

The Outpost

The Newsletter of the Salt Creek Civil War Round Table
Vol. LXII No. 7 March 2025



578th Regular Meeting

DATE: Saturday, March 15, 2025
PLACE: Glen Ellyn History Center at Stacy's Corners
800 N. Main St., Glen Ellyn, IL (NW Corner of Main & Elm Streets)
TIME: 11am
PROGRAM: **"Allan Pinkerton: From Scottish Rebel to the Father of Modern Intelligence".**
SPEAKER: Bill Kolasinski

The Pinkerton Detective Agency is reputedly one of the United States' premier intelligence agencies. Allan Pinkerton is a name most commonly known to Civil War students as General George B. McClellan's chief spymaster. Pinkerton's agents gathered information and estimates of enemy strength, which Pinkerton forwarded to McClellan, whose numbers on the enemy's strength he used to justify his action or inaction during the Peninsula Campaign in 1862.

Born to a working-class family in the slums of Glasgow, Scotland, Pinkerton broke the chains of poverty by using his fists, hard work, good luck, and foresight. In the end, he founded a company that became world-renowned and continues to thrive today.

Bill Kolasinski lives with his wife, Sue, in Elgin, Illinois, near his two daughters and their families. Retiring after a 40-year career in sales, he finally has the free time to write about his passions, Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War era. Bill's six books on Lincoln concentrate on his approach to the deaths in his life, his enemies, the women who influenced him, the many plots to kill him, his rise to power, and his handling of the many problems he faced during his presidency. His four books on the Civil War detail the lives of Civil War notables including Generals, soldiers, spies, women, and politicians, and some tall but true tales of the war. His books are available on Amazon.

Please join us for what promises to be an interesting and informative presentation.

ALL FOR THE UNION

Thanks to all who renewed their memberships.

On March 7th Robert I. Girardi will present "The Great Awakening: The Civil War in 1862" at DelWeb in Huntley.

The Midwest Civil War Show will be April 26th. Volunteers are needed. Sign up at the next meeting or contact Jan at jrbarns@sbcglobal.net.

UPCOMING CIVIL WAR EVENTS

Check with the organization sponsoring the program for meeting status.

March 7, 2025

Northern Illinois CWRT will feature Jan Rasmussen presenting "*The Dakota War 1862-1865*".
Arlington Hts. Historical Museum or Arlington Hts. Library www.northernilcwrt.org

March 9, 2025, at 2 pm

NW Indiana CWRT will feature Jonathan Sebastian presenting "*Indiana Regiments in the 1864 Shenandoah Valley Campaign*".

Crown Point Community Library Northwest Indiana CWRT on Facebook

March 11, 2025

McHenry County CWRT will feature Charlie Banks presenting "*Confederate Railroads Pt. 2*".
Woodstock Library www.mchenrycivilwar.com

March 14, 2025

Chicago CWRT will feature Gerald Prokopowicz presenting "*Civil War Talk Radio*".
Holiday Inn Oakbrook, 350 W. 22nd St., Oakbrook Terrace chicagocwrt.org

March 18, 2025

Lincoln/Davis CWRT will feature Scott Dominiak presenting "*Lincoln's Spiritual Journey*".
Country House Restaurant, Alsip, IL lincolndavisroundtable@yahoo.com

March 27, 2025

South Suburban CWRT will feature Andy Partak & Tim Marcus presenting "*Camp Goodell*".
Auriello's Pizza, 19836 Wolf Road, Mokena, IL. South Suburban CWRT on Facebook.

April 7, 2025

Rock River Valley CWRT will feature Gail Stephens presenting "*The Lincoln Assassination*".
211 N. Main Street, Rockford, IL.

April 4, 2025

Northern Illinois CWRT will feature Brian Conroy presenting "*The 4th Illinois Cavalry*".
Arlington Hts. Historical Museum or Arlington Hts. Library www.northernilcwrt.org

The 2025 Civil Round Table of Chicago's Annual Tour will feature Shiloh & Corinth.
The tour is April 23-27, 2025. More information at chicagocwrt.org

4th Annual Carthage College Lincoln Symposium

Friday, April 25 and Saturday April 26

The two-day Symposium Will feature some of the leading Abraham Lincoln scholars from around the country.

This event is in partnership with Carthage College, The Lincoln Forum, the Kenosha Civil War Museum, and the Lincoln Presidential Foundation. Registration is required.

Contact Dana Kroll at dkroll@carthage.edu with questions.

<https://museums.kenosha.org/civil-war-museum-programs-events/annual-events>

FUTURE SALT CREEK CWRT MEETINGS

Check us out on Facebook and at saltcreekcwr.org

April 19, 2025 Bob Grenier will present "*The Life and Legacy of Florida's Own General Edmund Kirby-Smith*"

May 17, 2025 Robert I. Girardi will present "*General John Logan*"

June 20, 2025 Annual Banquet featuring Mark Flotow presenting "*In Their Letters, In Their Own Words: Illinois Civil War Soldiers Write About U.S Grant*".

Sept. 27, 2025 Jerry Allen will present "*General James B. Steedman*". **Note the date change Due to a conflict with the Civil War Show.**

Oct.18, 2025 ANNUAL BOOK SALE 11am to 1pm Program at 1pm
Fr. Bob Miller will present "*From Rome to Appomattox: The History of Military Chaplains*".

BACK IN HISTORY

50 Years Ago: Bill Thomas presented "*Confederate Post Office Operations*".

25 Years Ago: Larry Gibbs presented "*What Caused the Civil War?*"

10 Years Ago: Samuel Blackwell Jr. presented "*In the First Line of Battle: Corp. Gabriel Durham 12th Illinois Cavalry*".

THE SALT CREEK CWRT

President: Robert I. Girardi

Vice-President: TBD

Secretary-Treasurer: Jan Rasmussen

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

Historian: Cindy Intravartolo

Newsletter Staff: Jan Rasmussen, Rob Girardi, Brian Conroy

Facebook and Website Editor: Brian Conroy

March 2025 Preservation Report by Brian Conroy

From the time of the battle of Gettysburg, and even a century later in the 1960s when President Eisenhower retired there, the area was quiet and mostly rural. But today it's not so quiet and rural, and land prices have risen dramatically, with commercial and residential development continuing to encroach on remaining unprotected battlefield land. But a nearly untouched, 11-acre battlefield parcel by Seminary Ridge is up for sale, and is mere steps from sites like Reynolds Woods, Willoughby's Run, Lee's Headquarters, and the Seminary. This remarkable tract currently has NO protection of any kind and could be snatched up at any time for several single-family homes. But the American Battlefield Trust has been working furiously for the last few months to reach a deal with the family that has owned the land for generations, and at last, they've signed! Now, all that's left is raising the money. The total cost is \$515,000, with hopes of receiving government and nonprofit grants totaling \$200,000, which means there is \$315,000 to go that must be raised quickly.

Situated between the critical battle arteries of the Chambersburg Pike and Fairfield Road, and bordering land preserved by the National Park Service and by the American Battlefield Trust, this tract hosted Union and Confederate movements and fighting on the battle's first day, was used as a reserve position on the next day, and later served as or was right next to a temporary cemetery for Confederate soldiers killed nearby. The initial deployments of the Union cavalry and horse artillery moved on part of the tract, while the Iron Brigade crossed it en route to its famous fights near Willoughby's Run and the Railroad Cut. Commander Chapman Biddle's brigades of Pennsylvania troops crossed over it again and again as they tried to move out of the path of incoming projectiles, some of which doubtless fell upon the tract.

Biddle's brigade also retreated through this swale, followed by Generals James Pettigrew's and James H. Lane's North Carolina troops, and by Colonel Abner M. Perrin's men from South Carolina.

The Land at Gettysburg Today

While preservation campaigns (including our efforts!) eventually took hold in one direction, and commercial development steamrolled on in another, this 11-acre plot stayed nearly the same for more than a century and a half. It's in nearly pristine condition!

It's a two-minute walk from the Lutheran Seminary. It's a three-minute walk to the famed spot where the Three Confederate Prisoners were photographed in one of the most iconic images of the Civil War.

It's about 1,200 feet from the monument that marks the place where Gen. John F. Reynolds lost his life, and barely 1,600 feet from Lee's Headquarters. *That's how central this tract is to the battlefield and the first day of fighting!*