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RICK HATCHER

-presents-

The Life, Death and Life Again of the

H. L. Hunley

September 16, 2008

6:45 PM

Rick has worked for the National Park Service since 1970, starting at Richmond National Battlefield as a Volunteer and Seasonal Employee. In 1976, he became a permanent employee at Colonial National Historical Park at Yorktown, VA, followed by Kings Mountain National Military Park, SC, and Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, MO. Since 1992, Rick has served as the Historian at Fort Sumter National Monument. This job also includes serving as the Historian for Charles Pinckney National Historic Site and Fort Moultrie.

He has worked with various local, state, regional, national, and international media outlets; including National Geographic Magazine, "Good Morning America", and the History Channel's "Histories Mysteries" (*H.L. Hunley* program), Rick served on the *H. L. Hunley* Funeral Committee, is on the South Carolina Battleground Preservation Trust Board, and the Fort Sumter NM liaison officer with the Charleston Civil War Round Table.

.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
.\$35 Annual Dues (Due every Sept)
.\$45 Annual Dues for Mr & Mrs.
.Everyone Welcome

FROM THE EDITOR

I want to continue making our newsletter interactive. I ask that you please write to us about **any** Civil War related topic you find interesting. You can write about something you found interesting in this paper—or any other information source (please tell us the source, or give us a link to go to) and what about you thought about what you read. You can write about any topics our speakers have covered, or any topics they have not covered. If you have a relative that was somehow involved in the conflict, tell us about it. If you went on vacation to a Civil War related site, write to us about it. The point here is that you can write to the newsletter about **ANY** Civil War issues that you are interested in. Please e-mail us at bgreenberg1@cox.net. Please put Grapeshot in the subject.

FROM WES' DEN

Last year we had a fascinating selection of speakers and the quality will not lessen this year. Seven authorities will be flown in and, in October, we will have the Spencer & Jackson Theatrical Troupe, making their third visit. The dean of Civil War speakers, Ed Bearss, will be with us for the ninth time in January.



These quality programs need your support, so please do not delay paying your \$35 or \$45 per household, annual dues. Remember, this is an approved non-profit organization, and dues and donations are tax deductible.

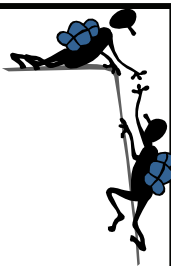
Also, please continue to support our table of Civil War books and magazines with donations and purchases.

I am still looking for a volunteer to tape each program. Many members ask about this. Even I miss a program and I really would like a chance to hear it later.

I hope we can top a membership of 200 this year and

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

Book Review By Don Swanson



Co. "AYTCH" First Tennessee Regiment or A Side Show of the Big Show by Sam R. Watkins. Edited by Ruth Hill Fulton McAllister. Published by Providence House Publishers. Illustrations, appendix, index. 2007. 294 pp. \$34.95

It's rare to find a book dealing with the American Civil War that can be described as charming, but that certainly applies to this new edition of Sam Watkins' classic 1882 memoir, **Co. "Aytch"**. For those enthusiasts (myself included) who have never read earlier editions of this soldier's account of life in the Confederate Army, this edition is the one to read.

For the uninitiated, Sam Watkins published his memoirs as a "high private" in the First Tennessee Regiment in the *Columbia Herald* newspaper and then in book form in 1882. Sam's writings follow his experiences from the beginning of the war through many of its greatest battles including Shiloh, Chickamauga, the battles for Atlanta, Franklin and ultimately the surrender of Joe Johnston's army on April 26, 1865. In Sam's words, "the book is but anecdotes and incidents that would come under the observation of a private soldier, and while many of the incidents are overdrawn, every one has a foundation of truth in them and the book is written more in a spirit of humor and burlesque than the facts it contains". While his perspective of camp life and campaigning are enlightening and frequently amusing, it's his subtle insight that rewards the thoughtful reader ("An officer could resign and it was honorable. When a private resigned he was shot to death."). And while Sam's humor is plentiful, his description of a deserter's execution will suddenly sober any reader who is not prepared for his change in tone. His observations of Robert E. Lee ("his voice was kind and tender, and his eye was as gentle as a dove's") and Braxton "Braggston Braggart" Bragg ("who was running like a scared dog") are great to read, it is Sam's personal experiences (however exaggerated they might be) that make this book so fun. His hilarious accountings of dinner with a Southern family and his actions leading to promotion during the battle for Atlanta are classic anecdotes of the Civil War.

The original 1882 edition containing Sam's handwritten revisions for a second edition that the family had held for years was thought lost. But recently, in the true spirit of Sam's tales it was found in a desk that had once belonged to his wife's grandfather. Sam's great-granddaughter, Ms. McAllister, acquired the book and fulfilled Sam's wish for a new edition that cleverly highlights the changes he wanted over 100 years ago. This reader is happy that she did.

GRAPESHOT MAIL CALL

Our offices received an interesting e-mail from Robert Stahl about a very good article by Jane Schultz about some common myths about women in the Civil War. One in particular stands out, that only a few thousand women served as nurses in the war. She found records that indicate that more than 21,000 women were on the Union payroll. Thank you Robert.

THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR

IN OCTOBER OF 1861 GENERAL GEORGE MCCLELLAN AND JOE JOHNSTON KEEP THEIR RESPECTIVE ARMIES INACTIVE, TO THE GREAT CONSTERNATION OF THEIR RESPECTIVE PRESIDENTS.

THE UNION VICTORY AT THE BATTLE OF PERRYVILLE ON OCTOBER 8, 1862 ENDS BRAXTON BRAGG'S INVASION OF KENTUCKY.

IN MID-OCTOBER, 1863, LINCOLN CREATED THE DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI EMBRACING THE WHOLE REGION BETWEEN THAT RIVER AND THE APPALACHINS, AND PUT GRANT IN COMMAND OF ALL THE UNION FORCES IN THE WEST AND IS ORDERED TO LIFT THE CONFEDERATE SEIGE OF CHATTANOGA.

FOLLOWING THE ORDERS OF GENERAL GRANT IN OCTOBER OF 1864, GENERAL SHERIDAN IMPLEMENTS A SCORCHED EARTH POLICY ON THE FERTILE FARMLANDS OF THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY.

IN OCTOBER OF 1865, AFTER BEING FOUND GUILTY OF MURDER, CONFEDERATE GUERRILLA CHAMP FERGUSON IS SENTENCED TO DEATH BY HANGING IN TENNESSEE.

HOW YOUNG THEY WERE

MORE THAN 2,000,000 FEDERAL SOLDIERS WERE 21 OR UNDER (OF A TOTAL OF SOME 2,700,000).

MORE THAN 1,000,000 WERE EIGHTEEN OR UNDER.

ABOUT 800,000 WERE SEVENTEEN OR UNDER.

ABOUT 200,000 WERE SIXTEEN OR UNDER.

ABOUT 100,000 WERE FIFTEEN OR UNDER.

ABOUT 300 WERE THIRTEEN OR UNDER-MOST OF THESE WERE FIFERS OR DRUMMERS, BUT REGULARLY ENROLLED AND SOMETIMES FIGHTERS.

TWENTY-FIVE WERE TEN OR UNDER.

UPCOMING ROUND TABLES

10/21: **Spencer & Jackson Traveling Theatrical Troup** - *An Evening of Civil War Music and Musings*

11/18: **Greg Mertz** - *I'll Be Damned If I Will Cooperate: Gouverneur K. Warren At The Wilderness and Spotsylvania*

01/20/09: **Ed Bearss** - *Six Civil War Military Figures That Made A Real Difference*

02/17: **Craig Symonds** - *Lincoln and The Navy*

03/17: **Dave Hinze** - *Artillery Hell: A Study of Artillery at the Battle of Antietam*

04/21: **Gail Stephens** - *The Shadow of Shiloh: General Lew Wallace and The Civil War*

05/19: **Richard McMurry** - *The General In the Jar: Joseph E. Johnston In Defense of Atlanta*

The date, time, and place for the Christmas party will be announced shortly.