

# The Outpost

The Newsletter of the Salt Creek Civil War Round Table

Vol. LV No. 2 October 2016



## 496th Regular Meeting

**DATE:** Friday, October 21, 2016  
**PLACE:** Glen Ellyn History Center, 800 N. Main Street  
( N.W. Corner of Main and Elm Street)  
**TIME:** 6:30 p.m. Civil War Book Sale  
8:00 p.m. Program  
**TOPIC:** “Music for the People, George F. Root and the American Public”  
**SPEAKER:** Arthur Foley

*“The Battle Cry of Freedom”, “Just Before the Battle, Mother”, “The Vacant Chair”, and “Tramp, Tramp, Tramp!”* All memorable tunes from the Civil War and all penned by George F. Root, eminent citizen of Chicago, Illinois! A popular song writer in his day, Root was influenced by the Civil War and shifted from popular standards to war songs.

Using both recorded and live music, Arthur Foley would like to introduce you to this artist whom though faded into memory, his melodies linger on.

Art, a longtime member and former president of the Salt Creek CWRT, is a retired music educator. He still performs in music groups and resides in Naperville.

THE ANNUAL CIVIL WAR BOOK SALE WILL BEGIN AT 6:30 P.M. THERE WILL BE AN ABUNDANCE OF BOOKS DUE TO A GENEROUS DONATION FROM GALE PEWITT. BRING A FRIEND! COME EARLY AND SHOP! PROCEEDS GO TO BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION.

## **SEPTEMBER MONTHLY SUMMARY BY ARTHUR FOLEY**

Welcome back to another season of SCCWRT meetings! I hope that everyone had a pleasant summer. Thank you to Jerry Allen for starting our fall with a discussion of the Black Hawk War and the personages involved who later played roles in the Civil War.

Jerry began by describing the provisions of the 1804 Treaty of St. Louis. The treaty, signed by a questioned authority of a minor Native American personage, excluded the Sauk, Fox, and various other tribes from their traditional lands. However little changed in occupation until the post 1815 era. Black Hawk, not acknowledging the 1804 treaty and relying on hazy promises of British support, moved his people across the Mississippi into Illinois. In a short time, the tribes encountered both white resistance and a realization that they would not receive British assistance. Inabilities to communicate verbally between sides compounded matters and fighting ensued. Black Hawk's band fended off amateurish white militia encounters, but the noose was tightening. Ultimately regular troops under Generals Atkinson and Winfield Scott, augmented by state militia of Illinois and Michigan and Native American allies, pushed the natives through Wisconsin. Suffering defeat at Wisconsin Heights the bands separated in several directions. There was however, no escape from the forces besetting their flight. Those still alive were massacred at Bad Axe. Little compassion was shown and children, women and the aged were butchered.

Black Hawk and a small band of warriors surrendered and were imprisoned at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri and then at Fortress Monroe in Virginia. Black Hawk's leadership throughout the fight won him renown as a military strategist and gained him a certain amount of celebrity in the east. However, both he and his tribe were moved west of the Mississippi. The great warrior died in 1838, (in his 70's), and was buried in Iowa. The Sauk and Fox tribes were then moved to the Indian Territory where they reside today.

A number of officers involved with this campaign would achieve general level command during the Civil War. Personages of note involved in this fight that would later gain notoriety in the 1860's were: Winfield Scott, Jefferson Davis, David Twiggs, William Harney, Joseph E. Johnston, John McClelland, Robert Anderson, and of course, Abraham Lincoln. Jerry included an enlightening visual presentation of maps, sights, and people. He also broadened our vocabularies with the addition of the term, prosopopoeia. If you missed the talk - look it up. All I'll say is that it was used to describe the militia forces in a bad light. Thank you Jerry for an informative and fun evening. Huzzah!

## **PRESERVATION REPORT BY DAN JOSEPHS**

We hope that this newsletter finds you in good health. The colors outside are beautiful. So far, the weather has cooperated. Hopefully we will see you at our meeting next week.

In this column we will focus our attention on three (3) battlefields located in the state of Mississippi. There were actually 16 principal battles fought in the State of Mississippi during the Civil War. The Civil War Trust is in the process of preserving a total of 434 acres of battlefield real estate located in Mississippi on the following three battlefields: Champion's Hill fought on May 16, 1863, Port Gibson fought on May 1, 1863, and Brice's Cross Roads fought on June 10, 1864. As you probably know, the first two battles were part of the Vicksburg Campaign while the last battle was a victory for General Nathan Forest.

The Civil War Trust had previously preserved approximately 1,400 acres of the battlefield of Brice's Cross Roads. As Civil War Trust President Jim Lighthizer explained in an article on the Civil War Trust website, there are an additional 93 acres of this important battlefield to be preserved. This battle was a total victory for General Forest having only 3,500 men defeated a Union force of 8,000 troops under General Samuel Sturgis in 1864. Union Colored troops fought a fierce rear guard action which saved the Union force from utter disaster.

The other two Civil War battles were part of the Vicksburg campaign in 1863. There are 22 acres of the Port Gibson battlefield to be preserved. The fighting later in the day of May 1, 1864 took place on this parcel of land when the Union troops of the 13th Corps under General John McClernand was able to attack and collapse the flank of the Confederate troops.

At the Champions Hill battlefield the Civil War Trust is working on preserving 319 acres of the battlefield. The battle that occurred here on May 16, 1863 was probably the most important engagement won by General Grant in the Vicksburg campaign. This part of the battlefield is located beyond the right flank of the Confederate battle line. Union troops under General John McClernand attacked the Confederates across this parcel of real estate. After this attack, the Confederate troops retreated toward Vicksburg.

The Civil War Trust has some very important allies in the preservation efforts at Champion's Hill battlefield. The total cost to purchase and preserve the battlefield land at Champion's Hill as well as the two smaller parcels of the battlefield of Port Gibson and of the battlefield at Brice's Cross Roads is \$1,893,000. The HTR Foundation is a private foundation that is a leader in the battlefield preservation industry, having donated approximately \$4.2 million to preserve battlefield land during the last 15 years. This Foundation has committed to donating \$500,00 to preserve this parcel of real estate at the Champions Battle, over one-third of the purchase price. The Civil War Trust is receiving another grant from the National Park Foundation, matching grants from the Federal American Battlefield Protection program and gifts from the Civil War Trust's board members to preserve the land at Champion's Hill, Port Gibson and Brice's Cross Roads. The Civil War Trust reports that all of this funding will pay 85% of the purchase price for this battlefield land. Therefore, only 15% of the purchase price, \$293,000.00, needs to be raised by the supporters of the Civil War Trust. Please support the Civil War Trust and their partners in their efforts of preserving Civil War battlefield land.

## **UPCOMING CIVIL WAR EVENTS**

OCTOBER 27, 2016

### **SOUTH SUBURBAN CWRT**

"Military Academies During the Civil War"

Speaker: Brian Conroy

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

NOVEMBER 2, 2016

### **KANKAKEE VALLEY CWRT**

Leslie Goddard as Clara Barton

Kankakee Public Library

NOVEMBER 4, 2016

### **NORTHERN ILLINOIS CWRT**

"Appomattox Court House"

Speaker: Pat Schroeder

Arlington Hts. Memorial Library

500 Dunton, Arlington Hts.

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

NOVEMBER 8, 2016

### **McHENRY COUNTY CWRT**

"The Red River Campaign"

Speaker: Pat McCormick

Woodstock Library

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

NOVEMBER 10, 2016

### **LAKE COUNTY CWRT**

"Children of the Civil War"

Speaker: Ty Rohrer

Grayslake Historical Society

NOVEMBER 11, 2016

### **CHICAGO CWRT**

"Iowa Copperheads"

Speaker: Dave Cannon

Holiday Inn O'Hare

5615 N. Cumberland, Chicago

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

NOVEMBER 15, 2016

### **LINCOLN DAVIS CWRT**

"The Battle of Weldon Station"

Speaker: John Horn

Country House Restaurant, Alsip

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

Thanks to the Volunteers who helped at the Civil War Collectors' Show:

Rick Zarr, Roger Bohn, Dan McCarthy, Jon & Nancy Fritz, Mike Miller, Pat Murphy and John Beale

Welcome New Member:

Pat Carl

## **BACK IN HISTORY**

50 Years Ago: Glenn Williams presented:

"Gray Wednesday--Blue Friday"

25 Years Ago: Jim Soens presented:

"James Wilson & Abel Streight"

10 Years Ago: Bill Hupp presented:

"Battle for the Border States: Virtual Tours of Wilson's Creek & Perryville"

## **FUTURE SCCWRT MEETINGS**

November 18, 2016

"The Harpers Ferry Cavalry Escape of September 1862"

Speaker: Sam Blackwell

December 16, 2016

"Chicago and the Civil War"

Speaker: Bruce Allardice

## **THE SALT CREEK CWRT**

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

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