

# The Outpost

The Newsletter of the Salt Creek Civil War Round Table  
Vol. LVX No. 2 October 2021



## 543rd Regular Meeting

DATE: **SATURDAY**, October 23, 2021  
PLACE: Glen Ellyn History Center (N.W. Corner of Main & Elm Streets)  
800 N. Main Street, Glen Ellyn, IL  
**Annual Book Sale For Battlefield Preservation 11am-2pm**  
PROGRAM: **"Chicago's Memory of the Civil War" at 2pm**  
SPEAKER: Robert Girardi

Robert Girardi will be speaking about Chicago and its relationship with the Civil War. This presentation will be about the Windy City's portrayal of the Civil War in its public art, parks, and cemeteries and how the memory and significance of these events has changed over time.

Robert I. Girardi has a Masters Degree in Public History from Loyola University. A lifelong student of the American Civil War, he 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, 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](http://www.robertgirardi.com)

### Live/Zoom Presentation at 2pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89450251892?pwd=MnZ3NXZSaUh2SE1PN0IKZINhekFXZz09>  
Meeting ID: 894 5025 1892      Passcode: 479400

## **UPCOMING CIVIL WAR EVENTS**

Check with the organization sponsoring the program for meeting status

October 19, 2021

**Lincoln/Davis CWRT** will feature Mark Pohlad presenting "Lincoln in American Art"  
Country House Restaurant, Alsip, IL

October 28, 2021

**South Suburban CWRT** will feature Don McArthur presenting "The 8<sup>th</sup> Illinois Cavalry"  
South Suburban CWRT on Facebook

November 3, 2021

**Kankakee Valley CWRT** will feature John Horn presenting "The 39<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry in Virginia"  
Bradley Public Library, Bradley, IL

November 5, 2021

**Northern Illinois CWRT** will feature Will Rhine presenting "U.S. Marines"  
[northernilcwrt.org](http://northernilcwrt.org)

November 6, 2021

**Two Old Goats** in Cedar Lake, IN will feature Brian Conroy presenting "The Northwest Territory"  
[rzarr@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rzarr@sbcglobal.net)

November 9, 2021

**McHenry Co. CWRT** will feature Don Hatch presenting "Road Trippin' Thru History"  
Woodstock Library  
[mchenrycivilwar.com](http://mchenrycivilwar.com)

November 12, 2021

**Chicago CWRT** will feature Tom Clemens presenting "Joseph K. Mansfield"  
Holiday Inn O'Hare, 5615 N. Cumberland, Chicago (In Person & Zoom Presentation)  
[chicagocwrt.org](http://chicagocwrt.org)

November 16, 2021

**Lincoln/Davis CWRT** will feature Rick Shaus presenting "Lee is Trapped"  
Country House Restaurant, Alsip, IL  
[lincolndavisroundtable@yahoo.com](mailto:lincolndavisroundtable@yahoo.com)

November 18, 2021

**South Suburban CWRT** will feature Dennis Doyle presenting "The Irish Birgade at Gettysburg"  
South Suburban CWRT on Facebook

## **ALL FOR THE UNION**

Thanks to Rick Zarr, Jan Rasmussen, Bruce Allardice, Cindy Heckler, Sharon Maher, Nancy Fritz and Rob Girardi for their participation at the Civil War Show in Wheaton. Besides promoting the Chicago area Civil War Round Tables, \$175 was raised for Battlefield Preservation. Huzzah!

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 [saltcreekcwrt.org](http://saltcreekcwrt.org)

Oak Trace has suspended in person meetings until further notice. The November & December meetings will be held at the **Glen Ellyn History Center**.

November 19, 2021

David Keller will present: "Command at Antietam" at the Glen Ellyn History Center.

December 17, 2021

Gordon Ramsey will present: "Balloons in the Civil War: How the Air Force Really Began"

## **BACK IN HISTORY**

**50 Years Ago:** Lloyd Miller presented "The Battle of Franklin".

**25 Years Ago:** Art Foley presented "The Battle of Westmont".

**10 Years Ago:** Ron Carlson & Steve Horton presented a discussion on "The Great What-Ifs of the Civil War"

## **THE SALT CREEK CWRT**

President: Cindy Heckler

Vice-President: Rick Zarr

Secretary-Treasurer: Jan Rasmussen

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

Historian: Cindy Intravartolo

Newsletter Staff: Jennie Warner, Brian Conroy & Jan Rasmussen

Facebook and Website Editor: Brian Conroy

## **October 2021 Preservation Report**

**By Brian Conroy**

As we continue through fall and another season of great Civil War discussions and presentations, we are also continuing with our four part series on preservation efforts that will cover the course of a little more than two years and five battles across three states in the Western Theater that changed the course, and ultimately, the outcome of the American Civil War. These tracts of land, which there is an opportunity to save, was fought fiercely over by both Union and Confederate forces, and controlled the means of transportation in the south on the river and by railroad. The donation match is \$9.27-\$1, and the ultimate goal is \$307, 450.

The second part of our series will cover a 144-acre tract that is at the heart of the Battle of Champion Hill, and was secured through generous support to meet a fundraising goal for a conservation easement to prevent future development as future descendants retain ownership of the family land that they have farmed for five generations. The Champion family, who have faithfully protected their ancestral lands since the fighting took place a century and a half ago, agreed to let the Battlefield Trust acquire a large parcel of land measuring 393.7 acres at the northern portion of the battlefield. Saving the Champions' land from commercial development or new housing projects is what is best for this tract so this important chapter of our nation's history can be available to future generations.

On May 16, 1863, General Grant's army was marching unchecked through Mississippi following their capture of Jackson, Mississippi. Confederate General John C. Pemberton left the Vicksburg defenses, meeting federal forces in a fierce struggle halfway between Jackson and Vicksburg, the hopes of preventing the Federals from severing the railroads that fed the fortress city. The two armies met that day in a ferocious firefight that raged primarily over a 3-mile line of covered roads on high ground owned by Sid and Matilda Champion. In the ensuing struggle, Pemberton stretched his line to meet the Federal troops that were bent on outflanking him, Union brigades were nearly swept away by a counterattack led by the division of Brig. Gen. John Bowen, and Bowen's men were driven off as Grant ordered men towards the hill, compelling a retreat of Confederate troops.

This victory, along with another at Big Black River the following day, forced Pemberton's Confederates into a doomed position inside the walled fortifications of Vicksburg, thus setting the stage for the siege that ended with the city's capitulation on July 4, 1863.

All told, these four decisive battles in this series, contributed to victory after victory for Union forces, and the capture and control of strategic locations where railroad lines were and the Mississippi River flowed, contributed to the eventual conclusion of the American Civil War.

**COME TO THE BOOK SALE AND SUPPORT BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION!**