

# The Outpost

**The Newsletter of the Salt Creek Civil War Round Table  
Vol. LVI No. 9 May 2018**



## **513th Regular Meeting**

**DATE:** Friday, May 18, 2018  
**PLACE:** Oak Trace, 200 Village Drive, Downers Grove, IL  
**TIME:** 8:00 p.m.  
**TOPIC:** “The Luck of the Merrimac”  
**SPEAKER:** David Noe

It is a well-known fact that sailors believe in either a lucky or unlucky ship. This being the case then the Merrimack, and later as the CSS Virginia, had plenty of luck, both good and bad. Twice in her relatively short life, bad luck resulted in her sinking at the hands of her own crew. The Merrimac and her four sister ships were super ships of their day. The five constituted an effort by the United States to build a frigate capable of outfighting any ship their size and able to outrun any adversary with heavier armament. All five ships would be tasked to play varying roles in the Civil War.

The Merrimac would have the unfortunate luck to be stranded without a working engine in the port of Norfolk on the eve of the war where it was sunk and burned to the waterline to prevent her capture by the Confederacy. However, she would rise again, much like the mystical Phoenix. Her captors raised the sunken hulk and transformed the ship to an ironclad battery that would make navel history and usher in a new era of naval warfare.

See how both good and bad luck played an important part in the ship's life and how with more or less of either could have changed history as we know it.

Dave Noe and his wife of 48 years reside in Poplar Grove. He is a semi-retired aircraft mechanic and inspector currently working on restoring biplanes from 1930's and 40's. He is interested in all periods of history, but primarily has studied and collected items from the Civil War for the past 40 years. He has co-authored two books, “*Firearms from Europe*” and “*European Bayonets of the Civil War*” as well as writing articles for the Company of Military Historians and American Society of Bayonet Collectors.

**If you need assistance parking during construction, please ask at the front desk or call the On-Site Transportation & Security Service at 630-401-6699. There are plenty of spaces available**

## **APRIL MONTHLY MEETING REPORT BY ART FOLEY**

April brought the Round Table an entertaining presentation from Frederick and Carol Miller entitled: "The Clank of Arms Be Heard No More". This presentation of material derived from the war letters and diary of Mr. Miller's great grandfather, James Augustus Miller. A family man and farmer from New York state, James volunteered and served with Company C of the 152<sup>nd</sup> Regiment of the New York State Volunteers. Portions of a diary kept from June to December 1863, and 48 letters (from a collection of 128 surviving), written by James and sent to his wife Caroline (Carrie) were read.

The correspondence described campaign life and events as the soldiers experienced them as well as matters related to the nurturing of his wife and son Merritt's (5 years old in 1862), welfare over a period from early 1862 until late September 1864.

Illustrating matters concerning his farm, Miller was also dedicated about the manner and content of his son's education. Of equal importance were James's monitoring of his family's spiritual welfare, citing regularly his reflections on faith. He also meditated on issues regarding his thoughts about combat, killing, his own health and conditions of comrades on campaign in the army. Captured with fellows from his company near Petersburg, James was sent to Andersonville where he died on October 26, 1864. Mr. Miller related anecdotes related by one of James's comrades as to the fates of these POW's. He provided testimony to James's character and the esteem he was held in by his fellow soldiers. Furthermore, we learned of post-war remembrances dedicated to these patriots as well as his widow and son's lives. In conclusion, Fred and Carol spoke of incidents of the genealogical research that brought these materials to light.

Our thanks are tendered to Frederick and Carol for providing the Salt Creek CWRT with their families' historical journey. Huzzah!

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**BATTLEFIELD TOUR:** The Civil War Museum of Kenosha is offering a bus tour of the Chickamauga/Chattanooga Civil War Sites Sunday, October 21 to Wednesday, October 24, 2018. The tour will be led by award winning author and Chickamauga expert Dave Powell. For itinerary and registration information: [ddammann@kenosha.org](mailto:ddammann@kenosha.org) or 262-653-4432.

**ANNUAL BANQUET:** Friday June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at the Hilton-Lisle/Naperville  
The speaker will be Steven Acker presenting *Gettysburg: The Living Memorial*  
Cocktails at 6:30 pm - Dinner at 7:00 pm - Program at 8:00 pm  
For further information Contact Jan Rasmussen at 630-830-7614 or [jrbarns@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jrbarns@sbcglobal.net)  
Registrations due by June 11, 2018.



The Salt Creek Civil War Round Table's **Annual Banquet—Friday June 15, 2018**

Time: 6:30 Cocktails – 7:00 Dinner – 8:00 Speaker – **Silent Auction**

Speaker: **STEVEN ACKER**

Presenting: **GETTYSBURG: THE LIVING MEMORIAL**

Where: **Hilton-Lisle/Naperville;** 3003 Corporate West Drive (Warrenville Road)  
Lisle/Naperville, 630-505-0900

◆ 1-mile east of the intersection of Naperville Rd./ Naper Blvd. & Warrenville Road ◆

Directions...

From **Chicago:** Eisenhower west to "Aurora / I-88"...exit "53 south," 1-block to Warrenville Rd., turn west (right) 1-mile (+/-) to the **Hilton - Lisle** on the left (south) side of the road.

From **Indiana:** I-294 north to "Aurora / I-88"...*follow above directions.*

From **Milwaukee:** I-294 south to "Aurora / I-88"...*follow above directions.*

From the **West:** To Naperville Road / Naper Blvd., to Warrenville Road; east to **Hilton - Lisle**, on the right (south).

Price: **\$50.00** per person (free parking)

Select: Sliced N.Y. strip loin of **BEEF**, Boursin (cheese)-crusted **CHICKEN**, or Honey-ginger **SALMON**

◆ Please make your reservations by Monday, June 11, 2018 ◆

Questions: Call **Jan Rasmussen**...630-830-7614; [www.jrbarns@sbcglobal.net](mailto:www.jrbarns@sbcglobal.net)

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Please—by June 11, 2018—return this form *with your check* to:

**Jan Rasmussen, SCCWRT**

**756 Sterling Ct. D2; Bartlett, IL 60103**

Call: **630-830-7614**; [www.jrbarns@sbcglobal.net](mailto:www.jrbarns@sbcglobal.net)

Make checks payable to: "**SCCWRT**" for the *total amount due*

NAME (please print) \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE MEMBERSHIP(S) \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF ATTENDEES \_\_\_\_\_ @ **\$50 each** = total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

CHOICE & NUMBER OF ENTRÉE: Sliced loin of **BEEF** \_\_\_\_\_ Boursin-crusted **CHICKEN** \_\_\_\_\_ Honey-ginger **SALMON** \_\_\_\_\_

NAME(S) OF  
GUEST(S) \_\_\_\_\_

## **UPCOMING CIVIL WAR EVENTS**

MAY 15, 2018

### **LINCOLN/DAVIS CWRT**

"Midnight in American: Civil War Dreams"

Speaker: Jonathan White

Country House Restaurant, Alsip

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

MAY 17, 2018

### **SOUTH SUBURBAN CWRT**

"The Dred Scott Case"

Speaker: Lester Lindley

The Trails End, 20 Kansas St.

Frankfort, IL

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

MAY 20 & 21 2018

### **CIVIL WAR DAYS**

Naper Settlement, Naperville

JUNE 1, 2018

### **NORTHERN ILLINOIS CWRT**

Annual Banquet

"An Evening with Mr. & Mrs. Lincoln"

Max & Donna Daniels

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

JUNE 8, 2018

### **CHICAGO CWRT**

"Joshua Chamberlain and the

Petersburg Campaign"

Speaker: Dennis Rasbach

Holiday Inn O'Hare

5615 N. Cumberland, Chicago

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

JUNE 12, 2018

### **McHENRY COUNTY CWRT**

"Worden's Battalion"

Speaker: Frank Crawford

Woodstock Library

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

## **ALL FOR THE UNION**

The SCCWRT website is temporarily down. Brian Conroy has taken over the Salt Creek CWRT Facebook page. Check it out for updates.

Thanks to Rick Zarr, Jan Rasmussen, Roger Bohn, John Beale, Don Sikorski and Barney Bucholz for their help at the Civil War Show in Wheaton.

## **BACK IN HISTORY**

50 Years Ago: VerLynn Sprague presented "Illinois Sesquicentennial Observances"

25 Years Ago: Panel Discussion: The Decisive Battle of the Civil War. Moderator: Bill Hupp Jerry Feinstein: Gettysburg, Dan McCarthy:

Antietam, Jim Soens: Vicksburg, Roger

Bohn: New Orleans & Rob Girardi: Atlanta

10 Years Ago: Member Discussion  
What are you Reading?

## **FUTURE SCCWRT MEETINGS**

June 15, 2018 Annual Banquet

"Gettysburg: The Living Memorial"

Speaker: Steven Acker

September 21, 2018

"Deadly Encounter: The Ambush of the 8<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Cavalry at Chancellorsville"

Speaker: Samuel Blackwell

## **THE SALT CREEK CWRT**

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

President: Cindy Heckler

Vice-President: Rick Zarr

Secretary-Treasurer: Jan Rasmussen

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