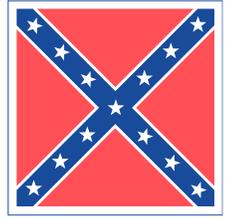


# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Founded December 3, 1940



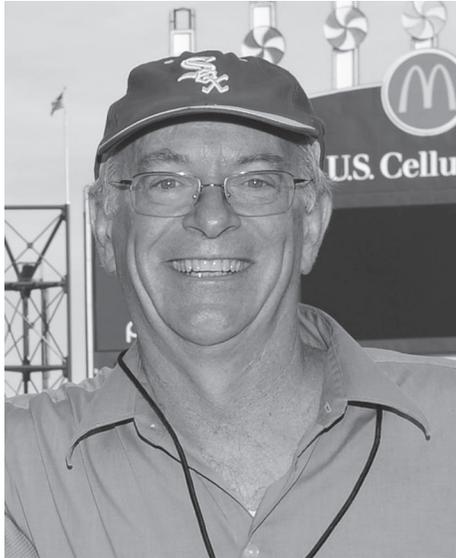
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January 2018

*Bruce S. Allardice:*

## *“It was Perfect Murder’: The Battle of Ezra Church”*



The Battle of Ezra Church was fought on July 28, 1864, near Atlanta, the third in a series of unsuccessful attacks by General John Bell Hood’s Confederate Army of Tennessee on General William T. Sherman’s Union army. After the July 22nd Battle of Atlanta, Sherman decided to cut off Atlanta’s railroad supply lines, thus forcing the Confederates to withdraw without a direct assault. To accomplish this goal, Sherman transferred his easternmost army, under Major General Oliver O. Howard, north and west around the rest of the Union lines to the south western side of Atlanta where the railroad entered the city. Anticipating Sherman’s maneuver, Hood moved his troops out to oppose the Union army. Hood planned to intercept them and then make a surprise flank attack.

discouraged Confederates blamed Hood for the defeat, lamenting that they “had just enough soldiers left for another killing.” One Confederate general complained that his men “had been butchered” by the high command.

On January 12, 2018, Bruce Allardice will discuss this battle, and in particular critique John Bell Hood’s management (or lack thereof) of the battle. A professor of history at South Suburban College, he has given numerous lectures and presentations for Civil War Round Tables, museums, and civic organizations, including several to this round table. Among his publications is “It was Perfect Murder’: Stephen D. Lee at Ezra Church,” an essay in Confederate Generals in the Western Theater (vol. 3), which inspired this presentation.



The armies met on the afternoon of July 28 west of Atlanta, near Ezra Church. Hood’s plans for a flank attack quickly collapsed. His disjointed attacks hit Howard’s troops head on. The Confederate army suffered heavy losses assaulting the Union army’s improvised breastwork of logs and rails. The rebels were defeated, although they managed to stop Howard from reaching the railroad line. The

Professor Allardice received the CWRT of Chicago’s Nevins-Freeman Award for distinguished service in Civil War Scholarship and the CWRT movement. He is a former president of both the Chicago and Northern Illinois CWRTs. An avid sports historian, he heads the Civil War Baseball subcommittee for the Society of American Baseball Research.



### **768th REGULAR MEETING**

★★★★★

Friday, January 12th

★★★★★

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.**

## SAVE 145 ACRES AT KELLY'S FORD AND 2ND MANASSAS!

After wresting the initiative from a complacent General George McClellan in the summer of 1862, Confederate General Robert E. Lee began to think of moving his army into Northern territory. But first he had to suppress another Union army under General John Pope. On August 28-30, 1862, Lee and Pope clashed near Manassas, Virginia. After pummeling Confederates under Stonewall Jackson along an unfinished railroad, Pope was surprised by a massive assault led by James Longstreet that unhinged the Union army and handed them another defeat on the banks of Bull Run.

Seven months later, newly organized Union cavalry planned to "rout or destroy" Confederate cavalry along the Rappahannock River—a precursor to the Union offensive that culminated in the Battle of Chancellorsville. On March 17, 1863, Union cavalry under General William W. Averell splashed across the Rappahannock River at Kelly's Ford and attacked Confederate horsemen under General Fitzhugh Lee in the war's first all-cavalry battle. Lee's men counterattacked, but were repulsed, losing the popular horse artillerist Major John Pelham in the process. Averell eventually called off his raid, failing in his objective, but nonetheless proving that Yankee horsemen were nearing parity with their Confederate counterparts.

The Civil War Trust is now working to save 145 acres at Second Manassas and Kelly's Ford. At Second Manassas, we are preserving two significant tracts.

Union troops charged over one in their attacks on the Unfinished Railroad, and Longstreet's men advanced over the other in their massive assault on the battle's last day. In Culpeper County, we are adding to the 1,234 acres we have already preserved at Kelly's Ford. With a \$5.77-to-\$1 match, we can save this land for just \$215,000.

Help Save Second Manassas and Kelly's Ford!

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### 48,000 Acres Saved!

The Civil War Trust and its members have saved a total of 47,585 acres of Civil War, Revolutionary War, and War of 1812 battlefields. The lands saved lie in 24 different states.

A list of the battlefields and acreage saved can be viewed at <https://www.civilwar.org/preserve/saved-land>.

*From the Civil War Trust*

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### Civil War Battle Sites to Receive \$1M in Preservation Grants

AP, Sept. 20, 2017, at 2:53 a.m.

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — More than 200 acres associated with seven Civil War battles in Virginia will receive nearly \$1 million in grants to help preserve the sites.

The grants will be disbursed by the [Virginia] Department of Historic

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Darien, Illinois 60561  
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[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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Resources to four nonprofit organizations that seek to preserve the battlefield properties with matching funds.

The land targeted for preservation is associated with the battles of Appomattox Court House, Cold Harbor, Fisher's Hill, Gaines Mill, New Market, Second Deep Bottom and Second Manassas.

This year's recipients are the Civil War Trust, Manassas Battlefield Trust, Richmond Battlefields Association and Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation.

Civil War heritage tourism plays a large role in Virginia's economy. A 2015 study found that the 150th anniversary of the Civil War brought more than 3.7 million people and \$290 million to Virginia.

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### Ed Bonekemper Dies

This CWRT's friend, and frequent presenter, Ed Bonekemper, died unexpectedly Dec. 9th in Pennsylvania. Ed spoke to our Round Table last September on Civil War Myths.

## DECEMBER MEETING

By Mark Matranga

David Dixon addressed The Civil War Round Table on December 8, 2017, at its 767th Regular Meeting. Dixon tells the tale of the third, and virtually unknown, address delivered at Gettysburg on November 19, 1863, and of its author, Charles Anderson. Son of Charles C. Anderson, Revolutionary War hero and aide de camp to Lafayette, nephew of Chief Justice John Marshall, and brother of Robert Anderson of Ft. Sumter fame, he was a Kentuckian who strongly defended constitutional union.

Born into a slaveholding family, Anderson took up law after college and segued into politics in Dayton, and later Cincinnati. He was elected to the state senate in 1844 but served only one term due to advocating repeal of the Black Laws; an 1849 speech radically denouncing the premise that blacks were genetically inferior won no favor. In 1857, having developed asthma and influenced by Olmstead's *A Journey Through Texas* which extolled the Bluebonnet State's virtues, Anderson relocated and in 1859 re-joined the ranks of slaveholders.

At that time, Texas public opinion was decidedly pro-union but this changed with John Brown's Harper's Ferry raid. Anderson supported John Bell/Edward Everett ticket in the 1860 race; he considered the election of any of the sectional candidates a recipe for disunion. Upon Lincoln's election, when fire-eaters called for secession, Anderson spoke passionately for defense of the union, an act which caught Lincoln's attention. The administration solicited him to treat with military commanders in order to defuse secession fervor but this effort failed.

Anderson faced trouble in Texas. When the Confederate government granted union men 90 days to leave, Anderson with family in tow

left for Brownsville. Immediately upon leaving, he was arrested and imprisoned. With help from local unionists he escaped and joined his family in Veracruz. After reaching the north and giving a speech at Cooper Union recounting his harrowing trek across Texas and Mexico, he was hailed a national hero. Appointed colonel of the 93rd Ohio, Anderson was twice wounded at Stones River; he developed typhoid while recuperating and resigned his commission. He re-entered politics in 1863, winning office for lieutenant governor, but refused to campaign for Union Party candidates elsewhere, saying one party was no better than the other.

At Gettysburg, Governor Todd asked Anderson to give the keynote speech at the Ohio delegation political rally on the afternoon of the cemetery dedication, an event attended by President Lincoln, Secretary Seward, and other dignitaries. Anderson's speech contrasts with Edward Everett's oration: whereas Everett spoke of how sweet it was to die for one's country, Anderson demanded justice for the dead; Everett felt southerners yearned to see the 'old flag' fly over their capitols, but Anderson thought the 'wicked purposes of vile and desperate political traitors' duped good southerners; Everett saw no bitterness in southern leaders where Anderson sought retribution from pampered aristocrats guilty of unforgivable crimes.

Anderson's Gettysburg speech had a political purpose, as did those of Everett and Lincoln. Everett's was to educate, to focus on the past; Lincoln's was to inspire, to focus on reunion and reconciliation; Anderson's was to support the war agenda. Dixon notes that Anderson never supported Lincoln, but that the president was willing to work with those who could help, even a little.

But Anderson also harbored extreme views on the ultimate ends of the war, expressing fears of freed blacks flooding into northern cities. He insisted that "vain benevolence" was insufficient for modifying domestic institutions, holding that the nation flowed from moral principles, not written charters. He felt government of and for the people was being tested by competing oligarchies, north and south. Anderson became governor of Ohio after Todd died, but alienated radicals who failed to enact Lincoln's vision. He favored gradualism and opposed the black franchise. He ultimately moved back to Kentucky and historical obscurity.

Dixon performs a great service in exposing Anderson's life: a complex southern-born unionist war hero who held inconsistent views on the war and slavery, a vivid character who perhaps epitomized the divisions in the turbulent society of his time.



### 2018 BATTLEFIELD TOUR

The 68th tour dates are April 26th-April 29th for the Atlanta Campaign Tour. The website will be updated soon. 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 co-chairs. Ed Bearss and Jim Ogden are the guides.

The base hotel will be the Holiday Inn Express in Kennesaw, GA. The address to the hotel is 2485 George Bushee Parkway, NW, Kennesaw, GA 30144. The cost for the tour will be \$ 845.00 for double occupancy and \$ 1120.00 for single occupancy. The rest of the details will be published soon on the website. On to Atlanta!

## GRAPESHOT



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

Jan. 12, Second Friday Lecture Series: Pete Skelly on “March, March, March, and No Fight: The Story of the 13th Wisconsin Infantry.”

Jan. 13/15, Exhibit: “Through British Eyes: The Illustrated London News Sketches the American Civil 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 “Louisa May Alcott” Jan. 9th at the Patty Turner Center, Deerfield; Jan. 10th at the Plainfield Public Library; Jan. 21st at the Sugar Grove Public Library; Jan. 23rd at the Schaumburg Public Library; and Jan. 28th at the Palos Heights Public Library.

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

On Jan. 27th **Rob Girardi** will present “Chicago and the Memory of the Civil War” at 10:30 a.m. at the Hanover Township Senior Center

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

### PLEASE NOTE

Make your reservations by Sunday, Jan 7, 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

Jan. 3rd, Kankakee Valley CWRT:

Gary Wright on “The Interesting Col. Wm. Oates”

Jan. 5th, Northern Illinois CWRT:

Wayne Rhine on “The Cushing Brothers”

Jan. 11th, Milwaukee CWRT: Bruce

Allardice on “The Battle of Ezra Church”

Jan. 16th, Lincoln-Davis CWRT: Bjorn

Skaptason on “Ambrose Bierce at Shiloh”

Jan. 19th, Salt Creek CWRT: Don

Sender on “Untold Facts of the Custer Debacle”

Jan. 25th, South Suburban CWRT:

Don White on “Women and the Civil War”

Feb. 2nd, Northern Illinois CWRT:

Bruce Allardice on “Conscription and the Civil War”

## Bulletin Board



### FUTURE MEETINGS

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

Feb. 9th: Larry Hewitt on “Confederate General Richard H. Anderson”

Mar. 9th: Robert Jenkins on “Peach Tree Creek”

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

Our own **Larry Hewitt** will be presenting “A Diehard Mississippian—Edmund Trent Eggleston” to the Vicksburg CWRT Jan. 15th; “Lee’s Finest Hour: May 5-12, 1864” to the Central Louisiana CWRT Jan. 16th and the Port Allen SCV Jan. 20th; and “Civil War Myths and Mythmakers:” Jan. 18th to the Baton Rouge CWRT.