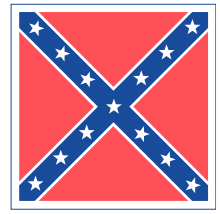


# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Founded December 3, 1940



Volume LXXV, Number 6

Chicago, Illinois

January 2015



## 738th REGULAR MEETING

★★★★★

Friday, January 9th

★★★★★

HOLIDAY INN MART PLAZA  
350 NORTH ORLEANS STREET

*Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.*

*Dinner at 6:30 p.m.*

**\$49 - Members/Non-members**

*Entrée: Chicken  
Napolean or Baked  
Tilapia*

**Please Note:**

Make your reservations by Wednesday, January 7, by emailing [dinnerreservations@chicagocwrt.org](mailto:dinnerreservations@chicagocwrt.org), or calling 630 460-1865 with the names of your party and choice of entrée.

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 \$14 with a validated parking sticker. Other parking is available at 437 N. Orleans.**

## John Horn on George Bernard and the 12th Virginia Infantry

BY BRUCE ALLARDICE

George S. Bernard was a Petersburg lawyer and a member of the 12th Virginia Infantry Regiment during the Civil War. Over the course of his life, Bernard wrote extensively about his wartime experiences and collected accounts from other veterans. In 1892, he published War Talks of Confederate Veterans, a collection of firsthand accounts focusing on the battles and campaigns of the 12th Virginia that is widely read to this day and was intended as part of a history of that regiment. Bernard prepared a second volume but was never able to publish it. After his death in 1912, his papers became scattered or simply lost.



But a series of finds, culminating with the discovery of a cache of papers in Roanoke in 2004, have made it possible to reconstruct a complete manuscript of the unpublished second volume. The resulting book, Civil War Talks, contains speeches, letters, Bernard's wartime diary, and other firsthand accounts of the war not only by veterans of the Confederacy, such as Gen. William Mahone, but by Union veterans as well. Their personal stories cover the major military campaigns in Virginia,



John Horn

Maryland and Pennsylvania--Seven Pines, Malvern Hill, Gettysburg, The Wilderness, Spotsylvania, Petersburg, and Appomattox.

A native of Illinois, **John Horn** received a B.A. in English and Latin from New College (Sarasota, Florida) in 1973 and a J.D. from Columbia Law School in 1976. He has practiced law in the Chicago area since graduation, occasionally holding local public

office, and living in Oak Forest with his wife and law partner, H. Elizabeth Kelley, a native of Richmond, Virginia. They have three children. He and his wife travel to the Old Dominion

each year to visit relatives, battlefields, and various archives.

He has published articles in Civil War Times, Illustrated and America's Civil War, and his books include The Destruction of the Weldon Railroad and The Petersburg Campaign. With Hampton Newsome (author of Richmond Must Fall) and Dr. John G. Selby (author of Virginians at War), Horn co-edited Civil War Talks: The Further Reminiscences of George S. Bernard & His Fellow Veterans.

## SIX BROTHERS FROM IOWA DIED IN WAR

By John Busbee  
(December 2014 *Civil War News*)

WAPELLO, Iowa – This war story, which remained hidden for 150 years, is unlike any ever told before. It is about an Iowa family's sacrifice of all six of its sons to the Civil War.

By the end of the war, 76,534 Iowa men had served in the Union army. In relation to its population, Iowa sent more soldiers to the war than any other state. Among them were the Littletons, their family's entire male lineage, who were lost. They died of battle wounds, accident, disease and in prison.

As the Louisa County Historical Society (LCHS) planned for a memorial to the Littletons in their hometown of Toolesboro, another discovery was made – records and collateral descendants indicate the brothers were mulatto. Louisa County had several residents of African-American heritage, opening another significant aspect to the brothers' service.

The Littletons' rediscovery began in 2010 when Rosalee Swanson Thomas of Raleigh, N.C., offered Tom Woodruff her grandmother's 56-page scrapbook containing hundreds of Louisa County news clippings from the late 1800s into the 1900s. Mrs. Thomas, a former resident, wanted Woodruff, her late husband's boyhood friend and a longtime LCHS member, to have the scrapbook. ...

The hunt for more information was on. Ed Bayne joined Woodruff in leading the LCHS team in its quest for information about the Littletons.

### The Littleton Brothers

Thomas was the first brother to enlist and the last to die. He enlisted in Co. C, 5th Iowa Infantry, on July 16, 1861. ... Captured at Missionary Ridge, Tenn., he was imprisoned at Andersonville, Ga., where he died June 16, 1864. He was buried in

Andersonville National Cemetery.

William (Merrill) enlisted in Co. K, 8th Iowa Infantry, on Sept. 21, 1861. ... Soon after his final documented battle at Bogue Chitto Creek, Miss., on Oct. 17, 1862, William was hospitalized at Jefferson Barracks, St. Louis, Mo., with a disease. He died on Dec. 12, 1863, and is buried in the National Cemetery there.

George, who was living in New Boston, Ill., across the Mississippi River from Toolesboro, his family's hometown, enlisted in Co. B, 65th Illinois Infantry, on March 26, 1862. The 65th was part of the Union garrison that Stonewall Jackson captured on Sept. 15, 1862, at Harpers Ferry, Va. George was later paroled to Camp Sherman in Chicago, Ill., and discharged Oct. 31 because of disease. He did what none of his brothers could – he returned to his home – where he died from illness. The exact date of George's death is not yet known. It is believed he was buried with his parents in the family cemetery.

Kendall, who enlisted with brothers John (Shelby) and Noah in Co. F, 19th Iowa Infantry, on Aug. 21, 1862, was killed in the battle of Prairie Grove, Ark., on Dec. 7, 1862. He was buried in an unmarked grave.

John was a widower when he enlisted, having lost his 18-year-old wife and 18-month-old daughter. He was wounded at Prairie Grove and died of his wounds 11 days later at the Fayetteville, Ark., hospital. He was buried in an unmarked grave in Fayetteville National Cemetery.

Noah survived the battle of Prairie Grove. On March 1, 1863, he was serving in Forsyth, Mo., with a large forage train returning from Yellville, Ark. He was one of seven men in the 19th Iowa who drowned when an overloaded ferry broke up while

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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.

crossing the White River. Noah was buried at Springfield National Cemetery.

### The Memorial

A group in Louisa County is raising \$250,000 for the Littleton Brothers Memorial. A major fundraising was launched at a September event at which Gov. Terry Branstad's wife, Chris, was keynote speaker.

The project will include signage, a documentary, book and high school play. Two historical DVDs were produced for presentations about the memorial project.

Will Thomson of Armadillo Arts in Iowa City designed the memorial. As the great-grandson of a soldier who surrendered with the Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox and walked home to North Carolina, he appreciates the Littletons' sacrifice.

His memorial design aims for a balance of somber reflection, historical tribute, cultural pride and deep emotional effect. ...

Plans are to start construction next year and dedicate the memorial in mid-2016. Tax-deductible donations may be sent to LCHS-Littleton Fund, PO Box 302, Wapello, IA 52653. Information is on Facebook at "Littleton Brothers" and at lchs@louisacomm.net

## December Meeting

By Mark Marranga

**James Ogden III** delivered the 2014-15 Nevins-Freeman Address to the 737th Meeting of The Civil War Round Table on December 12, 2014. "The Engagement at Reed's Bridge" opened the Battle of Chickamauga as General Bragg maneuvered to outflank the Army of the Cumberland. Reed's Bridge first enters the story on September 11th, when General Buell's brigade of Wood's division marched east through the heat and ankle deep dust, carrying out General Rosecrans' order to consolidate and secure the army's connection with Chattanooga via the Lafayette Road.

Buell's troops found evidence that five brigades of Confederate Cavalry under Forrest had camped east of Chickamauga Creek. At the Jacob Reed farm they found the bridge spanning the creek disabled - confederates had removed the flooring - and worked to re-plank the structure before making rendezvous with the remainder of the division.

During the following days, Bragg learned that Rosecrans' army was widely divided - a 14 mile gap separated the union left from Chattanooga - and attempted to move into that space. He issued orders on September 16th which lacked a clear directive to attack. However, Reed's Bridge and other creek crossings were to be seized and held by the cavalry. Late on September 17th, he issued orders for an offensive, but revised these on the 18th, ordering an attack designed

to push union units up stream so that infantry could move across the creek and strike the union left near Lee & Gordon's Mill. Reed's Bridge was critical to this plan, but crossing at that point would prove difficult: Minty's Cavalry Brigade was defending the bridge.

Born in Ireland and with service in the British army, Minty was made brigade commander in summer 1862. He led his former regiment, the 4th Michigan, the 7th Pennsylvania, 4th U.S. Cavalry, and the Chicago Board of Trade Battery. The brigade operated on the far left of army during the Tullahoma campaign and crossed the Tennessee upstream of Chattanooga. General Crittenden who commanded the XXI Corps assigned the brigade to scout in the Reed's Bridge vicinity, but its principal role was to cover the gap between the army and Chattanooga. Minty's initial reports of contact with Confederate forces were met with disdain; Crittenden remained skeptical even when Minty reported clashing with infantry on September 17th. But come the morning of the 18th when Bushrod Johnson's recently arrived force moved toward Reed's Bridge, all disbelief ended.

Johnson was ordered to move from Ringgold Station to Reed's Bridge to comply with Bragg's order. His cavalry and Minty's 4th Michigan/7th Pennsylvania patrol met east of Pea Vine Creek, forcing Johnson to deploy. Minty pushed over Pea Vine Ridge to engage Forrest and artillery sent by Bragg,

but Johnson forced Minty back toward the bridge, where in early afternoon he deployed, anchoring his flanks on the creek. Although he had briefly pushed Johnson back, when he detected a flanking movement he withdrew. This was no easy task: Minty described the bridge as "a narrow frail structure... planked with loose boards and fence rails," wide enough only for one wagon or two mounted men abreast. The Board of Trade Battery made it across after a close confrontation which included hand to hand fighting. The 23rd Tennessee rushed the bridge, compelling the 4th U.S. to abandon it.

Johnson's men repaired the bridge, crossed the Chickamauga, and swept westwards. Minty redeployed in the area of Jay's Mill, but perceiving enemy crossings both up stream and down, withdrew. By that time Bragg found it too late to mount the planned assault. At dark, the confederate column was stopped short of the Lafayette Road by Wilder's Mounted Infantry and Minty's force.

Bushrod Johnson later advised his and future generations to "investigate all the details" to learn what happened at Chickamauga. Following Johnson's admonition, Jim Ogden reminds us not to permit 'descriptions of grandeur' to obscure the experiences of individuals operating in the historical moment. The Round Table acknowledges his contribution to this investigation.



## GRAPESHOT



On Jan. 20th, at Blue Island Public Library, and on Feb. 2nd, at the University Guild, Northwestern Library, **Leslie Goddard** will speak on "Gone With the Wind and the Construction of Civil War Memory."

On Jan. 24th, from 10-2:30, **Midway Village in Rockford** is holding its Annual Civil War Symposium, with Prof. **Bruce Allardice** speaking on "The Election of 1864," Dr. George Rable on "The Battle of Fredericksburg," and Jon Austin on "Civil War Embalming." Call 815 397-9112 x 103 for reservations.

The **Battlefield Balladeers** will perform at the Military History Fest, Pheasant Run Resort, Jan. 31st-Feb. 1st.

At the **Kenosha Civil War Museum**, noon, Jan. 9th, Greyslake Heritage Center director Dave Oberg will speak on "Sons of Thunder: A History of Battery H, First Illinois Light Artillery."

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

### SCHIMMELFENNIG BOUTIQUE

Sixty plus years of audio recordings of CWRT lectures by distinguished historians are available and can be purchased in CD format. For pricing and a lecture list, please contact Hal Ardell at hal229@ameritech.net or phone him at (773) 774-6781.

Each meeting features a book raffle, with proceeds going to battlefield preservation. There is also a silent auction for books donated by Ralph Newman and others, again with proceeds benefiting battlefield preservation.

### More Upcoming Civil War Events

Jan. 8th, Lake County CWRT: Book discussion

Jan. 8th, **Milwaukee CWRT**: John Horne on "George Bernard and the 12th Virginia Infantry"

Jan. 9th, Northern Illinois CWRT: Jerry Allen on "The Sioux Uprising of 1862"

Jan. 16th, Salt Creek CWRT: Brian Conroy on "The Irish in the Civil War"

Jan. 20th, Lincoln-Davis CWRT: Dave Corbett and "The Battlefield Balladeers"

Jan. 22nd, South Suburban CWRT: Phil Angelo on "John Hunt Morgan's Raid"

Jan. 24th, Midway Village in Rockford: Annual Civil War Symposium

## Bulletin Board



### FUTURE MEETINGS

Regular meetings are held at the Holiday Inn Mart Plaza, 350 North Orleans Street, the second Friday of each month, *unless otherwise indicated.*

Feb. 1: Leslie Goddard on "Gone With the Wind and the Construction of Civil War Memory"

March 13: Thomas Huntington on "Searching for George Gordon Meade"

April 10: Michael Burlingame on "The Assassination of President Abraham Lincoln"

May 8: Eric Leonard on "Cartel, Code and Consequences at Andersonville"

June 12: Garry Adelman on "4D Civil War Photography Extravaganza"

### Virtual Book Signing

Join the **Abraham Lincoln Book Shop** on **January 10th** at 12:00 noon (Central) when we welcome **Glen-na Schroeder-Lein** to the program. Schroeder-Lein will be talking about her new book, Treasures of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library. Learn more about these books and order yours at [http://virtualbook-signing.net/book-information/#anchor\\_2](http://virtualbook-signing.net/book-information/#anchor_2).

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 or (630) 297-8046.

## 150 Years Ago - January, 1865

Jan. 11th: The Constitutional Convention of Missouri voted to abolish slavery in the state.

11th: A party of 300 Confederate cavalry riding in very poor weather launched a surprise attack on Union positions in Beverley, West Virginia, and captured 600 Union troops.

12th: Lincoln's emissary, Francis P. Blair, arrives in Richmond, Virginia with a proposal for a peace conference.

13-15th: Attack on Fort Fisher, outside Wilmington, NC. Admiral David Porter attacks the Confederate fort on the Cape Fear River with the largest fleet ever assembled to that time. General Alfred Terry lands an amphibious force which captures the fort. Wilmington was no longer able to operate as an overseas port and the South was effectively cut off with regards to external trade.

17th: While in Savannah Gen. Sherman issues Field Order Number 15, the famous "40 acres and a mule" order.

19th: After regrouping in Savannah for a month, William Tecumseh Sherman begins moving north into South Carolina.

24th: Gen. Grant agreed to an exchange of prisoners. He did not believe that it would make any difference to the campaign as he felt that the exchanged Southern prisoners would be less than keen to fight and the South was still experiencing major problems with desertion.

28th: President Davis appointed senior Confederate politicians to hold informal talks with the North – Vice-President Alec Stephens, Senator R. M. T. Hunter, and former U.S. Supreme Court justice John Campbell.

31st: Robert E. Lee is made General-in-Chief of the Confederate Army.

31st: The 13th Amendment, abolishing slavery, is passed by the U. S. House. This action is the basis of the 2012 movie "Lincoln".

### The CWRT in the Past

70 Years Ago (Jan. 1945)—Marshall Winfield spoke on "Robert E. Lee"

50 Years Ago (Jan. 1965)—Ed Bearss spoke on "The Ironclad Gunboat Cairo"

25 Years Ago (Jan. 1990)—Bill Sullivan spoke on "Chicago During the Civil War"

10 Years Ago (Jan. 2005)—Terry Winschel spoke on "Stephen D. Lee"

## Art Kunis Passes Away

Sadly, another one from “The Greatest Generation” has left us. Art Kunis, 89, passed away on Friday.

Dr. Art Kunis was a member of the CWRT of Chicago for many years. The first tour he attended was back in 1984. Art and his wife Beila, retired to Las Vegas about 12 years ago. Beila passed away six years ago. Art and Beila traveled all over the world and shared a wonderful life together. He was very active until earlier this year.

Within the past year, Art was diagnosed with leukemia, but chose not to go through chemotherapy. He’s also had respiratory problems. Although never in pain, he was weak and in a wheel chair.

Late summer he moved into an assisted living facility, and continued to play bridge, socialize and was even elected president of the association.

On Thanksgiving he was feeling well enough to dine with the family at a fancy restaurant. A couple weeks later he was hospitalized with an infection, and was just moved to hospice this past week. Marc flew out to Las Vegas earlier than originally planned, as did his brother’s family. Art was in and out of consciousness, and “crossed over” right before Shabbos on Friday evening.

The funeral was Monday, Dec. 29th, at West Lawn Cemetery, 7801 West Montrose Avenue in Norridge. (courtesy Rae Radovich)



From *Harper's Weekly*,  
January 2, 1864

# Happy 2015!