

# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Founded December 3, 1940



Volume LXXX, Number 6

Chicago, Illinois

February 2020

## Connie Langum on *The Battle of and for Wilson's Creek*



On February 14, Connie Langum will speak on "Wilson's Creek." This first major battle in Missouri, in 1861, was one of the bloodiest battles of the early war: A Confederate victory, which saw the death of the Union army commander. She will discuss why six hours on August 10,

is the Park Historian. She has a BA from Missouri Southern State College and an MA in American History from Pittsburg State University in Pittsburg, Kansas. She is the Historic Weapons Supervisor at Wilson's Creek and enjoys giving small arms and artillery programs to the public. Connie

1861 were important and then cover the battlefield's journey to become part of the National Park

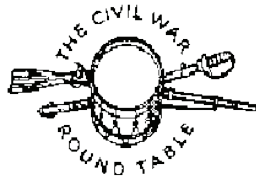


Service. She will also cover recent developments and the current renovation of our Visitor Center.

Ms. Connie Langum is a 28-year veteran of the National Park Service and is currently duty stationed at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield in Republic, Missouri, where she

is a lifetime member of the Newtonia Battlefields Association, and actually grew up

a mere 15 miles from the battlefield. She is involved with the American Battlefield Trust and serves as Program Chair for the Civil War Round Table of the Ozarks. Connie and her husband Rick live in Springfield MO and are kept busy by their 16-year old daughter Madeline.



### 789th REGULAR MEETING

★★★★★

Friday, February 14th

★★★★★

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

Dear Preservationist,

I recently wrote to you about our effort to save hallowed ground at three battlefields in Tennessee, the second-most fought-over state of the American Civil War. I asked for your support to add to the 639 acres we have already preserved across the Fort Donelson, Brown's Ferry (near Chattanooga), and Franklin battlefields.

Many of you made a gift to help this effort. Then, I wrote to you to share good news that your donations enabled us to save land at Fort Donelson and Brown's Ferry! I also asked for your generosity once more – to get across the finish line at Franklin by raising the remaining \$18,000 towards our \$73,250 goal.

I am pleased to share with you that many of you answered the call to help us reach our goal. Thanks to your steadfast effort, we can now declare victory on all three parcels, saving a total of 15 acres!

The Franklin Battlefield is particularly meaningful for me. Until recently, these hallowed acres were considered lost — paved over and nearly forgotten. It wasn't too long ago that both a Domino's and a Pizza Hut stood on the land where 11 Medals of Honor were awarded, and 9,200 soldiers fell, killed, wounded or missing.

But thanks to committed supporters like you and a dedicated team of local partners, we have been able to help claw back this battlefield, acre by acre, to tell the story of one of the Civil War's most horrendous days.

Preservation isn't always a simple task, but I hope you would agree that

it is worth the effort. Thank you for sticking with me in this fight. You should feel immensely proud of the legacy you are leaving.

With Gratitude,

Jim Lighthizer

President

American Battlefield Trust

P.S. The preservation fight continues in Tennessee! Our current effort to save 338 acres at four battlefields includes a landmark site at Brown's Ferry.

### Cobb County To Participate In Battlefield Preservation Project

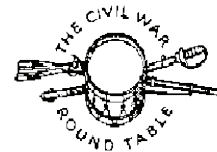
The LAMAR Institute will be conducting an archaeological and historical investigation to locate and delineate the boundaries of the 1864 American Civil War Ruff's Mill Battlefield, located in the Concord Covered Bridge Historic District of Cobb County.

In August 2019, the LAMAR Institute was awarded an American Battlefield Protection Program grant of more than \$95,000 from the National Park Service for the Ruff's Mill Battlefield Project. The focus of the grant will help provide local details within a broader national context that will empower the community in its education and preservation efforts.

The Battle of Ruff's Mill, near the town of Smyrna in Cobb County, Georgia represents an important linchpin battle resulting in the fall of Atlanta.

"We are excited to work with Cobb County residents, employees, and organizations to use historical

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1039 Hinswood

Darien, Illinois 60561

Phone: 630-460-1865

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).

archaeology to locate and uncover the very important story of the Ruff's Mill Battlefield, as well as the stories of the men, women, and children, both African-American and white, who affected the battle and were impacted by it," said the LAMAR Institute's Rita Elliott.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) specialists will overlay historical maps, aerial photographs, and Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) images to determine potential tracts and areas within tracts to conduct field work. Skilled battlefield archaeologists will conduct controlled metal detector survey across tracts in the project area. Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) survey will be used in select areas to assist in the locating of subsurface remains of earthworks such as trenches, rifle pits, and artillery impact craters. Archaeologists also will conduct a survey of collectors and metal detectorists to gather information on where various battle artifacts have been discovered.

From the Cobb County government.

# CWRT FUNDS RAYMOND MARKERS

Brian,

We successfully installed all 23 interpretive markers on the Raymond battlefield this past Friday and Saturday, 13-14 December. I've attached photos of the two markers sponsored by the Civil War Roundtable of Chicago. I think they do you proud!

Parker Hills

Friends of Raymond Battlefield



## GRAPESHOT



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

### **Sunday, February 2, 1-2pm. Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Performed by Laura Keyes**

Elizabeth Cady Stanton fought for equal rights for Women for over fifty years. During this first-person performance, hear from Mrs. Stanton in 1866, when the Civil War was over, but the battle for Women's Suffrage was just beginning.

### **Friday, February 28, 12-1pm. Buford's Brigade at Gettysburg. Presented by Dr. Laurence D. Schiller**

Actions of Buford's First Cavalry Division on July 1st, 1863, at Gettysburg are used to illustrate how the Federal cavalry had matured over the preceding two years into competent American Dragoons who could fight equally well mounted or dismounted and could use both tactics in a combined arms doctrine.

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

**Rob Girardi** will speak on "Railroad Defense in the Atlanta Campaign" at the Kenosha Civil War Museum's monthly brown bag Friday event. For more on Rob's programs, visit <https://www.robtegirardi.com/>

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

### Please Note

Make your Reservations by Sunday, Feb. 9, 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

**Feb. 3rd**, 2 Old Goats in Cedar Lake, IN: Brian Conroy on "1st Michigan Engineers"

**Feb. 6th**, Northern Illinois CWRT: Wayne Rhine on "The Chicago Battery"

**Feb. 13th**, Milwaukee CWRT: Connie Langum on "Wilson's Creek"

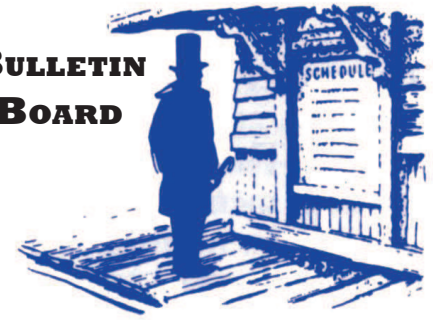
**Feb. 18th**, Lincoln-Davis CWRT: Battlefield Balladeers perform "Songs of the Civil War"

**Feb. 21st**, Salt Creek CWRT: Gene Salecker on "The Sultana Disaster"

**Feb. 27th**, South Suburban CWRT: Dr. James Pula, "11th Corps at Chancellorsville"

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*.

**Mar. 13th:** David Sutherland on VMI's Civil War Legacy

**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

## CWRT BOARD MEETING MARCH 7

The CWRT's Executive Committee will hold their winter board meeting March 7, at the Chicago History Museum. All interested CWRT members are welcome to attend.

## 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.

## JANUARY MEETING

Pamela Toler addressed The Civil War Round Table at its 788<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting on January 10, 2020, on “Heroines of Mercy Street: Nursing in the Civil War.” As Toler noted, nursing as a profession did not exist in the United States at the time of the Civil War. To the extent nursing was performed, it was “being there, being available,” providing comfort not care. Servants provided private nursing and there were charity hospitals but these were for the indigent only. And those who worked in those institutions were of the same lower class, so-called ‘ten day’ women, those who worked in Bellevue rather than being committed to jail or the workhouse.

Nursing came into public view with the work of ‘The Lady with the Lamp,’ Florence Nightingale, during the Crimean War. At the start of the Civil War, nursing was performed by convalescing soldiers. However, Dorothea Dix, a crusader for the poor and mentally ill presented herself at the White House and proposed a corps of women who had worked with Nightingale in the Crimea. Secretary of War Cameron appointed her Superintendent of Female Nurses, the first executive position held by a woman in the U.S. government. Dix sought out moral, respectable matronly types who displayed seriousness and integrity as well as the capacity to care for the sick. Dix demanded neatness, order, sobriety, and industry, and many answered the call. In all, some 20,000 from all social classes served in the corps.

Dix’s corps accounted for only 15% of the total number of nurses who served. Others worked for the U.S. Sanitary Commission which had somewhat official affiliation with the Army. These nurses worked during the Peninsula Campaign and in Sanitary Commission Hospitals and were in part made up of New York socialites. Some nurses worked directly with their husbands’ regiments and became officially attached to them. Still others, such as Clara Barton, had no official relationship with the units to which they attached themselves. But all faced the same challenges: families that resisted their daughters becoming nurses thinking their reputations would be ruined; from a society that felt working in a hospital coarsened a woman; and from hostile doctors who thought women lacked the strength and modesty to perform the task.

Overcoming the hostility of doctors became a rite of passage for most nurses. More so, nurses added a human dimension to the convalescence experience as the female caregivers saw their patients as individuals whereas doctors saw them as cases. Nurses provided care that exceeded medical treatment. They soothed and comforted wounded and sick soldiers, helped them write letters home, and became advocates for their care. Eventually, some became convinced they could operate hospitals better than men.

In the end, the experience of war was pivotal for female nurses. Like their male counterparts, they were taken away from their traditional societal roles and thrust into new work. But unlike men, their work in the war coincided with the multiple reform movements that preceded the Civil War and continued in its aftermath. In that brief period where, as Toler has one letter writer tell us “I wouldn’t be anywhere else in the world,” these women had been transformed. Many went

on to set up schools and programs for the poor and orphans. Others joined the growing labor, temperance, and suffrage movements. And nursing itself grew: in 1868 the American Medical Society recommended that schools for nurses be established; 15 such schools had been started in 1880, 432 in 1900.

Mary Livermore characterized civil war nurses as wrecks, driftwood from the Civil War. But Pam Toler brings them to prominence by fitting their work into the great endeavor of the war. More importantly, in demonstrating the great advance civil war nurses made for women at a time when it had been unthinkable that women could take on the vital role of healing the sick and wounded, Toler broadens our understanding and appreciation of the role of gender in the study of history.

### **70th Battlefield Tour: “The Campaign in West Virginia 1861”**

NOTE: Tour scheduled for June 3rd - 7th and will be limited to one bus.

Ed Bearss is our Chief Guide. Local Guides are Hunter Lesser, Rick Wolfe & Christopher Taylor

**THURSDAY, June 4, 2020.** EARLY DEPARTURE. Bus loads at 7:00AM & departs at 7:30AM. Grafton National Cemetery, Grafton, WV; Philippi Battlefield, Philippi, WV; Stop at Laurel Hill Rich Mountain, Field of Fire. - Lunch Corricks Ford, Parsons, WV; Arrive at Base Hotel to freshen up Elkins ...Dinner at Smoke on the Water Restaurant, cash bar

**FRIDAY, June 5, 2020.** Bus loads at 7:30AM & departs at 8:00AM Huttonsville (leave bus and enter vans). Elkwater, (use vans to tour Fort Marrow & Washington death site); Cromer Top, (combat on Cheat Mountain & more); Cheat Bridge, (use vans to access Cheat Summit Fort) Camp Bartow. Lunch at Old House Run Picnic Area Camp Allegheny (access in vans). Dinner at Beverly Heritage Center, Beverly, WV, cash bar

**SATURDAY, June 6, 2020.** Bus loads at 7:30AM & departs at 8:00am. Most of the Day (including Lunch) spent at Droop Mountain, Hillsboro, WV. Beverly, Walking tour of Beverly Heritage Center & historic Beverly, shops, etc..... Dinner at Beverly Heritage Center, cash bar

**SUNDAY, June 7, 2020.** Check out of hotel before we head out for the day. We will NOT be returning to the hotel. Attendees who drive from Chicago to 2020 WV tour, will drive to Sunday stops in own vehicle. EARLY DEPARTURE Bus loads at 7:00AM & departs at 7:30AM. Battle of Kessler’s Cross Lanes, Summersville, WV; Battle of Carnifax Ferry, Summersville, WV; Lunch at Glen Ferris Inn, Gauley Bridge, WV; After lunch, bus will depart for Yeager Airport, Charleston, WV. Direct flight back to Chicago on United# UA 5393, departing at 5:50pm & arriving 6:19pm ORD.

\* \*This tour itinerary is subject to change. For more information, visit [www.chicagocwrt.org](http://www.chicagocwrt.org).