

GRAPESHOT



The Civil War Museum of Kenosha, WI, is hosting the following public programs and workshops in the summer:

2nd Friday Lunchbox Series, Friday, June 14, 2019; Noon

“Alabama’s Cahaba Prison,” Presented by Gene Salecker.

Saturday, June 8, 2019; 11am-4pm. Celebration of the Museum’s 11th Anniversary.

Join us for a day of music, demonstrations, family fun and free admission.

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

Leslie Goddard will speak on “Gone With the Wind” July 8th at the Manteno Public Library. For more on Leslie, visit www.lesliegoddard.info.

Rob Girardi will present “Civil War Artifacts” July 20th at Hanover Township. He’ll speak on “G. K. Warren’s Last Battle” July 26th to the Richmond (KY) CWRT. For more on Rob, visit <https://www.robertgirardi.com>.

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

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.

PLEASE NOTE

Make your reservations by Sunday, June 9, by emailing 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 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 5th, Kankakee Valley CWRT:
Pizza Party

June 7th, Northern Illinois CWRT:
Annual Banquet-Leslie Goddard as
“Louisa May Alcott”

June 11th, McHenry County CWRT:
Frank Crawford on “Leeds Cannon
at the Boone County History
Museum”

June 13th, Milwaukee CWRT:
Greg Biggs on “The Logistics for
Sherman’s Atlanta Campaign”

June 18th, Lincoln-Davis CWRT:
Lance Herdegen on “Union Soldiers
in the Civil War”

June 21st, Salt Creek CWRT: Annual
Banquet-Pam Toler on “the Real
Nurses of the Civil War”

June 25th, SUV Sheridan Camp:
Bruce Allardice on “Charles
Gunther: Mississippi River
Confederate”

July 9th, McHenry County CWRT:
Steve Acker on “Petersburg”

July 16th, Lincoln-Davis CWRT:
Bill Teschner portrays “General
Sherman”

Bulletin Board



FUTURE MEETINGS

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

Sept. 13th: Janet Croon on “The War Outside My Window”

Oct. 11th: Jim Lighthizer on
“Battlefield Preservation”

Nov. 8th: Ethan Rafuse on “The Valley Campaign of 1862”

Dec. 13th: Dan Weinberg on
“Musings of a Collecting Voyeur”

Jan. 10, 2020: Pam Toler on
“Heroines of Mercy Street: Nurses
in the Civil War”

Feb. 14: Connie Langum on
“Wilson’s Creek”

Mar. 13: David Sutherland on “VMI’s Civil War Legacy”

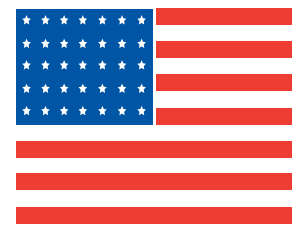
Apr. 10: Michael Shaffer on
“Recollections of the 1st Virginia
Cavalry”

May 8: Wil Greene on “The Petersburg Campaign”

June 12: Brian Wills on “George Henry Thomas”

In Memoriam

Historian Richard Sommers died early Tuesday morning, May 14, from brain cancer. Dick devoted his 44-year professional career to military history at the U.S. Army Military History Institute at Carlisle Barracks.



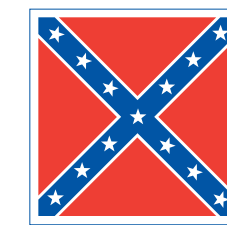
THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Founded December 3, 1940

Volume LXXIX, Number 10

Chicago, Illinois

June 2019



Doug Dammann on:

Elmer Ellsworth and His Zouaves

In the summer of 1860, young lawyer Elmer Ellsworth and a civilian militia company of 50 men from Chicago set out on a twenty city tour. In those days, volunteer militia companies held drill competitions, and Ellsworth hoped that his unit’s new “Zouave” training (based on semi-gymnastic maneuvers of French Algerian soldiers) would dominate the competition. The tour was a success beyond their wildest dreams. When war started and their training was needed on the battlefield rather than on the parade ground, the men who had accompanied Ellsworth found themselves in positions of leadership within the Union Army.

Our June speaker, Doug Dammann, will explore Elmer Ellsworth’s widespread influence on the northern army. Despite all of his drills and military training, Ellsworth’s death, ironically, did not come in battle but rather early in the war, inside the Marshall House hotel in Alexandria, Virginia. Ellsworth succeeded in removing the Confederate flag raised by the building owner only to be shot and killed by the owner, James W.

Jackson, as he descended the stairs from the building roof. Ellsworth’s body would lie in state at the White House before being taken to his home state of New York for burial.

Abraham Lincoln would call his close friend—almost a second son—Ellsworth “the greatest little man I ever met.” Ellsworth’s memory lived on throughout the war as “Remember Ellsworth” became a rallying cry for supporters of the Union. His death would spur even more volunteers to don the flashy Zouave attire.

Doug Dammann is the curator and site coordinator of the Kenosha Civil War Museum. A native of Lena, Illinois,

and son of this Round Table’s close friend Gordon Dammann, he received a BA in history from Kalamazoo College in 1996 and earned his Master’s Degree in historical administration from Eastern Illinois University in 1999. Prior to coming to Kenosha, he worked at The National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick, Maryland, and The National Air and Space Museum in Washington, DC.



783rd REGULAR MEETING

★★★★★

Friday, June 14th

★★★★★

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

FROM THE AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST

We have the chance to save 226 acres spanning four Civil War battlefields – valued at \$1,350,000 – for just \$180,500. That's a \$7.48-to-\$1 multiplier of your generosity!

Here's why these 226 acres are so relevant to our nation's history.

The Opportunity

In the East, we have an opportunity to preserve two tracts of battleground hallowed during the long siege of Petersburg, Va., that ultimately ended the Civil War in the east. The larger of the two tracts would add 101 acres to the Reams Station Battlefield, taking that battlefield, a big step closer to completion and thwarting a very real threat of residential development. The second tract makes up in significance what it lacks in size, with two battles – Peebles' Farm in 1864 and The Breakthrough in 1865 – associated with its three hallowed acres.

In the West, we have another tiny-but-mighty tract to save at Champion Hill in Mississippi. This 2-acre tract is in the very heart of the battlefield where, after vicious fighting and nearly 6,800 total casualties, Union General Ulysses Grant's troops eventually forced the Confederates back into the defenses of Vicksburg. These two acres will help connect separated parts of the 799 acres of battlefield

that have already been preserved by generous preservationists like you.

Last but not least, we have an exciting opportunity to save 120 acres at Salem Cemetery in Jackson, Tenn., a little-known battlefield where not one single acre has ever been saved by members of the Trust.

Please consider making your most generous gift today to help us raise the \$180,500 and preserve this precious American history forever.

Jim Lighthizer, American Battlefield Trust President

CHICAGO CWRT DONATIONS

The CWRT Preservation Fund recently made the following donations.

1,000.00 to the American Battlefield Trust (Civil War Trust). This was our annual Color Bearers renewal from Chicago CWRT for battlefield preservation.

500.00 to Friends of Raymond

On Vicksburg Tour Ed selected two battlefields we are donating money to in his name for Ed Bearss Preservation Award. Below are his selections:

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.

1,000 to Friends of Vicksburg National Military Park & Campaign

1,000 to Friends of Raymond.

BEARSS FUND CONTRIBUTORS

Mary Abroe, Bob Gibson, Chuck Adams, Rob Girardi, Bruce Allardice, Marge Hagen, Gary Augustine, Cindy Heckler, Lynn Bristol, Mike Kirschmer, Marsha Boblitz, Janet Linhart, Alan/Margie Busic, Mark Matranga, Jean Cairns, Scott Mcilvain, Pat Carl, Ginny Proconier, Kurt Carlson, Roger Rudich, Terry Carr, Brian Seiter, Jim Cunningham, Bill/Mary Sheperd, Randy Doler, Roland Spies, Lori Duginski, Guy Struve, Paul Estes, Curt Thomasco, Gary Fine, Paula Walker, Marybeth Foley, Jackie Wilson, Dave Gapinski, Paula Walker.

MAY MEETING

By Mark Matranga

John Horn addressed The Civil War Round Table at its 782nd Regular Meeting on May 10, 2019, on "The Petersburg Regiment: The 12th Virginia," focusing on the regiment's performance during the actions along the Jerusalem Plank Road during Grant's second offensive at Petersburg on June 22 and 23, 1864. Although raised in Norfolk, the nucleus of the regiment was formed by companies from Petersburg, known as the 'Cockade' City. The regiment had the distinction of having turned down Stonewall Jackson as its first colonel – too eccentric.

The 12th Virginia was assigned to General Mahone's Brigade and participated in many battles with The Army of Northern Virginia, including naval engagements in Hampton Roads and at First Drewry's Bluff. At Seven Pines, most of the unit ran, but showed improvement during the Seven Days and at Malvern Hill. According to Horn the 12th was "shot to pieces" but distinguished itself at Second Manassas where its commander, Colonel Weisiger, was wounded. The regiment was virtually destroyed at Crampton's Gap in the South Mountain fighting on September 14, 1862; the 12th could muster only 25 effectives at Antietam three days later.

The regiment suffered few casualties at Fredericksburg but was active at Chancellorsville. Horn pointed out that the regiment's ranks increased after Antietam as a result of prisoner exchanges and returning wounded—by 1864 the 12th numbered some 400 men. The regiment's performance at

Gettysburg remains a mystery. Horn attributes this in part due to perhaps conflicting orders and part due to General Mahone's somewhat bizarre behaviour in stopping an advance in support of Pickett's Charge. Suffice to say, Mahone's Brigade and the 12th Regiment suffered few casualties on either July 2nd or July 3rd at Gettysburg.

For good and ill, the 12th Virginia played a key role in the Battle of the Wilderness, participating in Longstreet's flank attack which halted the Union breakthrough. Tragically, the 12th also participated in the near-fatal wounding of General Longstreet. At Spotsylvania, the 12th Virginia launched a bayonet charge and captured a union battle flag. The regiment then moved with the army to Cold Harbor and to Petersburg after Grant completed the crossing of the James River on June 16, 1864.

The 12th Virginia "came into its own" at Petersburg, says Horn. Grant "picked himself up" after failing to take Petersburg with the first assault after crossing the James, but his army was not ready. Grant determined to attack the Dimmock Line, a 10-mile series of entrenchments, the eastern part of which the Federals had taken with the first assault on the city's defenses. On June 21, 1864, the 2nd Corps attempted to move around the city to take the Weldon Railroad with the cooperation of the 6th and 9th Corps and Barlow's 3rd Corps Division and a Cavalry Regiment. On June 22nd the 3rd Corps set out to attack the Dimmock Line.

Mahone, now elevated to division

command, recommended a flank attack on Barlow's Division. He pushed Barlow back, with the 12th Virginia moving into the rear of Barlow and rolling up his line. The Virginia troops then rolled up Mott's line 'like a sheet of paper' and proceeded to strike the left of Gibbon's Division. The Confederate attack, which included Alabama and Georgia regiments, ultimately stalled due to taking numerous prisoners – entire union regiments surrendered. A Federal counter-attack later in the day was repulsed with considerable loss; Mahone's troops eventually retreated, but with a cache of small arms. The disparity in casualties revealed the success of southern arms: seven union brigades suffered 652 killed and 1,742 captured; the 12th had 2 wounded and two captured. Horn maintains that after the fighting on June 22 and 23, 1864, Grant realized that his army was "not capable of further offensive action."

Horn is expert in providing an up front and personal side of the Civil War that highlights the actions of the individuals who marched and fought in the ranks. The 12th Virginia, fighting for its home city, comes to life through John Horn's words.

CWRT ELECTION!

The annual election of officers to the CWRT of Chicago's Executive Committee will be held at the June meeting. A slate will be presented by the Nominating Committee. As always, nominations from the floor are welcomed.