

The Outpost

The Newsletter of the Salt Creek Civil War Roundtable
Vol. XLXVIII No. 5 January 2012



447th Regular Meeting

DATE:	Friday, January 20, 2012
PLACE:	Oak Trace , Downers Grove IL 60516 Same Location only name has changed
TIME:	8:00 p.m.
TOPIC:	"James Blunt"
SPEAKER:	Arthur Foley

Abraham Lincoln once referred to Major General James Gilpatrick Blunt, as a "very quarrelsome man"! The President definitely understated the case. A political ally of James Lane, associate of John Brown, and a radical Republican, Blunt took no offense, real or perceived lightly from newspapers, politicians, or commanding officers.

His personal combativeness was also reflected on the battlefield. Except for one very bad day with a "Mr. Quantrill". James Blunt pursued and defeated his Confederate opponents with an Old Testament prophet's zeal. The only Major General from Kansas, Blunt would use among his forces, Native Americans and Blacks to open the Indian Territories and Northwest Arkansas to Union control.

Arthur Foley has been an educator in the Naperville 203 school district for the past thirty years, specializing in Music Education. An avid student on the Civil War, Art has presented talks concerning subjects related to music of the period and the Trans-Mississippi Theatre. Art would like to have his talks to someday reflect the vividness shown in the Topps trading card series. Mr. Foley lives in Naperville.

DECEMBER MEETING BY JAN RASMUSSEN

On Friday December 16, 2011, members and guests were entertained and enlightened at Memorabilia and Show & Tell Night. Presenters included Gale and Lyn Pewitt, Roger Bohn and Don Sender. Lyn's first item was a homegrown gourd from Idaho on which her daughter-in-law had carved, in great detail, the three day maps of the Battle of Gettysburg. "Had to be a labor of love". Lyn's main item was a book by Robert Dabney about the life of Stonewall Jackson which was published in 1866. Inside the front cover were notes from the various owners, the first being a Civil War soldier in Longstreet's Corps. In 1945 the book was given to her family by her great aunt, Elizabeth Dahlgren, who was the wife of Charles Ulric Dahlgren, grandson of Confederate General Charles Gustavus Dahlgren from Natchez, MS. In 1988 Lyn's father, in turn, passed the book on to Gale Pewitt, and signed it "to my unreconstructed son-in-law, with affection". Lyn described another unique item that turned up while cleaning a closet. She found a neatly wrapped pair of hand crocheted baby booties with the note: "Made for Charles Gustavus Dahlgren, 1904, given to Lyn 1935". A Minnesota Yankee can be connected to a Confederate General.

In his remarks, Gale Pewitt described the hobby of metal detecting. He brought along his still working Heathkit metal detector, which may now be a collectible by itself. He described three civil war sites where he has detected. The first site was on the north side of Signal Mountain, near Chattanooga, where CSA General Joseph Wheeler raided a Union supply unit of over 700 wagons. He showed a weathered canteen, a ring from a wagon wheel hub and a bent up Union officer's belt buckle. Next he showed an 1864 photo of the 780 foot long railroad bridge near Whiteside, TN that had been rebuilt after the Confederates destroyed it in 1863. In the photo, there are a number of huts and Union officers near the base of the bridge. The total "loot" of most of a day's detecting was part of a harmonica and several percussion caps. Lastly he described two trips to Griswoldville, GA to the Confederate pistol factory site, which produced about 3500 brass framed Colt revolvers. Before the war, it was a cotton gin factory. He showed a 12 inch diameter cotton gin blade and several discarded pistol parts. He said it was a great hobby for a Civil War enthusiast, particularly if you live in the South where almost all of the battlefields are located.

Roger presented the "evolution" of his 3-band Model 63 Springfield rifle musket, which was an improvement over the Civil War Model 61 Springfield. His first rifle saw action in the Civil War, and had the soldier's initials carved on the stock. After the war someone cut off the barrel and stock and reamed out the rifling to convert it into an inexpensive game hunting shotgun. A few years ago--when the rifle was about to become a "wallhanger" or playtoy for the grandchildren--Roger acquired it through a mutual friend who thought that he would put it to a more appropriate use.

Bob Carlson suggested that Roger should do the conversion that would make the "shotgun" into a competitive shooting rifle, a "Carlson's carbine". The barrel was inserted with and extended by, a Hoyte barrel, which had the rifling and length to make it a two-band "carbine". The stock was extended, shooter sights were added, and the trigger pull adjusted to a 4 pound + tension. All changes were made in conformance to the National Association's guideline....and cost \$750! The rifle cost \$20 in 1863. The rifle has seen considerable "action" since, but the only casualties have been hockey pucks and squares or ceramic tiles in competition shooting. The second item Roger brought was a glass Confederate telegraph insulator. The insulator was melted out of shape by the heat of the warehouse fire during the burning of Richmond after the city was evacuated by the Confederate government in 1865.

Many THANKS to the presenters for sharing their items along with their interesting stories.

VACANT CHAIR:

The SCCWRT regrets to announce the passing of charter member and past president, 1965-66, Bob Luginbill. Heartfelt condolences are extended to his family and friends.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME:

If you renew by January 31st, your name will be placed in a drawing for a free 2012 membership to be determined at the February meeting.

PRESERVATION REPORT BY LEN OVERCASH SR.

Battle of Franklin preservationists don't know the name or whereabouts of a woman who has pledged \$250,000 to help build a Columbia Avenue Civil War park, but they're grateful nonetheless. The mystery woman's donation, which was announced earlier this week, has created a domino effect of sorts that could eventually generate around \$1 million to purchase a key piece of Columbia Avenue property now occupied by a Domino's Pizza restaurant and a strip shopping center near the intersection of Cleburne Street and Columbia Avenue Source: Civil War Interactive

(Washington, D.C.) – The first year of the American Civil War's sesquicentennial commemoration was an exceptional one for the Civil War Trust, the nation's largest nonprofit battlefield preservation organization, which was able to save 2,042 acres of hallowed ground before ringing in 2012. In 2011, often working with regional partner groups and utilizing a variety of matching grant programs, the organization closed 39 separate transactions at 25 individual battlefields in 12 states. The battlefields where land was preserved in 2011 are: Day's Gap, Ala.; Natural Bridge, Fla.; Resaca, Ga.; Perryville, Ky.; Fort DeRussy, La.; Wood Lake, Minn.; Bentonville, N.C.; Cabin Creek, Okla.; Gettysburg, Pa.; Fort Donelson, Fort Sanders/Knoxville, Franklin, Parker's Cross Roads and Shiloh, Tenn.; Chancellorsville, Cold Harbor, Gaines' Mill, Glendale, Manassas, Petersburg, Thoroughfare Gap, Tom's Brook, Trevilian Station and the Wilderness, Va.; and Shepherdstown, W.Va. These successful ventures have helped the organization reach an all-time tally of more than 32,000 acres of hallowed ground saved forever.

Now, on the 147th anniversary of the Battle of Franklin, I am proud to announce that, thanks to your generosity, we have reached our fundraising goal for this tract. Thanks to you, this section of the battlefield will now be preserved for all the future generations to come.

More land to save

We have the opportunity to save 285 acres of the Gaines' Mill battlefield -- the very ground that James Longstreet's men charged through on June 27, 1862 in their bloody assault. Victory here will increase the preserved land at Gaines' Mill by 400%!

We are so close to reaching our fundraising goal for 141 prime battlefield acres on the Perryville Battlefield. Help us reach our \$181,250 goal which in turn will allow us to save land around the Squire Bottom House. Source: Civil War Trust

ALL FOR THE UNION

January 21, 2012
10th Annual Civil War Symposium
Midway Village, Rockford
Michael Burlingame: "Abraham Lincoln"
Bruce Allardice: "Ten Worst Civil War
Generals", Thomas Johnson: "Rockford
was Lincoln Country" 815-397-9112

UPCOMING CIVIL WAR EVENTS

JANUARY 26, 2012
SOUTH SUBURBAN CWRT
"Seeing the Elephant:
Re-enacting in the Civil War"
Speaker: Brian Conroy
ED & JOES'S PIZZA
17332 South Oak Park Avenue
Tinley Park, IL
russelltarvid@hotmail.com

FEBRUARY 1, 2012
KANKAKEE VALLEY CWRT
"Unknown Lincoln"
Speaker: Don Goin
Kankakee Public Library
kvcwrt.cwahi.net

FEBRUARY 3, 2012
NORTHERN ILLINOIS CWRT
"Major General G. K. Warren and
the Battle of Five Forks"
Speaker: Paula Walker
Arlington Hts. Memorial Library
500 N. Dunton
www.nicwrt.freehostia.com

FEBRUARY 10, 2012
CHICAGO CWRT
"I Propose to Fight it Out"
Speaker: Harry Bulkeley
Holiday Inn Mart Plaza Chicago
350 North Orleans Street
Dinner 6:30 p.m.
(630) 460-1865 to make reservations
chicagocwrt.dinner@earthlink.net

FEBRUARY 21, 2012
LINCOLN DAVIS CWRT
"Ladies Memorial Associations"
Speaker: Caroline Janney
Country House Restaurant Alsip, IL
Lincolndavisroundtable@yahoo.com

FUTURE SCCWRT MEETINGS

February 17, 2012
Leslie Goddard as "Mary Chestnut"

March 16, 2012
"Abraham Lincoln and the Structure of Reason"
Speaker: Dan Van Haften

April 20, 2012
"Lincoln Assassination Theory"
Speaker: Richard Crowe

May 18, 2012
"In Defense of Burnside at the Bridge"
Speaker: Frank Crawford

June 15, 2012
50th ANNIVERSARY BANQUET
"Personal Milestones Along the Way:
50-years of Civil War Round Tables"
Speaker: Edwin Bearss

THE SALTCREEK CWRT
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