



# THE drum roll

423rd Regular Meeting Volume 43 Number 5 January 2, 2026

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

The January meeting will be in person at the Arlington Hts. Library on Friday, January 2, 2026, 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.

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Our speaker for January is Doug Dannaman from the Kenosha Civil War Museum. Doug will bring us up to date on happenings at the Museum in the coming months. The Museum is such a special asset, it will be good to catch up on their goings on. Don't miss it.

ALOHA!

One rarely, if ever, thinks of Hawaii when thinking of the American Civil War. On December 5, Bruce Allardice illustrated how the islands fit into the larger picture.

Hawaii was not known by that name at the time of the war (at least to most of the world), as Allardice explained – and it not only wasn't a state yet, it wasn't even a part of the United States, though Hawaii was more aligned with Asia than the Western World at the time of the war – not that the Western powers hadn't tried to change that. Earlier in the 19th Century, naval representatives of both England and France had, at different times, claimed the islands for their nations. But in both cases the mother countries repudiated the announcements. The Americans had also attempted to negotiate purchase of the territory, without success. In 1854 the United States, being closer to the strategically located islands than the European powers, issued a guarantee of Hawaiian

independence – as Allardice termed it, a Monroe Doctrine of sorts.

Polynesians first occupied this group of volcanic islands somewhere between 400 and 1200 AD. Possibly, the first arrivals were fishermen blown off course. Settlements were primarily limited to four islands: Hawaii, Oahu, Maui, and Kauai. In the late 1700's. Kamehameha I campaigned to unify the settlements as one kingdom. This was fiercely resisted, until a series of bloody battles forced the issue.

The governmental system put in place by Kamehameha flowed down from the king (or queen) to the Privy Council – assembled from the governors of the individual islands – then to a House of Representatives and a House of Nobles. Thus it was somewhat democratic in form, but the power flowed from the monarch, who could modify or abandon the system at any time. The king also had the choice to name his successor without necessarily choosing someone from his own family. The kings in the Civil War era were Kamehameha IV and Kamehameha V (neither born with the name, but rather adopting it upon taking the throne).

In 1860, out of a Hawaiian population of 69,800, about 10% was of European-American ancestry. Of that 10%, about half were American in heritage – but not in citizenship. Allardice stressed that the non-Polynesian citizens were considered every bit as Hawaiian as the Polynesians. Almost all of the American-ancestry Hawaiians were of Northern stock. Additionally, some 500 mainland US citizens in 1860 were originally from the islands.

Hawaii officially declared neutrality regarding the Civil War soon after the start of the conflict in 1861. Kamehameha IV (king until mid-1863) was himself pro-Northern - and actually anti-Southern, since he and a couple of natives had been mistaken for servants on a pre-war Washington visit. Additionally, Hawaiians generally loathed slavery. Given the king's attitude, the Northern roots of most of the American settlers, the antislavery stance, and Hawaiian economic ties to northern shipping (ship repair and provisioning being important businesses), Hawaii was pro-northern in a practical sense, despite the proclaimed neutrality. (Additionally, although the islands declared that neither side could be aided,

outlawed privateering, and had no prize courts, only the U.S. Navy had spare vessels to enforce these bans.)

Honolulu newspapers supported the Union to varying degrees, from just about neutral to fervently pro-Union and abolitionist. Of course, being at a considerable remove from the war itself, there was a significant time lag for war news to reach the islands. Still, a number of newspapers and residents celebrated Union successes such as Ambrose Burnside's 1862 North Carolina coastal campaign and the fall of Richmond. More practically, pro-Union citizenry donated money to the U.S. Sanitary Commission, and a number of them even enlisted in the United States armed forces (Allardice provided several individual examples, including Brevet Brigadier General Samuel Chapman Armstrong.) However, a company of volunteers called the "Spencer Invincibles" was disallowed by the Hawaiian government.

Hawaii's "unofficial" pro-Union stance was probably a factor in the decision of the Confederate raider Shenandoah, fresh from savaging Union whalers in the Bering Sea (not realizing the war was over), to sail all the way to England to turn herself in. Allardice mentioned that she had about ten Polynesians in her crew: sailors from one or more of her captures who elected to stay on as crew members.

While the whaling industry – whose ships were often serviced in the islands – was fatally crippled by the war, Hawaii boomed afterwards, primarily due to a tenfold increase in the sugar industry. A number of veterans settled there, enough to staff a GAR post, and some are buried there. Today, the islands have a Civil War Round Table. There is a statue of Lincoln, with his trusty axe, in Ewa Beach. And even the Pearl Harbor tragedy has a Civil War connection: Admiral Husband E. Kimmel, US Pacific Fleet commander (and scapegoat) in December 1941, was the son of a Confederate officer.

Although far from a significant participant in the Civil War, our future 50th state had more of a connection than most if not all of us realized. On behalf of the Round Table I would like to thank Bruce Allardice for filling us in.

Pat McCormick

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## 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,



## 2024-25 Officers and Trustees

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## Appointed Positions

Newsletter Editor Jerry Rodosky

[gjrodosky@gmail.com](mailto:gjrodosky@gmail.com)  
847-420-1639

## Upcoming Events

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Our monthly discussion group will meet on Wed. Jan. 21, 2026. The topic will be BOOKS!!!! Please bring your ideas to the ZOOM call or send them to me if you can't make the meeting. The meeting starts at 7 PM and goes till about 8:30 PM.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81433758155?pwd=S1FqVjJ1WmZsTTd1VIJNRClCjJLdz09>

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

Questions? Comments? Email me or call.  
Jerry Rodosky  
847-420-1639  
[gjrodosky@gmail.com](mailto:gjrodosky@gmail.com)

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

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## My Upcoming Presentations - Charlie Banks

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!

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Please forgive me for a late newsletter. Holidays, family stuff, on our part and on the part of others.

A Very Happy New Year to you all.

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