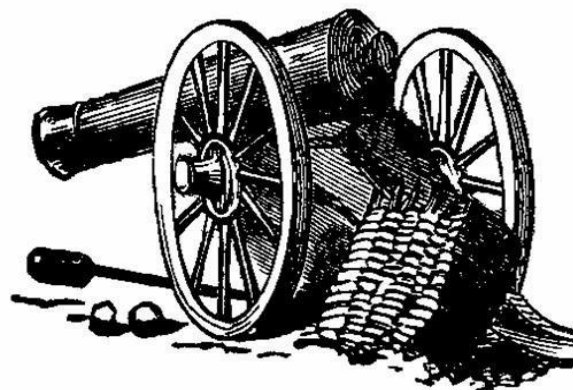


Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable. Inc. 501 (C) (3) non profit corporation
Founded 1978

The Grapeshot

Newsletter



October 2018

Matthew Borowick



Please join us.
Matthew will present *The Court
Martial of Fitz-John Porter* .

Scottsdale Civic Library
(Auditorium)

The Court Martial of Fitz-John Porter

presented by Matthew Borowick



The Civil War had its share of heroes and its share of men to whom the blame for defeat was attached. The Union disaster at Second Manassas in the summer of 1862 led to criticism and then a court martial for one of the rising stars of the Army of the Potomac's high command.

After Robert E. Lee drove John Pope's army back to Washington questions were raised about who was responsible for the defeat. Fingers quickly pointed toward Major General Fitz-John Porter. Pope and his allies claimed Porter wanted to see him fail. Porter spent the next 24 years of his life trying to clear his name.

Porter's trial by court martial focused public attention on the confusing events of the Second Battle of Manassas and laid bare the political rivalries in the Northern armies that led to the downfall of one of the Union's ablest generals.

About the Speaker

Mr. Borowick has had a lifelong interest in the American Civil War dating back to first grade when he took his copy of "The Golden Book of the Civil War" to school every day. In 1992, he joined the Robert E. Lee Civil War Round Table of Central New Jersey, serving as its newsletter editor, advisory board member and webmaster. Later, he helped establish the Civil War Library and Research Center and was its first Executive Director.

Today, Matt is a regular columnist for the *Civil War News* writing on the topic of best practices for Civil War round tables. In 2010 he wrote *The Civil War Round Table Handbook*, available in Kindle format at Amazon.com

He serves as a volunteer at Manassas National Battlefield Park.

Mr. Borowick earned a B.A. in Economics and an MBA in Finance from Seton Hall University, and is employed by Seton Hall as the Interim Vice President for Advancement.

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Meetings @

Scottsdale Civic Center Library (Auditorium)

3839 N Drinkwater Blvd

Scottsdale AZ

3rd Tuesday of the month

September thru May

5:40 PM - 7:45 PM \$35 Annual Dues (individual)

\$45 Annual Dues (family)

EVERYONE WELCOME

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UPCOMING

MEETINGS

Meetings are held at the Civic Center Library Auditorium from 5:40 to 7:30 p.m.

Oct. 16 Matthew Borowick, *The Court Martial of Fitz-John Porter*

Nov. 13 Wayne Motts and James Hessler, *Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg: A Guide to the Most Famous Attack in American History*

Dec. 11 James Hayney, *Lincoln: Lies, Legends and Myths*

Jan. 15 Ed Bearss, *Answering Your Questions on the Civil War*

Feb. 19 James Conroy, *The Hampton Roads Conference*

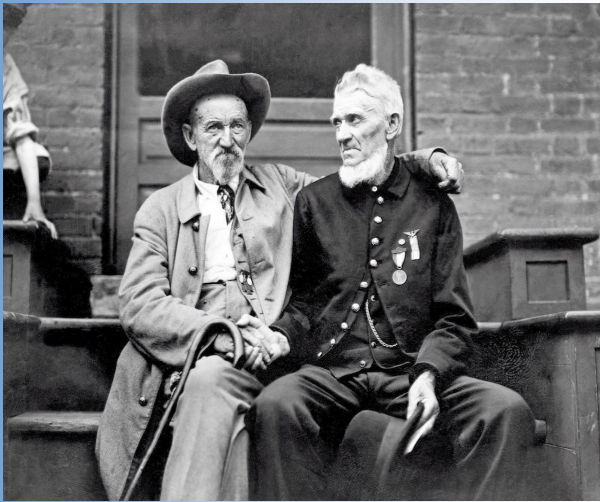
March 19 Howard Strouse, *Civil War Atrocities*

April 16 Frank O'Reilly, *Battle in the Balance: The Union Breakthrough at Fredericksburg*

May 21 Greg Biggs, *How Johnny Got His Gun: The Confederate Supply System*

History Discussion Groups

Didn't get enough Civil War at our speaker meetings? Here is the schedule for our History Discussion Group for this season. We encourage you to join us, it is casual and engaging with a lot of information. Not to mention it's a blast. The discussion group meets in the Gold room at the Scottsdale Civic Center Library from 6 P.M. to 7:30 P.M.



October 25: *Military Courts of Justice* presented by Dick Cox

November 15: *Pickett's Charge* facilitated by Joey Tickle

January 24: *Trivia Contest* with Dick Cox

February 28: *Civil War Name Game* led by Dick Cox

March 28: *Civil War Atrocities*, Howard Strouse facilitator

April 26: *Battle of Fredericksburg*, presented by John Bamberl

LETTERS FROM THE FRONT

Ed.: *The editors invite readers to submit their own stories of Civil War ancestors, battlefield visits, monthly speaker reactions or results of your own research into the limitless range of Civil War topics. Stories can be submitted to Brad Cox via email at <bbscox@cox.net>*

In this month's letter, the pursuit of Civil War genealogy by round table members Brad Cox and Jim Davis brings to life the story of a rebel soldier who had familial ties to the very top of the Confederacy. The following was written by Brad Cox on behalf of Jim Davis.



This month's story takes us to rebel Isaac Davis Stamps.

Isaac was born on April 23rd 1828 in Woodville, Wilkinson County Mississippi. His grandparents Samuel and Jane Davis settled in Woodville after leaving Kentucky in 1812. They helped to operate and maintain a plantation which included black slaves. Samuel and Jane's youngest son was Confederate president Jefferson Davis. Isaac was the nephew of Jefferson Davis.

In September of 1861, Isaac organized a company of men from Wilkinson County. They traveled to Manassas, Virginia and consolidated with the 1st Mississippi battalion. This regiment was then re-designated the 21st Mississippi infantry in April of 1862.

Isaac was appointed Captain and his company became company E, also known as the Hurricane Rifles.

The 21st Mississippi's baptism of fire came on July 1st 1862, at the Battle of Malvern Hill where they sustained heavy casualties: 32 killed and 119 wounded. Two months later they participated in the Battle of Antietam. They arrived at 9 AM on the morning of September 17th and took a position in the West Woods. Heavy fighting would continue until noon. Though they were driven back, the brigade managed to hold this position until the following evening. On the night of September 18, they retired back across the Potomac River and marched with the Army back into Virginia. After the retreat to Virginia they were ordered to Fredericksburg November 18.

At the beginning of the battle of Fredericksburg, December 11, 1862, the Twenty-first had an honorable part in the remarkable performance of Barksdale's brigade in checking until late in the evening the building of pontoon bridges from the opposite shore and the crossing of the Federal advance. The right wing, Companies A, Lieutenant W. Wolcott; C, Lieut. J. J. Lengofield; H, Lieut. S. B. Bryan; F, Capt. W. H. Fitzgerald; G, Capt. W. H. Dudley, all under the command of Maj. D. N. Moody, took position in the town in support of Major Govan of the Seventeenth, and from four in the morning till sometime after noon were exposed to the heaviest fire of artillery they had ever experienced. Lieut. S. B. Bryan was killed.

The remaining companies, under Colonel Humphreys, were stationed in the town to support Colonel Fiser's wing of the Seventeenth. After the enemy had effected a landing Humphreys' men were in a hot fight in the streets. Capt. R. C. Green was killed in command of his company. Captains Gibson, Sims and **Stamps** with their companies checked the Federal advance and held it until about seven in the evening. The 21st Mississippi headed west down Amelia Street towards the Sunken Road with the 20th Massachusetts in pursuit. The regiment lost 8 killed, 25 wounded and 13 captured. This was the first urban warfare, house-to-house, door-to-door fighting in American history.

In April of 1863, the 21st Mississippi went with Longstreet for the Suffolk Expedition. This expedition was Longstreet's first independent command and ended with mixed results. He was able to protect Richmond and succeeded in foraging; however, the main objective was Suffolk which remained in Union hands. Longstreet's next independent command would be the Knoxville Campaign after the Battle of Chickamauga which was a complete failure. Longstreet's 1st Corps joined Lee's army in June 1863 at Culpeper, Virginia and prepared for the northern invasion.

At the Battle of Gettysburg, Longstreet's 1st Corps arrived on the battlefield at 3 PM on the second day of battle July 2nd 1863. Isaac and the 21st Mississippi were attached to McLaw's Division and Barksdale's brigade. The regiment commander was Col. Benjamin Humphreys. Along with the 21st were the 13th, 17th and 18th Mississippi regiments. Isaac commanded company E.

At 6 p.m. on July 2, Longstreet started his assault on the Union extreme left flank. McLaw's Division unexpectedly ran into Sickles' 3rd Corps at the Peach orchard. Sickles and his command were stretched thin. Barksdale's brigade approached the Emmitsburg Road near the intersection of the Wheatfield road. On the northeast corner (Where the Wentz farm stands today) lay the 2nd New Hampshire infantry with the 141st Pennsylvania facing south on the Wheatfield road. The 21st and 17th Mississippians with the rebel yell, slammed into these union troops and proceeded to push them back. It wasn't long before the entire union line began to collapse and were in full retreat. Barksdale's brigade pressed the Yankees all the way to Plum Run. The 21st and 17th after running through the Peach Orchard ran into the 9th Massachusetts battery (Bigelow's Battery) It is here that the 21st engaged in hand to hand combat with the battery. The 21st Mississippians were the only ones to cross Plum Run. The infamous 1st Minnesota had plugged that gap long enough for re-enforcements to arrive and repulsed the confederate onslaught. Barksdale was mortally wounded in this action.

The brigade sent in 424 men during this battle at the Peach Orchard. 18 were killed and 85 wounded. Unfortunately, Isaac Davis Stamps was one of those killed. It is unknown exactly where Isaac took his last breath during this battle, probably when they met the artillery placement. There is no documentation of Jefferson Davis's reaction to the loss of his nephew Isaac.

From Around the Campfire...A Message from Our President



I just returned from the Second Annual meeting of the Civil War Congress. It was held August 18 in Harrisburg, Pa. at the Museum of the Civil War and was hosted by the curator, Wayne Motts. There were 65 roundtables represented by 100 officers. I was asked to join the board in October of 2016. It took us 9 months of phone calls and e-mails to have our first Congress meeting in Manassas on September 16, 2017.

The purpose of the Congress is to bring roundtables together to discuss marketing and membership recruitment areas and give support to struggling roundtables. After searching the web sites of the known Civil War roundtables I found 64 that had ceased to exist for various reasons. After diligent search I found that the main reason was lack of internal structure to carry on after the leaders had resigned or quit. That made our Congress even more important and gave us a direction.

I was asked to give a talk on Marketing and the rapid growth of our roundtable. It was a very good time to brag about our hard-working board and remind everyone that we are 3000 miles West of Gettysburg and in the middle of the Sonoran Desert and have 438 members.

At that first conference I learned the value of Face Book and with the help of Mike Movius from the Puget Sound Roundtable was able to set ours up which now has 280 followers. I also learned about Rack cards which is going to be one of our biggest Marketing tools. The majority of people there were wearing polo shirts with their Logo on it so we now have ours.

I also learned the importance of having an Advisory board and that has worked out great for us. The larger roundtables also have special group of volunteers who do various duties.

I have met some fantastic people and have networked with several roundtable leaders I am in constant contact with. One of my contacts and fellow board member, Matthew Borowick, will be here in September to talk to us. He is a fantastic leader who has published *The Civil War Round Table Handbook* which I have read 5 times.

We salute our new members for the 2018/19 season!

Our round table welcomes new members: James Gentry, Thomas Merrill, Ray Bourne, Greg Poulos, James Fritsch, John Conrad, Steve Pede, Steven Edgett, Dave and Jean Ann Ward, Robert and Sherrie Hackett, Laura A. Taylor, and Raymond Locker.

Dr John A Bamberl

President

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