

SOUTH SUBURBAN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Established 1953

FEBRUARY 2015

HAMPTON ROADS CONFERENCE
FEBRUARY 3, 1865
THE BATTLE OF HATCHER'S RUN
FEBRUARY 5-7, 1865
DINWIDDIE COUNTY, VIRGINIA



NEWSLETTER

THE BURNING OF COLUMBIA,
SOUTH CAROLINA
FEBRUARY 17-18, 1865

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Steve LaBarre

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LOCATION:

SMOKEY BARQUE
20 KANSAS STREET
FRANKFORT, ILLINOIS



Time:

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2015 AT 7:00 PM

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

Many thanks to our January speaker Phil Angelo who talked about John Hunt Morgan's Raid. Phil provided a fascinating portrait of Morgan and his men and took us on a lively journey through the raid and its impact. We are grateful to Phil for another outstanding presentation!

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On **Thursday, February 26** our speaker will be SSCWRT Vice President **Steve LaBarre** and his presentation will be **Preserving and Bringing the Past Home: Luke Babcock, Company B, 2nd Kansas Cavalry**. Steven M. LaBarre is a departmental honors graduate of Olivet Nazarene University, Bourbonnais, Illinois, holding a degree in History and Sociology along with a certification as a history teacher. He is the head of reference and adult services for a public library in the suburban Chicagoland area. He is a long-standing member of the Gettysburg Foundation, Friends of the National Parks at Gettysburg and the Chicago South Suburban Civil War Round Table. He has given public lectures and guided workshops for numerous Civil War roundtables, museums, and libraries. A published author who has been featured in the *Gettysburg Magazine*, Clarke House Museum and Glessner House Museum Blog sites, Steve is currently authoring a regimental history of an African-American regiment during the American Civil War.



Luke Babcock
Co. B
2 Kans. Cav.

** SCHEDULE CHANGE **

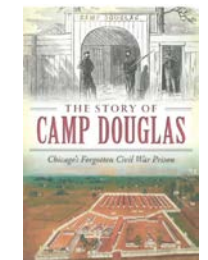
Our **March 26** speaker will be **Larry Gibbs** and his presentation will be **The Lost Cause**.

LAST CALL

After six years as serving as our Round Table's president, **Russell Tarvid** is stepping down after our May meeting. Members interested in running for the vacant office should contact Russ **no later than March 1**. Election of the new president will take place at the April meeting.



David Keller, Managing Director of the **Camp Douglas Restoration Foundation**, has a new book out entitled "*The Camp Douglas Story, Chicago's Forgotten Civil War Prison*," published by History Press and in bookstores by April. With the cooperation of History Press, the Camp Douglas Restoration Foundation is offering a special presale of the book. All net proceeds from these sales will be used for the benefit of the Foundation. **Attached is an order form to purchase the book for \$21.99.** This price includes shipping and handling. In addition, each copy will be individually signed by David Keller. Order it today!





🚗 🚗 **AROUND TOWN** 🚗 🚗

IN FEBRUARY

The **Civil War Museum** located at 5400 First Avenue in Kenosha, Wisconsin presents **General Thomas and the Battle of Nashville** on **Friday, February 13, 2015** at noon. **Jerry Kowalski** talks about Union General George Henry Thomas' defeat of John Bell Hood and the Army of Tennessee at Nashville in the winter of 1864, crushing the Confederates' desire and ability to make war in the west. For information <http://www.kenosha.org/wp-civilwar/events> or call (262) 653-4141.



General Thomas

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The **Ruth Page Theater** located at 1016 North Dearborn in Chicago presents **"Abraham Lincoln Carved in Stone."** The remarkable life of our 16th President told in his own words. This one-man play was written and is performed by Richard Marlatt for *one night only* on **February 16, 2015** at 7:00 pm. "...On this evening, my last Spring evening on a lovely green earth, April 14, 1865, Mary and I went to Ford's Theater to see the 8:30 performance...I gave my personal bodyguard the night off. We sat in the presidential box, festooned with the usual bunting and flags. The play was *"Our American Cousin,"* a delightful romantic farce about a rather bumptious American backwoodsman who finds himself in a world of aristocrats." Commemorate the 150th anniversary of the assassination of President Lincoln and the end of the Civil War by spending the evening with the President as portrayed by Richard Marlatt. Meet Mr. Lincoln at a casual reception following the performance. For tickets visit www.shawchicago.org or call (312) 587-7390.



Shaw Chicago Theater Company

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The **Canal Corridor Association** presents dinner and a little history at the Landing Restaurant located in the Gaylord Building, 200 West 8th Street in Lockport. **Bruce Allardice** will discuss **"The Ten Worst Civil War Generals"** on **Thursday, February 19** at 6:00 pm. The generals of the armies of our Civil War were a mixed lot, quite often amateur soldiers, quite often politicians masquerading as soldiers, usually devoted and courageous (but not always). In this talk, Bruce Allardice will examine Bragg, Burnside, Pemberton, how they became generals, and why they failed to justify their promotion to high rank. Reservations required and the cost is \$29 for non-CCA members, includes dinner. Please call (815) 223-1851 or reservations@canalcor.org to register.



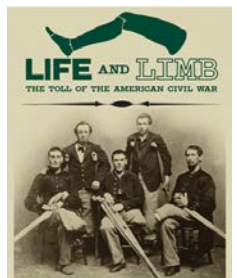
IN MARCH

The **Battlefield Balladeers** presents **"Songs of the Civil War"** at the Palos Park Public Library located at 12330 Forest Glen Boulevard in Palos Park on **Tuesday, March 10** at 7:00 pm. Register for this event by calling (708) 448-1530 or online: <http://www.palosparklibrary.org/programs.htm>.



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The **Civil War Museum** in Kenosha, Wisconsin presents **Civil War Medical Weekend** on **Saturday, March 14** from 10:00 am-4:00 pm and **Sunday, March 15** from noon-4:00 pm. A weekend of living history, programs, and exhibits commemorating the role of physicians, nurses, and caregivers during the Civil War. Watch surgeons and nurses of the 17th Corps demonstrate bullet removal, brain surgery, and amputation. On **Saturday, March 14** at 11:00 am **Helen Milam** will portray Civil War Nurse Mary Ann Bickerdyke, a widow from Galesburg, Illinois, who struggled with her family to survive. During the Civil War she became one of the Union Army's most trusted and beloved nurses and hospital administrators. This presentation gives you an insight into the driving force that kept this feisty woman with the Union Army until the end of the war, and was called "the woman that outranked General Sherman." See also **"Life and Limb: The Toll of the American Civil War"** an exhibition by the National Library of Medicine. **The Fifth Annual Civil War Expo** at the Civil War Museum is **Saturday, March 21**. For information call (262) 653-4141.



Saturday,
March 21

IN APRIL

Built in 1836 for Henry B. Clarke, the **Clarke House Museum** located at 1827 South Indiana Avenue, is the oldest house in Chicago. The Clarke House hosts many programs in April.

★ There will be a **Basic Blacksmithing Workshop** on **Saturday, April 11** from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm and **Intermediate Blacksmithing** from 1:00 pm to 2:30 p.m.

★ The **5th Annual Clarke House History Symposium: Fugitives and Freemen—The African American Experience in Early Chicago**. This event will be on **Saturday, April 25**, from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. The cost is \$30 per person. Please call (312) 326-1480 to register for these events. For a full list of events go to www.glessnerhouse.org.

The **Newberry Library** located at 60 West Walton Street in Chicago has a free exhibit entitled **“Love on Paper”** on display **through April 4, 2015**. The exhibition features handwritten notes and mass-produced cards; Valentine verses and anti-love tableaux; tender confessions and graphic revelations of platonic, heterosexual, and same-sex adoration. The exhibit includes 55 rare artifacts dating back 800 years. The exhibit includes same-sex love mentioned in a Civil War-era diary which tells the story of John M. Wing and his young lover who he met shortly after the Civil War. Wing was a publisher and printer in Chicago and shared cigars and conversation with notable politicians, businessmen, and war heroes including Sherman and Grant, all the while conducting an active romantic life with members of his own sex in boarding houses and barrooms. You can watch a segment about this exhibit on Chicago Tonight at: <http://chicagotonight.wttw.com/2015/01/21/love-paper>

The **Civil War Museum** in Kenosha, Wisconsin presents **Rob Girardi** on **Friday, April 10** who will discuss **Warren and the Appomattox Campaign**. For information <http://www.kenosha.org/wp-civilwar/events> or call (262) 653-4141.

The semi-annual **National Civil War and Military Collectors Show** will be **Saturday, April 18** from 9:00 am-4:00 pm at the DuPage County Fairgrounds, 2015 W. Manchester in Wheaton. Admission is \$9 or early buyers entered at 8:00 am for \$25. For information call (715) 526-9769 or www.chicagocivilwarshow.com. There's a \$1 off admission coupon on this website!

The **Galena-Jo Daviess County Historical Society** presents many activities **April 9 through April 19, 2015** in Galena, Illinois, including activities **commemorating 150 years since the surrender at Appomattox**. Events will kick off on April 9, the date of Lee's surrender to Grant at Appomattox, with a dinner theatre performance of *Remembering Old Galena* at the DeSoto House Hotel, plus Civil War-era songs by Galena's Bell Choir and the celebratory tolling of church bells throughout the city at sunset. A list of activities and information can be found at www.galenahistory.org or call (815) 777-9129.

IN MAY

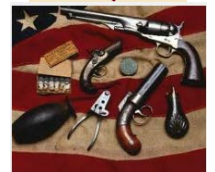
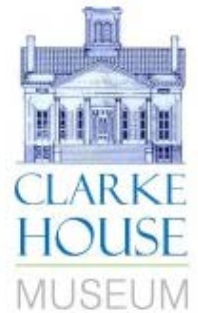
Check out **The 2015 Lincoln Funeral Coalition** website for a list of upcoming events: www.lincolnfuneraltrain.org. The sesquicentennial weekend events marking the anniversary of President Lincoln's burial begins on **Friday, May 1 through Sunday, May 3**. Although the official date of Lincoln's burial is May 4, the above dates were selected to preclude weekday business disruption. Some events require registration.

BE MY VALENTINE

Below is a transcription of a handwritten Civil War-era valentine written by Permilia Gordon to her husband Samuel who fought in the 118th Illinois Infantry Company C:

Your Valentine

*your steps are so light your movements so rare
Wouldn't wonder a bit if you lived in the air
Remember me When this you see
Roses red and Violets blue
Sugars sweet and so are you
If this paper should chance to roam
Box its ears and send it home*



Although often overshadowed by the burning of Atlanta, GA, the burning of Columbia, SC on February 17-18, 1865, was a defining moment in history. Check out the online picture gallery of **The Burning of Columbia:** <http://burningofcolumbia.com/history/>

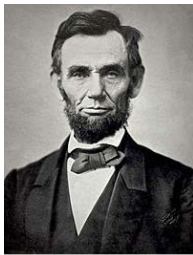


THE BATTLE OF HATCHER'S RUN

The three-day engagement known as the *Battle of Hatcher's Run* took place February 5-7, 1865. Union General U.S. Grant's two main objectives in his 1865 winter offensive were, first, to block Robert E. Lee's supply route on the Boydton Plank Road and, second, to take control of the last remaining railroad furnishing Petersburg, the South Side. The Federal forces involved were General David N. Gregg's cavalry division and Andrew Humphreys' II Corps.



The 1st Div 5th Corps charging some temporary breastworks of logs piled against trees on the morning of Tuesday 7th Feb. Thick pine woods. The ground smooth and covered with fine leaves. A.R.W. Near Hatcher's Run.



Abraham Lincoln



William H. Seward



River Queen

February 3, 1865 –

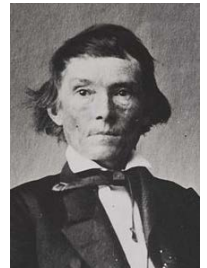
The **Hampton Roads Conference** was a peace conference held between the United States and the Confederate States on February 3, 1865, aboard the steamboat *River Queen* in Hampton Roads, Virginia, to discuss terms to end the American Civil War. President Abraham Lincoln and Secretary of State William H. Seward, representing the Union, met with three commissioners from the Confederacy: Vice President Alexander H. Stephens, Senator Robert M. T. Hunter, and Assistant Secretary of War John A. Campbell.

Blue. *Hampton Roads Conference, Virginia* –

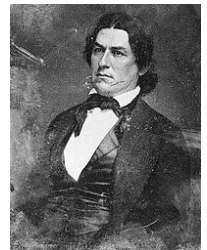
Lincoln met with Confederate Peace Commissioners without reaching any agreement.

Gray. President Davis sent three men to meet President Lincoln and Secretary of State Seward. On board the *River Queen* they talked for several hours but did not reach any agreement. Reunion of the country was the sticking point. *Messrs. Stephens, Campbell and Hunter returned to Richmond empty handed.*

From *Facts, Quotes and Anecdotes of the Civil War*, by Don C. White, SSCWRT member.



Alexander H. Stephens



Robert M. T. Hunter



John A. Campbell