

# The Outpost

The Newsletter of the Salt Creek Civil War Round Table  
Vol. LVX No. 9 May 2022



## 550th Regular Meeting

DATE: **SATURDAY**, May 21, 2022  
PLACE: Glen Ellyn History Center (N.W. Corner of Main & Elm Streets)  
800 N. Main Street, Glen Ellyn, IL  
TIME: **11:00 am**  
PROGRAM: *"A Man for All Nations - Fr. Jeremiah Trecy"*  
SPEAKER: Robert J. Miller

In all your Civil War reading, how many examples have you found of people who offered their service to both sides, without being "coerced" to do so? Such is the fascinating story of Fr. Jeremiah Trecy, a Catholic chaplain for both Union and Confederacy during the Civil War. Stationed in Alabama at the war's outset, he first served Confederate troops in the area, as well as assisting in hospitals. But after a series of events both humorous and life-threatening, he wound up in the Army of the Cumberland, serving until the very end of the war. Trecy's immigrant story is a fascinating one, marked by ministry to a wide variety of groups across middle America, founding churches as a "pioneer priest", and becoming a courageous & legendary chaplain.

Robert J. Miller is a Catholic priest of 45+ years, recently retired from 30 years of inner-city Chicago ministry. He has Masters degrees in Religious Education and Divinity, has authored 5 books on spirituality and faith, was an adjunct professor of Church history at the University of St. Mary of the Lake, and is a frequently requested speaker on topics of spirituality and history. His 2007 book, *Both Prayed to the Same God – Religion and Faith in the Civil War*, was the first book-length overview of the topic. He is presently completing a 7<sup>th</sup> book, to be published by the University of Notre Dame Press, entitled *Faith of the Fathers – Catholic Civil War Chaplains*.

## **ALL FOR THE UNION**

**Salt Creek CWRT will be celebrating our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on Friday June 17<sup>th</sup>** at our annual banquet at the DoubleTree by Hilton Lisle Naperville. (Same place new name)  
Dr. Theresa Kaminski will present: "*Dr. Mary Walker's Civil War: How One Woman Received the Medal of Honor*". **See attached flyer.**

Thanks to Rob Girardi, Jan Rasmussen, Rick Zarr, Bruce Allardice, Brian Conroy, Jane Munsie, Dan McCarthy, Bernie Bucholtz, Cindy Heckler, and Sharon Maher for their participation at the Civil War Show on April 23<sup>rd</sup> at the DuPage County Fairgrounds in Wheaton. \$547 was raised from the sale of books and memorabilia donated by the families of Jim Soens and Chuck Kurtz.

On **June 25<sup>th</sup>** Rob Girardi will host a **CIVIL WAR BOOK SALE** from 10am to 4pm  
Location: 4532 N. Forestview Ave. Chicago.  
More than 1,000 Civil War Books on all topics. Proceeds go to Battlefield Preservation.

## **VACANT CHAIR**

David Keller, Civil War Historian and Director of the Camp Douglas Restoration Foundation passed away April 28th after a long battle with cancer. David spoke numerous times to our Round Table over the years. His most recent presentation was at our November 2021 meeting. The Salt Creek CWRT extends its sincere condolences to David's family.

## **UPCOMING CIVIL WAR EVENTS**

Check with the organization sponsoring the program for meeting status

May 19, 2022

**South Suburban CWRT** will feature Brian Conroy presenting "Little Egypt's Civil War"  
Trail's Edge Brewery (formerly Smokey Barbque), 20 Kansas Street, Frankfort, IL  
South Suburban CWRT on Facebook

June 3, 2022

**Northern Illinois CWRT** will feature David Powell presenting "The Tullahoma Campaign"  
Arlington Hts. Memorial Library  
[www.northernilcwr.org](http://www.northernilcwr.org)

June 10, 2022

**Chicago CWRT** will feature Lauren Szady presenting "Civilian Life in the Civil War"  
Holiday Inn O'Hare, 5615 N. Cumberland, Chicago (In Person & Zoom Presentation)  
[chicagocwrt.org](http://chicagocwrt.org)

June 14, 2022

**McHenry County CWRT** will feature Jerry Allen presenting "The Holly Springs Raid"  
Woodstock Library  
[www.mchenrycivilwar.com](http://www.mchenrycivilwar.com)

## **April 2022 Preservation Report**

**By Brian Conroy**

Beautiful weather is upon us, my friends. And with it comes the opportunity to continue saving our favorite battlefields by both visiting them and donating to help save them. The American Battlefield Trust is in the process of saving a combined 311 acres at four battlefields associated with four legendary generals. Two of those battlefields and their associated Generals, Ulysses S. Grant and William T. Sherman, will be covered this month, while the other two will be covered next month to finish our season. Three of these sites will be “first-acre” purchases by the American Battlefield Trust, and have a combined transaction value of \$2.7 million, of which only \$206,207 needs to be raised.

The first of battlefield and its associated general to be covered this month will be the Battle of Belmont, Kentucky, and General Ulysses S. Grant. This battle, fought in November 1861, was where the newly promoted disembarked his forces from steamboats three miles north of the town, then marching south to engage Confederate forces at Camp Johnson, inflicting heavy losses. Confederate reinforcements counterattacked the Federal forces after being bolstered by long range artillery from Columbus. Belmont was also a battle of brother against brother, where the 31<sup>st</sup> Illinois infantry, organized under Colonel John Logan from southern Illinois, faced off against men of the 15<sup>th</sup> Tennessee, Company G, who were their neighbors from that area of Little Egypt that left home to join the Confederate army. It was a battle claimed as a victory by both sides, providing combat experience to Grant that would be needed later in the war.

While small, with just a little more than one acre, this important tract on the Kentucky side of the Mississippi River is the first preservation acre to be saved by the American Battlefield Trust where the Battle of Belmont was fought.

The second battlefield and its associated general for this preservation campaign are three acres at Chickasaw Bayou in Mississippi, which would be, as Belmont is, also a first-acre preservation victory for the Trust. The Battle of Chickasaw Bayou, during the opening engagement of the Vicksburg Campaign on December 26, 1862, saw General William T. Sherman disembark his soldiers at Johnson’s Plantation to oppose Confederate forces under the command of General John C. Pemberton, a Pennsylvanian who chose to fight for the South.

While his Union army outnumbered Confederate forces two-to-one as they entered the third day of fighting, Sherman’s launched repeated attempts to get around Confederate defenses and failed each time. But he would not relent and ordered one last assault on December 29 — a frontal attack on the enemy, resulting in heavy casualties. Sherman withdrew his troops, suffering more than eight times as many losses as the Confederates. The resounding Confederate victory effectively thwarted the Union’s first attempt to capture Vicksburg.

## **BACK IN HISTORY**

**50 Years Ago:** Glen Wicke presented “The C.S.A. in the U.K.: The American Civil War in the British Isle”

**25 Years Ago:** Jim Soens presented “The Effects of the Mexican War Upon the Civil War”

**10 Years Ago:** Frank Crawford presented “A Defense of Burnside at the Bridge”

The **Kenosha Civil War Museum** is putting on the following in-person/zoom programs:

Friday May 13<sup>th</sup> at noon

Dave Ingalls will present: “Michigan Civil War Sites and Stories”

Friday May 27<sup>th</sup> at noon

Stephen Michaels will present: “Grand Army Treasures”

For more on programs at the museum, visit <https://museums.kenosha.org/civilwar/events>

## **FUTURE SALT CREEK CWRT MEETINGS**

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

June 17, 2022

### **60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet**

Dr. Theresa Kaminski will present “*Dr Mary Walker’s Civil War: How One Woman Received the Medal of Honor*” **See attached flyer.**

September 17, 2022

Jerry Allen will present “*Murphy’s Law and the Peter Principle: The Holly Springs Raid*”.

## **THE SALT CREEK CWRT**

President: Cindy Heckler

Vice-President: Rick Zarr

Secretary-Treasurer: Jan Rasmussen

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