

The Outpost

The Newsletter of the Salt Creek Civil War Round Table
Vol. LV No. 8 April 2017



502nd Regular Meeting

DATE: Friday, April 21, 2017
PLACE: Oak Trace, 200 Village Drive, Downers Grove, IL
TIME: 8:00 p.m.
TOPIC: “Lincoln’s Political Generals and the Roles They Played”
SPEAKER: Steven Alban

Join us for an enjoyable evening of discovery. Our journey begins in 1860 and ends with the political failings of several battle initiatives through 1863. No personality will be spared. Lincoln and his political generals is a presentation of fun and promises to be an inspiring walk through history.

President Lincoln took office amid turmoil and fast paced action. Soon he needed to summon troops from the states to protect Washington City. Lincoln needed to hold the country together. Short of that the President needed to hold onto as much of America as he could. To do this Lincoln called upon men he could trust to take command of his army. Men like Ben Butler and Nathaniel P. Banks became Generals in Mr. Lincoln’s Army.

There were many political generals. They shared loyalty to President Lincoln and the United States of America. The political generals were not professional soldiers. No West Point Military graduations for these leaders. They lost many men. Lincoln added more generals, each professing loyalty to the causes close to Lincoln’s heart from the ranks. These men, like Generals Burnside, Pope and Hooker became Lincoln’s go to men. These men won the war for the Northern forces, and for President Lincoln. Hear how the politics of the time caused thousands of deaths and other casualties. This is the dark side of the Civil War.

Steven Alban is a graduate of Northern Illinois University. With degrees in Political Science and History, Mr. Alban brings a unique perspective of this time period. Discover how human failings and politics almost cost Lincoln the war.

As an aspiring author, Mr. Alban has spent years researching people and events of the period. Traveling extensively, Mr. Alban has held many discussions with Lincoln scholars to explore various nuances of the time. Theories have been exchanged. Stories have been told. Battlegrounds have been visited. The fruits of that research will be presented for you to digest and determine just how frustrating a time Mr. Lincoln steered us through.

MARCH MEETING SUMMARY BY JAN RASMUSSEN

On March 17th Brian Conroy presented "Military Academies During the Civil War". At the beginning of the Civil War the Regular Army consisted of 16-17,000 men. The call for volunteers created a great need for officers to lead. Seventy Five percent of the officers were from West Point which was the most prestigious military academy. Officers from West Point held disdain for Volunteer officers. Colonel Sylvan Thayer was the first superintendent of West Point and is known as the Father of the Academy. West Point was originally founded as a school of engineers, but the Mexican War brought prominence to the academy as graduates proved themselves in battle. West Point strove to create nationalism over sectionalism, but the Civil War caused cadets and graduates to choose state over country and fight for the Confederacy. Of the 977 graduates from 1833 to 1861, 638 fought for the Union and 297 fought for the Confederacy. The most famous West Point graduates who fought in the Civil War were U.S. Grant, Robert E. Lee, William Tecumseh Sherman, George H. Thomas, Stonewall Jackson, John Pemberton, James Longstreet, John Bell Hood, Gouverneur K. Warren and George Meade.

The Naval Academy was founded in 1845 in Annapolis Maryland in 1845. At the outbreak of the Civil War the school was moved to New Port Rhode Island. The school's first superintendent Admiral Franklin Buchanan along with 24% of the Navy's officers joined the Confederate Navy. After the war ended the midshipmen and faculty returned to Annapolis. The Confederate Naval Academy was established in Richmond in April 1862. It was housed on the CSS Patrick Henry. It graduated a number of midshipment before being disbanded at the end of the war.

The Delaware Military Academy was founded in 1821 as a prep school. In 1858 Superintendent Theodore Hyatt introduced military drill and in 1859 the school became a military academy. At the outbreak of the Civil War the presence of northern and southern students caused confrontations. After commencements in 1862 the southern students returned home and many of the students enlisted in the both armies.

VMI was originally a state arsenal in Lexington Virginia. In 1839 it became a school that provided practical education as well as military tactics. The first graduating class consisted of 16 cadets. In 1851 Thomas Jackson became physics professor at VMI. In 1859 units from VMI were present at the execution of John Brown. A Corp of VMI cadets fought at the Battle of New Market. The unit suffered 55 casualties with 10 cadets killed. Fifteen VMI graduates rose to the rank of general in the Confederacy and 1 rose to this rank in the Union.

The South Carolina Military College was founded in 1842. It originally consisted of the Citadel Academy in Charleston and the Arsenal Academy in Columbia. The Arsenal Academy was burned by Sherman's forces and never reopened. The 1st graduating class of 1846 trained recruits for the Mexican War. Four generals and 19 colonels serving during the Civil War were Citadel graduates.

The Louisiana State Seminary of Learning was founded in 1859. William T. Sherman was the first superintendent. In 1860 the school opened with 5 professors and 19 students. The school name was changed to The Louisiana Seminary of Learning and Military Academy. After Louisiana seceded in 1861, Sherman resigned and the school closed after a large number of students and faculty left to join the Confederate Army. The school reopened after the Civil War. In 1870 it was renamed Louisiana State University.

Jefferson Barracks was the oldest surviving military post west of the Mississippi River. Many of the most well known leaders of the Civil War had been assigned to Jefferson Barracks prior to the war while serving in the Federal Army. Union generals such as U.S. Grant, William T. Sherman, Phil Sheridan and Winfield Scott Hancock served there as well as Confederate Generals Robert E. Lee, James Longstreet, Albert Sidney Johnston and Braxton Bragg. We thank Brian for his enlightening program.

BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION REPORT BY DAN JOSEPHS

Happy Spring!! Hopefully, it will warm up soon. In this column three different methods currently utilized by the Civil War Trust to preserve Virginia Civil War Battlefields will be examined. In this column three different methods currently utilized by the Civil War Trust to preserve Virginia Civil War Battlefields will be examined. The Trust is attempting to preserve battlefield real estate connected to four different battlefields in Virginia; the Seven Days Battles and Gaines Mill (June of 1862), Second Battle of Bull Run and Cedar Mountain (August of 1862), Brandy Station (May and June of 1863) and Cold Harbor (May and June of 1864).

The Civil War Trust is raising funds to purchase two tracts of land located within the middle of the Gaines Mill Battlefield (June 27, 1862). These tracts are adjacent to tracts of battlefield real estate previously purchased and preserved by the Civil War Trust. The total acreage of these two tracts of land is 10 acres. Once the Civil War Trust is able to purchase these two tracts of real estate, the Trust will take down a modern home that was constructed on one of the parcels of land, in order to restore the land to its 1862 appearance.

At the 1864 Cold Harbor battlefield, there are 50 acres of real estate that the Civil War Trust is attempting to purchase and preserve. This land is located along some of the line entrenchments of the Union Ninth Corps. There was savage fighting in this area of the Ninth Corps entrenchments during the Cold Harbor battle in June of 1864.

The Cedar Mountain battlefield was the scene of a battle between General Stonewall Jackson's troops and General John Pope's army. This battle was the initial battle of the Second Battle of Bull Run campaign. Although the majority of the real estate where the main battles of the Second Battle of Bull Run occurred has been preserved, very little of the Cedar Mountain battlefield has been preserved due to a lack of commercial development of the area. That situation has changed in that there is now a real threat of commercial development which is threatening the Cedar Mountain battlefield. The market value of the real estate has increased greatly as a result of nearby development, so the cost of purchasing this real estate is prohibitive to the Civil War Trust. In order to prevent commercial development of the real estate, the Civil War Trust is attempting to purchase an easement over the eastern half of the battlefield. The easement will extend over 333 acres of real estate of the Cedar Mountain battlefield.

Please support the Civil War Trust in their efforts to preserve these Virginia battlefields as well as the good work they are engaged in preserving Civil War Battlefields throughout the country. The information for this column was obtained from the Civil War Trust website.

UPCOMING CIVIL WAR EVENTS

APRIL 27, 2017

SOUTH SUBURBAN CWRT

"Civil War Military Railroads"

Speaker: Charlie Banks

Smokey Barque, 20 Kansas St.

Frankfort, IL

www.southsurburbancwrt.com

MAY 3, 2017

KANKAKEE VALLEY CWRT

"Jeff Davis's Colonels"

Speaker: Bruce Allardice

Kankakee Public Library

MAY 5, 2017

NORTHERN ILLINOIS CWRT

"The 82nd Illinois"

Speaker: Dan Josephs

Arlington Hts. Memorial Library

500 Dunton, Arlington Hts.

Northernilcwrt.org

MAY 9, 2017

McHENRY COUNTY CWRT

"Civil War Tactics & Combat"

Speaker: Steve Fratt

Woodstock Library

www.mchenrycivilwar.com

MAY 12, 2017

CHICAGO CWRT

"1st Person Portrayal of Jennie Wade"

Speaker: Connie Hansen

Holiday Inn O'Hare

5615 N. Cumberland, Chicago

dinnerreservation@chicagocwrt.org

MAY 16, 2017

LINCOLN DAVIS CWRT

"Spies, Secrets & Scouts of Gettysburg"

Speaker: Tom Ryan

Country House Restaurant, Alsip

Lincolndavisroundtable@yahoo.com

MAY 18, 2017

SOUTH SUBURBAN CWRT

"Will County During the Civil War"

Speaker: Bob Kuzma

Smokey Barque, 20 Kansas St.

Frankfort, IL

www.southsurburbancwrt.com

ALL FOR THE UNION

APRIL 29, 2017

"Chicagoland Civil War & Military

Extravaganza

DuPage Co. Fairgrounds, Wheaton

Volunteers needed.

Contact Jan: jrbarns@sbcglobal.net

Brian Conroy has taken over the

Salt Creek CWRT Facebook page.

Check it out.

The next board meeting will be May 9th

At Oak Trace in the Small Dining Room.

BACK IN HISTORY

50 Years Ago: J. Ambler Johnson presented:

"Freeman: The Biographer of Lee"

25 Years Ago: Larry Werline presented:

"Those Black Hat Devils of the Iron Brigade"

10 Years Ago: Gordon P. Ramsey presented:

"Ballooning in the Civil War"

FUTURE SCCWRT MEETINGS

May 19, 2017

"For God, Church, and Country:

Catholic Civil War Chaplains"

Speaker: Rev. Robert J. Miller

June 16, 2017 Annual Banquet

"Abraham Lincoln & Franklin D. Roosevelt:

Two War Presidents"

Max Daniels & R.J. Lindsey

September 15, 2017

"Andersonville"

Speaker: Frank Crawford

THE SALT CREEK CWRT

www.saltcreekcwrt.org

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Vice-President: Rick Zarr

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