

The Outpost

**The Newsletter of the Salt Creek Civil War Round Table
Vol. LX No. 3 November 2022**



554th Regular Meeting

DATE: **SATURDAY**, November 19, 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: "The Election of 1864"
SPEAKER: Bruce Allardice

Perhaps the one fleeting chance the Confederacy had to win the war occurred in 1864, when Northern voters were forced to decide, by their votes, whether to continue the war. The contest between President Lincoln, committed pro-war Republican, and Democrat George McClellan, uncertain in politics as he was in generalship, played out against a backdrop of the ever-widening war, was perhaps the most important election in U.S. history. Did McClellan have a real chance to win? If he had won, what might have been the consequences for the war, and for the Union? Expect some unexpected answers from this talk.

A professor of history at South Suburban College, Bruce S. Allardice is a past president of both the Civil War Round Table of Chicago and the Northern Illinois CWRT. Prof. Allardice has authored and co-authored six books and numerous articles on the Civil War. A former Board Member of the Illinois State Historical Society, Prof. Allardice has presented numerous lectures and presentations on the Civil War and genealogy for Civil War Round Tables, museums and civic organizations. He is also the recipient of the CWRT of Chicago's prestigious Nevins-Freeman Award for distinguished service in Civil War Scholarship and the CWRT movement.

An avid sports historian, Prof. Allardice currently heads up the "Civil War Baseball" subcommittee for the Society of American Baseball Research (SABR) and is a member of SABR's Biography Committee, specializing in researching the lives of 19th Century ballplayers. Prof. Allardice is a graduate of the University of Illinois and the University of Illinois School of Law and a lifelong resident of the Chicago area.

ALL FOR THE UNION

Thanks to Rob Girardi, Jan Rasmussen and Karen Gustafson for their help setting up for the Annual Book Sale last month. Thanks to those who purchased books and helped clean up. Over \$800 was raised for Battlefield Preservation.

50 DVDs from Frank Crawford's collection are on display at the Fiery Gallery at the Kenosha Civil War Museum. Thanks for sharing Frank!

The Rosehill Cemetery Veterans Day Remembrance scheduled on Saturday, November 12th has been cancelled.

UPCOMING CIVIL WAR EVENTS

Check with the organization sponsoring the program for meeting status

November 15, 2022

Lincoln/Davis CWRT will feature John Horn presenting "Lee Besieged"
Country House Restaurant, Alsip, IL
Lincolndavisroundtable@yahoo.com

November 17, 2022

South Suburban CWRT will feature Diana Dretscke presenting "The 96th Illinois"
Trail's Edge Brewery, 20 Kansas Street, Frankfort, IL.
South Suburban CWRT on Facebook

December 2, 2022

Northern Illinois CWRT will feature David Powell presenting "The Tullahoma Campaign"
Arlington Hts. Library
northernilcwrt.org

December 9, 2022

Chicago CWRT will feature Gary Adelman presenting "The Midwest Civil War Photo Extravaganza"
Holiday Inn O'Hare, 5615 N. Cumberland, Chicago (In Person & Zoom Presentation)
chicagocwrt.org

The Civil War Round Table of Chicago's Annual Battlefield Tour will feature The Red River Campaign. The tour is May 3-7, 2023

For information and itinerary Email us at CWRT2023Tour@ChicagoCWRT.org.
The tour is limited to one bus with capacity for 50 attendees.

November 2022 Preservation Report

By Brian Conroy

The American Battlefield Trust had assumed the duty to not only to save the vulnerable hallowed ground targeted by development, but also to restore those lands to their authentic wartime appearance, so they can fulfill their destiny as true outdoor classrooms and preserve our hallowed battlefields. The ABT is pursuing preservation goals this year during the 160th anniversary at three major engagement locations: Antietam, Fredericksburg, and Harpers Ferry. These restoration projects will amount to a total bill of approximately \$240,000, which will be funded by a newly created special Battlefield Restoration Fund to raise the money required through a \$2-to-\$1 match to complete all three restoration projects on time, as well as others that are planned at many sites across the nation. These projects would remove all non-historic structures and restore the property to its original appearance within 3 to 5 years, which was planning on beginning work by the end of September.

This month's report highlights the third preservation project at the Antietam battlefield, which was the site of the bloodiest day in American history. The goal at this site is to eliminate an empty, rapidly degrading non-historic house and outbuildings at the heart of the battlefield a short distance from the Visitor Center. This restoration will require approximately \$25,000 on what is generally considered to be one of the most beautiful, pristine and well-preserved Civil War battlefields.

Near Antietam Creek, and the nearby town of Sharpsburg, Gen. Robert E. Lee chose to make a last stand to salvage his Maryland Campaign after battles at South Mountain and Harpers Ferry. Lee positioned his men near three defensible stone bridges on September 15, he waited for Gen. McClellan to arrive with his forces that were set into motion on September 16. At dawn on September 17, vicious Union and Confederate attacks and counterattacks occurred across the West Woods and Miller's cornfield, as Lt. Gen. Stonewall Jackson's Confederate forces held their ground near the Dunker Church against numerical superiority. Elsewhere on the battlefield, towards the center, Union assaults against the Sunken Road pierced the Confederate center after a terrible struggle, which unfortunately was not followed up with further advances, leading the Union defenders to abandon their position. In the afternoon, Maj. Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside's Ninth Corps pushed over a bullet-strewn stone bridge that bears his name today. Burnside's assault that began to collapse the Confederate right were halted by Maj. Gen. A.P. Hill's division that arrived after a long march from Harpers Ferry.

More than 22,000 casualties are a result at the Battle of Antietam, overwhelming doctors as badly needed supplies are brought in by nurse Clara Barton, the "Angel of the Battlefield." As both armies continued to move south while skirmishing, eventually Lee removed his men across the Potomac, thus giving the north a claimed strategic victory that President Lincoln used to issue his preliminary Emancipation Proclamation, marrying the Union cause to the destruction of slavery, causing foreign powers to decline allying themselves with the Confederacy.

It also caused Lincoln to lose faith in General McClellan, due to his failure of pursuing Lee. Weeks later, Gen. Burnside is named commander of the Army of the Potomac.

FUTURE SALT CREEK CWRT MEETINGS

Check us out on Facebook and at saltcreekcwr.org

Meeting are held at the Glen Ellyn History Center at 11am

December 17, 2022

Jan Rasmussen will present: "Civil War in the Northwest: The Dakota Uprising"

January 21, 2023

Jonathon Sebastian will present: "The Valley Campaign of 1864"

February 18, 2022

Paul Wood will present: "General Lee's War"

BACK IN HISTORY

50 Years Ago: Orland Roberts presented: "A Look at Collecting Civil War Relics".

25 Years Ago: Jan Rasmussen presented: "Minnesota in the Civil War".

10 Years Ago: No meeting was scheduled

THE SALT CREEK CWRT

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