

# The Regimental Bulletin

*Phil Kearny Civil War Round Table of Northern New Jersey*

Visit our website to register for all our monthly meeting presentations and updates  
[www.PhilKearnyCWRT.org](http://www.PhilKearnyCWRT.org)

**\*\*\* NEXT MEETING \*\*\***

**Wed, April 16th 2025 @ 7PM - Online Zoom Presentation**

## **Major General John Pope: Politics, Generalship, and the Civil War Presented by Dr. Cecily Zander**



Volume 21 Issue 4  
April 16, 2025

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**Dr. Cecily Zander**

Dr. Cecily Zander will explore Major General John Pope's relationship with the Republican Party and assess his military leadership through a political lens. Although Pope was a career army officer, he openly embraced his political loyalties—aligning himself with the Radical Republicans at a time when the Union Army's leadership was largely dominated by conservative, Democratic generals. Radical Republicans viewed Pope as a potential champion of their vision for a more aggressive wartime strategy. They hoped his approach would demonstrate that bold, offensive tactics could bring about a swift Union victory. However, those hopes were dashed when Pope's 1862 campaign ended in a decisive defeat at the Second Battle of Manassas.

Dr. Cecily Zander is an Assistant Professor of History at Texas Woman's University and a leading scholar of the American Civil War and the U.S. West. She earned her Ph.D. in History from Penn State University, where her research focused on the intersections of military policy, settler colonialism, and the expansion of U.S. power during and after the Civil War. Her scholarship has appeared in top academic journals as well as public platforms such as The Washington Post and Civil War Times.

Dr. Zander's work examines the ways in which the U.S. Army's Civil War campaigns were deeply connected to federal efforts to assert control over western territories and Indigenous nations. She is especially interested in how military leaders adapted wartime strategies to frontier conflicts, shaping the trajectory of U.S. Indian policy in the postwar era.

She is currently completing a book on Abraham Lincoln and the American West, forthcoming from Liveright. In fall 2025, she will join the Department of History at the University of Wyoming.

**PKCWRT  
Membership  
Dues are  
renewed in  
April: \$25**

**Your membership and  
continued support  
is always appreciated  
as it assists with  
our programs and  
tours**

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**You must register with this new link before the meeting**

[https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUfce2orz4tHNUqbRKoX9J822CIInj\\_5SOof#/registration](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUfce2orz4tHNUqbRKoX9J822CIInj_5SOof#/registration)

## PKCWRT 2025 Schedule

Click on blue links to register for meeting.

**Wed, April 16 - 7pm**

**Cecily Zander**

**General John Pope**

[https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUtc2or24tHNUqbRKoX9J822CIINJ\\_5SO#registration](https://us06web.zoom.us/join/https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUtc2or24tHNUqbRKoX9J822CIINJ_5SO#registration)

**Wed, May 21- 7pm**

**Sean Chick**

**PGT Beauregard**

[https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcqQO-grj4iGNdeGS8TCdouY3bMPSOvMQ8C#registration](https://us06web.zoom.us/join/https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcqQO-grj4iGNdeGS8TCdouY3bMPSOvMQ8C#registration)

**Wed, June 18 - 7pm**

**Dwight Hughes**

**Civil War Naval History**

[https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlqc--oqzwpHtxsQpifR0QApihnv2fpbYsc#registration](https://us06web.zoom.us/join/https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlqc--oqzwpHtxsQpifR0QApihnv2fpbYsc#registration)

**Summer Break July - August**

**Wed, Sept 17 - 7pm**

**Michael Block**

**Cedar Mountain**

[https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUtf-2trD4vEtM\\_uVeW4uCrn9kulFENDyur#registration](https://us06web.zoom.us/join/https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUtf-2trD4vEtM_uVeW4uCrn9kulFENDyur#registration)

**Wed, Oct 15 - 7pm**

**Larry Korczyk**

**Gen Rowley on Day 1, Gettysburg**

[https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUsc-6tqzgsHtJlkpvnvqz-NJLwvk-2wRCC#registration](https://us06web.zoom.us/join/https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUsc-6tqzgsHtJlkpvnvqz-NJLwvk-2wRCC#registration)

**Sat, - Nov 7 - Nov 9th**

**Annual PKCWRT Field Trip**

**Wed, Nov 19 - 7pm**

**Dr. Heide Weber**

**Nathan Bedford Forrest**

[https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYsc-6qqzssHNCtPZtbd\\_i\\_rnK5QOeJEjFV#registration](https://us06web.zoom.us/join/https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYsc-6qqzssHNCtPZtbd_i_rnK5QOeJEjFV#registration)

**Saturday, Dec 6th, 2025**

**PKCWRT Holiday Party**

**TBD**

## Phil Kearny CWRT

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**Regimental Bulletin Editor**

**Jim Madden**

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## Jim Biringer

1946-2025



PKCWRT Member **James L. Biringer** of Dumont passed on January 28, 2025 at the age of 79. Both Jim and his son are members of the Round Table for years.

He was the beloved husband of Barbara E. Mendes. Loving father of Jimmy.

James was born in Jersey City, NJ. He earned a Master's degree in banking and served in the Marine Corps during the Vietnam War, and was a proud disabled veteran.

In Vietnam James was part of the 5th 155 Gun Battery. He was the paymaster and membership chairman of the Gooney Birds Detachment #434 Marine Corps League in Teaneck, NJ. He was the treasurer of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #800 and VFW #809 in Little Ferry, NJ and a proud volunteer and tour guide at the New Jersey Vietnam Memorial and Museum in Holmdel, NJ.

James was a great family man and friend to so many people and will be missed.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in James's memory to the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial & Museum, P.O. Box 648, Holmdel, NJ 07733.

**Requiescat in Pace**

# What If...John Pope Had Invaded Canada?

by **Cecily Nelson Zander**

<https://emergingcivilwar.com/2022/08/02/what-if-john-pope-had-invaded-canada>

Posted on August 2, 2022

*Many ECW readers will know (and perhaps take delight in the fact) that Major General John Pope was banished to Minnesota in the wake of his disastrous defeat at the battle of Second Bull Run. President Abraham Lincoln asked Pope to go west and oversee the aftermath of what Civil War-era Americans termed the “Dakota Uprising.” Scholars today view the events of the late summer of 1862 as a far more complex event than nineteenth-century Americans.*

*Historians now opt against incendiary language like “uprising” or “massacre” and prefer to see the resistance movement of Mdewakanton Dakota leader Little Crow as a strike against American expansion and a significant moment in Native American resistance to US settler colonialism.*



Photo of Chief Little Crow III (Taoyateduta) in Washington D.C. 1858

Reevaluating language is one way that scholars have sought to resituate the events of the late summer of 1862 within the broader context of the Civil War. Another has been to look at the theater inherited by Pope as a zone of military crisis and contestation. Had Pope gotten his way, it may also have been a site for turning the war between North and South into an international conflagration. Because, in his effort to respond to the successful resistance of Little Crow and his adherents, Pope proposed invading Canada, pursuing the Native peoples who had evaded capture and a military tribunal. Pope believed that crossing the border would put an end to Native American threats to white settlements in Minnesota and the Dakota

by demonstrating that international borders would no longer function as deterrents to US military power. Fortunately for Pope (and his already suspect military reputation), the arguments against such an action were equally compelling and Pope stayed put on the southern side of the 49 parallel.

In May of 1864, the Member of Parliament for King’s County, Ireland rose in the House of Commons to deliver a speech on the “Outrages by Sioux Indians” taking place in the Red River settlement of Canada. The settlement—what is today the Canadian province of Manitoba—like all of Canada in 1864, remained under the direct control of the British government.

The speech that John Hennessy delivered emphasized the difficulty Indigenous incursions into the Canadian settlements might cause the British government. The

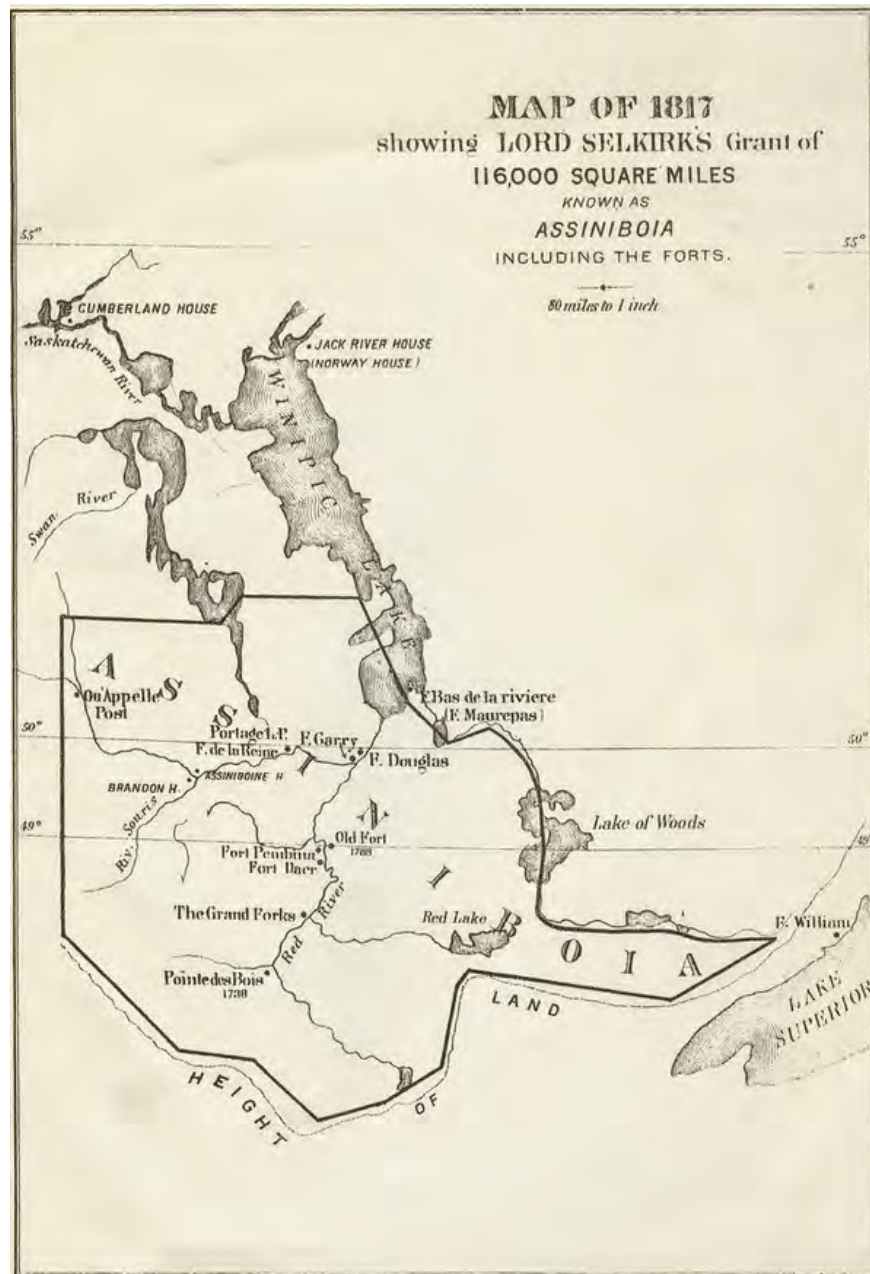
MP predicted depredations that might result in thousands of men, women, and children killed. In spite of their exaggerated fears, the British government also realized that allowing the United States Army to invade and occupy the British possessions would set an undesirable precedent and leave their far western territories. Despite wanting to help the citizens of Canada, Hennessy urged his government not to leave their Canadian provinces, “at the mercy of a foreign soldiery.”<sup>[1]</sup>



**General John Pope**

Early war photo.

Indigenous use of the border between the United States and Canada laid bare the delicate balance of international power on the North American continent. Historians have long argued that this balance of power was endangered by the Civil War, particularly in Mexico, where a wary eye was always trained Napoleon III's French puppet government. The results of a war with the British in Canada, provoked by Native actions, would likely have major ramifications for the future of the North American continent.



*Map of the Red River Settlement showing the 49th Parallel*

The citizens of British North America had their own concerns about the effect the Civil War would have on their territory. If the Confederacy succeeded in establishing an independent nation, “the North [might] seek compensation in the conquest of British America.”<sup>[2]</sup> If the Union succeeded in putting down the Confederate rebellion, the prospects were not any more encouraging. British North Americans that the victorious Union “might attack the provinces in order to employ war-hardened troops, to complete the work of Manifest Destiny.”<sup>[3]</sup> The prospect of Union victory convinced many that the restored United States would have the resources to dominate the continent and exclude British North America from trans-Atlantic (and trans-Pacific) trade.

But the officials on either side had little recourse. Indigenous use of the border had only increased after the events of 1862 and left policy makers and military officials grasping for options. Secretary of State William H. Seward sent a brief letter to Lord Lyons, the minister to United States from Great Britain, on January 12, 1863, “with a view to prevent, if possible, hostile Indians residing on either side of the frontier from being supplied with arms, ammunition, or military stores, to be used against the peaceful inhabitants of the United States.”[4]

The letter helped little. General Henry H. Sibley wrote from St. Paul on January 25, 1864, that “the hostile Indians are directly aided and abetted by Her Majesty’s subjects.” He told the commander of the Department of the Northwest, General John Pope, that he hoped that a “professedly friendly power shall not longer permit its soil to be a convenient refuge for these Ishmaelites of the prairies.”[5]



Henry Hastings Sibley (*Minnesota Historical Society Collections*)

The British had offered to provide subsistence and supplies to the Indigenous refugees, on the condition that they should only be used for hunting game—and that the Natives would return to the American side of the border. Governor Alexander Dallas, of the Red River Settlement, hoped for a speedy evacuation from his province. Dallas’s requests to London for regular British troops to defend the border had been denied—and he could not protect his constituents without aid.

And yet, when the governor met with his council on January 24, 1864, he was forced to report that the Santee “had gone no further than White Horse Plain, with the avowed intention of remaining there.” Dallas further reported that he was “now disposed strongly to doubt, whether, they had really ever intended to leave the Settlement this Winter.”[6]

As Dallas fretted, Pope proposed to send US troops across the border after the Santee. Despite the perceived threat coming from Canada, both General in Chief Henry Halleck and President Abraham Lincoln were less than inclined to agree to the plan. In response to a request for instructions on the situation, Halleck informed Pope: “The President directs that under no circumstances will our troops cross the boundary line into British territory without his authority.”[7] Though by 1864 British intervention on behalf of the Confederacy no longer seemed likely, Lincoln still urged caution when it came to the war’s international aspects.

John Pope wanted to invade Canada. His wishes were denied. But “What-If” he had gotten his way? Several potential results come to mind. First, the British may have reevaluated their position vis a vis neutrality. Second, had the Americans been adamant about the need to pursue the Santee across international borders, the British Crown may have been forced to provide troops to support the mission or to protect their own citizens from a foreign invader.

And, had the British actually sent support to their western Canadian frontier, the British citizens living in Canada may have been contented with the idea that Parliament had their safety and security at heart. One of the primary reasons that British Canadians pursued Confederation and greater independence from Great Britain in 1867, after all, was the failure of the Crown to provide for its North American settlers, in their moments of greatest danger.

[1] HANSARD, House of Commons Debates, May 3, 1864, Volume 174, Reference Number cc2053-5.

[2] W.L. Morton, “British North America and a Continent in Dissolution, 1861-71,” *History*, Volume 47, Issue 160 (January, 1962):148.

[3] Ibid.

[4] *Message of the President of the United States, and Accompanying Documents, to the Two Houses of Congress, at the Commencement of the First Session of the Thirty-Eighth Congress* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1863), 492.

[5] U.S. War Department, *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, 127 vols. index and atlas [Washington: GPO, 1880-1901], ser. 1, 34[2]:152-3

[6] Edmund Henry Oliver, ed., *The Canadian North-West, Its Early Development and Legislative Records; Minutes of the Councils of the Red River Colony and the Northern Department of Rupert's Land* (Ottawa: Government Printing Bureau, 1914), p. 533.

[7] O.R., 22[2]:211.

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## Reserve Now for the Annual PKCWRT Gettysburg Trip

Friday, Nov 7th - Sunday, Nov 9th

with **Licensed Battlefield Guide Jim Hessler**

**Author of the new “First Day at Gettysburg, July 1, 1863” Book**

**Phil Kearny Civil War Roundtable has a block of 10 rooms reserved from Fri, Nov 7th to Sun, Nov 9th, at the Best Western in Gettysburg.**

**The rates for a King room with sofa (\$145) and two Queen bed rooms (\$135) Use the Confirmation Code: PKCWRT110725, Call to reserve the Best Western, 301 Steinwehr Ave, Gettysburg, PA, (717) 334-1188. This rate and block is available until Oct 7th 2025. Tour scheduled to be First Days Action.**



# Phil Kearny Civil War Round Table

## Membership Form



# Dues are \$25 a year

Please send a check or money order payable to:

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### % Norm Dykstra

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**REMINDER: New and returning members, Renew your membership in the Phil Kearny CWRT, which is \$25 annually.**

Each Phil Kearny CWRT Bulletin Newsletter there is always a reminder, and we do accept renewals at any time. Our "membership year" has always been from April to March. So, if you have not yet paid your dues for 2025(*thank you to those who have already*), now is the perfect time to write that check! You can find my address on the front page of every PKCWRT newsletter as well as on this membership form.

Thank you,  
Norm Dykstra  
PKCWRT Treasurer

