

# The Outpost

The Newsletter of the Salt Creek Civil War Round Table  
Vol. LVI No. 8 April 2018



## 512th Regular Meeting

**DATE:** Friday, April 20, 2018  
**PLACE:** Oak Trace, 200 Village Drive, Downers Grove, IL  
**TIME:** 8:00 p.m.  
**TOPIC:** “The Clank of Arms Be Heard No More”  
**SPEAKER:** Frederick and Carol Miller

James Augustus Miller was a 32 year-old farmer with a wife and 5 year old son when he answered President Abraham Lincoln’s second call for volunteers to fight to save the Union. The year was 1862. He signed up at Herkimer, New York and was assigned to Company C, 152<sup>nd</sup> Regiment of New York State Volunteers. This regiment served in many key battles of the Civil War. Many of his “adventures are described in 40 of his 120 letters home to his wife, Caroline and their young son Merritt James Miller. The letters are in safe keeping of Frederick Miller of Glen Ellyn, one of James’ great grandsons.

During the siege of Petersburg, Virginia and the Battle of Weldon Station, the 152<sup>nd</sup> Regiment was flanked by surprise. James and five of his hometown friends were captured on June 22, 1864, briefly imprisoned in Richmond, then sent by railroad to a new Confederate prison camp in Andersonville, Georgia. His letters home stopped. After four months of what has been described as horrible living conditions, a lack of fresh water, and very little food, James died at age 34, on October 26, 1864. His grave is No.11516 in the cemetery at the Andersonville National Historic Site.

On Friday, January 1, 1864, ten months before he died in captivity, James wrote these words looking for a better time ahead:

*“And today I think the prospects of the future look brighter as regards our country, and rebellion will soon be played out. My earnest prayer is that it may, and **the clank of arms be heard no more**, North or South, but become as one, inseparable, and live as in the days that are passed and gone.”*

Frederick and Carol Miller will present the program about his great-grandfather’s activities during the Civil War as told through his letters written home.

**If you need assistance parking during construction please ask at the front desk or call the On-Site Transportation & Security Service at 630-401-6699. There are plenty of spaces available.**

## MARCH MONTHLY MEETING REPORT by Art Foley

Last meeting, Mr. Charles Banks provided an overview of the Battle of Monocacy. Describing the strategic situation facing the Army of Northern Virginia and a desire to protect sources of food and material supply in the Shenandoah Valley, Robert E. Lee dispatched Jubal Early with elements of the II Corps in mid- 1864.

Early retook the offensive in the valley, driving David Hunter's command into safety at Harper's Ferry, thus obtaining a clear path to Maryland and the Capital. Driving his 10,000 troops forward in torrid June weather, Early had overly ambitious plans to disrupt the Baltimore & Philadelphia Railroad, destroy the C & O canal, raid northern towns, release Confederate POWs at Point Lookout, and threaten the Capital. Screened by cavalry on his drive north, Early's men crossed the Potomac on July 8<sup>th</sup>. Union officials, heretofore in the dark about the rebel force's objective, were frantically looking for information and gathering troops to meet the emergency.

After Confederate raids on Hagerstown, Middletown, and Frederick, Maryland, the path of the rebel force became clear. Union Major General Lew Wallace, commander of the Washington defenses, took the initiative, channeling over 3200 troops to Monocacy Junction. At the last minute, units of the VI Corps, commanded by General James Ricketts, double timed their way into the junction while Early's cavalry was probing Federal defenses. Holding the bridge passages across the Monocacy River, Wallace had forces dug in and manning blockhouses. To his south, the 8<sup>th</sup> Illinois Cavalry skirmished with Confederate probes at 8:30 that morning. Fighting raged back and forth over the farmland south of the Georgetown Pike for most of the day, ultimately pushing the Union lines back to the Pike. By 4:30, Wallace was forced to order the burning of the wood bridge and to call a general retreat after Rickett's men are flanked on their right by General John Gordon's units. The fleeing Union men head north to the Baltimore Pike and make good their escape. Stung by the solid Union defense of the junction, Early's troops pursued for only two miles and then returned to the field. The Confederates won the battle but lost the race to the Capital. Wallace's stubborn defense gave the Federals a full day on the enemy, enough time to man the defenses surrounding the city. Early was blocked and retreat became a necessity. This would be the high mark of the Confederate offensive. Grant was convinced to eliminate the threat in the Valley. He would send a force commanded by General Phil Sheridan which would remove the supply flow and the majority of the Confederate units from the area by late fall of 1864.

We would like to thank Mr. Banks for providing the membership with an entertaining session. Huzzah!

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The Chicagoland Civil War & Military Extravaganza will be held April 28, 2018 at the DuPage County Fairgrounds, Wheaton. VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED. Contact Jan: [jrbarns@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jrbarns@sbcglobal.net)

**BATTLEFIELD TOUR:** The Civil War Museum of Kenosha is offering a bus tour of the Chickamauga/Chattanooga Civil War Sites Sunday, October 21 to Wednesday, October 24, 2018. The tour will be led by award winning author and Chickamauga expert Dave Powell. For itinerary and registration information: [ddammann@kenosha.org](mailto:ddammann@kenosha.org) or 262-653-4432.



## The Salt Creek Civil War Round Table's **Annual Banquet—Friday June 15, 2018**

Time: 6:30 Cocktails – 7:00 Dinner – 8:00 Speaker – **Silent Auction**

Speaker: **STEVEN ACKER**

Presenting: **GETTYSBURG: THE LIVING MEMORIAL**

Where: **Hilton-Lisle/Naperville;** 3003 Corporate West Drive (Warrenville Road)  
Lisle/Naperville, 630-505-0900

◆ 1-mile east of the intersection of Naperville Rd./ Naper Blvd. & Warrenville Road ◆

Directions...

From **Chicago:** Eisenhower west to "Aurora / I-88"...exit "53 south," 1-block to Warrenville Rd., turn west (right) 1-mile (+/-) to the **Hilton - Lisle** on the left (south) side of the road.

From **Indiana:** I-294 north to "Aurora / I-88"...*follow above directions.*

From **Milwaukee:** I-294 south to "Aurora / I-88"...*follow above directions.*

From the **West:** To Naperville Road / Naper Blvd., to Warrenville Road; east to **Hilton - Lisle**, on the right (south).

Price: **\$50.00** per person (free parking)

Select: Sliced N.Y. strip loin of **BEEF**, Boursin (cheese)-crusted **CHICKEN**, or Honey-ginger **SALMON**

◆ Please make your reservations by Monday, June 11, 2018 ◆

Questions: Call Jan Rasmussen...630-830-7614; [www.jrbarns@sbcglobal.net](mailto:www.jrbarns@sbcglobal.net)

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Please—by June 11, 2018—return this form *with your check* to:

**Jan Rasmussen, SCCWRT**

**756 Sterling Ct. D2; Bartlett, IL 60103**

Call: **630-830-7614**; [www.jrbarns@sbcglobal.net](mailto:www.jrbarns@sbcglobal.net)

Make checks payable to: "**SCCWRT**" for the *total amount due*

NAME (please print) \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE MEMBERSHIP(S) \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF ATTENDEES \_\_\_\_\_ @ **\$50 each = total:** \_\_\_\_\_

CHOICE & NUMBER OF ENTRÉE: Sliced loin of **BEEF** \_\_\_\_\_ Boursin-crusted **CHICKEN** \_\_\_\_\_ Honey-ginger **SALMON** \_\_\_\_\_

NAME(S) OF GUEST (S) : \_\_\_\_\_

## **UPCOMING CIVIL WAR EVENTS**

APRIL 26, 2018  
**SOUTH SUBURBAN CWRT**  
"Colorado & the Western Territories  
During the Civil War"  
Speaker: Dennis Doyle  
The Trails End, 20 Kansas St.  
Frankfort, IL  
[www.southsuburbancwrt.com](http://www.southsuburbancwrt.com)

MAY 2, 2018  
**KANKAKEE VALLEY CWRT**  
"Black Confederates: Myths and  
Realities"  
Speaker: Pat Wolgamot  
Kankakee Public Library

MAY 4, 2018  
**NORTHERN ILLINOIS CWRT**  
"The 1862 Mid-Term Elections"  
Speaker: Jon Sebastian  
Arlington Hts. Memorial Library  
500 Dunton, Arlington Hts.  
[www.northernilcwrt.org](http://www.northernilcwrt.org)

MAY 8, 2018  
**McHENRY COUNTY CWRT**  
"Preservation at Antietam"  
Speaker: Mary Abroe  
Woodstock Library  
[www.mchenrycivilwar.com](http://www.mchenrycivilwar.com)

MAY 11, 2018  
**CHICAGO CWRT**  
"Grant Under Fire"  
Speaker: Joseph Rose  
Holiday Inn O'Hare  
5615 N. Cumberland, Chicago  
[dinnerreservation@chicagocwrt.org](mailto:dinnerreservation@chicagocwrt.org)

MAY 15, 2018  
**LINCOLN/DAVIS CWRT**  
"Midnight in American: Civil War  
Dreams"  
Speaker: Jonathan White  
Country House Restaurant, Alsip  
[lincolndavisroundtable@yahoo.com](mailto:lincolndavisroundtable@yahoo.com)

## **ALL FOR THE UNION**

The SCCWRT website is temporarily  
down. Technical assistance would be  
greatly appreciated. Contact Rick Zarr:  
[rzarr@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rzarr@sbcglobal.net)

Brian Conroy has taken over the  
Salt Creek CWRT Facebook page.  
Check it out for updates.

## **WELCOME NEW MEMBER**

Gail Lord

## **BACK IN HISTORY**

50 Years Ago: Dan Lapinski presented  
"Island No. 10".

25 Years Ago: Paul Kliger presented:  
"The Confederate Invasion of New Mexico"

10 Years Ago: Phil Angelo presented:  
"Alan Pinkerton: Civil War Spymaster"

## **FUTURE SCCWRT MEETINGS**

May 18, 2018  
"The Merrimac-Virginia Naval Battle"  
Speaker: David Noe

June 15, 2018 Annual Banquet  
"Gettysburg: The Living Memorial"  
Speaker: Steven Acker

## **THE SALT CREEK CWRT**

[www.saltcreekcwrt.org](http://www.saltcreekcwrt.org)

President: Cindy Heckler

Vice-President: Rick Zarr

Secretary-Treasurer: Jan Rasmussen

Board Members: Chuck Kurtz, Mike Miller,

Sharon Maher, Brian Conroy, Jon Fritz

Historian: Cindy Intravartolo

Newsletter Editor: Jennie Warner

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