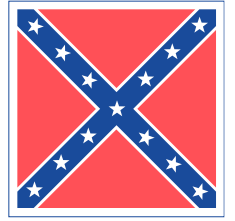


# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Founded December 3, 1940



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## Dave Connon Iowa Copperheads



Most people think that Iowa was solidly pro-Union during the Civil War. After all, some 75,000 residents fought for the North. And in the elections, Iowa voted solidly for Abraham Lincoln and for pro-war Republican governors. In reality, the outnumbered Iowa Democrats formed a spectrum of dissent. The majority of Iowa Democrats opposed abolishing slavery (and yet favored the Union war effort); the minority (often labeled "Copperheads") sympathized with the Confederacy. Of this group, at least 76 Iowa residents served the Confederacy.

also works as a substitute teacher. An Illinois native, he has a Master's Degree in Education from Northern Illinois University. His wife is an Iowa native whose great-great-grandfather died on Sherman's March to the Sea. Connon first studied Copperheads in strongly Republican and pro-Union Poweshiek County. Some 50 desperate residents vowed in mid-1864 to not submit to a draft.

When three of them were drafted, homegrown bushwhackers murdered two deputy federal marshals.

He has spent the past six years documenting 76 Iowa residents who left that state and served the Confederacy. Their existence (in a strongly pro-Union state) represents a scarlet ribbon of political dissent. He shares some of those stories in his blog, "Confederates from Iowa: Not to defend, but to understand." [www.confederatesfromiowa.com](http://www.confederatesfromiowa.com) He is also writing a book about Confederates from Iowa.

On Nov. 11th (Veterans' Day) David Connon will explore their motivations and describe their pre-war, war-time, and post-war experiences. He will also explore why their stories have been largely unknown for the past 150 years.

David Connon is employed by Living History Farms, Des Moines, as an historical interpreter. He



### 756th REGULAR MEETING

★★★★★

Friday, November 11th

★★★★★

HOLIDAY INN O'HARE

5615 N. CUMBERLAND, CHICAGO

*Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.*

*Dinner at 6:30 p.m.*

**\$50 - Members/Non-members**

**ENTRÉE**

**TURKEY OR WHITEFISH**

## CIVIL WAR TRUST PRESERVES 70 ACRES AT PERRYVILLE BATTLEFIELD

In summer 2016, the Civil War Trust declared victory on three properties totaling 70-acres associated with the historic 1862 Perryville battlefield. This latest preservation success story was the result of a national fundraising campaign conducted by the Trust earlier this year. With the addition of these 70 acres, the Trust has helped save a total of 1,027 acres at Perryville, the site of Kentucky's largest and bloodiest Civil War battle.

"Complete preservation of a battlefield is the Civil War Trust's ultimate goal, the finest example of our mission at work," said Trust President James Lighthizer. "This victory at Perryville brings us within spitting distance of finishing our work there. Thanks to the generous contributions of our members, future generations of Americans will have the opportunity to visit this site and reflect on the sacrifices made by our forbearers."

This latest effort at Perryville preserves an area known as the "Western High Water Mark of the Confederacy," the farthest point reached by the principal Southern army in the Western Theater. The fighting on this property was intense, and the remains of many Union soldiers still rest on this section of the battlefield.

The tracts were purchased for \$ 736,000 using grants from the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program matched by donations from thousands of dedicated Trust members. Some of the acreage was also donated by a private landowner. The Trust's ultimate goal is to transfer the properties to Perryville Battlefield State Historical Site to enhance interpretation of the battle's closing, climatic stages. The properties also feature a 430 foot long stone fence behind which Union Colonel John

Starkweather's brigade finally stopped the advance of General Benjamin Cheatham's Confederate division, just 600 yards short of a Federal supply train.

As a battleground that witnessed some of the most pivotal fighting in the war, Perryville's preservation has been in the works for decades. As far back as 1993, a report on the nation's Civil War battlefields commissioned by Congress named Perryville one of the top 11 most endangered sites in the country, out of 384 battlefields surveyed. It was identified as a site "with critical need for action," and one of only 45 Civil War battles that has "a decisive influence on a campaign and a direct impact on the course of the war."

The road to this decisive battle began in the summer of 1862, when Confederate General Braxton Bragg launched an invasion of Kentucky, hoping to divert Union attention from the Southern strongholds of Vicksburg and Chattanooga. The Kentucky Campaign did draw Federal forces out of Northern Alabama and Middle Tennessee, ground it would take the Union almost a year to regain. The Battle of Perryville was a Confederate tactical victory, though Bragg's heavy losses left him unable to maintain his army north of the Tennessee border. During the battle, the Confederates held an early advantage that they were able to exploit due to lack of communication among various elements of the Union force. Eventually reinforced on the left of their line, Federal troops held their ground and did not leave the field. Confronted by a larger force and running low on supplies, a discouraged Bragg withdrew toward the Cumberland Gap. The Confederate offensive was over, and the Union once again controlled Kentucky.

In addition to many core

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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.

battlefield sites, the Trust has preserved land that witnessed key moments leading up to the fighting and important areas outside of the zone of infantry combat. During the battle, miscommunication among commanders left enlisted men to sort out the battle through intense and unpredictable violence. Without the preservation of the complete battlefield, current and future generations of Americans will lose the rich interpretive opportunities that demonstrate these nuances.

It is incredibly fortunate that much of Perryville battlefield remains unchanged since the nineteenth century, allowing for such complete preservation of the lands. The staff at Perryville Battlefield Historic Site and members of the Friends of Perryville Battlefield have been excellent stewards, completing several restoration projects and adding walking trails and other educational and commemorative markers to the land. Indeed, trails at Perryville provide visitors with some of the nation's best and most historic hiking. All of this work underscores the importance of this site as an outdoor classroom and a place to reflect on the immense sacrifice of the Civil War's citizen soldiers.

From October *Civil War News*

## OCTOBER MEETING

By Mark Matranga

The Civil War Round Table presented its annual Nevins-Freeman award to Lance Herdegen at its 755th Regular Meeting on October 14, 2016. Herdegen, noted Iron Brigade expert, addressed the group on "The Music of the Iron Brigade." Music was an important aspect of ante bellum culture; singing societies and band concerts were common, and sheet music exposed the mass of society to contemporary songs. Pianos and other musical instruments were becoming available to the general public. Correspondingly, music played a vital role in soldiers' lives, easing their transition from civilian life, helping to generate *esprit de corps* on the march and before battle, and providing a source of entertainment and camaraderie during long periods in camp. Bands accompanied contraband signers who came into the army as the war progressed, and also performed functions during inspections and reviews.

Regiments in the Army of the Potomac were allocated 24 positions for band members; each company had drummers and fife players. Instruments were provided by the quartermaster's office but band members brought certain instruments such as silver cornets with them to the army. Young boys accompanied fathers, uncles, and brothers into military service, giving rise to the 'drummer boy' phenomenon in the armies. Band members were called on to work as litter bearers and nurses once hostilities commenced.

As originally organized in the camps at Washington D.C. in

October 1861, the Iron Brigade was composed of the 2nd, 6th, and 7th Wisconsin regiments and commanded by Rufus King. The brigade loved its bands whether they played familiar songs from home or tunes developed during the course of the war, "The Iron Brigade March" being one of them. The 2nd Wisconsin from the southwest part of the state was the first regiment to form a band; the 19th Indiana's band was considered quite accomplished. The 6th Wisconsin band created the most stir, earning the reputation as the "worst band in military history" according to Herdegen. The only song the band knew was the "Village Quick Step," which it played repeatedly. This apparently did not affect its commander, Lysander Cutler, who was tone deaf, but it did bother the quartermaster, who forbade the 6th from playing near his tent because its playing was "spoiling the meat."

The band seemed to be the resting place for those whose military skills were least proficient; if a soldier took a wrong turn on the parade ground, the regiment would call out, 'Put him in the band.' Paradoxically, the 6th had the best, or at least the tallest, drum major in the army, William Whaley, who stood 6 feet, 5 inches tall. Herdegen recounted how at a review of the entire army before General McClellan, Whaley dropped the baton. To cover this gaffe, the band broke into their favorite, and only, song, and in their humiliation passed the reviewing stand "as crooked as a dog's hind leg." But this embarrassment had a silver

lining. Upon returning to camp the band's best singer began to sing "John Brown's Body," with the band joining in on the chorus. A spectator in the crowd, Julia Ward Howe, overheard the song and was moved by the melody, which influenced her to write "The Battle Hymn of the Republic."

Of course, soldiers sang in camp. A quartet of singers in the 6th Wisconsin formed by Lt. Lloyd Harris led singing classes which helped the troops ward off homesickness through the long winter of 1861-62. After one of the group, Chapman Brown, fell at Antietam, Harris could no longer perform a favorite, "Benny Haven's Home."

For Herdegen, music is an underappreciated facet of the war. Little scholarly work has been done on the subject. But as he points out, just as much as marching and battle and camp life, music remained a significant component in soldiers' collective memory.



### IN MEMORIAM: FRED JOHANSON

Our friend and longtime CWRT member Fred Johanson passed away in October. As many of you know, Fred had moved to Indiana and, while on a trip to the Far East, caught a virus that turned into legionnaires disease. A memorial service will be held Nov. 19th at 2 p.m. at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 1004 Greenwood St., Evanston.

## GRAPESHOT



Leslie Goddard will present “Clara Barton” to the Cape Girardeau CWRT, Nov. 20th.

On Nov. 6th, at Rosehill Cemetery in Chicago, there will be the annual **Veteran’s Day** event, starting at 11 a.m. Soldiers of the Civil War, and all of America’s wars, will be honored.

On Nov. 15th, at the Orland Park Public Library, **Bruce Allardice** will speak on “Genealogy from Civil War Records”. The event starts at 7 p.m.

This month the **Kenosha Civil War Museum** will feature Trevor Steinbach and Mrs. Parker Dow speaking on “Masons at Gettysburg—North v. South” (Nov. 5th at 1:30) and “The Boss Soldier—Commanders of the Iron Brigade” (Nov. 6th). Visit the museum’s website at <http://www.kenosha.org/wp-civilwar/> for more information.

**Rob Girardi** will speak on “Railroad Defense in the Atlanta Campaign” Nov. 15th to the Southwest Michigan CWRT.

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

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.

### PLEASE NOTE

Make your reservations by Sunday, November 6, 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 FREE.

### More Upcoming Civil War Events

Nov. 2nd, Kankakee Valley CWRT:

Leslie Goddard as “Clara Barton”

Nov. 4th, Northern Illinois CWRT:

Pat Schroeder on “Appomattox Court House”

Nov. 8th, McHenry County CWRT:

Pat McCormick on “The Red River Campaign”

Nov. 10th, Lake County CWRT: Ty

Rohrer on “Children in the Civil War”

Nov. 10th, Milwaukee CWRT: Dave

Connon on “Iowa Copperheads”

Nov. 11th, Union League Club:

luncheon for author Timothy B. Smith

Nov. 15th, Lincoln-Davis CWRT:

John Horn on “The Battle for the Weldon Railroad”

Nov. 17th, South Suburban CWRT:

John Horn on “The Petersburg Campaign”

Nov. 18th, Salt Creek CWRT: Sam

Blackwell on “The Harpers Ferry Cavalry Escape of September 1862”

## Bulletin Board



### FUTURE MEETINGS

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

Dec. 9th: Bjorn Skaptasan on “Ambrose Bierce at Shiloh”

Jan. 13th, 2017: Richard Sommers on “Lessons in Leadership in the Petersburg Campaign”

Feb. 10th: Bob O’Neil on “Cavalry During the Peninsula Campaign”

Mar. 10th: Paul Kahan on “Simon Cameron, Lincoln’s First Secretary of War”

Apr. 14th: Diane Smith on “Command Conflict in the Overland Campaign”

May 12th: Connie Hansen presents a “First Person Portrayal of Jennie Wade’s mother”

June 9th: Don Sender on “Custer and the Little Big Horn Campaign”

### Abraham Lincoln Bookshop Open Again!

They’re open for business at their new address, 824 W. Superior St. (Superior and Green), Suite 100, Chicago. This month, their new “Author’s Voice” series of interviews with Civil War authors includes interviews with David Powell and Timothy B. Smith, discussing their new books, The Chickamauga Campaign and Grant Invades Tennessee. The events starts noon, Nov. 12th.