

The Outpost

**The Newsletter of the Salt Creek Civil War Round Table
Vol. LX No. 6 February 2023**



557th Regular Meeting

DATE: **SATURDAY**, February 18, 2023
PLACE: Glen Ellyn History Center (N.W. Corner of Main & Elm Streets)
800 N. Main Street, Glen Ellyn, IL
TIME: 11:00 am
PROGRAM: "General Lee's War"
SPEAKER: Paul Wood

Robert E. Lee was the son of a Revolutionary War hero and a top graduate of the West Point class of 1829. He served with distinction in the United States Army for 32 years. When Virginia declared secession from Union in 1861, Lee chose to follow his home state despite his desire for the country to remain intact and an offer of a senior command in the Union army. He led the Army of Virginia, the Confederacy's most powerful army, from 1862 until its surrender in 1865 earning reputation as a skilled tactician.

Paul Wood has been a reenactor and first person impressionist for the past 29 years. He spent 10 years as a Gun Sargent for Battery G, 2nd Illinois Light Artillery and 3 years with the 26th North Carolina Infantry, while at the same time he was a founding member of "Grant, Lee, Custer and Company". After 20 years the GLC & C disbanded, and the group became known as "Associated Generals". His wife, daughter and son have all been involved in Civil War reenacting. His very first Civil War Round Table presentation was for the Salt Creek Civil War Round Table on January 4th, 2002. He grew up in Glen Ellyn, graduating from Glenbard West in 1965. Paul stated "I am very happy to be back".

ALL FOR THE UNION

2023 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE DUE

Renewals received at or before the February meeting are eligible for a free membership drawing. The renewal form is included with the newsletter.

The Kenosha Civil War Museum is featuring an exhibit: "Loyal to the Union: Ohio in the Civil War". For more information: <https://museums.kenosha.org/civilwar/events>

UPCOMING CIVIL WAR EVENTS

Check with the organization sponsoring the program for meeting status.

February 14, 2023

McHenry County CWRT will feature Taylor Bishop presenting "The 65th Illinois Expedition into the Eastern Tennessee Mountains". ZOOM ONLY

McHenry County CWRT on Facebook

February 21, 2023

Lincoln/Davis CWRT will feature Harold Knudsen presenting "James Longstreet and the Civil War"

Country House Restaurant, Alsip, IL

Lincolndavisroundtable@yahoo.com

February 23, 2023

South Suburban CWRT will feature Larry Korczyk presenting "Gettysburg".

Trail's Edge Brewery, 20 Kansas Street, Frankfort.

South Suburban CWRT on Facebook

March 3, 2023

Northern Illinois CWRT will feature Robert Girardi presenting "Lincoln & the Common Soldier"

Arlington Hts. Library

northernilcwrt.org

March 4, 2023

Two Old Goats in Cedar Lake, IN will feature Bruce Allardice presenting "The Election of 1864". rzarr@sbcglobal.net

March 10, 2023

Chicago CWRT will feature Dwight Hughes presenting "Unlike Anything That Ever Floated"

Holiday Inn Oakbrook, 17 W 350 22nd Street, Oakbrook Terrace

(In Person & Zoom Presentation)

chicagocwrt.org

VACANT CHAIR

Rick Zarr provided this link regarding the passing of Rick Mook from the 97th Regimental String Band. [\(11\) Rick Mook - RIP Sept 26, 1945 - Dec 17, 2022 - YouTube](#)

FUTURE SALT CREEK CWRT MEETINGS

Check us out on Facebook

Meetings are held at the Glen Ellyn History Center at 11am

March 18, 2023

Bjorn Skaptson will present: "Iowa Remembers Shiloh: The Dedication of Iowa Monuments, (1906).

April 18, 2023

Michael Goc will present: "The Hero of the Red River"

CIVIL WAR TOUR

The Civil War Round Table of Chicago's Annual Battlefield Tour will feature **The Red River Campaign**. The tour is May 3-7, 2023.

For information and itinerary: Email us at CWRT2023Tour@ChicagoCWRT.org. The tour is limited to one bus with capacity for 50 attendees.

BACK IN HISTORY

50 Years Ago: Edward Johnson presented: "Embalming Surgeons of the Civil War".

25 Years Ago: Jack Foster presented: "U.S. Grant: The Man".

10 Years Ago: Bruce Allardice presented: "The Civil War in the Movies".

THE SALT CREEK CWRT

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Historian: Cindy Intravartolo

Newsletter Staff: Brian Conroy & Jan Rasmussen

Facebook and Website Editor: Brian Conroy

PRESERVATION REPORT

by Brian Conroy

This month is aimed at preserving six acres at Antietam and 122 acres at Shepherdstown, Md., which have a total value of \$2.75 million, but can be purchased using an \$8-to-\$1 donation match by the American Battlefield Trust for only \$343,837.

In September 1862, both sides of the American conflict were looking for a way to strike at the enemy that would help them to succeed. President Jefferson Davis and Gen. Robert E. Lee decided on a strategy to deliver a crushing blow on northern soil. The Confederate Army's strategy to move the war into northern territory had several goals: to recruit Maryland citizens and free it from Union control; to draw the Union army out of its capital where it could be dealt a decisive blow; to influence the 1862 midterm elections in their favor; to turn the attention away from Confederate failures elsewhere; and to convince prominent European countries to back the Confederate states.

During this time of action, President Abraham Lincoln was looking for a military victory that would help him to issue his preliminary Emancipation Proclamation from a position of strength. So, President Lincoln sent Federal forces, under the command of General George B. McClellan, to protect key Northern cities and drive the Confederate army out of Maryland, in what became the Maryland Campaign which included the Battles of Antietam and Shepherdstown.

The first piece of property to focus on is the six-acre tract in at Antietam battlefield in Sharpsburg, Maryland, where on September 17, 1862, Gen. Lee's 45,000 Confederate soldiers faced off against Gen. McClellan's 87,000 Union soldiers in a push towards northern soil. And the day's hard fighting at the iconic locations of Dunker Church, West Woods, the Cornfield, and Bloody Lane resulted in 22,000 casualties, the bloodiest day in American history to that point. At the present time, a 70s style brick house, garage, and barn currently occupy the property, along with a stand of trees that did not exist in 1862. Previous year's purchases around this area total 464 acres, and with the purchase of these six acres, a significant portion of the battlefield could unify and restore a significant portion of the battlefield, thereby plugging the hole in the battlefield donut!

The second piece of property being focused on is the much larger tract of 122 acres near Shepherdstown, Maryland. In the days following the fighting after Antietam, Confederate forces fell back towards the Potomac River, and during September 19-20, fighting continued in this small Maryland town. As 1,700 Union soldiers tried to cross the river, the 3,000 men of Lee's rear guard attacked and inflicted heavy losses, discouraging further pursuit of Lee's army and ending his Maryland Campaign, forcing him to retreat back to Virginia. This ending, while not a full victory, allowed President Lincoln to issue his preliminary Emancipation Proclamation, which took effect on January 1, 1863, changing the course of the war. The present land being focused on preserving, which is in an almost original state as at the time of the battle, is now threatened by the development of a residential subdivision of McMansions. The American Battlefield Trust has already saved more than 600 acres in Shepherdstown, and the addition of this land to that already sizable plot means even more history will be preserved.