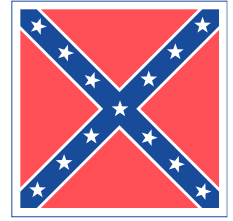


THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Founded December 3, 1940



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Don Sender: "The Custer Debacle"



On June 27, 1876 the nation was stunned by telegraph reports from Fort Lincoln, Nebraska Territory, that Civil War hero George Armstrong Custer and a large part of his vaunted Seventh United States Cavalry had been massacred by renegade Indians somewhere west of the Mississippi in Wyoming Territory. Theories abounded, fed by the newspapermen of the day, suggesting in one tale that Custer had been out-witted by Sitting Bull because Sitting Bull had attended West Point incognito and was thoroughly grounded in infantry tactics. Reservation Indians and captives were thoroughly interrogated but wary of being killed or punished severely, denied their participation or said very little about their role in the fight.

the event.

On June 9th Don Sender will cover Custer's Civil War record, post-war scandals regarding the Indian Bureau, the composition of the Army, bureaucratic cost cutting that caused problems with the cavalry's weapons, training restraints, officers' jealousies, their attitudes, and their actions in the field that would complicate the mission and almost destroy the 7th Cavalry.

Don Sender is a Member of the International Press Club of Chicago, Past President of the Salt Creek Civil War Round Table, a retired U.S. history teacher (Wheaton Dist. 200) (1994) and a retired Chief Warrant Officer in the U.S. Army Reserve (1992).

Following his retirements he worked part time as a Legislative Assistant to DuPage Republican State Senator Beverly Fawell, and as a Caseworker for Milton Township's Emergency Assistance Program. He served as a Milton Township Trustee 2000-2004.

Although retired from teaching, he has given audio visual lectures on various historical events of 1754-2016. World War I, the career of General Custer, the Indian Wars, Korea, Vietnam, Military Intelligence, and other topics are specialties.

For many years, various writers blamed Custer for recklessness, bad judgment, or bravado for his defeat, feeding on the derogatory ravings of a single author who seemed to delight in twisting the knife in the General-even questioning his Civil War record.

As time passed by, Custer's fate continued to interest anyone who had a new idea to propose and a desire to sell a book Few invested time in actual research, fewer had any military experience to draw from to form a background reference to



763rd REGULAR MEETING

★★★★★

Friday, June 9th

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HOLIDAY INN O'HARE
5615 N. CUMBERLAND, CHICAGO

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

\$50 - Members/Non-members

**ENTRÉE
FLANK STEAK OR
WHITE FISH**

PRESERVATION NEWS FROM THE CIVIL WAR TRUST

Shenandoah Valley preservationists join the Civil War Trust to announce the protection of 73 acres of hallowed ground at Kernstown battlefield.

Winchester, VA. - During ceremonies this morning at Kernstown battlefield, the Civil War Trust joined with Shenandoah Valley preservation leaders to announce the protection of 73 acres at key sections of the battlefield. Announced on the 155th anniversary of the First Battle of Kernstown, this newly preserved land will enhance the existing park and enable visitors to better understand the March 1862 and July 1864 struggles at Kernstown, as well as the strategic importance of the Valley during the Civil War.

“Kernstown battlefield witnessed the launch of two critical military campaigns in the Shenandoah Valley, where more than 35,000 brave soldiers engaged in fighting,” said Trust President James Lighthizer. “We are grateful to have dedicated partners in the region who recognize the importance of protecting and interpreting this hallowed ground.”

The 37-acre Sandy Ridge tract-which saw heavy fighting and served as an important Confederate artillery position during the First Battle of Kernstown-was purchased using grants from the National Park Service’s American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) and the Virginia Battlefield Preservation Fund, as well as a generous contribution from the Kernstown Battlefield Association. Situated adjacent to land preserved by the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley, the Sandy Ridge property was planned for residential housing development, until the former landowner chose to sell the acreage to the Trust for preservation.

A second, 36-acre tract sits south of Pritchard’s Farm, ground that was bloodied by fighting during the Battles

of First and Second Kernstown and served as a Civil War encampment site, headquarters and hospital. Located next to the existing Kernstown battlefield park, the parcel also utilized ABPP and Virginia grant funding. The protection of both the Sandy Ridge and Pritchard’s Farm properties would not have been possible without generous private donations from Civil War Trust members received during a national fundraising campaign launched in 2015.

“The preservation of this hallowed ground creates exciting new interpretive opportunities for the battlefield park, as we work to create a permanent and engaging place to tell the story of the Shenandoah Valley during the war, said Kernstown Battlefield Association President Steve Vaughn. Ultimately, both properties will be transferred to the Association, which currently stewards about 350 acres of core battlefield land.

The Kernstown battlefield is part of a chain of historic sites that commemorate the Shenandoah Valley’s famous military history. Thomas J. “Stonewall” Jackson’s small army marched some 650 miles and earned five key victories for the Confederacy during his famous 1862 Valley Campaign. In 1864, Philip Sheridan launched a bloody campaign with his Federal Army of the Shenandoah that weakened Southern forces while Ulysses S. Grant kept Robert E. Lee occupied at Petersburg.

“The region and the Commonwealth receive tangible economic benefits by encouraging a focus on heritage tourism and emphasizing the Valley’s rich Civil War heritage,” said Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation CEO Keven Walker. “Successfully preserving these additional acres at Kernstown


Battlefield speaks volumes about the Civil War Trust’s commitment to the

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



Founded December 3, 1940
1039 Hinswood
Darien, Illinois 60561
Phone: 630-460-1865
www.chicagocwrt.org

The only requirement for membership in The Civil War Round Table is a genuine interest in the Civil War and its era. For information, address Membership Committee, 1039 Hinswood, Darien, Illinois 60561, or editor@chicagocwrt.org.

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development of battlefield parks as historic, educational and recreational destinations.”

The tiny wartime hamlet of Kernstown witnessed the start of Stonewall Jackson’s legendary campaign through the Shenandoah Valley in 1862. Attempting to tie down Union forces, Jackson received incorrect intelligence that a small Union detachment at Kernstown was vulnerable. Jackson attacked on March 23, 1862, but the vastly outnumbered Confederates were driven from the field. Although the battle was a tactical defeat for Jackson, it was a strategic victory for the South, preventing the Union from transferring forces from the Valley to reinforce George McClellan’s Army of the Potomac in its Peninsula Campaign against Richmond.

Two years later-July 24th, 1864-Jubal Early attacked the Federal force at Kernstown, fighting on the same ground that was contested in 1862. However, this time it was the Confederates who drove three Union divisions from the field. The decisive Southern victory prompted Philip Sheridan to take command of the Union Army of the Shenandoah and begin his advance through the Valley.

From May *Civil War News*

MAY MEETING

By Mark Matranga

Connie Hansen gave "A *First-Person Portrayal of Jennie Wade's Mother*" in period apparel at the 762nd Regular Meeting of The Civil War Round Table. Mary was born not far from Gettysburg, in York, Pennsylvania, in 1820. She married James Wade, a tailor, in 1840, worked with him as a seamstress, and gave birth to six children, including Jennie (1843). Unfortunately, James was later found insane and committed. Mary's story included her daughter's friends: boyfriend and later fiancée, Jack Skelly, and Wesley Culp who had moved to Virginia and now was serving in the Stonewall Brigade in the army invading the north. Jack had been wounded earlier that summer, at Winchester.

Civil War Gettysburg housed some 2,500 souls and had experienced depredations when Jubal Early's troops passed through town on June 26, 1863. Mary saw her son Samuel captured by the confederates; she secured the boy's release by pleading her case to the rebel general. Her daughter, Georgia McClellan, had just given birth and her husband was off with the army. Mary and Jennie moved to Georgia's house on Baltimore Street at the foot of Cemetery Hill to assist her and her newborn child. When Union cavalry arrived, she and the rest of the town greeted them warmly. Come July 1st, the rebel army returned and shells began to fall in town. Jennie passed water to federal soldiers retreating through town. She and her mother then began to make biscuits and bread for the soldiers.

The house was in an unsafe spot,

located as it was between the armies. Once the battle started in earnest, Mary, Jennie, and Georgia found themselves in the middle of the fray. Jennie read the bible. Many bullets struck the house as did a shell that did not explode, but Jennie passed out nonetheless. The family went back to baking and reading the bible. Jennie read Psalms 27-30 and prayed that if anyone was to die that it should be her. Later that morning on July 3rd, while baking bread, Jennie was struck by a minie ball in the shoulder blade; the bullet travelled through her sister's kitchen and parlor doors straight to her heart. Although it is not certain, a confederate bullet was thought responsible for her death.

Mary heard Jennie drop to the floor. She found her at the end of the kitchen table, her back bloodied, dead. She wrapped Jennie in a quilt her sister Georgia had made and carried her to the cellar. She continued to bake, making bread from dough Jennie had kneaded. Soldiers placed Jennie in a casket which, it is said, was intended for a Confederate general. She still had flour in her hair and dough in her fingernails. Jennie Wade, dead at age 20, was the only civilian casualty of the Battle of Gettysburg.

President Lincoln wrote the family, expressing condolences for Jennie's loss. He invited Mary to the dedication of the national cemetery in November but in her grief she could not go. Georgia represented the family. But the story of Jennie and her childhood friends did not end with her death. Jack Skelly died on July 12th from the wounds he received at Winchester. It is said that Wesley Culp had visited

him in the hospital when Jack asked Wesley to carry a letter to Jennie. Although Wesley's unit was situated not far from the McClellan house he was unable to deliver the letter and himself was killed on July 3rd on Culp's Hill; his body was never found. Jennie was initially buried in the yard and later interred in town. In November 1865 she was moved to Evergreen Cemetery. Jack Skelly is buried nearby.

Stories from the Civil War are filed with pathos. That of Jennie Wade is no exception. Connie Hansen should be congratulated for enriching the story of the iconic Jennie Wade.



DONORS TO ED BEARSS FUND!

Below are those who donated to the Ed Bearss Fund, which honors Ed by supporting the battlefield preservation projects of his choice.

Bruce and Leslie Goddard Allardice, Jim Cunningham, Muriel Underwood, Randy Doler, Cindy Heckler, Jim Patterson, Kurt Carlson and Janet Linhart, Mary Beth Foley, Terry Carr, Mark Matranga, Brian Seiter, Rae Radovich, Mary J. Abroe, Joe Donley, Bob Gibson, Tom Jaros, Lori Duginski, Alan and Margie Busic, John Winter, Lynn Bristol, David Gapinski, Bill Berls.

Two checks for \$ 1,000 dollars each in Ed's name were sent to Richmond Battlefields Association and Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation.

GRAPESHOT



Leslie Goddard will speak on “The Making of Gone with the Wind” June 14th at the Lombard Historical Society. She’s presenting “Clara Barton” Aug. 8th at the Dyer (IN) Historical Society. Visit www.lesliegoddard.info for times and more information.

The Civil War Museum in Kenosha will host three Second Friday Lecture Series’ this summer: Friday, June 9th, at noon, with Jim Heinz speaking on “The Civil War Medal of Honor;” July 14th, Charlie Banks speaking on “The Battle of Monocacy;” and Aug. 11th Frank Crawford speaking on “Andersonville.”

On July 22nd the Museum will be hosting the Midwest Civil War Round Tables Conference. CWRTs are invited to attend and discuss their common concerns, and (hopefully) share their good ideas. Later that day **Marshall Krolick** will give a talk on “The Cavalry Battlefield at Gettysburg.”

Information on all Civil War Museum programs is available at (262) 653-4140 or www.thecivilwarmuseum.org.

Rob Girardi will present “Civil War Generals” June 1 at the Cobb County, Georgia CWRT, and present “Civil War Corps Command” July 21st at the Richmond (KY) CWRT. Visit <http://robertgirardi.com> for more details.

Check the **Announcements** section of the CWRT’s website for additional coming events.

PLEASE NOTE

Make your reservations by Sunday, June 4, by emailing dinnerreservations@chicagocwrt.org, or calling 630 460-1865 with the names of your party and choice of entrée.

If a cancellation becomes necessary after dinner reservations have been made, please email us at dinnerreservations@chicagocwrt.org and/or call us at 630-460-1865.

We are offering the option of choosing not to have dinner and coming only for the address at 7:15 p.m., for a charge of \$10 per person.

Parking at the Holiday Inn is FREE.

More Upcoming Civil War Events

June 2nd, Northern Illinois CWRT Banquet: Wayne Motts on “The National Civil War Museum”

June 9th, **Chicago CWRT**: Don Sender on “Untold Facts of the Custer Debacle”

June 13th, McHenry County CWRT: Greg Biggs on “Nashville: Siren Song of the Confederacy”

June 16th, Salt Creek CWRT: Annual Banquet: Max Daniels and R.J. Lindsey present “Abraham Lincoln and Franklin D. Roosevelt: Two War Presidents”

June 20th, Lincoln-Davis CWRT: Dave Eisele as “General Lee at Gettysburg”

July 11th, McHenry County CWRT: Show and Tell

July 18th, Lincoln-Davis CWRT: Robert Dunkerly on “The Confederate Surrender at Greensboro”

Aug. 8th, McHenry County CWRT: Frank Crawford on “The Palmyra Massacre”

Aug. 15th, Lincoln-Davis CWRT: Ron Coddington on “Confederate Photography”

Bulletin Board



FUTURE MEETINGS

Regular meetings are held at the Holiday Inn O’Hare, the second Friday of each month, *unless otherwise indicated*.

Sept. 8th: Ed Bonekemper on “False Remembrance of the Civil War, The Myth of the Lost Cause”

Oct. 13th: Dave Powell on “Chickamauga”

Nov. 10th: Tom Clemens on “Antietam”

Dec. 8th: David Dixon on “Lost Gettysburg Address”

Abraham Lincoln Bookshop

Their next Civil War related “Author’s Voice” is 6 p.m. June 9th, when **Daniel Weinberg** talks with author Sidney Blumenthal about his book, *Wrestling with His Angel*, the 2nd installment of Blumenthal’s biography of Abraham Lincoln. Blumenthal will also appear at the Union League Club of June 8th. Visit <http://alincolinbookshop.com/> for more information.

CWRT Election!

Our annual election will be held at the June meeting. The nomination committee has come up with a slate of officers for the 2017-18 year. As always, members are welcome to make other nominations from the floor.

Know of any upcoming talks, events, or publications? All members are welcome to contribute items to the newsletter. Contact the editor at editor@chicagocwrt.org or (630) 297-8046.

CWRT TOUR OF THE RICHMOND AREA, MAY 2017

If you missed the tour, here are a few photos of the highlights, marked by a very special occasion: the wedding of tour co-chair, and former president, Rae Radovich, to CWRT Vice President Marc Kunis. Best wishes to the happy couple!



Head guide Ed Bearss



Ed, pointing things out



The group, discussing weighty affairs



Tredegar



Fortress Monroe



The Happy Couple



CWRT of Chicago Membership Renewal

Time to renew your membership! A few highlights of what The CWRT offers members:

- As before, members save an additional \$5 a year on membership dues by electing to take the newsletter via e-mail.
- For those who wish to hear our excellent speakers but attend the talk only, we offer a “just listen” option for \$10.
- Members receive a 10 percent discount on purchases from the **Abraham Lincoln Book Shop**. Just identify yourself as a member to get your discount!
- We’ve continued the popular option to make meeting/dinner reservations for monthly meeting via e-mail. Just give us your e-mail address and we will send you a reminder every month allowing you to reserve for the dinner, or just to listen, and of course you can make your meal selection right from your keyboard!
- Priority reservations for next year’s **battlefield tour**.
- Members get access to our **library of tapes** of the talks of past speakers such as Bruce Catton.
- Enjoy reduced fees on both Chicago CWRT events and other events co-sponsored by the Chicago CWRT.

Upon renewal, your membership period will run from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018.

Types of Membership (Choose the type that is right for you!)

Sustaining Membership (\$85) - As a sustaining member you receive special recognition in our annual roster, and you provide much valued support to the educational and preservation efforts of The CWRT.

Regular Membership (\$45) - If you live within 250 miles of Chicago, this may be the membership for you! All of the privileges of membership are available at this rate

Family Membership for two family members (\$60) - This type of membership allows both spouses, or a parent and child to participate at member rates.

Family Membership for three family members (\$85) - This type of membership allows both spouses and a child, or a parent and two children to participate at member rates.

National Membership (\$40) - This type of membership is a great value for those who enjoy the newsletter and participating in the tours. This type of membership is limited to people who live more than 250 miles from Chicago.

Student Membership (\$32.50) - This type of membership is restricted to full time students. Because colleges and universities routinely offer e-mail service, and because the school year coincides with The CWRT year, students are encouraged to take their newsletter via e-mail. Please provide your e-mail address when completing the form below.

Life Membership - The Life Membership designation is awarded by the Executive Committee to members who have distinguished themselves in service to The CWRT. If you are a Life Member, please send us the form below and allow us to update the information in our files, and if you have an e-mail address, we would love to add that so we can communicate with you more quickly. Dues are waived. However, any donation you wish to make is very much appreciated and will be used to support the education and preservation activities of the Chicago CWRT.

Interested in receiving your newsletter by e-mail? If you have e-mail, you can receive your newsletter that way. It is the **fastest** way to get your CWRT newsletter. Plus, **you save \$5 on dues**. If you would like to see a sample e-mail newsletter before you decide, just drop an e-mail to bsa1861@att.net and request a sample!

 **Please return the form below with your payment.** 

Name(s) of Member(s) _____

Address _____

City, State & ZIP _____ Cell Phone (____) _____

Home Phone (____) _____ Work Phone (____) _____

Fax (____) _____ e-mail* _____

*An e-mail address is required for people electing to receive the newsletter via e-mail. We would appreciate your e-mail address even if you want your newsletter mailed so we can communicate with you more easily.

Check here if you do not want the phone numbers and/or e-mail address you provided published in our roster. (Please do provide this information even if you don't want it published, we would like it for our records).

Dues

Please circle the dues option you select and enclose check with form when you mail. Be prompt!
Dues WILL BE INCREASED \$5 if received AFTER September 1, 2017.

Membership type	Mailed Newsletter	E-mailed Newsletter
Sustaining member	\$85.00	\$80.00
Regular member	\$45.00	\$40.00
Family members - Two family members (one newsletter) please list names	\$60.00	\$55.00
Family members - Three family members (one newsletter) please list names	\$85.00	\$80.00
National member	\$40.00	\$35.00
Student member	\$32.50	\$27.50
Life member, donations are appreciated. Please indicate newsletter preference		
I'd be interested in donating to the CWRT Battlefield Preservation Fund		

Please make checks payable to: The Civil War Round Table of Chicago (or just: CWRT of Chicago)

Please send to: Mark Matranga, Registrar, 201 N. Elmwood Ave., Oak Park, IL 60302

You can call him at (312) 286-3325 mpm@nbkllaw.com
www.chicagocwrt.org