne and consisted of ten companies recruited from Northeast Indiana under Col. Sanford J. Stoughton. They moved southward to Memphis, joining Maj. Gen. Stephen Hurlbut's forces. The rest of 1862 was spent making

various forays into West Tennessee and northern Mississippi. On one such march, the hungry men raided a persimmon orchard, earning the unit the nickname “The Persimmon Regiment.”

In June 1863, the 100th joined Gen. U.S. Grant’s Army of the Tennessee besieging Vicksburg. The city’s surrender on July 4 found the 100th along the Big Black River, guarding Grant’s rear from Confederate incursion. The 100th was part of Sherman’s subsequently successful expedition to chase the Confederates away from Jackson. “The whole North was convulsed with rejoicing,” recalled Capt. E. J. Sherlock of the 100th, “while a corresponding depression was felt all over the South.”

The Persimmon Regiment’s next major battle was Chattanooga in November 1863. Now part of XV Corps, the 100th supported attacks along Confederate lines south of Tunnel Hill. Despite being held at bay, the 100th was noticed for its conduct and bearing at the battle. Two of the regiment’s officers, Capt. Charles W. Brouse and Maj. Ruel M. Johnson (in command that day), earned the Medal of Honor for leadership under fire. After participating in the Knoxville Relief Expedition, the regiment settled into winter quarters.

The following spring, the 100th participated in every major part of the Atlanta Campaign, from the opening in May through to the city’s fall in September. The 100th was in the thick of the assaults at Kennesaw Mountain on June 27, helped hold the Army of Tennessee’s center at Atlanta on July 22, and occupied a key position at Jonesboro on August 31, which victory sealed the city’s fall. (The 100th is visible in the background of the Atlanta Cyclorama.) The Persimmon Regiment then participated in the March to the Sea and the Carolinas Campaign. It fought in the March’s largest battle at Griswoldville, and helped occupy Savannah. On February 17, 1865, it was one of the first Federal units into Columbia, and helped fight fires that ravaged the city. “I took a walk over the stricken city,” remembered Sherlock. “Nothing but destruction was to be seen. The citizens were taking care of such property as they had saved. The soldiers were assisting them.”

Then it was on to North Carolina, where the 100th fought at Bentonville and afterward camped near Raleigh. When the news of Confederate surrender reached it, the regiment put “War Ended Here” on its national colors as a battle honor.

After the Grand Review, the 100th mustered out on June 8, 1865. The regiment had traveled 4,000 miles in its service, mostly on foot, sustaining 58 killed and mortally wounded in battle and 176 dead of disease. Its papers and flags were deposited in Indianapolis, today in the collections of the Indiana War Memorial and Indiana State Archives.



This Civil War Dispatch has been brought to you by the Blue and Gray Education Society, a non-profit 501-3C educational organization. Please visit us at www.blueandgrayeducation.org.