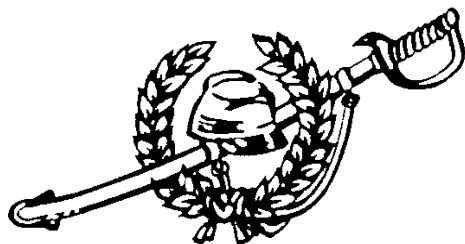


The Outpost

The Newsletter of the Salt Creek Civil War Round Table
Vol. LV No. 3 November 2016



497th Regular Meeting

DATE: Friday, November 18, 2016
PLACE: Oak Trace, 200 Village Drive, Downers Grove, IL
TIME: 8:00 p.m. Program
TOPIC: "The Harper's Ferry Cavalry Escape of September 1862"
SPEAKER: Samuel M. Blackwell Jr.

As General Robert E. Lee's Army of Virginia advanced into Maryland in the fall of 1862, Lee had hoped to capture the vital Union arsenal and garrison at Harper's Ferry. Dr. Blackwell will relate the strategy, tactics and conditions of war that led to the entrapment of an entire cavalry division at Harper's Ferry during the Antietam campaign. From that point on he will discuss how the cavalry escaped and made their way their way to the safety of the Union lines in southern Pennsylvania.

Dr. Blackwell received his PhD. in American History from Northern Illinois University. He has taught courses in the American Civil War, American Military History, and World War II at Northern Illinois University. His main area of study has been the Civil War Cavalry. His book, *In the First line of Battle: A History of the 12th Illinois Cavalry in the Civil War* (Northern Illinois University Press, DeKalb, IL, 2002), received the Certificate of Excellence from the Illinois State Historical Society. Among his presentations are those at the George Tyler Moore Center for the Study of the Civil War, Shepherd University, Shepherdstown, WV; the Civil War Round Tables of Macoupin, Champaign, Decatur and McHenry Counties, Springfield, South Suburban and Salt Creek. Dr. Blackwell currently is doing research and writing book reviews for the Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society.

OCTOBER MONTHLY SUMMARY BY ARTHUR FOLEY

Our October meeting featured a talk by yours truly titled "George F. Root; Music and the American Republic". In my presentation I described Root's career as a musician, educator, composer, and publisher.

Highlighting four of Root's most popular and influential songs, "The Battle Cry of Freedom", "The Vacant Chair", "Just Before The Battle, Mother", and "Tramp, Tramp, Tramp", I explored the phenomenal reach of these melodies on Americans, both in the North and the South, during the Civil War. I also featured tunes that were composed for a variety of causes / events that sparked the man's creative process. Featured in this presentation were both pre - and post- fire photos of Chicago, a clip from the film "Lincoln", and a scene from the Andy Griffith Show. Portions of recordings from artists such as The Anonymous Four, Bobby Horton, and the late great Tennessee Ernie Ford were heard. Root and his group of employed composers, were involved in the creation of music for various causes and genres during the mid-century years of the 1800's.

Their works are woven into our cultural memory even though their names are not usually remembered, (Steven Spielberg, for all his attempts at an antithetic film, still attributed "The Battle Cry Of Freedom" to the composer "Traditional"). There is currently nothing to memorialize Root's presence in Chicago, not a plaque, street name, zilch. I believe he deserved better.

I would like to thank the great folks at the Glen Ellyn Historical Society for their assistance and to all who came out to hear about this interesting man. Huzzah!

PRESERVATION REPORT BY DAN JOSEPHS

This baseball season just concluded was quite enjoyable for Chicago. Obviously, the Cub fans were thrilled, but I think that all Chicago baseball fans had to have been pleased with the exciting season. Although I am a Cubs fan, I was very happy for the White Sox and for my wife who is a Sox fan. Talk about a civil war.

In this column many battlefield preservation acquisitions by the Civil War Trust and other preservation groups have been described. Usually the details of the purchase of the property have been discussed, such as price, sources of funding, zoning and other similar details. What has not been included in the column has been restoration work that has been done once the real estate has been purchased. Sometimes, we learned that the Civil War Trust had to take down some post-war structures on the preserved land, but there were not many details other than the cost.

In some preservation efforts by the Civil War Trust the restoration of the preserved building and land are as important as the acquisition of the real estate. The details of the restoration and the interpretive modifications are very interesting.

Several months ago this column described a battlefield preservation project coordinated by the Civil War Trust at Gettysburg battlefield. The purpose of the project was to preserve the Mary Thompson House which was used by Confederate General Lee as his headquarters at Gettysburg. This preservation project was begun by the Civil War Trust in 2014. The cost of this preservation project was \$5.5 million dollars. The project involved both purchasing the home and surrounding land as well as restoring the home and landscape to its Civil War appearance.

The restoration of the building and surrounding land to its Civil War appearance did not just involve purchasing Civil War period furniture for the house. In order to restore the building and land, the Civil War Trust used Civil War and other period photographs of the home and land and surveys of the land prepared by General Gouverneur K. Warren after the Civil War (Yes General Warren from Little Round Top). The documentation showed many modifications and additions had to be made to this property. The Trust had to replace the roof of the building with a cedar shingle roof that was commonly used for buildings during the Civil War time period. Fortunately, two major beams that were part of the original structure were preserved and able to be used in the restoration project. The photographs also showed that several post-Civil War modifications had been made to the building. These were removed to make the building historically accurate.

The surveys and the photographs also showed how the surrounding landscape changed since the Civil War. There were 10 modern structures constructed on the land since the Civil War that had to be removed by the Civil War Trust. The Trust also restored a garden, some fencing and a dog house in to the land according to the period photographs. The Civil War Trust also included an interpretive trail to show the significance of the building. Finally, there are plans to plant 24 apple trees in the surrounding property in the spring to recreate an apple orchard that stood in the area during the Civil War.

The Civil War Trust at times does a great deal more than just purchasing the land and buildings.

ALL FOR THE UNION

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

Thanks to those who purchased books at the September Meeting/Book Sale. \$803 was raised primarily from the generous donations from Gale Pewitt.

STATE OF THE UNION

In the past, November has been election month for Round Table. Actually there has not been an election in over 20 years. Volunteers have come forward to help keep this organization running. Our membership has remained around 70 for a number of years. We are currently working on a Slate of Officers for 2017. VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED. The future of the Round Table is dependent on the participation of the membership.

UPCOMING CIVIL WAR EVENTS

NOVEMBER 17, 2016
SOUTH SUBURBAN CWRT
"The Petersburg Campaign"
Speaker: John Horn
sscwrt@gmail.com

DECEMBER 7, 2016
KANKAKEE VALLEY CWRT
"Five Years of Visits to CW sites"
Speaker: Chris Curtis
Kankakee Public Library

DECEMBER 2, 2016
NORTHERN ILLINOIS CWRT
"Richard Kirkland, the Angel of
Marye's Heights"
Speaker: Tony Ziebol
Arlington Hts. Memorial Library
500 Dunton, Arlington Hts.
Northernilcwr.org

DECEMBER 4, 2016
McHENRY COUNTY CWRT
Annual Holiday Lunch 11am
"Mary Todd Lincoln & Spiritualism"
Grand Old Mill, Wonder Lake, IL
www.mchenrycivilwar.com

DECEMBER 9, 2016
CHICAGO CWRT
"Ambrose Bierce at Shiloh"
Speaker: Bjorn Skaptasan
Holiday Inn O'Hare
5615 N. Cumberland, Chicago
dinnerreservation@chicagocwrt.org

BACK IN HISTORY

50 Years Ago: Brooks Davis presented:
"The Seven Days Battle"

25 Years Ago: Annual Banquet
Max & Donna Daniels presented:
"An Evening with Mr. & Mrs. Lincoln"

10 Years Ago: Annual Auction
featuring: Jerry Feinstein, Dan McCarthy
& Kevin Naughton

FUTURE SCCWRT MEETINGS

December 16, 2016
"Chicagoland and the Civil War"
Speaker: Bruce Allardice

January 20, 2017
"The Rise and Fall of the G.A. R. in
Chicago"
Speaker: Rob Girardi

February 17, 2017
500th Meeting / Panel Discussion

THE SALT CREEK CWRT

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