

# The Outpost

The Newsletter of the Salt Creek Civil War Round Table  
Vol. LXII No. 4 December 2024



## 575th Regular Meeting

DATE: Saturday, December 21, 2024  
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: **Memorabilia Show & Tell**  
MODERATOR: Robert I. Girardi

This month, we return to our Memorabilia Show and Tell event, wherein our members bring interesting items from their collections to shed light on some of the many aspects of the Civil War that provoke discussion or increase our understanding of that conflict. Presenters will include Brian Conroy, Jan Rasmussen, Robert I. Girardi.

Brian will highlight the 4<sup>th</sup> Illinois Volunteer Cavalry, illustrating his presentation with cdv's of unit members. The 4<sup>th</sup> Illinois Cavalry was raised in LaSalle County.

Jan will take us back to the 1862 Sioux Uprising and discuss how the landmarks and interpretation of the events have changed with the passage of time.

The armies of both sides depended upon railroads for supply and mobility. Rob Girardi will present examples of Civil War railroad track and discuss the effectiveness of the efforts to destroy railroads during the course of the war.

Other interesting items will also be available for viewing and discussion.

**Please remember that this is our Christmas event. Bring a treat to share with our members and enjoy yourself.**

## **ALL FOR THE UNION**

The current Salt Creek CWRT board has run again unopposed and has volunteered to remain in office for 1 more year. Sadly, Cindy Heckler will be moving to Maryland in March. Rob Girardi will assume the president position. We need someone to fill the vacancy in March. THANKS TO THE OFFICERS FOR THEIR CONTINUED SERVICE.

### **2025 Membership Renewals are due in January.**

The renewal form is included with the newsletter.

## **VACANT CHAIR**

We received information that former member Stephen Munier passed away on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Stephen helped design our original website and was web master from 2004 until 2017. We extend sincere condolences.

## **UPCOMING CIVIL WAR EVENTS**

Check with the organization sponsoring the program for meeting status.

December 10, 2024

**McHenry County CWRT** will feature Derrick Lindow presenting "Partisan Warfare in Western Kentucky in 1862". (ZOOM ONLY). [www.mchenrycivilwar.com](http://www.mchenrycivilwar.com)

December 17, 2024

**Lincoln/Davis CWRT** will feature Chuck Robesco presenting "Last Man Standing-The 20<sup>th</sup> Indiana at Gettysburg".

Country House Restaurant, Alsip, IL [lincolndavisroundtable@yahoo.com](mailto:lincolndavisroundtable@yahoo.com)

January 3, 2025

**Northern Illinois CWRT** will feature Gordon Ramsey presenting "Civil War Music".  
Arlington Hts. Historical Museum or Arlington Hts. Library [www.northernilcwr.org](http://www.northernilcwr.org)

January 6, 2025

**Rock River Valley CWRT** will feature Jon McGinty presenting "Fort Jefferson and the Dry Tortugas". 211 N. Main Street, Rockford, IL.

January 10, 2025

**Chicago CWRT** will feature Bjorn Skaptason presenting "Shiloh".  
Holiday Inn Oakbrook, 350 W. 22<sup>nd</sup> St., Oakbrook Terrace [chicagocwr.org](http://chicagocwr.org)

January 12, 2025, at 2 pm

**NW Indiana CWRT** will feature Tom Vojinski presenting "The 9<sup>th</sup> Indiana Infantry".  
Crown Point Community Library Northwest Indiana CWRT on Facebook

January 21, 2025

**Lincoln/Davis CWRT** will feature William Griffing presenting "Spared and Shared".  
Country House Restaurant, Alsip, IL [lincolndavisroundtable@yahoo.com](mailto:lincolndavisroundtable@yahoo.com)

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

December 13, 2024 Dr. James Pula will present "Union General Daniel Butterfield: A Civil War Biography". Free and Open to the Public and No Prior Registration is Required

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

**The 2025 Civil Round Table of Chicago's Annual Tour** will feature Shiloh & Corinth.

The tour is April 23-27, 2025. More information at [chicagocwrt.org](http://chicagocwrt.org).

The Salt Creek CWRT made a \$1000 donation to the American Battlefield Trust Project to save 64 acres at Chancellorsville, First and Second Kernstown and Ware Bottom Church with a \$37 to \$1 match in memory of Gale Pewitt.

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

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

January 18, 2025 Ron Carlson will present "General Alpheus Starkey Williams".

February 15, 2025 Bruce Allardice will present "Loose Lips: Military Secrecy in the Civil War".

March 15, 2025 William T. Kolasinski will present "Allan Pinkerton".

### **BACK IN HISTORY**

**50 Years Ago:** Memorabilia Night

**25 Years Ago:** Auction for Battlefield Preservation featuring Jerry Feinstein, Dan McCarthy and Art Foley.

**10 Years Ago:** Robert I. Girardi presented "The Murder of General William "Bull" Nelson".

### **THE SALT CREEK CWRT**

President: Cindy Heckler

Vice-President: Robert I. Girardi

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

## **Preservation Report from the American Battlefield Trust:** **Save 11 Acres – Nearly Untouched – at Gettysburg! by Brian Conroy**

An 11-acre battlefield parcel right there by Seminary Ridge, and mere steps from sites like Reynolds Woods, Willoughby's Run, Lee's Headquarters, and the Seminary. *This land is right in the heart of the action!* It will also protect the land from growing development threats. Gettysburg was a quiet and mostly rural area at the time of the battle and even a century later when President Eisenhower retired here in the 1960s, but it's not so quiet and rural now. Land prices are rising in Gettysburg, and commercial and residential development continues to encroach on the remaining unprotected battlefield land.

This remarkable tract currently has NO protection of any kind. Anyone could snatch it up now and build several single-family homes. But that won't happen if we preserve it first. For the last few months, we've been working furiously to reach a deal with the family that has owned the land for generations. At last, they've signed! All that's left is raising the money. The total cost is \$515,000, but we hope to receive government and nonprofit grants totaling \$200,000, which means we have \$315,000 to go. But we must raise it quickly.

### **The History**

Gettysburg was not only the costliest battle of the Civil War but also the bloodiest battle ever fought on American soil. If the battle had ended as the sun set on July 1, 1863, the first day alone would now be remembered as the 12th bloodiest battle of the Civil War. That's how intense the first day of fighting was. The violent combat at McPherson's Ridge, Oak Hill, Oak Ridge, Seminary Ridge, and Barlow's Knoll produced more than 16,000 Americans killed, wounded, captured, or missing. The 13th North Carolina alone lost 83% of its men at Gettysburg.

One captain from the 2nd Wisconsin who fought with the Iron Brigade at Seminary Ridge later wrote: *"As if every lanyard was pulled by the same hand, this line of artillery opened, and Seminary Ridge blazed with a solid sheet of flame, and the missiles of death that swept its western slopes no human beings could endure."*

Situated between the critical battle arteries of the Chambersburg Pike and Fairfield Road, and bordering land preserved by the National Park Service and by the American Battlefield Trust, this tract hosted Union and Confederate movements and fighting on the battle's first day, was used as a reserve position on the next day. The initial deployments of the Union cavalry and horse artillery moved on part of the tract, while the Iron Brigade crossed it en route to its famous fights near Willoughby's Run and the Railroad Cut.

### **The Land at Gettysburg Today**

While preservation campaigns (including our efforts!) eventually took hold in one direction, and commercial development steamrolled on in another, this 11-acre plot stayed nearly the same for more than a century and a half. It's in nearly pristine condition!

It's about 1,200 feet from the monument that marks the place where Gen. John F. Reynolds lost his life, and barely 1,600 feet from Lee's Headquarters. *That's how central this tract is to the battlefield and the first day of fighting!*