

The Outpost

The Newsletter of the Salt Creek Civil War Round Table
Vol. LVX No. 6 February 2022



547th Regular Meeting

DATE: **SATURDAY**, February 19, 2022
PLACE: Glen Ellyn History Center (N.W. Corner of Main & Elm Streets)
800 N. Main Street, Glen Ellyn, IL
TIME: **11:00 am**
PROGRAM: "Turning Points at the Battle of Gettysburg"
SPEAKER: Jonathan Sebastian

Coming in the third summer of the Civil War, the battle of Gettysburg would prove pivotal. The magnitude of the war had become a reality in 1862 in addition to internal conflicts on both sides that had come to the surface. Union armies needed a victory to enforce the validity of the actions taken by the Lincoln administration and initiate a new era for the United States. The Confederacy needed a truly decisive victory to hasten the end of the war. Much hung in the balance. Arguably, Gettysburg has become the single most written about battle of the war. But, perhaps some of the key moments have escaped attention in the vast amount of material that has been produced. Incidents, that seemed of little or even no importance in the moment, would significantly contribute to the outcome of this battle

Jonathan Sebastian earned his B.A. in history from Judson College (now University) and his M.A. in Public History from Loyola University Chicago. He has been an adjunct professor of history at Judson University teaching World History 1500 to the Present and U.S. history. He was a tour guide at Jubilee College State Historic site outside of Peoria, Illinois, a project-based researcher at the Pritzker Military Library, and was the curator of the Fischer Farm historic site in Bensenville, Illinois. Currently, he is an experience facilitator at the Arlington Heights Historical Museum.

ALL FOR THE UNION

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.

2022 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE DUE IN JANUARY.

The renewal form is included with the newsletter. Renewals received on or before the January 15th meeting will be eligible for the free membership drawing.

UPCOMING CIVIL WAR EVENTS

Check with the organization sponsoring the program for meeting status

February 24, 2022

South Suburban CWRT will feature Jen Murray presenting "General Meade"
South Suburban CWRT on Facebook

March 4, 2022

Northern Illinois CWRT TBD
Arlington Heights Public Library
northernilcwr.org

March 5, 2022

Two Old Goats in Cedar Lake, IN will feature Dan McCarthy presenting "Comrade August Willich: Fighting Marxist" rzarr@sbcglobal.net

March 8, 2022

McHenry County CWRT will feature Gene Salecker presenting "Nathan Bedford Forrest's 1864 Railroad Raid"
Woodstock Library
www.mchenrycivilwar.com

March 11, 2022

Chicago CWRT will feature Mark Laubacher presenting "USS Red Rover: Hospital of Firsts"
Holiday Inn O'Hare, 5615 N. Cumberland, Chicago (In Person & Zoom Presentation)
chicagocwrt.org

March 15, 2022

Lincoln/Davis CWRT will feature Neil Chatelein presenting "Defending the Arteries of the Rebellion"
Country House Restaurant, Alsip, IL
lincolndavisroundtable@yahoo.com

February 2022 Preservation Report by Brian Conroy

February has come to symbolize a month of love with Valentine's Day, which can resonate with many in the preservation community. Those who participate show their love for preserving history, and one of those endeavors. That emotion shows itself this month with the American Battlefield Trust's goal towards preserving the Slaughter Pen Farm at the Battle of Fredericksburg.

In 2006, the American Battlefield Trust set their sights on saving the heart and soul of the Battle of Fredericksburg, the Slaughter Pen Farm, from industrial development. The cost of this investment to preserve the hallowed ground where 9,000 soldiers were killed and five Congressional Medals of Honor were awarded, was \$12 million. This wasn't something that they had lying around, but knew that if they did not act with a calculated risk, it was going to be destroyed. With the help of their many supportive donors, they took that risk and conducted the largest private battlefield purchase in America's history, and remains the largest transaction the Trust has ever attempted. And for the last 15 years, the ABT has met all of their financial obligations year after year, and have also saved tens of thousands of dollars throughout the ups and downs of the economy by refinancing their loan.

And in 2022, they have been given a great chance by a generous benefactor that if supporters can raise \$400,000, needed to cover the loan payment this year on the Slaughter Pen Farm, they will double that with a \$2 to \$1 match, and donate \$800,000! This will not only pay for this year's loan payment, but it will also fully pay off the loan five years ahead of schedule.

With more than 9,000 Union and Confederate casualties, the Battle of Fredericksburg on December 13, 1862, is known as one of the worst Union defeats of the Civil War. The seesaw battle that was a veritable hell to those participants rolled across the shelled plains between the wooded slopes of Prospect Hill and Slaughter Pen Farm. The Union men of Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and more trudged through muddy, water filled ditches before being met by the gunfire of North Carolina troops. It was truly hell on earth for everyone involved, revealing the horror and heroism of those men that happened in such a small space.

The American Battlefield Trust is now looking to its supporters to help preserve this necessary battlefield, and hope that instead of seeing an airport runway, 98 townhomes, and commercial and industrial development, future generations will be able to walk across the Slaughter Pen Farm, in the footsteps of the soldiers who fought and died for what they believed in, gaining a deeper understanding of the events that unfolded there.

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 hosting The 2nd Friday Lecture Series
All talks are held for an in-person audience at the museum. The lectures are recorded and later posted to the museum's YouTube channel.

The 2nd Friday Lectures begin at 12:00PM and there is no cost to attend. The Civil War Museum graciously thanks the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table and Iron Brigade Association for sponsoring this series of 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

March 19, 2022

Steve Alban will present: "The Actual Causes of the Rebellion According to the Words of Joshua Giddings and Abraham Lincoln"

April 16, 2022

Gene Salecker will present: "Nathan Bedford Forest's September 1864 Railroad Raid"

BACK IN HISTORY

50 Years Ago: Jay Perkins presented: "The Wagon Fight of August 2, 1867I"

25 Years Ago: Mike Millette presented: "Field Artillery Tactics"

10 Years Ago: Leslie Goddard presented "Mary Chesnut, Civil War Diarist"

THE SALT CREEK CWRT

President: Cindy Heckler

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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:_____
