

The Outpost

The Newsletter of the Salt Creek Civil War Round Table
Vol. LV No. 9 May 2017



503rd Regular Meeting

DATE: Friday, May 19, 2017
PLACE: Oak Trace, 200 Village Drive, Downers Grove, IL
TIME: 8:00 p.m.
TOPIC: “For God, Church and Country - Catholic Civil War Chaplains”
SPEAKER: Rev. Robert J. Miller

The 90 plus Catholic priests who served as chaplains in the Civil War were NOT your usual priests and bishops – there was nothing boring about them! They were a unique group of “priest pioneers”: adventuresome, courageous, outspoken, groundbreakers and apologists as well as Catholic churchmen in “foreign land”. This presentation focuses on the role of these Catholic chaplains in the war, their numbers and impact along with some stories of the most colorful and interesting “characters” among them. Being an antebellum Catholic was not an easy task due to a lack of priests as Catholic immigrants flooded the country and a strong anti-Catholic culture, and a Vatican that did not “get” American democracy. Rev. Miller will put flesh on the long ignored topic of religion in the Civil War, and a group of Catholic clergymen who challenged the country and became “legends” because of their wartime service – Corby, Cooney, Sheeran, Ireland and more.

Reverend Robert J. Miller is a Catholic priest, ministering at St. Dorothy’s Church in inner city Chicago and former president of the Chicago Civil War Round Table. He has Master’s degrees in Religious Education and Divinity. Author of six books on spirituality and faith, Rev. Miller’s latest book is *Both Prayed to the Same God: Religion and Faith in the Civil War*.

APRIL MEETING SUMMARY BY ARTHUR FOLEY

For our April meeting Mr. Steven Alban's presentation, " President Lincoln and His Political Generals", gave the membership a survey of the political scene existent during the War of The Rebellion. Political parties as well as political machinations were sketched so we could experience a taste of the chaotic scene rampant across the country.

Personages, such as Benjamin Butler, Nathaniel Banks, George McClellan, Ambrose Burnside, Henry Halleck and Edwin Stanton were cited. Each of these men's actions in the political sphere were described.

Finally, the political scene and its particularities as they applied to the day to day interactions amongst the armies were discussed

We would like to thank Mr. Alban for sharing with the Roundtable his unique views on this scintillating topic. Huzzah!

PRESERVATION REPORT BY DAN JOSEPHS

We hope that you and your family enjoyed a wonderful Easter holiday and/or Passover celebration. It still seems that Spring is just around the corner but I am not convinced.

I have been writing a column about Civil War battlefield preservation for many years. Several years ago, I was doing such a column for the Chicago Civil War Roundtable. In the monthly newsletter of the Civil War Trust it is stated that "The Civil War Trust is America's largest and most effective battlefield-saving organization." The Civil War Trust is able to track down and procure funds from federal sources, state sources, local sources and private funds in order to buy and preserve portions of Civil War battlefields. Currently, the Civil War Trust has already obtained 95.4% of the funds that are needed to preserve portions of three different battlefields located in Virginia. The Civil War Trust needs only to raise \$204,915.00 to preserve the amount of \$2,147.650 of tracts of 3 Civil War Battlefield real estate. This amount of funds to be raised equals only 4.6% of the cost of the portions of the three Civil War battlefields to be preserved.

There are a total of 10 acres of the Civil War Battlefield located at Gaines Mill to be preserved by the Civil War Trust. The battle of Gaines Mill was fought on June 27, 1862. The two tracts of real estate are located within Griffin's Woods which is situated within the central portion of the battlefield. The Battle of Gaines Mill was the scene of Robert E. Lee's first victory in the Civil War. One of the tracts of real estate is in the same condition as it was on June 27, 1862. After the other tract is preserved by the Civil War Trust, a few modern buildings will need to be torn down to match its 1862 appearance.

The Civil War Trust is hoping to purchase an easement over 333 acres of the eastern portion of the Civil War Battlefield located at Cedar Mountain in Virginia. Previously, the Civil War Trust had preserved a good percentage of the western portion of the battlefield. The Cedar Mountain battle was fought on August 9, 1862. There is no federal battlefield park located at Cedar Mountain. Also, there is no state battlefield park located at Cedar Mountain. As a result, other than the western portion of the battlefield already preserved by the Civil War Trust, there is little battlefield land preserved at the Cedar Mountain battlefield. This is why the Civil War Trust has been working with the State of Virginia for some time to create the Brandy Station - Cedar Mountain Virginia State Park.

Finally, there is a total of 50 acres of battlefield land located at the Cold Harbor Battlefield to be preserved. The Cold Harbor battle was fought from May 31, 1864 to June 2, 1864. A large Union Fort called Fletcher's Redoubt was located within this 50 acres portion of the battlefield that the Civil War Trust is trying to preserve. Within these 50 acres of real estate also were located the battle lines of the Union Ninth Corps. Also the attack by the Second Corps of the Confederate army on the Ninth Corps of the Union army took place within these 50 acres of battlefield land. Although there are parcels of the Cold Harbor battlefield within the Richmond Battlefield National Park, these 50 acres represent an important portion of the Cold Harbor Battlefield.

The information for this column was obtained from the Civil War Trust newsletter and website.

UPCOMING CIVIL WAR EVENTS

MAY 18, 2017

SOUTH SUBURBAN CWRT

"Will County During the Civil War"

Speaker: Bob Kuzma

Smokey Barque, 20 Kansas St.

Frankfort, IL

www.southsuburbancwrt.com

JUNE 2, 2017

NORTHERN ILLINOIS CWRT

"The National Civil War Museum"

Speaker: Wayne Motts

Arlington Hts. Memorial Library

500 Dunton, Arlington Hts.

Northernilcwr.org

JUNE 9, 2017

CHICAGO CWRT

"Untold Facts of the Custer Myth "

Speaker: Don Sender

Holiday Inn O'Hare

5615 N. Cumberland, Chicago

dinnerreservation@chicagocwrt.org

JUNE 13, 2017

McHENRY COUNTY CWRT

"Nashville: Siren Song of the Confederacy"

Speaker: Greg Biggs

Woodstock Library

www.mchenrycivilwar.com

JUNE 20, 2017

LINCOLN DAVIS CWRT

"In Person General Meade at Gettysburg"

Speaker: Dave Eisele

Country House Restaurant, Alsip

Lincolndavisroundtable@yahoo.com

SPEAKERS NEEDED FOR 2018

Contact Jan: jrbarns@sbcglobal.net

BANQUET RESERVATIONS DUE

JUNE 12, 2017

ALL FOR THE UNION

Thanks to Jan Rasmussen, Rick Zarr, Cindy Intravartolo, Roger Bohn, Bruce Allardice, Dan McCarthy, Jon & Nancy Fritz, Barney Bucholz, Don Sikorski And Cindy Heckler for their help at the Civil War Show in Wheaton on April 29th.

Brian Conroy has taken over the Salt Creek CWRT Facebook page. Check it out.

BACK IN HISTORY

50 Years Ago: Barbara Long presented: "Swords, Roses and Vitriol"

25 Years Ago: Kim Foster presented: "Clara Barton"

10 Years Ago: The membership held an open discussion: "What Are You Reading?"

FUTURE SCCWRT MEETINGS

June 16, 2017 Annual Banquet
"Abraham Lincoln & Franklin D. Roosevelt:
Two War Presidents"
Max Daniels & R.J. Lindsey

September 15, 2017
"Andersonville"
Speaker: Frank Crawford

THE SALT CREEK CWRT

www.saltcreekcwrt.org

President: Cindy Heckler

Vice-President: Rick Zarr

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