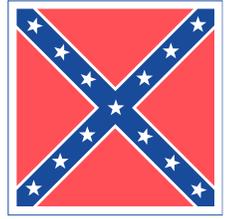


# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Founded December 3, 1940



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## Connie Hansen: “A First-Person Portrayal of Jennie Wade’s Mother”



Gettysburg. To most people the very name conjures up images of war, death, destruction, horrified screams, and all manner of damage and ruin. But to three people growing up there in the mid 1800’s it was simply- home. Jennie Wade, Jack Skelly, and Wesley Culp played tag in the streets and yards in the village, tossed pebbles into Rock Creek and fished from its banks. They went to school together and shared each other’s secrets and dreams of the future. But none of them foresaw what would happen when war reached their little town.

her own nose.

Connie Hansen has been an avid American history buff since she was a little girl, making her first trip to Gettysburg when she was still in grade school. On that trip, she heard the story of Jennie Wade and her tragic death during the battle and knew that the story had to be told in more than a text-bookish, nonfiction format. It took her years of research and many trips to Gettysburg before she saw the book

come to fruition. She has slept in the house where Jennie was born, attended the church she attended, visited her grave, and strolled the streets



of Gettysburg dressed in period attire (being a re-enactor has its merits!). Now, as Jennie’s mother, she brings the story of the battle and their simple lives to life in a way that the book can’t. She has presented at the Civil War Museum in Kenosha, the Military History Fest in St. Charles, IL, as well as at the Indianapolis Civil War Round Table.

On May 12th Connie Hansen will present their story. The presentation is based on the author’s historical novel, Biscuits and Bullets: A Gettysburg Story, and focuses on Jennie Wade, the only civilian killed during the Battle of Gettysburg. Since her book was published, our speaker has taken it a step farther by adopting a first-person presentation as Mary Wade, Jennie’s mother. She speaks “first-hand,” in period attire, about what it was like to experience the battle, and the horror of watching her daughter die practically under



### 762nd REGULAR MEETING

★★★★★

Friday, May 12th

★★★★★

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 TILAPIA**

## TENNESSEE BECOMES FIRST STATE TO GUARANTEE ANNUAL FUNDING FOR CIVIL WAR SITE PRESERVATION

Nashville, TENN.- At a news conference today, the Civil War Trust thanked Tennessee officials for their roles in creating and continuing to enhance the state's trailblazing Civil War or War Between the States Site Preservation Fund, a permanent funding source for protecting some of Tennessee's most important historic land.

The fund is the first in the nation to guarantee annual money for Civil War site preservation, and has already been used by the Civil War Trust-a national organization dedicated to protecting battlefield land-to preserve 100 acres at Chattanooga and Shiloh. ...

"We are thrilled about the new possibilities presented by the preservation fund, and grateful to our partners in Tennessee helping set the standard for states passionate about protecting their historic landscapes. To be able to count on funding for battlefield preservation year after year is an unprecedented boost to the preservation community in Tennessee and a gift to all of us who understand the importance of commemorating our nation's defining moments," said Civil War Trust President James Lighthizer. To date, the Trust has saved hallowed ground at 11 Tennessee Battlefields, for a total of nearly 3,500 acres.

The fund's founding legislation was introduced in 2013 by state Rep. Steve McDaniel, Deputy Speaker of the Tenn. House of Representatives and a lifelong battlefield preservation advocate. Gov. Bill Haslam signed the bill into law later that year. Like the Virginia battlefield fund after which

it is modeled, the program provides competitive matching grants which foster partnerships and private-sector investment in battlefield preservation.

The fund received \$ 482,000 in its first year, which the Trust successfully applied to assist in purchasing two key sets of battlefield parcels at Chattanooga. Totaling almost 50 acres, the land is on the sharply defined, historically significant western slope of Missionary Ridge. Without the matching money provided by the preservation fund, these sites could easily have been lost; both properties had already been slated for residential development.

In subsequent legislative sessions, Deputy Speaker McDaniel continued his work on behalf of the new program, ensuring two annually recurring funding sources for the preservation of Civil War sites. The first is \$ 250,000 allocation from the Tenn. State Lands Acquisition Fund. The second is a portion of the year-over-year revenue growth from the state's Real Estate Transfer Tax. For fiscal year 2017-18, this will translate to more than \$ 1.2 million in funding to safeguard the state's hallowed ground, with any remaining money set aside for use in future years.

"The creation of this fund is one of my proudest accomplishments as a legislator and native Tennessean," said Deputy Speaker McDaniel, who has served in the House for three decades. "The battlefields we protect will not only ensure a lasting legacy for all those who contributed to the establishment of the program, but will serve as

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1039 Hinswood  
Darien, Illinois 60561  
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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.

invaluable outdoor classrooms for this and future generations of Americans."

...

The Tennessee Wars Commission, under the purview of the Tennessee Historical Commission (THC), is charged with administering the fund.

"The efforts we are celebrating today have gone a long way toward protecting the state's historical places," said THC Executive Director Patrick McIntyre. "By preserving battlefield land, we gain the opportunity to restore, interpret and maintain some of Tennessee's most significant cultural resources..."

The Civil War Trust is the premier nonprofit organization devoted to the preservation of America's hallowed battlegrounds. Although primarily focused on protecting Civil War battlefields, through its Campaign 1776 initiative, the Trust also seeks to save battlefields connected to the Revolutionary War and War of 1812. To date, the Trust has preserved nearly 45,000 acres of battlefield land in 23 states, including 3,315 acres in Tennessee. Learn more by visiting [www.civilwar.org](http://www.civilwar.org).

From April *Civil War News*

## APRIL MEETING

By Mark Matranga

The Civil War Round Table hosted Diane Monroe Smith at its 761st Regular Meeting on April 21, 2017. Her topic, *Command Conflict in the Overland Campaign*, was in large part a critique of Ulysses Grant's generalship and war record and his failures during the Overland Campaign and in the Wilderness in particular. As regards Grant, Smith considers him to have been the recipient of good fortune during the war. Political backing from politicians such as Elihu Washburne, and from Henry Halleck, described as Grant's 'friend,' enhanced his career. Washburne was Grant's congressman, and certainly supported his career. However, many generals had political backing, most notably Sherman; many high ranking officers from McClellan to Hooker looked to elected officials for support. Some had held office before the war and capitalized on political connections, witness Ben Butler; not all those with political connections were successful - Fremont and Banks come to mind.

Whether Halleck could be considered friendly to Grant is debatable. Halleck treated Grant as a rival after Forts Henry and Donelson; he demoted Grant twice. Grant was very lucky just once: he was reinstated to army command after the injury and death of C.F. Smith.

Smith contends that Grant was continuously surprised in battle - Belmont, Ft. Donelson, Shiloh. Grant was surprised at Shiloh, mainly

due to Sherman's overconfidence. And he neglected his rear during the Vicksburg Campaign in the fall of 1862, allowing Van Dorn to torch the Holly Springs depot. But his ability (and Sherman's) to react when surprised by the enemy was in evidence after the initial shock on April 6, 1862. More specifically, it cannot be said that he reacted slowly or inappropriately when he learned of the approach of Lee's army in the Wilderness. The attack on May 5th was not a surprise - Grant issued orders to 'pitch in' to Lee, if possible.

In all, Grant's record in the West was one of success. He is given perhaps too much credit for Chattanooga, for example, and it is possible that reasons personal were behind the sacking of Rosecrans and his later near removal of Thomas. Lew Wallace was treated rather severely. For certain he fired McClellan on a pretext, but that political officer, whose troops Grant relied on at Champion Hill and at Vicksburg, was in fact scheming to take over his army. Grant was guilty of promoting loyal staff and favored subordinates. And one must concede that there were many experienced cavalrymen in the Army of the Potomac who would have been better equipped to command than Sheridan.

Regarding the roles of Meade and Warren in the Overland Campaign, Grant wisely kept Meade in command despite the misplaced displeasure of both the administration and

Congress over his performance at and after Gettysburg. Meade did not deserve these burdens, but the Army of the Potomac had a reputation of 'fighting for defeat' which caused Grant to be wary. This ultimately affected Warren, who Smith notes was neglected by Meade and hounded by Grant and, ultimately and unfairly, by Sheridan.

But Grant did not leave Warren isolated in the Wilderness - Meade and Humphreys, with Grant's assent, planned the overnight stop, and Hancock was within supporting distance and fought along the Plank Road on May 5th. Grant made a crucial error in siding with Sheridan's plan for a massive cavalry raid on Richmond - better use of the cavalry during the entire campaign could have brought much greater success.

Smith maintains that as source materials on the Wilderness are scarce too much emphasis is placed on Grant's *Memoirs*. This is unfortunate: the *Memoirs* are perhaps great literature, but not history, and one observes that history has not always been kind to our 18th President. Meade deserves greater credit from, and Warren, thankfully, has been vindicated by, history for their roles in the war for the union. But Grant was unarguably one of the architects of victory.

## GRAPESHOT



Leslie Goddard will present “Gone With the Wind” May 10th at the White Oak Library District, Lockport Branch Library. Visit [www.lesliegoddard.info](http://www.lesliegoddard.info) for times and more information.

The Civil War Museum in Kenosha will host its Second Friday Lecture Series, Friday, May 12th, at noon. The topic is “Slavery, Secession, and the Voyage of the Lady Elgin,” presented by Brian Kangas. This program focuses on Milwaukee on the eve of the election of 1860 highlighting the conflict between Wisconsin’s Radical Republicans, led by Governor Alexander Randall and Irish Democrats in Milwaukee’s Third Ward.

Information on all Civil War Museum programs is available at (262) 653-4140 or [www.thecivilwarmuseum.org](http://www.thecivilwarmuseum.org).

Rob Girardi will present “The Murder of General Bull Nelson” May 8th at the Indianapolis 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, May 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 FREE.

### More Upcoming Civil War Events

May 3rd, Kankakee Valley CWRT:

**Bruce Allardice** on “Jeff Davis’s Colonels”

May 5th, Northern Illinois CWRT:

Dan Joseph on “The 82nd Illinois”

May 9th, McHenry County CWRT:

Steve Fratt on “Civil War Tactics and Combat”

May 11th, Lake County CWRT:

“Funeral Practices of the Civil War”

May 11th, Milwaukee CWRT: Rev.

**Robert J. Miller** on “Faith of the Fathers”

May 16th, Lincoln-Davis CWRT:

Tom Ryan on “Spies, Secrets and Scouts at Gettysburg”

May 18th, South Suburban CWRT:

Bob Kuzma on “Will County During the Civil War”

May 19th, Salt Creek CWRT: Rev.

**Robert J. Miller** on “For God, Church, and Country: Catholic Civil War Chaplains”

## Bulletin Board



### FUTURE MEETINGS

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

June 9th: Don Sender on “Untold Facts of the Custer Debacle”

Sept. 8th: Ed Bonekemper on “False Remembrance of the Civil War, The Myth of the Lost Cause”

Oct. 13th: Dave Powell on “Chickamauga”

Nov. 10th: Tom Clemens on “Antietam”

Dec. 8th: David Dixon on “Lost Gettysburg Address”

### Abraham Lincoln Bookshop

Their next Civil War related “Author’s Voice” is 6 p.m. June 9th, when Daniel Weinberg talks with author Sidney Blumenthal about his book, Wrestling with His Angel the 2nd installment of Blumenthal’s biography of Abraham Lincoln.

**Don’t forget to donate to the Ed Bearss fund!**