

The Outpost

The Newsletter of the Salt Creek Civil War Round Table
Vol. LVI No. 5 January 2018



509th Regular Meeting

DATE: Friday, January 19, 2018
PLACE: Oak Trace, 200 Village Drive, Downers Grove, IL
TIME: 8:00 p.m.
TOPIC: “Untold Facts of the Custer Debacle”
SPEAKER: Don Sender

On June 27, 1876, the Nation was stunned by telegraph reports from Fort Lincoln, Nebraska Territory, that the Civil War Hero Lt. Colonel George Armstrong Custer and a large part of his vaunted 7th U.S. Cavalry had been massacred by renegade Indians in the Wyoming Territory. Theories abounded, fed by newspapermen of the day, suggesting in one tale that Custer had been outwitted by Sitting Bull because Sitting Bull had attended West Point incognito and was thoroughly grounded in infantry tactics. Reservation Indians and captives were thoroughly interrogated but wary of being killed or punished severely, denied their participation or said very little of their role in the fight.

For many years, various writers blamed Custer for recklessness, bad judgement or bravado for his defeat, feeding on the derogatory ravings of a single author who seemed to delight in twisting the knife in the General- even questioning his Civil War record. Others attacked Major Reno and Captain Benteen who, it was charged, “failed to support Custer” when the Indians surrounded him. As time passed by, Custer’s fate continued to interest anyone who had a new idea to propose and a desire to sell a book. Few invested time in actual research, fewer had any military experience to draw from to form a background to interpret the event.

Don Sender’s presentation will cover Custer’s Civil War Record, post-war scandals regarding the Indian Bureau, the composition of the Army, bureaucratic cost cutting that caused problems with the Cavalry’s weapons, training restraints, officers’ jealousies, their attitudes, and their actions in the field that would complicate the mission and almost destroy the 7th Cavalry.

Don Sender is a Past President of the SCCWRT, a retired U.S. history teacher, and a retired Chief Warrant Officer in the U.S. Army Reserve. Following his retirement, he served as President of the Veterans Assistance Commission for DuPage County. Over the years Don has given numerous presentations to the Round Table as well as participating in many panel discussions.

DECEMBER MONTHLY MEETING

At the December meeting, Roger Bohn presented “How the U.S. Navy Helped to Save the Union”. To aid his presentation Roger provided booklets that featured the chronology of significant Civil War Naval events, Illustrations of ship types of the Civil War and a detailed bibliography. Roger stressed the importance of the waterways because they were the best possible way to move goods and people. The Union Naval blockade of Southern ports strangled the South, economically, industrially and militarily. The Union Navy’s control of the seas and waterways helped to prevent foreign intervention in the form of the recognition of the Confederacy as an independent nation. In combined and amphibious operations with the Navy, the Union Army gained overwhelming advantages through the Navy’s control of the sea and inland waterways. Large bodies of troops and equipment could be moved to strategic points to keep the army equipped and able to win the field. We thank Roger for shedding more light on the contributions of the U.S. Navy towards Union victory.

BATTLEFIELD TOUR April 26-29, 2018

The CWRT of Chicago 68th Annual Battlefield Tour will be the 1864 Atlanta Campaign. For itinerary and registration information: cwrt2018tour@chicagocwrt.org.

The Civil War Museum of Kenosha is offering a bus tour of the Chickamauga/Chattanooga Civil War Sites Sunday, October 21 to Wednesday, October 24, 2018. The tour will be led by award winning author and Chickamauga expert David Powell.

For itinerary and registration information: ddammann@kenosha.org or 262-653-4432

REMINDER TO RENEW

If you have not renewed your membership yet, please send your dues in. A renewal form is included with this newsletter. If you have already renewed Thank You.

A volunteer is needed to write the Preservation Report for the newsletter. If interested contact Jan Rasmussen: jrbarns@sbcglobal.net

The SCCWRT made a \$1000 donation to the Civil Trust for the project to save 176 acres at Second Manassas with a \$85 to \$1 Match!

Due to construction Oak Trace has an ON-Site Transportation & Security Service available. If you need assistance finding parking: Dial 630-401-6699 or Ask at the Front Desk.

SALT CREEK CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE MEMBERSHIP FORM

\$35 Mailed Newsletter _____

\$25 Emailed Newsletter _____

\$5 Student _____

I have included a separate donation for battlefield preservation: _____

Return this form by January 31st and your name will be placed in a drawing for a free 2018 membership to be determined at the February meeting.

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: _____

UPCOMING CIVIL WAR EVENTS

JANUARY 25, 2018

SOUTH SUBURBAN CWRT

"Women and the Civil War"

Speaker: Don White

Smokey Barque, 20 Kansas St.
Frankfort, IL

www.southsurburbancwrt.com

FEBRUARY 2, 2018

NORTHERN ILLINOIS CWRT

"The Draft"

Speaker: Bruce Allardice

Arlington Hts. Memorial Library
500 Dunton, Arlington Hts.
northernilcwrt.org

FEBRUARY 7, 2018

KANKAKEE VALLEY CWRT

"What Really Happened at Ft. Donelson"

Speaker: Phil Angelo

Kankakee Public Library

FEBRUARY 9, 2018

CHICAGO CWRT

"Confederate Gen. Richard Anderson"

Speaker: Larry Hewitt

Holiday Inn O'Hare

5615 N. Cumberland, Chicago

dinnerreservation@chicagocwrt.org

FEBRUARY 6, 2018

LINCOLN/DAVIS CWRT

"The Battle of Wise's Forks"

Speaker: Brian Sokolosky

Country House Restaurant, Alsip

lincolndavisroundtable@yahoo.com

ALL FOR THE UNION

The SCCWRT website is temporarily down. Technical assistance would be greatly appreciated. Contact Rick Zarr: rzarr@sbcglobal.net

Brian Conroy has taken over the Salt Creek CWRT Facebook page. Check it out for updates.

BACK IN HISTORY

50 Years Ago: Alan Almone presented "The Crater at Gettysburg".

25 Years Ago: Art Foley presented "Civil War Music"

10 Years Ago: Rob Girardi presented "General Impressions of the Civil War"

FUTURE SCCWRT MEETINGS

February 16, 2018

"Henry Hunt and the 3rd Day at Gettysburg"

Speaker: Art Foley

March 16, 2018

"Monocacy"

Speaker: Charlie Banks

THE SALT CREEK CWRT

www.saltcreekcwrt.org

President: Cindy Heckler

Vice-President: Rick Zarr

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