

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



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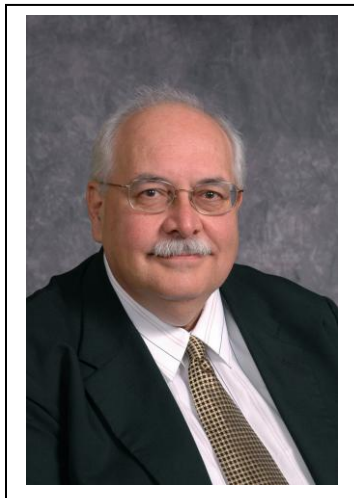
Chicago, Illinois

September 2025

839th REGULAR MEETING, Friday, September 12th, 2025

James Pula on ***Overlooked and Underappreciated:*** ***General Dan Butterfield***

Live/Zoom Meeting. Time: Sept. 12th, 2025, 07:30 PM CST.
Zoom Option ID 845 3227 1496; No Passcode needed



Writing in a special issue of New York State and the Civil War, the editor asserted that Daniel Butterfield "was beyond argument the 'fightingest' general this state had given to the Civil War," yet marveled that "the name of Butterfield is not conspicuous in the Civil War literature." More than a half century later, this dearth of attention remains. Despite his prominence in that conflict, he is often relegated to a few negative comments about his relationship with General Meade or ignored altogether.

This presentation will remedy the serious deficiency in coverage by examining his roles as a combat commander in the Peninsula Campaign in Virginia, at Second Bull Run, Fredericksburg, and in the Atlanta Campaign including how he earned the Medal of Honor. It will also cover his crucial role as chief of staff of the Army of the Potomac at Chancellorsville and Gettysburg, and later during the relief of Chattanooga. Accompanied by an abundantly illustrated PowerPoint, the presentation will also explain some of the lasting contributions Butterfield made not only to the Civil War but more broadly to American military tradition.

James S. Pula is a Professor of History Emeritus at Purdue University and the former editor of Gettysburg Magazine. His books include The Civil War from Its Origins to Reconstruction, the two volume Under the Crescent Moon With the XI Corps in the Civil War, The 117th New York Infantry in the Civil War: A History and Roster, The Sigel Regiment: A History of the 26th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, For Liberty and Justice: A Biography of Brigadier General Włodzimierz B. Krzyzanowski, and most recently Union General Daniel Butterfield: A Civil War Biography. He was three times awarded the Oskar Halecki Prize for outstanding books as well as the Gambrinus Prize in History from the Milwaukee County Historical Society and Honorary Membership in the Iron Brigade Society. His research on Polish immigrants was recognized with the Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland. Most recently his work on the Eleventh Corps was honored with the U. S. Army Historical Foundation Distinguished Writing Award.

Battlefield Preservation

Dear ____:

Today, you have a unique opportunity to protect 74 irreplaceable acres at three different battlefields where Americans fought and fell in the name of freedom.

These landscapes are not just land — they are living history. And if we don't act now, they could be lost forever to development.

Every acre of battlefield land we save is a powerful victory for our shared American story and thanks to a remarkable \$6.56-to-\$1 match, **your gift today will go nearly seven times as far to safeguard this sacred ground.**

The History

Pea Ridge, Arkansas

This is a historic first: the American Battlefield Trust has not previously preserved land at Pea Ridge. These 3 acres adjoin the Pea Ridge National Military Park, where the pivotal Civil War battle unfolded on March 7–8, 1862.

It was a fight that helped Union forces maintain control of Missouri — and now, encroaching development in the area threatens to erase its story from the land. These acres are unprotected, and without our help, they cannot be acquired and eventually restored to their 1862 appearance.

Deep Bottom, Virginia

Just 600 feet from surviving Civil War fortifications lie two tracts totaling nearly 6 acres — potential targets for development. At this site in August 1864, Union brigades stormed the defenses and were met with a brutal Confederate counterattack.

The land saw waves of charging troops, retreat, and relentless fire. These important tracts in the epicenter of the battlefield are two of the few remaining to be preserved at this hallowed site — **and they are in immediate jeopardy.**

The land saw waves of charging troops, retreat, and relentless fire. These tracts remain **one of the few untouched corners of this hallowed site** — and they are in immediate jeopardy.

Saltville, Virginia

This 65-acre tract in southwestern Virginia preserves the site of not one, but **two crucial Civil War battles**, including the October 2, 1864 assault by the 5th U.S. Colored Cavalry.

Fighting up a steep mountainside under a hail of Confederate fire, these brave men overcame incredible odds. Col. James S. Brisbin called their charge a “desperate struggle” that broke through enemy lines. Their valor deserves to be remembered — and preserved.

We Must Act Now

Together, we can save all four tracts across these three battlefields—but only if we raise the final \$245,500 needed to close the deal.

- Your gift will be matched \$6.56-to-\$1, multiplying your impact.
- You’ll help protect the memory of those who gave everything for our nation.
- You’ll ensure future generations can visit these sites, learn their stories, and be inspired.

Thank you for being a defender of history. Together, let’s protect America’s hallowed ground — before it’s gone.

‘Til the battle is won.

David Duncan, President, American Battlefield Trust

June Presentation

By Mark Matranga (to come)



BULLETIN BOARD

Our in-person meetings are currently held at:

Blossom Cafe

8349 West Lawrence, Chicago

Parking at the Blossom Cafe is FREE

Dinner \$50.00 Members and Non- Members

Cocktails at 5:30, Dinner at 6:30

Presentation only is \$10 per person.

The Great Lakes Civil War Forum of the Kenosha Museum: The Many Sides of the Antietam Campaign

A Symposium Saturday, Sept. 13th, featuring Alann Schmidt on “The Dunker Church;” John Banks on “Faces of Antietam;” James Rosebrock on “The Artillery Battle of Antietam;” and Gordon Dammann on “Medicine and the Battle of Antietam.”

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

September 9th, at the McHenry County CWRT, **Rob Girardi** will present “Lincoln and His Generals: LaSalle County at War.”

August 28th, at the South Suburban CWRT, **Bruce Allardice** presented “Aloha Oe: Hawaii and the Civil War.”

There will be a presentation on “Camp Douglas” Sept. 27th at 2, at the Indian Prairie Public Library in Darien. There is also currently an exhibit on “Camp Douglas” at the Elk Grove Historical Museum.

More Upcoming Local Civil War Events

Sept. 3rd, Kankakee Valley CWRT: Brian Conroy on "Civil War Reenacting"

Sept. 5th, Northern Illinois CWRT: Chuck Rebesco on “Ward’s Brigade at Gettysburg”

Sept. 5th, LaSalle County Historical Museum: **Dennis Doyle** on “LaSalle County and the Civil War:

Sept. 9th, McHenry County CWRT: **Rob Girardi** on "Lincoln and His Generals: LaSalle County at War"

Sept. 11th, Milwaukee CWRT: James Pula on "General Dan Butterfield"

Sept. 13th: Kenosha Civil War Museum Symposium

Sept. 14th, Northwest Indiana CWRT: Steve Alban on "The Global Geo-Politics of the American Civil War"

Sept. 16th, Lincoln-Davis CWRT: Jon Sebastian on "The Shenandoah Campaign of 1864"

Sept. 20th, DuPage Civil War and Militaria Show

Sept. 25th, South Suburban CWRT: Ron Kirkwood on "Soldier Stories from Gettysburg"

Sept. 27th, Salt Creek CWRT: Jerry Allen on "General John Stedman"

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

Future Chicago CWRT Meetings

Oct. 10th: Kim Harris as "Libby Custer"

Nov. 14th: Chris Kolakowski, topic TBA

Dec. 12th: Brian Jordan, topic TBA

Jan. 9th, 2026: Guy Fraker on "Lincoln the Lawyer"

Feb. 13th: Keith Bohannon on TBA

Mar. 13th: Clifford Roberts on "Castle Pinckney"

Apr. 10th: Wayne Motts, The Nevins-Freeman Address

May 12th: Chris Mackowski on TBA

June 12th: Alex Rossino on "The Maryland Campaign"

The **Abraham Lincoln Book Shop's** "House Divided" series currently has no event scheduled for September.

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

The 2026 Battlefield Tour

Mark your calendar: April 29-May 2, 2026, Charleston/Savannah. These beautiful tourist locations have a great Civil War history. Charleston Harbor's Fort Sumter is where the war started! Our CWRT last visited in 1995, and since then the Hunley Museum and lots of great Civil War venues have opened.

We encourage people to use this tour as the core of a vacation—spend a few days extra down there, in weather that's got to be better than Chicago's!

Details to come.



Fort Sumter bombardment



CSS Hunley

The **Cook County Board** has issued a Proclamation honoring Lewis Isbell's recruitment efforts during the Civil War. An ex-slave, Isbell opened a barber shop in Chicago and helped recruit the 29th USCT. The Board proclaimed Oct. 13, 2025 as **Lewis Isbell Day**.



CWRT link