

# The Outpost

**The Newsletter of the Salt Creek Civil War Round Table  
Vol. LVIII No. 3 November 2019**



**527th Regular Meeting**

**DATE:** Friday, November 15, 2019  
**PLACE:** Oak Trace, 200 Village Drive, Downers Grove, IL  
**TIME:** 8:00 p.m.  
**TOPIC:** “Re-electing Lincoln-How the 1864 Election Resulted in the  
the Abolition of Slavery”  
**SPEAKER:** Bill Shepherd

The 1864 Presidential Election was the most important election in American history. It would decide if the nation was to be permanently divided between the Union states and the Confederate states. Or would it be reunited as one nation? Plus would the nation continue to allow slavery and was slavery going to expand into all the other states? Or would it be abolished completely by amending the constitution? As election day approached, President Lincoln was not expected to be reelected as President. Rather the former Union Army General, George McClellan was expected to win the presidential election and sweep into office many of his Copperhead supporters to state and federal office. The last part of the presentation will focus on the Illinois General Assembly and its role in the ratification of the Thirteenth Amendment on February 1, 1865, making Illinois the first state to do so.

Bill Shepherd is a graduate from the University of Nebraska (undergraduate and Law School) His career as a lawyer includes working in the Office of the Illinois Attorney General, the Illinois General Assembly as Legal Counsel to the Senate Republican Leader and he recently retired from the Law Department of State Farm Insurance. He is a member of the the Chicago CWRT, the Theodore Roosevelt Association, the International Winston Churchill Society, and a member of the Board of Directors of the Abraham Lincoln Association since 2006. Bill and his wife Mary reside in Lake Bluff, Illinois.

**There is a new driveway in the front of the building that leads to a parking lot.  
If you need assistance parking, please ask at the front desk or call 630-401-6699.**

## **November 2019 Preservation Report By Brian Conroy**

Greetings! I know it's been some time since we've met, but let's get into another great opportunity to learn about what has going on with the preservation of Civil War battlefields. In the past, my preservation reports have reported on what the American Battlefield Trust has been doing to preserve many battlefields and the amount of matching grants to fund those preservation efforts. However, I thought in the future we could expand our vision from this one organization and look at others that are in the process of preservation as well. One of those organizations is the Conservation Fund, which although they mainly focus on environmental conservation, their preservation of many natural areas contains battlefields of both the American Revolution and the American Civil War.

As they mention about their organization's goals towards preserving these places, "There are a total of 384 principal Civil War battlefields, designated by the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission back in 1993. The condition of these battlefields is alarming: more than 220 of them are not protected. Of the 162 that have protection, some are large enough to honor the soldiers and to enable visitors to understand the battle—others are too small or fragmented. The successes in battlefield preservation today are the result of efforts by both the private and public sectors. The Fund has been able to protect land at 83 battlefields in 14 states. Many of these projects have been made possible through our Civil War Battlefield Campaign. This campaign enables us to work in partnerships to protect land, provide comprehensive information on the 384 principal Civil War battlefields and to honor those that fought and died in the war."

The Conservation Fund has many partners that they work with to preserve multiple Civil War locations in many different states. One of those is the great state of Mississippi, where the Fund and its partners are upholding both the natural and the historic legacy of the state for generations to come to preserve the state's cultural heritage. Since 1985, they have protected more than 8,000 acres, with the locations they have preserved being the purchase of an easement over 200 acres in the area of the Confederate retreat at Champion Hill; Battery F, one of the many fortifications around Corinth built by the Federal Army after the city's capture in May 1862 and successfully held against Confederate attacks; Black River Battlefield at Vicksburg, where U. S. troops massed before their three-minute bayonet charge that defeated the Confederates on May 17, 1863, enabling General Grant to close in on Vicksburg the next day; and a 623-acre conservation easement on important buffer lands in the Port Gibson Civil War Battlefield, site of the first major battle of the critical Vicksburg Campaign.

Again, this is only the beginning of exploring other preservation organizations to help get a wider view of how large the world of preservation truly is. And don't forget that Salt Creek CWRT is very focused on continuing the work of preservation of Civil War battlefields.

We are currently working on a Slate of Officers for 2020. **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!**  
**The future of Round Table is dependent upon the participation of the membership.**

## **UPCOMING CIVIL WAR EVENTS**

NOVEMBER 14, 2019  
**SOUTH SUBURBAN CWRT**  
"History, Role and Evolution of the  
American Battlefield Trust "  
Speaker: Mary Abroe  
Smokey Barque, 20 Kansas St.  
Frankfort, IL  
[www.southsuburbancwrt.com](http://www.southsuburbancwrt.com)

NOVEMBER 19, 2019  
**LINCOLN/DAVIS CWRT**  
"The War Outside My Window"  
Speaker: Janet Croon  
Country House Restaurant, Alsip, IL  
[lincolndavisroundtable@yahoo.com](mailto:lincolndavisroundtable@yahoo.com)

DECEMBER 6, 2019  
**NORTHERN ILLINOIS CWRT**  
"Leonidas Polk & the Fate of Kentucky  
in 1861"  
Speaker: Rob Girardi  
Arlington Hts. Memorial Library  
[northernilcwrt.org](http://northernilcwrt.org)

DECEMBER 8, 2019  
**McHENRY COUNTY CWRT**  
Holiday Luncheon featuring  
The Battlefield Balladeers  
Woodstock Country Club  
[www.mchenrycivilwar.com](http://www.mchenrycivilwar.com)

DECEMBER 13, 2019  
**CHICAGO CWRT**  
"Musings of a Collecting Voyeur"  
Speaker: Daniel Weinburg  
Holiday Inn O'Hare  
5615 N. Cumberland, Chicago  
[dinnerreservation@chicagocwrt.org](mailto:dinnerreservation@chicagocwrt.org)

DECEMBER 17, 2019  
**LINCOLN/DAVIS CWRT**  
"A Family and Nation Under Fire"  
Speaker: Georgiann Baldino  
Country House Restaurant, Alsip, IL  
[lincolndavisroundtable@yahoo.com](mailto:lincolndavisroundtable@yahoo.com)

## **ALL FOR THE UNION**

The SCCWRT website is back.  
Brian Conroy has taken over the SCCWRT  
Facebook Page.

The Annual Book Sale took in nearly \$400.  
Thanks to those who helped at the sale.  
And Thanks to those who purchased books.

## **BACK IN HISTORY**

**50Years Ago**: Dan Lapinski presented:  
"The Life of Cassius Clay"

**25 Years Ago**: Kevin Naughton presented  
"The Siege of Petersburg"

**10 Years Ago**: Annual Book Auction  
featuring Jerry Feinstein & Dan McCarthy

## **FUTURE SCCWRT MEETINGS**

December 20, 2019  
"Mysteries of the CSS Hunley"  
Speaker: Bruce Allardice

January 17, 2020  
"Battle of Honey Springs"  
Speaker: Art Foley

February 21, 2020  
"The Sultana Disaster"  
Speaker: Gene Salecker

## **THE SALT CREEK CWRT**

[www.saltcreekcwrt.org](http://www.saltcreekcwrt.org)  
President: Cindy Heckler  
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