

The Outpost

**The Newsletter of the Salt Creek Civil War Round Table
Vol. LVX No. 5 January 2022**



546th Regular Meeting

DATE: **SATURDAY**, January 15, 2022
PLACE: Glen Ellyn History Center (N.W. Corner of Main & Elm Streets)
800 N. Main Street, Glen Ellyn, IL
TIME: **11:00 am**
PROGRAM: "Little Egypt's Civil War: The 31st Illinois and the 15th Tennessee"
SPEAKER: Brian Conroy

In the summer of 1861, the area of southern Illinois known as "Little Egypt" was a hotbed of state politics that had been simmering for years. 34 men from this area joined what would become Company G of the 15th Tennessee Infantry, while their neighbors for the 31st Illinois Infantry. The men of the 15th Tennessee fought as their own regiment through the early war before being consolidated with the 37th Tennessee, while the men of the 31st Illinois served together through to the end of the war. However, very early on in the war, these men who grew up together, and even were related through marriage, stared down the barrels of their rifled muskets at the Battle of Belmont, Kentucky.

Brian Conroy received his Bachelor's Degree in History from the University of South Florida, and currently works full time as a Records Assistant for the DuPage County State's Attorney Office. He also works for the Joliet Area Historical Museum as a Museum Assistant and Guide at the Old Joliet Prison, and volunteers as Vice President and Living History Coordinator with the Will County Historical Museum and Research Center in Lockport, Illinois. He is also on various boards for the Irish American Society of County Will, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War General Philip H. Sheridan Camp #2, and A River Thru History Rendezvous. He is also a member and attends the South Suburban CWRT, Lincoln Davis CWRT, and is a board member for Salt Creek CWRT.

Brian has been a Civil War reenactor and living historian since 2000, portraying fur trader, Chicago politician and businessman Gurdon Hubbard, and is presently Sergeant of the modern-day group portraying the 1st Michigan Engineers and Mechanics, Company E.

ALL FOR THE UNION

DUE TO COVID RESTRICTIONS WE ARE NO LONGER MEETING AT OAK TRACE.

Until further notice meetings will be held on the 3rd SATURDAY at 11am at the Glen Ellyn History Center.

2022 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE DUE IN JANUARY.

The renewal form is included with the newsletter. Renewals received on or before the January 15th meeting will be eligible for the free membership drawing.

Rob Girardi will be presenting "Engineers in the Civil War" to the St. Louis Civil War Round Table on January 26th.

UPCOMING CIVIL WAR EVENTS

Check with the organization sponsoring the program for meeting status

January 18, 2022

Lincoln/Davis CWRT will feature Dave Powell presenting "The Shenandoah Valley in the Civil War"

Country House Restaurant, Alsip, IL

lincolndavisroundtable@yahoo.com

January 27, 2022

South Suburban CWRT will feature Jim Hessler presenting "General Dan Sickles"

South Suburban CWRT on Facebook

February 5, 2022

Two Old Goats in Cedar Lake, IN will feature Bill Mitchell presenting "Lincoln & the Constitution" rzarr@sbcglobal.net

February 11, 2022

Chicago CWRT will feature Ann Durkin Keating presenting "Juliette Kinzie, the Civil War, the Making of Chicago"

Holiday Inn O'Hare, 5615 N. Cumberland, Chicago (In Person & Zoom Presentation)

chicagocwrt.org

February 15, 2022

Lincoln/Davis CWRT will feature David Dixon presenting "The Civil War as a Radical International Revolution"

Country House Restaurant, Alsip, IL

lincolndavisroundtable@yahoo.com

February 24, 2022

South Suburban CWRT will feature Jen Murray presenting "General Meade"

South Suburban CWRT on Facebook

January 2022 Preservation Report

By Brian Conroy

Happy New Year! 2021 was a great year for preservation, and it looks like 2022 is shaping up to be the same. There is a great opportunity to save three tracts of land that will put these 239 priceless acres of battlefield land into the “saved forever” column for just \$137,500. Hopefully they can be saved from the daily growing threat of development that has been fought against time and time again. These will hopefully be saved by not only donors, but also funding from the Commonwealth of Virginia, Central Virginia Battlefields Trust, and Petersburg Battlefield Foundation.

The hallowed ground this month encompasses land fought on in both the American Revolution and Civil War, with land south of Spotsylvania and at nearby Petersburg are host to Todd's Tavern, where not only did Lafayette wear down Cornwallis leading up to Yorktown in June 1781, but Confederate and Union forces fought and rested on this land near those two taverns in May 1864 for control of the path toward Richmond the supply lines needed to win the war.

Tracts near the Globe Tavern south of Petersburg, Virginia preserves land that hosted two battles for the strategically vital Weldon Railroad, the first in June 1864 and the other in August of that same year. The Weldon connected Richmond and the rail hub of Petersburg to the South's last Atlantic port, Wilmington, North Carolina, and Grant desperately wanted to wrest control of the railroad from the Confederates.

On the night of May 7, 1864, Union Generals Ulysses S. Grant and George G. Meade rode south, skirting the Todd's Tavern tract and stopped briefly at the tavern. Here, Union General Philip Sheridan and Confederate General Fitzhugh “Fitz” Lee waged one of the most intense and important cavalry battles of the Overland Campaign, where both sides gained and lost valuable advantages and positions. Ultimately, Union forces were slowed by Confederate troopers from advancing onward to Spotsylvania. A week later, Confederate General Thomas Rosser's cavalry brigade spent the night at Todd's Tavern, and the next day Rosser marched east and engaged the 2nd Ohio Cavalry and 23rd Regiment USCT southeast of Chancellorsville.

The First Battle of Weldon Railroad was the initial conflict in the Petersburg Campaign, aimed at extending the Union siege lines to the west and cutting the Southern rail lines. Confederate General William “Little Billy” Mahone took his men through a ravine on the after of June 22nd, and emerged near the rear of a division commanded by General Francis C. Barlow. They hit the Union line near Johnson Road and rolled the stunned Federals back toward Jerusalem Plank Road and preventing their effort at securing and destroying the rail lines.

In the Second Battle of Weldon Railroad on August 18th, the Union Army attempted to capture the railroad again following its failed June effort. Grant sent his Fifth Corps, commanded by General Gouverneur K. Warren, westward with orders to destroy a section of track and hold it if he could. They withstood a fierce counterattack from three Confederate brigades led by General Henry Heth. The next day, Mahone's division (the same that had thwarted the Union's first attempt at destroying the rail line), sliced between Warren's right flank and the left of General John Parke's Ninth Corps, inflicting another embarrassing tactical defeat on the Federals.

All told over the four-day battle, the Federals suffered 4,279 casualties and had more than 2,500 men taken prisoner, yet they managed to destroy enough track to force the Confederates to transport their supplies 30 miles by wagon to bypass new Union lines to the south and the west.

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, 2022

Jonathan Sebastian will present: "Turning the Tide: The Gettysburg Campaign"
Saturday at 11am at the Glen Ellyn History Center.

March 19, 2022

Steve Alban will present: "The Actual Causes of the Rebellion According to the Words of Joshua Giddings and Abraham Lincoln"

BACK IN HISTORY

50 Years Ago: Dr. George Fleming presented: "John Logan: Political General"

25 Years Ago: Larry Gibbs presented: "Reconstruction: The Forgotten Legacy of the Civil War"

10 Years Ago: Meeting canceled due to bad weather

THE SALT CREEK CWRT

President: Cindy Heckler

Vice-President: Rick Zarr

Secretary-Treasurer: Jan Rasmussen

Board Members: Brian Conroy, Sharon Maher, Mike Miller, Nancy & Jon Fritz, Rob Girardi

Historian: Cindy Intravartolo

Newsletter Staff: Jennie Warner, Brian Conroy & Jan Rasmussen

Facebook and Website Editor: Brian Conroy

SALT CREEK CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
MEMBERSHIP FORM

Regular Membership E-Mailed Newsletter \$25 _____

Family Membership E-Mailed Newsletter \$35 _____

Student E-Mailed Newsletter \$5_____

Mailed Newsletter \$10 extra _____

I have included a separate donation for battlefield preservation: _____

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:_____

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Email address:_____

I am interested in giving a presentation on:_____

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