

# The Outpost

The Newsletter of the Salt Creek Civil War Round Table  
Vol. LXI No. 9 May 2024



## 570th Regular Meeting

**DATE:** SATURDAY, May 18, 2024  
**PLACE:** Glen Ellyn History Center at Stacy's Corners  
800 N. Main St., Glen Ellyn, IL (NW Corner of Main & Elm Streets)  
**TIME:** 11 a.m.  
**PROGRAM:** "God is on Our Side: Religion in the Civil War"  
**SPEAKER:** Bob Presman

Political leaders on both sides of the Civil War tried to use Christianity to support their cause. This presentation will examine how the white protestant churches played a significant role in the lead-up to and during the war. In addition, the presentation will spotlight the religious views of two important leaders, one from each side. And it will ask the question, "Did religion prolong the Civil War?"

Bob Presman is a former News and Sports Director at WROK radio in Rockford, IL where he was also known as "Mr. Baseball," answering baseball trivia questions from callers to the station. Bob is the immediate past President of the Rock River Valley CWRT. He has done presentations on various Civil War topics at several venues including his home CWRT, the McHenry Country CWRT, the Tucson, Arizona CWRT, Rock Valley College, the Rockford Rotary Club, and some senior citizen facilities in Chicago. He is scheduled to do a presentation on John Brown this coming October at the Kenosha Civil War Museum. Bob is retired and lives in Rockford with his wife Mary Ann, an accomplished short story writer.

**The Annual Banquet at the Doubletree by Hilton, Lisle Naperville on Friday, June 21st will feature Christopher Kolakowski presenting "Not Written in Letters of Blood: The Tullahoma Campaign, Summer, 1863". Registration flyer attachment included.**

## **ALL FOR THE UNION**

Thanks to Rob Girardi, Jan Rasmussen, Rick Zarr, Steve Rudzinski, Nancy Fritz, Cindy Heckler, Sharon Maher and Dan McCarthy for their help at the Midwest Civil War Show. \$525 was raised for battlefield preservation. Huzzah!

## **WELCOME NEW MEMBER**

Bob Grenier

## **UPCOMING CIVIL WAR EVENTS**

Check with the organization sponsoring the program for meeting status.

The Kenosha Civil War Museum has an exhibit thru June 2<sup>nd</sup> called "Faith in the Fight" featuring the service of Catholic Priests who served as chaplains in the Army of the Potomac.

May 14, 2024

**McHenry Co. CWRT** will feature Ed Urban presenting "Charles Rivers Ellet, the Queen of the West and the USS Indianola" at the Woodstock Library. [www.mchenrycivilwar.com](http://www.mchenrycivilwar.com).

May 18 & 19, 2024

The **Will County Historical Society** will present "A Walk Thru Time Living History Event". Heritage Village 249 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Lockport, IL. **More Info in flyer attachment.**

May 19, 2024

**NW Indiana CWRT** will feature Doug Dammann presenting "If a Collection Could Talk ". Crown Point Community Library. See Northwest Indiana CWRT on Facebook

May 21, 2024

**Lincoln/Davis CWRT** will feature Brian Conroy presenting "Little Egypt in the Civil War". Country House Restaurant, Alsip, IL [www.lincolndavisroundtable@yahoo.com](mailto:www.lincolndavisroundtable@yahoo.com).

May 23, 2024

**South Suburban CWRT** will feature Bruce Allardice presenting "Loose Lips: Military Security in the Civil War".

Aurelio's Pizza, 19836 Wolf Road, Mokena, IL. See South Suburban CWRT on Facebook

June 3, 2024

**Rock River Valley CWRT** will feature Bob Presman presenting "God is on Our Side: Religion in the Civil War". Veterans Memorial Hall, 211 N. Main Street. Rockford, IL.

June 7, 2024

**Northern Illinois CWRT** will feature Diana Dretske presenting "Bonds of War: Immigrant Soldiers of the 96<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry".

Arlington Hts. Historical Museum or Arlington Hts. Library. [www.northernilcwrt.org](http://www.northernilcwrt.org).

June 14, 2024

**Chicago CWRT** will feature Timothy Smith (Nevin's Freeman Award) presenting "Vicksburg". Holiday Inn Oakbrook, 350 W. 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, Oakbrook Terrace. [www.chicago.org](http://www.chicago.org).

The Kenosha Civil War Museum features **Second Friday Lectures at Noon.**  
May 10, 2024 William Grigg will present "Soldier Boy From Lena".

June 14, 2024 Dr.Gregory Burek will present "Post Civil War Veteran Mental Health".

<https://museums.kenosha.org/civilwar/events/>

Robert I. Girardi will present "The Midwest Fights the Civil War" on June 10<sup>th</sup> at the Fort Wayne CWRT and at the Southwest Michigan CWRT on June 11<sup>th</sup>.

Bruce Allardice will present "Baseball in the Civil War" on May 30<sup>th</sup> at the Lake Villa Public Library in Lindenhurst.

### **FUTURE SALT CREEK CWRT MEETINGS**

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

June 21, 2024 **Annual Banquet** at the Doubletree by Hilton Lisle Naperville.  
Christopher Kolakowski will present "Not Written in Letters of Blood: The Tullahoma Campaign, Summer 1863." **\*Registration Form attachment included.**

September 14, 2024\* **Date Change due to conflict with the Civil War Show.**  
Robert I. Girardi will present Stonewall Jackson: "The Man, the Myth, and the Legend".

October 19, 2024 **ANNUAL BOOK SALE** 11am-1pm and 30 minutes after program  
Program at 1pm. Jeff Anderson will present "Joseph Medill: Abolitionist".

### **BACK IN HISTORY**

**50 Years Ago:** Don Russell presented "War by the Book".

**25 Years Ago:** Robert Girardi presented "The Real War Will Never Get in the Books".

**10 Years Ago:** Don Sikorski presented "Civil War in Florida".

### **THE SALT CREEK CWRT**

President: Cindy Heckler

Vice-President: Robert I. Girardi

Secretary-Treasurer: Jan Rasmussen

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

Historian: Cindy Intravartolo

Newsletter Staff: Brian Conroy & Jan Rasmussen

Facebook and Website Editor: Brian Conroy

# Lincoln Rediscovered: A Summer Symposium

The Abraham Lincoln Association invites you to its 2024 Summer Symposium set in the scenic Cantigny Park Visitors' Theater Center in Wheaton, Illinois. This engaging half-day event unfolds on Saturday, June 22, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (no lunch break).

Please RSVP to Kay Smith at [kaysmith.ala@gmail.com](mailto:kaysmith.ala@gmail.com). **Attendance is free but seating is limited to 100.**

The symposium delves into the lesser-known facets of Abraham Lincoln's early life, political journey, and presidential years. This event features a lineup of distinguished speakers who will explore intriguing topics that shed new light on Lincoln's complex character and significant accomplishments.

## Featured Speakers:

- Ed Achorn, prizewinning author of *The Lincoln Miracle: Inside the Republican Convention that Changed History*, will headline our symposium and share pivotal moments from Lincoln's political rise.
- William G. Shepherd, President of the Abraham Lincoln Association, presents "Re-electing Lincoln: How the 1864 Election Led to the Abolition of Slavery," examining the critical election that transformed the nation.
- Dr. Dan Monroe, Associate Professor at Millikin University, will discuss "Lincoln and Jacksonism," offering insights into Lincoln's political influences.
- Joshua Claybourn, Vice President of the Abraham Lincoln Association, explores "Lincoln's Wilderness Years in Indiana," highlighting formative experiences that shaped Lincoln.
- Guy Fraker, author of *Lincoln's Ladder to the Presidency: The Eighth Judicial Circuit*, focuses on "1859: Lincoln's Prologue Year to the Presidency," a crucial year in Lincoln's life.
- Robert Girardi, historian and author of eight Civil War books, presents "Major General John E. Smith: Galena's Forgotten General," regarding recently revealed family papers and linking local and national histories through the lens of a notable contemporary of Lincoln.

## **May 2024 Preservation Report**

By Brian Conroy

### ***Wilderness, Minute Man Battlefields Return to List of Nation's 11 Most Endangered Historic Sites.***

American Battlefield Trust lauds battlefields' repeat listing, underscores the need for vigilance to protect even the most famous sites.

**(Washington, D.C.)** — Wilderness Battlefield and Minute Man National Historical Park once again have been listed among the nation's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places, a stark indication of the urgent and ongoing need to protect even our most hallowed grounds from the relentless forces of development and expansion.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation named the battlefield areas, both partially protected within units of the National Park System, to its annual listing Wednesday, and called for immediate steps toward protection.

"Next year we will mark 250 years since the beginning of the American Revolution, when our Patriot forebearers took a principled stand in the face of a formidable foe," said American Battlefield Trust president David Duncan. "Today, safeguarding our battlefields so that future generations will understand what was risked on their behalf requires fierce advocates no less steadfast in their convictions."

**The Wilderness**, a pivotal May 1864 battle and turning point in the Civil War, is a unit of Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park. It is facing a 2,600-acre mixed-use development featuring millions of square feet of data centers on what is now farmland in Orange County, Va. The Trust is lead plaintiff in a lawsuit to overturn the rezoning. It was previously on the list in 2010 when threatened by construction of a Walmart Superstore. Ultimately, Walmart built elsewhere in the county and donated the original site to the Commonwealth of Virginia, demonstrating that development and historic preservation need not be mutually exclusive.

**Minute Man National Historical Park** sits alongside Hanscom Field, the region's largest noncommercial airport, which is seeking to add 17 private jet hangars, increasing noise, visual distractions, and air pollution. In 2003, Minute Man was also listed due to the effects of the airport on the park, which commemorates the first engagements of the American Revolution in April 1775.

The American Battlefield Trust is dedicated to preserving America's hallowed battlegrounds and educating the public about what happened at those sites and why it matters today. The nonprofit, nonpartisan organization has protected more than 56,000 acres associated with the Revolutionary War, War of 1812 and Civil War across 155 sites in 25 states. Learn more at [www.battlefields.org](http://www.battlefields.org).



The Salt Creek Civil War Round Table's **Annual Banquet—Friday June 21, 2024**

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

**CHRISTOPHER L. KOLAKOWSKI**

Director, Wisconsin Veterans Museum

Presenting: ***Not Written in Letters of Blood:  
The Tullahoma Campaign, Summer 1863.***

**Where:** **DOUBLETREE by Hilton Lisle Naperville**

3003 Corporate West Drive (Warrenville Road) Lisle, IL, 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 Road, turn west (right) 1-mile (+/-) to the **DOUBLETREE by Hilton Lisle Naperville** on the left (south) side of the road.

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

**Price:** **\$65.00** 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 **June 17, 2024** ◆

**Questions:** Call **Jan Rasmussen**... 630-217-8427; [jrbarns@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jrbarns@sbcglobal.net)

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Please respond by **June 17, 2024**—return this form ***with your check*** to:

**Jan Rasmussen, Treasurer**  
**756 Sterling Ct. D2; Bartlett, IL 60103**

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

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

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

NUMBER OF ATTENDEES \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$65 each = total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

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





**Heritage Village**  
**A Walk Thru Time**  
**Living History Event**  
**May 18th and 19th**  
**Free Admission**



## **TAKE A TOUR THROUGH TIME FROM THE ROMAN EMPIRE TO THE 20TH CENTURY**

**EXPLORE OUR HERITAGE  
VILLAGE BUILDINGS FURNISHED  
TO THE TIME PERIOD OPEN TO  
THE PUBLIC**

**HISTORICAL REENACTORS  
AND ACTIVITIES  
THROUGHOUT THE  
WEEKEND**

**ADDRESS: 249 W. 2ND STREET  
LOCKPORT, IL  
FOR MORE INFORMATION: 815.838.5080  
OR [INFO@WILLHISTORY.ORG](mailto:INFO@WILLHISTORY.ORG)**

**MAY 20TH 10:00 TO 5:00  
Catholic Mass 5:30  
(Bring your own chair)  
MAY 21ST 10:00 TO 4:00**