

The Outpost

**The Newsletter of the Salt Creek Civil War Round Table
Vol. LIV No. 3 November 2015**



484th Regular Meeting

DATE: Friday, November 20, 2015
PLACE: Oak Trace, 200 Village Drive, Downers Grove, IL
TIME: 8:00 p.m.
TOPIC: “The Chicago German Contribution to the Battle of Gettysburg:
The 82nd Illinois Infantry Regiment”
SPEAKER: Dan Josephs

The speaker at our November meeting is Dan Josephs, a Salt Creek CWRT member and author of the Battlefield Preservation column in our newsletter. He is an attorney and has his own law practice. Dan does Social Security disability cases, mainly for the homeless and indigent individuals, prepares wills and trusts, represents executors and trustees in decedents’ estates, and represents clients buying and selling residential real estate. Dan is also a member of the Chicago CWRT (since 1981) and the Northern Illinois CWRT. Dan’s interest in the Civil War began during family visits to battlefields. Dan’s father has a great interest in the Civil War and has attended various talks at our round table. Dan also traces his interest in the Civil War to Bruce Catton’s Civil War trilogies. When he was young, Dan brought these books everywhere including Boy Scout campouts. Dan and his wife Abbe have been married for 32 years. They have visited many battlefields during the 150th anniversary and have a cat named Joshua after Col. Joshua Chamberlain.

Dan’s program will be a biography of the 82nd Illinois Infantry Regiment. The original reason for his interest in the 82nd Illinois Infantry was that it was the only Illinois Infantry Regiment present in the Army of the Potomac at the Battle of Gettysburg, Dan’s favorite battlefield. His talk will focus on the make-up of the 82nd which primarily consisted of native born Germans. This regiment was one of the two Union infantry regiments that had a company of Jewish soldiers who referred to themselves as Israelites. A large percentage of the soldiers came from the metropolitan Chicago area. Dan will trace the history of the regiment from its first battle at Chancellorsville to the Grand Review in Washington.

SUMMARY OF THE OCTOBER MEETING BY JAN RASMUSSEN

“How DuPage County Won the Civil War (With a Little Help from General Grant and Some Others)” was the program presented by Dr. David Maas on October 16th. The program was held at the Glen Ellyn History Center enabling the Round Table to hold its Annual Book Sale for Battlefield Preservation. Approximately 60 people attended. More than half of the attendees were members of the GEHS. Hopefully some will be attending future Salt Creek meetings at Oak Trace.

Dr. Maas, Professor Emeritus of History at Wheaton College has done extensive research on DuPage County in the Civil War. On April 15, 1861 President Abraham Lincoln called for 75,000 volunteers to serve for 3 months. The population of DuPage County was 14,701. 575 men from DuPage County answered the call. Six of these men were from Danby, known today as Glen Ellyn. The first volunteer from DuPage County was John Bell Winfield who served with the 10th Illinois Infantry. By the first week of May enough DuPage County men had enlisted to fill Company K of the 13th Illinois Infantry. Those unwilling to wait for the regiment to form joined regiments in other areas, especially the 7th Illinois Infantry. As the war continued President Lincoln called for more troops. 30 Danby students from Wheaton College served in Co. F of the 105th Illinois Infantry. Company E of the 8th Illinois Cavalry had 14 men from Danby. Company H of the 141st Illinois Infantry had 13 men from Danby and the 105th Illinois Infantry had 10 men from Danby. Dr. Maas also noted several men from DuPage County who distinguished themselves during the war. Downers Grove resident Wells Blodgett of the 105th Illinois Infantry received the Congressional Medal of Honor. John Wesley Powell lost an arm at Shiloh. Later on in life he was the first person to explore the Colorado River. Danby resident Lt. Marcellus Jones of the 8th Illinois Cavalry is credited with firing the first shot at Gettysburg. Men from DuPage County served in nine different regiments during the war. The war forced the people of DuPage County to confront a host of difficult problems as the enthusiasm during the spring of 1861 faded into the reality of a long and costly struggle. DuPage County always met its quota during the war and drafting men was never necessary. We thank Dr. Maas for an enlightening program relating to the participation of our local boys and men in the Civil War.

PRESERVATION REPORT BY DAN JOSEPHS

As you probably know, the Civil War Trust is constantly attempting to preserve various parcels of Civil War battlefield land. In this month's column the focus is on the Civil War Trust's battlefield preservation efforts at the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park. This park was the first Civil War Military Park created on August 19, 1890 by Congressional legislation.

As you know, this Civil War Military Park contains land where two battles were fought in 1863, the Chickamauga battle, fought in September and the Chattanooga battle campaign fought mainly from October to November of 1863. There are two parcels of real estate that the Civil War Trust is trying to preserve. One parcel of land consists of 30 acres located in the area of Reeds Bridge which crosses Chickamauga Creek. In 2013 the Civil War Trust purchased and preserved 109 acres of land that included the Reed's Bridge, a small parcel of land just east of the bridge and a large parcel of land located west of the bridge. The Confederates under General Bushrod Johnson approached from the east and attacked the

Union cavalry force under Colonel Robert Minty that was holding Reed's Bridge. A part of the Chicago Board of Trade artillery was assisting the Union cavalry unit defending the bridge.

The parcel that the Civil War Trust is trying to purchase and preserve is a parcel of land located adjacent to and approximately east of the land preserved in 2013. The action at Reed's Bridge opened the Chickamauga battle in September of 1863. The Reed's Bridge real estate was privately owned until the Civil War Trust's action in 2013. For many years the ranger staff at the battlefield has designated Reed's Bridge as the prime target of battlefield preservation in order to interpret it for the visitors.

The other parcel of real estate targeted by the Civil War Trust is a 12 acre parcel of land located on the Brown's Ferry Battlefield across the Tennessee River from Chattanooga. The Union Army of the Cumberland had been besieged by the Confederate Army of the Tennessee and food and supplies were scarce for the Union troops. General Ulysses Grant, in charge of the Union troops, planned to create a new supply line, called the Cracker Line, to feed the Union troops in Chattanooga. General George Thomas sent troops of the Army of the Cumberland floating across the river on many rafts downstream from the city to seize an area called Brown's Ferry. These troops slipped past the Confederate pickets located on Lookout Mountain and drove back the Confederate soldiers defending Brown's Ferry. Other Union troops crossed and helped defend the area. The pontoon bridge was constructed across the Tennessee River and the Cracker Line was established. This enabled the Union troops to eventually defeat the Confederate Army of Tennessee at the end of November of 1863.

The land at Brown's Ferry battlefield has always been privately owned. There are no historical interpretive signs in the area. A couple of years ago, I tried to locate Brown's Ferry with an issue of the Blue-Gray magazine, but I was unsuccessful. This twelve acre plot of land will be the first of the Brown's Ferry battlefield to be preserved.

As always the Civil War Trust has amassed a large percentage of the funds needed to purchase these two parcels of land. The total purchase price of these 42 acres of land was \$691,000, but the amount of money that still needs to be raised to complete the purchase price is \$120,500 (only about 17% of the purchase price). This is exciting news on the preservation front, since it will enable the rangers to be able to interpret for visitors two parcels of land that have never been interpreted previously. All of the information used for this column came from different articles and maps on the Civil War Trust website.

BACK IN HISTORY

50 Years Ago: November 1965, Author H.L. Long spoke on "The Navy in the Civil War"

25 Years Ago: November 1990, Max and Donna Daniels presented "An Evening with Mr. & Mrs. Lincoln" at our annual banquet.

10 Years Ago: November 2005, Roger Bohn spoke on "The Union Brigade in the Civil War"

5 Years Ago: November 2010, Jerry Feinstein and Dan McCarthy hosted The Annual Auction for Battlefield Preservation

ALL FOR THE UNION

Thanks to members who donated books for our Annual Book Sale, especially Art Foley, Rob Girardi, and Bruce Allardice and thanks to those who made purchases. The Book Sale took in \$360.

Thanks to Weldon Johnson for setting up the room for Book Sale at the Glen Ellyn History Center.

UPCOMING CIVIL WAR EVENTS

NOVEMBER 17, 2015

LINCOLN-DAVIS CWRT

"Junius and Albert's Adventures in the Confederacy"

Speaker: Peter Carlson

Country House Restaurant, Alsip, IL
Lincolndavisroundtable@yahoo.com

NOVEMBER 19, 2015

SOUTH SUBURBAN CWRT

"General Gouverneur K. Warren"

Speaker: Rob Girardi

sscwrt@gmail.com

DECEMBER 4, 2015

NORTHERN ILLINOIS CWRT

"Custer in the Shenandoah"

Speaker: Kevin Connelly

Arlington Hts. Historical Museum
110 W. Fremont St., Arlington Hts.
Northernilcwrt.org

DECEMBER 11, 2015

CHICAGO CWRT

"Camp Douglas"

Speaker: Dave Keller

NEW LOCATION: Holiday Inn O'Hare
5615 N. Cumberland, Chicago
dinnerreservations@chicagocwrt.org

DECEMBER 15, 2015

LINCOLN-DAVIS CWRT

"Stones River & the Tullahoma Campaign"

Speaker: Chris Kolakowski

Country House Restaurant, Alsip, IL

FUTURE SCCWRT MEETINGS

December 18, 2015

"The Lost Cause"

Speaker: Larry Gibbs

January 15, 2016

"The Real Warren Never Got into the Books"

Speaker: Robert Girardi

February 19, 2016

"Women in Black—Mourning Customs During The Civil War"

Speaker: Jill Silbert

THE SALT CREEK CWRT

www.saltcreekcwrt.org

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Jan Rasmussen,

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STATE OF THE UNION

In the past November has been election month. Actually there has not been an election in over 20 years. Volunteers have come forward to help keep this organization running. Our membership has remained around 70 for a number of years. We are currently working on a Slate of Officers for 2016. VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED. The future of the Round Table is dependent on members.