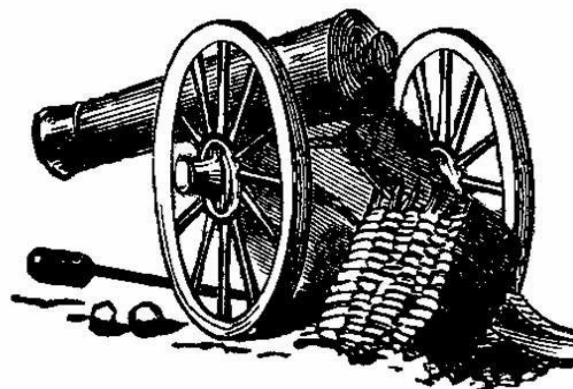


The Grapeshot

Newsletter

March
2021



This month's guest presenter:

Chris DeRose

Please join us as Mr. DeRose discusses his book, "The Presidents' War." The Civil War was the first time the U.S. had five living former presidents: Van Buren, Tyler, Fillmore, Pierce and Buchanan.



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Presented through Zoom
March 16th, 2021
6 pm

About Our Speaker

On March 16th, the Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable presents Chris DeRose speaking on his book, “The Presidents’ War.” The American Civil War was the first time that the U.S. had five living former presidents. Presidents Van Buren, Tyler, Fillmore, Pierce, and Buchanan had made decisions that helped lead to the crisis of secession. With the election of Abraham Lincoln, the Northern ex-presidents became frequent critics of the President while Tyler advocated secession for his native Virginia. Mr. DeRose will discuss the intricate tale of their relationships with each other before and during the Civil War. The presentation will begin at 6 pm via Zoom.

Chris DeRose is the *New York Times* bestselling author of “The Fighting Bunch”, “Star Spangled Scandal”, “The Presidents’ War”, “Congressman Lincoln”, and “Founding Rivals”.

Mr. DeRose was formerly Senior Litigation Counsel to the Arizona Attorney General, a Professor of Constitutional Law, and Clerk of the Superior Court for Maricopa County, leading a team of over 700 professionals in serving America’s fourth largest county. He serves on the Board of Directors for the Abraham Lincoln Association and Board of Scholarly Advisors for President Lincoln’s Cottage, a historic

Topic: Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable March 2021 Meeting

Time: Mar 16, 2021 06:00 pm Arizona

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82387404771?
pwd=M1JpSUNtVitMU2h2dk9hbmJ2citidz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82387404771?pwd=M1JpSUNtVitMU2h2dk9hbmJ2citidz09)

Meeting ID: 823 8740 4771

Passcode: 865116

SCOTTSDALE CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE SPEAKERS 2021

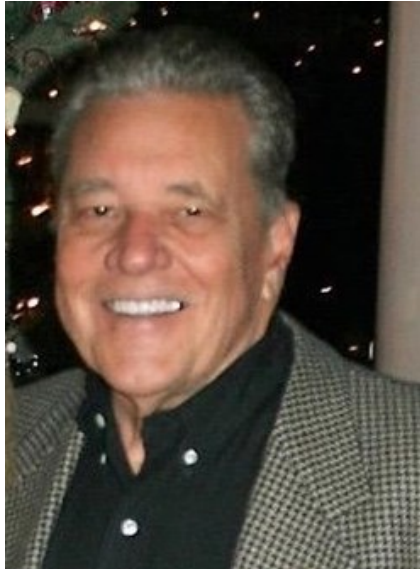
All meetings at 6 pm on dates below and via Zoom until further notice.

March 16 - Chris DeRose, "The Presidents' War"

April 20 - Frank O'Reilly, "Malvern Hill: Retreat from Victory"

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

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



To say this has been an unprecedented year would be an understatement. The Covid 19 Pandemic has forced us into a social media presence that we have had to accept, learn and adapt to. And it will probably be with us for years to come. It has completely changed how we communicate with each other.

Your SCWRT board has had several meetings discussing how to keep an open communication with our membership.

We have used Facebook, Constant Contact, our web page and the Grapeshot. According to the e-mails and phone calls I receive we have been very successful. We have 394 signed up members and ended the year with 396, so the membership is staying engaged and interested. We have also established contact with the members who did not renew. We have kept an inactive status for some of our members who are not able to attend for medical reasons.

We all miss the camaraderie, the book sales and the authors' book signings, but understand the need for social distancing and hope that the library will be open soon.

The board is working on setting up a You Tube page where we can place the speakers' lectures and attach it to the web site for easy viewing.

We are discussing a Student Essay contest but it will have to wait until the schools are all reopened and we are comfortable with meeting again.

We are discussing having an Ed Bearss Memorial lecture in January when Ed always came, but that probably wouldn't be able to be held until 2022.

The membership is very enthusiastic and we are all anxiously waiting for that social hour.

Until then, we will do everything to keep you informed and keep sending you all the Zoom lectures we can find from our sources.

Call, text, like our Facebook posts and stay in touch.

Officers, Staff, and Meetings

OFFICERS/BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT: Dr. John Bamberl 480-699-5844

VICE PRESIDENT: Mark Stoler

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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

COMMITTEES

Book Table: Cal Thompson

Bylaws: Chairman Hal Bliss, Richard Cox, Mark Stoler

Grapeshot: Chairman Jo Roberts, Richard Cox, David Ward

Greeters: John Bamberl

History: Chairman Richard Cox, Brad Cox, Mark Fischer

News Release: Chairman Shelley Dudley

Program: Mark Stoler, Gordon Dudley, George Bennet

Social Media: Chairman John Bamberl

Student Outreach: Chairman Tom Merrill

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. Q: When was the first Federal income tax signed into law?
2. Q: What was Point Lookout?
3. Q: Who was the orator who spoke before Lincoln at the dedication of the national cemetery at Gettysburg on November 19, 1863?
4. Q: What city changed hands the most times between Federal and Confederate forces during the war?

Answers on page 14.

THIS MONTH IN CIVIL WAR HISTORY

March 9, 1862. The Battle of Hampton Roads is the first-ever naval battle between two iron-clad warships, as the USS *Monitor* fights the CSS *Virginia* (formerly the USS *Merrimack* or *Merrimac*) of the Confederate States Navy. As a result of the battle, Confederate authorities, fearing the capture of their navy yard at Norfolk, Virginia, decide to move the navy yard 200 miles inland to Charlotte, North Carolina!

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

**HENRY MORTON STANLEY, JOURNALIST, EXPLORER
AND UNIQUE CIVIL WAR VETERAN**

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“Doctor Livingstone, I presume” -- those famous words epitomizing British *sang froid* and understatement, were uttered by Henry Morton Stanley at his famous meeting with David Livingstone in a small village on the shore of Lake Tanganyika on November 10, 1871.

British journalist, explorer, soldier, colonial administrator, author and politician, he was at one time world-famous for his exploration of Central Africa, search for the source of the Nile and agent of King Leopold of Belgium which led to the colonization of the Congo River region. Queen Victoria knighted him in 1899.

Few people realize, however, that he owed his famous name and career to an earlier sojourn in America that also earned him a unique distinction by virtue of his military service during the American Civil War.

He was born in 1841 in Wales as John Rowlands. His mother abandoned him as a baby and cut off all communication. He never knew his father, who died within a few weeks of his birth. His parents were unmarried and his birth certificate lists him as a bastard. He lived with various relatives for a short while but was eventually sent to a workhouse for the poor.

He remained in the *Oliver Twist*-like conditions of the workhouse until he was 15. With no prospects in Britain, at 16 he made his way to Liverpool and signed on to the crew of an American cargo ship bound for New Orleans. There, according to his autobiography, he was befriended and hired by Henry Hope Stanley, a wealthy cotton broker. Rowlands/Stanley always claimed that the elder Stanley adopted him, but many historians doubt this. In any event, he assumed the elder Stanley's name as a sign of respect for his friend and benefactor.

Stanley sent his protégé to Cypress Bend, Arkansas to learn the retail trade by working in a country store. By 1861, war was brewing and the Dixie Grays, a local militia unit, was eager to get into the fight. As a British subject, Stanley knew the impending North-South conflict in America wasn't his business. But there was strong pressure for him to join up and fight. Before long, he was the only young man in his town not in uniform. Then he received a package containing a lady's chemise and petticoats, symbols of cowardice, which he suspected had been sent by a young woman he had been courting. He joined the militia the next day, which he later admitted was a "grave blunder."

The Dixie Grays became Company E of the 6th Arkansas Infantry and took part in only minor action until the spring of 1862. Private William H. Stanley got his first major taste of war at the Battle of Shiloh, where his regiment became part of the Confederate left attacking Sherman's troops on the first day of the battle. A stray bullet hit Stanley's belt and knocked him down. After half an hour he roused himself and walked through the battlefield, surveying the dead. "It was the first Field of Glory that I had ever seen in my life and the first time that Glory sickened me with all its repulsive aspects, and made me suspect it was all a glittering lie."

Stanley was taken prisoner during the Federal counterattack on the second day and transported to Camp Douglas, Illinois, a Union POW camp. After enduring six weeks of very hard conditions, he decided to take advantage of an offer made to Confederate prisoners. He was one of some 5,600 soldiers who became “Galvanized Yankees,” a term for Confederate prisoners who agreed to swear allegiance to the United States and join the Federal army.

In his new blue uniform, Stanley was sent East to join the Army of the Potomac. He made it as far as Harper’s Ferry, where he was hospitalized with dysentery and fever. He later wrote that when he recovered he was given a medical discharge, but that was a lie. When he failed to report to his regiment he was officially listed as a deserter on August 31, 1862.

He made it to Baltimore and signed on as a deckhand on a ship bound for Liverpool. Being rejected again by his mother, he returned to America. He never returned to Wales.



Battle flag of the 6th Arkansas

In New York, for reasons he never explained, Stanley joined the U.S. Navy. He used the name Henry Stanley again but changed his birthplace and date on the enlistment form to avoid being identified as an army deserter.

He became a ship's clerk aboard the USS *Minnesota*, where he took part in late 1864 in the bombardment of Ft. Fisher guarding Wilmington, North Carolina, one of the few ports still open in the Confederacy. Stanley's duties aboard the *Minnesota* weren't onerous, consisting mainly of keeping the ship's log. He spent his leisure time writing colorful -- and exaggerated -- accounts of the Ft. Fisher bombardment and sold them to several newspapers.

The *Minnesota* was ordered to Portsmouth, New Hampshire for repairs. Learning that the ship was soon to be decommissioned, Stanley decided to leave the navy. On February 10, 1865, armed with passes Stanley had forged, he and another sailor jumped ship.

He made his way to the goldfields of Colorado but failed to strike it rich. He found temporary work as a free-lance journalist, bookkeeper and day laborer. In 1867 he found steady employment as a reporter for the St. Louis *Democrat*. One assignment had him accompany Maj. Gen. Winfield Scott Hancock on an expedition against hostile Indians. He gained a reputation as a solid journalist and met many interesting people, including Wild Bill Hickok and George Armstrong Custer.

Among those who noticed his journalistic work was James Gordon Bennett, the influential editor of the *New York Herald*. In 1871, Bennett financed Stanley's trip to Africa for a really good story -- finding out what had happened to the famous British missionary and explorer David Livingstone, who had not been heard from in two years. Thus was launched Stanley's remarkable career as an African explorer.

Having served as a Confederate and Union soldier as well as a member of the U.S. Navy, Stanley earned the unique distinction of being the only person to have served in three different branches of the military during the Civil War. Of course, he earned that distinction in a most dishonorable way, having deserted twice. Totally contrary to the 19th century of honor, his conduct may have bothered him somewhat. Perhaps that explains why he lied about having deserted the U.S. Army in his autobiography.

Perhaps he salved his conscience by considering himself a victim of circumstance, being a British subject caught up in a war that wasn't his fight. He joined the Confederate Army because of peer pressure, he became a Galvanized Yankee to escape the squalid conditions of a POW camp and might have joined the U.S. Navy simply to get a steady paycheck. As a relatively penniless immigrant, perhaps he felt only the well-to-do could afford to worry about "honor." The irony is, though he may not have considered himself "an American," he owed his name and future career to the country whose military forces he dishonorably served in.

Dick Cox is a SCWRT board member and chair of the Roundtable's History Committee.



Stanley in 1871

Trivia Answers

1. A: Lincoln signed it into law on July 1, 1862. Amended in 1864, it placed a tax rate of five percent on incomes between \$600 and \$5,000. In 1872, the Supreme Court ruled the tax unconstitutional and it was repealed.
2. A: A Federal POW camp at Point Lookout, Maryland, where the Potomac River meets the Chesapeake Bay. Established on August 1, 1863, at one time it held nearly 20,000 Confederate prisoners.
3. A: Edward Everett. A former U.S. Congressman, U.S. Senator, Governor of Massachusetts, Minister to Great Britain, U.S. Secretary of State and President of Harvard, he was one of the most famous orators in the country. He spoke for nearly two hours. He later said of Lincoln's address, "He said in two minutes what it took me two hours to say."
4. A: Winchester, Virginia. Although authorities don't agree on an exact number, it is thought Winchester changed hands at least 70 times. One British observer dubbed Winchester "the shuttlecock of the Confederacy".

Other Opportunities via Zoom

A series of free lectures on **Wednesdays hosted by the Civil War Round Table Congress (CWRTC)**. Check out their website for topics and to register.

<https://www.cwrtcongress.org/speaker.html>

CWRT Congress Fridays With U.S. Grant for a special series with Dr. Curt Fields.

To register (free)

<https://www.cwrtcongress.org/grant.html>

YouTube Channel for CWRT Congress includes 40+ recorded past talks: https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=cwrt+congress

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<https://www.civilwarseminars.org/lectures>