

The Outpost

The Newsletter of the Salt Creek Civil War Round Table
Vol. LVI No. 2 October 2017



506th Regular Meeting

DATE: Friday, October 20, 2017
PLACE: Glen Ellyn History Center, 800 Main Street
(N.W. Corner of Main and Elm Street)
TIME: 6:30 p.m. CIVIL WAR BOOK SALE
8:00 p.m. Program
TOPIC: “Sherman’s March to the Sea: War Crime or Military Necessity?”
SPEAKER: Bruce Allardice

Many Southerners, at the time and later, labeled William T. Sherman’s “March to the Sea” as a “war crime”, with Sherman singled out as the Civil War’s criminal. Certainly General Sherman was the war’s prime exponent of “hard war”, a war in which civilian lives and property were targeted in the hopes that would break southern morale and infrastructure. Sherman’s own “Make Georgia Howl” rhetoric fueled this image. But is the image correct? Did Sherman’s army violate any recognized usage of war at the time, or was its often destructive path marked out by out-of-the-ordinary atrocities? Professor Allardice reviews the facts of the March, and considers how the “March” has been treated in history.

A professor of history at South Suburban College, Bruce S. Allardice is the past president of both the Civil War Round Table of Chicago and the Northern Illinois CWRT. Prof. Allardice has authored or coauthored six books, and numerous articles on the Civil War. A former Board Member of the Illinois State Historical Society, Prof. Allardice has presented numerous lectures and presentation on the Civil War and genealogy for Civil War Round Tables, museums, and civic organizations. He is also the recipient of the CWRT of Chicago’s prestigious Nevins-Freeman Award for distinguished service in Civil War Scholarship and the CWRT movement. He is a graduate of the University of Illinois and the University of Illinois School of Law.

SEPTEMBER MONTHLY SUMMARY BY ARTHUR FOLEY

Frank Crawford, our September speaker, shared the narrative of the Andersonville prison. In existence from early 1864 until its liberation in May 1865, the prison held approximately 45,000 prisoners of which 13,000 died. Also known as Camp Sumter, the camp left inmates exposed to the elements, complete lack of sanitation, and a water supply, Stockade Creek and Providence Spring, that was inadequate to the demand. All of the supply shortage issues plaguing the Confederacy were combined and heightened at the prison making it a hell on earth.

Captain Henry Wirz, the Swiss born commander of the prisoners attempted to contact the Federal government to restart the exchange system through a prisoner petition, carried by five prisoners to Washington to no avail. In later 1864 prisoners were moved east to various other locations for a period until Sherman's March necessitated their return.

With a lack of rules pertaining to protection of prisoners, a primitive civilization arose in the camp. Groups of criminals banded together to rob, intimidate, and murder their fellows.

These "Raiders" ultimately were overpowered by just men, "Regulators", tried, (with Wirz's approval), and punished. Six prisoners were executed. Their graves lay apart from the mass group of graves and do not receive any honors.

Thanks to Frank for sharing his expertise with our membership. Huzzah!

VACANT CHAIR

Longtime member and friend Joyce Clark passed away September 5th. Joyce along with her late husband Glen were newsletter editors from 1980-1988. Over the years she made many contributions to the round table including support at the Civil War Shows, donations to the annual auction/book sale and her continued attendance at the meetings. We celebrated her 100th birthday last February at the 500th meeting.

VETERANS DAY MEMORIAL

On SATURDAY, November 11th, (not the usual Sunday) Rosehill Cemetery in Chicago will host its annual Veterans Day Memorial to the American Soldier. There will be re-enactors representing all periods in American military history for a tribute. Starting time 10:30am.

DOLLINGER FARMS CIVIL WAR DAYS

October 21 & 22, 2017 Located at 7420 East Hansel Road, Channahon, IL

The CWRT of Chicago 68th Annual Battlefield Tour will be the 1864 Atlanta Campaign. The dates are April 26-29, 2018. For Itinerary and Registration information: cwrt2018tour@chicagocwrt.org.

THE ANNUAL CIVIL WAR BOOK SALE WILL BEGIN AT 6:30 p.m. THERE WILL BE AN ABUNDANCE OF BOOKS DUE TO GENEROUS DONATIONS. BRING A FRIEND! COME EARLY AND SHOP! PROCEEDS GO TO BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION.

UPCOMING CIVIL WAR EVENTS

OCTOBER 19, 2017

LINCOLN/DAVIS CWRT

"The Civil War in the Jackson Purchase"

Speaker: Dan Lee

Country House Restaurant, Alsip

lincolndavisroundtable@yahoo.com

OCTOBER 26, 2017

SOUTH SUBURBAN CWRT

"Food & Agriculture During the Civil War"

Speaker: Doug Hurt

Smokey Barque, 20 Kansas St.

Frankfort, IL

www.southsurburbancwrt.com

NOVEMBER 1, 2017

KANKAKEE VALLEY CWRT

"Meet the Vanishing Woman"

Doug Peterson & Jenny Goran

Kankakee Public Library

NOVEMBER 3, 2017

NORTHERN ILLINOIS CWRT

"TBD"

Speaker: Rob Girardi

Arlington Hts. Memorial Library

500 Dunton, Arlington Hts.

Northernilcwrt.org

NOVEMBER 10, 2017

CHICAGO CWRT

"Antietam"

Speaker: Tom Clemens

Holiday Inn O'Hare

5615 N. Cumberland, Chicago

dinnerreservation@chicagocwrt.org

NOVEMBER 14, 2017

McHENRY COUNTY CWRT

"Elmer Ellsworth & the Zoave Cadets"

Speaker: Doug Dammann

Woodstock Library

www.mchenrycivilwar.com

ALL FOR THE UNION

Thanks to Rick Zarr, Jan Rasmussen, Roger Bohn, Jon & Nancy Fritz, Cindy Heckler, Dan McCarthy and Don Sikorski For their help at the Chicagoland Civil War Show in Wheaton.

Brian Conroy has taken over the Salt Creek CWRT Facebook page. Check it out for updates.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Harry Tram

BACK IN HISTORY

50 Years Ago: Brooks Davis presented:

"The Battle of Perryville"

25 Years Ago: Jerry Feinstein presented:

"Chicago Civil War Cemetery Tour"

10 Years Ago: Paula Walker presented:

"Major General Gouverneur K. Warren and The Battle of Five Forks"

FUTURE SCCWRT MEETINGS

November 17, 2017

"Lincoln and the Gettysburg Address"

Speaker: Don White

December 15, 2017

"Naval Warfare During the Civil War"

Speaker: Roger Bohn

THE SALT CREEK CWRT

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

Historian: Cindy Intravartolo

Newsletter Editor: Jennie Warner

Newsletter Staff: Dan Josephs, Art Foley,

Jan Rasmussen,