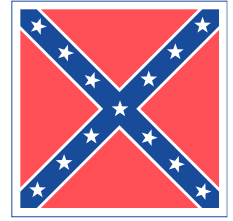


# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Founded December 3, 1940



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## *John David Smith and Micheal J. Larson on Dear Delia: The Civil War Letters of Captain Henry F. Young, 7th Wisconsin Infantry*



Micheal Larson and John David Smith's Dear Delia chronicles life in the famed Iron Brigade as told through 155 letters home. Young's insights, often poignant and powerful, enable readers seemingly to witness the Civil War as he did. Few topics avoided Henry's careful eye. Bluntly honest with his emotions and opinions, he left little doubt as to where he stood on the questions of the day. His correspondence-candid, contemplative, thorough, and occasionally humorous-provides a clear window into everyday events, as well as into war, society, and politics. Young's letters reveal the perspective of a young officer from America's western heartland, giving a regional perspective generally omitted from Civil War-era documentary editing projects.

provide invaluable glimpses into the fine points of building earthworks, ducking incoming artillery barrages, maintaining camp sanitation, and obtaining medical care. From newspapers he retained a firm grasp of Wisconsin and national politics, often noting incidents of graft and corruption and his pointed opinions regarding the 1864 presidential election.

Dear Delia further contains gossip and information about other enlistees from Young's rural Wisconsin community who served in his unit, Company F. Above all, Henry's communications highlight his unflagging patriotism and his fierce determination to preserve the Union no matter the cost.



Young's correspondence is uncommonly interesting, readable, and revealing, replete with astute insights. It covers many topics during the first three years of the Civil War, including innumerable details of military service: the brutality of internecine "hard war," camp life, camaraderie, pettiness, and thievery among the troops, equipment, and food shortages. Henry also addresses military leadership, maneuvers and tactics, rumored troop movements, and what he considered the strengths and weaknesses of African American soldiers. The letters

Micheal J. Larson first unearthed Young's correspondence at the Wisconsin Historical Society as an undergraduate student at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire in 1985. Today he teaches in Menomonie, Wisconsin. John David Smith is the Charles H. Stone Distinguished Professor of American History at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte. He has published twenty-nine books, many on the topic of the Civil War, and has edited collections of letters, diaries, and other primary works on the war, race relations, and southern history.



### **780th REGULAR MEETING**

★★★★★

Friday, March 8th

★★★★★

HOLIDAY INN O'HARE  
5615N. CUMBERLAND, CHICAGO

*Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.*

*Dinner at 6:30 p.m.*

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

*ENTRÉE*  
BUFFET STYLE.

## PRESERVATION NEWS

I wanted to share some great news with you out of Washington, D.C. Last week, Congress passed the Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 Interior Appropriations Bill, which – for the fourth consecutive year – included full funding for the federal Battlefield Land Acquisition Grants program.

This unique resource, administered by the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program, has protected more than 30,000 acres of hallowed ground at Revolutionary War, War of 1812 and Civil War battlefields across 20 states and is one of the most successful land preservation programs in American history. Grants from this program, matched by your own generous donations, have been essential to many of our now-storied land deals. I sincerely hope you will join me in thanking members of the House and the Senate for their work to ensure that this program is fully funded.

While this latest news is truly a tremendous win for battlefield preservation, the work at hand continues. Right now, Congress is considering H.R.307 and S.225 – the Preserving America's Battlefields Act – which would reauthorize this critical program at \$20 million per year through FY2028 and provide crucial funding for the interpretation and restoration of our preserved battlefields.

As you well know, we are in a race against the clock to preserve our country's still-unprotected battlefields before they are lost forever. Now is the time to make sure that we have the tools we need to continue to safeguard these outdoor classrooms – and memorials to our nation's heroes of past and present – for years to come.

Please take a minute to reach out to

your Representatives and Senators to ask them to support the Preserving America's Battlefields Act. And thanks again to YOU for all you do, and have done, to advocate on behalf of battlefield preservation.

'Til the battle is won,

Jim Lighthizer  
President  
American Battlefield Trust

P.S. If you haven't already, please reach out to your representatives to continue supporting our nation's hallowed grounds.



### ABT GENERATIONS EVENT

Dear History Enthusiast,

I am excited to invite you to our next American Battlefield Trust Generations Event: Charge and Countercharge at Cedar Mountain. This family friendly event will take place at the Cedar Mountain Battlefield on Sunday, March 31 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. I hope you can join us!

If you have never attended a Generations event before, you're in for an awesome experience. These events connect younger and older generations by exploring our nation's history at the sites where that history was made. So, bring your son, granddaughter, nephew, or friend and instill a lifelong passion for history with them.

Kids will choose their side, learn how to march like a soldier, try to outmaneuver their opponent, see the Civil War in 3-D, and engage in a safe and fun way of "attacking" the opposing forces. As always, our "Cadet Conference" format employs hands-on activities and stresses teamwork, leadership, ethics and responsibility lessons as the history of

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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](mailto:editor@chicagocwrt.org).



this key battle, fought August 9, 1862, near Culpeper, Va., comes to life.

Come share your passion for history at this special event, sponsored by the American Battlefield Trust and the Friends of Cedar Mountain Battlefield. This event is FREE and open to anyone who brings someone from another generation, but space is limited, so please register today.

Questions? Feel free to contact us at [education@battlefields.org](mailto:education@battlefields.org).

I will also be delivering a "photo extravaganza" presentation at the Culpeper Museum of History that same afternoon – March 31 at 2:00 p.m. It will be a lively experience covering all manner of events, people and places around Culpeper. Using then-and-now techniques and by zooming deep into period photographs, I'll go from the Rappahannock to the Rapidan and from Cedar Mountain to Brandy Station as numerous photographers made the Culpeper area one of the most visually recorded of all Civil War places!

Hope to see you at one or both,

Garry Adelman  
Director of History and Education  
American Battlefield Trust

## FEbruary MEETING

By Mark Matranga

At The Round Table's 779th Regular Meeting on February 8, 2019, Rob Girardi gave a forceful vindication of the Civil War career of Gouverneur K. Warren, an estimable engineer and soldier removed from command by Phillip Sheridan just as his corps was about to break the back of Robert E. Lee's army at Five Forks on April 2, 1865. The stated reason was 'cowardice,' at least in the eyes of the high command of the Army of the Potomac. But Girardi begs to differ. He strongly disagrees with the 'judgement of history' based on a thorough review of the historical record.

Warren's career up to his appointment as commander of the Fifth Corps of the Army of the Potomac in May 1864 was one of achievement. He entered West Point at 16, finished second in his class, and was assigned to the Corps of Topographical Engineers where he worked on transcontinental railroad surveys. He participated in extensive explorations of western territories west and helped produce the first comprehensive map of the Trans-Mississippi West.

At the time the war broke out, Warren was teaching mathematics at the Academy. His service included the Seven Days Battles where he distinguished himself at Gaines Mill and Malvern Hill, and Second Bull Run where Girardi notes he saved Pope's army. He achieved his great fame at Gettysburg when realizing that Little Round Top was not defended, he took the initiative and shifted Fifth Corps units ordered elsewhere to seize the hill with little time to spare. He was placed in

command of the Second Corps and promoted to Major General after Gettysburg and given command of the Fifth Corps when General Grant reorganized the Army in March 1864.

How then did this man, considered the best corps commander in the army, saluted by Generals Meade, Hooker, and Burnside, fail to succeed with Grant in command? Warren's reputation was colored by Grant's Memoirs where the general expressed dissatisfaction with Warren's "dilatatory" movements which caused Grant to fear Warren would fail Sheridan. Warren was highly qualified but had a "defect" beyond his control that was "prejudicial to his usefulness in emergencies..." Warren saw dangers before they presented and told his commanding officers what should be done.

A parade of others heaped on the criticism, but none of Warren's critics offered evidence of mistake. Chief critic Sheridan provided a faulty map which hampered Warren at Five Forks; other Grant associates had personality conflicts with Warren. Adam Badeau accused him of letting victory slip away, exhibiting "moral feebleness" and leaving decisions to others above and below him in rank, Sylvanus Cadwallader, journalist and Grant crony, called him "tardy," and having too high an opinion of himself, and Marsena Patrick called him "puffed up," and loathsome.

Historians repeat these unfounded criticisms: Gordon Rhea wrote that Warren habitually questioned orders, was rude and curt. Yet until the failed assault at Petersburg on June

19, 1864, Meade and Warren were on the best of terms; after Warren failed to attack at Mine Run in the fall of 1863, Meade was angry but later admitted Warren's judgment was correct. Meade had said he wanted Warren to take command of the army if he became incapacitated. And subordinates John Gibbon, Alexander Webb and Alexander Hays held Warren in high esteem. Meade's Chief of Staff Theodore Lyman, otherwise a critic, recognized Warren's ability, calling him "the only man of originality in the army."

Once removed from command, Warren's reputation was ruined, and Girardi concedes that correcting the record in his case is difficult, as Grant won the war. But Girardi considers it imperative that history judge this mistreated general fairly. Warren was ultimately vindicated by a military tribunal, but his military biography cannot truly be correct until it is universally recognized that he did not fail at Five Forks or elsewhere, that character flaws did not keep him from faithfully executing his duties. Rather, it is those with axes to grind and scores to settle who established Warren's reputation posthumously whose accounts must be scrutinized. Girardi has performed that investigation thoroughly and makes his case convincingly.

### SAVE THE DATE!

The 2019 Battlefield Tour of Vicksburg will be May 2-5, 2019. Ed Bearss and Terry Winschel will be our guides—and you can't get better than those two! More information will be forthcoming.

## GRAPESHOT



Due to recent snowstorms, the **Kenosha Civil War Museum's** Home Front Seminar was rescheduled to Saturday, March 16.

On March 5th, the Museum will present a program on "Immigrant Stories of the Civil War." On Mondays in March, the museum will present "Object Lessons: True Stories of Civil War Artifacts," featuring 20 objects from the museum's collection.

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

**Bruce Allardice** will speak to the Sons of Union Veterans Custer Camp this March 25th at 6:30, topic TBD. For more on Professor Allardice, visit [www.civilwarbruce.com](http://www.civilwarbruce.com).

**Rob Girardi** will speak on "The Murder of General Bull Nelson" March 13th at the Hamilton County (IN) CWRT. On March 1st he'll be speaking at the Northern Illinois CWRT on "Illinois Civil War Prison Camps." 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](mailto:editor@chicagocwrt.org) or (630) 297-8046.

### PLEASE NOTE

Make your reservations by Sunday, March 3, 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

- March 1st, Northern Illinois CWRT: Rob Girardi on "Illinois Civil War Prison Camps"
- March 6th, Kankakee Valley CWRT: Phil Angelo on "Mexico and the Civil War"
- March 8th, Milwaukee CWRT: John David Smith and Micheal Larson on "Dear Delia"
- March 12th, Southwest Michigan CWRT: Mira and Bruce Form on "Jews in the Civil War"
- March 12th, McHenry County CWRT: Steve Acker on "Jonathan Letterman"
- March 15th, Salt Creek CWRT: Mary Abroe on "Saving Antietam: 100 Years of Challenges Met and Lessons Learned"
- March 19th, Lincoln-Davis CWRT: Jim Pula on "Under the Crescent Moon with the XI Corps"
- March 20th, Starved Rock CWRT in Ottawa: Chuck Sanders on "The W. H. L. Wallace Family"
- March 28th, South Suburban CWRT: Ron Larson on "Wisconsin during the Civil War"
- April 3rd, Kankakee Valley CWRT: Bruce Allardice on "Charles Gunther: A Yankee in Dixie"

### Bulletin Board



### FUTURE MEETINGS

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

Apr. 12th: Brad Gottfried on "Maps of the Fredericksburg Campaign"

May 10th: John Horn on "The Petersburg Regiment: the 12th Virginia"

June 14th: Doug Dammann on "Elmer Ellsworth and His Zouave Cadets"]

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 "Artifacts I Have Encountered"

### AUTHOR'S VOICE

The next Civil War-related program at Author's Voice will be March 21st at 3:30 pm (CST) when host Bjorn Skaptason holds a dialogue with historian Harold Holzer about his latest book, Monument Man: The Life and Art of Daniel Chester French. Visit <http://alincolnbookshop.com/> for more information on upcoming events.