



# THE drum roll

417th Regular Meeting Volume 42 Number 9 May 2, 2025



PLEASE NOTE!!!!!! PLEASE NOTE!!!!!!!!!!!

The May meeting will be in person at the Arlington Hts. Library on Friday, May 2, 2025, and on ZOOM, at 7:00 P.M. The library is at the corner of W. Euclid Ave. and N. Dunton Ave. in Arlington Hts. Underground parking is available, and you can take the elevator to the second floor and be right at the meeting site.

Our speaker for May is David A. Powell. He is a graduate of the Virginia Military Institute (1983) with a BA in history. He has published numerous articles in various magazines, and more than fifteen historical simulations of different battles. For many years David's focus has been on the epic battle of Chickamauga, and he is nationally recognized for his tours of that important battlefield and for publishing six books on that campaign, including *The Chickamauga Campaign Trilogy* completed in 2016. More recently, Dave has published a book on the battle of New Market, co-authored *The Tullahoma Campaign* with renowned historian Eric Wittenberg, and

published *The Impulse of Victory: Ulysses S. Grant at Chattanooga*. Both the latter two books appeared in 2020. His current project is a five-volume study of the Atlanta Campaign. *The Atlanta Campaign, Volume One: Dalton to Cassville, May 1-19, 1864* was published in July, 2024, while *Volume Two* will be published in the second half of 2025.

David, his wife Anne, and their three bloodhounds live and work in the northwest suburbs of Chicago, Illinois. He is retired and writes full time.

David's talk will focus on the failed Union assault on the Confederate defenses at Kennesaw Mountain during the Atlanta Campaign.

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## THE 4th ILLINOIS CAVALRY

The state of Illinois furnished 17 numbered volunteer cavalry regiments to Union service in the Civil War. In a "Saturday Morning Special" meeting, Brian Conroy introduced the Round Table to one of them: the 4th Illinois Cavalry.

The 4th Illinois Cavalry was recruited from around the state. A prominent lawyer and politician, Theophilus Lyle Dickey, was the driving force in raising the regiment, and would become its first colonel. Dickey was born in Paris, Kentucky in October, 1811. In 1834 he relocated to Macomb, Illinois, and a couple of stops later to Ottawa,

becoming a lawyer in the process. When the Mexican War broke out, Dickey raised a company of Illinois volunteers and was made a captain. However, he came down with dysentery and did not see any action. Returning to Illinois (and the law) after the war, he heeded his country's call again in 1861. After recruiting in the summer of 1861, the 4th Illinois was mustered in in Ottawa on September 26, 1861.

From Ottawa the regiment moved to Springfield then to Cairo, where it finally received its arms. Company A was detached to serve as escort to Brigadier General Ulysses S. Grant, and Company C was detailed as bridge guards. In December, 1861 the balance of the 4th was assigned to the division of John McClernand. The following February, Dickey's horsemen saw service in the campaign against Forts Henry and Donelson – scouting Fort Henry, pursuing its retreating garrison (capturing several of them), and probing the defenses of Fort Donelson.

In March 1862, the 4th was moved to Pittsburg Landing, Tennessee, where it was assigned to Stephen Hurlbut's 4th Division, with some companies assigned directly to Jacob Lauman's 3rd Brigade of the division. (Camped nearby was the 2nd Division, temporarily commanded by W.H.L. Wallace – Dickey's son-in-law.) The encampment was unexpectedly attacked on April 6, 1862 - Dickey's 8 companies now being assigned to the 5th Division under William T. Sherman. On the 8th of April, the day after the battle of Shiloh ended, the 4th was involved in a clash with the Rebel rear guard at Fallen Timbers.

In the ensuing move against Corinth, the 4th Illinois was assigned to the right wing of the army, under Sherman. In late 1862 Dickey was made Chief of Cavalry during Grant's campaign down the Mississippi Central. During Earl van Dorn's raid on Grant's supply base at Holly Springs, the 4th clashed with the Rebel interlopers – Losing Lieutenant Colonel William McCulloch (killed) in the process.

The 4th served mostly in rear areas during the Vicksburg campaign. Colonel Dickey resigned in February, 1863; after the war he would continue in law, serve as an Assistant Attorney General in Illinois for a time, and eventually be elected to the state Supreme Court. Dickey would die in 1885. Meanwhile, after the capture of the city, the 4th

was reunited in Vicksburg itself in August 1863, where it was brigaded with the 5th Iowa. The Illinois troopers wintered in Natchez, Mississippi.

In February 1864, four companies of the 4th Illinois accompanied Sherman on his Meridian expedition. The following month, a number of members of the regiment transferred to become officers in the 1st Mississippi Colored Cavalry (which was later re-designated the 3rd U.S. Colored Cavalry.) The regiment was on duty in rear areas during most of 1864. In October, those who chose not to renew their service were mustered out, leaving the 4th with about 500 men. In May of 1865, the 4th Illinois was consolidated with the 12th Illinois, to bring the latter unit up to strength. Thus combined, the former 4th cavalrymen continued to serve - past the end of the war – in Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi, until finally mustering out in May 1866.

Conroy mentioned at the outset of the talk that he would eventually give us the “why” of his particular interest in the 4th Illinois Cavalry. His interest was spurred (no pun intended) by a collection of carte de vistes of soldiers from the 4th, which happened to be at the Will County Historical Museum. The photos were of members from Company D, which was raised primarily in Will, Ogle, and LaSalle Counties. Conroy's power point presentation included a number of these CDV's – about 20 of them.

He finished up by talking for a bit about the museum itself. It is based in the oldest building in Lockport (built in 1836), which was the former headquarters of the Illinois & Michigan Canal as well as the Sanitary and Ship Canal. The museum holds over 70,000 documents, 10,000 photos, and plenty of artifacts – including a “Lincoln Rose,” which was laid on Lincoln's funeral bier. It is the only such rose known to exist.

On behalf of the Round Table I would like to thank Brian Conroy for this window into the 4th Illinois Cavalry.

Pat McCormick

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Our May discussion will be on Wednesday, May 21, 2025. The topic will be Chicago and the Civil War. Wide open arena!

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81433758155?pwd=S1FqVjJ1WmZsTTd1VlJNRCtLcjJLdz09>

[This link works for the regular meeting and discussions.](#)

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PLEASE NOTE:

The link for the reg meeting works for this.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81433758155?pwd=S1FqVjJ1WmZsTTd1VlJNRCtLcjJLdz09>

- Speakers
- Sept. 6, 2024, Leslie Goddard: Clara Barton, Civil War Nurse
  - Oct. 4, 2024, Charlie Banks: General Herman Haupt
  - Nov. 1, 2024, Doug Stiles: Lincoln's Watch
  - Dec. 6, 2024, Dave Oberg: The First Illinois Light Artillery
  - Jan. 3, 2025, Gordon Ramsey: Music of the Civil War
  - Feb. 7, 2025, Father Bob Miller: Civilian Life in Vicksburg
  - Mar. 7, 2025, Jan Rasmussen: The Dakota War
  - Apr. 4, 2025, Brian Conroy: 4<sup>TH</sup> Illinois Cavalry
  - May 2, 2025, Dave Powell: The Union assault on Kennesaw Mountain, June 27, 1864.
  - June 7, 2025, Bob Presman: Could the South Have Won the Civil War?

### 2024-25 Officers and Trustees

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### Appointed Positions

Newsletter Editor	Jerry Rodosky
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### Upcoming Events

Join Zoom Meeting on Friday, May 2, 2025, at 7 PM.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81433758155?pwd=S1FqVjJ1WmZsTTd1VlJNRCtLcjJLdz09>

This link works for the discussion group also.

Questions? Comments? Email me or call.

Jerry Rodosky

847-420-1639

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I will forward your questions or comments to the appropriate person.

Remember: The Board has decided not to charge dues for the 2024-2025 year. Let's use this to invite new members. What a way to try us out!