

# THE GRAPESHOT

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.Meets @ Civic Center Library  
.3839 N Drinkwater Blvd Scottsdale  
.on the 3rd Tuesday of the month  
6:45 PM—8:45 PM

.September thru May  
.\$25 Annual Dues (Due every Sept)  
.\$35 Annual Dues for Mr & Mrs.  
.Everyone Welcome



Dale Phillips

-presents-

The Red River  
Campaign of 1864

November 20, 2007

6:45 PM

Civic Center Library

A native of Jersey City, New Jersey, and holding a B.A. degree in American History from York College of Pennsylvania, Dale Phillips has worked for the National Park Service for 28 years. Assignments have included serving as an interpreter at Gettysburg and Fort Sumter, and as supervisory park ranger at Chickamauga/Chattanooga. Other duties have included being the unit manager of both the Chalmette Unit (Battle of New Orleans site) and the Acadian Unit of Jean Lafitte National Historical Park, in Lafayette and Chalmette, Louisiana. For the last four years, Mr. Phillips has been superintendent of the George Rogers Clark National Historical Park in Vincennes, Indiana.

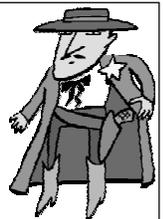
FROM WES' DEN...

I am happy to report that John & Candy Richards, have invited us to their home, for our Tuesday, Dec. 18, Xmas party. Map & directions will be in our Dec. invitation letter. Plan now to make a presentation of your special Civil War relic. Last year our annual "Show n' Tell" was a great success.

I was forced to miss the Oct. program by attending a Copper Canyon, Mexico, bus and train tour. Sylvia & I enjoyed the trip; however I was abused by Montezuma. Of obscure historical interest was our point of return to the states at Columbus, NM. The last armed invasion of our country occurred here in 1916, when Poncho Villa, burned and looted the little town. 8 US soldiers and about 20 civilians were killed. Some of our ranchers/farmers were executed, thus leading to our hanging of irregulars that we captured. Seems that Guantanamo Bay was not available yet. On the Mexican side of the border, the little town has a park with a heroic statue of a charging Poncho, with his pistol, killing "gringos". We had to leave our bus while it was x-rayed, sniffed and inspected. "Yes Virginia", there is a border and it must be maintained.

I wish I had someone that taped the nice Oct. presentation. I have toured VMI and it is a very neat place! Matthew, Mark, Luke and John still stand in front (the original 4 gun battery) & in the museum stands a stuffed LITTLE SORREL (Jackson's horse) and the coat Jackson was wearing, with the mortal hole in it. If you have the ability to tape a program, please let me know. I would like to have a couple volunteers to call when a tape job is needed.

I remain your most obedient servant.....Wes Schmidt



DID YOU KNOW?

.By mid-1862, barely a year into the war, Confederate General Pierre G.T. Beauregard's black hair had turned almost completely white, a development which his friends attributed to the stress of command but which less charitable ....and more accurate....folks suggested was because the Federal blockade had cut off the supply of macassar oil, a commonly used hair dye.

.His exalted status as vice president-elect of the United States did not prevent Union quartermasters from confiscating horses belonging to Andrew Johnson during Confederate General John Bell Hood's Tennessee Campaign of 1864.

.Of the 267 men who served as members of the Confederate Congress, just twenty-two ( 8.2%) owned no slaves.

## **In the Footsteps of Grant and Lee**

text by Gordon C. Rhea

photographs by Chris E. Heisey

Published by Louisiana State University Press

2007

134 pp. \$39.95

Reviewed by Don Swanson, SCWRT Member

Over the 40 days of what would become known as the Overland Campaign, Grant lost 55,000 soldiers. Lee lost 33,000 soldiers in these battles of The Wilderness, Spotsylvania Courthouse, North Anna River, and Cold Harbor that occurred in the spring and summer of 1864. Although these horrendous losses led to the siege of Petersburg and the end of the war, Grant's first campaign in the East has surprisingly not received attention equaling Antietam or Gettysburg.

By March 1864, Ulysses Grant had just been promoted to lieutenant general by President Lincoln and was traveling to Brandy Station, Virginia to meet with General George Gordon Meade, Commander of the Army of the Potomac. After determining that Meade would continue in his position as Army Commander, Grant set about changing how the war was to be fought by coordinating federal armies in both East and West for a spring offensive. Major General Franz Sigel would move up the Shenandoah Valley depriving Lee of critical foodstuffs and Major General Ben Butler's Army of the James would move on Richmond from the south cutting his supply lines. Finally, Meade's Army of the Potomac (with whom Grant would remain for the remainder of the war) would actively engage Lee's Army of Northern Virginia north of Richmond.

Historians differ on the winner of the battles comprising the Overland Campaign and on Grant's engagement tactics. Rhea argues, however, that Grant won the strategic victory by ultimately destroying Lee's army as a fighting force and is undeserving of the "butcher" label that some gave him. Through relentless, but productive assaults, Grant backed Lee's army up to Richmond and Petersburg limiting both its ability to maneuver and its ability to affect the outcome of the war.

Gordon Rhea has already made a significant contribution to the study of this important campaign with four outstanding battle studies. This coffee-table book adds to that contribution with an illuminating summary while making a strong plea for battlefield preservation. The accompanying photos, however, unfortunately do not evoke the strong emotion that would make this book a "must have" for most Civil War enthusiasts.

**Note:** Gordon Rhea and other notable Civil War authors are featured on Civil War Talk Radio on the link below. It is a great resource for folks that cannot get enough of the great speakers that SCWRT features at its monthly meetings. The archived one-hour interviews conducted by a well known historian/author can be heard on your computer or easily downloaded to an MP-3 player.

<http://www.modavox.com/WTRStudioA/HostModaviewForWTR.aspx?ShowId=446>



## UPCOMING ROUND TABLES

Dec 18th...Members Only Christmas Party

Jan 15th...Ed Bearss...*Booth's Escape*

Feb 19th...Howard Strouse...*The Trent Affair: Lincoln Dodged A Bullet*

Mar 18th...Jack Thomson...*Photographs Of Charleston, S.C. During The Civil War*

Apr 15.th...Michael Kauffman...*The American Brutus*

May 20th...Frank O'Reilly...*Lee: Marching Out Of Step - From Lexington To Greatness*

### Robert E. Lee's Father...HENRY LEE known as "Light Horse Henry"

Lee's father, Henry, was one of the most beloved veterans of the Revolutionary War. He enjoyed the friendship of George Washington and esteem of most of the Founding Fathers. That is until they gave him loans and/or credit!

Much of the Lee's life in early 19th Century was complicated by creditors seizing this or that to satisfy Henry's debts to them.

In 1809, he was in jail in Spotsylvania County for his dealings. When discharged in 1810 under the "Insolvent Debtors Act" he was required to surrender 158,000 acres of land he had acquired over the years.

His wife, Ann, and his younger children moved to Alexander, Virginia, living on handouts of what family and friends could afford to give them. He then moved to Nassau, Bahamas to live his last years.

In 1816, he wrote Ann for a few things to make his life more comfortable. Among the requested items were:

1. 3 flanks of beef, "well cured" & 3 ribs, "fresh"
2. 3 or 4 venison hams
3. As many gallons of pickled oysters of the largest & fattest, prepared in the old manner
4. 12 pounds of the best potted back county butter
5. 25 wt of buck wheat and as many lbs of pilot bread

He died soon after. History does not mention if he received these life giving necessities.



## THE CIVIL WAR LIBRARY

By Paul J. Buser

Scottsdale Attorney & SCWRT Member

### **CIVIL WAR CASES BEFORE THE U.S. SUPREME COURT - CHIEF JUSTICE SALMON P. CHASE IN THE LEAD ROLE**

#### **Part 1 of 2 Parts**

Much has been said about the extensive reach of President Abraham Lincoln's executive "war powers" during The War Between the States. Though he has been called our greatest President, by others he has been roundly criticized for many of his Civil War policies and proclamations.

During the Civil War and over the past 152 years, President Lincoln's wartime decisions have led some critics to call him a dictator. They say he violated the civil rights and civil liberties of loyal, yet dissenting, Americans who disagreed with him. Others say he preserved the Union.

Indeed, the Civil War's landscape of "virulent political debates" spawned by Lincoln's actions became the subject of a Pulitzer Prize winning book entitled The Fate of Liberty – Abraham Lincoln and Civil Liberties by Mark E. Neely, Jr. (Oxford University Press 1991). Neely reviews these "actions without precedent" in a very readable and engrossing narrative. I highly recommend it to you.

#### **Salmon P. Chase**

In a subsequent column of *The Civil War Library*, I will review in detail Lincoln's constitutional – or is it unconstitutional? – approach to governing our nation at war. This month's column instead looks at Lincoln's administration from a different angle, to wit: from the eyes Salmon B. Chase.

Both before and during the Civil War, Chase was a staunch opponent and wily devil's advocate. He gave no quarter to Lincoln. In Chase we see at once a politician, a lawyer, and an unrelenting advocate for civil rights and liberties. Yet, the President knew of Chase's abilities, skills, legal knowledge, and practical

know-how to get things done. He trusted Chase enough to appoint him to serve as United States Treasurer and then to lead the United States Supreme Court.

Before the Civil War, before ascending to the Treasury Department and ultimately to the Supreme Court, Salmon P. Chase had a varied background that brought him much public acclaim and attention. He wanted to stay in the limelight, too, if he could, to be out of Lincoln's shadow during the President's administration. His pre- and during- Civil War rivalry with Lincoln is the one of the unusual stories of another Pulitzer Prize winning book, Team of Rivals – The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln by Doris Kearns Goodwin (Simon & Schuster 2005).

#### **Chase's Curriculum Vitae**

Chase was born in 1808 in Cornish, New Hampshire. He died 1873 in Washington D.C. During his 65 years on earth he covered much ground. Twice he served as a United States Senator from Ohio. His first term: 1849 to 1855. After he unsuccessfully ran against Lincoln for the Republican nomination for U.S. President, he was elected to serve a second term as U.S. Senator. But soon after his senatorial election, early in 1861, Chase accepted Lincoln's appointment to serve as U.S. Treasurer.

As U.S. Treasurer, Chase led the campaign to sell U.S. war bonds which were to help fund the war effort. Also, during that time, his responsibility was huge for administering the administration's monetary policies. After Chase, in 1864, again encouraged the circulation of his name as a potential Republican presidential nominee for the 1864 elections – to run a second time against Lincoln for the party's highest mantle – the President appointed him as Chief Justice of the United States of the Supreme Court. He replaced Chief Justice Roger B. Taney, who had served on the Supreme Court for the previous 28 years.

In between his stints as a United States Senator, Chase served as Governor of Ohio from 1856 to 1860. His terms as Governor and Senator for Ohio boded well for his political future at a higher level. He was one of the two leading candidates for the 1860



Republican presidential nomination. The other was William H. Seward, the Whig Governor of the State of New York. However, the radical anti-slavery history of both of these great leaders was, at the time, too much for the Republican Party to bear. Lincoln became the nominee and the rest became his history.

### **“Greenback Dollars”**

Chase’s appointment as Secretary of the Treasury

**“required overseeing the monumental task of funding the war: collecting the nation’s first income tax, obtaining loans, and helping to write congressional fiscal legislation. He promoted a national banking system that provided Federal security to bank notes and helped stabilize currency . . .**

**“More significantly, Chase called for the ‘indispensably necessary’ creation of ‘irredeemable and noninterest-bearing’ U.S. notes, popularly known as ‘greenbacks’ (they were printed with green ink). The Legal Tenders Act of 1862 and 1863 followed, and the greenbacks issued totaled \$447,000,000 by the war’s end. The notes also contained a disclaimer: ‘Legal tender in payment of all debts, public and private, within the United States, except duties on imports and interest.’ The paper currency, unlike the Confederacy’s, was backed by the gold standard, though a \$1 greenback was worth only ninety-one cents in gold by 1862.”**

Quote from The Library of Congress Civil War Desk Reference, ppgs. 174 & 672 (Simon & Schuster 2002).

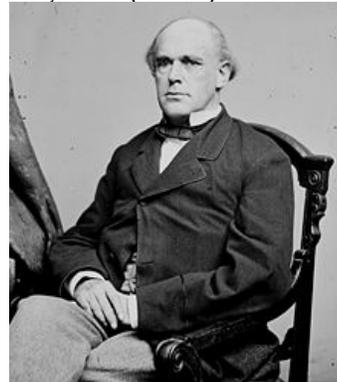


Obverse of \$10,000 bill featuring Salmon P. Chase

### **Chase’s Civil War “Legal History”**

To a “Civil War buff” – the moniker by which many of our SCWRT members are known, by their family and friends alike – I may be risking readerships to talk about Salmon B. Chase’s Civil War “legal history”. After all, by analogy, enthusiasts of opera and classical music do not necessarily warm to rock or to rhythm and blues.

Nonetheless, I will continue on this legal history excursion. Without an understanding of the laws, including those in force during The War Between the States, we are bound to be self-destructive. “In law also the emphasis makes the song.” Justice Felix Frankfurter, *Bethlehem Steel Co. v. New York State Labor Relations Board*, 330 U.S. 767, 780 (1947).



Salmon Portland Chase

Today we know that the law school at Northern Ohio University is named after Salmon B. Chase. He was given this honor for his leadership, his high aspirations, and his significance to the development of American jurisprudence. Much for the same several reasons, Justice Sandra Day O’Connor was more recently honored by Arizona State University by the naming of its law school after her. Both are considered legal giants in their own times.

Next month we will examine the many and varied Civil War related decisions issued by Supreme Court Justice Salmon Chase.

We will venture into those times when the “confiscation acts” were enforced and interpreted, when business contracts between Northerners and Southerners were in dispute, when the rights and express or implied duties of Confederates, blockade runners and neutrals were determined when ships were captured at sea. And much more.