



THE drum roll

Volume 32 310th Regular Meeting
Number 9 May 2, 2014

Women played important parts in the Civil War

Friday, May 2, 2014, 7:30 p.m.

Arlington Heights Memorial Library
500 North Dunton Avenue, Arlington Heights, Illinois

Three Illinois Women During the Civil War



Betty Kay

Many Illinois women played important parts in the Civil War. During her first-person presentation, Betty Kay will acquaint us with three of these women.

First, she will be Jennie Hodgers, also known as Albert Cashier, an Illinois woman who successfully hid her identity and fought as a man for three years as a member of the 95th Illinois Infantry.

Changing a few pieces of clothing will transform Betty into being Mother Bickerdyke, an Illinois woman who nursed Union soldiers during the war so successfully that General Sherman said of her, "She ranks me." Sherman was especially fond of her and supposedly she was the only woman that he allowed in his camp.

Changing a few more pieces of clothing, she will become Mrs. Julia Dent Grant as she attends the Victory Parade in Washington, DC, in May 1865. The parade lasted for two days; more than 100,000 soldiers marched through the streets of the capital.

Betty Kay taught first grade for more than 30 years. She was a Springfield Teacher of the Year finalist in 1990 and a Golden Apple Award winner in 1991. She has written several books in the Americans of Character series published by Young Peoples Press. She also has authored *Jacksonville, Illinois: The Tradition Continues* and *Cicero: The First Suburb West*, both published by Arcadia Press. Other books authored by Ms. Kay are *Illinois from A to Z* (University of Illinois) and *What Did Lincoln Do ... In 1832? In 1842? In 1862?*, *The Lincolns from A to Z*, and *The Civil War from A to Z* (all Authorhouse).

Bringing history to life is Betty Kay's aim in doing these presentations. She did over 100 presentations in 2012 at schools and organizations including the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum in Springfield, IL. She also does a presentation on the True Story of Mary Lincoln, as told through the eyes of her sister Elizabeth Todd Edwards and including the Todds of Lexington, KY, and the Story of Ann Rutledge told through the eyes of her mother, detailing Ann's life in New Salem, her early death, and the ramifications after Lincoln's assassination ultimately causing her to be exhumed and reburied in Petersburg, IL.

If you would like to join us for dinner with Betty Kay at 5:30 p.m. before the meeting May 2 at Sam's of Arlington restaurant, 1863 West Central Road, Arlington Heights, please contact me at dlimburg@prodigy.net or (847) 577-7744 by Wednesday, April 30. — Denise Limburg

Send banquet reservations to Tom DeFranco as soon as possible

Letter Concerning Events of May 1864

The following letter from Captain Ely Parker to General John E. Smith discusses happenings in Virginia in May 1864. The spelling and grammar have not been corrected; words in brackets are inserted where words seem to have been left out or to clarify nicknames. Paragraphs have been divided to make reading easier. — *Editor*

Headquarters Armies of the United States.
Cold Harbor Va. June 10th 1864
My Dear General,

Many moons have run their course since any direct communication has been had between us. You must not infer from my neglect that you are forgotten. No, never do me that injustice. The fact is, in the preliminary arrangements of the several campaigns now in progress our office was very busy, and after the one with which we are personally associated had opened, the spare time did not increase upon hands.

Until we reached our present position, the greatest activity prevailed at our Hdqrs. Since we first met Mr. Lee at the Old Wilderness, we have had a series of severe fights. As a general thing the forces actually engaged have been about equal. The consequences therefore has been that whichever party was caught out of their works, were most severely punished. We have no at any time been able to successfully break through their works whenever we have assaulted and vice versa.

At the Wilderness neither party fought behind works for over twenty four hours, in which time we had so driven the enemy that they were most thoroughly convinced of our superiority in open field fighting, and have not since been able to find them except behind strong works. We did not [think] it prudent to break their works at the Wilderness, consequently we attempted to turn their left flank and seek a fight at Spottsylvania. But Bobby's legs were too much for us, for he reached and fortified at Spottsylvania before we did.

After fighting a day or two we commenced hunting for his flanks, proposing to turn either if we could find it, but nary a flank could we find —

the old cuss Lee is regular India rubber. After butting our heads against his impregnable [works] either we again pulled up stakes and started for Hanover Junction and here again Lee's d__d luck saved him. We found him south of the N. Anna and after a passage at arms, we again passed him on his, but he always having the inside track, again headed us north of the Chickohominy, and here we are.

We have done a great deal of fighting on this line, but have failed to break his lines at any point. Notwithstanding, however, all these apparent drawbacks, we have a decided morale over our enemy. The Army of the Potomac will today fight a hundred per cent better than when at the Wilderness, and the enemy fight with less & less courage, relying now almost entirely on digging to prevent our onward march. This Army (Lee's) must be whipped once before the great rebellion is suppressed. But as we cannot find them out of doors, we shall again pass their right and make for the south of the James. This, John, is a great country and it takes time to devastate it and smash lines of communications which for present amusement we are doing.

All of our Staff are in good spirits. Black John [probably John Rawlins] says tell Black Hawk [John E. Smith] that if we can't shoot big ducks we must shoot the little ones, and that is just what we have been doing. He also wants to know if you have read Jno. Harroldson's great poem on the Nitre question. The little General [possibly W. R. Rowley] is as maggotty as ever. The Lt. Gen. is in fine spirits. The entire party here, great, big, little and small send their kindest regards & distinguished consideration. Please receive it for Luck. I wrote to the Little Fox [unknown] today, as I heard he was nearly froze for news. I sent up a thaw. General, good bye and may God protect & keep you safe.

Yours Truly
E. S. Parker

To Black Hawk

2014–2015 Slate of Officers

The nominating committee of the Northern Illinois Civil War Round Table is pleased to present the slate of nominees for election to each of the indicated offices for the 2014–2015 club year.

President	David Powell
1st Vice President	Patrick McCormick
2nd Vice President	Thomas Postema
Secretary	Bruce Allardice
Treasurer	Tom DeFranco
Corresponding Sec.	Sarah McDougall
Membership	Jerry Allen
Historian	Kathleen Lange
Trustee (1-year term)	Danielle Kafka
Trustee (3-year term)	Alisa Corsi
Trustee (3-year term)	Kathleen Lange

The election will be held at the regular meeting on May 2, 2014. 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.

May Saturday Discussion

All members and guests are invited to participate in the session to be held at the Hoffman Estates Community Bank, 1375 Palatine Road, Hoffman Estates, on Saturday, May 17, from 10:00 a.m. until noon. Attendees are asked to park in the adjacent lot rather than in spaces provided for bank customers. The group will wind up its discussion of the Atlanta Campaign and continue to follow Sherman's march, led by second vice president Patrick McCormick.

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 events that transpired during the Civil War.

Book Discussion Group

The Civil War book discussion group led by Tom DeFranco at the Eisenhower Library, 4613 North Oketo, Harwood Heights, meets on the first Saturday of the month from 10:00 until 11:30 a.m. On May 3 they will continue the discussion of Gordon Rhea's series on the Wilderness Campaign.

drum roll, May 2014

31st Annual Banquet

Tim Smith will speak on Corinth at the 31st annual banquet of the Northern Illinois Civil War Round Table. It will be held June 6, 2014, at Concorde Banquets, 20922 North Rand Road, Kildeer, Illinois 60047. Tom DeFranco must have reservations by May 30, 2014, along with a check for \$39 for each person having dinner.

May Events

Civil War Museum, Kenosha, WI. New exhibition, *House Divided: Illinois in the Civil War*, explores the divisions among the people of Illinois and the motivation of citizen soldiers who came together to support the federal cause; through October 19, 2014. Information on all Civil War Museum programs is available at (262) 653-4140 or www.thecivilwarmuseum.org.

May 8, Lake County Civil War Round Table. Jeff Johnson will speak on the 8th Illinois Cavalry.

May 9, Civil War Museum, Kenosha, WI. Dr. Laurence Schiller will speak on *Uncle Billy's Boys: the 55th Illinois at Vicksburg*, noon. Program sponsored by the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table and the Iron Brigade Association.

May 9, Chicago Civil War Round Table. Dan Bastian will speak on Grant's Canal.

May 13, McHenry County Civil War Round Table. Jerry Allen will speak on Carter Van Vieck, Colonel of the 78th Illinois.

May 17, Civil War Museum, Kenosha, WI. A Soldier's Life presents family-friendly re-enactors as Civil War soldiers, noon till 4 p.m., sponsored by the Kenosha Garden Railroad Society.

May 31–June 1, Civil War Museum, Train Extravaganza Weekend, Kenosha, WI. Daniel Carroll Toomey speaks on the importance of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, the only direct rail link between Washington, DC, and the loyal states at the beginning of the Civil War, Saturday, noon. At 2 p.m. Toomey will discuss the history of the B&O Railroad.

In Memoriam

Word has been received that member James Hacker passed away last December. We send condolences to his family.



2013–14 Officers and Trustees

President	Denise Limburg
1st Vice President	David Powell
2nd Vice President	Patrick McCormick
Secretary	Bruce Allardice
Treasurer	Tom Defranco, Jr.
Corresponding Sec.	Sarah McDougall
Membership	Ellen Allen
Historian	Kathleen Lange
Trustee	Kathleen Lange
Trustee	Alisa Corsi
Trustee	Charles Carr
Trustee	
Trustee	Charles Brenneman
Trustee	Wayne Rhine

Appointed Positions

Book Raffle	Charles Banks
Newsletter Editor	Sally Smith

April Raffle

The April raffle winners were Jerry Allen, who won *General Jo Shelby's March* by Anthony Arthur, donated by David Powell; Charles Brenneman, who won *American Scoundrel: The Life of the Notorious Civil War General Dan Sickles* by Thomas Keneally; Mark Ostrand, who won *American Brutus: John Wilkes Booth and the Lincoln Conspiracies* by Michael W. Kauffman; Kurt Carlson, who won *The Most Glorious Fourth: Vicksburg and Gettysburg, July 4, 1863* by Duane Schultz; Fred Reczkowicz, who won *American Heritage Picture History of the Civil War* by Bruce Catton; and Alisa Corsi, who won *High Tide at Gettysburg: The Campaign in Pennsylvania* by Glenn Tucker.

Congratulations to the winners and sincere thanks to the donors. To donate Civil War-related books or items, please contact Charlie Banks.

Roster Change

New Recruit

Mr. Peter Sasing
 305 South Cook Street
 Barrington, Illinois 60010-4315
 (630) 561-0950
 e-mail pjsasing@comcast.net

Executive Board Meeting

The executive board will meet on June 21, 2014, at the Hoffman Estates Bank, 1375 Palatine Road, Hoffman Estates, at 9 a.m. prior to the regular Saturday discussion meeting.

2014–2015 Speakers

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May 1		
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To learn more about this Round Table call Ellen Allen at (847) 516-6429
 or visit our website at northernciv.org