

# The Outpost

The Newsletter of the Salt Creek Civil War Round Table  
Vol. LIV No. 2 October 2015



## 483rd Regular Meeting

**DATE:** Friday, October 16, 2015  
**PLACE:** Glen Ellyn History Center, 800 N. Main Street  
(Corner of Main and Elm Street)  
**TIME:** 6:30 p.m. Civil War Book Sale  
7:30 p.m. Program  
**TOPIC:** "How DuPage County Won the Civil War (With a Little Help from  
General Grant and Some Others)  
**SPEAKER:** Dr. David Maas

In commemoration of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the American Civil War, Dr. David Maas, Emeritus Professor of History at Wheaton College and author of ***Marching to the Drumbeat of Abolitionism: Wheaton College and the Coming of the Civil War***, will look at our nation's struggle for freedom. Starting with the broad background of the Civil War, he will shift to a close examination of the response in DuPage county which includes stories of a few Glen Ellyn families caught in the vortex of the war.

Dr. Maas taught American history at Wheaton College for 40 years before retiring in 2010. Since his retirement he has served on the advisory board of the Illinois State Historical Society. He has authored numerous scholarly papers, books and more than 25 newspaper columns about the Civil War. Most of his 7 books relate to local history. He has been active speaking to various clubs and libraries on topics relating to the Civil War, DuPage County, Abraham Lincoln and the Underground Railroad.

THE ANNUAL CIVIL WAR BOOK SALE WILL BEGIN AT 6:30 P.M. COME EARLY AND SHOP. PROCEEDS GO TO BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION.

## **SEPTEMBER MEETING SUMMARY BY ARTHUR FOLEY**

For the September SCCWRT meeting, our guest Frank Crawford related the life of Civil War veteran Albert Cashier/Jennie Hodges. Mr. Crawford has discerned, through study of a trove of period correspondence, insights that assist in clarifying how to view Albert's actions and his/ her humanity.

First, Albert believed himself to be a male previous to enlistment. This was not the myth of a ladies quirk to go off to war with the men. Albert, while not biologically, felt he was a man mentally. Second, Cashier, through the description offered through correspondence, evidenced a mix of faults and virtues displayed by any human. While regarded as a good natured being, and overly generous, he sometimes evinced an unpleasant disposition at perceived slights. He curried favor with the officers to acquire less rigorous duties, and has his quirks as a cabin / messmate. Cashier also would pursue sideline activities, laundry work, to acquire extra cash or barter, forming partnerships to achieve goals.

Third, as a comrade, Albert stood his stead with his fellows on campaign even though he maintained a distance from his comrades in elements of every day camp activities. Though he did share a soldier's disposition to heavy profanity Ebb and flow describes Cashier's actions, much the same as any other person, at any other time. Thanks to his era and luck, Cashier avoided scrupulous medical examination, and was free from any battle related injury. In fact it was not until much later in life, when Albert returned and was reabsorbed, like many of his comrades into the post-war society, that his secret was discovered. Even then he had friends that conspired to keep his secret. However this quiet man, who worked odd jobs throughout his life, lived alone peaceably, an accepted member of his community, could not maintain his privacy. The onslaughts of age finally sent him to the Soldiers Home in Quincy, Illinois. There without friends to protect him, his secret was found out. Albert /Jenny was forced into wearing women's clothing and was sent to an asylum for the insane. A sad ending for a stalwart veteran.

The situation of our times that accent a transgender issue can be an opening for our deeper understanding of the humanness of the people who strove to build modern America. Mr Crawford, using first person descriptions, supplied us with a chance to understand an individuality at a level not often encountered in study of the late rebellion.

Thank you to Frank for provide us with such an interesting evening. Huzzah!

## **PRESERVATION REPORT BY DAN JOSEPHS**

In last month's column the five original Civil War battlefields were highlighted. Shiloh was one of these five battlefields; it was created in 1894. Those of you who have visited the Shiloh battlefield know that the battlefield is not very close to an urban area, unlike many of the battlefields located in Virginia. Development, however, is always a threat to the preservation of historical areas, even in southwestern Tennessee.

Battlefield preservation at Shiloh Battlefield began in earnest in 2004. A portion of the acreage of Civil War battlefield land preserved by the Civil War Trust was land located adjacent to the Shiloh battlefield which was turned over to and expanded the Shiloh battlefield military park. The number of acres were preserved was approximately 190 acres.

Additional portions of the Shiloh Battlefield were preserved by the Civil War Trust in 2012, the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Shiloh Battle. The Civil War Trust had previously preserved and acquired 167 acres of land adjacent to the Battlefield in 2007 and 2008. In April of 2012 the Civil War Trust donated this land donated to and made a part of the Shiloh Military Park.

Also, the Civil War Trust announced in April of 2012 that it had completed the purchase of 267 acres of battlefield land located at Fallen Timbers which was the site of the last portion of fighting between the Union and Confederate troops on April 8, 1862. The Civil War Trust announced that they had closed on the purchase of this land and completed the fund raising for this purchase. This real estate was located within the boundaries of the Shiloh National Military Park so it was easily donated to the Military Park.

Also, in 2012 the fundraising campaign was started to preserve a 491 acre plot of Shiloh battlefield. This portion of the battlefield is located in the southeastern corner of the historical battlefield where the Confederates attempted to turn the left flank of the Union line which was adjacent to the Tennessee River. The Union line, including the 55<sup>th</sup> Illinois many of whom were from the Chicago area, was located on a ridge on the first day of the battle. Fierce fighting took place on the first day of the battle. The Confederates were attempting to force the Union troops away from the river, their base of supplies. The Civil War Trust was successful in preserving this large parcel of land.

The current fund raising effort of the Civil War Trust at the Shiloh Battlefield is a parcel of land of 295 acres located on the southwestern portion of the battlefield. This parcel is on a ridge where the right flank of the Union troops under General Sherman was located on the first day of the battle. Extensive fighting between Union Colonel McDowell's brigade and Confederate Colonel Pond's Louisiana brigade took place early on the first day of the battle of Shiloh. Also the land to be preserved was part of the final line of battle of the Confederates on the second day of the battle prior to their retreat at the end of the day. The preservation of this land would also help protect the battlefield from potential development of real estate located west of the Shiloh battlefield. Civil War Trust President Jim Lighthizer indicated that every dollar donated to this fund raising campaign would be matched by \$2.74 of funds. Mr. Lighthizer indicated in a recent article on the Civil War Trust website that most of the Shiloh Battlefield will be preserved once the Civil War Trust completes this fund raising campaign.

The information used to write this column was obtained from the Civil War Trust website and local newspaper articles written about the land preservation efforts at Shiloh. As always, please support the Civil War Land Trust in their battlefield preservation efforts.

## **ALL FOR THE UNION**

Thanks to Rick Zarr, Roger Bohn, Cindy Intravartolo, Bruce Allardice, Ron Carlson, Dan McCarthy, Jon & Nancy Fritz, Jan Rasmussen and Brian Conroy for their help at the Civil War Show.

Bruce Allardice will speak on "Tracing your Civil War Ancestors" October 17<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm at the Zion-Benton Public Library as part of a day-long genealogy symposium.

## **UPCOMING CIVIL WAR EVENTS**

OCTOBER 17 & 18, 2015  
20<sup>TH</sup> Annual Civil War Days  
Dollinger Farms, Channahon, IL  
[www.dollingerfarms.com](http://www.dollingerfarms.com)

OCTOBER 20, 2015  
LINCOLN-DAVIS CWRT  
"Backstage at the Lincoln Assassination"  
Speaker: Tom Bogar  
Country House Restaurant, Alsip, IL  
[Lincolndavisroundtable@yahoo.com](mailto:Lincolndavisroundtable@yahoo.com)

OCTOBER 22, 2015  
SOUTH SUBURBAN CWRT  
"The Custer-Mosby Feud"  
Speaker: Vince Heier  
[sscwrt@gmail.com](mailto:sscwrt@gmail.com)

NOVEMBER 6, 2015  
NORTHERN ILLINOIS CWRT  
"The Sultana"  
Speaker: Gene Salecker  
Arlington Hts. Historical Museum  
110 W. Fremont St., Arlington Hts.  
[Northernilcwrt.org](http://Northernilcwrt.org)

NOVEMBER 10, 2015  
McHENRY County CWRT  
"Building the Lincoln Train"  
Speaker: Bill Herst  
Woodstock Public Library  
[www.mchenrycivilwar.com](http://www.mchenrycivilwar.com)

NOVEMBER 7, 2015  
CIVIL WAR SYMPOSIUM  
"The Civil War Comes to Chicago"  
Speakers: Thomas Campbell, Ted Karamanski, David Keller, Doug Dammann & Robert Girardi.  
Northerly Island, 1521 S. Linn White Drive, Chicago 312-745-2910  
Free Event-Reservations Requested  
[dkeller@campdouglas.org](mailto:dkeller@campdouglas.org)

NOVEMBER 13, 2015  
CHICAGO CWRT  
Nevins Freeman Award Address  
"John Brown: the Spark That Ignited War"  
Speaker: Dennis Frye  
NEW LOCATION: Holiday Inn O'Hare  
5615 N. Cumberland, Chicago  
[dinnerreservations@chicagocwrt.org](mailto:dinnerreservations@chicagocwrt.org)

## **FUTURE SCCWRT MEETINGS**

November 20, 2015  
"The 82nd Illinois Infantry"  
Speaker: Dan Josephs

December 18, 2015  
"The Lost Cause"  
Speaker: Larry Gibbs

January 15, 2015  
"The Real Warren Never Got into the Books"  
Speaker: Robert Girardi

## **THE SALT CREEK CWRT**

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