

AUGUST 2015



SOUTH SUBURBAN



NEWSLETTER



Vice President / Quizmaster  
Steve LaBarre

Established 1953  
\*\*New President\*\*  
Dennis R. Doyle  
SSCWRT@gmail.com  
(815) 274-5321

Treasurer  
Gordon Ramsey  
Secretary / Newsletter  
Donna M. Tarvid

LOCATION: SMOKEY BARQUE  
20 KANSAS STREET  
FRANKFORT, ILLINOIS

Time: THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 2015 AT 7:00 PM

Join us for dinner beginning at 5:30 p.m.  
Stay for the meeting at 7:00 p.m.!



Join the  
Smokey Barque Club  
by texting "Smokey"  
to 411669  
and receive 10% off  
your meal

WELCOME

We have lots in store for the 2015-2016 season of the South Suburban Civil War Round Table.  
Our new Schedule is attached.



New President Dennis Doyle presenting former President Russ Tarvid with a commemorative plaque.

At our May 2015 meeting, we said good-bye to Russ Tarvid who served as our President for 6 years. In appreciation for Russ' service, the SSCWRT presented him with a commemorative plaque. We thank Russ for his service and look forward to seeing him at our meetings. Russ passed the gavel to his successor and new President, Dennis Doyle. Dennis is a history and sociology professor at Joliet Junior College. We look forward to our first meeting with new President Dennis Doyle on August 27!



Former President Russ Tarvid passing the gavel to new President Dennis Doyle.



Helen Milam

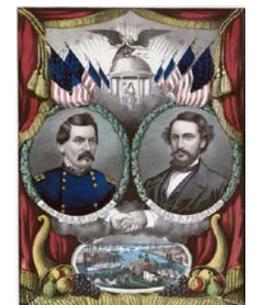
Many thanks to our May speaker Helen Milam who talked about *Ella King Newsom: Florence Nightingale of the South*. Helen also shared her experiences of how she first became involved in the world of reenacting and historical presenting. We look forward to having Helen back to speak to our group.



Our speaker on **Thursday, August 27** will be **Bruce Allardice** who will talk about **The Election of 1864**. Bruce is past president of the Northern Illinois Civil War Round Table and the Civil War Round Table of Chicago. He teaches history at South Suburban College. Bruce's latest book, *Two Years Before the Paddlewheel: Charles F. Gunther, Mississippi River Confederate*, traces the curious career of Chicagoan Charles F. Gunther, a German-born Yankee trapped in the South by the onset of the Civil War. Other books include *More Generals in Gray*; *Confederate Colonels: A Biographic Register*; and *Kentuckians in Gray*. For information [www.civilwarbruce.com](http://www.civilwarbruce.com).



Lincoln / Johnson



McClellan/Pendleton

Save the Date  
Kankakee History Symposium  
October 10, 2015

**\*\* STOP THE PRESSES \*\***

### NEW SSCWRT FACEBOOK PAGE AND WEBSITE

Our new President was very busy this summer. Thanks to the efforts of SSCWRT President Dennis Doyle, I'm pleased announce the creation of a SSCWRT Facebook page and a new website. "Like" us on Facebook and keep up to date with news and events on our website. Check it out at: [www.southsuburbancwrt.com](http://www.southsuburbancwrt.com).



Facebook



### 2015-2016 MEMBERSHIP DUES

It's time to get your **2015-2016 membership dues** to our Treasurer, Gordon Ramsey. Due to the creation of our new website and the purchase of a projector, the yearly **dues have increased**. Yearly dues are \$25 for individuals, \$30 for families, and \$5 for students. If paying by check, **please make check payable to Gordon Ramsey**. Your support helps keep our group going! There is no admission charge for our presentations. We are proud to continue to bring high quality presentations to the region at such little cost. A Membership form is attached.



\$25 Individuals  
\$30 Families  
\$5 Students

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our brick has been installed! You may recall one of the benefactors of the 2014 Holiday Party silent auction proceeds was the **Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation**. The SSCWRT purchased a 6" x 12" brick at a cost of \$125 memorializing the SSCWRT at The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield. The Paver Campaign offsets the costs associated with the purchase of the Taper Collection. Our brick is located in Row 3 Paver 1 in Union Square Park (across from the Library and Museum).



Congratulations to Vice President Steve LaBarre, author-to-be, who signed and sealed his contract from McFarland Publishing for his regimental history of the Fifth Massachusetts Colored Cavalry! Steve has already been published in the scholarly journal *The Gettysburg Magazine*, but this will be his first full-length book. Bravo!



### IN THE NEWS

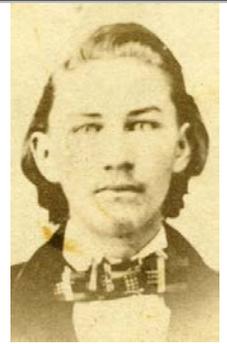
On July 7, 2015, Dr. Michael Gregory and 50-plus volunteers participated in the fifth archaeological excavation on the site of **Camp Douglas** sponsored by the **Camp Douglas Foundation**. A Union Civil War button was found along with what appears to be grommets from a rubber blanket commonly used by Confederate and Union soldiers. In addition, several clay pipes of unknown origin were discovered. The grommets and pipes are being researched to determine their origins and any possible connection with Camp Douglas. Another excavation on this site is tentatively planned for the fall of 2015. For more information regarding the Camp Douglas Foundation go to: [www.campdouglas.org](http://www.campdouglas.org).



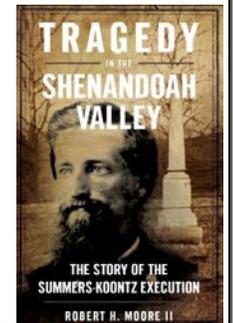
## IN THE NEWS



On May 22, 1865, Captain George Washington Summers, Sergeant Isaac Newton Koontz, and two other young veterans of Company D, 7th Virginia Cavalry were returning home to Luray after their unit disbanded at the surrender at Appomattox. As they traveled, the four men came upon six Union cavalymen near Woodstock. Koontz, Summers and the other two men robbed the Federal cavalymen of their horses and possessions. When the young soldiers returned home to Luray, their families feared their actions might bring repercussions from the occupying Union army and urged the men to return the stolen horses. The horses were returned the next day to the 192<sup>nd</sup> Ohio Volunteer Infantry at Rude's Hill. The Luray men were given receipts for the returned property and all was said to be forgiven. Despite this, an order was later issued for the men to be arrested. The others escaped, but Summers and Koontz were captured and shot without trial on June 27, 1865. On the same date, June 27, 150 years later, a ceremony commemorating the execution of Capt. Summers and Sgt. Koontz took place on-site at the monument. The program included a color guard and a wreath-laying by the United Daughters of the Confederacy and descendants of Capt. Summers.



George Washington Summers



## FREE ADMISSION DAYS - 2015

The **Joliet Area Historical Museum** located at 204 Ottawa Street in Joliet will have free admission on **Saturday, October 10** in honor of the Museum's birthday and **Friday, November 27** for Light Up the Holidays Celebration. ⚙⚙⚙

The **National Park Service** free admission days are:

- ◆ August 25 ◆
- ◆ September 26 ◆
- ◆ November 11 ◆

**Smithsonian** magazine's **Museum Day Live!** is Saturday, **September 26**. This annual event in which participating museums across the country open their doors to anyone presenting a ticket for free. A list of participating museums can be found at: <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/museumday/>. Print tickets from website.



## \* ATLAS OBSCURA \*

**Dead Man's Hole.** The Civil War between the Union and Confederacy famously raged in Congress and on the battlefield. Less documented were the clashes between partisan groups in small neighborhoods and communities. For some unlucky Union sympathizers the war fatally ended in a gaping Texas sinkhole. Entomologist Ferdinand Lueders made the earliest recorded discovery of this cave in 1821. Notorious in the Civil War era, the hole is believed to have been the dumping ground for up to 17 bodies, including those of pro-Union Judge John R. Scott and settler Hans Heinrich Adolf Hoppe, several Reconstruction-era county government officials, and Ben McKeever, who had a conflict with local freedmen. An oak tree which once stood over the cave was said to have rope marks caused by hangings. Powerful gases prevented thorough exploration of the site until 1951. The hole was platted in 1968 by the Texas Speleological Society and was found to be 155 feet deep and 50 feet long. Read all about this unusual hole at: <http://www.atlasobscura.com/places/dead-mans-hole>.

**SIDEBAR:** Hans Heinrich Adolf Hoppe moved his family to Burnet County, Texas because he refused to support the Confederate cause. He was murdered by a band of bushwhackers in 1863 near Double Horn and his body was thrown into Dead Man's Hole.

Adolf Hoppe  
c. 1820-1863

Wilson's Creek was the first major Civil War battle fought west of the Mississippi River, and the scene of the death of Nathaniel Lyon, the first Union general killed in combat.

### ONGOING EXHIBITS

The **Chicago History Museum** located at 1602 North Clark Street in Chicago has a new exhibit entitled "*The Secret Lives of Objects.*" Now on display is the chapel bell from **Camp Douglas**, the 1856 Colt revolver Owen Brown (John Brown's son) used when he raided Harper's Ferry, and the table from Wilmer McLean's house in Appomattox Court House. For more information call (312) 642-4600 or <http://chicagohistory.org/>.



ChicagoHistoryMuseum



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The **Will County Historical Society** located at 803 South State Street in Lockport newest exhibit is entitled "*Weapons and Warfare of Will County.*" This exhibit has documents and artifacts from Will County's military involvement stretching from Native American wars up to the Korean War. For information call 815-838-5080.

### EVENTS

The **Tinley Park Historical Society** presents **Old Settlers Day Fair** on **Sunday, August 16 from noon to 4:00 p.m.** This wonderful event is held at the Landmark Chapel & Museum located at 6727 West 174<sup>th</sup> Street (across from the Oak Park Avenue Metra Train Station) in Tinley Park. Come and celebrate life in the early days of Tinley Park through exhibitions, display and entertainment. Enjoy the music of the **Battlefield Balladeers** as you visit ladies quilting, while Civil War soldiers stand guard. Enjoy their special display of handmade historic quilts. *Free event.*



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Living history, "**Civil War Encampment**" at the **Graue Mill and Museum** located at 3800 York Road in Oak Brook on **Saturday and Sunday, September 5 and 6 from 11:00 am-4:00 pm.** Don't miss this annual tradition when members of the 10<sup>th</sup> Illinois Regiment spend the weekend on the Mill grounds depicting what life was like in a Union military camp. Experience black powder firing demonstrations and drills, cooking, toys and crafts. For information [www.grauemill.org](http://www.grauemill.org) or call (630) 655-2090.



Frederick Graue

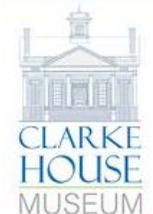
**SIDEBAR:** Frederick Graue was born in Germany, came to the United States and settled in Fullersburg, Illinois in 1842. In 1849, he purchased the site of a sawmill that had burned down, constructing a gristmill there. Limestone for the basement walls was quarried near Lemont; bricks for the rest of the walls were made from clay from the Graue farm and fired in kilns near the mill site; flooring, beams, and posts were from white oak timbers cut along the I & M canal. The four one-ton buhrstones used for grinding were imported from France. After the gristmill opened in April 1852, it ground wheat, corn and other grains produced by local farmers.



Graue Mill

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The **Clarke House Museum** located at 1827 South Indiana Avenue in Chicago presents its **Fifth Annual Family Day** on **Saturday, September 12 from noon to 6:00 pm.** Step back in time and experience a beautiful fall day in pre-Civil War Chicago. Enjoy a variety of historic activities and demonstrations. Free admission. For information <https://www.facebook.com/ClarkeHouseMuseum> or call (312) 326-1480.



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The **National Civil War and Military Collectors Show** is **Saturday, September 19 from 9:00 am-4:00 pm** at the DuPage County Fairgrounds located at 2015 W. Manchester in Wheaton. Dealers throughout the U.S. will be offering Civil War treasures and memorabilia. Admission is \$9; early buyers enter at 8:00 am for \$25. For information call (715) 526-9769 or [www.chicagocivilwarshow.com](http://www.chicagocivilwarshow.com). A \$1.00 off admission coupon is available on the website.



# **SOUTH SUBURBAN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**

**August 2015 – May 2016**

## **MEMBERSHIP**

**Please Print:**

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Name

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Address                      City              State      Zip

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Telephone

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Email

Send me information via email               Yes       No

**Make Check Payable to:** Gordon Ramsey                      gprspinphys@yahoo.com  
25311 South 88<sup>th</sup> Avenue                      (815) 469-0878  
Frankfort, IL 60423-8452

**Yearly dues are \$25 for individuals; \$30 for families; and \$5 for students.**

# **SOUTH SUBURBAN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**

**August 2015 – May 2016**

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Telephone

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Email

Send me information via email               Yes       No



**WEBSITE:** <http://www.southsuburbancwrt.com>