

# The Outpost

The Newsletter of the Salt Creek Civil War Round Table

Vol. LXI No. 5 January 2024



566th Regular Meeting

**DATE:** SATURDAY, January 20, 2024  
**PLACE:** Glen Ellyn History Center at Stacy's Corners  
800 N. Main St., Glen Ellyn, IL (NW Corner of Main & Elm Streets)  
**TIME:** 11 a.m.  
**PROGRAM:** "Shadows in Washington: The Election of 1860"  
**SPEAKER:** Steven Alban

"Shadows in Washington, the Election of 1860" delves into how Abraham Lincoln was elected president. How did a country lawyer get elected to Congress, run for the Senate, and later become the President of the United States?

Despite widespread opposition and the fact that his name did not appear on the ballots in the Southern States, Lincoln won the four-way election. That victory was the catalyst for the secession of seven states and the onset of the Civil War.

This month, Steve Alban who looks into dark corners and under dusty beds will describe Lincoln's unlikely ascension to the nation's highest office in the face of rivalry, betrayal and good old-fashioned skulduggery.

Steven is a graduate of Northern Illinois University. With degrees in Political Science and History, he brings a unique perspective of the time period. Over the last few decades Steve has owned and managed an organization named 1 Step Strategy. As a professional speaker, mentor, and guide he has helped individuals and organizations increase revenues in these difficult times. Also, for decades Steve has been an avid historian. Focusing on the American story Steve has both written and spoken about the political chain of events surrounding the American Civil War. A contributor to several publications, he is still writing the elusive never finished novel.

## **ALL FOR THE UNION**

Thanks to Rob Girardi, Jan Rasmussen, Dan McCarthy, Kurt Carlson, Mark Matranga and Steve Alban for their participation in making “Memorabilia Show & Tell” a success. Thanks also to those who brought Holiday treats.

### **2024 Membership Renewals are due in January.**

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

### **Welcome New Member**

Alex Nenadic

## **UPCOMING CIVIL WAR EVENTS**

Check with the organization sponsoring the program for meeting status.

January 12, 2024

**Chicago CWRT** will feature Patrick & Dylan Brennan presenting “Gettysburg in Color”.  
Holiday Inn O’Hare, 5615 N. Cumberland, Chicago. [chicagocwrt.org](http://chicagocwrt.org)

January 14, 2024

**Northwest Indiana CWRT** will feature Charles Robesco presenting “Last Man Standing: The 20<sup>th</sup> Indiana Infantry”.  
Crown Point Community Library Northwest Indiana CWRT on Facebook

January 16, 2024

**Lincoln/Davis CWRT** will feature Gene Salecker presenting “The Forrest Raid and the Sultana”.  
Country House Restaurant, Alsip, IL [lincolndavisroundtable@yahoo.com](mailto:lincolndavisroundtable@yahoo.com)

January 25, 2024

**South Suburban CWRT** will feature Patrick Brennan presenting “Gettysburg—From Brandy Station to the Peach Orchard”.  
Aurielio’s Pizza, 19836 Wolf Road, Mokena, IL. South Suburban CWRT on Facebook

February 2, 2024

**Northern Illinois CWRT** will feature Dennis Doyle presenting “Illinois Regiments at Gettysburg”.  
Arlington Hts. Historical Museum or Arlington Hts. Library  
[northernilcwrt.org](http://northernilcwrt.org)

February 5, 2024

**Rock River Valley CWRT** will feature David Powell presenting “Joseph Johnston and the Atlanta Campaign.”  
Veterans Memorial Hall, 211 N. Main Street. Rockford, IL.

The Kenosha Civil War Museum features **Second Friday Lectures at Noon.**

On January 12, 2024, Dr. Gregory Burek will present "Post Civil War Veteran Mental Health".  
<https://museums.kenosha.org/civilwar/events/>

### **The Civil War Round Table of Chicago's Annual Battlefield Tour**

The Gettysburg Campaign July 1-3, 1863. The tour is April 24-28, 2024. It will be limited to 1 bus with capacity for 50 attendees. More information at [chicagocwrt.org](http://chicagocwrt.org).

### **FUTURE SALT CREEK CWRT MEETINGS**

Check us out on Facebook and at [saltcreekcwrt.org](http://saltcreekcwrt.org)

Meetings are held at 11am at the Glen Ellyn History Center, 800 N. Main St.

#### **February 17, 2024**

Jonathan Sebastian will present "We Are All in This War: The Northern Home Front".

#### **March 16, 2024**

Dr. Mary J. Abroe will present "Civil War Centennial: Rhetoric, Reality and the Bounds of Selective Memory".

#### **April 13, 2024** \*(Meeting date changed due to conflict with the Midwest Civil War Show).

Diana Dretske will present "The Bonds of War: A Story of Esprit De Corps in Company C, 96<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry".

#### **May 18, 2024**

Bob Presman will present "God is On Our Side: Religion in the Civil War".

### **BACK IN HISTORY**

**50 Years Ago:** Jay Perkins presented a slide presentation: "Fort Sumter to Appomattox".

**25 Years Ago:** Larry Werline presented "Grant at Chattanooga".

**10 Years Ago:** Bruce Allardice and Wayne Wolf presented "Charles F. Gunther: Mississippi River Confederate".

### **THE SALT CREEK CWRT**

President: Cindy Heckler

Vice-President: Robert I. Girardi

Secretary-Treasurer: Jan Rasmussen

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

Historian: Cindy Intravartolo

Newsletter Staff: Brian Conroy & Jan Rasmussen

Facebook and Website Editor: Brian Conroy

## JANUARY 2024 PRESERVATION REPORT By Brian Conroy

Happy New Year! The Salt Creek Civil War Round Table would like to wish everyone a healthy and happy upcoming year and look forward to seeing everyone at our future meetings. This month's preservation report concerns land that has been saved at the bloody land of the Battle of Antietam, where more than 22,000 soldiers fell wounded, killed, or missing on September 17, 1862, America's Bloodiest Day. The most recent victory saved 148 acres of battlefield land associated with the Maryland Campaign, including the Jacob Avey Farm, some of Antietam's most hallowed ground.

Earlier in 2023, the American Battlefield Trust asked their membership to help save a key 20-acre portion of Antietam's Jacob Avey Farm, where some of the fiercest fighting took place, and where Confederate soldiers were buried after the battle, according to the recently discovered Elliot Burial Map. That land also includes the historic Avey farmhouse, where the Avey family lived. Like many civilians in Sharpsburg, Jacob Avey Sr. suffered great financial loss due to the battle. Heavy fighting took place on his land, and an errant Union shell penetrated his house. His claims for reimbursement from the Federal government, like many others in Sharpsburg, were rejected, despite his feeding Union soldiers and caring for them in his house.

An additional victory that is being claimed is six addition acres that were originally part of the historic Reel Farm. In the midmorning of September 17, 1862, the Union armies were gaining ground at Antietam as a large, Northern force entered the West Woods, near this parcel now preserved forever. A powerful counterattack of some 7,000 Confederates fell upon the Union front flank, and rear, sending them reeling. The thousands of casualties suffered here comprised just one hour of that long, terrible day.

Preserving these six acres helps unite a significant portion of the Antietam battlefield already saved.

### Shepherdstown

After the Battle of Antietam, Confederate forces moved back across the Potomac and into Virginia at Shepherdstown. Part of the Union army pursued and attacked the Confederate rearguard, capturing four guns. The next day, Union forces crossed the Potomac and established a bridgehead as well.

General Robert E. Lee dispatched General A.P. Hill's division to counterattack on land also being claimed as a victory – 122 acres of land associated with the Battle of Shepherdstown. Confederates were able to hold off the Federals and discourage them from further pursuit, and Lincoln was so frustrated with General George B. McClellan's lack of initiative that in November he relieved him of duty and named General Ambrose Burnside the commander of the Army of the Potomac.

These 122 acres of battlefield land at Shepherdstown, which include the historic Osbourn House, appear mostly as they did during the battle, offering a valuable educational tool for generations to come.