

The Outpost

**The Newsletter of the Salt Creek Civil War Round Table
Vol. LX No. 7 March 2023**



558th Regular Meeting

DATE: **SATURDAY**, March 18, 2023
PLACE: Glen Ellyn History Center (N.W. Corner of Main & Elm Streets)
800 N. Main Street, Glen Ellyn, IL
TIME: 11:00 am
PROGRAM: "Iowa Remembers Shiloh: The Dedication of Iowa Monuments 1906"
SPEAKER: Bjorn Skaptson

In 1906 a group of several dozen Iowa dignitaries, veterans and family members traveled the south dedicating monuments on the battlefields where their soldiers fought the Civil War. Over two days they met at Shiloh National Military Park where they wandered the battlefield, visited the monuments to the state and to the eleven Iowa regiments that fought there, and prayed and spoke about the history of the battle, their memory of it, and the cause for which their sons suffered and died. This program will tell the story of those days, and of one of the very first battlefield hikes in the history of that park. In their dedication ceremonies these Iowans told of how they thought the battle should be remembered. Studying their perspectives reveals the conflicts they had amongst themselves, and with those tasked with interpreting the battlefield, as well as their deep need to reach consensus on the meaning of history.

Bjorn Skaptason works at Abraham Lincoln Book Shop in Chicago where he produces and hosts the live stream book discussion program A House Divided. Bjorn worked at Shiloh National Military Park while studying History at Loyola University Chicago.

ALL FOR THE UNION

Thanks to all who renewed their memberships. Our current paid membership is 55.

The Salt Creek CWRT donated \$1000 to the American Battlefield Trust for the Cedar Mountain/Brandy Station Project with a \$25 to \$1 match.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Marsha Boblitz

Bill Grant

Mike Dreznes

UPCOMING CIVIL WAR EVENTS

Check with the organization sponsoring the program for meeting status.

March 21, 2023

Lincoln/Davis CWRT will feature Brian Conroy presenting "Aren't You Hot In That: Equipment, Uniforms, and Experiences of a Civil War Reenactor".

Country House Restaurant, Alsip,

Lincolndavisroundtable@yahoo.com

March 23, 2023

South Suburban CWRT will feature Gail Stephens presenting "Lew Wallace at Shiloh".

Trail's Edge Brewery, 20 Kansas Street, Frankfort.

South Suburban CWRT on Facebook

April 7, 2023

Northern Illinois CWRT will feature Michael Wynne presenting "The Real Story of the Rock Island POW Camp". (ZOOM ONLY)

northernilcwrt.org

April 11, 2023

McHenry County CWRT will feature David Powell presenting "The Tullahoma Campaign".

McHenry County CWRT on Facebook

April 14, 2023

Chicago CWRT will feature Richard Holloway presenting "The Red River Campaign".

Holiday Inn Oakbrook, 17 W 350 22nd Street, Oakbrook Terrace

(In Person & Zoom Presentation)

chicagocwrt.org

April 22, 2023

Civil War & Military Extravaganza

Dupage Co. Fairgrounds, Wheaton, IL

www.ChicagoCivilWarShow.com

FUTURE SALT CREEK CWRT MEETINGS

Check us out on Facebook and at saltcreekcwrt.org

Meetings are held at the Glen Ellyn History Center at 11am

April 18, 2023

Michael Goc will present: "Joseph Bailey, The Hero of the Red River".

May 20, 2023

Arthur Foley will present: "Patriot from Keokuk: Samuel Ryan Curtis".

June 16, 2023

Annual Banquet Lawrence Lee Hewitt will present: "Port Hudson, Confederate Bastion on the Mississippi".

Banquet Information will be in the April newsletter.

CIVIL WAR TOUR

The Civil War Round Table of Chicago's Annual Battlefield Tour will feature

The Red River Campaign. The tour is May 3-7, 2023.

For information and itinerary: Email us at CWRT2023Tour@ChicagoCWRT.org.

The tour is limited to one bus with capacity for 50 attendees.

BACK IN HISTORY

50 Years Ago: Richard F. Wilhelm moderated an "Open Discussion".

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

10 Years Ago: Jonathan Sebastian presented: "Battle for the Prairie State: Illinois Politics in the Civil War".

THE SALT CREEK CWRT

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Historian: Cindy Intravartolo

Newsletter Staff: Brian Conroy & Jan Rasmussen

Facebook and Website Editor: Brian Conroy

MARCH 2023 PRESERVATION REPORT

By Brian Conroy

Welcome to a great new month of Spring, Leprechauns, and a great new preservation opportunity in Virginia. The American Battlefield Trust is urgently needing help in their aim to protect 97 acres at Brandy Station and 7 acres at Cedar Mountain with a \$25-to-\$1 match to raise \$225,000 towards saving these key pieces of two major Civil War battlefields. In combination with funds requested by the governor and appropriated by the Virginia state legislature, along with additional state and federal matching grants, will achieve covering the total transaction value of \$5,697,826.

Cedar Mountain

General Lee aimed to close out the 1862 Peninsula Campaign by sending 27,000 troops under Generals Stonewall Jackson and A.P. Hill to attack General Pope's Federal Army of Virginia.

Pope aimed for capturing the rail junction at Gordonsville, VA., while Jackson's force approached the Union position near Cedar Mountain on August 9th, south of the town of Culpepper. As the two sides tangled with each other, Confederate General Charles Winder was struck and killed by shell fragments, producing a dangerous leadership vacuum just as a powerful Federal attack began. Confederate guns and their infantry support were forced back by the Union advance, but rallied as Jackson rode into the center of the fighting waving a battle flag and saber over his head. This reinvigorated a Confederate counterattack, which drove the Union line into retreat until Jackson ordered a halt as night set in. This action resulted in the Union army initially surrendering the initiative to Lee and Jackson, resulting in the 1862 Northern Virginia Campaign as well as the 1862 Maryland Campaign.

Brandy Station

Ten months after Cedar Mountain, with the battles of Second Manassas, South Mountain, Antietam, Fredericksburg, and Chancellorsville now behind them, Union and Confederate forces eyed each other warily over the Rappahannock River in Culpepper. And on the morning of June 9, 1863, Union cavalry splashed across the river at Beverly's Ford, catching their Confederate counterparts off guard, initiating the Battle of Brandy Station, the largest cavalry battle ever fought in North America. The battle engaged over thousands of acres of the Virginia countryside, when Maj. General Alfred Pleasonton's cavalry detected Maj. General J.E.B. Stuart's cavalry division during its attempt to screen the Confederate infantry on their way to the Shenandoah Valley.

Maj. General Joseph Hooker directed Pleasonton to cross the Rappahannock River in order to destroy the Confederate cavalry. Pleasonton's columns were sent over the Rappahannock at Beverly's Ford, striking Stuart's camp in the vicinity of the rail station on the Orange & Alexandria Railroad, causing the Confederates to rally stiff resistance at St. James Church and the Richard Cunningham farm. Across Kelly's Ford, Union cavalry headed for Brandy Station and Stevensburg. Union troop arrivals at Brandy Station threatened the rear of Stuart's position, which he countered by shifting his brigades as the two sides clashed in mounted combat on a long, low ridge that rose from the station called Fleetwood Hill. After Pleasonton's forces at Stevensburg were stymied by Confederate horsemen, and unable to break through Stuart's position, he abandoned the field after fourteen hours of fighting.