



THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



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Chicago, Illinois

June 2020

793rd REGULAR MEETING, Friday, June 12th, 2020

The June Meeting Has Been Cancelled.

See You in September

Grant Miniseries Comes to TV



Justin Salinger as U. S. Grant

At the time of his death, Ulysses S. Grant was the most famous man in the world and stood alongside men like George Washington and Abraham Lincoln in the pantheon of American heroes. However, today Ulysses S. Grant is largely forgotten, his rightful legacy tarnished by a fog of myth, rumor and falsehood.

Grant tells the remarkable and quintessentially American story of a humble man who overcomes incredible obstacles, rises to the highest ranks of power and saves the nation not once, but twice. With a seamless blend of dramatic scenes, expert commentary and beautifully enhanced archival imagery, this three-part miniseries uncovers the true legacy of the unlikely hero who led the nation during its greatest tests: the Civil War and Reconstruction.

Born into a humble family of abolitionists, Ulysses S. Grant was never destined for greatness. At a time when the nation is being ripped apart over the issue of slavery, Grant marries into a slave-holding family and is forced to confront his own feelings about equality. As the country falls apart around him, Grant bounces from job to job, at one point selling firewood on the streets to buy food for his family. Just a few years later, this quiet, unassuming man is in command of a million men, and it is his ingenious strategy and bulldog determination that wins the Civil War, reunifies the Nation and helps bring freedom to 4 million former slaves.

Widely regarded as the greatest general of his generation, Grant is called to duty again to serve as president. In the face of huge obstacles, Grant reunifies a fractured nation, battles the KKK and emerges as a champion of civil rights and equality for all Americans. Grant's meteoric rise is one of the unlikeliest stories in American history, but it wasn't luck, it didn't just happen by accident and it wasn't easy. With gritty depictions of brutal battles, risky gambles, crushing setbacks and triumphant victories, **Grant** will take the viewer inside the moments that defined Grant and forever changed our nation.

The series aired May 25th-27th.

BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION

From the American Battlefield Trust

Your help is needed to keep American history alive for future generations. Today, we have the opportunity to preserve 42 total acres at two western battlefields. By securing these acres, you can help substantially complete the preservation of the Brice's Cross Roads battlefield and secure core battlefield land at Missionary Ridge!

The Opportunity

Saving these 42 acres at two western battlefields amounts to a total transaction value of \$292,742. Thanks to the tremendous generosity of some major donors, along with an anticipated matching federal grant, we have about \$236,083 of the cost covered -- 80%! If you can help raise the last \$56,659, a \$5.17-to-\$1 match of your donation dollar, we can save this land forever.

The Background

Sixteen of the Civil War's 384 principal battles were fought in Mississippi, and today we have the chance to help substantially complete one of them.

Brice's Cross Roads, fought on June 10, 1864, was a battle that historian Bruce Catton called "one of the most startling defeats of the war" for the 8,300 Union soldiers on the field under the command of General Samuel D. Sturgis.

Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest faced a larger force but, undeterred, he opened a fight with Sturgis to lure and tire in the Union infantry. Forrest then pounded the Union center with artillery while moving around the Yankee flanks with fast-moving cavalry, threatening the Union's route of retreat. The Union had lost by then and had to fight for the right to just retreat. When the battle had finished, Forrest inflicted more than 2,600 casualties while suffering fewer than 500.

Today, we have the chance to substantially complete the preservation of the battlefield by adding 42 additional acres. This land includes key area along Tishomingo Creek, as well as a small but crucial tract in the heart of the battlefield. Saving this land would bring the total number of preserved acres to 1,500. As you can see on the map, there are now only a few more key parcels left to save, before we declare Brice's Cross Roads fully preserved.

At Missionary Ridge, we have a half-acre tract the Tunnel Hill section of the battlefield. Here, on the foggy morning of November 25, 1863, John Kountz, a 17 year-old drummer boy from Ohio, put down his drum, picked up the rifle of a fallen comrade, and was one of a handful of soldiers of the 37th Ohio who pressed through withering fire to nearly the Confederate line in an attempt dislodge Texas troops entrenched there. He was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his valorous actions on this tract that day.

Saving these 42 acres will help keep these stories alive for future generations. Given all that is going on in our world today, you can be assured that preserve these acres is a real and tangible gift to the country, for today and tomorrow.

Please consider making your most generous gift now to help raise the \$56,659 we need to save these 42 acres at Western Battlefields

MAY MEETING

The CWRT's May meeting had to be cancelled.

American Battlefield Trust Recommends CW Videos

Our own Chief Historian, Garry Adelman, recently was featured on the [HISTORY at Home](#) series. This collection of free videos features brief history lessons presented by famous personalities, including Laurence Fishburne, Billie Jean King, Padma Lakshmi, Max Brooks and more. Every short video snippet is designed to teach, inspire and motivate children at home.

Garry recorded two videos, including [photography in the Civil War](#), and the [story of Ulysses S. Grant's improbable rise](#) from struggling everyman to war hero and president. Each video features basic facts, figures, illustrations, and has downloadable "lesson plan" worksheets for kids to test their knowledge after watching each video.

Adults who are at home watching History's *GRANT* miniseries might catch a glimpse of Garry on the television special as well. He recently sat down with We Are The Mighty for an interview on [Ulysses S. Grant's leadership style](#), his rise to celebrity, and whether or not there is any merit to the popular portrayals of Grant.

If you are new to Grant, check out his [biography](#) on our website or watch our [brief In4 video](#) on his life. Already an expert? Read our feature article on his [rise, fall, and resurgence](#), the battle where the "[unconditional surrender](#)" myth began, his [actions at Cold Harbor](#) that stuck with him all the way to his presidency. You can also [test your knowledge](#) with our Grant quiz!

Zoom Goes the History

During the past few weeks, we have brought together leading history experts from around the world for discussion, debate and behind-the-scenes access, live on our Facebook page. Each free session features interesting and engaging topics, from how to research your Civil War ancestors to Civil War Movies!

C-Span Online Civil War Programs

The Civil War community has responded to the government-ordered shutdowns by expanding online programming and giving us a chance to get our monthly Civil War fix. C-Span has a series of online presentations by distinguished historians, usually about one hour, that are recommended:

What Caused the Civil War? Historians Joan Waugh and Gary Gallagher co-authored "The American War: A History of the Civil War Era." Their remarks were part of the annual Lincoln Forum Symposium in Gettysburg. Visit <https://www.c-span.org/video/?466522-1/caused-civil-war> for their thoughts on the subject.

The Soldier Experience Author Peter Carmichael used letters written by union and confederate soldiers to examine their battle experience, mental state, and political outlook. He argued that the daily life of a Civil War soldier required adaptability to survive the brutal environment of wartime. The Lincoln Forum Symposium hosted this event. Visit <https://www.c-span.org/video/?466542-2/soldier-experience>

Abraham Lincoln and African Americans Civil War scholar Jonathan White talked about how Abraham Lincoln interacted with African Americans he met during his time in office. He explained how Lincoln's willingness to have African American guests at the White House and shake their hands was considered very liberal, even radical, at that time. This talk was part of a symposium held at the Library of Virginia.

<https://www.c-span.org/video/?469579-5/abraham-lincoln-african-americans>

Emancipation in Washington, D.C. Oberlin College history professor Tamkia Nunley talked about the experiences of newly freed African Americans, particularly women, in the Washington, D.C., area following the 1862 District of Columbia emancipation act. This talk was part of a symposium held at the Library of Virginia. <https://www.c-span.org/video/?469579-7/emancipation-washington-dc>

Check out <https://www.c-span.org/series/?thecivilwar> and find your own topic of interest.

Congress of CWRT's CIVIL WAR LECTURE SERIES

You may not have realized it, but the lecturers you have been watching have all donated their time and talent for you. That's right! CWRT Congress is not paying them an honorarium.

With the above in mind, we suggest that you register for a couple lectures, take notes and ask some pertinent questions. Then, tell your friends about your experience and buy a couple books. That way, it's a win for the historian, a win for you and a win for your CWRT. Visit <http://www.cwrtcongress.org/lectures.html> to view the schedule and register.

Please post this notice on your social media pages, website, newsletter and share the email with you CWRT members. Together we will get through this. Cheers! Mike Movius,

Milwaukee CWRT Virtual Meeting June 11th

Because of current conditions, the June 11th meeting will be held virtually. Our President, Bruce Klem, has kindly volunteered to give a presentation entitled, *1st WISCONSIN CAVALRY AT CAMP HARVEY and BEYOND*. This invite contains a link that will connect you to the meeting.

In order to attend the meeting you will need to download the Google Meet app on your computer or smartphone prior to the meeting. If you don't have a Google account, you will need to sign up for one as well, although you can use whatever email address you like. Please contact me at rjtolomeo@gmail.com if you need assistance.

The meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. but you can begin logging in at 6:45 p.m. Please have your microphones muted by 6:55 p.m. so we can enjoy Bruce's presentation without interruption.

Best regards,

Justin Tolomeo

Battlefield Tour Date Changed!

The **2020 Battlefield Tour** of West Virginia will be Aug. 26th-30th. Updated tour information has already been sent to members.

BULLETIN BOARD



The **Kenosha Civil War Museum** is putting on a bunch of programs which can be watched on facebook:

The Petersburg Regiment in the Civil War:
A History of the 12th Virginia Infantry From John Brown's
Hanging to Appomattox, 1859-1865
Presented by John Horn.

I've Heard of Her: Belle Boyd
Presented by Jenn Edginton & Samantha Machalik.

Medical Innovations of the Civil War
Presented by Trevor Steinbach.

Illinois Regiments at Gettysburg: July 1863
Presented by Dennis Doyle.

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

Author's Voice

Visit <http://alincolnbookshop.com/> for more information on upcoming events.

More Upcoming Local Civil War Events

Due to government-ordered shutdowns, CWRT events are being or have been cancelled on an ad hoc basis. Contact the sponsoring organization for up to date details. Check the **Announcements** section of the CWRT's website for additional coming events

Future Chicago CWRT Meetings

Sept. 11th, **2020**: Fergus Bordewich, "Congress at War"
Oct. 9th: Stuart Sanders on "Perryville"
Nov. 13th: John R. Scales on "General Nathan Bedford Forrest"
Dec. 11th: Dave Powell on "Union Command Failure in the Shenandoah"

Elections of CWRT

Due to the government shut down orders, the elections to the CWRT's Executive Committee have been postponed to September.

Reminder: Stay healthy!