

# The Outpost

The Newsletter of the Salt Creek Civil War Round Table  
Vol. LV No. 4 December 2016



## 498th Regular Meeting

**DATE:** Friday, December 17, 2016  
**PLACE:** Oak Trace, 200 Village Drive, Downers Grove, IL  
**TIME:** 8:00 p.m.  
**TOPIC:** “Chicagoland in the Civil War”  
**SPEAKER:** Bruce Allardice

Bruce Allardice is a professor of history at South Suburban College. He is past president of both the Civil War Round Table of Chicago and the Northern Illinois Civil War Round Table. He has authored or co-authored six books and numerous articles on the Civil War. His latest book is Two Years Before the Paddlewheel: Charles F. Gunther, Mississippi River Confederate, the edited diary of a steamboat officer who later became Chicago’s candymaker. Other books include More Generals in Gray, Confederate Colonels: A Biographical Register, and Kentuckians in Gray, co-authored with Prof. Larry Hewitt. His article “John E. Smith and the 96<sup>th</sup> Illinois” appeared in the 2015 Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society.

Professor Allardice has presented numerous lectures and presentations on the Civil War and genealogy for Civil War Round Tables, museums and civic organizations. He is 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.

In his program Bruce will present a colorful and humorous overview of the Chicago area and the Civil War, touching on the home front as well as the soldiers.

**Members are urged to bring cookies or snacks to help celebrate the Holiday Season.**

## **NOVEMBER MONTHLY SUMMARY BY JAN RASMUSSEN**

Last month Dr. Samuel Blackwell presented the “The Harper’s Ferry Cavalry Escape of September 1862”. Despite technical difficulties which did not allow him the use of his maps, Dr. Blackwell related the conditions which led to the entrapment of the entire Union force including the cavalry division which included his beloved 12<sup>th</sup> Illinois Cavalry.

As General Robert E. Lee’s Army of Virginia advanced into Maryland in the fall of 1862, Lee plans were to capture the Union arsenal and garrison at Harper’s Ferry which was vital as a supply base. Union Colonel Dixon Miles commanded the 14,000 federal troops at Harper’s Ferry. Surrounded by steep heights, Harpers Ferry was like a fishbowl, making it a difficult to defend. Union troops failed to defend the heights. Confederate troops led by General Thomas “Stonewall Jackson” easily surrounded Harpers Ferry. After an artillery barrage and an infantry assault Colonel Miles decided to surrender. Cavalry Commander Benjamin F. “Grimes” Davis proposed a breakout to prevent the imminent capture of his division and valuable mounts. On the evening of September 14<sup>th</sup>, Davis led 1,500 men including the 12 IL Cavalry on a pontoon bridge and then up the John Brown Road towards Sharpsburg. Fortunately the Confederates had withdrawn their troops guarding the road, redeploying them to counter a Union threat at Crampton’s Gap. The cavalry pressed on undetected towards Sharpsburg. In the darkness they came upon a Confederate ammunition supply wagon train. They captured the 91 wagons and reached Greencastle, Pennsylvania on the morning of September 15<sup>th</sup>. The column rode 50 miles in 12 hours.

While negotiating a surrender, Colonel Miles was struck by a stray artillery shell and mortally wounded, Brigadier General Julius White made the final arrangement for the Union surrender. The Confederates captured over 12,700 Union troops and seized 13,000 arms and 47 artillery pieces. This was the largest capture of Federal troops during the entire war.

We thank Dr. Blackwell for a very interesting account of the daring escape.

## **2017 SLATE OF OFFICERS**

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We are in need of an additional board member

THANKS TO THE VOLUNTEERS FOR THEIR CONTINUED SERVICE

## **PRESERVATION REPORT BY DAN JOSEPHS**

In this column we will describe the battlefield preservation efforts at the Battle of Perryville, the site of the largest Civil War battle located in Kentucky. There is no federal battlefield national park located at Perryville. Perryville battlefield is located in a state park called the Perryville Battlefield State Historic Site. When I went to the Perryville battlefield approximately 15 to 20 years ago, the state park was relatively small. The state organization that ran this park set up a brief driving tour of the battlefield. Although we toured the battlefield on a Saturday, there was no office open.

Since that time, fortunately the Civil War Trust became involved in preserving the Perryville battlefield. In 2010 the Civil War Trust preserved and transferred to the State Historic Site 54 acres of battlefield real estate. Prior to the 150th Anniversary of the battle in October of 2012, the Civil War Trust had preserved approximately 385 acres of the Perryville Battlefield.

At the 150th anniversary of the Perryville battle the Civil War Trust announced that an additional 572 acres of battlefield land had been preserved. As with other battlefields, the Civil War Trust preserved these acres in a number of different ways. A parcel of 311 acres was preserved by the Civil War Trust through the purchase of a conservation easement from the Bluegrass Conservancy. The easement will prevent any development of that portion of the battlefield.

During the 12 months prior to the 150th anniversary of the Perryville battle, the Civil War Trust purchased outright three parcels of the Perryville battlefield. The largest parcel purchased was in the amount of 121 acres, including the site of Henry Bottom's barn located in the middle of the battlefield. Also, the Civil War Trust had purchased another easement to preserve an additional parcel of real estate of the Perryville battlefield during 2012. As of the 150th Anniversary of the Perryville battle, the Civil War Trust has preserved 957 acres of the Perryville Battlefield.

This past summer the Civil War Trust announced the purchase of 70 additional acres of the Perryville Battlefield. A local private landowner donated some of this acreage. Also, the Trust utilized funds from grants from the National Park Service American Battlefield Protection Program and funds donated by the members of the Civil War Trust. The purchase price for this parcel of land was \$736,000. The portion of the battlefield preserved in this 70 acre parcel was where the Union troops were able to stop the final advance of the Confederates during the battle. This area is located at the farthest point north reached by the Confederates in any Western campaign in the Civil War. This area is called the "Western High Water Mark of the Confederacy. The Civil War Trust intends to transfer title of this parcel to the State Historic Park at Perryville. After including this 70 acre parcel of real estate, the Civil War Trust has preserved 1,027 acres of Perryville Battlefield land.

Considering that the vast majority of battlefield land was preserved by The Civil War Trust since our visit to Perryville, I look forward to visiting the Perryville Battlefield in the near future. We wish you the happiest Christmas and New Year holidays and much happiness and good health in the New Year.

## **UPCOMING CIVIL WAR EVENTS**

JANUARY 4, 2017

### **KANKAKEE VALLEY CWRT**

“Lincoln’s Consideration of  
Colonization of Freed Slaves”

Speaker: Steve DePasquale

Kankakee Public Library

JANUARY 6, 2017

### **NORTHERN ILLINOIS CWRT**

“Battle of Ezra Church ”

Speaker: Bruce Allardice

Arlington Hts. Memorial Library

500 Dunton, Arlington Hts.

Northernilcwrt.org

JANUARY 12, 2017

### **LAKE COUNTY CWRT**

Video: “Free State of Jones”

Grayslake Historical Society

JANUARY 13, 2017

### **CHICAGO CWRT**

“Lessons on Leadership in the  
Petersburg Campaign”

Speaker: Richard Sommers

Holiday Inn O’Hare

5615 N. Cumberland, Chicago

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

JANUARY 17, 2017

### **LINCOLN DAVIS CWRT**

“The 6<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin at Gettysburg”

Speaker: Lance Herdegan

Country House Restaurant, Alsip

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

JANUARY 26, 2017

### **SOUTH SUBURBAN CWRT**

“News Reporting During the Civil War”

Speaker: Phil Angelo

Smokey Barque, 20 Kansas St.

Frankfort, IL

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

## **ALL FOR THE UNION**

Speakers are needed for 2017. If you  
have a program to share contact Jan:

[jrbarns@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jrbarns@sbcglobal.net)

Bruce Allardice and Wayne Wolf have  
authored an article, “General John Corson  
Smith and the Chattanooga Campaign”  
which will appear in the November issue  
of Civil War News.

## **BACK IN HISTORY**

50 Years Ago: A Panel Discussion on “The  
Generalship in the War Between the States”

25 Years Ago: Memorabilia Night

10 Years Ago: Ron Carlson presented:

“Citizen Soldier: Alpheus Starkey Williams”

## **FUTURE SCCWRT MEETINGS**

January 20, 2017

“The Rise and Fall of the G.A. R. in Chicago”

Speaker: Rob Girardi

February 17, 2017

500<sup>th</sup> Meeting / Panel Discussion

March 17, 2017

“Military Academies During the Civil War”

Speaker: Brian Conroy

## **THE SALT CREEK CWRT**

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

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