

# The Outpost

**The Newsletter of the Salt Creek Civil War Round Table**  
**Vol. LIX No. 9 May 2021**



**540th Regular Meeting**

**DATE:** Friday, May 21, 2021  
**PLACE:** Confines of your own home.  
**Due to Covid restrictions the meeting will be via zoom**  
**TIME:** 7:30 p.m.  
**TOPIC:** “The Tyranny of Public Discourse: Abraham Lincoln’s Six  
Element Antidote for Meaningful and Persuasive Writing”  
**SPEAKER:** Dan Van Haften

Are you satisfied with the current state of public discourse? No matter their politics, the almost unanimous response from Americans is a loud and emphatic “No!” Typically today’s public discourse dysfunctionally starts with a “conclusion,” then goes downhill fast.

Abraham Lincoln used a defined method for persuasive writing. Each of six elements is defined in a single sentence. We will analyze examples of Lincoln’s writing prior to and during the Civil War. This includes Lincoln letters to Civil War generals.

Lincoln methodically blends logic and reason to think analytically, and write persuasively. A by-product is civility that naturally elevates discourse. The six elements of a proposition constitute a verbal form of the scientific method. This is not only historically significant, but invaluable today.

Dan Van Haften is a Michigan State University graduate with BS and MS degrees in mathematics. He received a Ph.D. in electrical engineering from Stevens Institute of Technology. Prior to retirement in 2007, Dan worked on developing and testing telecommunication systems. His 37 year career at Bell Laboratories, AT&T, Lucent, and Alcatel-Lucent spanned dramatic change in communication tools. After retirement, Dan explored an ancient method of defined communication Abraham Lincoln used to change the world. Dan and Des Moines attorney David Hirsch co-authored *Abraham Lincoln and the Structure of Reason*, *The Ultimate Guide to the Gettysburg Address*, and *The Tyranny of Public Discourse: Abraham Lincoln’s Six-Element Antidote for Meaningful and Persuasive Writing*.

Join Zoom Meeting  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82671773381?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82671773381?pwd=cENnZ3ZiMFZkNEtWeWxsZmtVOW4rdz09)  
pwd=cENnZ3ZiMFZkNEtWeWxsZmtVOW4rdz09  
Meeting ID: 826 7177 3381 Passcode: 594128

### **APRIL MEETING UPDATE by Art Foley**

"Benjamin Butler, Lincoln's Most Trusted General" was the subject of Mr. Steven Alban's presentation for the Roundtable's April Zoom meeting. With an interesting power point display accompanying the narration Mr. Alban described Benjamin Franklin Butler's rise in the world both as an effective lawyer and successful businessman. Butler then parlayed his abilities into a long career as a politician, representing Massachusetts.

Joining the army at the onset of the war, Butler became a useful lightning rod for Abraham Lincoln. While recognized as lacking any military skill, Butler as the military administrator and a recent convert to the Radical Republicans ranks, struck solid blows against the South. His stance of declaring runaway slaves as Contraband material assisted in denying the rebels of slave manpower. The reasoning involved ultimately found a conclusion in the stipulations of the Emancipation Proclamation. Furthermore Butler publicly advocated admission of black troops to the conflict. Butler's term as the military governor of New Orleans retrieved for the Union bullion taken from the US Mint. The Major General's behavior, whether in the issuance of Order 28, or the execution of a flag desecrator aroused international infamy. Yet, he brought order to the former rebel city and sent currency to the national treasury through appropriation and sales of captured goods such as cotton. Of course, heads turned the other way if some of those funds and raw materials were rumored to find a path to the man's pockets or textile mills. Transferred back to the East, Butler as head of the Army of the James held a unique position of answering only to the President, bypassing Secretary Stanton and General Grant. Yet his accumulation of battlefield failures culminating in the Fort Fisher fiasco, ended his military career. Even so, the President utilized Butler's popularity to send him north to engage in a speaking tour promoting the administration campaign to pass the 13th Amendment.

In the postwar era as a Radical Republican, Butler supported the policies protecting the newly won rights of the Freedman and battling the Klan. Returning to the Democratic fold in the 1880s, he won the governorship of his home state then staged an unsuccessful run for President as a candidate for the Greenback Party in 1884.

Thank you to Mr. Alban for his interesting presentation . Huzzah!

### **CIVIL WAR TOUR**

The annual Chicago CWRT battlefield tour will take place this August 18-22. The tour will be visiting the Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville battlefields. The tour itinerary, registration form, and other information, can be visited at <https://chicagocwrt.org/battletour.html>

## **MAY 2021 PRESERVATION REPORT**

**By Brian Conroy**

This month's preservation report is Part 2 of a focus on the rise of the modern preservation movement based on an article about Battlefield Preservation by Bob Zeller, who is co-founder and President for the Center for Civil War Photography. We will finish next month.

In 1990s, the federal government created the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission, which did a comprehensive study of the country's Civil War battlefields and their state of preservation. During this period, the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites and the newly formed Civil War Trust joined forces on several battlefield acquisitions. The two groups, combined, funded the acquisition of more than 6,000 acres at almost 50 battlefields in 14 states. Eventually, the boards of both organizations worked towards a merger, which happened on Nov. 19, 1999, with the creation of the Civil War Preservation Trust, and in 2011 changed its name to The Civil War Trust. In May 2018 it became the American Battlefield Trust and expanded mission in preserving battlefields of the Revolutionary War and War of 1812.

Starting in the mid-1980s, preservation of Civil War battlefields grew into a national issue that grabbed the nation's attention. A decade after Marriott Corp. had proposed a theme park next to Manassas, northern Virginia developer Hazel-Peterson proposed a mixed-use development at the same location. This sparked outrage among local preservationists and eventually federal park officials, eventually leading to Congressional hearings that brought about rare legislation that bought the land. In the ensuing years, and another preservation fight concerning a history theme park proposed by Disney just west of Manassas that was opposed by preservationists and local horse farmers, the American Battlefield Protection Program was established in 1991 to provide federal oversight of battlefield land acquisition, and administered and allocated money through a grant program open to national and local preservation groups.

Since 1987, with the merger of the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites and the Civil War Trust into a single, unified group of the Civil War Preservation Trust in November 1999, more than 53,000 acres of battlefield have been saved in 24 states. More than 600 transactions, with a total value of more than \$300 million, has been the driving force of those land purchases.

In 2014, the American Battlefield Trust was formed to help expand the mission to helping preserve battlefields of the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. In partnership with the Society of the Cincinnati, the Trust created a sister organization, Campaign 1776, and has begun saving battlefield lands from those wars. Through 2017, Campaign 1776 had saved 676 acres at nine Revolutionary War battlefields and two War of 1812 battlefields in six states.

## **UPCOMING CIVIL WAR EVENTS**

Check with the organization sponsoring the program for meeting status

### **May 18, 2021**

Lincoln/Davis CWRT will feature Jack Melton presenting “100 Pictures of Civil War Charleston”  
Country House Restaurant, Alsip, IL

### **May 20, 2021**

South Suburban CWRT will feature Tom Carson presenting “Abraham Lincoln’s Presidency”  
South Suburban CWRT on Facebook (ZOOM MEETING)

### **June 4, 2021**

Northern Illinois CWRT will feature Curt Fields portraying “General Grant”  
[www.northernilecwr.org](http://www.northernilecwr.org)

### **June 8, 2021**

McHenry County CWRT will feature Bruce Allardice presenting “Poltroons, Patriots & Politicians: Civil War Generals.”  
[www.mchenrycivilwar.com](http://www.mchenrycivilwar.com)

### **June 11, 2021**

Chicago CWRT will feature Michael Hardy presenting “General Lee’s Immortals”  
[www.chicagocwrt.org](http://www.chicagocwrt.org) (ZOOM MEETING)

### **June 15, 2021**

Lincoln/Davis CWRT will feature Ron Kirkwood presenting “Too Much for Human Endurance: The Spangler Farm Civil War Hospital”  
Country House Restaurant, Alsip, IL

**The Civil War Round Table Congress** is sponsoring a series of virtual Civil War Lectures.

To view the schedule visit: <http://www.cwrtcongress.org/lectures.html>

**The Kenosha Civil War Museum** is also sponsoring virtual programs.

To view the schedule visit: <https://museum.kenosha.org/civilwar/events>

## **GREAT LAKES CIVIL WAR FORUM**

The Civil War Museum of Kenosha, WI, will be hosting its annual Great Lakes Civil War Forum on Saturday, September 11. As was the case last year, the museum will be offering both in-person and virtual options to attend the event. The information on the four programs and links to sign up for both options are below.

**Saturday, September 11 | 9am – 4pm**

**In-Person Option: \$55 (\$70 non-member price) includes live in-person presenters, coffee breaks and boxed lunch**

**Limited to 30 participants**

## **ALL FOR THE UNION**

Don Sender has several boxes of Atlas Edition American Civil War Cards. The cards would be great for a young civil war enthusiast. For more information Call Don at 630-668-1897.

## **FUTURE SALT CREEK CWRT MEETINGS**

Check us out on Facebook and at [saltcreekcwr.org](http://saltcreekcwr.org)

### **June 18, 2021**

Kevin Wood will present "Lincoln on Slavery, Emancipation, and Equality"  
(ZOOM PRESENTATION)

### **September 17, 2021**

Bruce Allardice will present "Lincoln as a War Leader"  
Location yet to be confirmed

## **BACK IN HISTORY**

**50 Years Ago:** Vignettes: Roger Wilhelm presented "Military Telegraph in the Civil War", Jay Perkins presented "The 105<sup>th</sup> Illinois", Barbara Cochran presented "Guerillas", Dan Lapinski presented "M. Jeff Thompson" and Dave Baumheckel presented "Jefferson Davis, the Northern General".

**25 Years Ago:** H. Scott Wolfe presented "The 2<sup>nd</sup> Harpers Ferry Raid: The Fate of John Brown's Men"

**10 Years Ago:** Jerry Allen presented "Fur God og Fort Land"

## **THE SALT CREEK CWRT**

President: Cindy Heckler

Vice-President: Rick Zarr

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Board Members: Mike Miller, Sharon Maher, Brian Conroy, Jon Fritz, Rob Girardi

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