

The Outpost

The Newsletter of the Salt Creek Civil War Round Table
Vol. LVX No. 4 December 2021



545th Regular Meeting

DATE: **SATURDAY**, December 18, 2021
PLACE: Glen Ellyn History Center (N.W. Corner of Main & Elm Streets)
800 N. Main Street, Glen Ellyn, IL
TIME: **11:00 am**
PROGRAM: "Balloons in the Civil War: How the Air Force Really Began"
SPEAKER: Gordon Ramsey

The inception of American Military Aeronautics took place during the Civil War. The novel service consisted of the operation of observation balloons. Thanks to a handful of motivated balloonists and a bit of politics, they found considerable use during the first part of the war. These balloons observed troop movements and provided artillery spotting, transmitting the information by signal flags or telegraph. Both the Union and Confederates used observation balloons, but a variety of factors led to the abandonment of its use. The lessons learned during their short time of their involvement led to the humble beginnings of the Air Force.

Gordon Ramsey is Professor Emeritus at Loyola University of Chicago. He is an active member of the South Suburban Civil War Round Table serving as Treasurer.

DUE TO COVID RESTRICTIONS WE ARE NO LONGER MEETING AT OAK TRACE.

Until further notice meetings will be held on the 3rd SATURDAY at 11am at the Glen Ellyn History Center.

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

ALL FOR THE UNION

A \$1000 donation has been made to the American Battlefield Trust in the memory of Don Sikorski and Chuck Kurtz.

THE CURRENT SALT CREEK CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE BOARD HAS RUN AGAIN UNOPPOSED AND VOLUNTEERED TO REMAIN FOR 1 MORE YEAR!
THANKS TO THE VOLUNTEERS FOR THEIR CONTINUED SERVICE!

2022 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

December 21, 2021

Lincoln/Davis CWRT will feature Tom Emery presenting "Moments in Lincoln's Life"
Country House Restaurant, Alsip, IL
lincolndavisroundtable@yahoo.com

January 5, 2022

Kankakee Valley CWRT will feature Steve DePasquale presenting "The 1864 Camp Douglas Conspiracy"

January 7, 2022

Northern Illinois CWRT will feature Bruce Allardice. Topic to be determined
northernilcwrt.org

January 14, 2022

Chicago CWRT will feature Jen Murray presenting "General Meade"
Holiday Inn O'Hare, 5615 N. Cumberland, Chicago (In Person & Zoom Presentation)
chicagocwrt.org

January 18, 2022

Lincoln/Davis CWRT will feature Dave Powell presenting "The Shenandoah Valley in the Civil War"
Country House Restaurant, Alsip, IL
lincolndavisroundtable@yahoo.com

January 27, 2022

South Suburban CWRT will feature Jim Hessler presenting "General Dan Sickles"
South Suburban CWRT on Facebook

December 2021 Preservation Report

By Brian Conroy

Here we are at the end of the year, where we will also conclude the four-part series on preservation efforts that has covered five battles across three states in two years in the Western Theater. These tracts of land were fought over fiercely by both Union and Confederate troops and were necessary in controlling the means of transportation in the south by both river and railroads. The donation match for these preservation efforts is \$9.27-\$1, with the ultimate goal of \$307,450.

This month we will cover this month is the battle of Chattanooga, where two preservation opportunities exist at Lookout Mountain that are surrounded by residential and commercial development. The first tract, a 7.6-acre parcel includes the area near Lookout Creek at Light's Mill, where Federal troops struck the main Confederate picket line before climbing the western slope of Lookout Mountain to launch a flank attack against Confederate forces positioned above them. The second is a 2.2-acre tract across the street from the first tract. Both are either listed for sale or are about to be and are the envy of developers because they have easy access to Lookout Creek or can be subdivided into multiple lots for new homes.

In October 1863, General Ulysses S. Grant was given command of all Union forces in the west where he established the vital "Cracker Line" to feed his starving army and defeated the Confederate counterattack at Wauhatchie. Grant then turned his focus to a Union breakout and to Chattanooga.

The next month, following the defeat of Union forces at Chickamauga, Union troops attained victory after three days of battle at Chattanooga, resulting in one of the most dramatic turnabouts in American military history that drove Confederate forces away and cleared the way from General William T. Sherman to commence with his March to the Sea through Georgia a year later, wreaking havoc and blazing a path of destruction between Atlanta and Savannah in an effort to cripple the South. All told, these four decisive battles, with victory after victory for Union forces, and the capture and control of strategic locations where railroad lines were and the Mississippi River flowed, contributed to the eventual conclusion of the American Civil War.

The first military battlefield protected by the U.S. government was the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Memorial Park, established on August 19, 1890. The park preserves various locations in and around Chattanooga, Tennessee, that comprised an important Civil War confrontation during the second half of 1863. The park pre-dated all other battlefield parks, including Gettysburg (established five years later). Working together, advocates pushed through a bill with virtually no controversy "...to establish a National Military Park at the battlefield of Chickamauga," signed by President Harrison on August 19, 1890. From a conservation standpoint, it is also important as the beginning of extensive historical and cultural resource protection by the federal government. Within the next decade, Congress and presidents preserved a large number of other Civil War battlefields, including Gettysburg, followed by a continually increasing roster of other historic and cultural areas. Today, the National Park Service manages 25 national battlefields and 129 national historic, along with the natural sites that are so beloved by Americans.

The Civil War Round Table Congress is sponsoring a series of virtual Civil War Lectures.
To view the schedule visit: <http://www.cwrtcongress.org/lectures.html>

The Kenosha Civil War Museum is also sponsoring virtual programs.
To view the schedule visit: <https://museum.kenosha.org/civilwar/events>

FUTURE SALT CREEK CWRT MEETINGS

Check us out on Facebook and at saltcreekcwrt.org

January 15, 2022

Brian Conroy will present: "Little Egpy's Civil War: The 31st Illinois and the 15th Tennessee"
Saturday at 11am at the Glen Ellyn History Center.

BACK IN HISTORY

50 Years Ago: Relics Nights

25 Years Ago: Jerry Feinsten/Dan McCarthy & Kevin Naughton hosted the Auction for
Battlefield Preservation

10 Years Ago: Memorabilia / Show & Tell Night

THE SALT CREEK CWRT

President: Cindy Heckler

Vice-President: Rick Zarr

Secretary-Treasurer: Jan Rasmussen

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

Historian: Cindy Intravartolo

Newsletter Staff: Jennie Warner, Brian Conroy & Jan Rasmussen

Facebook and Website Editor: Brian Conroy

SALT CREEK CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
MEMBERSHIP FORM

Regular Membership E-Mailed Newsletter \$25 _____

Family Membership E-Mailed Newsletter \$35 _____

Student E-Mailed Newsletter \$5_____

Mailed Newsletter \$10 extra _____

I have included a separate donation for battlefield preservation: _____

Check payable to: Salt Creek CWRT

Mail to: Jan Rasmussen, Treasurer
756 Sterling Court D2
Bartlett, IL 60103

Name(s)_____

Address:_____

City/State/Zip:_____

Home phone:_____

Cell phone :_____

Email address:_____

I am interested in giving a presentation on:_____

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