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Scottsdale Civic Center Library
(Auditorium)
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3rd Tuesday of the month
September thru May
6:40 PM - 8:45 PM

\$35 Annual Dues (individual)
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mailing address:
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7349 N Via Paseo Del Sur Ste 515
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KEVIN WEDDLE

Lincoln's Forgotten Admiral: Samuel Francis DuPont

September 15, 2015

6:40 PM

Scottsdale Civic Center Library
(Auditorium)

Kevin Weddle is Professor of Military Theory and Strategy at the US Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania. He is a native Minnesotan, graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York, and served over 28 years as a combat engineer officer. Throughout his career he worked in a variety of command and staff positions in the United States and overseas and he is a veteran of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Colonel Weddle's assignments included service as a platoon leader, assistant battalion operations officer, company executive officer, company commander and tours of duty at West Point, Germany, the Defense Intelligence Agency, and the Pentagon. He also served as operations officer for the 555th Combat Engineer Group, battalion commander of the 299th Engineer Battalion, 4th Infantry Division, and was selected for brigade command before joining the US Army War College faculty. At the War College he was the director of the Advanced Strategic Art Program, served as the Deputy Dean of Academics, and held the General Maxwell D. Taylor Chair in the Profession of Arms. He has also won the Army War College's teaching award.

Colonel Weddle holds masters degrees in history and civil engineering from the University of Minnesota and a Ph.D. in history from Princeton University. He has written numerous articles for popular and scholarly journals and his first book, *Lincoln's Tragic Admiral: The Life of Samuel Francis DuPont* (University of Virginia Press, 2005), won the 2006 William E. Colby Award and the Army War College's faculty writing award, and was runner up in the Theodore and Franklin Roosevelt Naval History Prize competition. He is currently writing a strategic history of the Saratoga campaign for the Oxford University Press. He is also a licensed professional engineer.

He is married to the former Jean Buechner of St. Paul, Minnesota and they have one Daughter, Anne.

CIVIL WAR SPECIAL ON PBS IN SEPTEMBER

A newly restored version of Ken Burns' "The Civil War" will air on PBS September 7th. That's Channel 8 to those of us in the Valley.

The high-definition "Civil War" will air on five consecutive nights. Viewers will be able to see more details in the film's images.

This Ken Burns special first aired in 1990, drawing an audience of nearly 39 million people and remains the highest-rated PBS series broadcast to date.

Did you know it took longer to finish the documentary (6 years) than it took the nation to fight it? That Ken Burns visited more than 80 museums and libraries where they and his crew filmed some 16,000 photographs, paintings and newspapers of the period? Also examining countless diaries, letters and reminiscences? That the number of visitors at Civil War battlefields skyrocketed and Shelby Foote became a national celebrity?

Sounds like something we all should say we have watched if for nothing else than to learn the frightful cost our ancestors paid to make this nation a truly United States and if nothing else to listen to the great theme song "Ashokan Farewell" written and performed by Jay Ungar which is now played at people's weddings and funerals. To listen to the haunting melody on "youtube" click here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2kZASM8OX7s>

THE RAISING OF THE CSS GEORGIA

The 1,200 ton ironclad CSS Georgia is being brought up from the Savannah River...piece by piece.

In an \$703 million project to deepen the channel, Navy divers are helping to bring to the surface as much of the scuttled Confederate warship as possible. Surprisingly 1500 artifacts have been found so far.

There are no blueprints or proven photos of the ironclad which was scuttled by its crew to prevent its capture by General William Sherman when his Union army took Savannah in December of 1864.

For further reading about this project, view CNN's great story about it here:

<http://www.cnn.com/2015/07/21/us/savannah-georgia-civil-war-ironclad/>



UPCOMING MEETINGS

Sept 2015 - May 2016

- October 20...John Quarstein
Battle of the Ironclads
- November 17...Howard Strouse
Lew Wallace: Glory in Which Arena?
- December 15...Thomas Cartright
Humor In The Civil War
- January 19...Ed Bearss
Another Evening with Ed Bearss: Your Questions Answered
- February 16...John Hennessy
First Manassas: Legends, Lies, and History's Revisions
- March 15...Craig Symonds
Cutting the Gordian Knot: Abraham Lincoln & the Problem of Slavery in American History
- April 19...S.C. "Sam" Gwynne
Stonewall Jackson: One of the Civil War's Great Transformations
- May 17...Greg Biggs
The Question Was One of Supplies - The Logistics for William T. Sherman's Atlanta Campaign

12% of Membership

Bring a friend to a meeting and ask them to support us by joining! Our Round Table has the best programs, the best website, the best President, the best Members, the best Board & Officers AND the best meeting place of any Round Table out there.

If only 12% of our members encouraged a friend to join...it would grow our group to 450 members !!

All of us who support this group want it to succeed well into the future and we need a continuing membership base to do that.

**BRING A FRIEND AND ASK THEM TO
SUPPORT SCWRT BY BECOMING A
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CIVIL WAR MEDICINE

-by-

Dr. John Bamberl

Scottsdale Civil War Round Table
Society of Civil War Surgeons



Ward in the Carver General Hospital, Washington D.C.
Photo courtesy of *The National Archives*

The Civil War was a tragedy. It was the bloodiest war in American History. Approximately 750,000 men and women—432,000 Northerners and 312,000 Southerners died in the four year conflict. This does not include civilians killed by mass shelling of southern cities and the soldiers that died after the war as a result of their battle wounds. This is the figure that tops the total fatalities of all other wars in which America has fought. Of these numbers, 110,000 Union and 94,000 Confederate soldiers died of wounds received in battle. This figure implies that over 400,000 died of non-gunshot related deaths. That means that only 25 to 30% of all deaths were from war injuries.

When the Civil War began, the United States medical staff consisted of 30 surgeons and 83 assistant surgeons. Of these, 24 resigned to go South and three assistant surgeons were dismissed. Thus the Medical Corp began with 87 medical people and the Confederate States started with 24 surgeons. When the war ended in 1865, some 1300 Union doctors had served in the field and in hospitals. The Confederates had 2,000 medical doctors and an unknown amount of volunteers. Union records estimate that 2,000 women worked in Union hospitals. Records for the Confederacy are not available but are thought to be approximately the same.

During the period just before the Civil War, a physician received minimal training. The average medical school was six months to one year and a preceptorship could be served for two years. Unless he was unusual, he had probably never seen a gunshot wound before. Frankly, they received no clinical experience and were given virtually no laboratory instructions. Harvard University for example, did not own a single microscope until after the war.

No one was prepared for the extent and severity of the Civil War.

Least prepared was the Medical Corp. Surgeons found themselves in a medical state of disaster. Most of the surgeons were from small towns and they were seeing types of wounds they had never experienced before. Warfare and medical technology came together at exactly the wrong time. Union Surgeon General William Hammond lamented that the war was fought “at the end of the medical dark ages”.

Rifling of guns had just been developed and the .58 caliber Minié ball caused severe injury and shattered bones. The rifled Springfields were accurate at 600 to 1000 yards. Internal wounds were beyond the capabilities of the surgeons, and men with abdominal wounds were allowed to die. Abdominal surgery had not been developed yet. There was no knowledge of bone reconstruction and three out of four operations were amputations. It was a life saving operation. It is amazing that so many men with gunshot wounds survived. It must be remembered that there were no antibiotics, blood transfusions or any way to monitor vital signs. Ambulance services were not set up until late in the war. Sterility was not known because germs had not been discovered yet. The power to heal was no where close to the power to maim.

To care for his wounded, the surgeon had a barn, a house or perhaps a church or a school building. His table for operations might be a dining table or a heavy door pulled off its hinges. If he operated at night, it was by candlelight. Despite the lack of training and medical supplies, Union surgeons treated more than 400,000 wounded men and performed 40,000 operations. If a limb was amputated within 24 hours, the mortality rate was 25% and after 24 hours it was 50%. The hospital occasionally came under fire and Union records show that 40 surgeons were killed in battle.

The archives of Civil War medicine indicate that chloroform was used as an anesthesia 98% of the time.

Joseph Jones, an outstanding Confederate medical officer, believed that only ¼ of the Confederate deaths or 50,000 were the result of Battle and 150,000 were due to disease. (Doctors in Gray).

Large numbers of men came from rural areas. Having not been around large groups of people, they had not been exposed to common diseases such as chickenpox and mumps. Consequently, they had no immunity. Poor diets and sanitation combined with exhaustion broke down their immune system. We must remember that these young men often marched 20 miles a day with no shoes, no food, no water and no sleep. The main killers were those that resulted from unsanitary conditions. Drinking from streams occupied by dead horses or human waste and eating uncooked food were the cases of a large number of deaths.

I would like to list the most common diseases and their number of associated deaths. These are only from the Union records.

Measles - 67,763 cases reported and 5,177 deaths. Over 8,000 cases of measles were reported in the Army of the Potomac in the first three months of the war.

Typhoid Fever - 75,418 cases reported and 29,336 deaths.

Diarrhea - 35,127 Dysentery - 9,431 Smallpox - 7,058 Pneumonia - 17,000 to 21,000

Malaria - 34,833 Every seven cases of disease reported in Confederate troops east of the Mississippi. Southern practitioners substituted turpentine for quinine after the successful Union sea blockade and it was very effective.

Non-death related diseases reported:

Rheumatism - 59,772 (1,842 men discharged)

Scurvy - 46,000 deaths reported in the Union Army and 771 deaths. Scurvy or Vitamin C deficiency was the most prevalent disease during the Civil War. It begins innocently enough with mild fatigue, bleeding gums, and hemorrhagic bruises on the skin. After months of a diet deficient in vegetables or fruit, physical conditions worsen, causing weakened bones, loose teeth, severe joint pain, profuse bleeding, anemia and eventually death.



Matthew Brady photograph.. "wounded in hospital"
courtesy of *The National Archives* (Identifier: 524705)

In addition to the dead and wounded from battle and disease, the Union listed the following:

Deaths in Prison - 24,866

Deaths by drowning - 4,944

Accidental deaths - 4,144

Suicides - 391

Executions - 267 Sunstroke - 391

It must be remembered that the discoveries of Louis Pasteur and Joseph Lister completely revolutionized medical and surgical procedures and had not been discovered as yet.

Several areas of progress were made during the Civil War. The Union and Confederacy kept records of all their wounded and wrote journals describing how to deal with certain diseases and wounds. New techniques were developed. New Hospitals were built and they organized an ambulance service. Despite these remarkable improvements, the greatest contribution of the war, in my opinion, was an organized nursing service.

Approximately 2,000 women, North and South, served as volunteer nurses in Military hospitals during the American Civil War. Prior to this time, the medical assistants were either stewards assigned to the duty or walking wounded. Very few women left any records of their wartime services and for a large measure they remain anonymous.

As a group, they deserve attention as full participants in the Civil War conflict rather than mere helpers of the main actors. These women often had a notable impact upon the men they tended and served under. Furthermore, the introduction of female personnel into responsible roles in a traditionally male military environment was one significant step towards a fuller involvement in American society.

There was an 8,000 bed hospital in Richmond, Virginia. It was called The Chimborazo Hospital. It had five soup houses, a bakery that produced 10,000 loaves of bread per day and a brewery that produced 400 kegs of beer. The farm had 200 cows and 500 goats. Altogether there were twenty military hospitals in Richmond. Winder Hospital had 5,000 beds and the Jackson Hospital had 2,500.

Clara Barton was a leader of a national effort to organize the nursing corp to care for the war's wounded and sick. Clarissa Harlowe Barton was born in North Oxford, Massachusetts in 1821. She was a very brilliant student and her only handicap was her shyness. At the age of 29, after teaching for ten years, she entered the Liberal Institute in Clinton, New York; an advanced school for female teachers.

She accepted a teaching position in New Jersey and then opened a free school with attendance growing to 600 students. When the school board refused to offer Barton the high paying position to head the school and hired a man instead, she found herself at a crossroads. Clara resigned and moved to Washington D.C. where she worked as a clerk in the U.S. Patent Office.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, she left the Patent Office to work as a volunteer. She advertised for supplies and soldiers. In 1862, permission to deliver front and Antietam at the 1864, she was given Superintendent of

After the war, she President Lincoln to campaign for missing

She established a used to help find soldiers after the over 63,000 letters office closed in 1867 fate of over 22,000



CLARA BARTON (1821 - 1912)
Courtesy of *The National Park Service*

she was granted supplies directly to the immediately went to height of the battle. In the position of Union Nurses.

received permission from begin a letter writing soldiers.

missing soldiers bureau thousands of missing war. She responded to and by the time the she had identified the men.

However, by 1869, she had worked herself into a physical breakdown and following doctor's orders, she traveled to Europe to rest. There she learned about the Red Cross and the Treaty of Geneva which provided relief for sick and wounded soldiers. Twelve nations had signed it but the United States had refused.

When she returned to the U.S. in 1873, she began her crusade for The Treaty of Geneva and the American Red Cross. As a result, the American Red Cross was established in 1881 for which she served as the first President until 1904. The United States finally signed The Geneva Agreement in 1882.

In 1862, a surgeon at Antietam said "In my feeble estimation, General McClellan with all his laurels, sinks into insignificance beside the true heroine of the age...The Angel of the Battlefield - Clara Barton".

In today's operating rooms, saving lives is based upon team work between the surgical team of men and women. Most chronicles of The Civil War hardly mention the role that women played in this great tragedy. Sadly, no mention is made of an organized nursing service, and at best, Clara Barton might be described as rolling bandages.