

The Outpost

The Newsletter of the Salt Creek Civil War Round Table
Vol. LIII No. 1 September 2015



482nd Regular Meeting

DATE: Friday, September 18, 2015
PLACE: Oak Trace, 200 Village Drive, Downers Grove, IL
TIME: 8:00 p.m.
TOPIC: “Jennie/Albert—Another Look at a Civil War Hero”
SPEAKER: Frank Crawford

There have been several hundred documented cases of women disguised as men fighting for both the North and South during the Civil War. One of the most famous is Jennie Hodgers who fought the entire war as a man. She continued to live as a man and was not discovered until a few years prior to her death at the age of 71.

Not much is known about Hodgers’ early life. She was born on December 25, 1843 in Clogherhead, County Louth, Ireland. On August 6, 1862, Hodgers, a resident of Belvidere, Illinois, enlisted in the 95th Illinois Infantry under the name Albert Cashier. Although she was the shortest soldier in the regiment and kept mostly to herself, Hodgers was accepted as “one of the boys” and considered a good soldier. She served a full three year enlistment and mustered out with the regiment on August 6, 1865. After the war she settled in Saunemin, IL and continued to masquerade as a man.

Mr. Crawford will present Jennie/Albert’s story with the aid of letters from former comrades in the regiment. Much has been “conjectured” about Albert—very little confirmed. Much “conjecture” has been altered to myth, but Frank will present solid proof about much of Albert’s personality and personal activity.

Frank Crawford is a member of four Civil War Round Tables in Illinois and three in Florida. He has articles published in Illinois Magazine, Civil War Times Illustrated, America’s Civil War and Civil War Magazine. He has authored several books *Proud to Say I am a Union Soldier* and *My Dear Wife: The Civil War Letters of Pvt. Samuel Pepper, Co. G, 95th Illinois Infantry 1862-1865*. His most recent publication is *In the Shadows of Lincoln and the Civil War: Average Men in Uncommon Situations*.

JUNE MEETING SUMMARY BY ART FOLEY

Greg Biggs entertained the membership at the June Banquet with a rousing account of the campaign for Forts, Henry and Donelson. Describing how U.S. Grant, with the cooperation of Adm. Foote, launched the excursion into the valleys of the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers in 1862 which not only ruptured the Confederate defensive line, but opened the way into the middle Tennessee region. Albert Sydney Johnson had to admit the sham that posed as a southern defensive strategy and moved rebel forces into southern areas of Tennessee.

Recounting the adverse placement of Ft. Henry, the naval forces took the works, with some damage, that were succumbing to rising waters. The navy was not as fortunate at Fort Donelson. Advancing on the river the ironclads sailed into an artillery storm that was difficult to answer and ran ruin on the vessels and crews. Infantry was moved forward to invest the works.

After forming a cordon around doing the fort, Grant went to confer with Adm. Foote. This would be the first instance of Grant being absent while a full-fledged attack on his forces would be incurred. What an attack it was! McClelland's troops bore the brunt of the Confederate breakout led by General Pillow. This attack opened an escape route to Nashville, at which point Pillow marched his men BACK into the works for resupply.

Grant, arriving on the scene kept his cool demeanor and moved forces to close the exit. He also has Gen. C.F. Smith move his division to invest the west flank of the outer works.

With Union troops in a position to sweep not only the fort but the commanding river artillery position, it became clear that surrender was the humane choice. Of course fearing retribution for their treason both Floyd, (by row boat), and Pillow, (by steamer with two regiments of Virginia troops), escaped from the fort. Nathan Bedford Forrest took out over 800 of his cavalry through an eastern path, which scholars believe could have offered a route for greater numbers, if not for Buckner's prohibition on his forces to make it of use.

Buckner then had to suffer the personal humiliation of Grant's terms for unconditional surrender. This event had several effects: the loss of over 13000 men and their supplies to the Confederacy, the opening of the path to Nashville, and the growth of the U.S. Grant persona.

Mr. Biggs recounted all of these events with delightful anecdotal references, and keen insight, thus providing mental sustenance complimentary to the food and fellowship of the evening!

Three cheers for him and for those who helped provide another wonderful June Banquet meeting. Huzzah! Huzzah! Huzzah!

PRESERVATION REPORT BY DAN JOSEPHS

I hope that all of you had a good summer. Hopefully you will be able to come to of the group's meetings this year.

The 150th anniversary of the surrender of the last Confederate army occurred in early June of this year. General Kirby Smith surrendered the last major Confederate force still in existence

on June 2, 1865. During the last 4 ½ years the National Park Service supervised incredible celebrations of the various battles of the Civil War. There were many walking tours, lectures, and other memorable events put on by the National Park Service. My wife and I were very fortunate to have attended several of these 150th Anniversary events. The number of people attending these anniversary events was staggering. The National Park Service brought in Rangers from various national parks to do the tours and talks at each of these events. I remember watching the people on one of the walking tours at the 150th anniversary of Gettysburg wind up and down East Cemetery Hill and up Culp's Hill. This was only one tour.

Although the 150th Anniversary of the various battles of the Civil War is over, there are other anniversaries to observe, namely in the 125th anniversaries of the creation of the oldest Civil War battlefields. The first five Civil War Battlefields that were preserved were the Gettysburg Battlefield, the Chickamauga/Chattanooga Battlefields, Antietam Battlefield, Shiloh Battlefield and Vicksburg Battlefield. Congress through legislation established each of these battlefields during the 1890's. On August 19, 1890 Congress passed legislation creating the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park. This was the first Civil War Military Park created. Last month the Chickamauga/Chattanooga National Military Park observed the 125th Anniversary of the establishment of the first American Battlefield Military Park.

The Gettysburg National Military Park was created by Congressional legislation and signed by the President in February of 1895. The original bill in Congress to establish Gettysburg Military Park was introduced by Congressman and General Daniel Sickles in December of 1894. General Sickles was completing his Congressional term in the US House. According to the law creating the military park, the boundaries of the Gettysburg Park were based on a map drawn by General Sickles. The "Sickles Map" was used to establish the boundaries of Gettysburg for almost 80 years until 1974 at which time Congress authorized the acquisition of additional land to be added to the Gettysburg Military Park.

The Shiloh Battlefield Military Park and the Vicksburg Battlefield Military Park were created later during the decade of the 1890's. The Antietam Battlefield was also established soon thereafter. A major reason for the creation of these five military parks was due to the efforts of the Civil War veterans in the late 1880's; they expressed concern that the landscapes of these battlefields were changing due to development and other reasons. The veterans did not want their and their comrades' incredible sacrifice to be forgotten. The U.S. War Department administered these oldest battlefields. A Commission was set up for each battlefield to set up the lines of battle on the battlefields. Many Civil War veterans served on these Commissions, including General Sickles on the Chickamauga/Chattanooga Battlefield. The Civil War veterans also were very involved in the creation of monuments for the various battlefields.

President Franklin Roosevelt in 1933 by two executive orders transferred these Civil War Military Parks and the monuments from the US War Department to the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior. The National Park Service was created on August 25, 1916 by a Congressional act and signed by President Woodrow Wilson. The National Park Service will be observing its own 100th Anniversary next year in 2016 throughout their national parks. Please support the Park Service.

ALL FOR THE UNION

September 19th Civil War and Military Extravaganza at DuPage County Fairgrounds. Volunteers needed Contact Jan 630-830-7614 jrbarns@sbcglobal.net or Sign-up at Sept 18th meeting

The October 16th meeting at the Glen Ellyn History Center will also host the Annual Book Sale. Bring donations to the Sept. meeting or contact Jan to allow time to sort and price the items.

UPCOMING CIVIL WAR EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 15, 2015
LINCOLN-DAVIS CWRT
"The Last Days of Stonewall Jackson"
Speaker: Chris Mackowski
Country House Restaurant, Alsip, IL
Lincolndavisroundtable@yahoo.com

SEPTEMBER 24, 2015
SOUTH SUBURBAN CWRT
"The Civil War on the Great Lakes"
Speaker: Ted Karamanski
sscwrt@gmail.com

OCTOBER 2, 2015
NORTHERN ILLINOS CWRT
"The Petersburg Campaign"
Speaker: John Horn
Arlington Hts. Memorial Library
500 N. Dunton, Arlington Hts.

OCTOBER 9, 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
chicagocwrttdinner@earthlink.net

OCTOBER 13, 2015
McHENRY COUNTY CWRT
"Black Hawk War Veterans in the CW"
Speaker: Jerry Allen
Woodstock Library
www.mchenrycivilwar.com

OCTOBER 17 & 18, 2015
20TH Anniversary CIVIL WAR DAYS
At Dollinger Farms, Channahon, IL
www.dollingerfarms.com

FUTURE SCCWRT MEETINGS

October 16, 2015
"How DuPage Won the Civil War (with a Little Help from General Grant and Some Others)"
Speaker: Dr. David Maas
Annual Book Sale for BFP
Meeting at Glen Ellyn History Center

November 20, 2015
"The 83rd Illinois Infantry"
Speaker: Dan Josephs

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