

# The Outpost

The Newsletter of the Salt Creek Civil War Round Table  
Vol. LIV No. 4 December 2015



## 485th Regular Meeting

**DATE:** Friday, December 18, 2015  
**PLACE:** Oak Trace, 200 Village Drive, Downers Grove, IL  
**TIME:** 8:00 p.m.  
**TOPIC:** “The Reality of the Lost Cause Myth”  
**SPEAKER:** Larry Gibbs

The Lost Cause is a set of beliefs that portray the Confederate cause as a heroic one against great odds despite its defeat. It was founded on several debatable elements. These include the claim that the Confederacy started the Civil War to defend states’ rights rather than preserve slavery and the related claim that slavery was benevolent rather than cruel. Mr. Gibbs will present facts about the Lost Cause—the myth of the defeated South to make a victory out of a devastating defeat. His presentation will include several movies, especially “Gone with the Wind”, which perpetuated and in effect popularized the “Lost Cause”.

Longtime Salt Creek CWRT member, Larry Gibbs is a member of five Civil War Round Tables. He is past president of the Civil War Round Table of Chicago and the South Suburban CWRT. He taught high school history and social studies for over 30 years in Rich Township. For 12 years he was a high school substitute teacher and community college professor in social studies. In the past Larry has given two presentations to the Salt Creek CWRT, and participated in several panels and debates. We welcome Larry back to our podium.

Members are encouraged to bring cookies or snacks to help celebrate the Holiday Season.

## **NOVEMBER MEETING SUMMARY BY ARTHUR FOLEY**

Dan Josephs, provided the membership with a recounting of the 82nd Illinois Volunteer Infantry's service during the War of the Rebellion at the monthly meeting this past November. Known as the "2nd Hecker Regiment," it was one of the three "German" regiments furnished to the Union by Illinois. The majority of the units' members were German immigrants while it held the distinction of Company C was almost entirely Jewish, and Company I all Scandinavians.

The regiment was mustered into Federal service on October 23, 1862, Colonel Friedrich Hecker commanding, (this was the second regiment Hecker had recruited, the former being the 24th Illinois, hence the name). Many of the men came from Cook, St. Claire, and Madison Counties. A number of the men also were recruited from the town of Highland, Illinois, a town east of St. Louis. Many of the soldiers only comprehended orders given to them in German at the outset of their service.

Attached to the XI Corps of the Army of the Potomac, it lost 155 men at Chancellorsville, including Colonel Hecker, who was badly wounded. Lt. Colonel Edward Selig Salomon assumed command. At Gettysburg, 23 of the men were casualties of the 11th Corps combat while 89 were captured during the retreat through the town. The 82nd was the only Illinois infantry regiment in the Army of the Potomac during this period. Dan recounted the anti-German discrimination the unit unfairly encountered due to the ill-perceived combat performance of the 11th Corps in those two former fights. In truth the unit fought as hard as any other group of soldiers in the army. Dan surmised that the fall of 1863 transfer, with the rest of the XI Corps to the Western Theater actually gave the unit a chance to form a new image. They did not lose time in effecting new perceptions.

Colonel Hecker had recovered from his wounds by now and was promoted to brigade command (he would ultimately resign the following winter, again being succeeded by Lt. Col. Salomon, this time for the duration of the war). After participating in the Chattanooga campaign, the 82nd Illinois became part of the new XX Corps and joined the rest of Sherman's army in the 1864-65 campaigns in Georgia and the Carolinas. The 82nd achieved a firm reputation as steadfast fighters and campaigners. In addition the unit never lost its identity as a German unit. The regiment suffered 4 officers and 98 enlisted men who were killed in action or who died of their wounds and 60 enlisted men who died of disease, for a total of 162 fatalities.

After participating in the second day of the Grand Review, May 24, 1865, the regiment was mustered out on June 16, 1865. Dan related how these men performed dutifully, and when finding themselves in tight situations, were reliable and steadfast. These sons of Europe could hold their heads high for they defended their adopted country with honor and valor. Thanks Dan for your efforts acquainting us with the story of these patriots. Huzzah!

## **PRESERVATION REPORT BY DAN JOSEPHS**

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving celebration with family and friends. The holidays are upon us. We wish you a fun Hanukah, a blessed Christmas and a wonderful New Year filled with good health and happiness.

In May of this year, this column focused on battlefield preservation efforts at Antietam Battlefield in Sharpsburg, Maryland. That column described the efforts of the Civil War Battlefield Trust to preserve a 44 acre triangular parcel of land located in the middle of the

battlefield, adjacent to the well-known areas such as the West Woods, the Cornfield, the Dunker Church, and the Mumma's house and woods. This parcel of real estate has been preserved, the transaction having been closed.

Sometimes when a parcel of land is preserved for historical purposes, private owners of neighboring real estate attempt to increase the value of their parcels of land. One example occurred at Brandy Station. After the Civil War Trust preserved a parcel of land at Brandy Station, the owner of an adjacent parcel built a large structure on Fleetwood Hill. This building increased the value of his land prior to communication with the battlefield preservation group regarding the availability of his land. The purchase price increases. Also, the necessity of tearing this new building down by the preservation group after the transaction also increases the costs of battlefield preservation.

The Civil War Battlefield Trust is in the process of trying to purchase another parcel of land of 49 acres located in the East Woods at Antietam. After the purchase by the Civil War Trust of the 44 acre parcel of land, the private owner of this land in the East Woods began construction of a large modern barn. Prior to the Trust's efforts to preserve this parcel of land, the private owner has already begun the construction of the barn working on a foundation for the barn by building a cement slab.

Due to the new construction by the private owner, the Civil War Trust had no other choice but to negotiate to purchase the entire parcel of land, including his house, his new construction of the barn, and the other structures on the land. Unfortunately, the new barn construction increased the purchase price of the land. The total cost of the preservation of the 49 acre parcel of land is \$1,330,000. This sum includes the anticipated costs of tearing down the owner's private home and his other dwellings. Also, this amount includes the cost of removing the new foundation and structure of the new barn and the replanting of the portion of the East Woods torn down by the private owner.

Fortunately, the Civil War Trust has already secured additional funding from the Save Historic Antietam Foundation, the National Park Service and other preservation groups for this purchase. The additional financial support has lowered the preservation cost of this parcel of land to \$412,000. The Trust has been granted matching funds so the Trust's contributors will have their donations matched 3.2 to 1. The Civil War Trust seems to do a good job in amassing financial support from the other preservation groups.

The historical significance of this parcel of the East Woods is that the charge of the Union Twelfth Corps toward the West Woods during the battle of Antietam occurred on this parcel of land. Also, General Joseph Mansfield, commander of the Union XII Corps was mortally wounded on this real estate. As a result, this parcel of land needs to be preserved. Please support the Civil War Trust. The information for this column was secured from the Trust's website. Please have a safe and joyous Holiday season.

## **ALL FOR THE UNION**

2016 membership renewal are due in January. Please fill out the membership form included with the newsletter and send payment to Jan Rasmussen or pay at the meeting.

## **UPCOMING CIVIL WAR EVENTS**

DECEMBER 15, 2015  
LINCOLN-DAVIS CWRT  
"Stones River & the Tullahoma Campaign"  
Speaker: Chris Kolakowski  
Country House Restaurant, Alsip, IL  
[Lincolndavisroundtable@yahoo.com](mailto:Lincolndavisroundtable@yahoo.com)

JANUARY 8, 2016  
NORTHERN ILLINOIS CWRT  
"TBD"  
Speaker: Gerald Propokowicz  
Arlington Hts. Memorial Library  
500 N. Dunton, Arlington Hts.  
[northernilcwr.org](http://northernilcwr.org)

JANUARY 8, 2016  
CHICAGO CWRT  
"William S. Rosecrans"  
Speaker: David Moore  
Holiday Inn O'Hare  
5615 N. Cumberland, Chicago  
[dinnerreservations@chicagocwr.org](mailto:dinnerreservations@chicagocwr.org)

## **BACK IN HISTORY**

50 Years Ago: Featured a Debate  
The Most Outstanding General in the Civil War  
Don Sikorski/Lee vs. Harold  
Thornburg/Grant

25 Years Ago: Memorabilia Night

10 Years Ago: Jerry Feinstein & Dan  
McCarthy  
Hosted the Annual Auction for Battlefield  
Preservation

## **FUTURE SCCWRT MEETINGS**

January 15, 2016  
"The Real Warren Never Got into the  
Books"  
Speaker: Robert Girardi

February 19, 2016  
"Women in Black—Mourning Customs  
During  
The Civil War"  
Speaker: Jill Silbert

March 18, 2016  
"The Siege of Petersburg, August 1864"  
Speaker: John Horn

## **THE SALT CREEK CWRT**

[www.saltcreekcwr.org](http://www.saltcreekcwr.org)  
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## **STATE OF THE UNION**

The Slate of Officers for 2016 include:

President: Kurt Carlson  
Vice-President: Rick Zarr  
Secretary/Treasurer: Jan Rasmussen

The Board of Directors include:

Brian Conroy  
Chuck Kurtz  
Sharon Maher  
Mike Miller  
Patricia Murphy

THANKS TO THE VOLUNTEERS FOR  
THEIR CONTINUED SERVICE.