



THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



Volume LXXX1, Number 4

Chicago, Illinois

December 2021

806th REGULAR MEETING, Friday, December 10th, 2021

Dennis Doyle on

"Illinois Regiments at Gettysburg"

Live/Zoom Meeting. Time: Dec. 10, 2021, 07:30 PM CST

Zoom Option ID 898 2284 0496; Passcode: 469131



During the Battle of Gettysburg (July 1-3, 1863), there were three Illinois Regiments that served in the Army of Potomac. Those regiments were the 8th and 12th Illinois Cavalry and the 82nd Infantry Regiment, and a total of 1,027 men served during the Battle of Gettysburg. The three Illinois regiments suffered nine men killed during the battle, thirty-four men were wounded and ninety-six men were either missing or captured during the battle.

The total strength of the Army of Potomac was an estimated at 90,000 men and although Illinois contributed a small number to the Army of Potomac, they served with distinction and devotion during the three-day battle.

Both the 8th and 12th Illinois Cavalry would serve well on the first day of the Battle of Gettysburg, as Lt. Marcellus Jones would fire the first shot of the battle on the morning of July 1. The two regiments would later retreat through Gettysburg and protected the Army of Potomac's left flank on Cemetery Hill on the evening of July 1 and the morning of July 2.

Also present was the 82nd Illinois Regiment, which was comprised of mostly German born soldiers and many who were recruited from Chicago. Under the overall command of Maj. Gen. O. O. Howard, the 82nd Illinois Regiment would serve in the 11th Corps.

On Dec. 12th Professor Dennis Doyle will present his thoughts on the Illinois Regiments at Gettysburg.

Dennis Doyle earned his BA from Colorado State University, and his MA in American History from American Public University. Since 1999 he has taught History and Sociology at Joliet Jr. College, in Joliet Illinois. Professor Doyle is President of the South Suburban Civil War Round Table, and Treasurer of the Chicago CWRT. A former college football player, he is a long time college and high school football referee.

Battlefield Preservation

Dear _____,

Giving Tuesday is only days away, and I'd like to share with you how important it is, not only to the American Battlefield Trust, but its significance to our shared sense of community and responsibility.

Each year, people around the world take part in this nationwide day of giving where simple acts of generosity for individual and organizational change makers are encouraged and applauded.

As one of our most cherished supporters, someone who is dedicated to saving and preserving some of the most hallowed ground in America, we want to say thank you for your ongoing generosity. You make our work possible, and **you are part of a movement to ensure that the history of the United States, and the significant battles that unfolded on its soil, remain a part of our story.**

We have been issued a special challenge by a generous supporter — **they will match every gift given to this campaign through Giving Tuesday — up to \$50,000.** That means if you donate \$100, he will match that gift with \$100 of his own for a total value of \$200 to the Trust; your gift of \$250 will be matched with another \$250 for a total value of \$500. You get the idea — it's an amazing opportunity to double the value of your gift!

This is where we will rely on our community of supporters. Think about it: when you contribute to the American Battlefield Trust on Giving Tuesday and encourage your fellow history lovers to do the same, we collectively can have an impact on battlefield preservation to the tune of \$100,000.

You'll learn more about how we will use these funds to protect three important battlefield tracts totaling 239 acres in an upcoming email but please know this — if we as a community can raise \$50,000 this Giving Tuesday, and have it matched with an

additional \$50,000, we will be able to save land that saw fighting during the American Revolution and the Civil War.

Imagine the stories that can be preserved about brave men fighting for American sovereignty from the British on the same land that almost 100 years later saw fighting to preserve the fabric of a young country during the Civil War. It's a rare opportunity to protect land so important to our history.

Please keep the names Todd's Tavern and the Globe Tavern in mind. In the coming days, I will reach out again with stories of these two structures and how they were touchstones for fighting in the Virginia countryside — fighting to control the destiny of the United States.

During this time of year, let me say again how grateful we are to you for everything you have done during the past year. We're glad you are part of our community!

'Til the battle is won,



David N. Duncan
President
American Battlefield Trust

P.S. For those of us who are beneficiaries of your generosity on Giving Tuesday, I can tell you that we feel the collective effort from those around the country — a day of doing good for others sure does make a difference!

November Meeting

By Mark Matranga

The Civil War Round Table presented its annual **Nevins-Freeman Award** to **Tom Clemens** at its 806th Regular Meeting on November 12, 2021. Clemens, best known for his work with **Save Historic Antietam Foundation** and as editor of Ezra Carmen's Maryland Campaign, delivered an informative address on the career of General Joseph K.F. Mansfield, a man known only, if known at all, for having been mortally wounded moments after arriving on the Antietam battlefield on September 17, 1862. But as Clemens pointed out, Mansfield's career was a far more fulfilling one than his sudden and tragic end seemingly implies.

Born December 22, 1803, in New Haven, Connecticut, Mansfield graduated from West Point second in the class of 1822. He began his career with the Corps of Engineers overseeing

construction of fortifications along the southern coast. By the time of the Mexican War he was Superintendent of Engineers at Fort Pulaski. In the interim, he received promotions: first lieutenant in 1832, captain in 1838. He served as Chief Engineer for General Zachary Taylor, suffering a severe leg wound at the Battle of Monterrey; he also participated in the Battle of Buena Vista and other actions. He received three promotions for gallant service and ended the war as a brevet colonel. Along the way he made a favorable impression on Jefferson Davis who would soon become Secretary of War.

With the installation of the Pierce administration, Mansfield was promoted to colonel in the U.S Army and appointed Inspector General by Davis on May 28, 1853. In this role he visited all posts west of the Mississippi, including those in the new Department of New Mexico created from the Mexican Cession and the Department of California. He visited Texas and installations in the Oregon and Washington Territories as well. Clemens emphasized how thoroughly Mansfield went about this work which impressed Winfield Scott, who when the war came recommended him for command of the army being assembled to move on Manassas. But Scott was overruled by Treasury Secretary Chase who wanted an Ohioan, and Mansfield was bypassed despite outranking Irwin McDowell. He was, however, promoted to brigadier general, effective May 6, 1861.

Mansfield was instead appointed to command the Department of Washington, where he supervised defenses. After First Manassas he rallied the routed union troops and positioned them to defend the capitol but was relegated to backwater areas thereafter: Hatteras Inlet and Hampton Roads where he had his sole combat experience commanding batteries firing on the CSS Virginia. McClellan apparently sought Mansfield for divisional command, but he did not receive the appropriate promotion until July 1862, too late for the battles before Richmond.

Mansfield was given the opportunity at long last to lead troops in battle when he was assigned Nathaniel Banks' former corps, now XII Corps, Army of the Potomac, as McClellan pursued Lee across Maryland in September 1862. He received orders on September 12, finally joining the army on September 15 on the eve of battle. He found half his troops were totally without experience; three brigades had new commanders replacing those wounded at Cedar Mountain. Nonetheless, he crossed Antietam Creek on September 16 per McClellan's orders to support Hooker, accompanied by a staff of two. Clemens described his advance as "slow and tedious" as he moved south from the Line Farm toward the area between the East and North Woods. Once at the top of the East Woods, Mansfield was ordered by Hooker to move across an open field to the Hagerstown Pike. The XII Corps was aligned in column of divisions, an alignment good for marching but not for fighting. Hood launched his counterattack while Mansfield was moving his men into proper position. While doing so, he detected, incorrectly, that the 10th Maine was firing into friendly troops. Upon being informed of his error and moving away from harm's way he was shot through the lung. Taken to the Line Farm, he

died the next day. His permanent promotion to major general was made posthumously.

Until the Civil War, Mansfield's career had been successful by traditional measure. Unfortunately, he will always be remembered as the general who died two days after assuming leadership. But Mansfield was doing only what other Civil War generals did: leading volunteer soldiers from the front. He perhaps lacked the experience for corps command in September 1862, but not brigade command the year before. His age was raised as a factor but one notes that R.E. Lee was only three years older. After hearing much of a recommended general's skills Napoleon asked, "But is he lucky?" Clemens' judicious assessment leaves us pondering whether despite obvious qualities, Mansfield may just have been unlucky.



BULLETIN BOARD

The **Kenosha Civil War Museum** is putting on the following in-person programs:

The Lincoln Marriage: Heaven or Hell?

Friday, December 10 | Noon | Presenter: Steven Rogstad

The Lincoln marriage remains one of the most controversial areas of study among scholars. Viewed in both sympathetic and critical perspectives, the marriage has been described as both a hell on Earth for Abraham Lincoln and a compassionate and loving union.

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

The **Congress of Civil War Round Tables** is sponsoring a series of virtual Civil War Lectures by some of the nation's leading historians. Visit
<http://www.cwrtcongress.org/lectures.html> to view the complete schedule and register

On December 9th , starting at 3:30 CST, the **Abraham Lincoln Bookshop**'s "House Divided" series will feature an interview with author Meg Groeling, who will discuss her latest book, *First Fallen: The Life of Colonel Elmer Ellsworth*. Visit <https://alincolinbookshop.com/> for more.

More Upcoming Local Civil War Events

Due to government-ordered shutdowns, CWRT events are being cancelled or going online on an ad hoc basis. Contact the sponsoring organization for up-to-date details. Check the **Announcements** section of the CWRT's website for additional coming events.

Dec. 3rd, Northern Illinois CWRT: TBD

Dec. 4th, Two Old Goats in Cedar Lake: Gene Salecker on "The Second Pearl Harbor"

Dec. 9th, Milwaukee CWRT: Dennis Doyle on "Illinois Regiments at Gettysburg"

Dec. 16th, South Suburban CWRT: Holiday Party

Dec. 17th, Salt Creek CWRT: Gordon Ramsey on "Balloons in the Civil War"

Dec. 21st, Lincoln-Davis CWRT: Tom Emery on "Moments in Lincoln's Life"

Future Chicago CWRT Meetings

Jan. 14th, 2021: Jen Murray on *General Meade*

Feb. 11th: Ann Durkin Keating on *Juliette Kinzie, the Civil War, and the Making of Chicago*

March 11th: Mark Laubacher on *The USS Red Rover: Hospital of Firsts*

Apr. 8th: Jeffrey Hunt on *Meade and Lee at Rappahannock Station and Mine Run*

May 13th: Dr. Thomas Carson on *Lincoln as Moral Exemplar*

June 10th: Lauren Szady on *TBD*



Happy Holidays!

