

# The Outpost

The Newsletter of the Salt Creek Civil War Round Table  
Vol. LVII No. 1 September 2018



## 515th Regular Meeting

**DATE:** Friday, September 21, 2018  
**PLACE:** Oak Trace, 200 Village Drive, Downers Grove, IL  
**TIME:** 8:00 p.m.  
**TOPIC:** “Deadly Encounter: The Ambush of the 8<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Cavalry  
At the Battle of Chancellorsville”  
**SPEAKER:** Dr. Samuel Blackwell Jr.

The 8<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Cavalry was recruited in Philadelphia and mustered in October 1861. It was attached to the Army of Potomac which it served through all the major campaigns and battles through the surrender at Appomattox. The most notable action of the 8<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Cavalry occurred at Chancellorsville. Dr. Blackwell will speak on the actions which occurred late in the afternoon of May 2, 1863 as a result of Stonewall Jackson’s flank attack on General Oliver O. Howard’s 11<sup>th</sup> Corp. This gallant action was depicted by artist Don Trioani’s painting “The Charge”.

Dr. Blackwell is a retired adjunct professor of history at Northern Illinois University. He has taught courses on the American Civil War, Military History, World War II and Viet Nam. His main area of study has been the Civil War Cavalry. His book, *In the First Line of Battle: A History of the 12<sup>th</sup> Illinois Cavalry* (Northern Illinois University Press, DeKalb, IL, 2002), received the Certificate of Excellence from the Illinois State Historical Society. Among his presentations are those at the George Tyler Moore Center for the Study of the Civil War, Shepherd University, Shephardstown, WV; the Civil War Round Tables of Macoupin, Champaign, Decatur and McHenry Counties, Springfield, South Suburban and Salt Creek. We welcome Dr. Blackwell for his third presentation to our CWRT.

**If you need assistance parking during construction, please ask at the front desk or call the On-Site Transportation & Security Service at 630-401-6699. There are plenty of spaces available.**

## **JUNE MEETING REPORT BY ART FOLEY**

In his address for the dedication of the National Cemetery at Gettysburg, Abraham Lincoln said, “We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this..... The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here have consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract.” In his presentation at the June Banquet, Steve Acker related the actions interested citizens and veterans took to memorialize this hallowed ground.

Shortly after the battle, a site was needed to properly bury the dead. David Wills, a local lawyer was designated by the governor to purchase the land and oversee the construction of the cemetery. By July 23<sup>rd</sup> a site was found. Landscape artist William Saunders designed the cemetery to be a semicircle of graves arranged by states with the placement of the Soldiers National Monument in the center. The National Soldiers Monument was designed by sculptor Randolph Rogers and architect George Keller. General Meade dedicated the monument in 1869.

David McConaghy spearheaded the formation of the Gettysburg Battlefield Memorial Association to preserve portions of the battlefield as a memorial those who fought there. This group compiled the regulations regarding the placement of the monuments. John Bachelder, who interviewed participants of the battle, used his collections of oral histories and accumulated knowledge to assist in placement of the unit markers. He also helped to save the Copse of Trees from the axe and designed the High Water Mark Monument. Dan Sickles used his political clout to place markers and memorials related to his units. In 1895 the one-legged general helped pass a bill establishing the battlefield as a National Park, administered by the war department. The same year codes were designed for the explanative markers and viewing towers (originally 5 in number) were placed on the field.

Since that time the field served as an army camp during WWI and WWII. It hosted numerous reunions of veteran’s groups, notably the 50<sup>th</sup> and 75<sup>th</sup> anniversaries. No memorial rests on the field by chance. Every monuments’ placement tells a story such as the statue of Father William Corby. Cannon fired in the fight are sited on the field. Generals, units and states are memorialized. Monuments of Union states predominated the field at first, but by the end of the 1800’s Southern states were placing monuments until the 1990’s.

Mr. Acker’s descriptions and interpretations were alternatively informative, moving and humorous. A thoroughly enjoyable program for an enjoyable evening. Huzzah!!.

## **DEDICATION OF MARCELLUS JONES’S FIRST SHOT MARKER** **FRIDAY OCTOBER 19<sup>TH</sup> AT 5:30pm.**

Located at Ward Plaza. (Corner of Gena Rd & Main St.) Next to Stacy’s Tavern. The Glen Ellyn Historical Society has commissioned a replica of the monument in Gettysburg that marks the site of Jones’s famous first shot at the battle of Gettysburg. A brief commemoration ceremony will be held at 5:30pm. Refreshments will follow at the history center where you can browse for books for sale at the annual Salt Creek Civil War Round Table Book Sale. At 8pm Rob Girardi will present “The Changing of Civil War Memory”.

## **UPCOMING CIVIL WAR EVENTS**

SEPTEMBER 18, 2018  
LINCOLN/DAVIS CWRT

"Stephen A. Douglas"

Portrayed by: Reg Ankroms

Country House Restaurant, Alsip

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

SEPTEMBER 27, 2018  
SOUTH SUBURBAN CWRT

"Rank Discord: Personality Conflicts  
of the Civil War "

Speaker: Rob Girardi

The Trails End, 20 Kansas St.

Frankfort, IL

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

SEPTEMBER 29, 2018  
Civil War & Military Extravaganza  
DuPage County Fairgrounds  
[www.ChicagoCivilWarShow.com](http://www.ChicagoCivilWarShow.com)

OCTOBER 5, 2018  
NORTHERN ILLINOIS CWRT

"Civil War Cartoons"

Speaker: Bob Schultz

Arlington Hts. Memorial Library

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

OCTOBER 9, 2018  
McHENRY COUNTY CWRT

"Chesapeake & Ohio Canal in the CW"

Speaker: Charlie Banks

Woodstock Library

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

OCTOBER 12, 2018  
CHICAGO CWRT

"The Civil War as an Indian War"

Speaker: Ted Karamanski

Holiday Inn O'Hare

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

## **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, Dan VanHaften, Mike Miller & Jan Rasmussen for their help at the

Lombard CW Reenactment on July 21<sup>st</sup>.

## **BACK IN HISTORY**

50 Years Ago: Lloyd D. Miller presented:  
"The Second Day at Gettysburg".

25 Years Ago: Bill Sullivan presented:  
"William Quantrill"

10 Years Ago: Maryann Oblak presented:  
"Colonel Fremantle and His 3 months in the Confederacy"

## **FUTURE SCCWRT MEETINGS**

October 19, 2018  
"The Changing Memory of the Civil War"  
Speaker: Rob Girardi  
Annual Battlefield Preservation Book Sale  
Glen Ellyn History Center

November 16, 2018  
"Southern Unionist"  
Speaker: Dan McCarthy

## **THE SALT CREEK CWRT**

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

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