

# The Outpost

**The Newsletter of the Salt Creek Civil War Round Table  
Vol. LVIII No. 4 December 2019**



## **528th Regular Meeting**

**DATE:** Friday, December 20, 2019  
**PLACE:** Oak Trace, 200 Village Drive, Downers Grove, IL  
**TIME:** 8:00 p.m.  
**TOPIC:** “Mysteries of the CSS Hunley”  
**SPEAKER:** Bruce Allardice

The world-famous Confederate submarine Hunley was discovered in 1995 off Charleston Harbor. The first submarine to ever sink an enemy warship, the Hunley has fascinated us ever since its mysterious disappearance in 1864. In this presentation, Professor Allardice will relate the latest discoveries, discoveries that answer at least some of the mysteries surrounding the vessel.

A professor of history at South Suburban College, Bruce S. Allardice is a past president of both the Civil War Round Table of Chicago and the Northern Illinois CWRT. Prof. Allardice has authored and co-authored six books and numerous articles on the Civil War. A former Board Member of the Illinois State Historical Society, Prof. Allardice has presented numerous lectures and presentations on the Civil War and genealogy for Civil War Round Tables, museums and civic organizations. He is also the recipient of the CWRT of Chicago’s prestigious Nevins-Freeman Award for distinguished service in Civil War Scholarship and the CWRT movement.

An avid sports historian, Prof. Allardice currently heads up the “Civil War Baseball” subcommittee for the Society of American Baseball Research (SABR) and is a member of SABR’s Biography Committee, specializing in researching the lives of 19<sup>th</sup> Century ballplayers. Prof. Allardice is a graduate of the University of Illinois and the University of Illinois School of Law and a lifelong resident of the Chicago area..

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

## NOVEMBER MEETING UPDATE by ART FOLEY

At the November meeting Bill Shepard presented "Re-electing Lincoln: How the 1864 Election Resulted in the Abolition of Slavery."

As the November 1864 Elections approached Abraham Lincoln lacked confidence in his ability to be re-elected. He had even composed a memorandum stressing the need, in case of electoral defeat, to win the conflict before the opposing party, the Peace Democrats and George McClellan, assumed the reins of government. Lincoln shared this information with his cabinet. The President had also prepared for a defense of his previously issued Emancipation Proclamation, (issued with his interpretation of the presidential war powers), by nominating and having confirmed Salmon P. Chase to the office of Chief Justice, following the death of Roger B. Taney. However, the current war news was bleak, so much so that by August fellow Republicans were suggesting Lincoln's stepping down to enable another viable candidate, to enter the race.

However, the tone of the conflict soon changed with Sherman's conquest of Atlanta in September coupled with Sheridan's destruction of Early's army in the Shenandoah, and Farragut's victory in Mobile Bay. In November the momentum behind the President continued with endorsements from key politicians such as Thaddeus Stevens. In addition, numerous methods were engineered to allow the troops cast ballots. Eighty percent of their votes came down for Mr. Lincoln. With electoral victory, state governments pushed for the ratification of the 13th Amendment. Illinois state government moved swiftly, (imagine that!), to be the first to vote for the aforesaid ratification. This set the stage for the process which eventually, with the following 14th and 15th Amendments, wiped the threat of slavery from this land in perpetuity.

Thank you Mr. Shepard for your concise presentation and wonderful visuals on this subject. Huzzah!

**SPEAKING OF RE-ELECTION !!! GREAT NEWS!!!**

**THE CURRENT SALT CREEK CWRT BOARD HAS RUN AGAIN UNOPPOSED AND HAS VOLUNTEERED TO REMAIN AGAIN FOR 1 MORE YEAR!**

**THANKS TO THE VOLUNTEERS FOR THEIR CONTINUED SERVICE!!**

**2020 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF 2020.** Memberships received on or before the January 17<sup>th</sup> meeting will be eligible for the free membership drawing.

There is a new driveway in the front of the building that leads to a parking lot. If you need assistance parking, please ask at the front desk or call (630-401-6699)

## DECEMBER 2019 PRESERVATION REPORT BY BRIAN CONROY

Happy Holidays everyone! Hopefully everyone stuffed themselves during a great Thanksgiving, and remembered that this holiday was instituted during the Civil War by President Abraham Lincoln. And also, as we are now officially in the holiday season, consider supporting or continuing with your support of Civil War battlefield and history preservation. And this month, we will continue with discussing The Conservation Fund's participation in preserving Civil War battlefields. One of those battlefields that we all know, and many have visited, is Antietam National Battlefield in which The Conservation Fund has had a significant impact in protecting several hundred acres through a variety of projects.

On behalf of the National Park Service, they acquired Grove Farm, where President Lincoln met with U.S. generals after the battle of Antietam, and added it to the Battlefield in partnership with the State of Maryland and the Save Historic Antietam Foundation.

Another location they have helped to preserve and protect is the 200-acre Roulette/Callas farm which is just outside the battlefield, which was the site of the Confederate advance on the morning of the battle and the Confederate line at the end of the day-long battle. More than 10,000 U.S. troops advanced across Roulette Farm in such intense fighting that this route became known as Bloody Lane. This is now protected with an easement held by the Maryland Environmental Trust, and helped establish the easement in partnership with the [Maryland Department of Natural Resources' Open Space Program](#), the [National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program](#), and the [Civil War Preservation Trust](#).

The Conservation Fund has also assisted the Richard King Mellon Foundation in a number of conservation gifts at Antietam National Battlefield, including the Cornfield, the site where the Federals were hit by Confederate artillery fire, and the West Woods, where U.S. forces suffered more than 2,200 casualties in 20 minutes. On the 135<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the battle, we assisted with the donation of 12 acres at Bloody Lane, in the field of fire where J.E.B. Stuart's artillery slowed the attacking U.S. troops.

There are a total of 384 principal Civil War battlefields in the U.S., designated by the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission in 1993. The condition of these battlefields is alarming: more than 220 of them are not protected. Of the 162 that have protection, some are large enough to honor the soldiers and to enable visitors to understand the battle—others are too small or fragmented. Through our Civil War Battlefield Program, we've been able to protect land at 83 battlefields in 14 states.

The Conservation Fund has also collaborated with Google StreetView Trekker, which has given people a unique opportunity to trek Antietam and several other sites using state-of-the art mapping equipment that allows us to share these sites with the world. They are using technology to give virtual access to a few of the special places they have worked hard to protect for their natural, historical and human values.

## **UPCOMING CIVIL WAR EVENTS**

DECEMBER 17, 2019  
LINCOLN/DAVIS CWRT  
"A Family and Nation Under Fire"  
Speaker: Georgiann Baldino  
Country House Restaurant, Alsip, IL  
[lincolndavisroundtable@yahoo.com](mailto:lincolndavisroundtable@yahoo.com)

DECEMBER 19, 2019  
SOUTH SUBURBAN CWRT  
Holiday Party at Aurelio's Pizza  
19836 Wolf Road, Mokena  
[www.southsuburbancwrt.com](http://www.southsuburbancwrt.com)

JANUARY 7, 2020  
NORTHERN ILLINOIS CWRT  
"Iowa Confederates"  
Speaker: David Connon  
Arlington Hts. Memorial Library  
[northernilcwrt.org](http://northernilcwrt.org)

JANUARY 10, 2020  
CHICAGO CWRT  
"Heroines of Mercy Street: Nurses  
In the Civil War"  
Speaker: Pam Toler  
Holiday Inn O'Hare  
5615 N. Cumberland, Chicago  
[dinnerreservation@chicagocwrt.org](mailto:dinnerreservation@chicagocwrt.org)

JANUARY 21, 2020  
LINCOLN/DAVIS CWRT  
"Artillery in the Civil War"  
Speaker: Mike Ward  
Country House Restaurant, Alsip, IL  
[lincolndavisroundtable@yahoo.com](mailto:lincolndavisroundtable@yahoo.com)

## **ALL FOR THE UNION**

The SCCWRT website is back.  
Brian Conroy has taken over the SCCWRT  
Facebook Page.

## **BACK IN HISTORY**

**50 Years Ago:** Relics Night

**25 Years Ago:** Annual Book Auction  
Featuring Jerry Feinstein & Dan McCarthy

**10 Years Ago:** Memorabilia Night and  
Show & Tell

## **FUTURE SCCWRT MEETINGS**

January 17, 2020  
"Battle of Honey Springs"  
Speaker: Art Foley

February 21, 2020  
"The Sultana Disaster"  
Speaker: Gene Salecker

## **THE SALT CREEK CWRT**

[www.saltcreekcwrt.org](http://www.saltcreekcwrt.org)  
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