



THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



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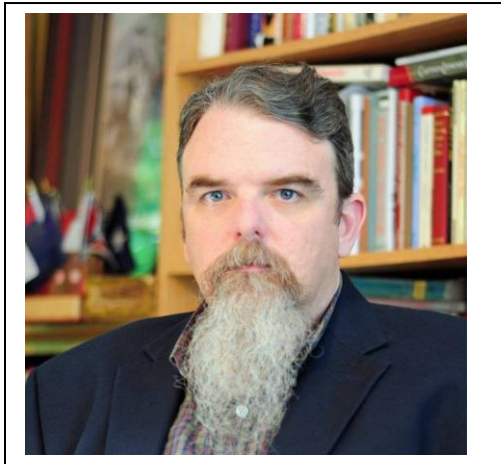
802nd REGULAR MEETING, Friday, May 14th, 2021

Michael Hardy on:

"General Lee's Immortals: The Lane-Branch Brigade"

Zoom Meeting. Time: May 14, 2021 07:30 PM CST

Zoom Meeting ID: 82127819708. Passcode: 479862



Over the course of four years of exemplary service, the North Carolina brigade commanded first by Lawrence O'Bryan Branch, and then by James H. Lane, fought on the most storied fields of the war. Some of the most well-known Civil War engagement, like Second Manassas, Sharpsburg, Fredericksburg, and Gettysburg, saw the Branch-Lane Brigade in the forefront of battle. The brigade's career includes spectacular battle honors and dazzling successes, such as saving the entire Army of Northern Virginia twice at Spotsylvania Court House. Yet, there were also devastating losses and costly mistakes, most notably, the mortal wounding of the legendary Stonewall

Jackson at Chancellorsville. The story of this brigade is one marked by glory and tragedy, from the first days of the war to the lingering effects long after Appomattox. General Lee's Immortals: The Battles and Campaigns of the Branch-Lane brigade tells this remarkable story.

Michael C. Hardy has a passion for history. Over the past three decades, he has written about people, places, and events which are frequently overlooked in the grand, sweeping narratives. He is the author of twenty-four books. His articles have appeared in numerous national magazines, and Michael has been featured on Civil War Talk Radio and in the recent "Blood and Fury: America's Civil War" on the American Heroes Channel. In 2010, Michael was named the North Carolina Historian of the Year by the North Carolina Society of Historians, and in 2018, General Lee's Immortals, his history of the Branch-Lane brigade, was honored with the James I.

Robertson, Jr., Literary Prize. He is a graduate of the University of Alabama, and, since 1995, has called western North Carolina home.

Battlefield Preservation

The Liberty Trail - Experience Battlefield Sites From The Palm of Your Hand

Visiting a battlefield with a great guide — one who brings energy and life to not only the history of the battle, but also the participants who lived through such fateful events — is a powerful experience. But because there are often times when a guide is not available, **the American Battlefield Trust has worked for years to develop a robust offering of mobile apps to easily enhance your experience at battlefield sites from the palm of your hand!**

The Trust began this work with a series of Battle Apps for many of the major battles of the Civil War, including [Shiloh](#), [Vicksburg](#) and, of course, [Gettysburg](#)! Today, the Trust offers a total of [19 Battle Apps for Civil War sites](#) — plus an app dedicated to [Civil War Battle Maps](#). Last year, the Trust even added its first Revolutionary War Battle App for [Yorktown](#), which has since become the most downloaded app in the Trust's collection. Another 2020 addition was the organization's first [Augmented Reality App](#), which provides you with the opportunity to interact with soldiers and civilians at Gettysburg and even witness President Lincoln giving his renowned *Gettysburg Address*. Most recently, the Trust released the [Road to Freedom App](#), highlighting Virginia's Civil War-era African American experience.

The next app to be offered by the Trust will bring more Revolutionary War sites into our collection. Currently in production, The Liberty Trail Mobile App will offer a variety of interpretive tools, including GPS-enabled audio and augmented reality, for over 30 battlefield sites in South Carolina. Drawing from extensive, ongoing research on the Southern Campaigns, these tours will introduce you to often-overlooked battlefield sites and the experiences of the people who participated in the battles.

The Liberty Trail Mobile App will also feature information on restaurants, recreational activities, and other historic and cultural sites, so visitors can add these experiences to their travel itinerary. The first version of The Liberty Trail Mobile App will be available by the end of summer 2021 and, as with all mobile apps developed by the American Battlefield Trust, it will be free and available for download through the App Store and Google Play.

One of the locations that will be featured in The Liberty Trail Mobile App is the site of the [Battle of Hobkirk's Hill](#), situated in modern-day Camden, South Carolina. At times overshadowed by the devastating American defeat that occurred at the [Battle of Camden](#) just a few miles to the

north, the Battle of Hobkirk's Hill, which occurred 240 years ago this month, was an important event in [Nathanael Greene](#)'s ultimately successful strategy in the Revolutionary War's Southern Theater.

(from The American Battlefield Trust)

April Meeting

By Mark Matranga

Ron Kirkwood presented a thorough and informative discussion of the impact the Spangler Farm had on the Battle of Gettysburg at the 801st Regular Meeting of the Civil War Round Table. This talk, based on his book, "Too Much for Human Endurance: The George Spangler Farm Hospitals and the Battle of Gettysburg," supports his thesis that the Spangler Farm played a central role in the success of the Army of the Potomac on July 2 and 3, 1863.

The Spangler Farm's size, location and proximity to the local road network was ideal, permitting the movement of infantry and artillery to vital spots on the battlefield. The Farm hosted two field hospitals which operated during and after the battle. It also contained General Slocum's headquarters and that of General Meade on July 3 during the Confederate cannonade, as well as holding the Union Signal Station on Powers Hill, most of which Spangler owned.

The Farm was situated near both left and right flanks and close behind the center of the Union line and was 166 acres in size. It bordered the Baltimore Pike on the east; on the west, Taneytown Road ran immediately behind Cemetery Ridge and was easily accessed via both Granite Schoolhouse Lane and Blacksmith Shop Road, both of which intersected the farm. Both the Artillery Reserve and Ammunition Trains were posted on the Farm.

Both V and VI Corps were bivouacked on the Farm and on July 2 were funneled into battle, the V corps down Blacksmith Shop Road and Granite Schoolhouse Lane to Little Round Top and The Wheatfield, and, later, VI corps marched on Granite Schoolhouse Lane to The Wheatfield. That evening, a XII Corps division was ordered across the farm by way of the Granite Schoolhouse Lane. Units from the 19 batteries of the Reserve were sent to multiple locations on both July 2 and 3, including The Wheatfield, Little Round Top, and Cemetery Ridge. Kirkwood rightly calls Granite Schoolhouse Lane Meade's "Main Street."

The Farm hospitals treated over 3,000 wounded, more than the population of the town. The 1st Division hospital was housed in the Granite Schoolhouse on the Lane; the XI Corps hospital used the Spangler barn, summer kitchen and outbuildings. Several officers died at the hospitals, most notably Confederate General Lewis Armistead, mortally wounded during Pickett's charge. The scene at the hospital at that time was described by XI Corps Surgeon Henry Van Aernam as "a shoulder to shoulder mass of agony and crying." Armistead died July 5.

Brig. Gen. Zook, II Corps, and Col. Cross, 5th Hampshire, both died at the Granite Schoolhouse 1st Division hospital. A Surgeon, Wm Moore, died at the Farm. George Nixon, great

grandfather of President Nixon and father of nine children, died of his wounds on the Spangler Farm. A total of 1,436 died on the Farm and were buried in its orchard.

Both surgeons and attendants commented on the carnage at the hospitals. XI Corps, 2nd Division, Surgeon in Chief Daniel Brinton, upon observing 40 operating tables going night and day “in a most shocking manner,” said, “I never wish to see such another sight.” Surgeons amputated five to fifteen limbs per hour with no washing of hands or sterilizing of tools. Seeing a stack of limbs “as high as my head” Pvt. Wm Southerton moaned “I wish I had never seen it! I sickened.”

Kirkwood related the experiences of nurses as well. One, Marilla Hovey, preceded her spouse, Dr. Bleeker Hovey, and son Frank – the only caregiving family travelling together in the war. Rebecca Lane Pennypacker Price, who came to the battlefield sitting in a cattle car, lay on stretcher at night weeping instead of sleeping. Her “sad scenes would fill a volume.” She nursed Capt. Augustus Vignos (incidentally a pallbearer at President McKinley’s funeral), who carried her photo for 40 years after the war, searching for her. They met finally, in 1906.

George Spangler submitted three claims for damage to his farm totaling \$5,000; the government ultimately allowed \$90. The Quartermaster, in denying the claim, asserted that the United States was more responsible for his damages than if a tornado had passed over the farm. According to the Quartermaster, “That battle and hospital damage was his misfortune.”

Kirkwood makes a very strong case for the importance of the Spangler Farm in the Union victory. Despite the Quartermaster’s dripping disdain, the government was indeed fortunate to have the Spangler Farm for use, the “logistical wheel” around which the Union effort at Gettysburg revolved.



BULLETIN BOARD

The **Kenosha Civil War Museum** is putting on programs which can be watched on facebook:

Decatur, Illinois’ Five Civil War Generals

Friday, May 14 | Noon | Presenter: Brent Wielt

Five Civil War generals called Decatur, Illinois, their home. They varied widely in age, background, military experience, fame and their postwar lives, but all answered their nation’s

call to arms. Learn the life stories of these remarkable men, and discover which of the five generals: served in Congress, led the effort to build Lincoln's Tomb, has a statue in Chicago, was mayor of Decatur, was born in Switzerland, has no gravestone, owned a German language newspaper.

For more on programs at the museum, visit <https://museums.kenosha.org/civilwar/events/>

The **Congress of Civil War Round Tables** is sponsoring a series of virtual Civil War Lectures by some of the nation's leading historians.

Visit <http://www.cwrtcongress.org/lectures.html> to view the complete schedule and register

Leslie Goddard has the following Civil War-related presentations in May:

May 13, 11 a.m., Northwest Indiana Community Art Association: Louisa May Alcott (virtual event)

May 14, 1 p.m., Friday Book Review Club: Louisa May Alcott

May 15, 2 p.m., Geneseo Public Library: *Gone With the Wind*

On May 11th **Bruce Allardice** will present "Baseball and the Civil War" to the Loudon County (VA) CWRT. On May 19th he'll present the same talk to the York (PA) CWRT. Both are zoom. Visit www.civilwarbruce.com for events schedule.

On May 4th the **Abraham Lincoln Bookshop**'s "House Divided" series will feature an interview with author Ronald C. White, discussing his latest book, *Lincoln in Private*. The event starts at 3:30 p.m. CST. Visit <https://alincolnbookshop.com/> for more.

More Upcoming Local Civil War Events

Due to government-ordered shutdowns, CWRT events are being cancelled or going online on an ad hoc basis. Contact the sponsoring organization for up to date details. Check the **Announcements** section of the CWRT's website for additional coming events.

May 5th, Kankakee Valley CWRT: Phil Angelo on "What Happened at Island No. 10?"

May 7th, Northern Illinois CWRT: Wayne Rhine on "Illinois Regiments at Gettysburg"

May 13th, Milwaukee CWRT: Kevin Hampton on "The 13th Wisconsin Infantry"
May 18th, Lincoln-Davis CWRT: Jack Melton on "100 Pictures of Civil War Charleston"
May 20th, South Suburban CWRT: Tom Carson on "Abraham Lincoln's Presidency"
May 21st, Salt Creek CWRT: Dan Van Haften on "Abraham Lincoln's Six Elements of Meaningful and Persuasive Writing"

Future Chicago CWRT Meetings (all Zoom until further notice)

June 11th: Wil Greene on *Petersburg*

Sept. 10th: Eric Wittenberg on TBD

Oct. 8th: David Dixon on *August Willich*

Nov. 12th: Tom Clemens on *Joseph K. Mansfield*

Dec. 10th: Dennis Doyle on *Illinois Regiments at Gettysburg*

CWRT Elections in June

The CWRT will be holding its annual election for officers at the June meeting. The meeting, and thus the election, will be via zoom. The CWRT's Nominating Committee will present a list of prospective officers at that meeting. As always, members are welcome to make additional nominations at the meeting.

Battlefield Tour

The annual CWRT battlefield tour will take place this August 18-22. We'll be visiting the Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville battlefields. The tour itinerary, registration form, and other information, can be visited at <https://chicagocwrt.org/battletour.html>.

Sign up soon!

