

The Outpost

**The Newsletter of the Salt Creek Civil War Round Table
Vol. LVIX No. 5 January 2021**



536th Regular Meeting

DATE: Friday, January 15, 2021
PLACE: Confines of your own home.
Due to Covid restrictions the meeting will be via zoom
TIME: 7:30 p.m.
TOPIC: “The Battle of Honey Springs”
SPEAKER: Arthur Foley

The Indian Territory, (present day Oklahoma), was the scene of destruction, desolation, and uncertainty. The region witnessed a concurrence of events derived from the actions affecting the native peoples shuffled by the government to the area, fervor of the participants in the fight from “Bleeding Kansas”, Seccessionists trying to overcome race and former slaves participation as combatants.

On one side led by a General whose character was incredibly tarnished and a Colonel of impeccable virtue, and on the other, a group of Commanders who were stifled in a backwater theater. They would meet on a blazing hot day along a creek by the depot of Honey Springs.

Arthur Foley has been a longtime member of the Roundtable. A retired music educator and performer, Art lives in Naperville with his wife Karen.

**ZOOM LINK MEETING INFORMATION WILL BE SENT IN A SEPARATE EMAIL OR
POSTED ON THE FACEBOOK PAGE.**

DECEMBER MEETING UPDATE BY ART FOLEY

The story of the First Michigan Engineers was shared by Brian Conroy for our December meeting ala Zoom. Providing the antecedents passed by Congress formulating the composition for units of engineers, Brian described the events that led to the creation of the unit.

The individual responsible for the enlistment and command of the regiment was Colonel William Innes. Innes would be in command for the entirety of the conflict, overseeing the widely distributed twelve companies. The men were employed in the construction of roads, bridges, and defensive works from Louisville, Ky. in 1861 to the Grand Review in Washington D.C. in 1865. Along the way they not only built and demolished structures, they ended up in combat situations as well. Guarding the rear supply depots during the Battle of Stones River, the regiment held off attacks by General Joseph Wheeler's cavalry. Wheeler's demand for surrender was answered by Colonel Innes's reply "we don't surrender much". The regiment successfully held off the attackers.

The regiment also built temporary structures that were truly remarkable for the time. Notably, the bridges over the Elk River and Duck Creek in the period of 1863-64, were erected over periods just over a week that exceeded 460 feet, (Elk River) and 350 feet, (Duck Creek) and reaching height spans of 40 to 60 feet. All using materials gleaned from the region or manufactured by skilled members of the unit. After the capture of Atlanta, the First was attached to the XIV Corps where they participated in Sherman's March to the Sea. Coming to the end of their enlistment in November 1864 a number of the veterans reenlisted. Continuing on, they advanced through South Carolina and ultimately were witness to Johnson's surrender and participated in the Grand Review.

The total losses of the 2,920 who served in the unit, one officer and 12 enlisted men were either killed or mortally wounded, while 300 plus perished due to illness or disease. Brian provided photographs of unit members, including a spectacular group pose on Lookout Mountain, Ga. Letters and records from the men held in private collections were also described. Monuments to the unit in Michigan and on battlefields were also shown and described.

Thanks to Brian for an informative and entertaining presentation. Huzzah!

VACANT CHAIR

Longtime member Chuck Kurtz passed away December 12th. Chuck was in charge of the book raffle. For many years he greeted members as they passed by the table. He was also a longtime board member and meeting facility liaison to Oak Trace. His friendly face and warm smile will be greatly missed.

BACK IN HISTORY

50 Years Ago: Don Russell presented "Lincoln & His Generals"

25 Years Ago: Dan McCarthy presented "The Battle of Franklin"

10 Years Ago: Roger Bohn presented "Zebulon B. Vance: North Carolina's Civil War Governor and Blockade Runner"

JANUARY 2021 PRESERVATION REPORT BY BRIAN CONROY

Happy New Year! We hope to see everyone in person sometime in 2021 and continue our mission of providing quality education through great presenters to our members and the public. This month we will focus on the education aspect of preservation and Civil War history provided by the American Battlefield Trust to students across the country through the use of virtual field trips.

The American Battlefield Trust team has been working with educators, parents and caretakers throughout the pandemic to fill in the gaps created by a disrupted school year. Their educational resources have seen a tenfold increase in traffic on our website, and educators have been hungry for ways to keep students engaged. One of the ways they know how to do this best to supplement out-of-the-classroom education is field trips.

They are creating 10 virtual field trips for students to escape into the past and imagine what life would have been like in our early American conflicts, with a Trust supporter offering to make a \$1-to-\$1 matching gift for the first \$15,000 towards the total \$30,000 of the program that combines history with the latest technology and high production values to deliver a compelling experience that any student can access online.

These virtual field trips offer an interactive and engaging mix of video, quizzes, question-and-answer sessions and supporting curricula that will encapsulate the experience that students have when they visit a battlefield or historic site in person. The battlefield trust will use these virtual field trips to share artifacts up close and allow students to “meet” special guests, historians and experts in the field.

What’s more, every virtual field trip will be available for classrooms to deploy after the live event has aired. So, after students have returned to a normal schedule in school, these field trips will be available for everyone, which will allow more classrooms and students to be reached than ever with top-notch U.S. history programming.

Students and their teachers can access these at any time, from anywhere. So, whether students live in California, Montana or Florida, they will have the opportunity to “visit” the Lincoln Monument in Washington, D.C., hear stories from Little Roundtop at Gettysburg, or see where Washington’s army spent its winter in the encampments at Valley Forge.

Supporting these virtual field trips will help deliver an immersive, interactive experience for students, whether they are at home, in the classroom.

ALL FOR THE UNION

Membership renewals are due in January. Due to Covid restrictions a new meeting location might be needed. Alternative options are being considered. Membership support is appreciated and needed. A Membership Renewal form is included with this newsletter.

UPCOMING CIVIL WAR EVENTS

Check with the organization sponsoring the program for meeting status

January 19, 2021

Lincoln/Davis CWRT will feature Dave Powell presenting “Union Command Failure in the Shenandoah”
Country House Restaurant, Alsip, IL

January 28, 2021

South Suburban CWRT will feature Lester Lindley presenting “Civil War Amendments”
South Suburban CWRT on Facebook (ZOOM MEETING)

February 5, 2021

Northern Illinois CWRT will feature Mike Powell presenting “African-Americans in the U.S. Navy”
www.northernilcwrt.org (ZOOM MEETING)

February 12, 2021

Chicago CWRT will feature Leslie Goddard presenting “Clara Barton”
www.chicagocwrt.org (ZOOM MEETING)

The Civil War Round Table Congress is sponsoring a series of virtual Civil War Lectures.

To view the schedule visit: <http://www.cwrtcongress.org/lectures.html>

The Kenosha Civil War Museum is also sponsoring virtual programs.

To view the schedule visit: <https://museum.kenosha.org/civilwar/events>

FUTURE SALT CREEK CWRT MEETINGS

Check us out on Facebook and at saltcreekcwrt.org

February 19, 2021

Dennis Doyle will present “Illinois Regiments at Gettysburg”

March 19, 2021

Gene Salecker will present “Rueben Hatch”

THE SALT CREEK CWRT

President: Cindy Heckler

Vice-President: Rick Zarr

Secretary-Treasurer: Jan Rasmussen

Board Members: Mike Miller, Sharon Maher, Brian Conroy, Nancy Fritz

Historian: Cindy Intravartolo

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