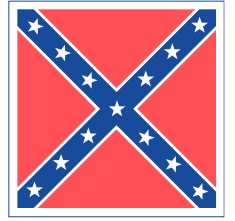


# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Founded December 3, 1940



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Chicago, Illinois

March 2018

*Robert D. Jenkins:*

## *“The Battle of Peach Tree Creek”*



The morning of Wednesday, July 20th, 1864, broke warm, promising another sultry summer day. It would spawn the first offensive action for the new Southern Commander, John Bell Hood and his gray forces as he took over the defense of Atlanta for the Confederate States of America in the fourth summer of the war. What began as a golden opportunity to repel Northern General William Tecumseh Sherman and his blue legions from the gates of the Gate City, as Atlanta has been called, became a day of missed chances, broken dreams, and for a number of the Rebel leaders' soldiers, a grave.

The Battle of Peach Tree Creek marked the beginning of the end for the Confederacy, for it turned the page from the patient defense displayed by General Joseph E. Johnston to the bold offense called upon by his replacement, General John Bell Hood. Until this point in The Georgia Campaign, the Southern Army had fought primarily in the defensive, from behind earthworks, forcing Sherman to either assault fortified lines, or go around them in flanking moves. At Peach Tree Creek, the roles would be reversed for the first time, as Confederates charged Union lines.

On March 9th, author Bob Jenkins will discuss how Peach Tree Creek marked the beginning of the end for the Deep South and the Confederacy. Peach Tree Creek would be the first in a series of defeats and set-backs from which the South would not recover. Before Peach Tree Creek, there remained some semblance of hope for victory and Southern Independence. After Peach Tree Creek and the defeats at Decatur and Ezra Church which quickly followed, there could be no more hope of a military win by the Confederacy. After Peach Tree Creek, and its companion battles for Atlanta, the clear-hearing Southerner could hear the death throws of the Confederacy.

Robert D. (Bob) Jenkins is an attorney, practicing in Dalton, Georgia. A life-long Civil War enthusiast, Bob has given numerous battlefield tours and lectures on the Atlanta Campaign. His first book, The Battle of Peach Tree Creek, Hood's First Sortie, was published in 2013 by Mercer University Press. His second book, To the Gates of Atlanta, covered the 1864 Atlanta Campaign from Kennesaw Mountain to Peach Tree Creek.



### **770th REGULAR MEETING**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Friday, March 9th

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

HOLIDAY INN O'HARE

5615 N. CUMBERLAND, CHICAGO

*Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.*

*Dinner at 6:30 p.m.*

**\$40 - Members/Non-members**

**ENTRÉE  
BUFFET STYLE.**

## **PRESERVATION NEWS CIVIL WAR TRUST EVENT**

April 7, 2018

This annual event brings history enthusiasts together in an effort to help keep our nation's heritage not only preserved, but pristine.

Since 1996, the Civil War Trust has sponsored Park Day, an annual hands-on preservation event to help Civil War – and now Revolutionary War & War of 1812 – battlefields and historic sites take on maintenance projects large and small. Activities are chosen by each participating site to meet their own particular needs and can range from raking leaves and hauling trash to painting signs and trail buildings.

Participating sites in Illinois include:  
David Davis Mansion SHS  
General John A. Logan Museum  
Ulysses S. Grant Home

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## **WHITE HOUSE OF THE CONFEDERACY BICENTENNIAL**

“The White House of the Confederacy observes its bicentennial in 2018. Throughout the year, programs and activities will focus on the structure's rich history as a home, school, and museum, and the diverse people who occupied it during its first 200 years.

“Though it's known primarily as the residence of Confederate President Jefferson Davis and his family, the House has many fascinating stories to tell,” says Stephanie Arduini, Director of Education and Programs at the American Civil War Museum. “Throughout the year, we'll explore these different perspectives through monthly programs, online exhibits, and eventually a new, permanent exhibit in the house's lower level.”

Beginning in January, monthly programs will include presentations by local, regional, and nationally known historians, panel discussions, and special dramatic presentations commissioned especially for the bicentennial. Topics will include life in prewar Richmond, the influence of high society women during the Civil War, self-emancipation by the house's enslaved laborers, complex relations of servitude, public education in Richmond, and the house's uses after the war, among others.

Daily guided tours will focus on the house's varied meanings to the Civil War and its legacies, as seen through the eyes of the people who lived, worked, and passed through as visitors. Special guided tours, focusing on Presidents Jefferson Davis and Abraham Lincoln, will be offered during weekends. Arduini says those tours will compare the two men through their experiences in this house and more broadly through the choices each made during the war.

A new website has been developed to provide an online focus on the house. It will feature a variety of information about programs and special events, as well as new online exhibits that focus on the history of the house and its occupants. Website visitors also will be able to donate to ongoing preservation work at the house, and will be encouraged to contribute their own memories through stories and photographs of the personal experiences. The website can be reached via the Museum's main website at [ACWM.org](http://ACWM.org).

“We're especially excited about the opportunity for online visitors to add their personal histories to that of the house,” Arduini says. “We have very little information, for example, about the house's time as a public school. It would be amazing to find stories and photos from that era, and even people's unique experiences with the house over the years and what it's meant to them. .”

## **THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**



Founded December 3, 1940  
1039 Hinswood  
Darien, Illinois 60561  
Phone: 630-460-1865  
[www.chicagocwrt.org](http://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](mailto:editor@chicagocwrt.org).

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Preservation work will continue through the year and beyond. Arduini says restoration of the house's 35 windows will be completed during 2018. Other projects include plaster repair and restoration, restoration of the exterior shutters, cleaning and painting the exterior, reinterpretation of the garden, and the creation of exhibit space in the house's lower level. Fundraising in support of this work is under way and donations are encouraged.

Arduini says the Museum is working closely in partnership with organizations throughout Richmond and beyond. Among them are the National Park Service, Virginia War Memorial, Preservation Virginia, United Daughters of the Confederacy, Virginia Historical Society, Library of Virginia, Black History Museum and Cultural Center of Virginia, and many others.

“Through the Confederate President's House, you can see the history of Richmond and the Civil War era, -- and how we've chosen to remember that past,” Arduini says. “Through the stories told here, visitors will discover complex choices that were made by all Americans before, during, and after the war, and how those choices impact Americans today.”

Learn more at [www.whc200.org](http://www.whc200.org)

## GRANT SYMPOSIUM

On April 27-28, the Quincy, Illinois History Museum is hosting a Ulysses S. Grant Symposium. Event speakers include Dr. Sam Wheeler, Illinois State Historian; Larry Wehrline, Grant impersonator; Tim Good, Supt. of the White Haven, Grant Historic Site; Dr. Steve Belko of the Missouri Humanities Council; and historian John Alexander. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, email [info@hsqac.org](mailto:info@hsqac.org) or phone 217 222-1835.

## CIVIL WAR TRUST

The Civil War Trust's 31st Year: 1987-2018

In 1987, a small group of historians and concerned citizens joined together in hopes of preventing the loss of America's Civil War battlefields. Now, thirty years later, the Civil War Trust has saved more than 46,000 acres at more than 100 battlefields in 24 states, creating battlefield parks where none existed and, in many cases, restoring the land to its Civil War appearance.

\*55 Acres preserved (pending) at Cold Harbor, Va. at a cost of over 2.5 million (February, 2018)

\*15 Acres preserved at Ft. Donaldson (January, 2018)

\*20 Acres preserved at the Virginia Battle of Upperville (December, 2017)

\*Over 48, 355 Acres preserved in 24 States since 1987

\*2,700 Acres preserved in 11 different states from 2016-2018

\*143 Acres at North Anna Battlefield (Over \$2 Million spent Fall, 2017)

\*244 Acres bought at Brandy Station Battlefield (Spring, 2017)

\*\$6 million dollars acquiring and rehabbing General Lee's Headquarters

at the Gettysburg National Military Park (Fall, 2016)

For more, visit the Trust at [www.civilwar.org](http://www.civilwar.org)

## CAMP DOUGLAS-CHICAGO

Archaeological work will continue during the fall months and guided tours are offered to select groups.

Dedicated to the development and operation of interpretive and educational facilities relating to the Civil War military installation Camp Douglas, Chicago, IL.

For more, visit [www.campdouglas.org](http://www.campdouglas.org)

## KEVIN WOOD AS ABE LINCOLN

Local Lincoln presenter Kevin Wood is giving the following presentations in March:

Mar. 1: Graham Public Library (Union, WI)

Mar. 1: Germantown Community Library (Germantown, WI)

Mar. 3: St. Patrick's Day Parade (with Historical Soc. of Forest Park) (Forest Park, IL) Mar. 5: Amboy Junior High School (Amboy, IL)

Mar. 10: Slinger Community Library (Slinger, WI)

Mar. 11-12: Wisconsin Council for the Social Studies Annual Conference (Madison, WI)

Mar. 14: Chicago Activity Professionals Assoc. Entertainer Showcase (Chicago, IL)

Mar. 17: Kalamazoo Living History Show (Kalamazoo, MI)

Mar. 22: Shorewood-Troy Public Library (Shorewood, IL) For more information on Wood's presentations, visit

<http://www.mrlincoln.com/English/index.html>

## LINCOLN PRESENTERS

### GATHERING

On April 19-22 at Freeport, Illinois, the "Association of Lincoln Presenters" will hold its annual conference. The event will feature living history presentations, lectures, and Laura Keyes/Leslie Goddard as "Mary Lincoln & Jackie Kennedy." The Friday keynote address will be by Dr. James Cornelius, curator of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum.

All history fans are welcome. For more information, contact Laura Keyes at [Keyes97@aol.com](mailto:Keyes97@aol.com) or visit online at [www.Lincoln-Presenters.org](http://www.Lincoln-Presenters.org).

## 2018 BATTLEFIELD TOUR

The 68th tour dates are April 26th-April 29th for the Atlanta Campaign Tour. A few spots are still open. Please direct all questions via email using [cwrt2018tour@chicagocwrt.org](mailto:cwrt2018tour@chicagocwrt.org). Randy Doler 219-921-9532 and Brian Seiter 708-513-1865 are the tour cochairs. Ed Bearss and Jim Ogden are the guides. The rest of the details are on the website. On to Atlanta!

## 2018 ED BEARSS AWARD

Once again the CWRT is soliciting donations to its Ed Bearss Fund. At the end of our 2018 Battlefield Tour the money raised will be donated in Ed's name to the battlefields and preservation agencies that Ed designates. And who knows more than Ed which projects are the most worthy? As in the past, anyone who donates to this fund will be acknowledged by having his/her name published in the newsletter.

## GRAPESHOT



In March the **Civil War Museum** in Kenosha will feature the following fine events:

Noon Friday, March 9th, Second Friday Lecture Series: Father Bob Miller on "Faith of the Fathers - Courage, Humor and Dedication of Catholic Civil War Chaplains"

Saturday, March 10th: Civil War Expo. Living history, heritage groups and Civil War Round Tables from around the Midwest will present samples of their programming and provide information to the public on their organizations. A "Civil War Trivia" contest is part of this event.

March 12th, 19th and 26th: Exhibit: "Through British Eyes: The Illustrated London News Sketches the American Civil War."

**Rob Girardi** will speak on "Rank Discord" March 21st at the Kenosha Civil War Museum. The talk will examine the interpersonal relationships between a number of Union and Confederate generals and how these relationships shaped the events of the war.

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

**Leslie Goddard** will present Civil War nurse / author "Louisa May Alcott" March 6th at the Flagg Creek Heritage Society, March 11th at Roselle Public Library, March 15th at the Itasca Bank, March 15th at the Brookfield Public Library, and March 25th at the Lemont Public Library.

For more information, visit her website at [www.lesliegoddard.info](http://www.lesliegoddard.info).

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

### PLEASE NOTE

Make your reservations by Sunday, Mar 4, by emailing [dinnerreservations@chicagocwrt.org](mailto:dinnerreservations@chicagocwrt.org), or calling 630 460-1865 with the names of your party.

If a cancellation becomes necessary after dinner reservations have been made, please email us at [dinnerreservations@chicagocwrt.org](mailto: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

Mar. 2nd, Northern Illinois CWRT:

**Kurt Carlson** on "Chicago During the Civil War"

Mar. 7th, Kankakee Valley CWRT:

**Bruce Allardice** on "Sherman's March to the Sea"

Mar. 8th, Milwaukee CWRT: Robert

Jenkins on "The Battle of Peach Tree Creek"

Mar. 13th, McHenry County CWRT:

Book Review night

Mar. 13th, Southwest Michigan

CWRT: **Chris Czopek** on "Potawatomi Soldiers in the Civil War - A Lost Chapter in Michigan's Civil War History"

Mar. 16th, Salt Creek CWRT: Charlie

Banks on "The Battle of Monocacy"

Mar. 20th, Lincoln-Davis CWRT:

**Brian Dirck** on "Lincoln in Indiana"

Mar. 22nd, South Suburban CWRT:

**Steve Thompson** on "Coles County Volunteers"

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](mailto:editor@chicagocwrt.org) or (630) 297-8046.

### Bulletin Board



### FUTURE MEETINGS

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

*Apr. 13th:* John Marszalek, Nevins-Freeman Address

*May 11th:* Joseph Rose on "Grant Under Fire"

*June 8th:* Dennis Rasbach on "Joshua Chamberlain and the Petersburg Campaign"

*Sept. 14th:* Tim Smith, topic TBD

*Oct. 12th:* Ted Karamanski, topic TBD

*Nov. 9th:* Ethan Rafuse, topic TBD

On March 15th **Rob Girardi** will present "Civil War Generals" at the Champaign County Civil War Round Table.

Father **Bob Miller** spoke February 13th at the Southwest Michigan CWRT on "Civil War Chaplains."

### ABRAHAM LINCOLN BOOKSHOP

The next Author's Voice event starts at noon, March 10, with Bjorn Skaptasen interviewing Jan Jacobi on her new book, Young Lincoln.

Visit <http://alincolinbookshop.com/> for more information.