

# The Outpost

The Newsletter of the Salt Creek Civil War Round Table  
Vol. LXII No. 8 April 2025



## 579th Regular Meeting

DATE: Saturday, April 19, 2025  
PLACE: Glen Ellyn History Center at Stacy's Corners  
800 N. Main St., Glen Ellyn, IL (NW Corner of Main & Elm Streets)  
TIME: 11am  
PROGRAM: **"The Life and Legacy of Florida's Own General  
Edmund Kirby Smith"**  
SPEAKER: Bob Grenier

Floridian Edmund Kirby Smith earned the unimaginative nickname "Seminole" from his West Point classmates in the Class of 1845. Though he was more interested in botany and biblical studies than in battlefield tactics, he earned two brevet promotions in the Mexican War. He spent the years leading to the Civil War in the 2<sup>nd</sup> U.S. Cavalry. When Texas seceded, Smith refused to surrender Federal installations to Benjamin McCulloch. He resigned his U.S. commission and accepted one in the Confederacy. Smith led a brigade at 1<sup>st</sup> Manassas, where he was seriously wounded. He recovered and was sent to the Western Theater and cooperated with Braxton Bragg in the 1862 Kentucky Campaign, after which he was transferred to the trans-Mississippi Department. Smith commanded this theater until the end of the war, earning the region the title of Kirby Smithdom.

Our speaker, Bob Grenier, a native of the Chicago area, comes to us from Tavares, Florida. He is retired from engineering services. Over the years, he has been President of the Lake County Historical Society and Museum, host for "Happenings and History" for WQBQ radio, executive director of the Tavares History Research Center, member of the Tavares City Council, Mayor of Tavares, and a cast member at Walt Disney World.

He is the author of twelve books on Florida history and is working on several more. Please join us for what promises to be an interesting presentation.

## **ALL FOR THE UNION**

Thanks to all who renewed their memberships.

The Midwest Civil War Show will be on April 26<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are needed. Sign up at the next meeting or contact Jan at [jrbarns@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jrbarns@sbcglobal.net).

## **UPCOMING CIVIL WAR EVENTS**

Check with the organization sponsoring the program for meeting status.

April 13, 2025, at 2 pm

**NW Indiana CWRT** will feature Bob Grenier presenting "*Hidden History Along Florida's Civil War Trails*". Crown Point Community Library Northwest Indiana CWRT on Facebook

April 15, 2025

**Lincoln/Davis CWRT** will feature Bob Grenier presenting "*General Edmund Kirby Smith*". Country House Restaurant, Alsip, IL [lincolndavisroundtable@yahoo.com](mailto:lincolndavisroundtable@yahoo.com)

April 24, 2025

**South Suburban CWRT** will feature Brian Conroy presenting on Civil War Reenacting. Auriello's Pizza, 19836 Wolf Road, Mokena, IL. South Suburban CWRT on Facebook.

April 26, 2025

**Midwest Civil War Show** at the DuPage County Fairgrounds, Wheaton, IL 9am to 4pm. [www.zurkopromotions.com](http://www.zurkopromotions.com)

May 2, 2025

**Northern Illinois CWRT** will feature David Powell presenting "*The Union Assaults of Kennesaw Mountain, June 27, 1864*". Arlington Hts. Historical Museum or Arlington Hts. Library [www.northernilcwr.org](http://www.northernilcwr.org)

May 9, 2025

**Chicago CWRT** will feature Steve Phan presenting "*Asian and Pacific Islanders During the Civil War*". Holiday Inn Oakbrook, 350 W. 22<sup>nd</sup> St., Oakbrook Terrace [www.chicagocwrt.org](http://www.chicagocwrt.org)

May 13, 2025

**McHenry County CWRT** will feature Dennis Doyle presenting "*Illinois Regiments at Gettysburg*". Woodstock Library [www.mchenrycivilwar.com](http://www.mchenrycivilwar.com)

**Great Lakes Civil War Forum** at the Civil War Museum of Kenosha, Wisconsin Saturday, September 13. The theme of this year's Forum is the Antietam Campaign. For speaker and program information, registration costs and additional details, please click on the link below or call the museum at 262-653-4140. <https://museums.kenosha.org/civil-war-museum-programs-events/annual-events>

## **4<sup>th</sup> Annual Carthage College Lincoln Symposium**

Friday, April 25 and Saturday April 26

The two-day Symposium will feature some of the leading Abraham Lincoln scholars from around the country.

This event is in partnership with Carthage College, The Lincoln Forum, the Kenosha Civil War Museum, and the Lincoln Presidential Foundation. Registration is required.

Contact Dana Kroll at [dkroll@carthage.edu](mailto:dkroll@carthage.edu) with questions.

<https://museums.kenosha.org/civil-war-museum-programs-events/annual-events>

## **FUTURE SALT CREEK CWRT MEETINGS**

Check us out on Facebook and at [saltcreekcwrt.org](http://saltcreekcwrt.org)

May 17, 2025 Robert I. Girardi will present "*The Very Spirit of War: General John Alexander Logan*".

June 20, 2025 Annual Banquet featuring Mark Flotow presenting "*In Their Letters, In Their Own Words: Illinois Civil War Soldiers Write About U.S Grant*".

Sept. 27, 2025 Jerry Allen will present "*General James B. Steedman*". **Note the date change Due to a conflict with the Civil War Show.**

Oct. 18, 2025 ANNUAL BOOK SALE 11am to 1pm Program at 1pm  
Fr. Bob Miller will present "*From Rome to Appomattox: The History of Military Chaplains*".

Nov. 15, 2025 Thomas Arliskas will present "*Smoothbores & Shotguns vs Rifles at Fort Donelson*".

## **BACK IN HISTORY**

**50 Years Ago:** Ralph Newman presented "*Everything You Wanted To Know About Abraham Lincoln and Were Afraid To Ask*".

**25 Years Ago:** Dan McCarthy presented "*The Battle of Mill Springs*".

**10 Years Ago:** Doug Dammann presented "*Elmer Ellsworth and the U.S. Zouave Cadets*".

## **THE SALT CREEK CWRT**

President: Robert I. Girardi

Vice-President: TBD

Secretary-Treasurer: Jan Rasmussen

Board Members: Brian Conroy, Sharon Maher, Rick Zarr, Dan McCarthy, Nancy & Jon Fritz

Historian: Cindy Intravartolo

Newsletter Staff: Jan Rasmussen, Rob Girardi, Brian Conroy

Facebook and Website Editor: Brian Conroy

## **April 2025 Preservation Report** **by Brian Conroy**

### **The Opportunity**

Right now, an opportunity exists to protect nearly 210 acres of sacred battlefield land in Virginia — at Malvern Hill, Brandy Station, New Market, and New Market Heights. Through a remarkable \$6.44-to-\$1 match, contributions will go even further, ensuring that these irreplaceable sites remain untouched for current and future generations. The total value for this irreplaceable historic land is more than \$2.7 million, but fortunately, every dollar donated toward this goal will be multiplied, thanks to the anticipated government matching grants from the Commonwealth of Virginia, the federal government, committed partner groups, and some very generous supporters. The bottom line is: \$429,500 is needed to forever preserve these battlefield acres. Battlefields have already been lost to development. If action is not taken now, these landscapes — where history was written in blood and sacrifice — will disappear.

### **The History**

Each of these Virginia battlefields tells a story of courage and determination.

- Malvern Hill (1862): The final battle of the Seven Days Campaign, where Union forces held their ground against relentless Confederate attacks. Without preservation, the battlefield's sweeping vistas could be marred by new construction.
- Brandy Station (1863): The site of the largest cavalry battle of the Civil War, marking a turning point for Union horsemen. Today, this historic land faces the threat of modern development.
- New Market (1864): The battle where young cadets from the Virginia Military Institute charged bravely into history, shaping the outcome of the war in the Shenandoah Valley.
- New Market Heights (1864): A battlefield where African American Union soldiers displayed extraordinary valor, with 14 men receiving the Medal of Honor. This land holds powerful lessons about bravery and the fight for freedom.

These are not just places on a map; they are places where the nation's story was written. If protection is not secured now, that story *may be erased*.

### **Stand for History Today**

Too many irreplaceable historic sites have been lost. At Malvern Hill, a developer was prepared to build a massive home directly on battlefield land. Circumstances allowed for intervention in time. But relying on luck is not an option — dedicated supporters must take action. With the right help, these 210 acres of historic land can be *protected forever*. Every dollar contributed will be multiplied by \$6.44, maximizing impact and ensuring that future generations can stand on these battlefields and learn from the past.



The Salt Creek Civil War Round Table's **Annual Banquet—Friday June 20, 2025**

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

**MARK FLOTOW**

Presenting: ***“In Their Letters, In Their Own Words:  
Illinois Soldiers Write About U.S. Grant”***.

**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 **DOUBLETREE**, on the right (south).

**Price:** **\$65.00** 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 16, 2025** ◆

**Questions:** Call **Jan Rasmussen**...630-217-8427; [jrbarns@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jrbarns@sbcglobal.net)

★★★



Please respond by **June 16, 2025**—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 \_\_\_\_\_ @ **\$65 each = total:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

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