

The Outpost

The Newsletter of the Salt Creek Civil War Round Table
Vol. LVIII No. 1 September 2019



525th Regular Meeting

DATE: Friday, September 20, 2019
PLACE: Oak Trace, 200 Village Drive, Downers Grove, IL
TIME: 8:00 p.m.
TOPIC: “A Family and Nation Under Fire”
SPEAKER: Georgiann Baldino

The cataclysm of the Civil War propels the Medill family into the deadly conflict. Joseph Medill was the influential owner/editor of the Chicago Tribune and a powerful voice in favor of the Union cause. “A Family and Nation Under Fire” shows that when shots are fired at Fort Sumter, the Medills mobilize, unaware how their courage will be tested in the coming years.

Georgiann Baldino is a technical writer and consultant, who helps other writers pursue their publishing goals. Her own published work primarily covers the Civil War era. Familiarity with Lincoln’s rise to national prominence helped her appreciate the Medill papers at Cantigny Park and Museum. In 2018 Kent State University Press released previously the unpublished letters and journals Georgiann edited as *A Family and Nation Under Fire*.

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

JUNE MEETING UPDATE by Art Foley

As a profession, nursing as we know it, did not exist at the time of the Rebellions' outbreak. It was usually performed by men and not considered an acceptable profession for any respectable female. Nurses were expected to provide comfort, not medical care in the dismal deathtraps that passed for hospitals of the era.

The rush of volunteers to the colors in 1861 also produced a comparable volume of women who wished to serve. Enter the renown humanitarian, Dorothea Dix. Rejecting all interference Dix convinced Abraham Lincoln into naming her to head and having the authority to organize a corps of nurses. Organizational principals for the corps were strict. Accepting candidates ages thirty to fifty years of age, high moral standards, sobriety, neatness, and having a "matronly" appearance to discourage flirting. Ultimately, over twenty thousand women served during the war years. Motivations varied from patriotism, religious belief, or financial need amongst other desires. Dix, being of respectable middle class, drew others who shared social positions. This drew many to the cause such as Louisa May Alcott. Other women served on their own apart from the organization, like Clara Barton. Some women followed their husbands to the front and stayed with the units.

Common to all of their experiences these volunteers faced prejudices from doctors, both public and army officers. Workloads were enormous and draining. Most intimidating was the on the job training these women faced. They saw the horrible wounds of war, learned how to tend the cleaning and bandaging of the wounds and provide nutritional and mental comfort for their patients. They also listened to, comforted, wrote letters and stood up to authority on the behalf of their charges.

Many of these nurses after the war returned to their homes and picked up their lives. Some went on to work in various outreach efforts: teaching freedmen, building hospitals, developing relief funds and assisting in the growing labor, suffrage, temperance and populist movements of the times. Some were drawn to Barton's American Red Cross organization. Few returned to nursing. For the veteran nurses of the conflict pensions were developed in 1880.

Knowledge from the conflict led the medical community to urge the formation of schools of nursing. By 1880, fifteen nursing schools existed steadily expanding to four hundred and thirty two in 1900. Nursing had emerged as a respected profession. Our thanks are offered to Pamela D. Toler, PhD, author of "Heroines of Mercy Street", for an enjoyable and interesting evening. Huzzah!



UPCOMING CIVIL WAR EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 17, 2019

LINCOLN/DAVIS CWRT

"They Knew Lincoln"

Speaker: Kate Masur

Country House Restaurant, Alsip, IL

lincolndavisroundtable@yahoo.com

SEPTEMBER 20-22, 2019

Civil War Round Table Congress

St. Louis, MO

SEPTEMBER 26, 2019

SOUTH SUBURBAN CWRT

"Medal of Honor"

Speaker: Jim Heinz

Smokey Barque, 20 Kansas St.

Frankfort, IL

www.southsuburbancwrt.com

SEPTEMBER 28, 2019

Chicagoland Civil War & Militaria Expo

DuPage Co. Fairgrounds, Wheaton, IL

OCTOBER 4, 2019

NORTHERN ILLINOIS CWRT

"The 8th Wisconsin Regiment"

Speaker: Jerry Allen

Arlington Hts. Memorial Library

northernilcwrt.org

OCTOBER 8, 2019

McHENRY COUNTY CWRT

"1st Day at Gettysburg: The Cavalry"

Speaker: Lawrence Schiller

Woodstock Public Library

www.mchenrycivilwar.com

OCTOBER 11, 2019

CHICAGO CWRT

"Battlefield Preservation"

Speaker: Jim Lighthizer

Holiday Inn O'Hare

5615 N. Cumberland, Chicago

dinnerreservation@chicagocwrt.org

ALL FOR THE UNION

The SCCWRT website is back.

Brian Conroy has taken over the SCCWRT Facebook Page.

Volunteers are needed for the Civil War &

Militaria Expo on September 28, 2019

Sign up at the September meeting or

Contact Jan: jrbarns@sbcglobal.net

BACK IN HISTORY

50Years Ago: Clyde Walton presented:

"Illinois in the Civil War"

25 Years Ago: Rob Girardi led a tour to

Princeton, IL

10 Years Ago: Art Foley presented:

"The Five Civilized Tribes in the Civil War"

FUTURE SCCWRT MEETINGS

October 18, 2019

Annual Battlefield Preservation Book Sale

Kevin Wood as Abraham Lincoln presents:

Lincoln on Immigration and America's Place in the World"

Glen Ellyn History Center

November 16, 2019

"Re-electing Lincoln-How the 1864 Election Resulted in the Abolition of Slavery"

Speaker: Bill Shepherd

THE SALT CREEK CWRT

www.saltcreekcwrt.org

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