

# Des Moines Civil War Roundtable's 50th Anniversary Gala

## Dr. Richard Kiper

Retired Lieutenant Colonel (West Point, 1967) earned his Ph.D. in history from the University of Kansas. He has taught at West Point, at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Kansas City Community College, and the American Military University. Author of numerous articles and books including award-winning *Major General John Alexander McClelland: Politician in Uniform* and *Dear Catharine, Dear Taylor: The Civil War Letters of a Civil War Soldier and His Wife*.



## Brian K. McCutchen

Has served in positions of ranger, historian and superintendent of numerous national parks and programs. He has conducted research on Civil War monuments, their history and preservation. He is the co-author of the book, *Shiloh National Military Park*, a part of the Arcadia Publishing "Images of America." series.



## Dr. Timothy B. Smith

Earned his Ph.D. from Mississippi State University, is a veteran of the National Park Service, and currently teaches history at the University of Tennessee-Martin. He is the author, editor or co-editor of 14 books, including *Champion Hill: Decisive Battle for Vicksburg and Corinth 1862: Siege, Battle, Occupation*, which won the Fletcher Pratt Award. His most recent book is *Shiloh: Conquer or Perish*.



## Agenda - Saturday, April 4, 2015

1:00 -6:00 pm - **Civil War Book Fair:** Author signings - prominent Civil War authors and exhibitors will have tables in the **Atrium** exhibiting their books and other items available for sale

1:30 - 2:45 pm - **Seminar:** "The War in the West - and Iowa's Role in It." Dr. Richard Kiper, Brian McCutchen, and Dr. Timothy Smith - **Auditorium**

3:00 - 4:00 pm - **Roundtable** Discussion with above-named speakers - **Auditorium**

4:15 - 5:45 pm  
Docents available for **tours** of the Civil War Exhibit and the Civil War Battle Flags Exhibit - tours start in **Atrium** and will be announced

**Performance** by the Marengo Iowa Civil War Band-**Atrium**



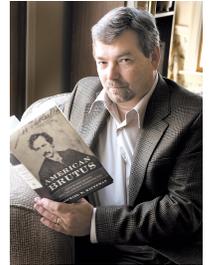
Check in for Social Hour and Banquet in **Atrium** (reservations required by March 28) - Cost: \$35/person

5:45 - 6:45 pm - **Banquet** - Reservations required by March 28 - **Atrium**, Cost: \$35/person

7:00 - 8:00 pm - **Keynote** Address: "John Wilkes Booth and the Staging of History" - Michael Kauffman - **Auditorium**

## Michael Kauffman

As historian William C. Davis once wrote, "no one has studied [John Wilkes] Booth longer or more in depth than Michael W. Kauffman, a well-known figure and voice of reason in the field of Lincoln assassination studies."



For more than 40 years, Kauffman has been a fixture at assassination-related symposia, tours, and news events. He has written numerous articles on the subject, and his bus tours of the John Wilkes Booth Escape Route, long a staple of feature publications throughout the U.S., inspired the *Washington Post* to call him "legendary" in their field.

He has lectured throughout the United States, and has written for *Civil War Times*, the *Washington Post*, *American Heritage*, *Blue and Gray*, and the *Lincoln Herald*, among others. You may have seen him on A&E, the Learning Channel, the History Channel, National Geographic Channel, and the Discovery Channel, or any number of other media outlets.

He is the author of *American Brutus: John Wilkes Booth and the Lincoln Conspiracies*, which was named by the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, and other major media as one of the best non-fiction books of 2004. This all-encompassing account of the Lincoln conspiracy is based entirely on primary sources, and was named by the *Wall Street Journal* as one of the five best books ever written about political violence. As the late historian David Herbert Donald said, "There are many books [on the assassination] but this is by all means, the best."

Its companion documentary, *The Hunt for John Wilkes Booth*, appears regularly on the History Channel, and has spawned a cottage industry in assassination-related tours. In 2012, the highlights of Kauffman's tours became a book, CD and interactive iPhone package called *In the Footsteps of an Assassin*.

## Registration for Banquet

All lectures, the roundtable discussion, tours and book fair are free and open to the public.

If you want to join us for the social hour and banquet, you must pre-register by March 28, 2015. The banquet fee is \$35.00/person. Cash bar.

### Registration for Social Hour/Banquet

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Mail form and a check for \$35.00/person payable to : Des Moines Civil War Roundtable, c/o Ron Nurmi, 1424 East Walnut Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50316

The Banquet is catered by Baratta's Italian Restaurant; cash bar with beer, wine and other beverages.

A block of rooms at a discounted price are held at the Renaissance Savery Hotel, 401 Locust, Des Moines - 515-244-2151.

Special thanks to Humanities, Iowa and State Historical Society, Inc. for their support.

## Des Moines Civil War Roundtable 1965-2015

The year 2015 commemorates the 150th anniversary of the end of the Civil War as well as the 50th anniversary of the Des Moines Civil War Roundtable. One of the original founders of the Des Moines Civil War Roundtable, Clyde H. Doolittle, expressed his "hope that it would continue indefinitely and bring the story of the patriotism and courage of the participants on both sides to future generations." Fifty years later, as Iowa's oldest and largest Roundtable, we believe we have, and will continue to fulfill his wishes.

The Des Moines Civil War Roundtable like other Roundtables in over 40 states is devoted to discussion and study of all aspects of America's greatest tragedy and one of our country's defining moments. The causes of racial inequality and states' vs. national rights continue to be divisive issues, and as the historian George Santayana once said, "Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it." We meet once a month, nine months of the year for a social hour and dinner, followed by programs presented by experts from throughout Iowa and the United States. Please consider joining.

[www.dmcivilwar.com](http://www.dmcivilwar.com)

**For more information, contact:**

**Ron Nurmi** 515-262-3958

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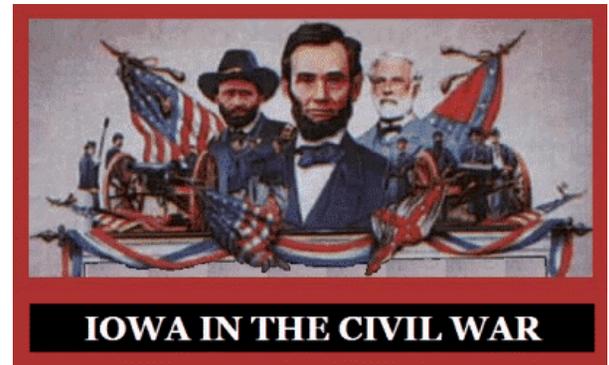
**John Liepa**, Event Co-Chair

515-961-8539 or [jllepa17@aol.com](mailto:jllepa17@aol.com)

**Gordon McKenzie**, Event Co-Chair

515-274-0226

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**Saturday, April 4, 2015**  
State Historical Museum  
of Iowa  
600 East Locust  
Des Moines, Iowa