

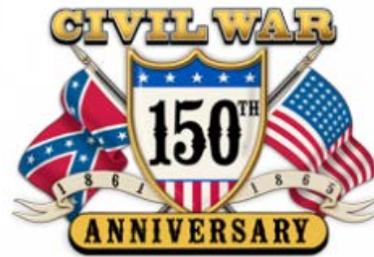
# SOUTH SUBURBAN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Established 1953

## MAY 2015

## NEWSLETTER

ABRAHAM LINCOLN  
INTERRED MAY 4, 1865  
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS



### RECONSTRUCTION BEGINS

Vice President / Quizmaster  
**Steve LaBarre**

\*\*\*President\*\*\*

**Russell Tarvid**  
SSCWRT@gmail.com  
(815) 469-7015

Treasurer  
**Gordon Ramsey**  
Secretary / Newsletter  
**Donna M. Tarvid**

**LOCATION:** SMOKEY BARQUE  
20 KANSAS STREET  
FRANKFORT, ILLINOIS



**Time:** THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2015 AT 7:00 PM



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

New President  
Beginning August 2015  
Dennis R. Doyle  
d2doyle68@yahoo.com  
(815) 274-5321

Many thanks to our April speaker Dr. David Scupham who talked about *The Day We Celebrate: A Personal Account of Surviving Andersonville*. Dave offered a gripping first-hand account of the Andersonville experience, as well as a powerful reminder of how closely connected we are to the war and its combatants.

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Our last meeting for the 2014-2015 season is on **Thursday, May 21** and our speaker will be **Helen Milam** who will talk about *Ella King Newsom: Florence Nightingale of the South*. Mrs. Ella K. Newsom, the Florence Nightingale of the Southern Army, took it upon herself to work in various hospitals in the South while providing supplies with her own money. Mrs. Newsom helped organize several Confederate hospitals and supervised other hospitals in various cities of the south. She became Chief Matron of the Hospital Department of the Army of Tennessee and gained a reputation for devotion to service second to no other hospital worker in the Western Theatre.



MRS. ELLA KING NEWSOM

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The May meeting will be **Russ Tarvid's** last as President. We thank Russ for his diligence, hard work and camaraderie in the many aspects and details of running this round table. In addition to working a full-time job, Russ managed to:  
♦secure 60 speakers; ♦find 2 new meeting venues; ♦organize 2 behind-the-scenes field trips; ♦coordinate the book signing event for Karen Abbott; ♦secure presenters, entertainment and venue for our holiday party; ♦collect silent auction items; ♦obtain books for quiz winners; ♦field telephone calls and emails; ♦increase membership; ♦decorate the Frankfort Public Library's display case commemorating and educating the public about the Civil War and the SSCWRT; and ♦pass out flyers at Dollinger Farm and Tinley Park's Olde Time Days—just to name a few.



**We thank you for your 6 years of service and look forward to seeing you at our meetings. Congratulations to Russ Tarvid on a job well done!**

**NO SSCWRT MEETINGS IN JUNE AND JULY**

**Next Meeting is August 27, 2015 – See you in August!**

**IMPORTANT:** Cruisin' Frankfort Car Club meets in downtown Frankfort on May 21—the day of our meeting. Public parking available on White and Hickory Streets. The lot across from Smokey Barque is for Cruisin' Cars.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Welcome new SSCWRT President **Dennis Doyle** who will begin his tenure in August 2015. Dennis is a history and sociology professor at Joliet Junior College. He has visited most major Civil War battlefields and recently was in Petersburg, Richmond and Appotmattox Court House, Virginia. His Civil War interests include the social history side of the Civil War, covering aspects such as industrialization, manufacturing, technology and agricultural. We look forward to our first meeting with new President Dennis Doyle on August 27!

**FACEBOOK**

The SSCWRT brings the 19<sup>th</sup> century into the 21<sup>st</sup> century! We now have a Facebook page! "Like" us on Facebook and keep up to date with news and events.

**THIS JUST IN ...**

On March 31, the Library of Congress acquired 540 rare and historic Civil War stereographs from the Robin G. Stanford Collection. The first 77 images are now online, including 12 stereographs of President Lincoln's funeral procession through several cities and 65 images by Southern photographers showing South Carolina in 1860-61. In some cases, the pictures depict life before the Civil War. One picture shows South Carolina slaves worshiping in a sparse, Rockville Plantation Negro church, in what may be the only pre-war photograph of its kind (pictured right). Read the article and see the pictures at:

<http://www.loc.gov/today/pr/2015/15-051.html?loclr=rssloc>

**FREE ADMISSION DAYS**

The **Joliet Area Historical Museum** located at 204 Ottawa Street in Joliet will have free admission days on:

- ◆May 16
- ◆June 6
- ◆July 20
- ◆October 10



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT



Facebook



**On the right,** Dawn Griffin-O'Neal, granddaughter of Charles Griffin, an African American soldier who registered with the 29th U.S. Colored Troops during the Civil War, rings a bell that hung in the chapel of Camp Douglas, a confederate prisoner of war camp that once stood on Chicago's south side.

**On the left,** David Corbett of the Battlefield Balladeers.

On April 9 the Chicago History Museum commemorated the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the Civil War by having descendants of Camp Douglas ring the chapel bell.



Camp Douglas Chapel Bell



*Five unidentified prisoners of war in Confederate uniforms in front of their barracks at Camp Douglas Prison, Chicago, Illinois*



David Keller of the Camp Douglas Restoration Foundation signs copies of his recently released book that tells the story of the Camp.

\*MEMORIAL DAY\*  
\*MAY 25\*

THE SSCWR T REMEMBERS  
ALL WHO HAVE FALLEN

**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/>.



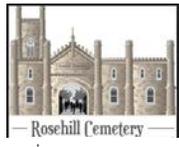
ChicagoHistoryMuseum

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.



**IN MAY**

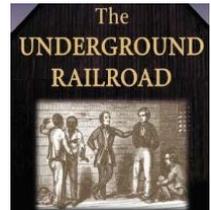
The Chicago History Museum offers guided walking tours of both **Graceland Cemetery** and **Rosehill Cemetery** on Saturday, **May 9**. Rosehill Cemetery is located at 5600 N. Western Ave. and the tour is from 10:00 am-noon. Graceland Cemetery is located at 4001 N. Clark St. and the tour begins at 2:00 pm. Tickets on sale through May 7 and can be purchased online at <http://chicagohistory.org/chicago24/> or call (312) 642-4600. The cost is \$20 for CHM members and \$25 for non-members. **Side Bar: Rosehill Cemetery** contains the graves of 14 Union generals, six drummer boys, and hundreds of Civil War soldiers. A portion of the Administration Building is devoted to a Civil War museum that features exhibits on the war.



**NEW** On Saturday, **May 9** at 1:00 pm at the **Civil War Museum** located at 5400 First Avenue in Kenosha, Wisconsin presents *Tea with Mrs. Lincoln*. Mrs. Lincoln, portrayed by Debra Ann Miller, invites you for tea, finger sandwiches, salads, and sweets. Reminisce about her childhood, her days in Springfield, and her children as she celebrates the end of the Civil War. Drawing from her own letters to friends, family, and political figures of the era, this program paints a picture of Mary Lincoln that is both sympathetic and truthful. Advance registration online is required or call 262-653-4141.



**NEW** On Wednesday, **May 13** at 7:00 pm at the **Wheaton Public Library**, Lower Level, located at 225 North Cross Street in Wheaton presents *The Underground Railroad in Wheaton*. Dr. David Maas, Professor of History Emeritus at Wheaton College will discuss the Freedom Line and his own research which led to Wheaton being added to the National Register of Historic Places' official list of Underground Railroad sites. *Free event.*



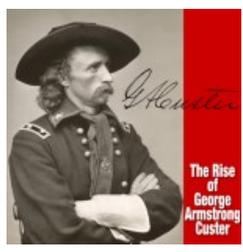
**Naper Settlement** located at 523 S. Webster in Naperville will hold its *Civil War Days* on **May 16 and 17** from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm each day with the battle taking place at 2:30 pm on each day. Look for Civil War Nurse Clara Barton (**Leslie Goddard**) on both days at 11:00 am.



On **May 17** the **Joliet Area Historical Museum** located at 204 Ottawa Street in Joliet will hold their Civil War Symposium. **Bruce Allardice** will talk about "*Chicagoland Fights the Civil War*" at 11:00 am. **Rob Girardi** will also give a presentation on "*The Rise and Fall of the GAR in Chicago.*" **David Keller** from the Camp Douglas Foundation will be present to sign his new book, *The Story of Camp Douglas, Chicago's Forgotten Civil War Prison*. For info (815) 723-5201.



**NEW** Also at the **Civil War Museum** in Kenosha on **May 21**, *The Rise of George Armstrong Custer-1861-1865*. Custer is forever remembered for his catastrophic defeat at the Battle of the Little Bighorn. But he first rocketed to national fame a dozen years earlier during the Civil War. Ranked last in the Academy's Class of June 1861, Custer reported to the front in time to participate in the First Battle of Bull Run. In less than 2 years, he received a promotion to brigadier general of U.S. Volunteers, becoming the youngest general in the Union army. Dr. Urwin's program tells the story of Custer's career identifying the elements of his spectacular success before he turned 25. Dinner & Program Event #0720870206--\$45; program only \$15. Registration required online or call (262) 653-4141.



**NEW** On Thursday, **May 21** at 7:00 pm SSCWRT member **Don White** will give a presentation on *Heroes of History: Abraham Lincoln and General Grant* at the Green Hills Public Library, first floor meeting room, located at 8611 West 103<sup>rd</sup> Street in Palos Hills. Register for this event at [www.greenhillslibrary.org](http://www.greenhillslibrary.org) or call (708) 598-8446.



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Also at the **Joliet Area Historical Museum** on **May 23** you can attend “*Dinner at the Lincoln White House.*” The Museum’s Caterpillar Auditorium will be transformed into a lively, 1860’s East Room banquet, where attendees will enjoy the sights, sounds and even some of the tastes of the Lincoln’s White House. A delicious dinner buffet accompanied by the award winning musician and Lincoln Historian, Chris Vallillo. Doors open at 6:30 pm.



**IN JUNE**

**NEW** On **June 3** from noon to 1:00 pm at the **Geneva Public Library** located at 127 James Street in Geneva presents *Mrs. Lincoln and Mrs. Kennedy*. If Mary Todd Lincoln and Jacqueline Kennedy met, what would they discuss? Listen as **Laura Keyes and Leslie Goddard** bring Mrs. Lincoln and Mrs. Kennedy to life in an imagined meeting of these two powerful women at the Smithsonian Museum’s First Ladies exhibition. Bring your lunch if you wish, or enjoy complimentary coffee and cookies. For information call (630) 232-0780 x 251 or email [cdalphy@gpld.org](mailto:cdalphy@gpld.org).



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**NEW** On **June 7** at the **Joliet Area Historical Museum** local Civil War collectors Tim and Michelle Smith will share insight and stories about their collection of Will County and Joliet based items from the Civil War including letters, weapons, photos and more. A rare look into the involvement of local Joliet and Will County residents in the Civil War and how it impacted their lives.



**NEW** Experience a unique Civil War re-enactment event on Sunday, **June 14** at 1:30 pm at the **St. James at Sag Bridge Church** located at 10600 South Archer Avenue in Lemont. Rev. Thomas Koys presents “*Civil War Re-enactment; the Ideas Behind the Bullets.*” Two Civil War-era prelates will face off on the moral issue of the day--as actual 1860’s sermons from clergymen from the North and South are re-enacted. Sitting in the oldest working church in Northern Illinois, attendees will be sitting in pews that are actually older than the 1860 sermons they will be hearing. Instead of tracing the battle lines and formations of soldiers and cavalry, attendees will be asked to look deeply into the way important clergymen of the day brought their faith, the bible and moral principles into the theatre of ideas. For information (630) 257-7000 or [www.historicstjames.org](http://www.historicstjames.org).



**IN JULY**

**NEW** The **24<sup>th</sup> Annual Civil War Days** encampment at the **Lake County Discovery Museum**, 27277 North Forest Preserve Road in Wauconda will be on Saturday, **July 11** from 10:00 am-5:00 pm and Sunday, **July 12** from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm. For information call (847) 968-3400 or visit [www.lakecountysdiscoverymuseum.org](http://www.lakecountysdiscoverymuseum.org). Admission fee.



**COMING THIS FALL**

\* ABE’S LIST \*

\* BUY/ SELL / TRADE \*

\* ATLAS OBSCURA \*

\* THREE QUESTIONS WITH \*

\* WHAT THE HECK IS IT? \*

**You’ all come back now ye hear!**

**Membership  
Has Its  
Privileges**

**REMEMBER**

**When travelling this summer be sure to sign  
the guest books of places you visit!**

Check out [www.civilwar.org/battleapps](http://www.civilwar.org/battleapps). The Civil War Trust Battle App guides will help you unlock history. All of the GPS-enabled guides can be downloaded for **free** on your iPhone, iPad or Android device.

**Get it today!**



## COMING NEXT YEAR

Matthew McConaughey (pictured right) stars as Mississippi farmer Newton Knight, who led an armed rebellion against the Confederacy. With the help of other farmers and local slaves, the former Confederate soldier fled the battlefield and launched the uprising that led Jones County, Mississippi to secede from the Confederacy, creating the Free State of Jones. After the war, he married a former slave named Rachel. Directed by Gary Ross (The Hunger Games), the film also stars Gugu Mbatha-Raw, Mahershala Ali, and Keri Russell. The Civil War action drama *The Free State of Jones* will hit theaters **March 11, 2016**.

**Side Bar:** Newton Knight was born in 1837 near the Leaf River in Jones County, Mississippi. Knight married Serena Turner in 1858 and they moved to the edge of Jasper County to set up a homestead where they grew corn and sweet potatoes, and raised hogs and cattle. Newt worked hard and tilled the land himself. According to his son, Newt never drank or cursed, was a Primitive Baptist, and doted on his children. Soon after the election of Abraham Lincoln in November 1860, slave-owning planters led Mississippi to join South Carolina and secede from the Union in January 1861. On May 13, 1862, Knight enlisted as a private into Company F of the Seventh Battalion, Mississippi Infantry in Jasper County. Read the full story at: <http://mshistorynow.mdah.state.ms.us/articles/309/newton-knight-and-the-legend-of-the-free-state-of-jones>.

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The SSCWRT newsletter is mailed two weeks prior to every meeting. If you have an announcement, event, suggestion, or comment you'd like included in the newsletter, please email me at [SSCWRT@gmail.com](mailto:SSCWRT@gmail.com). I will do my best to accommodate all requests.



Newton Knight



Rachel Knight



### ABRAHAM LINCOLN - A TIMELINE

Two days after Abraham Lincoln's murder, **Mary Lincoln** gave her approval to bury Lincoln in Springfield. A local committee swung into action, and without her consent began constructing a tomb downtown. When she learned of the location she halted the work because she knew the President wanted to rest in some "quiet place." She insisted on burial at the new Oak Ridge Cemetery north of town, then a rural location. Although the setting appears peaceful today, the site has been anything but quiet. The remains of Lincoln and his family were moved multiple times from 1865 to 1901, counterfeiters attempted to steal the President's body in 1876, the structure has required endless repairs, and millions of visitors have toured the building and grounds.

♦**May 4, 1865** - President Lincoln's burial service is held at Oak Ridge Cemetery, Springfield, Illinois, after a long train journey from Washington. Lincoln's eldest son Robert is the only immediate family member present; Mary Lincoln and her youngest son Thomas (Tad) remain temporarily in the White House. The coffins of Lincoln and his son William, who died during Lincoln's presidency at age 11, are placed in the public receiving vault.

♦**May 5, 1865** - **Robert Todd Lincoln** and **Judge David Davis** select the site of the permanent tomb.

♦**May 11, 1865** - Fifteen of Lincoln's Illinois friends create the *National Lincoln Monument Association* to develop a large tomb and start fund raising efforts. The plans call for constructing a tomb downtown, contrary to the stated wishes of the President's widow.

♦**June 5, 1865** - Mary Lincoln sends a letter to **Richard Oglesby**, chairman of the monument association, saying that if the tomb is not built at Oak Ridge, she will move the President's remains to the U.S. Capitol crypt. Five days later she repeats this message.

♦**June 14, 1865** - Members of the *Monument Association* reluctantly agree to the Oak Ridge site by a vote of 8-7.

♦**December 13, 1865** - The remains of Lincoln's son Edward, who died in Springfield at age three, are moved from Hutchinson Cemetery to a temporary tomb near the Oak Ridge public receiving vault.

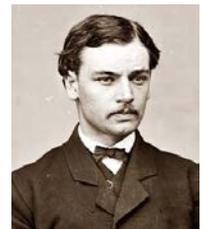
♦**December 21, 1865** - Mary and Robert Lincoln visit the tomb, and President Lincoln and his son William also are moved to the temporary vault. Lincoln's body is identified by several friends.



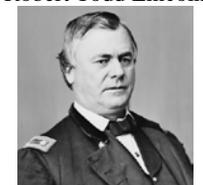
Mary Lincoln



David Davis



Robert Todd Lincoln



Richard J. Oglesby



# **SOUTH SUBURBAN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**



**Russell J. Tarvid**  
**President**

*May, 2015*

*Dear Members:*

*It has been a sincere honor serving as your President for 6 years. My heartfelt thanks goes to all of you who have supported me throughout my tenure. Special gratitude goes to my fellow officers: Vice President Steve LaBarre, Treasurer Gordon Ramsey, Secretary Donna Tarvid, and former Vice President Fred Johanson.*

*I also want to thank former Presidents Larry Gibbs, Dave Corbett, Dennis Tenk, and Dale Ramsey for their advice and support. I hope to offer the same support to our new President, Dennis Doyle.*

*Serving our round table as President has truly been a rewarding experience, not only for the opportunities to enrich my personal knowledge, but also and especially for the friendships formed through the special experiences our group has shared.*

*Sincerely,*

*Russell J. Tarvid*