

The Outpost

The Newsletter of the Salt Creek Civil War Round Table
Vol. LVX No. 7 March 2022



548th Regular Meeting

DATE: **SATURDAY**, March 19, 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: "The Actual Causes of the Rebellion According to the Words of
Joshua Giddings and Abraham Lincoln"
SPEAKER: Steven Alban

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.

Steve will be presenting "The Actual Causes of the Rebellion According to the words of Joshua Giddings and Abraham Lincoln". The presentation is based on Lincoln's second inaugural address (his house divided speech) and a book written by Joshua Giddings, a Congressman and abolitionist. Giddings was a friend of President Lincoln's and after the untimely death of Giddings it was Lincoln who made certain that the book was published. The book title was: *The Rebellion Its Authors and Causes*. Steve will present the background of the days before Lincoln came to Washington in their words. What really caused the rebellion? Find out what these men had to say. We think that the Civil War was about slavery. Others will tell you the war started because of economics. This is a fascinating conversation about an outgoing President Buchanan and an incoming President Elect whom no one knew anything about.

Come hear the story in their own words.

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.

Salt Creek CWRT will be celebrating our 60th Anniversary on Friday June 17th at our annual banquet at the DoubleTree by Hilton Lisle Naperville. (Same place new name)

Dr. Theresa Kaminski will present: "Dr. Mary Walker's Civil War: How on Woman Received the Medal of Honor". More information will be coming soon.

The Chicagoland Civil War Expo will be held April 23rd at the DuPage County Fairgrounds, 2015 W. Manchester, Wheaton www.ChicagoCivilWarShow.com

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Joseph, Sylvia and Andy Kuffel
Mark Matrenga

VACANT CHAIRS

Longtime member Larry Gibbs passed away on February 24th. Larry was a frequent program presenter and past president of the Chicago CWRT. He was also a familiar friendly face on the Civil War Tours.

Longtime member Lorraine Krob passed away on February 27th. Lorraine and Jim Krob were early members serving on the board of directors.

The Salt Creek Civil War Round Table also extends its sincere and heartfelt condolences to longtime member Cindy Intravartolo (past president, board member, newsletter staff member and current historian) on the passing of her mother Georgina "Jean".
Cindy's new address is PO Box 204, Dunfermline, IL 61524

BACK IN HISTORY

50 Years Ago: Charles Wesselhoeft presented: "Civil War Railroads"

25 Years Ago: Bill Hupp moderated a panel featuring "Little Known Battles of the Civil War".
Cindy Intravartolo presented Trevillion Station. Larry Gibbs presented Monocacy,
Dan McCarthy presented Fort Sanders and Jim Soens presented Chickasaw Bayou.

10 Years Ago: Dan VanHaften presented "Abraham Lincoln & the Structure of Reason"

UPCOMING CIVIL WAR EVENTS

Check with the organization sponsoring the program for meeting status

March 24, 2022

South Suburban CWRT will feature Eric Linblade presenting "The 26th North Carolina" South Suburban CWRT on Facebook

April 1, 2022

Northern Illinois CWRT will feature a presentation on "General Robert E. Lee" Arlington Heights Public Library
northernilcwr.org

April 2, 2022

Two Old Goats in Cedar Lake, IN will feature Gene Salecker presenting "Nathan Bedford Forest's September 1864 Railroad Raid" rzarr@sbcglobal.net

April 8, 2022

Chicago CWRT will feature Jeffrey Hunt presenting "Meade & Lee at Rappanhanock Station and Mine Run" Holiday Inn O'Hare, 5615 N. Cumberland, Chicago (In Person & Zoom Presentation)
chicagocwr.org

April 12, 2022

McHenry County CWRT will feature Steve Alban presenting "The Actual Cause of the Rebellion According to the Words of Joshua Giddings and Abraham Lincoln" Woodstock Library
www.mchenrycivilwar.com

FUTURE SALT CREEK CWRT MEETINGS

Check us out on Facebook and at saltcreekcwr.org

April 16, 2022

Gene Salecker will present: "Nathan Bedford Forest's September 1864 Railroad Raid"

May 21, 2022

Fr. Bob Miller will present: Father Jeremiah Trecy, Civil War Chaplain

THE SALT CREEK CWRT

President: Cindy Heckler

Vice-President: Rick Zarr

Secretary-Treasurer: Jan Rasmussen

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

Historian: Cindy Intravartolo

Newsletter Staff: Jan Rasmussen, Brian Conroy

Facebook and Website Editor: Brian Conroy

March 2022 Preservation Report by Brian Conroy

As we enter the spring season, the American Battlefield Trust has revealed the amazing preservation opportunity that has come to their doorstep. This would allow them to save the James Custis Farm, which is a 245-acre property that is part of the 1862 Battle of Williamsburg. It is also the second-largest private-sector transaction in the history of the battlefield preservation movement. And with this purchase, it will also finish paying off the \$12 million loan incurred in 2006 that was used to save the Slaughter Pen Farm at Fredericksburg which was talked about in last month's preservation report. This opportunity has happened due to the opportunities that have come together through grants from the American Battlefield Protection Program, Department of Defense, and the Commonwealth of Virginia. In all, these and other commitments will total over \$9 million, making this a donation match of **\$163-to-\$1**, enabling the ABT to secure the largest number of acres ever preserved at the Battle of Williamsburg after nearly a decade of hard work to bring this deal together.

As the first pitched battle of the 1862 Peninsula Campaign, the Battle of Williamsburg was fought in almost unceasing rain, turning roads into streams of mud, and rivers and creeks into bottomless swamps. Union forces, led by Edwin V. Sumner and his aide Gen. Winfield Scott Hancock, attacked Confederates as General Joseph E. Johnston withdrew his southern army from their Yorktown defenses to Richmond. The opposing forces met near Williamsburg, Virginia's historic capital, where 14 redoubts were constructed across the Virginia peninsula to bolster the city's defenses.

The James Custis Farm, making up part of the left flank of the three-mile-long Confederate line, witnessed some desperate fighting during the battle that was defined by the redoubts. The redoubts here played a large role in the battle, as a pair of escaped slaves informed Gen. Hancock that Confederate forces had evacuated redoubts 11 and 12, allowing Union forces to occupy the position and begin shelling the Confederate flank and rear. Hancock saw a sharp attack could turn the Confederate line and capture Fort Magruder, and he was promised reinforcements to follow through, but eventually was given orders to fall back instead.

That evening, at approximately 5:00 PM, Hancock began his withdrawal as Confederate reinforcements arrived under the command of generals Jubal Early and D.H. Hill, who launch a gallant charge that was ultimately doomed to fail against the Union line. Hancock soon sensed this outcome and ordered a counterattack, turning the Confederate retreat into a rout. Confederate forces suffered approximately 500 casualties, while Federal losses numbered around 130. When the battle was finished, the Custis farm barns held wounded soldiers as they were used for field hospitals, and the dead were buried in the fields where they had fallen, consecrating this land as truly sacred ground.

In the end, both sides claimed victory with the casualties numbering 1,703 for the South and 2,239 for the North.