

The Outpost

The Newsletter of the Salt Creek Civil War Round Table
Vol. LVIV No. 1 September 2020



532nd Regular Meeting

DATE: Friday, September 18, 2020
PLACE: Confines of your own home.
Due to Covid restrictions the meeting will be via zoom
TIME: 8:00 p.m.
TOPIC: *"The Buzzard Regiment-The Story of the 8th Wisconsin"*
SPEAKER: Jerry Allen

Oak Trace has suspended use of the meeting room due to Covid Restrictions. Presentations for the rest of 2020 will be virtual. Access details to come later.

The Iron Brigade is the most celebrated Civil War unit from Wisconsin, however that fame is spread among 3 regiments. When it comes to an individual regiment, the most famous is the 8th Wisconsin Infantry Regiment. When we look at war records and statistics, the 8th Wisconsin is a bit above average among the Wisconsin regiments. However, this regiment had the most famous mascot of any Civil War unit. Old Abe was a young bald eagle that served for three years with the 8th Wisconsin. Some of his fame came from being named after President Lincoln and from the fact that our national bird was a bald eagle. But for the most part, Old Abe's popularity was the result of knowing how to work a crowd and draw attention. Another reason for Old Abe's fame is that many people chose to embellish his story with imaginary feats. Old Abe became a super hero with powers beyond that of any mortal eagle. Confederate soldiers and sympathizers were not fond of Old Abe. They gave the eagle various derisive names. Probably the worst was "Yankee Buzzard", but Old Abe was above the name calling and proudly carried on.

But Old Abe is not the total story of the 8th Wisconsin, Jerry Allen will talk to us about various soldiers and leaders of the 8th and the experiences they had going off to war, fighting in 39 battles where they had successes and failures.

Jerry Allen grew up on a farm in LaCrosse County, Wisconsin, with a predominantly Norwegian heritage. He attended the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse with a BS degree in Mathematics and Physics and received a MS degree in Mathematics from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Jerry is retired, having worked 40 years as pension consultant in Atlanta and Chicago. Jerry and his wife Ellen, live in Cary, Illinois during summer and fall and in Hoover, Alabama during the winter & spring.

Although not a professional historian, Jerry has had a life long interest in history with a special interest in the Civil War. He is a member of various Civil War Round Tables, including Salt Creek CWRT and a past president of Chicago and Northern Illinois CWRTs.

ALL FOR THE UNION

The Civil War Show at the DuPage County Fairgrounds on September 26, 2020 has been canceled. The Spring Show is scheduled on April 24, 2021.

The Salt Creek CWRT donated \$1000 to the American Battlefield Trust in memory of longtime members Lyn Pewitt and Gil Mitchell who passed away during the summer.

UPCOMING CIVIL WAR EVENTS

September 24, 2020

South Suburban CWRT will feature David Powell speaking on "Grant at Chattanooga" (zoom)
South Suburban CWRT on Facebook

October 2, 2020

Northern Illinois CWRT will feature David Keller presenting "Camp Douglas" (zoom)
northernilcwr.org

October 9, 2020

Chicago CWRT will feature Stuart Sanders presenting "Perryville Under Fire" (zoom)
chicagocwr.org

October 16, 2020

Salt Creek CWRT will feature Jim Heinz presenting "None But the Brave: The Story of the Medal of Honor" (Zoom) The Annual Battlefield Preservation Book Sale is canceled

The Civil War Round Table Congress is sponsoring a series of virtual Civil War Lectures.

To view the schedule visit: <http://www.cwrtcongress.org/lectures.html>

The Kenosha Civil War Museum is also sponsoring virtual programs.

To view the schedule visit: <https://museum.kenosha.org/civilwar/events>

SEPTEMBER 2020 PRESERVATION REPORT BY BRIAN CONROY

After a long interlude due to the worldwide madness going on, welcome back to the new season of Salt Creek CWRT. It looks like this season will be virtually on Zoom, so make sure you tune in for your monthly dose of the American Civil War. This month's preservation opportunity is to save 3 acres in the famed West Woods at the Antietam Battlefield, the site of the costliest day in American history. With our support, these crucial acres can be protected from any future potential development at this major battlefield. Join us to protect this sacred hallowed ground for future generations.

Saving these 3 acres at Antietam amounts to a total transaction value of \$310,000. Because this land is situated inside the official boundary of the battlefield, it is not eligible for any of the traditional matching-grant sources we would normally use. Thankfully, a few major donors have generously stepped forward cover half the cost! If we can raise the last \$155,000, a \$2-to-\$1 match of your donation dollar can preserve this land forever.

Some of the heaviest fighting in the entire Civil War took place on the land the American Battlefield Trust is trying to save in the West Woods, where numerous Confederate brigades launched their advances toward the Dunker Church.

Sergeant William Andrews of the 1st Georgia later recalled that portion of the field:

"You could hear laughing, cursing, yelling and the groans of the wounded and dying, while the awful roar of musketry was appalling. Where the line stood, the ground was covered in blue, and I believe I could have walked on them without putting my feet on the ground."

One glance at the maps shows you how essential this tract is, and why it is imperative that we save it, not only to honor the courage, valor, and gallantry of American soldiers, but to protect this critical day in American history.

The Battle of Antietam not only altered the course of the War, it turned the tide of the story of our nation. It marked the end of George McClellan's Civil War career, while at the same time ending the South's hope for foreign political recognition.

It gave Abraham Lincoln the victory he needed to issue the Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation. Antietam can be called – without exaggeration – one of the most important, significant, and pivotal battles in the history of the world.

And today, with everything going on, we still have the opportunity within our reach to save one of the most important, significant, and pivotal unprotected tracts of land here.

MORE INFORMATION WILL BE EMAILED SOON REGARDING LOGGING INTO ZOOM.