

# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Founded December 3, 1940



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March 2020

## David Sutherland on *VMI's Civil War Legacy*



In June 1920 just after World War I then US Army Colonel George C. Marshall, a VMI graduate, persuaded his mentor, General of the Armies John J. Pershing, a West Point graduate, to visit the Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, Virginia. VMI's superintendent hosted General Pershing, toured him around the Institute and the VMI cadet corps held a full dress, review parade in Pershing's honor. After the parade General Pershing addressed VMI's cadets and spoke of the role Institute alumni had played in the Civil War and the Great War and he

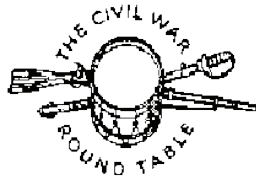
of VMI's Civil War legacy is still visible around the post and VMI's Civil War heritage has shaped VMI alumni for generations.

West Point came of age during the Mexican-American War. VMI came of age in the American Civil War. During the American Civil War ninety-three percent of VMI's then living alumni served in the war. This presentation will discuss VMI's Civil War legacy and how this legacy affected the

Institute and today continues to shape VMI alumni.

Dave Sutherland was born in Chicago, Illinois, grew up in Northwest Indiana

and is a graduate of the Virginia Military Institute and the Indiana University School of Law - Indianapolis. A three time, past president of the Indianapolis Civil War Round Table, Dave is a life-long student of the Civil War and has traveled to and walked scores of Civil War battlefields. He is also a US Army veteran who served in Korea. He lives in Brownsburg, Indiana, just outside Indianapolis, and has practiced law for 35 years.



### 790th REGULAR MEETING

★★★★★

Friday, March 13th

★★★★★

Holiday Inn O'Hare  
5615 N. Cumberland, Chicago

*Cocktails at 5:30 pm*

*Dinner at 6:30 pm*

\$40 - Members/Non-members

ENTREE  
BUFFET STYLE.

## PRESERVATION NEWS

The American Battlefield Trust, the nation's premier battlefield preservation organization, is accepting nominations for a landmark investigation into the status of this country's hallowed ground. The resulting report, entitled History Under Siege®, will identify the most threatened battlefields on American soil — and what is being done at the national, state and local levels to safeguard them.

“Too often the threats to our priceless historical treasures go unnoticed,” noted Trust President James Lighthizer. “This report is a rallying cry to the nation, a powerful reminder that our most hallowed ground may still be in imminent danger.”

History Under Siege® is part of the American Battlefield Trust's ongoing effort to protect this nation's most hallowed ground — the battlefields upon which our citizen-soldier ancestors fought in the conflicts that shaped the country we have become. Each day, priceless acres fall victim to development, succumbing to the backhoe and the bulldozer. Others are all but forgotten, ignored and uncared for, despite their importance to the American story. Once lost, these historic treasures can never be replaced.

Individuals and groups are encouraged to fill out the nomination form available at [www.battlefields.org/HistoryUnderSiege](http://www.battlefields.org/HistoryUnderSiege). Any battlefield on American soil, regardless of which conflict it was a part of, is eligible, but applications must include a detailed description of specific threats facing the site. Submission of relevant photographs, recent news stories and other supporting material is also encouraged. Nominations should

be submitted by March 1, 2020.

The American Battlefield Trust is dedicated to preserving America's hallowed battlegrounds and educating the public about what happened there and why it matters today. The nonprofit, nonpartisan organization has protected more than 52,000 acres associated with the American Revolution, War of 1812 and Civil War. Learn more at [www.battlefields.org](http://www.battlefields.org).

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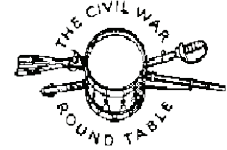
### EXPLORING TENNESSEE CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELDS

#### Online and On the Road The “Tennessee Civil War GIS Project.”

Using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology, battlefield preservationists, students, teachers, re-enactors, and anyone interested in Civil War history can explore hundreds of engagements and battles, pinpointed with aerial photography and modern map layers; and link to narratives from the Official Records, Tennessee Regiment Unit histories, census records, original maps, diaries, photographs and hundreds of historic photos. This is the first-of-its kind statewide program in the country! Explore Tennessee's Civil War history through an interactive web-based map. Visit <http://tnmap.tn.gov/civilwar/>.

Partners in the project providing grants and expertise have been TCWPA, the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area, MTSU's Laboratory for Spatial Technology, the American Battlefield Protection

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1039 Hinswood  
Darien, Illinois 60561  
Phone: 630-460-1865  
[www.chicagocwrt.org](http://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).

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Program, and the Tennessee State Library and Archives.

The Tennessee Civil War Preservation Association (TCWPA) is developing a statewide plan to identify opportunities to preserve and interpret Tennessee's Civil War military story at more than 150 important battle sites in Tennessee. These sites were identified in the 1993 National Civil War Sites Advisory Commission's report on the nation's battlefields. The report included the 38 “most significant” battlefields in Tennessee and a list of other important battlefields which the Commission recommended for “further study.”

This year TCWPA formed teams from the state's three Grand Divisions to assist in the research and interpretation of the key battlefields. Volunteer team captains in each Division have been busy gathering descriptive information about the sites from online resources including the popular TN GIS program ([tnmap.tn.gov/civilwar](http://tnmap.tn.gov/civilwar)).

## **CLIVE CUSSLER, BEST-SELLING AUTHOR AND DISCOVERER OF THE CSS HUNLEY, DIES AT 88**



Clive Cussler, the million-selling adventure writer and real-life thrill-seeker who wove personal details and spectacular fantasies into his page-turning novels about underwater explorer Dirk Pitt, has died, his publisher said Wednesday. He was 88.

Cussler died Monday at his home in Scottsdale, Arizona, said Alexis Welby, a spokeswoman for publisher Penguin Random House. The cause was not disclosed.

Cussler dispatched Pitt and pal Al Giordino on exotic missions highlighted by shipwrecks, treachery, espionage and beautiful women in popular works including *Cyclops*, *Night Probe!* and his commercial breakthrough, *Raise the Titanic!*

The film version of the author's 'Sahara' came out in 2005 and starred Matthew McConaughey and Penelope Cruz, while an adaptation of 'Raise the Titanic!' came out in 1980 and featured Jason Robards and Alec Guinness.

A real-life explorer, Cussler used the proceeds from his books to finance expeditions to locate famous shipwrecks, such as the CSS Alabama. In 1995, after many tries, a team financed and directed by Cussler discovered the remains of the CSS Hunley, the Confederate submarine that was the first submarine to ever sink an enemy warship (the USS Housatonic).

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### **SAVE THE DATE!**

The **2020 Battlefield Tour** of West Virginia will be June 3-7, 2020-later than usual, because the mountains of the area are quite cold earlier in the year. Ed Bearss will, as usual, be our guide-and you can't get better than Ed! This is the first time this Civil War Round Table has visited the West Virginia battlefields. More information will be forthcoming.

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### **CWRT BOARD MEETING MARCH 7**

The CWRT's Executive Committee will hold their winter board meeting March 7, at the home of Rob Girardi. All interested CWRT members are welcome to attend.

## GRAPESHOT



The **Civil War Museum of Kenosha, WI**, is hosting the following public programs and workshops this month:

**2nd Friday Lecture Series** Sponsored by the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table and Iron Brigade Association

Friday, March 13, noon

**Deadly Aim: Michigan's Anishinaabe Sharpshooters**

Company K of the 1st Michigan Sharpshooters was the only all Native American company east of the Mississippi River. These Odawa, Ojibwe, and Potawatomi soldiers served as guards at Camp Douglas and fought at the battles of the Wilderness, Spotsylvania, and the Crater. Author Sally M. Walker will present information about the history of the company and the lives of its soldiers.

"To care for him who shall have borne the battle." **Civil War Medical Weekend**

Saturday, March 21, 10-4 Sunday, March 22, 12-4 - Free

Join the Civil War Museum for a weekend of living history, programs and exhibits commemorating the role of physicians, nurses, and caregivers during the Civil War.

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

**Leslie Goddard** will present "Gone With the Wind" at the Jacob Henry Mansion in Joliet March 24 and 25th at 1 p.m. On March 28, she will present "Clara Barton" at the Robert R. McCormick House in Cantigny. On March 30, she will present "Louisa May Alcott" at the Mayslake Peabody Estate in Oak Brook.

For more on Leslie's programs, visit [www.lesliegoddard.info](http://www.lesliegoddard.info).

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

### Please Note

Make your Reservations by Sunday, Mar. 8, 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.

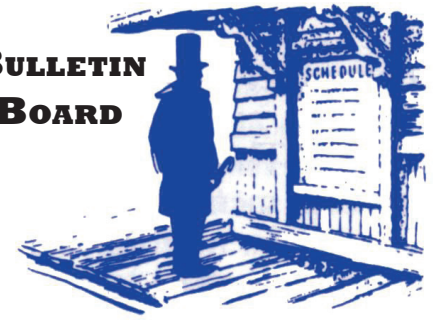
Parking at the Holiday Inn is FREE.

## MORE UPCOMING LOCAL CIVIL WAR EVENTS

- Mar. 2nd:** 2 Old Goats in Cedar Lake, IN: Jerry Kowalski on "General Thomas"
- Mar. 6th:** Northern Illinois CWRT: Bruce Allardice on "Mysteries of the CSS Hunley"
- Mar. 10th:** McHenry County CWRT: Jan Rasmussen on "Old Abe and Friends: Civil War Mascots"
- Mar. 12th:** Milwaukee CWRT: David Sutherland on "VMI's Civil War Legacy"
- Mar. 17th:** Lincoln-Davis CWRT: Rob Girardi on "Civil War Generals"
- Mar. 20th:** Salt Creek CWRT: Dan Van Haften on "The Tyranny of Public Discourse: Abraham Lincoln on Writing"
- Mar. 26th:** South Suburban CWRT: Don Chamberlain on "The Civil War Ironclads and their Naval Battles"

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

## BULLETIN BOARD



## FUTURE MEETINGS

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

- Apr. 17th:** Michael Shaffer on Recollections of the 1st Virginia Cavalry
- May 8th:** Wil Greene on The Petersburg Campaign
- June 12th:** Brian Wills on George Henry Thomas
- Sept. 11th:** Fergus Bordewich on "Congress at War"
- Oct. 8th:** Stuart Sanders on "Perryville"
- Nov. 12th:** John R. Scales on "General Nathan Bedford Forrest"
- Dec. 10th:** Dave Powell on "Union Command Failure in the Shenandoah"

## HOUSE DIVIDED

Join us Saturday, March 14, as Dr. Megan Kate Nelson joins Daniel Weinberg to discuss her new book, The Three-Cornered War, at Noon, Central Time. On March 26th Thavolia Glymph discusses her new book, The Women's Fight: The Civil War's Battles for Home, Freedom, and Nation. For more, visit [www.alincolnbookshop.com](http://www.alincolnbookshop.com).

## FEBRUARY MEETING

Wilson's Creek National Military Park Historian Connie Langum addressed the Civil War Round Table at its 789<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting on February 14, 2020, discussing the first major confrontation between Union and Confederate forces west of the Mississippi and its impact on the war. She also provided The Round Table with an informative update on recent improvements at the Park and work in progress on the Visitor Center which will enhance the experience of the general public visiting the park as well as well as groups such ours and scholars who will access the extensive resources the park's archive contains.

Missouri was a hotbed of secession in the early days of the Civil War. Already having been engaged in border war hostilities with Kansas for several years and with its Governor, Claiborne Jackson, a definite Southern sympathizer, the state was bound for conflict despite nominal declarations of 'neutrality.' Shortly after Lincoln's inauguration, in April 1861, Jackson called out the state militia which, once encamped on the outskirts of St. Louis, raised concerns of unionists and Captain Nathaniel Lyons, who suspected that Jackson's loyalist militia was plotting to seize the St. Louis arsenal. Lyons took aggressive action by raising a home guard that with U.S. troops forced the militia's surrender. This prompted a riotous reaction and violence in the streets which resulted in deaths on both sides. Jackson then had the legislature designate a State Guard and appointed former Missouri Governor Sterling Price as its commander.

After an abortive attempt to keep the peace between the parties, the fiery Lyons, now a Brigadier General, declared to Jackson, "This means war." Federal forces secured the St. Louis area, captured the capital and virtually pushed government forces out of the state by the end of July. State Guard forces retreated to southwest of Springfield where they were reinforced by regular Confederate Army troops from Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas under the command of Ben McCulloch, former Texas Ranger, making the total Confederate force over 12,000. Opposing them were some 5,400 men under Lyons (Missouri, Kansas, Iowa and Regular U.S. units) who marched out to engage the combined force in early August. Lyons withdrew toward Springfield upon detecting the size of his enemy; McCulloch pursued, resting his army at Wilson's Creek.

Lyons and his chief subordinate, Franz Sigel, planned a pincer movement designed to attack the enemy in advance of a strategic retreat. Attacking at first light, the union movement up the Wire Road in the Confederate rear achieved success. But a tragic misstep created a disastrous reversal of fortune. At this stage of the war, units on both sides often wore similar-colored uniforms. One of Sigel's regiments, the 1<sup>st</sup> Iowa, mistook the similarly clad 3<sup>rd</sup> Louisiana for friendly troops and withheld fire until it was too late. The regiment was decimated and Sigel's flank was exposed and his force routed. Lyons, now vastly outnumbered, concentrated his smaller force on Oak Hill where he repulsed two assaults and led countercharges. He was

ultimately mortally wounded, the first Union general to be killed in the war. General Sweeny was wounded, leaving command of the army to Major Samuel Sturgis who effectively withdrew from "Bloody Hill," thus ending the Battle of Wilson's Creek.

Langum provided an incisive account of the campaign to secure Missouri in the early days of the war. Also, informative was her description of the many positive developments at the Park. See Marc Kunis' YouTube video for that – you will want to visit.

## **Our past and future Battlefield Tour destinations:**

1951: Nashville, Franklin, Chickamauga & Cumberland Gap	1984: Washington, D.C. & Northern Virginia
1952: Antietam, Gettysburg & Harpers Ferry	1985: Petersburg & Appomattox
1953: Peninsular Campaign, Richmond & Williamsburg	1986: 1862 Peninsular Campaign
1954: Shiloh & Vicksburg	1987: Trans-Mississippi
1955: Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, the Wilderness & Spotsylvania	1988: Chancellorsville
1956: Chattanooga & Atlanta Campaigns	1989: Atlanta Campaign
1957: Shenandoah Valley	1990: 1862 Maryland Campaign, with a focus on Antietam
1958: Fort Donelson, Nashville, Franklin & Stone's River	1991: Shiloh
1959: Charleston & Savannah	1992: Gettysburg
1960: Richmond & Manassas	1993: Vicksburg
1961: Vicksburg	1994: Shenandoah Valley -- Spring; Kentucky -- Fall
1962: Gettysburg, Antietam & Harpers Ferry	1995: Charleston, South Carolina
1963: Richmond	1996: Chickamauga & Chattanooga
1964: New Orleans	1997: 1862 Richmond Campaign
1965: Chattanooga & Cumberland Gap	1998: North Carolina
1966: Washington, D.C.	1999: Fredericksburg
1967: Missouri & Arkansas	2000: Middle Tennessee
1968: Fredericksburg	2001: Antietam, Maryland
1969: Shiloh & Northern Mississippi	2002: Trans-Mississippi
1970: Charleston	2003: Gettysburg
1971: Shenandoah Valley	2004: Atlanta Campaign
1972: Vicksburg	2005: Vicksburg Campaign
1973: Gettysburg	2006: Manassas & Mosby
1974: Chattanooga & Chickamauga	2007: Washington, D.C. & Booth Trail
1975: Richmond & Petersburg	2008: Shiloh & Corinth
1976: Manassas & Antietam	2009: Kentucky & Lincoln
1977: Middle Tennessee	2010: Richmond 1864, Overland Campaign
1978: Fredericksburg	2011: Petersburg & Appomattox
1979: Shiloh & Northern Mississippi	2012: Chickamauga & Chattanooga
1980: Shenandoah Valley	2013: Antietam
1981: Vicksburg	2014: Gettysburg
1982: Gettysburg	2015: Middle Tennessee
1983: Chattanooga & Chickamauga	2016: Shenandoah Valley 1864
	2017: Peninsula Campaign
	2018: 1864 Atlanta Campaign
	2019: Vicksburg
	2020: West Virginia