

# The Outpost

The Newsletter of the Salt Creek Civil War Round Table  
Vol. LVIX No. 6 February 2021



## 537th Regular Meeting

**DATE:** Friday, February 19, 2021  
**PLACE:** Confines of your own home.  
Due to Covid restrictions the meeting will be via zoom  
**TIME:** 7:30 p.m.  
**TOPIC:** "Illinois Regiments at Gettysburg"  
**SPEAKER:** Dennis Doyle

Most of the Units from Illinois fought in the Western Theater. Three Illinois regiments contributed to the Union victory at Gettysburg, the 8<sup>th</sup> Illinois Cavalry, 12<sup>th</sup> Illinois Cavalry and the 82<sup>nd</sup> Illinois Infantry. Mr. Doyle will give a brief history of each regiment and discuss the roles they played including the their locations and tactics they used during their combat.

Dennis is a History Professor at Joliet Jr. College and Director of New Faculty Training at JJC., He is the current President of the South Suburban CWRT, a Trustee of the Chicago CWRT (2020-2022) and since the summer of 2020, the current Out Reach Director for the CWRT Congress.

He received his MA in History from DePaul University and his undergrad degree from Colorado State University. He grew up in the Joliet area and resides in Joliet with his wife Jamie.

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88512745692>  
Meeting ID: 885 1274 5692

## **JANUARY MEETING UPDATE**

The Battle of Honey Springs was the program shared by Art Foley at our January zoom meeting.

The Indian Territory, present day Oklahoma, was the home of the Five Civilized Tribes which consisted of Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Creek and Seminole Indians. These nations had adopted many western cultural customs including language, agriculture and Christianity. During the Civil War the Indians fought both for the Union and the Confederacy. Stan Waite was a leader of a faction of the Cherokee nation that supported slavery and fought for the Confederacy. He was the only Native American on either side to attain the rank of general. Cherokee Chief John Ross and his allies were abolitionists who supported the Union. Waite spent much of the war attacking Union soldiers and their Indian allies in the Indian Territory.

Since the beginning of the Civil War the Indian Territory was controlled by the Confederacy. Union and Confederate troops had frequently skirmished the vicinity. The Federals held Ft. Gibson, but did not control the territory. The Battle of Honey Springs also known as the Affair at Elk Creek, fought on July 17, 1863, was the climatic engagement to establish control of the territory. The Confederate troops mostly Native Americans and Texans under the command of General Douglas Cooper were attacked by Union forces composed of white, Native American and black troops commanded by Major General George Blunt. Although outnumbered at least 2 to 1 the Union troops with superior Springfield rifles and 12 artillery pieces forced the Confederate forces to retreat. The 1<sup>st</sup> Kansas Colored Infantry fought extremely hard against Texas forces, knowing no quarter would be given if they were captured. Following the battle the Union gained control of the territory for the duration of the war.

With excellent maps and photos Art presented an engaging program detailing this important Western Theater Campaign. Many Thanks! Huzzah!

## **ALL FOR THE UNION**

Membership renewals were due in January. Due to Covid restrictions a new meeting location might be needed. Alternative options are being considered. Membership support is appreciated and needed. THANKS to those who have already renewed their membership and THANKS to those who gave additional amounts for battlefield preservation.

The next board meeting will be held March 9, 2021 at 7:30pm via zoom

## **BACK IN HISTORY**

**50 Years Ago:** Harvey Long presented “Crisis in Washington: Charleston & the Nation – Spring 1861”

**25 Years Ago:** Don Sender presented “The Lincoln Assassination”

**10 Years Ago:** Michael Weeks presented “The Complete Civil War Road Trip Guide”

## FEBRUARY 2021 PRESERVATION REPORT BY BRIAN CONROY

This report should be about why we, as Civil War historians and buffs, love to preserve these already historically important lands from a very tragic time in our nation's history. People involved in preservation consist of preservationists, teachers, genealogists, armchair historians, doctors, lawyers, educators, heritage tourism advocates, corporate leaders, young people, and seniors, just to name a few. They can be part of a large, national organization, such as the American Battlefield Trust, which formed in 1999 from the merging of the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites and American Battlefield Protection Foundation, or a local organization such as the Camp Wildcat Preservation Foundation in Laurel County, Kentucky. All these people and organizations that have organized throughout the nation truly have a bond and passion with their mission to watch over and preserve these bloody places that have defined their local and national communities.

Many people do not understand why land needs to be preserved, and when those who fight to preserve it are asked, they all have varying answers. Boston, Massachusetts-based teacher takes his students on an annual trip, and in 2015 was following the 20<sup>th</sup> Maine from Antietam to Gettysburg, with the goals for his students being to grapple with the central questions that frame the Civil War, including why men fought and endured, the importance of Union, the unraveling of slavery, and to ask his students to think about why and whether we should preserve Civil War battlefields. Brian Pohanka, Captain of Duryee's Zouaves and co-founder of the Chantilly Battlefield Association, said, "Some kid a hundred years from now is going to get interested in the Civil War and want to see these places. He's going to go down there and be standing in a parking lot. I'm fighting for that kid."

*"In great deeds, something abides. On great fields, something stays. Forms change and pass; bodies disappear; but spirits linger, to consecrate ground for the vision-place of souls... generations that know us not and that we know not of, heart-drawn to see where and by whom great things were suffered and done for them, shall come to this deathless field, to ponder and dream; and lo! the shadow of a mighty presence shall wrap them in its bosom, and the power of the vision pass into their souls."*

Many of these locations are being saved is that many of these organizations are working to save the special places that tell a story. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, American Battlefield Trust, Maryland Battlefield Preservation Program, and many more organizations have different ways of stating their goals but are all committed to the same result. The Tennessee Civil War Preservation Association's mission is to protect, interpret and make accessible Tennessee's surviving Civil War battlefields and contributing landscapes for the benefit of present and future generations. The Kentucky Heritage Council also led efforts to develop partnerships between state and local government entities that are working closely with area residents and national Civil War preservation organizations to preserve, protect and interpret Kentucky's other Civil War sites.

Preservation is also essential to many people who are committed to the memory of their ancestors and where they fought and possibly died. I, myself, have three ancestors who fought during those brutal four years, and battlefields that have been preserved at which they served are Bentonville, NC; Shiloh; Perryville; and Stones River, among others. I have been to a small amount of them, and in the future, thanks to preservation efforts of many different organizations, there are many more opportunities in the future to visit preserve battlefields.

## **UPCOMING CIVIL WAR EVENTS**

Check with the organization sponsoring the program for meeting status

February 25, 2021

South Suburban CWRT will feature John Horn presenting “ The Petersburg Regiment: A History of the 12<sup>th</sup> Virginia Infantry”

South Suburban CWRT on Facebook (ZOOM MEETING)

March 5, 2021

Northern Illinois CWRT will feature Bruce Allardice presenting “Could the Confederacy Have Won the War and Achieved Its Independence?”

[www.northernilcwr.org](http://www.northernilcwr.org) (ZOOM MEETING)

March 12, 2021

Chicago CWRT will feature Greg Biggs presenting the Nevis Freeman Address

[www.chicagocwr.org](http://www.chicagocwr.org) (ZOOM MEETING)

March 16, 2021

Lincoln/Davis CWRT will feature Dave Powell presenting “Union Command Failure in the Shenandoah”  
Country House Restaurant, Alsip, IL

**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 [saltcreekcwr.org](http://saltcreekcwr.org)

March 19, 2021

Gene Salecker will present “Rueben Hatch”

## **THE SALT CREEK CWRT**

President: Cindy Heckler

Vice-President: Rick Zarr

Secretary-Treasurer: Jan Rasmussen

Board Members: Mike Miller, Sharon Maher, Brian Conroy, Nancy Fritz

Historian: Cindy Intravartolo

Newsletter Staff: Jennie Warner, Art Foley, Brian Conroy & Jan Rasmussen

Facebook and Website Editor: Brian Conroy