

# The Outpost

The Newsletter of the Salt Creek Civil War Round Table

Vol. LIV No. 9 May 2016



## 490th Regular Meeting

**DATE:** Friday, May 20, 2016  
**PLACE:** Oak Trace, 200 Village Drive, Downers Grove, IL  
**TIME:** 8:00 p.m.  
**TOPIC:** “Centralia ‘Massacre’ in Missouri, 9-27-1864”  
**SPEAKER:** Frank Crawford

In the fall of 1864, the Confederates, led by General Sterling Price launched an invasion of northern Missouri. Alarmed by Sherman’s capture of Atlanta and Sheridan’s success in the Shenandoah Valley, Price wanted to reverse the tide of the war and reclaim Missouri for the South. As part of the strategy, Price encouraged guerilla warfare. William “Bloody Bill” Anderson and his guerilla company were among those who took part. On September 27, 1864 Anderson and his band of guerillas stopped a train outside of Centralia, Missouri and shot and mutilated 22 unarmed Union soldiers. What became known as the Centralia Massacre is a noteworthy example of the intense violence directed against noncombatants that periodically characterized the Missouri-Kansas border war.

Frank Crawford is a member of four Civil War Round Tables in Illinois and three in Florida. He has a masters’ degree in history from Northern Illinois University. 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, 95<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry 1862-1865*. His most recent publication is *In the Shadows of Lincoln and the Civil War: Average Men in Uncommon Situations*.

## **APRIL MONTHLY SUMMARY BY ARTHUR FOLEY:**

David A. Powell provided a reminder to the membership at the April session that our continued interest in that conflict is very much a people centered interest. Individuals, in all their strengths and flaws, are sufficiently documented that the student of that conflict can have an immense treasure trove to wander.

Mr. Powell highlighted two men's lives, their successes, failures and very different legacies. Generals Alexander McDowell Cook and Daniel Harvey Hill were both professional soldiers, teachers, and administrators.

Both were alumni of West Point, saw action in the west, (Hill exceeding McCook by participating in the Mexican war, the latter being too young for service), and taught at educational institutions previous to the Rebellion.

Both fought well and rose to divisional and corp command early in the conflict. However each man had opposite personalities. Hill being sarcastic, troublesome and a personality detrimental to army morale, McCook the bon vivant, a joyous man, regarded with respect and affection from his peers. The Battle of Chickamauga is where the Venn diagrams of their lives intersected. Both were removed from their commands after the fight, Hill rightfully so due to numerous mistakes of judgement throughout the preceding campaign, blunders during the battle and his corrosive effect on command cohesion afterwards. McCook, removed and later cleared from fault by the post battle blame casting Hill does not return to command until the last days of the Confederacy, (Bentonville). McCook returns to command the defense of Washington, specifically at Fort Stevens, during the emergency provoked by Early's 1864 raid.

However the patina of Chickamauga follows the General and while he is to command a district in Arkansas, his was not a combat but a Reconstruction assignment. It is in the post - war period that the true legacies of each man emerge. Hill returns to educational administration and authorship of educational and religious texts, He also pens his version of events for the Battles and Leaders series.

Cantankerous regarding his compatriots, trying to cover his own missteps, Hill leaves a venomous trail. Alexander McCook however has a different legacy. His post-war commands include frontier service against western tribes. He held a favorable opinion of the Native Americans and was well regarded for his actions. His next assignment as aide-de-camp to W. T. Sherman, the then commander of the army, provided him with the opportunity to shape the infant School of Application at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. McCook turned the school into into, a must -have item and any officer's resume. Under his direction, McCook left an indelible mark in the development of the army's institutional memory, one that persists today and is as crucial now as it was in the nineteenth century.

Two men, two paths, innumerable lessons for students. Mr. Powell, we thank you for a scintillating evening. Huzzah!

## **PRESERVATION REPORT BY DAN JOSEPHS**

Last month this column described the history of battlefield preservation going on at the Fredericksburg battlefield of 1862. Within the National Battlefield Park at Fredericksburg is some of the real estate located at Marye's Heights. This was the scene of Burnside's futile and failed attacks on the very solid left flank of the Confederate line under General James Longstreet.

The other major portion of the Battlefield of Fredericksburg is about 3 miles south of Marye's Heights. This is the area of the Fredericksburg battlefield called the Slaughter Pen Farm that has been the focus of much battlefield preservation. In the column in April both the historical importance of this area of the Fredericksburg Battlefield was emphasized and some of the battlefield preservation efforts of the Civil War Trust and other preservationists were described.

Once the Slaughter Pen Farm was put on the market, the Civil War Trust received valuable consultation and other assistance from a local developer named Tricord. This developer had previously assisted battlefield preservationists at the Chancellorsville battlefield. Tricord was able to assist the Civil War Trust to negotiate with the landowner of the Slaughter Pen Farm. These negotiations led to the owner taking this land off the market and negotiating with only the Civil War Trust in the sale of the land. Consequently, another developer's plan to create a 98-townhouse subdivision on the Slaughter Pen Area Farm was prevented. The Civil War Trust announced in March of 2006 a fund raising campaign to finance the Civil War Trust's contract to purchase the 208 acres of the Slaughter Pen Farm.

As with many other battlefield preservation efforts, the Civil War Trust has been able to recruit and attract other preservationist groups. The Central Virginia Battlefields Trust gave to the Civil War Trust a \$1 million gift for the campaign. The State of Virginia issued a grant of \$300,000 to the Civil War Trust for this preservationist effort. The federal government also gave a matching grant of \$2 million towards the Civil War Trust's purchase of this land. Also, the Civil War Trust has received major donations from anonymous individual donors and a husband and wife team who has donated previously to the Civil War Trust.

The original purchase price of this land was \$2,590,000. The various contributions described above as well as other fundraising efforts by the Civil War Trust are in the amount of 95.9% of the fund needed to pay for the contract to purchase the Slaughter Pen Farm as well as an additional parcel of land of 25 acres of the area where General George Meade attacked and gained a breakthrough of General Stonewall Jackson's line in this area. There remains a mortgage on the Slaughter Pen Farm of 36% of the cost of the Slaughter Pen farm. The Civil War Trust has already installed a historical walking area of the Slaughter Pen Farm area.

The Civil War Trust needs to make a loan payment of \$189,000 on the loan to purchase the Slaughter Pen Farm and a payment of \$107,500 to purchase the additional 25 acre plot generally south of the Slaughter Pen Farm. Since none of this real estate is adjacent to the Fredericksburg National Battlefield, this property cannot be conveyed to the National Battlefield Park. The land will be preserved for educational purposes and to honor the brave men who fought at this battlefield. The information for this column came from the Civil War Trust website including letters from Civil War Trust President, Jim Lighthizer and articles written by supporters of the Civil War Trust. Please support the Civil War Trust.

## **UPCOMING CIVIL WAR EVENTS**

MAY 17, 2016

### **LINCOLN-DAVIS CWRT**

“General James Longstreet”

Speaker: Joe Kahr

Country House Restaurant, Alsip, IL

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

MAY 17, 2016

Wheaton Public Library 7pm

“The Man Who Fired the First Shot at

Gettysburg” The Three Victories of

Marcellus E. Jones of DuPage County

Speaker: Bob Shuster

MAY 19, 2016

### **SOUTH SUBURBAN CWRT**

“The Chicago Light Artillery at Vicksburg”

Speaker: Bjorn Skaptason

[sscwr@gmail.com](mailto:sscwr@gmail.com)

JUNE 3, 2016

### **NORTHERN ILLINOIS CWRT**

“General George Thomas”

Speaker: Brian Wills

Concorde Banquets, Kildeer, IL

[northernilcwr.org](http://northernilcwr.org)

JUNE 10, 2016

### **CHICAGO CWRT**

“Ben Butler & the Federal Occupation of New Orleans”

Speaker: Dale Phillips

Holiday Inn O'Hare

5615 N. Cumberland, Chicago

[dinnerreservations@chicagocwr.org](mailto:dinnerreservations@chicagocwr.org)

JUNE 14, 2016

### **McHENRY COUNTY CWRT**

“Civil War Movies”

Speaker: Bruce Allardice

Woodstock Library

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

JULY 23-24, 2016

Lombard's Civil War Reenactment

Four Season's Park

Volunteers Needed

Contact Rick Zarr:

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

## **ALL FOR THE UNION**

Thanks to Rick Zarr, Wayne Wolf, Roger Bohn, Pat Murphy, Jon & Nancy Fritz, Cindy Heckler, Sharon Maher, Barney Bucholtz and Jan Rasmussen for their help at the Civil War Show on April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Speakers are needed for 2017. If you have a program to share contact Jan: [irbarns@sbcglobal.net](mailto:irbarns@sbcglobal.net)

May 29, 2016 at 2pm

Old Fashioned Memorial Day Service

West Aurora Cemetery

543 Wilder Street, Aurora

Appearances by Max and Donna Daniels

Bring lawn chairs.

## **BACK IN HISTORY**

50 Years Ago: John Y. Simon presented: “New Light on General Grant”

25 Years Ago: Douglas Smith presented: “John Hunt Morgan”

10 Years Ago: Len Overcash presented: “Fort Fisher”

## **FUTURE SCCWRT MEETINGS**

June 17, 2016 ANNUAL BANQUET  
“Civil War Medicine Hollywood Version:  
The Good, the Bad and the Ugly”  
Speaker: Gordon Dammann

## **THE SALT CREEK CWRT**

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

President: Kurt Carlson

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