

The Outpost

The Newsletter of the Salt Creek Civil War Round Table
Vol. LXI No. 4 December 2023



565th Regular Meeting

DATE: **SATURDAY**, December 16, 2023
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: **"Memorabilia Show & Tell"**
SPEAKER: Robert I. Girardi, Moderator

The display of Memorabilia and Show & Tell is an old feature of Salt Creek meetings. It allows members to share items of special interest and their stories related to their acquisition and historical significance. It is also a time to sit back and munch on a few holiday treats.

Rob Girardi will moderate the meeting as well give a brief history of Union Corp Badges with examples from his collection.

Dan McCarthy will discuss 'Civil War Photography' with an emphasis on CDV's.

Mark Matrenga will display the photograph of the iconic 7th Illinois Volunteer Infantry and present an overview of their Civil War Service.

Steve Alban will present two interesting original documents. One deals with the sea worthiness of the vessels for the Red River Campaign. The other is a rare campaign document chronicling George B. McClellan's report on the Peninsula Campaign.

Jan Rasmussen will bring several Salt Creek Albums. Two of the albums were constructed by Salt Creek historian Cindy Intravartolo. These albums feature CWRT activities and events, dating back to 1962. The other album documents the Battlefield Preservation donations.

**TO HELP CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAY SEASON
MEMBERS ARE URGED TO BRING COOKIES OR SNACKS**

ALL FOR THE UNION

The current Salt Creek CWRT board has run again unopposed and has volunteered to remain again for 1 more year. Rick Zarr is stepping down as vice president but will remain on the board and continue to video record the meetings. Rob Girardi will assume the vice president position. Dan McCarthy has joined the board. THANKS TO THE VOLUNTEERS FOR THEIR SERVICE.

2024 Membership Renewals are due in January.

The renewal form is included with the newsletter.

UPCOMING CIVIL WAR EVENTS

Check with the organization sponsoring the program for meeting status.

January 5, 2024

Northern Illinois CWRT will feature Larry Hewitt presenting "Port Hudson".
Arlington Hts. Historical Museum or Arlington Hts. Library
northernilcwrt.org

January 8, 2024

Rock River Valley CWRT will feature Steve Acker presenting "Life in the Trenches of Petersburg."
Veterans Memorial Hall, 211 N. Main Street. Rockford, IL.

January 12, 2024

Chicago CWRT will feature Pat & Dylan Brennan presenting "Gettysburg in Color".
Holiday Inn O'Hare, 5615 N. Cumberland, Chicago. chicagocwrt.org

January 14, 2024

Northwest Indiana CWRT will feature Don DeFrance presenting "30 Flags Over America".
Crown Point Community Library Northwest Indiana CWRT on Facebook

January 16, 2024

Lincoln/Davis CWRT will feature Gene Salecker presenting "The Forrest Raid and the Sultana".
Country House Restaurant, Alsip, IL lincolndavisroundtable@yahoo.com

January 25, 2024

South Suburban CWRT will feature Pat Brennan presenting "Gettysburg—From Brandy Station to the Peach Orchard".
Aurielio's Pizza, 19836 Wolf Road, Mokena, IL. South Suburban CWRT on Facebook

The Civil War Round Table of Chicago's Annual Battlefield Tour will feature The Gettysburg Campaign July 1-3, 1863. The tour is April 24-28, 2024. It will be limited to 1 bus with capacity for 50 attendees. More information at chicagocwrt.org.

FUTURE SALT CREEK CWRT MEETINGS

Check us out on Facebook and at saltcreekcwrt.org

Meetings are held at 11am at the Glen Ellyn History Center, 800 N. Main St.

January 20, 2024

Steven Alban will present "The Election of 1860: How Lincoln Really Got Elected".

February 17, 2024

Jonathan Sebastian will present a Topic to be Determined.

March 16, 2024

Dr. Mary J. Abroe will present "Civil War Centennial, Rhetoric, Reality and the Bounds of Selective Memory".

April 13, 2024 *(Meeting date changed due to conflict with the Midwest Civil War Show).

Diana Dretske will present "The Bonds of War: A Story of Espirit De Corps in Company C, 96th Illinois Infantry".

BACK IN HISTORY

50 Years Ago: No meeting was scheduled.

25 Years Ago: Annual Auction for Battlefield Preservation featuring auctioneers Jerry Feinstein, Dan McCarthy and Kevin Naughton.

10 Years Ago: Roger Bohn presented "Governor Richard Yates".

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

December 2023 Preservation Report by Brian Conroy

As the Christmas season is upon us, the gift of battlefield preservation is always a wonderful way to end the year. This month, we will look at two of the bloodiest battles that happened during the Civil War, both of which happened in the Western Theater. The 184 acres of hallowed ground in Tennessee being looked at to be preserved have \$8 million in anticipated grants and gifts, after the \$421,000 that is needed to be raised by the American Battlefield Trust with a 20-to-1 match.

The first parcel looked at is 152 acres at **Shiloh**, where the battle allowed Union troops to penetrate the Confederate interior. After Confederate forces overran the Union camp, Confederate General Albert Sidney Johnston was alerted to the presence of a Union force that lay poised to attack his right flank, when in actuality it was General Ulysses S. Grant's Army of the Tennessee that was positioned on his left front. Colonel David Stuart's three infantry regiments were camped at this location, and during a series of tactical maneuvers, his position was bombarded heavily and his men engaged in fierce fighting as they were pushed back for many hours. While the situation may have seemed hopeless to Stuart and his men, Confederate advancement became stalled and impeded by the arrival of Union General John McArthur's brigade, which occupied a steep ridge line north and west of Stuart. And by the afternoon of the next day, a portion of the defeated Confederate army retreated.

The acquisition of this unprotected tract inside Shiloh's legislated battlefield park boundary, after nearly a century, would again permit public access to this hallowed land. Visitors could appreciate and understand the events that transpired at Shiloh.

The second piece of land to be preserved this month is 32 acres at the **Battle of Stones River**. At dawn on December 31, 1862, the division of Confederate General John McCown struck the right flank of the Army of the Cumberland just south of the tract to be saved today. McCown's movements threatened to create a gap in the Confederate line, forcing General Patrick Cleburne to commit his brigades much earlier than anticipated. On December 31, 1862, Confederate Generals Lucius E. Polk and Bushrod Johnson collided with Colonel Sidney Post's Union brigade on this tract. These forces fiercely struggled on this ground for nearly a half hour until Post's men finally broke and retreated, with the high cost reported by General Bushrod Johnson as "More than half of the whole loss of this brigade, in my opinion, occurred in this conflict."

The battle raged through New Year's Day. Ultimately, the bloody Union victory set the stage for campaigns into the heart of the Confederacy while providing a much-needed northern morale boost and support for the Emancipation Proclamation.

The land was recently listed for sale as prime commercial property, and the surrounding area is overrun with commercial, industrial, and residential development.