

# The Outpost

The Newsletter of the Salt Creek Civil War Round Table

Vol. LVII No. 10 June 2019



## 524th Regular Meeting

**DATE:** Friday, June 21, 2019  
**PLACE:** Hilton-Lisle/Naperville; 3003 Corporate West Drive, Lisle, IL  
**TIME:** 6:30pm Cocktails--7:00pm Dinner--Program  
**TOPIC:** "From Unwanted to Indispensable: The Real Nurses of the Civil War"  
**SPEAKER:** Pamela D. Toler

From Unwanted to Indispensable: The Real Nurses of the Civil War. Pamela Toler tells the story of how thousands of women with little or no experience with nursing volunteered to serve their country during the Civil War, taught themselves how to do the job under adverse circumstances (including hostility from the surgeons with whom they worked), and created a profession that did not exist before the war.

Pamela Toler grew up in Springfield, Missouri, where she participated in living history programs at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, learned to shoot a muzzle-loading rifle, and read and re-read the biographies of women like Clara Barton, Julia Ward Howe, and Harriet Beecher Stowe. Today armed with a PhD in history, a well-thumbed deck of library cards, and a huge bump of curiosity, author, speaker, and historian, Pamela D. Toler translates history for a popular audience. She goes beyond the familiar boundaries of American history to tell stories from other parts of the world as well as history from the other side of the battlefield, the gender line, or the color bar. She is the author of eight books of popular history for children and adults. In *Heroines of Mercy Street*, Toler has returned to her first historical love: Civil War in general and its impact on women in particular.

## PRESERVATION REPORT BY BRIAN CONROY

As the 156th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg approaches, the American Battlefield Trust is once again bringing another amazing opportunity to preserve hallowed ground at the most famous battlefield of the Civil War. The establishment of a military park at Gettysburg was suggested by Senator Joseph Hawley of Connecticut in 1890, and was established five years later to “offer the grandest study in the world for students of the military art, and for lovers of patriotism and admirers of magnificent valor.”

During the Battle of Gettysburg, the 143 acres known as the Plank Farm was trod on by soldiers from each side, and contained one of the largest Confederate field hospitals in Gettysburg.

On July 1, 1863, elements of the Union First Corps under General John Reynolds double-quickened across this property as they moved to the sound of the battle’s opening shots. Reynolds himself would fall to a Confederate bullet that day – about a mile north of this property – but his timely arrival allowed the Union army to hold the favorable ground that proved so crucial to their success in this epic battle.

On July 2, Confederate General James Longstreet’s divisions, under General John Bell Hood and General Lafayette McLaws, marched across this property as they sought to discover the Union left flank. Their advance culminated with the legendary attacks on Little Round Top, the Wheatfield, and the Peach Orchard. Longstreet called this “the best three hours’ fighting ever done by any troops on any battlefield,” but these two divisions suffered terrible casualties, many of whom were taken to the field hospital at the Plank Farm.

On July 3, Confederate General George Pickett led his division over this land, up the slope to Seminary Ridge, and onto the battlefield where the charge that came to bear his name would be bloodily repulsed.

On all three days of the battle, and for many weeks after Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia made its retreat, this farm served as one of the biggest hospitals in all of Gettysburg. More than 1,500 soldiers were treated on this property, including General Hood. There were more than 60 documented burials on the property. Many of the soldiers buried there were later reinterred, but there may still be unknown graves on the property to this day.

To achieve this transaction, the Trust is joining forces with the Land Conservancy of Adams County and other partners to raise funds for a purchase valued at \$435,000. The Trust is only responsible for \$40,000 of that total, which means every dollar you give to preserve this property is magnified to \$10.88! By securing this land now, we proactively protect this part of the battlefield from commercial or residential development while further securing the integrity of nearby hallowed ground, like the 18 acres Trust members like you preserved at Seminary Ridge earlier this year and the preserved and restored Lee’s Headquarters site we saved in 2014.

## **UPCOMING CIVIL WAR EVENTS**

JUNE 18, 2019

### **LINCOLN/DAVIS CWRT**

"Union Soldiers in the Civil War"

Speaker: Lance Herdegan

Country House Restaurant, Alsip, IL

[lincolndavisroundtable@yahoo.com](mailto:lincolndavisroundtable@yahoo.com)

JULY 9, 2019

### **McHENRY COUNTY CWRT**

"Petersburg"

Speaker: Steve Acker

Woodstock Public Library

[www.mchenrycivilwar.com](http://www.mchenrycivilwar.com)

JULY 16, 2019

### **LINCOLN/DAVIS CWRT**

Bill Tescher portrays:

General William T. Sherman

Country House Restaurant, Alsip, IL.

[lincolndavisroundtable@yahoo.com](mailto:lincolndavisroundtable@yahoo.com)

AUGUST 20, 2019

### **LINCOLN /DAVIS CWRT**

"Abraham Lincoln's Watch"

Speaker: Douglas Stiles

Country House Restaurant, Alsip, IL

[lincolndavisroundtable@yahoo.com](mailto:lincolndavisroundtable@yahoo.com)

SEPTEMBER 10, 2019

### **McHENRY COUNTY CWRT**

"The Yankee Buzzard Regiment"

Speaker: Jerry Allen

Woodstock Public Library

[www.mchenrycivilwar.com](http://www.mchenrycivilwar.com)

SEPTEMBER 13, 2019

### **CHICAGO CWRT**

"The War Outside My Window"

Speaker: Janet Croon

Holiday Inn O'Hare

5615 N. Cumberland, Chicago

[dinnerreservation@chicagocwrt.org](mailto:dinnerreservation@chicagocwrt.org)

## **ALL FOR THE UNION**

The SCCWRT website is back.

Brian Conroy has taken over the SCCWRT Facebook Page.

## **BACK IN HISTORY**

**25 Years Ago:** Gale Pewitt presented:

"Matthew Fountan Maury: Pathfinder of The Sea"

**10 Years Ago:** Donna Daniels presented:

"The Last Years of Mary Todd Lincoln"

## **FUTURE SCCWRT MEETINGS**

September 20, 2019

"A Family and Nation Under Fire"

Speaker: Georgiann Baldino

October 18, 2019

Annual Battlefield Preservation Book Sale

Kevin Wood as Abraham Lincoln presents:

"Lincoln on Immigration and America's Place in the World"

Glen Ellyn History Center

## **THE SALT CREEK CWRT**

[www.saltcreekcwrt.org](http://www.saltcreekcwrt.org)

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