



# THE drum roll

Volume 35      341st Regular Meeting  
Number 10      June 2, 2017

*Home of rare surviving Civil War artifacts*

Friday, June 2, 2017, 6:00 p.m.

Concorde Banquets  
20922 North Rand Road, Kildeer, Illinois

## National Civil War Museum



Wayne Motts

Opened in 2001, the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, is one of the largest museums in the country dedicated to telling the complete story of the war from the viewpoint of both sides. The museum holds more than 4000 three-dimensional artifacts and more than 21,000 archival items including manuscripts, diaries, letters, photographic images, newspapers, and correspondence dating from 1861–1865.

The museum's director, Wayne Motts, will take round table members on a journey of the his-

tory of the war illustrated by some of the nation's rarest surviving Civil War artifacts in the museum's collection at the annual banquet meeting on June 2, 2017.

The museum's mission is to serve as a national center to inspire lifelong learning of the American Civil War through the preservation and balanced presentation of the American peoples' struggles for survival and healing. It is committed to providing a balanced presentation of the American Civil War, its causes and effects, in order to better understand our history and its relevance to today's society.

Motts is the chief executive officer of the museum. He also has served as chief executive officer of the Adams County Historical Society, curator of the Cumberland County Historical Society, and senior research historian for the TravelBrains Corporation. He has been a licensed battlefield guide at the Gettysburg National Military Park since 1988. In 2013, he received the emeritus guide designation, one of the youngest guides to be so recognized.

Motts received a bachelor of arts degree with a major in military history from the Ohio State University and a masters of arts in American history from Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania. He was the first master's graduate to be awarded "with distinction" honors related to this work.

In addition, Motts is an accomplished author, having published many books and articles, including *Trust in God and Fear Nothing, Gen. Lewis A. Armistead, CSA* and *Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg: A Guide to the Most Famous Attack in American History*. He can be seen on numerous television documentaries and videos produced by the History Channel, the TNT network, and the A&E channel. — Charles Carr

**Banquet reservations should be made by May 26, 2017**

# The 82nd Illinois Infantry Regiment

By Pat McCormick

**B**eing the largest of the Union armies, the Army of the Potomac included troops from all over the nation. However, there were only a few Illinois units in that army, the best-known being the 8th Illinois Cavalry (the horsemen of the 12th also were Potomac troopers). On May 5, Dan Josephs took the round table through the career of the only Illinois infantry unit to serve in the army: the 82nd.

The 82nd Illinois Volunteers were recruited in Chicago and the surrounding area, mostly of immigrant Germans, many of whom were refugees from the revolutions of “Red ’48.” Being recent arrivals, and having reached American shores in an era when the anti-immigrant “Know Nothing” Party was near its peak of power, these Germans joined up primarily to prove they belonged, and to preserve their country of adoption. (Company C, incidentally, was primarily Jewish in composition.) The regiment was raised in the summer of 1862 and mustered in in Springfield that October. Their first commander was Colonel Friederich Hecker. He was a German immigrant himself and had originally raised the 24th Illinois in 1861 before resigning at the end of that year.

The regiment was sent east late in 1862 and naturally enough was assigned to the heavily German XI Corps, led by General Franz Sigel. Along with the rest of Sigel’s troops, the 82nd was stationed in rear areas during the disastrous Fredericksburg campaign, guarding approaches to the front. After that infamous defeat, the Army of the Potomac hunkered down in winter quarters, during which time the 82nd reached the front.

It was thus part of General Ambrose Burnside’s next move: in late January a break in the winter weather had the army on the march up the Rappahannock River to try to outflank the Confederate line in front of Fredericksburg. But a howling winter storm stopped the march in its tracks, and the Army of the Potomac’s ignominious “mud march” ended swiftly, with the Yankees slogging back to camp accompanied by the jeers of their

Rebel counterparts. It was not a promising start for Hecker and his men, albeit through no fault of their own.

This unfortunate trend continued through the 82nd’s next two campaigns. At Chancellorsville the XI Corps, now led by General Oliver O. Howard, was placed at the extreme Union right, with its flank “in the air.” It was precisely here that General Stonewall Jackson’s Confederates struck in the late afternoon of May 2, 1863, crumpling most of the XI Corps and sending them flying in panic toward the Union center. However, some of Howard’s Germans managed to put up a stiff fight, and among these was the 82nd Illinois. After fighting stubbornly for a time, the Illinois Germans eventually were forced to fall back as well. The Army of the Potomac eventually lost the battle and retreated back north of the river. XI Corps bore even more than its share of the blame for the defeat, pilloried by the press (and some of their fellow soldiers) as the “Flying Dutchmen.”

Thus the morale of the corps was not at its best when they next fought, at Gettysburg on July 1, 1863. The 82nd was under a new commander by then; Hecker had been wounded at Chancellorsville, and Lt. Col. Edward S. Salomon was now in charge. The XI Corps arrived on the field with the battle under way and once again was placed in a poor position, with its right being hit in the flank by General Jubal Early’s rebels. The 82nd fought in support of some artillery before being driven from the field. They redeemed themselves on July 2, seeing action at Cemetery Hill and aiding XII Corps in the defense of Culp’s Hill. Newspaper reports were somewhat more supportive after Gettysburg.

Following Gettysburg, XI Corps and XII Corps were sent to Chattanooga where XI Corps (including the 82nd Illinois) linked up with Army of the Cumberland troops at Brown’s Ferry to open the famous “cracker line” supply route. In the battles for Chattanooga, only one of Howard’s brigades (not the 82nd) was selected by General

William Sherman to aid his assault on Missionary Ridge, despite the fact that he badly needed the help. Josephs suggested that, at least at this time, Sherman and General Ulysses Grant did not trust the “Dutchmen.”

In 1864, the XI and XII Corps — by now a part of the Army of the Cumberland — were merged to form the XX Corps and were led through most of the Atlanta campaign by General Joseph Hooker. The 82nd Illinois often found itself in boring duty guarding rear areas, but did see action at Resaca, New Hope Church (where it was roughly handled, along with much of the corps), Kolb’s Farm, and Peachtree Creek. After Atlanta

was captured, the 82nd was among the 60,000 choice veterans Sherman led on the March to the Sea — suggesting that perhaps they were not so mistrusted after all. They also campaigned north with Sherman through the Carolinas in 1865, seeing action at Averasborough and Bentonville.

On behalf of the round table, I would like to thank Dan Josephs for presenting the tale of the Illinois Germans of the 82nd. (He also pointed out that, although the Irish are usually the first immigrants that come to mind as Civil War soldiers, more Germans than Irish actually served.) And thanks also (once again) to Danny Kafka for her invaluable notes.

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## **Election of Officers**

Officers for the 2017–2018 club year will be elected at the regular meeting on June 2, 2017.

The nominating committee will present the slate of nominees headed by Wayne Rhine and Harold Knudsen.

Volunteers are still needed to fill some positions. Anyone who is interested should contact Pat McCormick. Additional nominations may be made at that meeting with the consent of the nominee, who must be a current member of the Northern Illinois Civil War Round Table.

## **Eisenhower Library Discussion**

The Civil War discussion group at the Eisenhower Library, 4613 North Oketo Avenue, Harwood Heights, meets on the first Saturday of the month from 10:00 until 11:30 a.m. On June 3 the group will start with Grant’s move down the Louisiana side of the Mississippi in 1863 and take things into the May campaign against Vicksburg.

## **Women’s Civil War Book Club**

The Civil War book club for women will meet at 2 p.m. on July 23 at the home of Denise Limburg to discuss *First Lady of the Confederacy: Varina Davis’s Civil War* by Joan E. Cashin. For more information, contact Denise Limburg at (847) 212-5313 or [dlimburg@prodigy.net](mailto:dlimburg@prodigy.net) or Mary Banks at (847) 497-3149 or [zeller1@comcast.net](mailto:zeller1@comcast.net).

*drum roll*, June 2017

## **June Saturday Discussion**

All members and guests are invited to participate in the session to be held at the Barrington Area Library on Saturday, June 17, 2017, from 10:00 a.m. until noon. The discussion will cover the Vicksburg Campaign.

These discussions are generally held on the third Saturday of the month from September through June. They are held to generate and foster a free exchange of ideas on Civil War events.

## **Executive Board Meeting**

The executive board of the Northern Illinois Civil War Round Table will meet on June 17, 2017, at the Barrington Area Library, 505 North Northwest Highway, Barrington, at 9 a.m. prior to the regular Saturday discussion meeting.

## **Roster Changes**

### **New recruits**

Mr. Don Karlman  
20 Bow Lane  
Barrington, Illinois 60010-9618  
(847) 304-1946  
[dianadon2@comcast.net](mailto:dianadon2@comcast.net)

Mr. Harold Chinick  
304 South George Street  
Mt. Prospect, Illinois 60056-3432  
(847) 255-2450



## 2016–17 Officers and Trustees

President	Charles Carr
1st Vice President	Wayne Rhine
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Trustee	Kathleen Lange
Trustee	Alisa Corsi
Trustee	Danielle Kafka
Trustee	Fred Reczkowicz
Trustee	Denise Limburg
Trustee	Tom Gavigan

### Appointed Positions

Book Raffle	Charles Banks
Newsletter Editor	Sally Smith

## Book Raffle

The lucky winners at the May book raffle were Mark Ostrand, who won *The Guns of the South* by Harry Turtledove; Charlie Banks, who won *Civil War on the Western Border, 1854–1865* by Jay Monaghan; Harold Chinick, who won *Chancellorsville* by Gen. Edward J. Stackpole; Fred Reczkowicz, who won *Grant Takes Command* by Bruce Catton; Alisa Corsi, who won *Winfield Scott Hancock: A Soldier's Life* by David M. Jordan; Dan Josephs, who won *Port Hudson: Confederate Bastion on the Mississippi* by Lawrence Lee Hewitt; and Wayne Rhine, who won *Jeb Stuart* by John W. Thomason, Jr.

A winner in the April book raffle, inadvertently omitted in the previous newsletter was Paul Wydra, who won *Best Little Stories from the Civil War* by C. Brian Kelly, donated by John Lubarda.

Congratulations to the winners and sincere thanks to the donors.

## Summer Events

**June 9, Second Friday Lecture Series,** Civil War Museum, Kenosha, WI. James Heinz will speak on *None but the Brave: The Civil War Medal of Honor*, noon. Free program is sponsored by the Milwaukee Civil War Roundtable and the Iron Brigade Association. Information on all Civil War Museum programs is available at (262) 653-4140 or [www.thecivilwarmuseum.org](http://www.thecivilwarmuseum.org).

**June 9, Chicago Civil War Round Table.** Don Sender will speak on *Custer and the Little Big Horn Campaign*.

**June 10, A Salute to Freedom,** Civil War Museum, Kenosha, WI. Activities include living history and military encampments and demonstrations of blacksmithing, Civil War era baseball, period music, games, and crafts.

**June 13, McHenry County Civil War Round Table.** Greg Biggs will speak on *Nashville: Siren's Song of the Confederacy*.

**June 16, Salt Creek Civil War Round Table.** Max Daniels and R. J. Lindsey will speak on *Abraham Lincoln and Franklin D. Roosevelt: Two War Presidents at the banquet at the Lisle Hilton*.

**July 10, Rock River Valley Civil War Round Table.** Charlie Banks will speak on *U. S. Military Railroads*.

**July 11, McHenry County Civil War Round Table** will enjoy a session of show and tell.

**July 14, Second Friday Lecture Series,** Civil War Museum, Kenosha, WI. Charlie Banks will speak on *The Battle of Monocacy*, noon.

**July 22, Midwest Civil War Round Table Congress,** Civil War Museum, Kenosha, WI. Meeting will focus on networking with other round tables, recruiting and retaining members, finding and booking speakers, fund raising, and hosting special events, 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. RSVP to [ddammann@kenosha.org](mailto:ddammann@kenosha.org) or (262) 653-4432.

**July 22, Civil War Museum,** Kenosha, WI. Marshall Krolick will speak on *Forgotten Field: Cavalry Battlefield at Gettysburg, July 3, 1863*, 2 p.m.

**August 8, McHenry County Civil War Round Table.** Frank Crawford will speak on *Palmyra*.

**August 11, Second Friday Lecture Series,** Civil War Museum, Kenosha, WI. Frank Crawford will speak on *Andersonville Prison*, noon.

**To learn more about the Northern Illinois Civil War Round Table  
visit our website at [www.northernilcwrt.org](http://www.northernilcwrt.org)**