



BEST BOOKS *of Indiana*

2011 FINALIST
FOR NONFICTION

*Blood Shed
in this War*

Blood Shed in This War not only depicts the newly-formed First Indiana German Regiment in all of its finery and glory, but gives a view of the nitty-gritty behind-the-scenes of what these and all of Civil War military faced on the battlefields. Michael Peake has quite admirably documented his story through both words and historical, on-the-scene sketches, borrowed from Captain Adolph Metzner, 32nd Indiana Regiment. Many are done in sepia tones of the day, showing authentic work of soldiers right on the battlefield. Historically well-documented and researched, this story could well be told from the illustrations offered. Moreover, Peake does a superb job of telling the story from many angles of the war, through neophyte soldiers barely trained, to generals, to handling burial of the dead, to pulling thorns out of the back seat of britches, to starvation, to logistics, to massacres. Extensively writing on Camp Morton at Indianapolis, Peake lists August Willich as the commander in charge of the First Indiana German Regiment which stressed “unity, justice and freedom.” Headquarters were “set up at the Union Hall opposite the courthouse on the corner of Pennsylvania and Market Streets” and soon German immigrants in Indiana formed the First German Regiment. Thus began the saga of the Civil War, which involves every American today. Peake has produced a beautifully bound, magnificently covered coffee table book that readers would be proud to own. It would not sit on a dusty shelf, but rather at centerpoint on the living room coffee table, well-thumbed and treasured.