

The Outpost

The Newsletter of the Salt Creek Civil War Round Table

Vol. LXII No. 6 February 2025



577th Regular Meeting

DATE: Saturday, February 15, 2025
PLACE: Glen Ellyn History Center at Stacy's Corners
800 N. Main St., Glen Ellyn, IL (NW Corner of Main & Elm Streets)
TIME: 11am
PROGRAM: **"Loose Lips: Military Secrecy in the Civil War"**
SPEAKER: Bruce S. Allardice

In 1862 newspapers reported that U.S. Grant had been killed at Shiloh. And 12 different times newspapers reported that Jefferson Davis had died. In addition to printing "fake news," the newspapers also published shocking information about army numbers and strategy. As the US's first total war, the Civil War was a learning experience for both the military and the government. One aspect of this was the need for military security. Today, intelligence gathering and the need to keep secrets are vital parts of army doctrine, but this was not the case in 1861. Army officers, newspapers, and government officials had to learn that security saves lives. Professor Allardice reviews how one 1861 military movement, Gen. Burnside's Hatteras expedition, was compromised and almost ruined by the cavalier attitude of army officers (and others) to security, discussing 1861 security procedures (or lack thereof) in the context of modern military doctrine.

Bruce Allardice is a past president of the Chicago and Northern Illinois Roundtables. He is the author of six books and numerous articles and essays. He is a popular speaker on dozens of topics and is a noted authority on subjects ranging from baseball history to Civil War military and political history. Bruce is a graduate of the University of Illinois and a past board member of the Illinois State Historical Society. He has recently retired as a history professor at South Suburban College.

ALL FOR THE UNION

2025 Membership Renewals are due.

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

SCCWRT donated \$1000 to the American Battlefield Trust for the Five Western Battlefield Tracts Project with a \$54 to \$1 match in memory of Roger Bohn.

Fr. Bob Miller's Religion and Faith in the Civil War Display was given the Historical Significance Award at the Chickamauga Civil War Show. Huzzah!

UPCOMING CIVIL WAR EVENTS

Check with the organization sponsoring the program for meeting status.

February 7, 2025

Northern Illinois CWRT will feature Fr. Bob Miller presenting "From Rome to Appomattox: The History of Military Chaplains".

Arlington Hts. Historical Museum or Arlington Hts. Library www.northernilcwrt.org

February 14, 2025

Chicago CWRT will feature Hampton Newsome presenting "Gettysburg's Southern Front".
Holiday Inn Oakbrook, 350 W. 22nd St., Oakbrook Terrace chicagocwrt.org

February 16, 2025, at 2 pm

NW Indiana CWRT will feature Chuck Rebesco presenting "The Gallant 14th".
Crown Point Community Library Northwest Indiana CWRT on Facebook

February 11, 2025

McHenry County CWRT will feature Dan Masters presenting "Hell by the Acres: The Stones River Campaign". Woodstock Library www.mchenrycivilwar.com

February 18, 2025

Lincoln/Davis CWRT will feature Bill Mitchell presenting "Lincoln's Leadership".
Country House Restaurant, Alsip, IL lincolndavisroundtable@yahoo.com

February 27, 2025

South Suburban CWRT will feature Dennis Doyle presenting "Cold Harbor 1864".
Auriello's Pizza, 19836 Wolf Road, Mokena, IL. South Suburban CWRT on Facebook.

March 3, 2025

Rock River Valley CWRT will feature Dan Wykes presenting "The Underground Railroad in the Rock River Valley". 211 N. Main Street, Rockford, IL.

The 2025 Civil Round Table of Chicago's Annual Tour will feature Shiloh & Corinth.
The tour is April 23-27, 2025. More information at chicagocwrt.org

FUTURE SALT CREEK CWRT MEETINGS

Check us out on Facebook and at saltcreekcwr.org

March 15, 2025 William T. Kolasinski will present "Allan Pinkerton".

April 19, 2025 Bob Grenier will present "The Life and Legacy of Florida's Own General Edmund Kirby-Smith"

May 17, 2025 Robert I. Girardi will present "General John Logan"

June 20, 2025 Annual Banquet featuring Mark Flotow presenting "In Their Letters, In Their Own Words: Illinois Civil War Soldiers Write About U.S Grant".

Sept. 27, 2025 Jerry Allen will present "General James B. Steedman". **Note the date change Due to a conflict with the Civil War Show.**

Oct, 18, 2025 ANNUAL BOOK SALE 11am to 1pm Program at 1pm
Fr. Bob Miller will present "From Rome to Appomattox: The History of Military Chaplains".

BACK IN HISTORY

50 Years Ago: Dan J. Lapinski presented "John Wilkes Booth: The Man Who Immortalized Abraham Lincoln".

25 Years Ago: Max Daniels presented "A Press Conference with Abraham Lincoln in 1865".

10 Years Ago: Bill Hupp presented "The Civil War Trust's 2015 Battlefield Preservation Extravaganza".

THE SALT CREEK CWRT

President: Cindy Heckler

Vice-President: Robert I. Girardi

Secretary-Treasurer: Jan Rasmussen

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

Historian: Cindy Intravartolo

Newsletter Staff: Jan Rasmussen, Rob Girardi, Brian Conroy

Facebook and Website Editor: Brian Conroy

February 2025 Preservation Report **by Brian Conroy**

Help to preserve 161 acres at five Western Theater Battlefield Tracts! These five tracts of Western Theater battlefield land are all connected and — like dominoes — they all had an impact on what came after them, and the outcome of the war. From Fort Heiman and Fort Henry on the Kentucky/Tennessee border ... to Brown's Ferry/ Chattanooga and Spring Hill in Tennessee ... to Bentonville in North Carolina ... each of the battlefields we can save today bore witness to the events that eventually propelled the war to its close. The total land value is a staggering \$3.8 million! Fortunately, the Trust expects to obtain state and federal preservation grants along with a donation from one of the landowners, meaning that we can save all of this critical history for just \$70,000 if we can secure the funding in the next 60 days to close the deals.

As Fort Donelson was one of the most important priorities to capture, due to its proximity near the border of Kentucky and Tennessee, the Union Army focused on seizing Fort Heiman before moving onto Fort Henry. One of the tracts is a small but extremely valuable waterfront tract at Fort Heiman, Kentucky (associated with Fort Henry, Tennessee too) in an area now threatened by high density residential development. This domino falling eventually led to the fall of the first Confederate state capital, Nashville.

Another tract being focused on is 31 acres at Brown's Ferry / Chattanooga. The intact Civil War-era earthworks on an adjacent tract saved by the Trust continue into this property, thus connecting existing preservation work. This piece of property happened due to General Grant being emboldened by these victories while moving further into Tennessee, leading to victory at Shiloh and the capture of Corinth. The Confederates then move into Kentucky, where the Battle of Perryville takes place. This leads to Stones River, then the Tullahoma Campaign, and then beyond Chattanooga to the Battle of Chickamauga in Georgia.

Union troops move back toward Chattanooga. That's where the "Cracker Line" is created to feed the troops via Brown's Ferry and will then sustain them for the fighting at Orchard Knob, the Battle Above the Clouds on Lookout Mountain, and Missionary Ridge.

The Confederates retreat into Georgia, while Sherman's armies head toward Atlanta, to the sea, and then northward.

But while this is taking place, something truly remarkable happens. Confederate troops marching toward Nashville stop at Spring Hill but fail to detect as many as 20,000 Union soldiers under Gen. John Schofield who simply march by the Confederate campfires! 12 acres here are adjacent to previously preserved land in the core of the battlefield!

These troops would fight at Franklin, and then at Nashville, with some of the same Confederate soldiers who battled there traveling by rail to North Carolina, where they would be part of the last major battle of the Western Theater, Bentonville, leading to the largest surrender of the Civil War at Bennett Place. Two separate tracts located at Bentonville, North Carolina, total 118 acres and were central to the action in this major battle.

Each of these fascinating and were critical dominoes leading to the outcome of the war.