



THE drum roll

422nd Regular Meeting Volume 43 Number 4 December 5, 2025



PLEASE NOTE!!!!!! PLEASE NOTE!!!!!!!!!!
GOING BACK TO THE LIBRARY!!!!!!!!!!

The December meeting will be in person at the Arlington Hts. Library on Friday, December 5, 2025, and on ZOOM, at 7:00 P.M. The library is located at the corner of W. Euclid Ave. and Dunton St. in Arlington Hts. Public parking is available in the garage below the library using the entrance in the rear. There is an elevator just inside the building which will take you to the second floor where our meeting will be.

Our original speaker for December could not make it. We have an excellent speaker to take that opening, our own Bruce Allardice who will speak on an original and unusual topic. Do not miss it.

Aloha Oe! Hawaii in the Civil War

The Civil War impacted areas far beyond the boundaries of the continental United States. Among those nations profoundly impacted was the (then) independent nation of Hawaii (also known as the Sandwich Islands). The government of Hawaii, then dominated by anglo-descended businessmen, had to deal with both the monarchs they served (Kamehameha IV and V) and tread a narrow foreign policy line to remain neutral. It's not well known, but numerous Hawaiians served in the Union army and navy, and at least a dozen in the Confederate navy as well. Professor Allardice will take you on a virtual tour of the history of this island paradise.

Biography

A recently retired professor of history at South Suburban College, **Bruce S. Allardice** is past President of the Northern Illinois Civil War Round Table, and current President of the Civil War Round Table of Chicago. Prof. Allardice has authored or coauthored six books, and numerous articles on the Civil War. His latest book is Two Years Before the Paddlewheel: Charles F. Gunther, Mississippi River Confederate (State House Press, 2012), the edited diary of Charles F. Gunther, a Confederate steamboat officer who later became Chicago's leading candymaker. Other books include More Generals in Gray (LSU Press 1995) a selection of the History Book Club. He had two books come out in 2008: Confederate Colonels: A Biographical Register (U of MO Press), a biographical register of Confederate army colonels, and Kentuckians in Gray (U Press of KY), co-authored with Professor Larry Hewitt. He authored an essay on General Stephen D. Lee for vol. 3 of Confederate Generals in the Western Theater (U. of TN Press 2011). His article on "John E. Smith and the 96th Illinois" appeared in 2015 in the Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society.

A former Board Member of the Illinois State Historical Society, Prof. Allardice has presented numerous lectures and presentations on the Civil War and genealogy for Civil War Round Tables, museums, and civic organizations. He is the recipient of the CWRT of Chicago's prestigious Nevins-Freeman Award for distinguished service in Civil War Scholarship and the CWRT movement.

An avid sports historian, Prof. Allardice currently heads up the "Civil War Baseball" subcommittee for the Society of American Baseball Research (SABR) and is a member of SABR's Biography Committee, specializing in researching the lives of 19th Century ballplayers. His article on The Rise of Baseball in the South received an award from SABR for Best Baseball History article of 2012. Prof. Allardice's groundbreaking work on the early spread of baseball, done at the request of Major League Baseball, can be found at <http://www.protoball.org>, the "pre-pro baseball" link. His book on the 1920s Chicago White Sox, "After the Black Sox," is due out in 2026. He has contributed an essay to Scandal on the South

Side: The 1919 Chicago White Sox (SABR, 2015). He is currently newsletter editor of the SABR Origins of Baseball Committee.

Prof. Allardice is a graduate of the University of Illinois and a lifelong resident of the Chicago area.

ARTIFACTS IN ABUNDANCE

Chicago's legendary Abraham Lincoln Bookshop is about more than books; over the years, an amazing variety of artifacts have been held there, some of which are still on the premises. On November 7, Daniel Weinberg presented the stories of some of the more significant or unusual items that have passed through the store.

Weinberg opened with a picture of an 1860 presidential campaign leaflet, one of few left. It was one of these leaflets that spurred eleven-year-old Grace Bedell to write Lincoln and suggest that he grow a beard; although Lincoln considered it a "silly affectation" he nonetheless grew one, and met Bedell in 1861; she "dined out on it "for the rest of her life, Weinberg related.

The original Abraham Lincoln Bookshop was started by Ralph Newman in 1938, at the behest of Carl Sandburg (whose first volume of his Lincoln Trilogy, *The Prairie Years*, was published two years earlier.) Newman also started the very first Civil War Round Table – the Chicago chapter, still going strong – in 1940. The store is currently in its third location, on Superior Street, after having been housed on Chestnut Street and Chicago Avenue.

Weinberg's fascination with artifacts goes back to his youth, when he saw a stone containing a portion of the Babylonian epic poem Gilgamesh. The very first artifact that the bookstore acquired was a pitcher adorned with the likeness of Elmer Ephraim Ellsworth, the Civil War's first Union martyr. (It is now in the Chicago Historical Museum.)

Of course, Lincoln artifacts are part of the mix. Among those that have passed through the store's hands are a Black Hawk War armaments request signed by Lincoln and a Lincoln teacup – possibly the last one the president used. Another is an original life mask of Lincoln. Still another is an 1861 “dance card”, in which Lincoln is listed as #3 on the list. Weinberg pointed out that artifacts such as these allow us, at this remove in time, to get closer to historical figures such as Lincoln – a major part of the power of such items.

One unexpected item is a table from the McLean House in Appomattox Court House, site of the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia. But this is not one of the two famous tables at which Grant and Lee sat, respectively. It is a third table, whose presence is confirmed by a John Barnard photo made at the time. It was on this table that Grant's military secretary, Ely S. Parker, wrote out the surrender terms. Another Appomattox-related artifact is a copy of Lee's General Order #9 – his famous farewell address to his army - signed on the battlefield at Appomattox (one of the few signed copies from the battlefield known to exist.)

Weinberg noted that one key to the value of an artifact is provenance, which can be tricky to establish. Some items can be misleading. An example is a carte-de-viste of Lincoln, supposedly autographed by him. In fact, his secretary John Hay actually signed Lincoln's name to it, apparently to impress a young woman. Then there are items that may be significant, but we can't be sure, such as a circular cravat pin with a hand holding a golden dagger. This Shakespearean image could very well mean the pin belonged to Edwin Booth, legendary actor and brother to Lincoln's assassin – but it is unconfirmed. Weinberg noted that it is preferred to be at least 80 percent sure of provenance before attributing significance to an item.

Often it is the story that “sells” an artifact, making a seemingly ordinary item become unusual instead. Weinberg related the story of a request for more Catholic priests to be allowed in Union hospitals, signed by Lincoln on September 22,

1862. Recognize that date? It was the day that Lincoln issued the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation. This item was signed just after the momentous event of the day; apparently the Proclamation was still on his mind, because he signed as “Ab. Lincoln” instead of “A. Lincoln.”

A variety of other items were presented as well. An 1856 pamphlet from the “Friends of Kansas” was a subscription book for their abolitionist crusade (Weinberg called it the era's version of a “Go Fund Me” page.) A Sanitary Fair item from Philadelphia in 1864 includes depictions of some of the women working the event. Photographs of assassination conspirators Booth, Herold, and Surratt are the ones used in the famous reward poster issued in April 1865. Also connected to the assassination is a copy of the order to carry out the execution of the conspirators.

Autographs are perhaps the most familiar of artifacts; Gideon Welles, Lincoln's Secretary of the Navy, was a collector. His autograph book includes a number of signatures collected at a June 19, 1864, cabinet meeting, as well as other department heads, and army leaders such as Grant and Hancock.

Clearly, the artifacts that have run through the Abraham Lincoln Bookshop encompass a wide variety of items (and these are just some of the Civil War related items.) On behalf of the Round Table I would like to thank Daniel Weinberg for an engrossing sampling of history through artifacts.

Pat McCormick

Speakers

Sept. 5, 2025, Dr. Chuck Rebesco, Ward's Brigade at Gettysburg
Oct. 3, y, Jerry Allen: General James Blair Steedman
Nov. 7, 2025, Daniel R. Weinberg, The Abraham Lincoln Book Shop
Dec. 5, 2025, Bruce Allardice, Hawaii in the Civil War
Jan. 2, 2026, Doug Dannaman, Kenosha Civil War Museum
Feb. 6, 2026, Wayne Rhine, The Great Escape from Libby Prison
Mar. 6, 2026, Civil War Trivia Game
Apr. 3, 2026, Laurie Schiller, U.S. Cavalry
May 1, 2026,
June 5, 2026,

Upcoming Events

Our next ZOOM discussion session will be on Wed. December 10, 2025. We will discuss the role of Amateur generals in the Civil War.

We really would like to have more participation at these sessions. I hope they are not short lived. So interesting, and anyone can pitch in.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81433758155?pwd=S1FqVjJ1WmZsTTd1VlJNRClLcjJLdz09>

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



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Newsletter Editor	Jerry Rodosky
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Jerry Rodosky

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

My Upcoming Presentations - Charlie Banks

December 12, 2025, Kenosha Civil War Museum
12 noon to 1:00 pm Civil War Railroads
January 17, 2026, Mineral Point CWRT Civil War Railroads
February 10, 2026, Armchair Generals 11:45 am to 1:00 pm Civil War Thru Postal Covers
March 10, 2026, McHenry County CWRT 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm Battle of South Mountain.
April 25, 2026, Salt Creek CWRT 11:00 am to 12:30 pm General Nathaniel P. Banks

Charlie always gives interesting presentations, and, boy, does he know railroads!