

The Outpost

The Newsletter of the Salt Creek Civil War Round Table
Vol. LXI No. 7 March 2024



568th Regular Meeting

DATE: **SATURDAY**, March 16, 2024
PLACE: Glen Ellyn History Center at Stacy's Corners
800 N. Main St., Glen Ellyn, IL (NW Corner of Main & Elm Streets)
TIME: 11 a.m.
PROGRAM: **"Observing the Civil War Centennial: Rhetoric, Reality and the
Bounds of Selective Memory"**.
SPEAKER: Dr. Mary J. Abroe

The Civil War Centennial offered the nation an opportunity to use the past as a beacon of hope for the future during the era of the Cold War. Popular historians like Bruce Catton and Alan Nevins had raised the level of interest in the Civil War to new heights. The valor and principles of the war's participants were elevated at the expense of deeper exploration of the wars' divisive issues. This approach coupled with the establishment of battlefield parks helped with the reunification of the nation. Unfortunately, the Centennial Celebration was blighted by the unhealed wounds of the war. Despite the idealism of the celebration, reality prevented the hoped-for sense of unity and civic harmony. Join us as Dr. Mary Abroe explains the troubled Centennial celebration.

Dr. Mary Abroe holds a BA in history from St. Mary's College, Notre Dame, Indiana, an MA from Northeastern Illinois University, and a PhD from Loyola University Chicago. She is retired from teaching American history and the history of Western Civilization at the College of Lake County in Grayslake, Illinois. Mary has published numerous articles and is a valued speaker at many venues. A pioneer of battlefield preservation, she is currently chairman of the Board of trustees for the American Battlefield Trust and sits on the board of the Save Historic Antietam Foundation. She is a past president of the Chicago CWRT and a recipient of the Nevins-Freeman Award.

ALL FOR THE UNION

Thanks to those who renewed their memberships.

Maryann Oblak was the winner of the free membership drawing.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Carol and Dave Schumann

UPCOMING CIVIL WAR EVENTS

Check with the organization sponsoring the program for meeting status.

March 8, 2024

Chicago CWRT will feature Chris Bryan presenting "The Union XII Corps"

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

chicagocwrt.org

March 10, 2024

Northwest Indiana CWRT will feature Bruce Allardice presenting "Baseball in the Civil War".

Crown Point Community Library

Northwest Indiana CWRT on Facebook

March 12, 2024

McHenry Co. CWRT will feature Charlies Banks presenting "Confederate Railroads"

Woodstock Library

mchenrycivilwar.com

March 19, 2024

Lincoln/Davis CWRT will feature Don Sender presenting "Cruise of the Confederate Raider Shenandoah".

Country House Restaurant, Alsip, IL

lincolndavisroundtable@yahoo.com

March 28, 2024

South Suburban CWRT will feature Dennis Doyle presenting "The 11th New York Light Artillery at Gettysburg."

Aurielio's Pizza, 19836 Wolf Road, Mokena, IL.

South Suburban CWRT on Facebook

April 1, 2024

Rock River Valley CWRT will feature Stanley Campbell presenting "Money and Banking in the Civil War."

Veterans Memorial Hall, 211 N. Main Street. Rockford, IL.

April 5, 2024

Northern Illinois CWRT will feature Larry Hewitt presenting "Port Hudson in Photos."

Arlington Hts. Historical Museum or Arlington Hts. Library

northernilcwrt.org

April 12, 2024

Chicago CWRT will feature Will Greene presenting "The Cracker Line in the Battle of Chattanooga".

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

chicagocwrt.org

The Civil War Round Table of Chicago's Gettysburg Campaign Tour

The tour is April 24-28, 2024.

More information at chicagocwrt.org/battletour.html.

The 3rd Annual Lincoln Symposium will be held on Thursday April 25-26 at Carthage College, For information contact Dana Kroll at Dkroll@carthage.edu or 262-551-5706.
<https://www.carthage.edu/news-events/special-events/lincoln-symposium/>

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

On March 8, 2024, Terry Arliskas will present "The Women Founders and History of the Milwaukee Soldiers Home". <https://museums.kenosha.org/civilwar/events/>

The First Michigan Engineers will discuss their role as combat engineers while displaying the tools and equipment used. March 23rd at 10am to 4pm at the Kenosha Civil War Museum.

Robert Girardi will present "Civil War Generals" on March 26th at the Woodstock Public Library.

FUTURE SALT CREEK CWRT MEETINGS

Check us out on Facebook and at saltcreekcwrt.org

April 13, 2024 ***(Meeting date changed due to conflict with the Midwest Civil War Show).**
Diana Dretske will present "The Bonds of War: A Story of Espirit De Corps in Company C, 96th Illinois Infantry".

May 18, 2024

Bob Presman will present "God is On Our Side: Religion in the Civil War".

June 21, 2024 Annual Banquet. Christopher Kolakowski will present "Not Written In Letters of Blood: The Tullahoma Campaign, Summer 1863."

BACK IN HISTORY

50 Years Ago: Edward H. Stulken presented "Lincoln's Learning".

25 Years Ago: Gale Pewitt presented "St. Albans Raid".

10 Years Ago: Cindy Intravartolo presented "The Holy Cross Sisters During the Civil War: From Teaching to Nursing".

THE SALT CREEK CWRT

President: Cindy Heckler

Vice-President: Robert I. Girardi

Secretary-Treasurer: Jan Rasmussen

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

Historian: Cindy Intravartolo

Newsletter Staff: Brian Conroy & Jan Rasmussen

Facebook and Website Editor: Brian Conroy

March 2024 Preservation Report

by Brian Conroy

Back in September, the Trust announced the fourth and LARGEST tract in their historic Gaines' Mill-Cold Harbor campaign. The Trust is still short of this goal by just over \$100,000. Preserving this tract today truly prevents the alarming new types of development which are running rampant in Virginia right now... utility-scale solar farms, huge (and noisy) five- to eight-story data centers, 24-hour warehouse distribution centers that span dozens or scores of acres, and new housing developments. There is only one place in America where nearly one square mile of a "double battlefield" can still be preserved. And perhaps even more remarkable, there is only one place where nearly one square mile of hallowed ground is essentially as pristine as it was when those two battles raged in 1862 and 1864.

Over the past three years, they have steadily reached and surpassed major milestones with this project and are now closer than ever to permanently preserving a nearly one-square-mile piece of sacred battlefield! Excellent progress has been made in saving the land at "Pickett's Charge Five Times as Large" in Phase 1, "The Intersection" in Phase 2, and "The Juncture at Griffin's Woods" in Phase 3. Phase 4 is the "Saved Forever Campaign," which is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to permanently preserve the more than 332 acres at Gaines' Mill and Cold Harbor. The tract is impressive in both size and historical significance. Plus, there is the first opportunity to save 12 acres ever at Seven Pines! It is being called the largest tract of land in the campaign the "The Cavalry Charge" tract, in honor of the late-day (and unusual) charge by Union cavalry against Confederate infantry. This enormous tract on both the Gaines' Mill and Cold Harbor battlefields extends from the strategically important Chickahominy River northward to connect with the Richmond National Battlefield Park.

Securing this tract would create a 3.5-mile linear swath of protected ground. The total transaction value for the combined 344 acres to save at Gaines' Mill and Seven Pines is \$1.085 million — certainly a very significant sum. Fortunately, a few significant gifts from some very generous major donors have been received, and it is expected to receive state and federal grants. But even with those generous gifts and grants, we will still have to raise \$506,047. The Trust also has a chance to preserve land at the Battle of Seven Pines, also known as Fair Oaks for the first time ever. Seven Pines also serves as a cautionary tale about what can happen when we fail to preserve a battlefield. Despite the battle's significance in the trajectory of the war, the battlefield was all but lost to commercial and residential development many years ago. Only a handful of historical markers trace the progression of the battle along modern U.S. Route 60 and Virginia Route 33.

Back in the 1920s, a small airfield was built on the site of the battlefield, perhaps when many of the "old soldiers" had faded away, and a new generation was looking to "move on." In the '60s and '70s, however, that "small airfield" expanded to become today's Richmond International Airport, driving more development all around it, and so much of the Seven Pines / Fair Oaks battlefield is now, sadly, gone forever. That's why the small 12-acre tract we have the chance to save there now is so important. These 12 acres at Seven Pines not only give us the chance, for the first time, to tell the story of the battle that happened there.