

The Outpost

The Newsletter of the Salt Creek Civil War Round Table
Vol. LXI No. 3 November 2023



564th Regular Meeting

DATE: **SATURDAY**, November 18, 2023
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: **"Vicksburg After the Fall"**
SPEAKER: Gene Salecker

"With the capture of Vicksburg in July 1863, the Bluff City became a Union citadel within the Confederacy, accessible only via the Mississippi River. Turned into a major Union supply base, Vicksburg was the main starting point for a number of Union expeditions or raids throughout the rest of the war. At the same time, the city became a haven for thousands of liberated enslaved people. And at the very end of the war, Vicksburg became a way station for Union ex-prisoners-of-war being sent back home from Andersonville and other Confederate prisons. On November 18, you will hear "the rest of the story" concerning the city Abraham Lincoln famously called "the Key" to the Confederacy."

Gene Salecker, a well-known collector of Sultana artifacts and photographs, has been compiling data on the disaster since 1978. He is the author of the new book *"Destruction of the Steamboat Sultana: The Worst Maritime Disaster in American History"*. Gene previously authored *"Disaster on the Mississippi: The Sultana Explosion April 27, 1865"* and has also written many articles about the Sultana for Civil War Magazines.

He also has an interest in World War II history authoring *"Rolling Thunder against the Rising Sun: The Combat History of the U.S. Army Tank Battalions in the Pacific in WW II."*, *"Fortress against the Sun: The B-17 Flying Fortress in the Pacific"*, and *"The Second Pearl Harbor: The West Loch Disaster, May 21, 1944"*.

Mr. Salecker is a native of Chicago and graduate of Northeastern Illinois University. A retired police officer and middle school teacher, he is currently the historical consultant for the Sultana Disaster Museum, Marion, Arkansas.

UPCOMING CIVIL WAR EVENTS

Check with the organization sponsoring the program for meeting status.

November 10, 2023

Chicago CWRT will feature Ernest Dollar presenting "Hearts Torn Asunder: Trauma in the Civil War".

Holiday Inn O'Hare, 5615 N. Cumberland, Chicago.

chicagocwrt.org

November 10, 2023

Kenosha Civil War Museum will feature Richard Kane presenting "Wisconsin Civil War Soldiers with Jewish Heritage" at noon.

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

November 11, 2023

Rosehill Cemetery Veterans Day Ceremony at 11am at the May Chapel.

November 12, 2023

Northwest Indiana CWRT will feature Fr. Robert Miller presenting "Forgotten Footnotes: Vicksburg Victims of Sickness and Disease".

Crown Point Community Library

Northwest Indiana CWRT on Facebook

November 14, 2023

McHenry Co. CWRT will feature Greg Cole presenting "a Topic to be Determined".

Woodstock Library

www.mchenrycivilwar.com

November 18, 2023

Kenosha Civil War Museum will feature Tom Arliska presenting Grant at Fort Donelson and Shiloh". 1-2 pm.

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

November 21, 2023

Lincoln/Davis CWRT will feature Bob Grenier presenting "Civil War Veterans".

Country House Restaurant, Alsip, IL

lincolndavisroundtable@yahoo.com

December 1, 2023

Northern Illinois CWRT will feature Robert Girardi presenting "Stonewall Jackson: The Man, the Myth and the Legend."

Arlington Hts. Historical Museum

www.northernilcwrt.org

December 4, 2023

Rock River Valley CWRT will feature Robert Girardi presenting "Stonewall Jackson: The Man, the Myth and the Legend."

Veterans Memorial Hall, 211 N. Main Street. Rockford, IL.

December 8, 2023

Chicago CWRT will feature Scott Mingus presenting "Texans at Chickamauga".

Holiday Inn O'Hare, 5615 N. Cumberland, Chicago.

chicagocwrt.org

ALL FOR THE UNION

ELECTION TIME IS HERE. Anyone interested in running for office or joining the board of directors contact Cindy Heckler or Jan Rasmussen.

Volunteers are needed for the December Meeting's Memorabilia/Show & Tell
Contact Rob Girardi @ cvlwarguy@aol.com

Welcome New Members

Steve Rudzinski and John Horn

FUTURE SALT CREEK CWRT MEETINGS

Check us out on Facebook and at saltcreekcwrt.org
Meetings are held at the Glen Ellyn History Center at 11am

November 18, 2023

Gene Salecker will present "Vicksburg After the Fall".

December 16, 2023

Rob Girardi will host "Memorabilia Show and Tell". **Volunteers needed.**

Contact Rob @ cvlwarguy@aol.com

January 20, 2024

Steven Alban will present "The Election of 1860: How Lincoln Really Got Elected".

BACK IN HISTORY

50 Years Ago: Dr. Gerhard Clausius presented "Stephen A Hurlbut: Lincoln's Friend".

25 Years Ago: Cindy Intravartolo presented: "John Buford: Union Cavalry Commander, To Live and Die for the Union".

10 Years Ago: Robert Girardi presented "The Engineers at Fredericksburg".

THE SALT CREEK CWRT

President: Cindy Heckler

Vice-President: Rick Zarr

Secretary-Treasurer: Jan Rasmussen

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

Historian: Cindy Intravartolo

Newsletter Staff: Brian Conroy & Jan Rasmussen

Facebook and Website Editor: Brian Conroy

November 2023 Preservation Report

by Brian Conroy, CIG

As we enter the month of November, let's give thanks that so many people and organizations are dedicated to preserving so many battlefields and hallowed grounds so that our history can be used by future generations. We are going to examine three locations this month in Gettysburg, Lookout Mountain, and Eutaw Springs, S.C. that are victories of restoration and preservation made by the American Battlefield Trust. The Trust's mission has been to save battlefield land and restore the landscape after decades of neglect and development in order to use it to teach and inspire future generations.

HOLE IN ONE: After years of visitors driving past the abandoned and overgrown Mulligan McDuffers Adventure Golf & Ice Cream Parlor in Gettysburg National Military Park, members and donors of the Trust removed the adventure park structures, hauled away old concrete and grading the land to lay down soil and grass seed at the site of an important position on the Union right flank during the Battle of Gettysburg. On the afternoon of July 2, 1863, in addition to artillery pieces of the 1st New York Light Artillery Battery M, positioned on the edge of the property, 14 cannons were placed on Power's Hill in conjunction with 10 more nearby artillery pieces to the north along Baltimore Pike. The cannons on this land covered the Union right—specifically the low ground to the south of Culp's Hill known as Spangler's Spring and Spangler's Meadow, which Confederate Gen. George Steuart called, after the seven-hour battle near Culp's Hill on July 3rd, "artillery hell." But after restoration work is completed, visitors can envision cannons and caissons located on the ground and the command of "Fire!" rather than "Fore!" being issued.

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN: For decades, a former 1940s travel motel blemished approximately an acre of land next to the Chickamauga-Chattanooga National Military Park. But in June 2023, the Trust was able to demolish the motel and lay down sod to restore the field. Confederate Gen. Braxton Bragg used the strong position of Lookout Mountain to pin the Union army at Chattanooga, but on November 24, 1863, after the Union capture of Orchard Knob, Gen. Joseph Hooker attacked the Confederate left. The Wauhatchie Pike, through which this tract was part of the main road over the mountain, was also a route of Confederate retreat that helped lead to Union success at Missionary Ridge on November 25.

EUTAW SPRINGS: The Battle of Eutaw Springs on September 8, 1781, was the last major engagement of the Revolutionary War in the Carolinas. It contains a now centuries old oak tree that was a witness to the battle, as fighting initially erupted a little over three miles west of the site, when Gen. Nathanael Greene's column surprised a British patrol and foraging party. The now-imposing tree then saw the nation and its people transform, including its surroundings which until this summer included modern features like a house, car port and chain link fence. But with the generous help of members, donors and partners, the surrounding landscape has been restored to a grassy field reminiscent of September 1781.