

# The Outpost

The Newsletter of the Salt Creek Civil War Round Table  
Vol. LXII No. 5 January 2025



## 576th Regular Meeting

DATE: Saturday, January 18, 2025  
PLACE: Glen Ellyn History Center at Stacy's Corners  
800 N. Main St., Glen Ellyn, IL (NW Corner of Main & Elm Streets)  
TIME: 11am  
PROGRAM: **"Citizen Soldier: General Alpheus Starkey Williams"**  
SPEAKER: Ron Carlson

We are all familiar with the higher-echelon generals of the Civil War, the army commanders who receive most of the credit and blame for success and failure. But there is a second tier of mostly unheralded generals without whom the war could not have been fought. One of these is Union General Alpheus Starkey Williams. The general was a native of Connecticut and graduated from Yale. He settled in Michigan. His chosen profession was law, but he also engaged in military affairs and led a regiment in the Mexican War.

At the onset of the Civil War, Williams was commissioned as a brigadier general in August 1861. He led a brigade and a division in the Shenandoah Valley. He led his division at Cedar Mountain, Antietam, Chancellorsville and Gettysburg before being transferred to the Western Theater. He served as a temporary corps commander but was never given a permanent title. Williams fought under Sherman throughout the Atlanta Campaign and the March to the Sea. After the war, he entered politics.

Our presenter, Ron Carlson, is a member of both the Salt Creek and Chicago CWRT's. Ron earned a B.S. from the Illinois Institute of Technology and an M.B.A. from Northwestern University and an M.A. in history from the University of Illinois at Chicago. For two decades, he taught American history at the College of DuPage, including several courses on the American Civil War.

**Please remember membership renewals are due!**

## **ALL FOR THE UNION**

Thanks to Rob Girardi, Brian Conroy, Jan Rasmussen, Mark Matranga and Joseph Kuffel for their participation in Memorabilia Show & Tell.

Thanks also to those who brought Holiday treats.

### **2025 Membership Renewals are due in January.**

The renewal form is included with the newsletter.

## **VACANT CHAIR**

Frank Crawford, longtime member and friend of SCCWRT passed away December 31st in Summerville, SC. Over the years he gave numerous presentations sharing his knowledge on some of his favorite topics on the 95<sup>th</sup> IL, Andersonville, and CW Missouri. Upon relocating to SC Frank donated much of his CW collection to the Kenosha CW Museum. Frank was a kind soul and great storyteller.

## **UPCOMING CIVIL WAR EVENTS**

Check with the organization sponsoring the program for meeting status.

January 10, 2025

**Chicago CWRT** will feature Bjorn Skaptason presenting "Shiloh".

Holiday Inn Oakbrook, 350 W. 22<sup>nd</sup> St., Oakbrook Terrace    [chicagocwrt.org](http://chicagocwrt.org)

January 12, 2025, at 2 pm

**NW Indiana CWRT** will feature Tom Wojinski presenting "The 9<sup>th</sup> Indiana Infantry".

Crown Point Community Library    Northwest Indiana CWRT on Facebook

January 14, 2025

**McHenry County CWRT** will feature Chuck Robesco presenting "Sam Carroll's Gibraltar Brigade".    [www.mchenrycivilwar.com](http://www.mchenrycivilwar.com)

January 21, 2025

**Lincoln/Davis CWRT** will feature William Griffing presenting "Spared and Shared".

Country House Restaurant, Alsip, IL    [lincolndavisroundtable@yahoo.com](mailto:lincolndavisroundtable@yahoo.com)

January 23, 2025

**South Suburban CWRT** will feature Charlie Banks presenting "Jedidiah Hotchkiss".

Auriello's Pizza, 19836 Wolf Road, Mokena, IL.    South Suburban CWRT on Facebook.

February 3, 2025

**Rock River Valley CWRT** will feature Kelly Mezurek presenting "The 27<sup>th</sup> USCT".

211 N. Main Street, Rockford, IL.

February 7, 2025

**Northern Illinois CWRT** will feature Fr. Bob Miller presenting "Civilian Life in Vicksburg".

Arlington Hts. Historical Museum or Arlington Hts. Library    [www.northernilcwrt.org](http://www.northernilcwrt.org)

**The 2025 Civil Round Table of Chicago's Annual Tour** will feature Shiloh & Corinth. The tour is April 23-27, 2025. More information at [chicagocwrt.org](http://chicagocwrt.org)

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

On January 10, 2025 Dick Zimmerman will present "William B. Britton and His Adventurous Life with the 8<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Regiment" (The Eagle Regiment). Free and Open to the Public and No Prior Registration is Required

<https://museums.kenosha.org/civilwar/events/>

**Kenosha Museum Workshop: January 18<sup>th</sup> 1pm to 2:20 pm**

Tom Arliskas will present "He Had No Army: The Hornets Nest at Shiloh".

Cost: \$15, \$12 Museum members

January 23, 2025. Bruce Allardice will present "Hollywood's Civil War Movies" to the Weininger JCC in Northbrook at 1:15pm

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

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

February 15, 2025 Bruce Allardice will present "Loose Lips: Military Secrecy in the Civil War".

March 15, 2025 William T. Kolasinski will present "Allan Pinkerton".

April 19, 2025 Bob Grenier will present "The Life and Legacy of Florida's Own General Edmund Kirby-Smith".

### **BACK IN HISTORY**

**50 Years Ago:** Peter Cozzens presented "Sibley's New Mexico Campaign and the Battle of Valverde".

**25 Years Ago:** Wayne Anderson presented "Ole and Sven Meet the Elephant".

**10 Years Ago:** Brian Conroy presented "The Irish in the American Civil War".

### **THE SALT CREEK CWRT**

President: Cindy Heckler

Vice-President: Robert I. Girardi

Secretary-Treasurer: Jan Rasmussen

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

Historian: Cindy Intravartolo

Newsletter Staff: Jan Rasmussen, Rob Girardi, Brian Conroy

Facebook and Website Editor: Brian Conroy

## **January 2025 Preservation Report by Brian Conroy**

Not all trails are made the same — and when it comes to the Trust's 13 battlefield trails, you'll find that each serves as a gateway to the past. Situated upon battlefield land that the organization has worked tirelessly to protect, these unique paths bring hikers through the same terrain that Civil War soldiers would've traversed themselves. The experience can go beyond interpretive signage found along the trails, as the Trust has Battle App® guides available at several of the applicable sites, including Brandy Station, Chancellorsville, Fredericksburg, Gettysburg and Petersburg.

The Civil War Trust is pleased to announce the publication of *Civil War Battlefields: Walking the Trails of History*, a richly illustrated, 336-page coffee table volume showcasing the scenic beauty and recreational opportunities afforded by our nation's hallowed ground. The book was written by David Gilbert, who, many years ago, served as the very first editor of *Hallowed Ground*, when it was the membership publication of the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites. He was inspired to undertake the project while working as the editor and designer for a book by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy that looked at Civil War sites along its length and thought that a book taking a broader view would be well received.

"If not for the preservation efforts of the Civil War Trust and its many preservation partners, much of the land where American soldiers fought and died would be lost to development and largely forgotten," Gilbert said. "From the initial passion and energy of just a few dedicated individuals, it's heartening to see how much the Civil War preservation movement has grown, and the remarkable successes the movement has achieved. While much work remains to be done, it's gratifying to know that the Civil War preservation movement is in very good hands."

Check out each of the 13 hiking trails and the fascinating history ingrained in each one.

1. **Buford's Knoll, Brandy Station Battlefield (*Brandy Station, Va.*)**
2. **Fleetwood Hill, Brandy Station Battlefield (*Brandy Station, Va.*)**
3. **St. James Church, Brandy Station Battlefield (*Brandy Station, Va.*)**
4. **Cedar Mountain, Cedar Mountain Battlefield (*Rapidan, Va.*)**
5. **First Day's Battle at Chancellorsville, Chancellorsville Battlefield (*Spotsylvania Courthouse, Va.*)**
6. **Slaughter Pen Farm, Fredericksburg Battlefield (*Fredericksburg, Va.*)**
7. **Lee's Headquarters, Gettysburg Battlefield (*Gettysburg, Pa.*)**
8. **McDowell, McDowell Battlefield (*McDowell, Va.*)**
9. **Payne's Farm, Mine Run Battlefield (*Locust Grove, Va.*)**
10. **Hatcher's Run, Hatcher's Run Battlefield (*Petersburg, Va.*)**
11. **Reams Station, Reams Station Battlefield (*Petersburg, Va.*)**
12. **The Breakthrough, Petersburg Battlefield (*Petersburg, Va.*)**
13. **White Oak Road, White Oak Road Battlefield (*Petersburg, Va.*)**

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: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Memberships received on or before the February meeting will be eligible for a free membership drawing.

Check payable to: Salt Creek CWRT

Mail to: Jan Rasmussen, Treasurer  
756 Sterling Court D2  
Bartlett, IL 60103

Name(s)\_\_\_\_\_

Address:\_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip:\_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone :\_\_\_\_\_

Email address:\_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in giving a presentation on:\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_