



HARDTACK

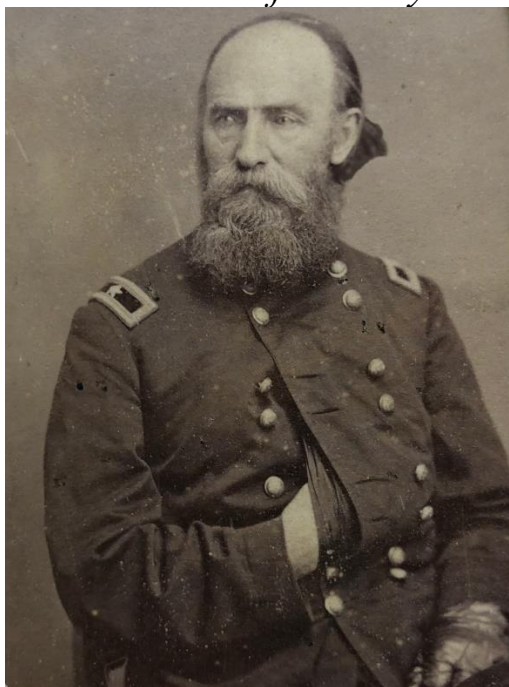


Indianapolis Civil War Round Table Newsletter

<http://indianapoliscwrt.org/>

Monday, December 9, 2024 at 6:45 p.m.
Meeting at MCL Cafeteria Township Line
2370 W. 86th Street

The Plan of the Day



Library of Congress

“August Willich”

Born into nobility in 1810, August Willich served in the Prussian military for 19 years, rising to the rank of captain. After resigning and renouncing his royal title, he participated in the revolutions that swept Germany in 1848, and after their failure, fled to England, where he challenged Karl Marx, who he found too conservative, to a duel. Arriving in the United States in 1853, he eventually settled in Cincinnati, where he helped recruit the largely German 9th Ohio Volunteer Infantry in 1861. After leading the regiment at Rich Mountain and Mill Springs, he resigned and helped raise the 32nd Indiana Infantry. Willich returned to Prussia after the war, and earned a degree in philosophy in 1870. Following this, he returned to Ohio and died in St. Marys, Ohio, where he is buried, in 1878. Join Don Heitman as he reveals many more fascinating details in the life of August Willich.

Our Guest Speaker

Don Heitman has a Bachelor's Degree in History from Indiana University, and a long interest in the American Civil War. He participated in reenactments for forty years, and rewrote Hardees' drill manual into contemporary English with pictures and diagrams. A voracious reader, Don has been a member of the Indianapolis Civil War Roundtable for many years.

Remainder of the 2024-2025 Campaign

January 13, 2025 - YOU - Annual Show & Tell
 February 10, 2025 - Gerald Jones - "Northern Prison Life"
 March 10, 2025 - Carl Kramer - "Indiana Generals in the Civil War"
 April 14, 2025 - 70th ANNIVERSARY EVENT
 May 12, 2025 - Scott Diezman - "Wilder's Lightning Brigade"
 June 9, 2025 - Gene Eric Salecker - "The Sultana Disaster"

Roster of Officers and Committees for the 2024-2025 Campaign

Officers:

President: Chris Smith	Vice President: Tony Roscetti
Secretary: Eric Dove	Treasurer: Pete Mohr
Immediate Past President: Pete Benner	

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 Masters

Roy Agnew/Charlotte Carmichael

HARDTACK Newsletter:

Bob Gottschalk

Other Camp Activities

Hamilton County Civil War Roundtable: Meetings are on the 2nd Wednesday each month 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.

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

by Tony Trimble

1. A Federal expedition fought a running skirmish up the White River in January 1863. Where is that river? [Hint: It's not Indiana]
2. Which branch of the service (Federal) added quatrefoils to their uniforms in 1859?
3. In April 1862 Farragut's fleet attempted to pass two rebel forts. Name them and their location.
4. On what battlefields would you find Bloody Lane, Bloody Pond, & Bloody Salient?
5. What role did Emile Erlanger play in support of the Confederacy?

Answers to the November quiz.

1. *Col. Peyton Manning.*
2. *Savannah, Georgia.*
3. *A Confederate manufacturer of rifles and carbines in New Orleans and later, Athens Georgia.*
4. *The approach to Marye's Heights at Fredericksburg, Virginia.*
5. *Tobacco & cotton.*

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This Month in Civil War Era History

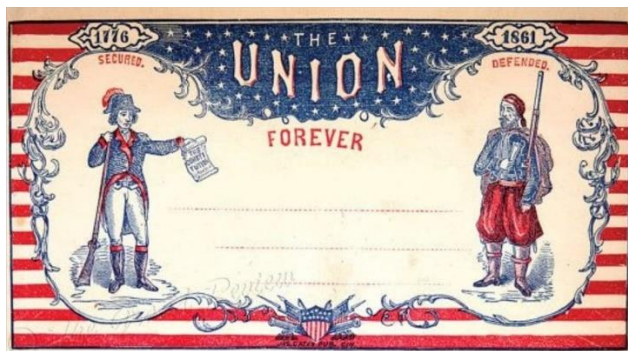
December 28, 1860 – Arriving in Auburn, New York after eight years of freeing slaves, Harriet Tubman finished her last mission on the Underground Railroad.

December 9, 1861 - The Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War was established by the U.S. Congress.

December 23, 1862 - Jefferson Davis proclaimed Union General Ben Butler a "felon, outlaw, & common enemy of mankind."

December 18, 1863 – Franz Ferdinand, Archduke of Austria, was born in Graz, Austria. His assassination on June 28, 1914 would directly lead to World War I.

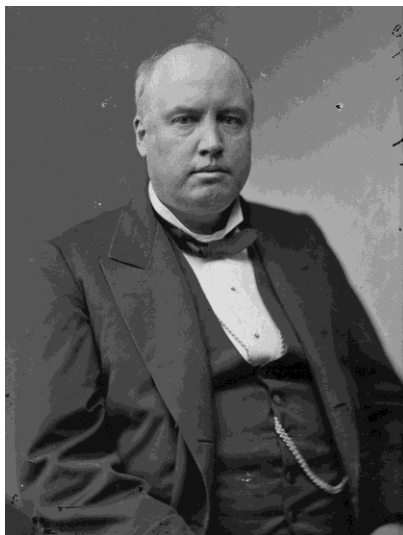
December 15 - 16, 1864 - The Battle of Nashville was fought. The overwhelming Union victory ended the effectiveness of the Confederate Army of Tennessee.



What Happened When the Preacher's Son Met the Great Agnostic?

Dr. Michael Bradley, August 30, 2024, blueandgrayeducation.org

Preachers' kids are notorious for not always sharing the morals and manners of their minister fathers, and James Benjamin Cowan was no exception. J. B., as he usually was commonly known, was the son of Rev. Dr. Samuel Montgomery Cowan, who served churches in north Alabama before being called to pastor the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in the thriving town of Fayetteville, just a few miles north of Huntsville, Alabama. It was there J. B. was born in 1831 and where he grew up.



Robert G. Ingersol

In 1831, Reverend Cowan moved to Hernando, Mississippi, a boomtown fueled by the demand for more land to grow more cotton. Elizabeth Cowan Montgomery, a recently widowed relative, and her family also relocated to Hernando. Reverend Cowan became the legal guardian of the minor children in Elizabeth's family. In 1845, one of these now-adult children, Mary Ann Montgomery, married Nathan Bedford Forrest, making Reverend Cowan a surrogate father-in-law to Forrest.

In 1850, the younger Cowan set off for medical school. Within a few months, he completed his studies at Aylett's Institute and the University Medical College of New York City. At that time, many doctors only studied as apprentices under other physicians, so J. B., as a medical school graduate, was considered highly qualified.

When the Civil War broke out in 1861, J. B. was newly married with a wife and infant son, but he volunteered his services to the Confederacy. Unsurprisingly, when Bedford Forrest began raising a cavalry battalion, J. B. was assigned as the unit's surgeon, a position he would hold throughout the war. As the medical director of Forrest's cavalry, J. B. treated every wound Forrest suffered.

In mid-December 1862, Forrest embarked on an expedition that would further solidify his reputation as a daring commander. With a force of about 1,800 men, he was sent into western Tennessee to destroy the Mobile & Ohio Railroad, the main supply line feeding Ulysses Grant's advancing army in Vicksburg.

On December 18, 1862, Forrest attacked the U.S. garrison holding Lexington, Tennessee. The Union troops there, including a regiment of Tennessee Unionists, were commanded by Col. Robert Ingersol. Before the war, Ingersol had gained fame as the Great Agnostic, a traveling lecturer advocating agnosticism—the belief that there is no knowledge (a "gnosis") to convince him of God's existence.

Forrest reached the outskirts of Lexington just after dark on the 17th and ordered an attack by elements of the 4th Alabama cavalry at dawn on the 18th. The attack shattered Ingersol's defense line, allowing the rest of Forrest's command to flood into the town. The Tennessee Unionists did not wait for the attack; they retreated hastily. Ingersol and about 300 men were captured, including J. B. Cowan.

During his captivity, J. B. made a believer of the Great Agnostic—not in the Christian faith, but in J. B.'s ability to fill an inside straight. J. B. had a reputation as the best poker player in Forrest's command, and he cleaned out Ingersol's wallet. When Ingersol was paroled, J. B. loaned him a hundred dollars to cover his travel expenses. This proved to be a very good investment.

In 1887, Ingersol was in Nashville on a lecture tour, and J. B. traveled from his home in Tullahoma, where he was practicing medicine, to hear his old adversary speak. When Ingersol took the stage, he saw J. B. and waved to him. At the conclusion of the lecture, Ingersol went into the audience, shook hands with J. B., and handed him a check for a hundred dollars ... Confederate.

J. B. Cowan died at the town drugstore in Tullahoma in 1909 while waiting for a prescription to be filled.

Sources:

Michael Bradley, *Nathan Bedford Forrest's Escort and Staff* (Arcadia Publishing, 2006)

John Morton, *The Artillery of Nathan Bedford Forrest's Cavalry: "The Wizard of the Saddle."* (Publishing House of the M.E. Church, South Smith & Lamar, 1909)

Please visit us at www.blueandgrayeducation.org.

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NOTICE

At the end of the 2024 – 2025 Campaign Season, your HARDTACK editor will be riding into the sunrise, as he is prone to do every few years. So, in the approximate seven months that are left until then, he will be looking for a diligent, conscientious, and semi-creative individual to pass along whatever aid he can to keep the newsletter going. If you are interested in taking the reins, please contact Bob Gottschalk at flyingcircus2011@hotmail.com.



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Indianapolis Civil War Round Table
Established 1955
Save the Date!

- The Date: Monday, April 14, 2025
 The Time: 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., or thereabouts
 The Event: **Celebrating the 70th Anniversary of the Indianapolis Civil War Round Table, Dinner and Program**
 The Location: Northside Events & Social Club, 2100 E. 71st Street, Indianapolis, Dining Room.
- The Price: Very Reasonable. To be determined.
 Adult Beverages: Cash Bar
 Extras: Be part of a special evening for the Round Table

Enjoy a Civil War Musical program presented by Steve and Lisa Ball
 (www.steveballcivilwarmusic.com)

Round dinner tables (very appropriate)

Convenient venue

Keepsakes for all (free)

Group Photo

Learn and Be a Part of Round Table History

Show off among invited guests

Be sure to **place it in your calendar.**

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