

The Outpost

The Newsletter of the Salt Creek Civil War Round Table
Vol. LVX No. 8 April 2022



549th Regular Meeting

DATE: SATURDAY, April 16, 2022
PLACE: Glen Ellyn History Center (N.W. Corner of Main & Elm Streets)
800 N. Main Street, Glen Ellyn, IL
TIME: 11:00 am
PROGRAM: "Nathan Bedford Forrest's September 1864 Railroad Raid"
SPEAKER: Gene Salecker

After Union General William T. Sherman captured Atlanta, Confederate cavalryman Nathan Bedford Forrest set out to sever his supply line back to Nashville, Tennessee. In late September 1864, Forrest set out with 4500 men to tear up two vital railroad lines. Facing him would be over 20,000 Union Soldiers. If successful, would Forrest be able to draw Sherman out of Atlanta and prolong the life of the struggling Confederacy?

Gene Salecker, a well-known collector of Sultana artifacts and photographs, has been compiling data on the disaster since 1978. He is the author of the new book "*Destruction of the Steamboat Sultana: The Worst Maritime Disaster in American History*". Gene previously authored "*Disaster on the Mississippi: The Sultana Explosion April 27, 1865*" and has also written many articles about the Sultana for Civil War Magazines.

He also has an interest in World War II history authoring "*Rolling Thunder against the Rising Sun: The Combat History of the U.S. Army Tank Battalions in the Pacific in WW II.*", "*Fortress against the Sun: The B-17 Flying Fortress in the Pacific*", "*The Second Pearl Harbor: The West Loch Disaster, May 21, 1944*", and "*Blossoming Silk Against the Rising Sun: US and Japanese Paratroopers in the Pacific in WW II.*"

Mr. Salecker is a native of Chicago and graduate of Northeastern Illinois University. A retired police officer and middle school teacher, he is currently the historical consultant for the Sultana Disaster Museum, Marion, Arkansas.

ALL FOR THE UNION

Meetings will be held on the 3rd SATURDAY at 11am at the Glen Ellyn History Center.

Salt Creek CWRT will be celebrating our 60th Anniversary on Friday June 17th at our annual banquet at the DoubleTree by Hilton Lisle Naperville. (Same place new name)
Dr. Theresa Kaminski will present: "Dr. Mary Walker's Civil War: How One Woman Received the Medal of Honor". **See attached flyer.**

The Chicagoland Civil War Expo will be held April 23rd at the DuPage County Fairgrounds, 2015 W. Manchester, Wheaton www.chicagocivilwarshow.com
Volunteers needed. Sign up at the next meeting or contact Jan at jrbarns@sbcglobal.net

UPCOMING CIVIL WAR EVENTS

Check with the organization sponsoring the program for meeting status

April 19, 2022

Lincoln/Davis CWRT will feature Ken Rutherford presenting "America's Buried History: Landmines in the Civil War"

Country House Restaurant, Alsip, IL

lincolndavisroundtable@yahoo.com

April 28, 2022

South Suburban CWRT will feature Gordon Dammann presenting "Civil War Medicine"

South Suburban CWRT on Facebook

May 10, 2022

McHenry County CWRT will feature Fred Reczkowicz presenting "Battle of Ball's Bluff"

Woodstock Library

www.mchenrycivilwar.com

May 13, 2022

Chicago CWRT will feature James Pula presenting "The 12th Corps in the Western Theater"

Holiday Inn O'Hare, 5615 N. Cumberland, Chicago (In Person & Zoom Presentation)

chicagocwrt.org

May 14, 2022

Two Old Goats in Cedar Lake, IN will feature Paula Walker presenting "Warren at Five Forks". rzarr@sbcglobal.net

May 17, 2022

Lincoln/Davis CWRT will feature Mark Bielski presenting "The Fall of New Orleans: A Mortal Blow to the Confederacy".

Country House Restaurant, Alsip, IL

April 2022 Preservation Report

By Brian Conroy

April's preservation report is aimed at land that has been targeted by residential and utility-scale solar developers for modern, single-family houses and endless rows of solar panels. These 48 acres of hallowed ground in Virginia at Cedar Creek and Cedar Mountain have a transaction value of \$939,153. And a combination of state and federal grants and major gifts will multiply each \$1 you give by a factor of \$29!

The first tract consists of 3 acres at Cedar Creek, site of the bloody battle in the Shenandoah Valley, is also one of the most threatened battlefields in America as the Washington, D.C. metro area expands and the lands is increasingly attractive to residential and commercial developers. It is also greatly threatened, as an international mining company owns more than 500 acres of pristine battlefield land that is in danger of being destroyed over time by mining activity.

On October 19, 1864, General Jubal Early's outnumbered Confederate Army of the Valley launched a devastating surprise attack against the left flank of the Union Army of the Shenandoah, commanded by General Philip "Little Phil" Sheridan. They were aided by predawn gloom and dense fog, as Confederate assaults routed Union forces. Surprised Union troops were driven from their camps, battered and bloody across the rolling Virginia. They were driven to taking positions to their rear, while at the same time future President, Col. Rutherford B. Hayes, led his men in retreat across the land that is hoping to be saved in the heart of the battlefield. At the end of five hours, the bloodied, battered, and defeated Union Army of the Shenandoah was routed as the Confederates claimed a stunning victory.

The second tract trying to be saved is 45 acres at Cedar Mountain, in the Virginia piedmont. On the afternoon of August 9, 1862, Confederate General Stonewall Jackson, seeing an opportunity to attack John Pope's army, rode into the midst of his fleeing forces to rally them, waving his sheathed saber due to it being rusted shut. This inspired his men as Confederate General A.P. Hill counterattacked against the Union right, repulsing them to win the day.

This battle at Cedar Mountain gave General Robert E. Lee the strategic initiative that led directly to the Second Battle of Manassas and, eventually, the Battle of Antietam.

The 45 acres that the American Battlefield Trust is hoping to save at Cedar Mountain includes the site of the brutal, hour-long artillery duel that ended the battle with infantry positioned there. These acres, including those at Cedar Creek, add significantly to both interpretive opportunities of the land already preserved at this crucial site, and also go a long way toward substantially completing this battlefield, a major goal of the Trust over the next five years.

BACK IN HISTORY

50 Years Ago: Miner T. Coburn presented “Grant at Vicksburg”

25 Years Ago: Don Sender presented “CSS Alabama: The Career of a Commerce Raider”

10 Years Ago: Art Foley presented “James Blunt”

FUTURE SALT CREEK CWRT MEETINGS

Check us out on Facebook and at saltcreekcwr.org

May 21, 2022

Fr. Bob Miller will present “Father Jeremiah Trecy, Civil War Chaplain”

June 17, 2022

60th Anniversary Banquet

Dr. Theresa Kaminski will present “Dr Mary Walker’s Civil War: How One Woman Received the Medal of Honor” **See attached flyer.**

September 17, 2022

Jerry Allen will present “Murphy’s Law and the Peter Principle: The Holly Springs Raid”.

THE SALT CREEK CWRT

President: Cindy Heckler

Vice-President: Rick Zarr

Secretary-Treasurer: Jan Rasmussen

Board Members: Brian Conroy, Sharon Maher, Mike Miller, Rob Girardi, Nancy & Jon Fritz,

Historian: Cindy Intravartolo

Newsletter Staff: Jan Rasmussen, Brian Conroy

Facebook and Website Editor: Brian Conroy



The Salt Creek Civil War Round Table's **Annual Banquet—Friday June 17, 2022**

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

**** COME HELP CELEBRATE OUR 60TH ANNIVERSARY ****

Dr. THERESA KAMINSKI.... Professor Emeritus and Author

Presenting: **Dr. Mary Walker's Civil War:
*One Woman's Journey to the Medal of Honor***

Where: DOUBLETREE by Hilton Lisle Naperville

3003 Corporate West Drive (Warrenville Road) Lisle, IL, 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 Road, turn west (right) 1-mile (+/-) to the **DOUBLETREE by Hilton Lisle Naperville** on the left (south) side of the road.

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

Price: \$60.00 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 June 8, 2022 ◆

Questions: Call Jan Rasmussen...630-217-8427; www.jrbarns@sbcglobal.net

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Please respond by June 8, 2022—return this form **with your check** to:

**Jan Rasmussen, Treasurer
756 Sterling Ct. D2; Bartlett, IL 60103**

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

NAME (please print) _____ PHONE # _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

NUMBER OF ATTENDEES _____ @ \$60 each = total: \$ _____

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

NAME(S) OF GUEST(S) _____