

# The Outpost

The Newsletter of the Salt Creek Civil War Round Table  
Vol. LXI No. 8 April 2024



## 569th Regular Meeting

DATE: SATURDAY, April 13, 2024 \*Note Date Change  
PLACE: Glen Ellyn History Center at Stacy's Corners  
800 N. Main St., Glen Ellyn, IL (NW Corner of Main & Elm Streets)  
TIME: 11 a.m.  
PROGRAM: "The Bonds of War: Immigrant Soldiers of the 96<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry"  
SPEAKER: Diana Dretske

**The Bonds of War: Immigrant Soldiers of the 96<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry** will explore how uncovering the identities of immigrant soldiers in a group portrait led to re-examining the role of immigrants in the Union Army and the 96th Illinois' unique joint venture between Lake and Jo Daviess Counties.

**Diana Dretske** is the senior curator and Lake County historian for the Lake County Forest Preserves Bess Bower Dunn Museum. She has authored three books, including *The Bonds of War* published by SIU Press, and is the recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Illinois State Historical Society for outstanding contributions in promoting, preserving, and commemorating Illinois history.

The meeting this month is a week early due to a conflict with the Midwest Civil War & Military Show at the DuPage County Fairgrounds in Wheaton. Salt Creek CWRT has hosted a table for over 30 years. Now that we meet on Saturdays there will be an occasional conflict. The Volunteer sign-up sheet will be at the next meeting.

## **ALL FOR THE UNION**

The SCCWRT made a \$1000 donation in memory of Marilyn Steele to the American Battlefield Trust for the "Help Save the Final Mile at Franklin Project". The project was a \$50 to 1 match.

## **WELCOME NEW MEMBER**

Pam Kempf

## **UPCOMING CIVIL WAR EVENTS**

Check with the organization sponsoring the program for meeting status.

April 9, 2024

**McHenry Co. CWRT** will feature Bob Grenier presenting "Central Florida's CW Veterans".  
Woodstock Library [mchenrycivilwar.com](http://mchenrycivilwar.com)

April 12, 2024

**Chicago CWRT** will feature A. Wilson Greene presenting "Opening the Cracker Line and Keeping It Open: The Decisive Battles of the Chattanooga Campaign".  
Holiday Inn Oakbrook, 350 W. 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, Oakbrook Terrace [chicagocwrt.org](http://chicagocwrt.org)

April 14, 2024

**Northwest Indiana CWRT** will feature Dan Van Haften presenting "Abraham Lincoln and the Structure of Reason".  
Crown Point Community Library Northwest Indiana CWRT on Facebook

April 16, 2024

**Lincoln/Davis CWRT** will feature Father Bob Miller presenting "The Forgotten Victims of Disease at the Battle of Vicksburg".  
Country House Restaurant, Alsip, IL [lincolndavisroundtable@yahoo.com](mailto:lincolndavisroundtable@yahoo.com)

April 25, 2024

**South Suburban CWRT** will feature Brian Conroy presenting "The 4<sup>th</sup> Illinois Cavalry".  
Aurielio's Pizza, 19836 Wolf Road, Mokena, IL. South Suburban CWRT on Facebook

May 3, 2024

**Northern Illinois CWRT** will feature Jonathan Sebastian presenting "When Draftees Did Their Duty: Four Months in the 51<sup>st</sup> Illinois Infantry".  
Arlington Hts. Historical Museum or Arlington Hts. Library [northernilcwrt.org](http://northernilcwrt.org)

May 6, 2024

**Rock River Valley CWRT** will feature Dave Oberg presenting "Battery H, 1<sup>st</sup> Illinois Light Artillery."  
Veterans Memorial Hall, 211 N. Main Street. Rockford, IL.

May 10, 2024

**Chicago CWRT** will feature Lynn & Julianne Herman presenting "The Allegheny Arsenal Explosion".  
Holiday Inn Oakbrook, 350 W. 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, Oakbrook Terrace [chicagocwrt.org](http://chicagocwrt.org)

The Kenosha Civil War Museum features **Second Friday Lectures at Noon.**

On April 12, 2024, Rev. Steve Worsham will present "D.L. Moody and the Civil War".

<https://museums.kenosha.org/civilwar/events/>

**The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Lincoln Symposium** will be held on Thursday April 25-26 at Carthage College, A reception, dinner, and keynote address by Dr. James Oakes will be held at the Civil War Museum the evening of Thursday, April 25. Four additional Lincoln-themed programs will be held on the campus of Carthage College on Friday, April 26.

<https://www.carthage.edu/news-events/special-events/lincoln-symposium/>

Robert I. Girardi will present "John Eugene Smith: Galena's Forgotten General" at the Galena Territory Association Owners' Club on April 7, 2024 at 2:30pm. (2000 Territory Drive)

### **FUTURE SALT CREEK CWRT MEETINGS**

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

May 18, 2024

Bob Presman will present "God is On Our Side: Religion in the Civil War".

June 21, 2024 Annual Banquet at the Doubletree by Hilton Lisle Naperville.

Christopher Kolakowski will present "Not Written In Letters of Blood: The Tullahoma Campaign, Summer 1863."

Sept. 14, 2024 **Date Change due to conflict with the Civil War Show.**

Robert I. Girardi will present Stonewall Jackson: The Man, the Myth, and the Legend".

### **BACK IN HISTORY**

**50 Years Ago:** Gordon Whitney presented "The Battle of Nashville".

**25 Years Ago:** Panel Discussion: "Blunders & Blunderers at Gettysburg" featuring Kurt Carlson, Brian Ruxton, Bill Hupp, and Art Foley.

**10 Years Ago:** Dan McCarthy, Bruce Allardice and Art Foley presented "Civil War 101".

### **THE SALT CREEK CWRT**

President: Cindy Heckler

Vice-President: Robert I. Girardi

Secretary-Treasurer: Jan Rasmussen

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

Historian: Cindy Intravartolo

Newsletter Staff: Brian Conroy & Jan Rasmussen

Facebook and Website Editor: Brian Conroy

## April 2024 Preservation Report by Brian Conroy

### **From the American Battlefield Trust:**

There is a key missing piece in the heart of the battlefield at Franklin, Tennessee: a 0.60-acre tract of land with a single-story, contemporary warehouse. It is the only obstacle preventing visitors from walking the final quarter mile of the Confederates' desperate charge against the Union earthworks. Securing this tract of land, is an act that will allow future generations to truly feel a sense of what happened in "Bloody Franklin" on that fateful day, walking on the land that witnessed some of the most desperate hours of the entire Civil War.

A warehouse currently mars this portion of the battlefield, obstructing the final quarter mile of the Confederates' desperate charge. The cost of this small Franklin Battlefield property is an astonishingly expensive \$5 million. However, thanks to the collective efforts of local preservation organizations, Franklin's Charge and the Battle of Franklin Trust, and anticipated support from local and state government and the American Battlefield Protection Program, this hallowed ground is within reach. However, we still need to raise \$100,000 to meet our goal. Please donate today to help secure this critical tract of battlefield land at Franklin, Tennessee. Any amount you can donate to this effort will be *matched 50-to-1* toward this historic battlefield completion effort.

In November 1864, the Confederate Army of Tennessee found itself in relentless pursuit of a victory. Abraham Lincoln had just been re-elected president, meaning that the long fight which had already rent and ravaged the nation for nearly four years would continue. General William Tecumseh Sherman had captured Atlanta and was now in the thick of his scorched-earth March to the Sea. The Confederates were running out of options. The desperation was palpable when Confederate General John Bell Hood attempted to defeat Union forces determined to reach Nashville. About 20 miles south of the Tennessee capital, Hood's 27,000 soldiers encountered 28,000 Union forces under the command of General John Schofield. What ensued in that small country town on an unseasonably warm and bright afternoon would ultimately become known as "Bloody Franklin."

Described by some as the "last gasp" of the Confederacy, Franklin, Tennessee, was one of the worst places on the planet to be on November 30, 1864. As one soldier recalled years after the battle, "It was as if the Devil had full possession of the Earth." Fighting began around 4 o'clock in the afternoon, when the Confederates launched a massive infantry charge against Union forces that had dug in behind well-prepared earthworks and abatis. An astounding force of 20,000 Confederate soldiers charged across nearly two miles of open ground with virtually no artillery support to make a frontal assault on the Union lines. The size of this assault dwarfs the famed "Pickett's Charge" at Gettysburg by 50 percent.

Southern battalions slammed into the enemy lines and met intense resistance. Chaos and confusion reigned as soldiers on both sides engaged in fierce, often vicious hand-to-hand combat. "Bloody Franklin" witnessed some of the most brutal fighting of the war, with opposing soldiers often separated only by a few feet of earthworks. Beyond the sheer brutality and savagery of the fighting — the Battle of Franklin proved a calamitous defeat for the Confederates. More southern generals became casualties at Franklin than any other single battle of the war — eight were wounded or captured and six were killed.

### [Help Save "The Final Mile"](#)

Help secure the last \$100,000 needed to save this historic land. Remember, your gift will be *multiplied 50 times in value* to nearly complete the once-lost battlefield at Franklin and preserve this hallowed ground forever.