

The Outpost

The Newsletter of the Salt Creek Civil War Round Table
Vol. LVII No. 5 January 2019



519th Regular Meeting

DATE: Friday, January 18, 2019
PLACE: Oak Trace, 200 Village Drive, Downers Grove, IL
TIME: 8:00 p.m.
TOPIC: “A Family and Nation Under Fire”
SPEAKER: Georgiann Baldino

The cataclysm of the Civil War propels the Medill family into the deadly conflict. Joseph Medill was the influential owner/editor of the Chicago Tribune and a powerful voice in favor of the Union cause. “A Family and Nation Under Fire” shows that when shots are fired at Fort Sumter, the Medills mobilize, unaware how their courage will be tested in the coming years.

Georgiann Baldino is a technical writer and consultant, who helps other writers pursue their publishing goals. Her own published work primarily covers the Civil War era. Familiarity with Lincoln’s rise to national prominence helped her appreciate the Medill papers at Cantigny Park and Museum. In 2018 Kent State University Press released previously the unpublished letters and journals Georgiann edited as *A Family and Nation Under Fire*.

If you need assistance parking during construction, please ask at the front desk or call the On-Site Transportation & Security Service at 630-401-6699. There are plenty of parking spaces available.

BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION REPORT BY BRIAN CONROY

Hello again! We at the Salt Creek Civil War Round Table hope you had a wonderful Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! As we begin this new year, what we have to realize is that 2018 was a banner year for Civil War preservation. The Civil War Trust, which was formed in 1988, formed an umbrella organization named the American Battlefield Trust, which seeks to preserve not only Civil War history, but also the Revolutionary War and War of 1812. 2018 marked another milestone, as the Trust not only saved 2,780 acres of land, but the total number of acres preserved reached 50,000, and include the present projects of Yorktown, Cold Harbor, and Seminary Ridge. Salt Creek Civil War Round Table is dedicated to helping preserve our Civil War heritage and legacy, and we look forward to starting the year off right with your help. In our January preservation report, we will examine one of the Trust's present projects being worked on, and a wonderful story that will hopefully inspire further more people to assist in furthering preservation.

On December 21, 2018, the American Battlefield Trust posted the following to Facebook: *"A wonderful supporter, recently widowed, decided to donate \$10,000 to save Seminary Ridge at Gettysburg in honor of her husband who always wanted to visit Gettysburg but passed away before he had the chance, and her father, a Lutheran minister who had a parish in Pennsylvania. Her only condition on this generous gift? That her gift be matched by other supporters of battlefield preservation. Join her in paying tribute to the legacy of loved ones."* Looking at this beautiful story of the widow's love for her husband's passion, but the tragedy that he was never afforded the chance to visit Gettysburg, let's see what the Trust tells us about this vital portion of the First Day's Battle at Gettysburg:

"We have the remarkable opportunity to save 18 critical acres on Seminary Ridge...some of the most historically significant land at Gettysburg that is still in private hands. It is hallowed ground that witnessed the climactic scene of fierce, deadly fighting on July 1, 1863.

Here, in the late afternoon, Union troops made a final, desperate defense of Seminary Ridge and were met with a renewed attack from the Confederates. The famed Union Iron Brigade, along with one New York and six Pennsylvania regiments, tried to hold back North and South Carolinians in Alfred Scales and Abner Perrin's brigades. Four Union batteries that crowned the Ridge, including six fearsome Napoleon guns posted directly on a portion of the land we are trying to save, fired over the heads of the Union infantrymen with devastating effect on the advancing Confederates.

A captain in the Iron Brigade recalled later that infantrymen fired so fast their rifles became hot, and the smoke was so thick that it was as dark as night. Many wounded fell rapidly on both sides.

This land is some of the largest and most significant remaining unprotected acreage on Seminary Ridge. Remarkably, it is nearly unchanged from 1863. But we can't guarantee its future as open space until we permanently protect this hallowed ground.

The price for this land is \$3.5 million. Due to its location, we are unable to apply for federal matching grants. We have to go this one alone. It is a big task, but if we have your help, we can preserve this land together and make history."

Please consider assisting with this unique preservation opportunity, and Happy New Year!

UPCOMING CIVIL WAR EVENTS

JANUARY 15, 2019

LINCOLN/DAVIS CWRT

"Women of the Civil War"

Speaker: Don White

Country House Restaurant, Alsip

lincolndavisroundtable@yahoo.com

JANUARY 24, 2019

SOUTH SUBURBAN CWRT

"Impeachment of President Johnson"

Speaker: Lester Lindley

Smokey Barque, 20 Kansas St.

Frankfort, IL

www.southsurburbancwrt.com

FEBRUARY 1, 2019

NORTHERN ILLINOIS CWRT

"Schleswig-Holstein War of 1864"

Speaker: Harold Knudsen

Arlington Hts. Memorial Library

northernilcwrt.org.

FEBRUARY 6, 2019

KANKAKEE VALLEY CWRT

"Ellet's Marine Brigade"

Speaker: Ray Wilson

Kankakee Public Library

FEBRUARY 8, 2019

CHICAGO CWRT

"Gouverneur K. Warren's Last Battle"

Speaker: Rob Girardi

Holiday Inn O'Hare

5615 N. Cumberland, Chicago

dinnerreservation@chicagocwrt.org

FEBRUARY 23, 2019 2pm

GLEN ELLYN HISTORY CENTER

"Mary Lincoln's Illustrated Album"

An Illustrated Lecture by Laura Keys

Adults \$8, GEHS Members \$6

800 North Main Street

www.glenellynhistory.org

ALL FOR THE UNION

The SCCWRT website is back.

It is still a work in progress.

Brian Conroy has taken over the

Salt Creek CWRT Facebook page.

Check it out for updates.

BACK IN HISTORY

50 Years Ago: Thomas Perkins presented:
"104th Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment"

25 Years Ago: Art Foley presented:
"The Battle of Pea Ridge"

10 Years Ago: Rob Girardi presented:
"Leonidas Polk and Kentucky in 1861"

FUTURE SCCWRT MEETINGS

February 15, 2019

"Five Factors Impacting Confederate and
Union Prison Camps During the Civil War"

Speaker: David Keller

March 15, 2019

"Saving Antietam: 100 Years of Challenges
Met and Lessons Learned"

Speaker: Dr. Mary Abroe

THE SALT CREEK CWRT

www.saltcreekcwrt.org

President: Cindy Heckler

Vice-President: Rick Zarr

Secretary-Treasurer: Jan Rasmussen

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Sharon Maher, Brian Conroy, Nancy Fritz

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Brian Conroy

**2019 Membership renewals are due.
Memberships received before the
January 31st are eligible for the free
membership drawing.**