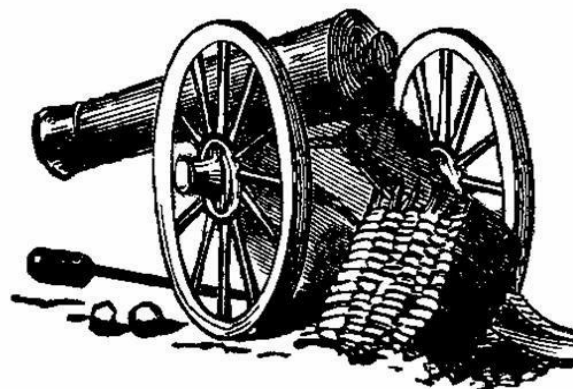


Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable. Inc. 501 (C) (3) non profit corporation
Founded 1978

The Grapeshot

Newsletter

February
2021



This month's guest presenter:

A. Wilson Greene

Please join us as Mr. Greene speaks on "A Perfect Hell of Blood: The Battle of the Crater", one of the most controversial episodes of the Civil War.



Follow us on [Facebook](#)

Presented through Zoom
February 16th, 2021
6 pm

About Our Speaker

SCOTTSDALE CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE MEETING TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16 AT 6PM Please join us for our next event when A. Wilson Greene speaks on "A Perfect Hell of Blood: The Battle of the Crater", a battle which remains one of the most controversial episodes of the Civil War. A. Wilson Greene has a long and distinguished career as author, lecturer and preservationist. He is the author of several highly acclaimed books on the Petersburg campaign including *A Campaign of Giants: The Battle for Petersburg: From the Crossing of the James to the Battle of the Crater*. From 1995 to 2017 he was President & CEO of Pamplin Historical Park and the National Museum of the Civil War Soldier, transforming the privately owned land into one of the premier Civil War era historic sites in the country. Prior to that Mr Greene worked for the National Park Service as Park Historian at Petersburg National Battlefield and Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania County Battlefields National Military Park. For the past 30 years he's been one of two Civil War scholars employed by the Smithsonian to lead touring programs of Civil War battlefields.

ZOOM Meeting Details:

Topic: Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable Feb. 2021 Meeting

Time: Feb 16, 2021 06:00 PM Arizona

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81280993497?pwd=emh6Q2cxL3ZpenhoS2JDVHp6TkQ4Zz09>

Meeting ID: 812 8099 3497

Passcode: 660204

SCOTTSDALE CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE SPEAKERS 2021

All meetings at 6PM on dates below and via Zoom until further notice.

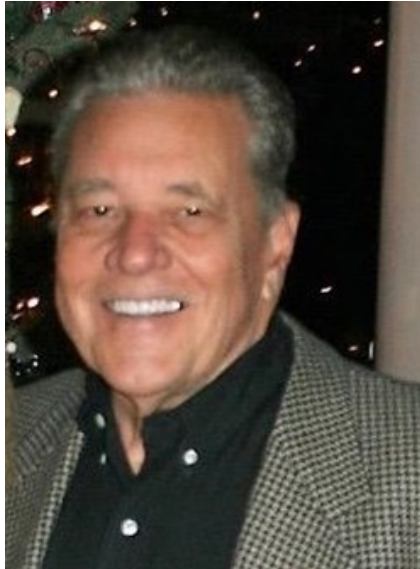
Feb 16 - A Wilson Greene, “A Perfect Hell of Blood: The Battle of the Crater”

March 16 - Chris DeRose, “The Presidents’ War”

April 20 - Frank O’Reilly, “Malvern Hill”

May 11 - Brian Wills, “Inglorious Passages: Noncombat Deaths In The Civil War”

***From Around the Campfire...A Message from Our
President John Bamberl***



As we are approaching the beginning of a new year, perhaps you, like me, are reflecting on a year we never could have imagined—from the uncertainty produced by a global pandemic to the way we would rise to these challenges. We could not have predicted the important but difficult conversations that are taking place about the American Civil War around the nation.

The Civil War Congress has risen to the occasion to develop a website, Face book page, and You tube channel devoted to giving Zoom lectures weekly and sometimes three times a week to keep Roundtables current. The board is meeting monthly to help smaller Roundtables develop ways to keep them updated and current. We have recently partnered with the American Battlefield Trust to develop a communications list with all our Roundtables.

Our Scottsdale board has done a remarkable job during these difficult times. I have been on several local and national boards but have never worked with such a devoted self-sufficient group of people.

Our Program chairman, Mark Stoler, along with Tom Merrill and David Ward, has done an excellent job with our Zoom meetings and organizing the speakers. We have had between 80 and 100 people at each meeting. We are having members from the Tucson, Saddlebrook and Sun City West Civil War Roundtables join us. We even received a new member who found us on Face book.

Our Book table chairman, Cal Thompson, is continuing to pick up book donations. It seems like we have more book donations now than before. Perhaps since people are now staying at home, they realize how many books they have.

One of our new board members, Jo Roberts, has taken over the position of Grapeshot editor and is doing an excellent job.

Michael Harris has taken over the job of membership in addition to being treasurer. We now have 385 members and have taken in \$4190.00 in donations despite the fact that we have not had any book sales and still have 4 prints to sell.

Shelly Dudley has taken over the position of Press Release chairperson and continues to get our marketing out to the public. Communication is extremely important since we can't meet.

Richard Cox has been very active helping with the Grapeshot and is going to start publishing articles in preparation for his new book.

Tom Merrill, David Ward and Richard Cox are working on a Student Scholarship program which we hope to institute when we are again having live meetings.

The board is having regular Zoom meetings which probably will continue since they are so convenient.

I appreciate all the members who have stayed in touch. Please visit us on our website and on Face book and hopefully we will see you at our next Zoom meeting.

Officers, Staff, and Meetings

OFFICERS/BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT: Dr. John Bamberl 480-699-5844

VICE PRESIDENT: Mark Stoler

SECRETARY: Hal Bliss

PARLIAMENTARIAN: Hal Bliss

TREASURER: Michael Harris

ASSISTANT TREASURER: Richard Cox

PROGRAM CHAIRMAN: Mark Stoler

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BOARD MEMBERS (thru 5/2022): Richard Cox, David Ward, Tom Merrill, Jo Roberts

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Webmaster: Mark Echeveste

MEETINGS

Zoom Meetings scheduled the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6 PM by email invitation

September thru May

\$35 Annual Dues (individual)

\$45 Annual Dues (family)

EVERYONE WELCOME

www.scottsdalecwr.org

SCWRT #274

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Scottsdale AZ 85258-3749

e-mail: scottsdalecwr@gmail.com

Trivia Questions

1. Question: On July 14, 1862, an act of Congress eliminated what staple of the U.S. Navy?
2. Question: What uniform innovation came to the Army of the Potomac in 1862 and for what reason?
3. Question: Who is buried in Row D, plot #4 of the Ohio section of the Gettysburg National Cemetery?
4. Question: During the Union assault of May 22, 1863 (Vicksburg Campaign), Capt. David Todd was one of the Confederates defending the Great Redoubt. Who was his brother-in-law?

Answers on page 17.

THIS MONTH IN CIVIL WAR HISTORY

February 9, 1861. Jefferson Davis of Mississippi is elected president of the Confederate States of America. Alexander Stephens of Georgia becomes vice-president. Their inauguration is on the 18th. Since the Confederate constitution provided for one 6-year term for the president, Davis will be the Confederacy's only chief executive.

Scottsdale Civil War Round Table

Membership

Please Join Us!

Your membership enables SCWRT to help with battlefield preservation and attract the best Civil War experts from around the country as keynote speakers at our meetings, September thru May! Please fill out this form and return it with your check payable to Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable. Mail to this address:

Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable

#274 7349 N. Via Paseo Del Sur Ste 515 Scottsdale, AZ 85258-3749

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Additional contribution of \$ _____

100% of your contribution (minus expenses) goes to battlefield preservation.

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

*Our monthly newsletter "The Grapeshot" will be emailed to you.

Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable is approved by the IRS as a 501 c (3) non-profit organization. Contributions are tax deductible for federal and state income tax returns. Check with your tax consultant.

www.scottsdalecwr.org

Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable

480/699-5844

ADELBERT AMES, LONGEST- LIVING

CIVIL WAR GENERAL

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Lt. Col. Adelbert Ames

The interconnectedness of people and events is one of history's most interesting topics. The Civil War produced many such stories, and the life and legacy of Adelbert (aDELbert) Ames is an excellent example.

Ames was born in Rockland, Maine in 1835, the son of a sea captain named Jesse Ames (the irony of that name will be discussed below). Adelbert graduated from West Point in 1861 shortly after Fort Sumter fell. He was assigned to the artillery and was badly wounded at the First Battle of Bull Run (Manassas), but refused to leave his guns. He received a brevet promotion to major and in 1893 received the Medal of Honor for his heroism.

Returning to duty after recovering from his wound, he saw significant action during the Peninsula campaign in the spring of 1862 and received a brevet promotion to lieutenant colonel. Ames sought higher rank and realized that quicker promotion was more readily available in the infantry. He returned to Maine and lobbied for a commission to command an infantry regiment. On August 20, 1862 he was given command of the 20th Maine Volunteer Infantry. The second-in-command assigned to him was an untried college professor named Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain.

The 20th Maine saw little action until the Fredericksburg campaign, when the regiment was ordered to make one of the last assaults against Marye's Heights. During the Chancellorsville campaign, Ames volunteered as an aide-de-camp to General Meade, then commanding the Fifth Corps. This staff assignment probably influenced his being promoted to brigade commander in the 11th Corps after Chancellorsville.

Ames held a high opinion of Chamberlain's leadership abilities and recommended that Chamberlain succeed him as commander of the 20th Maine. Ames's own experiences at Gettysburg were not as illustrious as Chamberlain's and his former regiment, but he acquitted himself well. On the first day of the battle, Ames's division commander was captured. Ames assumed command of the division and executed a difficult retreat through the streets of Gettysburg to Cemetery Hill. His brigade bore the brunt of Jubal Early's assault on Cemetery Hill on the second day, and it stubbornly held its position. After the battle, the 20th Maine presented Ames with their battle flag.

Following Gettysburg, Ames was made a colonel in the regular army and served in South Carolina and Florida. In 1864, his division became part of the 10th Corps under General Benjamin Butler and he took part in the Bermuda Hundred and Petersburg campaigns.

In January 1865, Ames led the successful assault on Fort Fisher, which guarded the Cape Fear River and Wilmington, North Carolina, one of the South's last open ports. He received a brevet promotion to major general of volunteers and brigadier general in the regular army for his role in the battle.



Senator Ames of Mississippi

Following the war, Ames remained in the army and in 1868 Congress appointed him provisional governor of Mississippi. During his administration, he advanced the cause of freed slaves and appointed the first black office holders in the state's history. The Mississippi legislature elected Ames to the U.S. Senate after the state's readmission to the Union, and he served in the Senate until 1874. While in Washington, Ames met and married Blanche Butler, daughter of his old commander Benjamin Butler, who was then a member of the House of Representatives for Massachusetts.

Ames returned to Mississippi and again became governor as a Reconstruction Republican. But as the state election of 1875 approached, the Democrats organized an armed insurrection to unseat the black-supported Republican government.

That November, Democrats got control of both houses of the legislature. The new legislature drew up articles of impeachment against Ames, and he resigned a few months later when the legislature agreed to drop the impeachment.



The James Gang Raid on Northfield, 1876

After leaving office, Ames settled in Northfield, Minnesota, where his father and brother had started a flour-milling business. On September 7, 1876, Jesse James and his gang staged an abortive attempt to rob the First National Bank of Northfield.

Local citizens quickly armed themselves, and the ensuing seven-minute shoot-out put an end to the James-Dalton gang for good. Ames was at the battle and, even though he was unarmed, he played a significant role. While the bullets were flying, Ames stood behind a local businessman, Ansel Manning, and steadied Manning's nervous aim with encouraging words. Ames's "generalship" must have worked; Manning severely wounded Cole Younger and put a bullet through the heart of another outlaw.

Jesse James escaped, and his reasons for singling out the Northfield bank quickly became known. Ames and his father-in-law were shareholders in the bank. As historian James M. McPherson writes, "Ames was everything Jesse James detested: a leader of the victorious army that had crushed James's beloved Confederacy; an idealistic radical who had worked for racial justice; and perhaps worst of all, the son-in-law of the notorious (in Southern eyes) Radical Republican congressman Benjamin Butler." The fact that James knew Ames and Butler had \$75,000 on deposit in the bank probably had something to do with it as well!

As an interesting sidelight, it's unknown whether Jesse Ames, Adelbert's father, ever came face-to-face with Jesse James, his near namesake.

Ames moved to New York City and later to Lowell, Massachusetts, where he operated a flourmill and other businesses. He obtained several patents for pencil sharpeners and other mechanical devices. He was appointed brigadier general of volunteers during the Spanish-American War and served in Cuba. Ames died at age 97 at his winter home in Ormond Beach, Florida, next to the estate of his friend and golfing companion, John D. Rockefeller. At the time of his death in 1933, he was the oldest surviving Civil War general.

Adelbert and Blanche Ames had six children, two of whom became famous in their own rights. Adelbert Ames, Jr. was a lawyer, artist and scientist who made many contributions to psychology, physics, physiology and ophthalmology.

A daughter, Blanche, married Oakes Ames, a professor of botany at Harvard (they were not related). Blanche Ames Ames was an accomplished artist whose drawings of orchids illustrated her husband's pioneering work in orchidology. She was politically active as a leader in the women's suffrage movement and in 1916 founded the Birth Control League of Massachusetts.

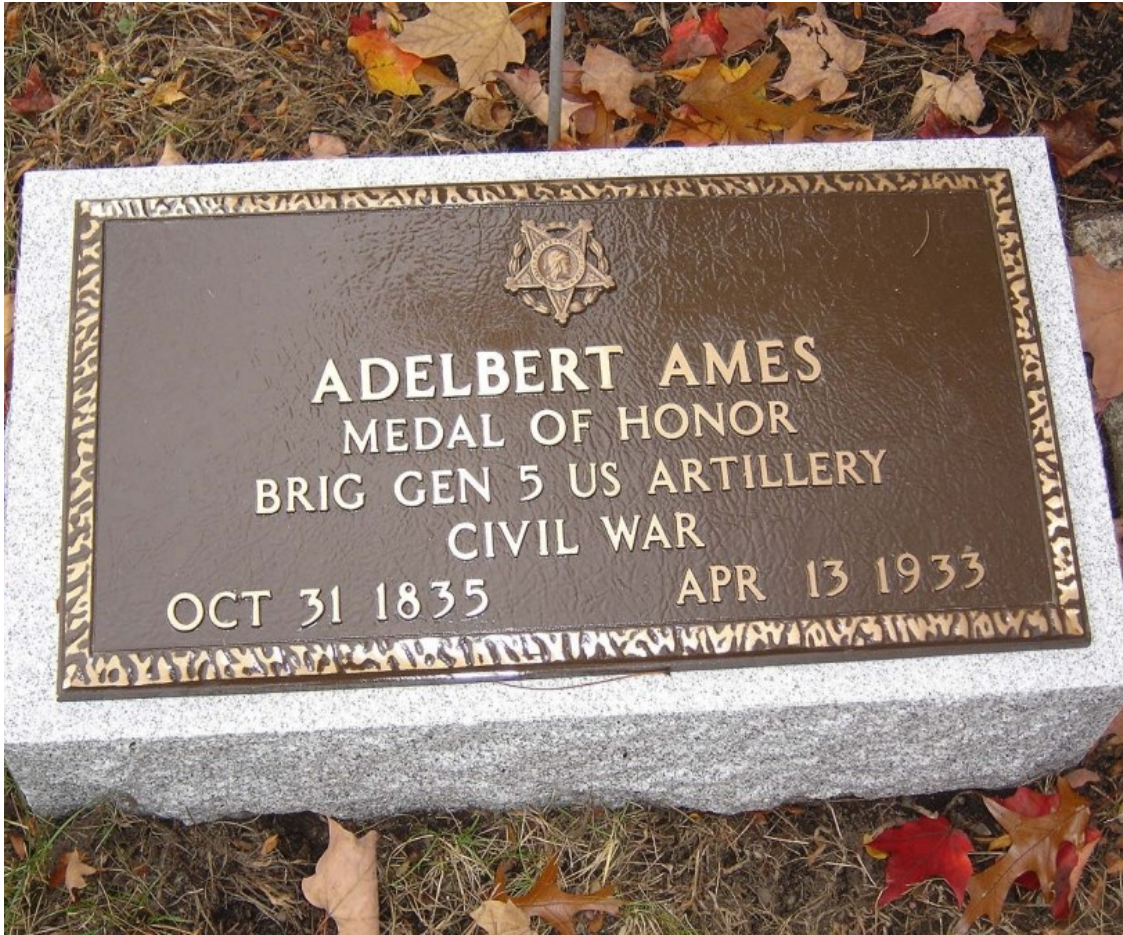
Blanche designed and engineered the dams and ponds throughout her 1250- acre estate. During World War II, she invented and received a patent for a type of barrage balloon, a device for trapping the propellers of enemy airplanes with cables held up by balloons. At age 90, Blanche obtained a patent for an “antipollution toilet.”

Blanche also wrote a biography of her father for which John F. Kennedy was partially responsible. In his “Profiles in Courage”, Kennedy relied on Jim Crow-era historical documents to suggest that Adelbert Ames was nothing more than a carpet-bagging politician during his administration in Mississippi.

Blanche Ames Ames was livid. Still a formidable presence in Massachusetts politics, she bombarded the then-senator with letters complaining about how her father was treated in the book and continued writing them after Kennedy entered the White House.

Kennedy asked author George Plimpton to tell Blanche she was “interfering with government business.” Why Plimpton? It turns out that George Plimpton was not only Robert F. Kennedy’s Harvard classmate and a family friend, but Blanche’s grandson and great-grandson of Adelbert Ames.

Plimpton was unable to prevail on his grandmother. Instead, in 1964, when she was 80, Blanche wrote her father’s biography to set the record straight. The book bears the long-winded title *Adelbert Ames, 1835-1933, General, Senator, Governor; The Story of his Life and Times and his Integrity as a Soldier and Statesman in the Service of the United States of America during the Civil War and in Mississippi in the Years of Reconstruction.*



Dick Cox is a SCWRT board member and chair of the SCWRT History Committee

Trivia Answers

1. Answer: The rum ration. Sailors received an extra five cents per day in their pay instead.
2. Answer: Corps badges. Maj. Gen. Philip Kearney had his men sew two-inch square red patches to the top of their kepis after he had mistakenly reprimanded officers who were not part of his command. After Joseph Hooker assumed command of the Army of the Potomac, he had badges assigned to the entire army to boost sagging morale. Each division of a corps was assigned a color: red for the First Division; white for the Second; and blue for the Third. Each corps was assigned a different shape badge; a circle for the First Corps; trefoil for the Second; and a diamond for the Third, etc.
3. Answer: George Nixon of Co. B, 73rd Ohio Infantry. He was Richard M. Nixon's great-great-grandfather.
4. Answer: President Abraham Lincoln.