

The Outpost

The Newsletter of the Salt Creek Civil War Round Table
Vol. LVIX No. 3 November 2020



534th Regular Meeting

DATE: Friday, November 20, 2020
PLACE: Confines of your own home.
Due to Covid restrictions the meeting will be via zoom
TIME: 7:30 p.m.
TOPIC: "Abraham Lincoln and the Common Soldier"
SPEAKER: Robert Girardi

U.S. Presidents are the commander in chief of the military. Historically, most have had some military experience, and several generals have risen to the office based on their wartime exploits and reputation. Although Abraham Lincoln had the flimsiest military experience, he was commander in chief during our most critical national emergency. There was not a day of his presidency in which Lincoln was not with or near soldiers. He interacted with them, and cared deeply for their welfare. Lincoln came to be revered as "Father Abraham," by the Union Army during the Civil War. This is a discussion of that process.

Robert I. Girardi has a Masters Degree in Public History from Loyola University. He is a lifelong student of the American Civil War and has studied all aspects of the conflict. He is a past president of the Chicago CWRT and is the author or editor of nine books, and numerous articles and book reviews.

He was a board member of the Illinois State Historical Society and was guest editor for the 2011-2014 Sesquicentennial of the Civil War issues of the *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society*. His most recent article, "Reconsidering Major General Gouverneur K. Warren," appeared in the July 2020 issue of North & South Magazine. He is currently working on a military biography of Warren.

He is a recipient of the Chicago CWRT's Nevins-Freeman Award (2010), and the Milwaukee CWRT Iron Brigade Association Award (2014). He speaks to audiences of all ages on various aspects of the Civil War. For more information, his website is www.robertgirardi.com

Rob's other books are:

Capt. H.W. Chester, Recollections of the War of the Rebellion, (Wheaton History Center, 1996)

The Military Memoirs of General John Pope (UNC Press, 1998)

The Memoirs of Brigadier General William Passmore Carlin, (Univ. of Nebraska Press, 1999)

The New Annals of the Civil War, (Stackpole, 2004)

The Soldiers' View (Military History Press, 2004)

Campaigning with Uncle Billy: The Memoirs of Sgt. Lyman Widney, 34th Illinois Volunteer Infantry, (Trafford, 2008)

The Civil War Art of Keith Rocco (Crimson Books, 2009)

Gettysburg in Art and Artifacts (Crimson Books, 2010)

The Civil War generals: Comrades, Peers, Rivals in Their Own Words (Zenith Press, 2013)

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81093730978?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81093730978?pwd=ZCt4RU9QUTBsK3dqSzhKVWtqdHlkQT09)

pwd=ZCt4RU9QUTBsK3dqSzhKVWtqdHlkQT09

Meeting ID: 810 9373 0978

Passcode: 302506

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,81093730978#,,,,,0#,,302506# US (Chicago)

OCTOBER MEETING UPDATE BY ART FOLEY

October's zoom meeting featured James Heinz's presentation "None but the Brave, The Civil War Medals of Honor". Mr. Heinz related the chronology of the establishment of this honor, initially for enlisted personnel, then expanded to include officers. The medal is bestowed on individuals, living or dead, whom have performed extraordinary heroism during war by the Congress of the United States. Not to be confused with the Congressional Gold Medal, the MOH is bestowed either through documentation from the chain of command or by a special act of Congress.

The MOH was the sole medal in existence for the army during the Civil War and was awarded only for actions performed in battle. The Navy awarded their medal not only for combat events but also for heroism in non-combat situations.

Showcased with a fact-filled, (and fast moving), power point, numbers of individuals who received the honor were listed for the various services, as well as for different categories of actions that resulted in the medal's bestowal during and in the years after the war.

Qualifications for awarding some of the medals in both the war and post-war years came to be considered so suspect, that the requirements were stiffened during the McKinley administration. Some individuals had to return medals that did not achieve the stringent guidelines then set.

Mr. Heinz spent time citing whom was first awarded these medals per service, medals received by black soldiers, females, brothers, father's sons, youngest, oldest (Daniel Sickles), posthumously, (such as Alonzo Cushing, who also qualified for the last of the Civil War citations), individuals who received multiple awards, (Tom Custer), and the units that received the most individual medals. Thank you to Mr. Heinz for an informative and enjoyable presentation. Huzzah!

NOVEMBER 2020 PRESERVATION REPORT BY BRIAN CONROY

On September 30, 2020, after 21 years as President of the American Battlefield Trust and preserving thousands of acres of battlefields, Jim Lighthizer retired and stepped down into a lifetime position on the Board of Trustees as President Emeritus. In tribute to his extraordinary service to the organization and the movement to save America's hallowed ground, The American Battlefield Trust has introduced The Jim Lighthizer Legacy Fund in his honor, which will support three high priority projects that hold special places for Jim.

Gaines' Mill and Cold Harbor Battlefields

The Virginia land where two major battles took place – Gaines' Mill in 1862 and Cold Harbor in 1864 – contains the most important unprotected Civil War hallowed ground anywhere in America. Residential and commercial development is relentlessly rolling like a tidal wave outward from Richmond toward this hallowed ground.

The Legacy Fund is truly “building a battlefield” at these two major Richmond-area Civil War sites, by adding crucial pieces of the puzzle that will eventually result in a well-preserved battlefield.

The Liberty Trail

Many historians consider the Revolutionary War to have been decided in the swamps, fields, woods and mountains of the South, won by the resilience and determination of Continental soldiers and Patriot militia. Although the full story of the Southern Campaigns is not widely known, the events of 1779-1782 in the Carolinas directly led to an American victory in the war. The Trust has been working in concert with local partners in South Carolina to right this wrong by creating The Liberty Trail. Our goal is to preserve nearly 1,000 acres of South Carolina Revolutionary battlefield, accompanied by state-of-the-art interpretation, in time for the nation's 250th birthday celebration beginning in 2026.

The Maryland Campaign

Antietam wasn't just the largest battle to occur in Jim's home state of Maryland; it was also the single bloodiest day in American history. The battle of Antietam was also a major turning point in the Civil War, as it thwarted Robert E. Lee's first invasion of the north, and acted as the catalyst for President Lincoln's preliminary Emancipation Proclamation.

Much work has been devoted to preserving the four primary battlefields of that 1862 campaign – Antietam, South Mountain, Harpers Ferry and Shepherdstown – but the effort to complete the picture of this pivotal epoch in American history is far from over.

The Lighthizer Legacy Fund hopes to build on the incredible progress made under Jim's leadership by completing these three projects of particular passion and historical significance. Support of this Fund honors Jim's years of dedication and makes a valuable contribution to our nation's shared history.

BACK IN HISTORY

50 Years Ago: Jerry Warshaw presented: "Civil War Movie Night"

25 Years Ago: Don Sikorski presented: "Camp Douglas and the Dedication of the Confederate Monument"

10 Years Ago: Jerry Feinstein, Dan McCarthy & Rob Girardi hosted the Annual Battlefield Preservation Auction

UPCOMING CIVIL WAR EVENTS

Check with the organization sponsoring the program for meeting status

November 19, 2020

South Suburban CWRT will feature David Cannon presenting "Iowa Confederate Soldiers"
South Suburban CWRT on Facebook (ZOOM MEETING)

December 4, 2020

Northern Illinois CWRT will feature Tim Smith presenting "Grierson's Raid"
www.northernilcwr.org (ZOOM MEETING)

December 11, 2020

Chicago CWRT will feature David Powell presenting "Union Command Failure in the Shenendoah"
www.chicagocwr.org (ZOOM MEETING)

December 15, 2020

Lincoln/Davis CWRT will feature David Keller presenting "Civil War Prisons"
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>

FUTURE SALT CREEK CWRT MEETINGS

Check us out on Facebook and at saltcreekcwr.org

December 18, 2020

Brian Conroy will present "The First Michigan Engineers"

January 15, 2020

Art Foley will present "The Battle of Honey Springs"