



NEWS RELEASE

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ALAN NOLAN TO DISCUSS CIVIL WAR HISTORY IN USI COMMUNITY OF SCHOLARS PROGRAM

For Immediate Release
March 18, 1992

Alan T. Nolan, an Evansville native who has achieved eminence as an author of Civil War history, will be featured in programs on April 9-10 that are part of the University of Southern Indiana 1992 Community of Scholars series bringing Evansville people back to the city to share their experiences.

Nolan will speak at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 9, in Forum II at USI, discussing his acclaimed but controversial book, *Lee Considered: General Robert E. Lee and Civil War History*. The book is a realistic picture of the Southern general that was published in 1991 by the University of North Carolina Press. It was the main selection of the History Book Club for August 1991, and a Book of the Month alternate selection for September 1991.

James M. McPherson, author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Battle Cry of Freedom*, has said: "This book will change our perception of the South's premier icon. With a deft pen and sure grasp of essential questions, Alan Nolan separates the Lee of reality from the Lee of mythology. No student of the Civil War can afford to ignore the challenging and controversial conclusions of this study."

The public is invited to this free program in the Community of Scholars series designed to broaden educational opportunities beyond the classroom. The series was inaugurated by the University in 1986 to celebrate in a lasting manner the attainment of separate university status the previous year.

On Friday, April 10, Nolan will discuss his work in city classrooms. Richard Borries, social studies director for the Evansville-Vanderburgh School Corporation, said Nolan will visit with Bill Bartelt's ninth-grade advance placement class at Harrison High School at 8:40 a.m., then go to McGary Middle School to meet at 10:30 a.m. with the eighth-grade U.S. history classes taught by Bill Seibert and Robert Spear.

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Nolan's first major work was *The Iron Brigade*, a military history published in 1961 by Macmillan Company. In 1975, a new and revised edition was published by the State Historical Society of Wisconsin and in 1983, a third edition was published by the Historical Society of Michigan and Hardscrabble Books. *The Iron Brigade* has been named by *Civil War Times Illustrated* as one of the "100 best books ever written on the Civil War." It remains in print after 30 years.

Nolan is chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Indiana Historical Society, a Fellow of the Company of Military Historians, a founder and former president of the Indianapolis Civil War Round Table, and formerly was a director of the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites. A graduate of Indiana University and Harvard Law School, he practices law in Indianapolis with the firm of Ice Miller Donadio & Ryan.

Nolan also is the author of *As Sounding Brass*, a contemporary novel published by Houghton Mifflin. He has written for *Civil War Times Illustrated*, *Civil War* magazine, *Indiana Magazine of History*, Oxford University Press's *American National Biography*, and other periodicals.

Nolan is the grandson of two former Evansville mayors -- Democrat John J. Nolan and Republican Charles G. Covert, both of whom also became state legislators and Evansville postmasters. Nolan was born in Evansville in January 1923, and attended St. Benedict and Stanley Hall schools before the family moved to Indianapolis when his father, Val, was named U.S. attorney for Indiana. The father was Evansville city attorney prior to that appointment. Nolan's mother, Jeanette Covert Nolan, was a prolific writer who had been an Evansville newspaperwoman before her marriage and later wrote children's books and detective stories and other fiction for adults. Fifty of her books were published.