

The Outpost

The Newsletter of the Salt Creek Civil War Round Table
Vol. LX No. 2 October 2022



553rd Regular Meeting

DATE: **SATURDAY**, October 15, 2022
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-1pm
PROGRAM: **"John Eugene Smith: Galena's Forgotten General" at 1pm**
SPEAKER: Robert Girardi

Galena, Illinois was a lead-mining and riverboat port in northwestern Illinois during the Civil War era. The town boasted nine generals who served in the war, most famously, Ulysses S. Grant. But another general was arguably more important in the early days of the war. This is his story.

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

COME TO THE BOOK SALE AND SUPPORT BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION!

UPCOMING CIVIL WAR EVENTS

Check with the organization sponsoring the program for meeting status

October 18, 2022

Lincoln/Davis CWRT will feature Gene Salecker presenting "Forrest's 1864 Railroad Raid"
Country House Restaurant, Alsip, IL
Lincolndavisroundtable@yahoo.com

October 27, 2022

South Suburban CWRT will feature Robert Girardi presenting "Abraham Lincoln and the Common Soldier"
Trail's Edge Brewery, 20 Kansas Street, Frankfort, IL.
South Suburban CWRT on Facebook

November 4, 2022

Northern Illinois CWRT will feature Phil Angelo presenting "Morgan's Raid"
Arlington Hts. Library
northernilcwr.org

November 8, 2022

McHenry Co. CWRT will feature Doug Dammann presenting "Benjamin Franklin White, Surgeon 1st Wisconsin Infantry"
Woodstock Library
mchenrycivilwar.com

November 11, 2022

Chicago CWRT Nevins Freeman Address featuring Mary Abroe presenting "Historic Preservation and Civil War Battlefields: An American Story"
Holiday Inn O'Hare, 5615 N. Cumberland, Chicago (In Person & Zoom Presentation)
chicagocwr.org

November 12, 2022

Veterans Day Ceremony at 11am at Rosehill Cemetery

November 16, 2022

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

November 18, 2022

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

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ALL FOR THE UNION

Thanks to Rick Zarr, Jan Rasmussen, Rob Girardi, Brian Conroy, Dan McCarthy, Cindy Heckler, and Sharon Maher for their participation at the Civil War Show in Wheaton. Besides promoting the Chicago area Civil War Round Tables, \$240 was raised for Battlefield Preservation. Huzzah!

On Saturday, November 12th there will be program honoring Veterans at 11am at Rosehill Cemetery.

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

November 18, 2022

Bruce Allardice will present: "The Election of 1864"

December 19, 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"

BACK IN HISTORY

50 Years Ago: Richard Blake presented "A Look at Lincoln".

25 Years Ago: Lori Mahoney presented: "Joshua Chamberlain: Lion or Liar?".

10 Years Ago: Auction for Battlefield Preservation featuring Jerry Feinstein, Dan McCarthy and Rob Girardi

THE SALT CREEK CWRT

President: Cindy Heckler

Vice-President: Rick Zarr

Secretary-Treasurer: Jan Rasmussen

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

Historian: Cindy Intravartolo

Newsletter Staff: Brian Conroy & Jan Rasmussen

Facebook and Website Editor: Brian Conroy

October 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. Often, it is required to restore the land before it can be transferred to another entity, such as the National Park Service or a state park. This is what the ABT is facing this year during the 160th anniversary of three major engagements at their battlefields: 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 will highlight the second project, which is at Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. Confederate [Gen. Robert E. Lee](#) launched the [Maryland Campaign](#) in the fall of 1862, intent on attracting both European support for the Confederacy and gaining recruits for his army. However, once he learned that the 13,000-man garrison under Col. Dixon Miles at Harpers Ferry had begun preparations to hold their positions rather than retreat, Lee feared that they could hamper with his communication and supply lines. And as part of his issuance of Special Order 191, he then sent Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson to capture the garrison at Martinsburg before continuing on to besiege the garrison and town of Harpers Ferry. Miles deployed his men into four brigades, sending his main force to defend Bolivar Heights, his weakest brigade to defend Maryland Heights, and inexperienced militia to Camp Hill, while ignoring Loudoun Heights, due to deeming its steep rise not worth believing the Confederates would maneuver artillery up it.

Beginning on the morning of September 13th, Confederate forces flanked the Union forces and forced them down Maryland Heights, planted artillery on Loudoun Heights, and eventually, on the morning of September 15th, Confederate forces ceased their artillery bombardment and moved forward with a coordinated infantry assault on Miles' men that forced them to take shelter in trenches and ravines. Eventually, during a meeting with his subordinates, Col. Miles' leg was shattered by a cannonball, and the garrison surrendered a short time later, which was the largest surrender of American troops until World War II.

The preservation agreement concerning Harpers Ferry that has been signed to remove an auto repair shop, former gas station, and a commercial office building from the property will fully cost no less than \$90,000.