

The Outpost

The Newsletter of the Salt Creek Civil War Round Table
Vol. LXI No. 6 February 2024



567th Regular Meeting

DATE: **SATURDAY**, February 17, 2024
PLACE: Glen Ellyn History Center at Stacy's Corners
800 N. Main St., Glen Ellyn, IL (NW Corner of Main & Elm Streets)
TIME: 11 a.m.
PROGRAM: **"We Are All in the War: The Northern Home Front."**
SPEAKER: Jonathan Sebastian

While the battles were mostly fought in the South, the people of the North were directly impacted and affected by the Civil War. Many aspects of life, even mundane daily tasks, were different. What were the experiences of those on the home front? How were they changed? And who were the Victorians? (Not the Steampunk variety) Where did they fit in? What about industrialization, transportation, and technology, even conservation? Perhaps this side of the war deserves a closer look.

Jonathan Sebastian earned his B.A. in history from Judson College (now University) and his M.A. in Public History from Loyola University of Chicago. He has been an adjunct professor of history at Judson University teaching World History 1500 to the Present and U.S. history. More recently, he was a social studies teacher at Woodlands Academy of the Sacred Heart. 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 and the education and programs assistant at the Elmhurst History Museum.

ALL FOR THE UNION

2024 Membership Renewals are due in January.

The renewal form is included with the newsletter. Memberships received on or before the February meeting will be eligible for the free membership drawing.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Alfred Kitch
Tom Martens

VACANT CHAIRS

Cindy Intravartolo, SCCWRT Historian sent this message:

Yesterday I learned of the passing of **Marilyn Steele**, the founder of our round table in 1962. It is a well known fact that as a housewife with two children, she began the round table because she was denied membership in the Chicago Civil War Round Table.

On June 14, 2003, Salt Creek established the Marilyn Steele Lifetime Achievement Award to honor a member for his/hers outstanding dedication to the round table. The award was proposed by president, Tony Cichantk. It was decided that the first recipient should be Marilyn. On August 23, 2003, a group of four Salt Creek members including president Tony Cichantk, past-president Roger Bohn, secretary Jan Rasmussen and historian Cindy Intravartolo drove to Marilyn's home in Fort Wayne, IN. and presented her with a framed certificate and etched crystal vase in appreciation for founding the organization. Past recipients of the award include Joyce Clark (2004), Don Sikorski (2005), Roger Bohn (2008), Cindy Intravartolo (2010) and Jan Rasmussen (2011).

Throughout the years, I have remained somewhat in contact with Marilyn, letting her know about Salt Creek's continued success and any major developments. She always appreciated the correspondence and enjoyed learning about Salt Creek's many milestones.

Perhaps Salt Creek can one day consider a memorial donation in her honor to the American Battlefield Trust for giving us all a window into Civil War history.

We were also informed that longtime members **Jack Roadman** and **Louis Hoornbeek** also passed away recently. Our condolences are extended to their families and friends.

Hal Ardell, longtime member of the Chicago CWRT passed away February 3rd. Many Salt Creek CWRT members have fond memories of shared Civil War adventures with Hal on the Chicago CWRT battlefield tours.

The Civil War Round Table of Chicago's Annual Battlefield Tour

The Gettysburg Campaign July 1-3, 1863. The tour is April 24-28, 2024. It will be limited to 1 bus with capacity for 50 attendees. More information at chicagocwrt.org.

UPCOMING CIVIL WAR EVENTS

Check with the organization sponsoring the program for meeting status.

February 9, 2024

Chicago CWRT will feature Carolyn Ivanoff presenting "We Fought at Gettysburg: The 17th Connecticut.

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

chicagocwrt.org

February 11, 2024

Northwest Indiana CWRT will feature William Horn presenting "Life and Equipment of a Civil War Soldier".

Crown Point Community Library

Northwest Indiana CWRT on Facebook

February 20, 2024

Lincoln/Davis CWRT will feature Bruce Allardice presenting "Loose Lips: Secrecy in the Civil War".

Country House Restaurant, Alsip, IL

lincolndavisroundtable@yahoo.com

February 22, 2024

South Suburban CWRT will feature Marc Dluger presenting "The 82nd Illinois."

Aurielio's Pizza, 19836 Wolf Road, Mokena, IL.

South Suburban CWRT on Facebook

March 1, 2024

Northern Illinois CWRT will feature Steve Alban presenting "The Election of 1860: How Lincoln Really Got Elected."

Arlington Hts. Historical Museum or Arlington Hts. Library

northernilcwrt.org

March 4, 2024

Rock River Valley CWRT will feature Gordon Dammann presenting "Civil War Medicine."

Veterans Memorial Hall, 211 N. Main Street. Rockford, IL.

March 8, 2024

Chicago CWRT will feature Chris Bryan presenting "The Union XII Corps".

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

chicagocwrt.org

March 10, 2024

Northwest Indiana CWRT will feature Bruce Allardice presenting "Baseball During the Civil War".

Crown Point Community Library

Northwest Indiana CWRT on Facebook

March 12, 2024

McHenry Co. CWRT will feature Charlies Banks presenting "Confederate Railroad"

Woodstock Library

mchenrycivilwar.com

The Kenosha Civil War Museum features **Second Friday Lectures at Noon.**

On February 9, 2024, Frank P. Varney will present "Grant and the Verdict of History".

<https://museums.kenosha.org/civilwar/events/>

FUTURE SALT CREEK CWRT MEETINGS

Check us out on Facebook and at saltcreekcwr.org

Meetings are held at 11am at the Glen Ellyn History Center, 800 N. Main St.

March 16, 2024

Dr. Mary J. Abroe will present "Civil War Centennial: Rhetoric, Reality and the Bounds of Selective Memory".

April 13, 2024 *(Meeting date changed due to conflict with the Midwest Civil War Show).

Diana Dretske will present "The Bonds of War: A Story of Espirit De Corps in Company C, 96th Illinois Infantry".

May 18, 2024

Bob Presman will present "God is On Our Side: Religion in the Civil War".

June 21, 2024 Annual Banquet. Christopher Kolakowski will present "Not Written In Letters of Blood: The Tullahoma Campaign, Summer 1863."

BACK IN HISTORY

50 Years Ago: Richard Blake presented "A Look at Lincoln".

25 Years Ago: Jim Soens presented "The Effect of the Mexican War on the Civil War".

10 Years Ago: Jerry Kowalski presented "General George H. Thomas: The Battle of 1864-From Chattanooga to Nashville with the Army of the Cumberland".

THE SALT CREEK CWRT

President: Cindy Heckler

Vice-President: Robert I. Girardi

Secretary-Treasurer: Jan Rasmussen

Board Members: Brian Conroy, Sharon Maher, Rick Zarr, Jon & Nancy Fritz, Dan McCarthy

Historian: Cindy Intravartolo

Newsletter Staff: Brian Conroy & Jan Rasmussen

Facebook and Website Editor: Brian Conroy

February 2024 Preservation Report **by Brian Conroy**

The American Battlefield Trust needs your support to help save 10 acres at Spotsylvania Court House in Virginia, and Corinth and Champion Hill, both in Mississippi. Combined, the total value of these tracts is more than \$687,000. While the Trust is anticipating about a third of the money in state and federal matching grants, support is needed to raise the final \$215,300. All of the potential matching funds available would be multiplied by \$3-to-\$1. The battles at Spotsylvania Court House, Corinth, and Champion Hill carried an especially heavy cost, resulting in approximately 45,000 casualties — a tremendous number of lives, limbs, and livelihoods lost. Many of these Americans paid the ultimate price, and we owe it to all future generations to preserve their memory and our history.

Spotsylvania Court House

Spotsylvania Court House was the second battle of the Overland Campaign, and with more than 31,000 casualties, became one of the bloodiest ever fought on American soil. On May 12, 1864, the fifth long day of fighting, more than 22 hours of close-quarters combat followed a massive Union attack. The two-acre target tract is surrounded by land that has already been protected, which makes it all the more urgent — just adjacent to the property is the site where the respected and beloved Union General, John Sedgwick, was killed by Confederate sharpshooters after joking that “They couldn’t hit an elephant at that distance.” Grant famously described Sedgwick’s death as “greater than the loss of a whole division of troops.” Sarah Spindle, a 40-year-old widow, fled her home on the adjacent property after the Confederate shelling on May 8, and lost everything in the ensuing fire. This tract plays a crucial role in telling the complete story of Spotsylvania Court House.

Battle of Champion Hill

The Battle of Champion Hill, according to Terry Winschel, the former Chief Historian at Vicksburg National Military Park, was “*the largest, bloodiest, and most significant action of the Vicksburg campaign.*” This is an opportunity to save five acres of bloodstained hallowed ground that witnessed Confederate troops advancing and retreating throughout the course of the fighting on May 15, 1863. Preserving these acres now would add to the decades of important work accomplished to preserve the site of a critical engagement in one of the most important campaigns of the war. But just like at Spotsylvania Court House, these much sought after and unprotected acres at Champion Hill are surrounded by preserved battlefield land and highly desirable to developers — if we lose this chance, a new housing development could be built and forever mar the landscape. If we purchase the land, we preserve and protect it so that all future generations can walk across the battlefield and look out over the crest of Champion Hill.

Battle of Corinth

The third target tract is at Corinth. Early in the war and fresh from their victory at Shiloh, Union forces advanced and laid siege to the city of Corinth, Mississippi. The Confederates evacuated but tried and failed to recapture Corinth a few months later, amassing 7,200 casualties. An impressive network of earthworks and trenches remain.