

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



Volume LXXXIII, Number 6

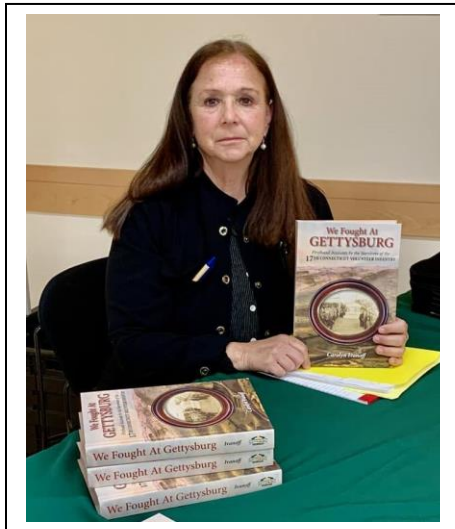
Chicago, Illinois

February 2024

824th REGULAR MEETING, Friday, February 9th, 2024

Carolyn Ivanoff on "We Fought at Gettysburg"

**Live/Zoom Meeting. Time: Feb. 8th, 2024, 07:30 PM CST.
Zoom Option ID 845 3227 1496; No Passcode needed**



Often small individual encounters in history, experienced by common people like us, caught in the maelstrom of events, hold larger truths. Sometimes these experiences have meaning—not only for those who experience them, but for us in today’s world. This program follows twelve members of the 17th Connecticut Regiment through the three-day Battle of Gettysburg and beyond in July 1863. It focuses on the stories of the wounded, the caregivers, and the honored dead. These men fought for their lives, lost friends, and suffered themselves at Gettysburg. Their sacrifices are still with us today and from them we inherited great social and medical

advances. Because of their sacrifices we began to understand the hidden costs of war, and that not all wounds are visible. The stories of these twelve citizen soldiers highlight the meaning that their lives and experiences have for our generation today: socially, medically, and psychologically. These are their stories.

Carolyn Ivanoff is a retired high school administrator and independent historian. She writes and speaks frequently on American history at local, state, and national venues. In 2003, Carolyn was named Civil War Trust’s Teacher of the Year. *We Fought at*

Gettysburg is her first book. It follows the 17th Connecticut Regiment through the Gettysburg Campaign and beyond in June and July of 1863.

Battlefield Preservation

The Trust needs your support to help save 10 acres at Spotsylvania Court House in Virginia, and Corinth and Champion Hill, both in Mississippi.

Combined, the total value of these tracts is more than \$687,000. While the Trust is anticipating about a third of the money in state and federal matching grants, your support is needed to raise the final \$215,300. With all of the potential matching funds in place, **your generosity today would be multiplied by \$3-to-\$1!**

This is still a lot of money to raise, but battlefield land at these historic places is seldom available, and if we don't save these acres now, we may never get the chance again.

The battles at Spotsylvania Court House, Corinth, and Champion Hill carried an especially heavy cost. Combined, they resulted in approximately 45,000 casualties — a tremendous number of lives, limbs, and livelihoods lost. Many of these Americans paid the ultimate price, and we owe it to all future generations to preserve their memory and our history.

Please make a donation today to help honor those heroes. As a special gift of gratitude, if you make a gift of \$60 or more today, you will receive a copy of the Trust's newest book, [The Cost of War: A Visual Summary of Civil War Devastation](#).

Spotsylvania: The two-acre target tract is surrounded by land that has already been protected, which makes it all the more urgent — just adjacent to the property is the site where the respected and beloved Union General, John Sedgwick, was killed by Confederate sharpshooters after joking that “They couldn't hit an elephant at that distance.”

Champion Hill: This is an opportunity to save five acres of bloodstained hallowed ground that witnessed Confederate troops advancing and retreating throughout the course of the fighting on May 15, 1863.

Corinth: An impressive network of earthworks and trenches remain. **Today, we can preserve three acres and add to the battlefield landscape that is already protected.**

American Battlefield Trust

January Presentation

By Mark Matranga

Pat Brennan gave an informative talk and visual presentation to The Civil War Round Table at its 824th Regular Meeting on January 12, 2024, on *Gettysburg in Color*. This work, undertaken with his daughter, Dylan, he described as an effort in “colorizing Gettysburg and the pursuit of history.” A noted historian, author of *Secessionville: Assault on Charleston*, and a member of The Civil War Monitor’s Editorial Advisory Board, Brennan revealed a yearning to understand history, to learn more of it, “to get close to something important.” This led him to ask: “What are the colors of the Civil War? Along the way, he has completed two volumes: *Brandy Station to The Peach Orchard* (Vol. 1) and *The Wheatfield to Falling Waters* (Vol. 2). A third is forthcoming.

Brennan related the processes whereby he transformed the 19th century black and white images – prints and drawings as well as the photographs we have become familiar with - into the life-like colors produced in his books. First, he strived to remove imperfections such as scratches and lines, dirt and spots. With Photoshop, he was able to achieve only 30-40% accuracy in matching the colors of the 1860s. But with artificial intelligence he was able to correct this, using a computer-generated color identifier to determine the exact color of uniforms, equipment, terrain, and the man-made environment. His daughter was expert in adapting facial colors for portraits. But in addition to the vivid coloration, the process enhanced the accuracy of the images, revealing additional information and allowing for further historical investigation.

The deep colorization of the photographs reveals details that have never been seen. For example, AI shows blood stains and entrails of the wounded in photos of bodies taken in the Rose Woods which are not noticeable in black and white and which do not produce as gruesome a response as do colorized images. Backgrounds are better appreciated. This is especially so where there is a more panoramic view of the landscape, as it can help identify the exact location where the photograph was taken. Brennan pointed this out relative to a painting of General Reynolds’ body being carried away near Herbst Woods between the Fairfield Road and the Chambersburg Pike. Color helped identify saddles between the hills, providing additional information on Reynolds’ shooting.

One specific example Brennan cited, that of the seven bodies he identified as not all federal dead, is crucial to his case. It has been long believed that all these bodies located on Seminary Ridge were union dead, but research via the AI process revealed that two were confederates. This in turn assisted in isolating the location on the battlefield where the photograph was taken. Although he is still researching the issue, Brennan believes that this may be the only photograph of the entire war which shows the dead of both sides together on the field.

It is truly mystifying how AI has brought the Civil War to life in Brennan’s colorized photographs. There is a sort of before and after quality to these photos. The originals seem dull, remote, the colorized dramatic, and appear as if they were taken weeks and not centuries ago. One might go so far as to say that the Brennans have turned the Civil War upside down – it is no longer being told in black and white. Whether we could ever have imagined the war in this fashion is uncertain, but these photographs certainly answer the question Brennan posed.

We owe a great deal to Matthews, Brady and Gardner, and the other photographers who gave us the original images that have informed generations on what occurred on America’s battlefields in the 1860s. Also, the great artists Alfred Waud, Conrad Wise Chapman and Winslow Homer whose impressions generated additional layers of interpretation and added to our understanding of the war. The Brennans have added a new dimension that one cannot adequately describe as their work, like that of all those who endeavored to bring the war to life in the 19th century, can only be seen. But it is inescapable: the Brennans have brought the Civil War into the 21st century.



BULLETIN BOARD

Our in-person meetings are currently held at:

Holiday Inn Oakbrook

350 W 22nd St., Oakbrook Terrace

Parking at the Holiday Inn is FREE

Dinner \$40.00 Members and Non- Members

Cocktails at 5:30, Dinner at 6:30

Presentation only is \$10 per person.

The **Kenosha Civil War Museum** is putting on the following in-person/virtual programs:

On Sunday, Feb. 4th, at 1 p.m., Dr. Carla Knorowski speaks on “Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address.”

On Friday Feb. 9th at noon, Frank Varney will present “Grant and the Verdict of History”

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

On Feb. 20th **Rob Girardi** will present “Abraham Lincoln and the Common Soldier” to the Clarinda Cady Questers.

More Upcoming Local Civil War Events

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

Feb. 2nd, Northern Illinois CWRT: **Dennis Doyle** on "Illinois Regiments at Gettysburg"

Feb. 5th, Rock Valley CWRT: Dave Powell on "Joseph Johnston and the Atlanta Campaign"

Feb. 8th, Milwaukee CWRT: Carolyn B. Ivanoff on "We fought at Gettysburg. The 17th Connecticut"

Feb. 11th, Northwest Indiana CWRT: William Horn on "Life and Equipment of a Civil War Soldier"

Feb. 13th, McHenry County CWRT: TBA

Feb. 17th, Salt Creek CWRT: **Jon Sebastian** on "We Are All in on This War: The Northern Homefront"

Feb. 20th, Lincoln-Davis CWRT: **Bruce Allardice** on "Loose Lips: Secrecy in the Civil War"

Feb. 22nd, South Suburban CWRT: Marc Dluger on "The 82nd Illinois"

Mar. 1st, Northern Illinois CWRT: Steve Alban on "The Election of 1860: How Lincoln Really Got Elected"

Future Chicago CWRT Meetings

March 8th: Chris Bryan on "The Union XII Corps"

April 12th: Will Greene on "The Cracker Line and Chattanooga"

May 10th: Lynn and Julianne Herman on "The Allegheny Arsenal Explosion"

June 14th: Tim Smith (Nevins-Freeman Award) on "Vicksburg"

The **Abraham Lincoln Book Shop's** facebook page airs "Take a Break with History", every first and third Friday of the month at 1 pm CST.

Their "House Divided" series will, on Feb. 13th at 12:30 CST, feature Harold Holzer discussing his new book, [Brought Forth on This Continent: Abraham Lincoln and American Immigration](#)

For more, visit <https://alincolnbookshop.com/>

Change of Meeting Venue

The Holiday Inn hotel chain has moved us back to the Holiday Inn Oakbrook for the meetings through June of this year. The CWRT's Winter board meeting discussed future meeting sites, and also discussed possible changes to the formats of the meetings. CWRT member input on this question is welcomed.

The CWRT's website now has a link to a list of all the Chicago CWRT meetings since its inception in 1940. Speakers, topics and dates are listed.

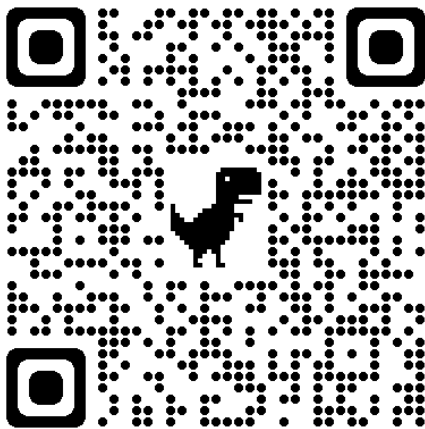
Our first meeting was Dec. 1, 1940, where Percival Hart spoke on "Stonewall Jackson's Valley Campaign"

Ten years ago Harold Knudsen presented "General Longstreet"

Five years ago Rob Girardi spoke on "Gouverneur K. Warren's Last Battle"

Visit <https://chicagocwrt.org/history.html> for this and for more on our CWRT's storied history.

Reminder—There's still a few seats left for the **Battlefield Tour** of Gettysburg, April 24-28th! Visit <https://chicagocwrt.org/battletour.html> for more!



CWRT QR Code for instant access to the website