

# The Outpost

The Newsletter of the Salt Creek Civil War Round Table  
Vol. LVII No. 2 October 2018



## 516th Regular Meeting

**DATE:** Friday, October 19, 2018  
**PLACE:** Glen Ellyn History Center, 800 Main Street)  
(N.W. Corner of Main and Elm Street)  
**TIME:** 5:30 p.m. Dedication of Marcellus Jones First Shot Marker  
Ward Plaza (Corner of Main St. and Geneva Road)  
6:00 p.m. CIVIL WAR BOOK SALE  
8:00 p.m. Program  
**TOPIC:** “The Changing Memory of the Civil War”  
**SPEAKER:** Robert Girardi

In the years after the Civil War, people on both sides of the conflict sought to find the meaning in the great cost and sacrifice of the Civil War. The legacy of the war meant different things to different people, but in general, most wanted the sacrifice to be remembered and honored. As the veterans aged, they wanted their grandchildren to understand the war. Monuments were erected in town squares, battlefields were preserved, and thousands of books were written. As time passed, the bitterness of the sectional strife gave way to a sanitized celebration of heroism and reconciliation. The larger issues were shunted aside. The legacy of the war passed into the hands of the descendants, and with the passage of time, the monuments and symbols lost their meaning. Today, those once revered symbols are reviled by some, and the monuments are being taken down. How did this happen? Should it?

Rob is an author, historian, popular speaker and consultant on the American Civil War to audiences of all ages. He earned his Master's Degree in Public History at Loyola University in Chicago. He is past president of the Civil War Round Table of Chicago and past vice president and former newsletter editor of the Salt Creek CWRT. He is on the Board of Directors of the Illinois State Historical Society. Rob is the 2010 recipient of the Chicago CWRT's Nevins Freeman Award for scholarship and service. He was the keynote speaker at the rededication of the Illinois monument at Andersonville. Rob has authored or edited nine books as well as numerous articles and book reviews.

## **SEPTEMBER MEETING REPORT BY ART FOLEY**

Welcome back to all after our summer hiatus! I hope your time away was enjoyable and productive. For our September meeting Dr. Samuel Blackwell presented a session entitled "Deadly Encounter: The Ambush of the 8<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Cavalry at the Battle of Chancellorsville." The stage was set by prefacing the change of leadership in the Army of the Potomac from Ambrose Burnside to Joseph Hooker. Hooker revitalized the low morale of the army and initiated many changes. The quality of these reorganizations was a rejuvenation to the force. Hooker's next movements would result in the Chancellorsville campaign. While the plan had merit, Hooker overreached by sending George S. Stoneman and the majority of the army's cavalry on a sweeping raid, (ultimately unsuccessful in its own right). In a desire to position the cavalry troopers behind the southern forces' avenues of escape, Hooker removed his protective screen and reconnaissance elements protecting the army's left flank. The discovery by JEB Stuart's horsemen of the unguarded and unfortified 11<sup>th</sup> Corps' flank, enabled elements of Thomas Jackson's famous flank march. When the flank attack commenced and the 11<sup>th</sup> Corps collapsed, the stage was set for Dr. Blackwell's tale.

Of the several cavalry units left with the army, the 8<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Cavalry, commanded by Major Pennock Huey was positioned somewhat in the center of the Union's front on the road by Hazel Grove. Officers and enlisted men were dismounted, resting and involved with leisurely pursuits, (i.e. poker, letter writing, sleeping, ect.). This unit was unaware of several events: first, they were in what was described as an acoustic shadow. All heck was breaking loose very close to their position, but they could not hear the sound of the battle. Second, when a courier from O.O. Howard arrived with orders for the men to move as a blocking unit to stem the flood of his Corps, they mounted quickly and moved into the maelstrom completely unaware. Field officers were clustered at the front of the column. In no time what so ever the advancing elements of Rhode's Corps and the horsemen blundered into each other. To say there was confusion would be a vast understatement. Huey commands his men to "Draw Sabers" and charge as Rhode's men simultaneously fired a volley into the column's front. Major Keenan received 5 wounds and fell to the dirt road dead. There was a mass of reeling horsemen and screams from the wounded mounts. Huey escaped death due to his horse taking several bullets in its neck screening its rider. Searching for escape, Union troops moved off the road to the north through the brush away from the collision. In the elapsed 36 seconds the unit lost four officers, thirty-five enlisted men and some eighty mounts. Moving away from the advancing rebels, the troops reformed and spent the rest of the fight scouting and screening the retreat of the army.

In the post war period, Huey, a successful merchant, wrote a book on his unit to refute some unfounded charges from Alfred Pleasanton. The book, still available is titled "A True History of the Charge of the Eighth Pennsylvania Cavalry at Chancellorsville".

If you have not read Dr. Blackwell's book on the 12<sup>th</sup> Illinois Cavalry, "In the First Line of Battle, The 12<sup>th</sup> Illinois Cavalry in the Civil War. (Northern Illinois Press), please do, it is wonderful. I believe that Dr. Blackwell deserves the True Grit Award since he attended after suffering a recent leg fracture. We appreciate both his presence and his masterful presentation. Huzzah!

## **BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION REPORT**

The American Battlefield Trust is asking for support to be a Citizen Co-Sponsor on H.R. 6108, the "Preserving America's Battlefield's Act. This legislation could provide up to \$20 million per year in matching funds for battlefield preservation, restoration and education.

A copy of H.R. 6108 is included with the newsletter. If you have not already signed it at a meeting, please sign and send it to: American Battlefield Trust

1156 15<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 900  
Washington, DC 20005

The American Battlefield Trust has several projects with matching grants that need your support:

### **THREE 1863 BATTLEFIELDS**      Donation Match: \$2.53 to \$1.

Chancellorsville: 4 acres of Stonewall Jackson's Flank Attack. \$40,000

Brandy Station: St. James Church 2 Acre Tract. \$75,000

Champion Hill: 68 acres. \$120,00

### **THREE 1862 BATTLEFIELDS PROJECT**      Donation Match: \$4.85 to \$1

Hickenlooper's Battery at Shiloh

Randol's Battery at Glendale

Latimer's Battery at Fredericksburg

### **GETTYSBURG**

18 acres on Seminary Ridge: First Day

### **THREE TENNESSE BATTLEFIELDS**      (208 acres)      Donation Match \$21.17 to \$1

Fort Donelson

Brown's Ferry (Chattanooga)

Franklin

### **THREE VIRGINIA BATTLEFIELDS**      (326 acres)      Donation Match \$33.42 to \$1

New Market Heights

North Anna

Second Manassas

### **HELP RESTORE BATTLEFIELDS TO WARTIME APPEARANCE PROJECT**      Donation Match \$2 to \$1

This project works to recreate tree lines and topography that were present at the time of the battles. It helps repair historic structures and tear down non-historic structures. It also adds interpretive signs and walking trails.

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR TRUST'S WEBSITE

## **UPCOMING CIVIL WAR EVENTS**

OCTOBER 16, 2018

### **LINCOLN/DAVIS CWRT**

"Sherman's March to the Sea"

Speaker: Bruce Allardice

Country House Restaurant, Alsip

[lincolndavisroundtable@yahoo.com](mailto:lincolndavisroundtable@yahoo.com)

OCTOBER 20 & 21, 2018

Dollinger Farm Civil War Reenactment

[www.dollingerfarm.com/civil-war](http://www.dollingerfarm.com/civil-war)

OCTOBER 25, 2018

### **SOUTH SUBURBAN CWRT**

"Inland Waters as the Key to Civil War Victory."

Speaker: Ted Karamanski

The Trails End, 20 Kansas St.

Frankfort, IL

[www.southsuburbancwrt.com](http://www.southsuburbancwrt.com)

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### **NORTHERN ILLINOIS CWRT**

"Wisconsin's Secession"

Speaker: Jerry Allen

Arlington Hts. Memorial Library

[www.northernilcwrt.org](http://www.northernilcwrt.org)

NOVEMBER 9, 2018

### **CHICAGO CWRT**

"The Presidency of U.S. Grant:

Preserving the Civil War's Legacy"

Speaker: Paul Kahan

Holiday Inn O'Hare

[dinnerreservation@chicagocwrt.org](mailto:dinnerreservation@chicagocwrt.org)

NOVEMBER 13, 2018

### **McHENRY COUNTY CWRT**

"Fort Pulaski"

Speaker: Gloria Swift

Woodstock Library

[www.mchenrycivilwar.com](http://www.mchenrycivilwar.com)

## **ALL FOR THE UNION**

The SCCWRT website is temporarily down. Brian Conroy has taken over the Salt Creek CWRT Facebook page. Check it out for updates.

Thanks to Rick Zarr, Roger Bohn. Brian Conroy, Bruce Allardice, Cindy Heckler, Sharon Maher, Pat Murphy, Dan McCarthy, John Beale and Jan Rasmussen for their help at the Civil War Show on Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>.

## **BACK IN HISTORY**

50 Years Ago: Allan Aimone presented: "Union Cavalry".

25 Years Ago: Don Sikorski hosted Civil War Tour of Madison Wisconsin

10 Years Ago: Tony Cichantk presented: "Civilians of Gettysburg"

## **FUTURE SCCWRT MEETINGS**

November 16, 2018

"Southern Unionists"

Speaker: Dan McCarthy

December 21, 2018

No Meeting

## **THE SALT CREEK CWRT**

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

President: Cindy Heckler

Vice-President: Rick Zarr

Secretary-Treasurer: Jan Rasmussen

Board Members: Chuck Kurtz, Mike Miller,

Sharon Maher, Brian Conroy, Jon Fritz

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