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Scottsdale Civic Center Library  
(Auditorium)  
3839 N Drinkwater Blvd  
Scottsdale AZ

3rd Tuesday of the month  
September thru May  
(no meeting December)  
6:40 PM - 8:45 PM

\$35 Annual Dues (individual)  
\$45 Annual Dues (family)

## EVERYONE WELCOME

[www.scottsdalecwrt.org](http://www.scottsdalecwrt.org)

mailing address:  
SCWRT  
#274

7349 N Via Paseo Del Sur Ste 515  
Scottsdale AZ 85258-3749

e-mail: [scwrtwebmaster@yahoo.com](mailto:scwrtwebmaster@yahoo.com)



## WILLIAM SHEA

### THE PEA RIDGE CAMPAIGN

February 17, 2015

6:40 PM

Scottsdale Civic Center Library  
(Auditorium)

**WILLIAM SHEA** was Professor of History at the University of Arkansas at Monticello until his retirement in 2014. He is a native of Louisiana and has a B.A. from Louisiana State University and a Ph.D. from Rice University. Shea has been a Fulbright Scholar in China, a consultant for the National Park Service, and a battlefield guide for the Smithsonian Institution. He is author or co-author of numerous books and articles on American military history, especially the Civil War west of the Mississippi River.

His most recent book is ***Fields of Blood: The Prairie Grove Campaign*** (University of North Carolina Press). It received the Fletcher Pratt Award of the New York Civil War Round Table for the best book published on the Civil War in 2010, and the J. G. Ragsdale Award of the Arkansas Historical Association for the best book published on Arkansas history that year.

Among his other Civil War books are ***Pea Ridge: Civil War Campaign in the West*** (University of North Carolina Press), co-authored with Earl Hess, and ***Vicksburg Is the Key: The Struggle for the Mississippi River*** (University of Nebraska Press), co-authored with Terry Winschel. He also wrote ***The Virginia Militia in the Seventeenth Century*** (Louisiana State University Press) and is currently whipping up a biography of Samuel Curtis, the most successful general on either side in the Trans-Mississippi.



Ed Bearss at the newly opened Scottsdale's Museum of The West.

Several Scottsdale Civil War Members (John Bamberl, Bill Toombs, Michael Cady, Jim Bruner, Charlie Knight and Shelly & Gordon Dudley) toured the brand new facility with Ed, the day after he spoke to our group.

For more information about this newest attraction in Scottsdale:

<http://scottsdalemuseumwest.org>



## UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Mar 17: Anne Marshall...*Facts Get Forgotten: Kentuckians Remember the Civil War*
- Apr 21: Thomas Cartwright...*Humor In The Civil War*
- May 19: Frank O'Reilly...*Grinding, Relentless War: The Overland Campaign of 1864*

## SCWRT IN THE NEWS AGAIN !

The **Civil War News** has printed Part 2 of an article members John Bamberl, Don Swanson and Hank Potosky authored titled "Increasing Membership". Look for it under **Round Table Review** by Matthew Borowick in their January 2015 edition. John has received several calls from other Round Tables around the country interested in Part 1.

## AMAZING COLLECTION OF CIVIL WAR PICTURES

<http://www.mikelynaugh.com/VirtualCivilWar/New/Originals2/index.html>

Click on the above link to see these very profound pictures made during the civil war on glass plate. Popular during the war, they lost their appeal afterwards and so many were sold for the glass. Many were used in green houses and over the years, the sun caused the images to disappear. Running your cursor over the photograph will enable the picture caption to pop up.

## **Bookworms in the Basement – Occasional Thoughts on Civil War Reading**

By Bill Spoehr, SCWRT board member

*Jubal Early: Robert E. Lee's "Bad Old Man", Benjamin Franklin Cooling III, 2014, 201 pages.*

Some Civil War generals are, quite frankly, not all that interesting, and we conveniently lump them into broadly defined categories – “Old Army”, politician, radical – but then there’s “Ol’ Jube”. After considering Cooling’s short volume, I’m certain no category can fully contain Confederate Lieutenant General Jubal A. Early.

A West Point graduate and Mexican War veteran from Virginia’s Piedmont, Early was a self-described “country lawyer” who fathered four illegitimate children with his common-law wife (not an upstanding act in Virginia society). Owner of only one slave, he aggressively defended the peculiar institution and ordered the seizure and return to slavery of all blacks, free and “contraband”, during his wartime expeditions into Pennsylvania and Maryland. At Virginia’s April 1861 secession convention, Early voted to remain in the Union, but an overwhelming allegiance to the “Virginia of law as bulwark of societal stability, tradition, loyalty, and, of course, slavery”, caused him to join the Old Dominion’s cause. Early served with the Army of Northern Virginia from First Manassas (July 1861) to Third Winchester in 1865. It was during Robert E. Lee’s various offensive campaigns into the North that the popular view of Early as a modern “war criminal” was born; his words and actions during the remainder of his life did little to diminish that reputation. As a division commander in 1863, Early’s troops burned abolitionist Congressman Thaddeus Steven’s Caledonia Iron Works and, in 1864, Early’s men torched the town of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. Both acts arose from what Cooling calls Early’s “fanatical – even virulent – desire to punish enemy [Union] transgressions against Virginia civilians”. Fearing what would happen if he were captured by Union troops, Early fled to Mexico following Lee’s surrender at Appomattox, traveled to Canada, and returned to the United States after President Andrew Johnson’s final pardon of Confederate general officers in 1868. In the years following Robert E. Lee’s 1870 death, Early was a leading proponent and an aggressive, vicious defender of the Lost Cause Myth, an interpretation of Confederate and Virginia history that still reverberates through history books and popular culture.



*Lieutenant General Jubal A. Early – photo credit: U.S. National Park Service*

Author Benjamin Franklin Cooling accepts the challenge of delving into the evolution of General Early and admirably accomplishes his goal without descending into psychohistory. Those seeking operational details of Early’s battles or a definitive biography will be disappointed; this is not a “great captains” story. Rather, Cooling provides a straightforward, very readable discussion of this competent soldier, marginal lawyer, always controversial, generally ill-tempered, “bad old man”.

Cooling presents us with a triune Early—“antebellum, bellum, and post-bellum”—in a concentrated effort to answer the questions: Who was the man, and who was the historical legend? In life, Jubal Early was a constant contradiction: “a maverick yet wedded to conservatism. Unconventional and contrarian by word and action . . .” Early lived by a “certain code based on protection of property and civil order”. These personality traits, exacerbated by the unrelenting progress of painful and debilitating arthritis, appear throughout Cooling’s account. “No political philosopher and hardly a man of nuance and subtlety”, Early underwent a significant metamorphosis during the war. To him, the Civil War was a resistance against those forces bent on destroying traditional antebellum ideas of law and order throughout Virginia and the Confederacy. As a result of his fixation on what was destroyed in the war, “he would always seem fixed to the past.”

In historical legend, Jubal Early is possibly the most politically incorrect of Civil War figures – the epitome of an “unreconstructed” advocate of a diseased society. Referencing Lost Cause Myth scholar Gary Gallagher’s work, Cooling skillfully avoids falling into the trap of historical hindsight. Instead of defining Early through his post-war reputation, Cooling devotes two chapters analyzing Early’s greatest moment: his march on Washington DC in 1864, a time when “the war could have been ended in an afternoon”. In a solid examination of this under-appreciated campaign, Cooling highlights the many contradictions of Jubal Early – the bold operational march to the gates of Ft. Stevens, followed by hesitation and ultimate retreat. In arguing that Early’s wartime evolution was similar to that of U.S. Grant, W. T. Sherman and Philip Sheridan, the Union’s most famous practitioners of “hard war”, Cooling presents a compelling case that it is here that Early suffers most from his post-bellum reputation and actions. Historians consistently portray him as a marauding Rebel, a war criminal who wantonly destroyed private property, yet Union generals who practiced identical tactics are hailed as enlightened practitioners of war’s evolution. It is a thought-provoking analysis.

The challenge to understanding this aggressive, competent, yet hesitant and vindictive, soldier appears throughout Cooling’s work—Jubal Early, Civil War officer, is also Jubal Early, the “unreconstructed, bad old man” who labored for decades to perpetuate the Lost Cause Myth as the true definition of Southern and Virginian nobility, chivalry, and heroic pursuit of a just cause. Jubal Early was a man who could not come to grips with societal change, and he railed for decades against anyone who questioned his view of the war and correctness of antebellum Virginia society. Given his controversial stance and general nastiness, Jubal Early is in the upper echelon of those Confederate soldiers who had their historical and popular images retooled by the Lost Cause Myth. Unlike the object of Early’s adoration, Robert E. Lee, however, Early’s significant character flaws and negative traits, actions and beliefs were exaggerated, not minimized, by his role in creating a warped version of Confederate history. As Cooling notes, Jubal Early was irrevocably changed by the Civil War - and in changing, a large measure of the man was lost forever.

*Bill Spoehr holds a M.A. in Military History from Norwich University.*

*He is a member of The Society for Military History and the Friends of Gettysburg Foundation.*