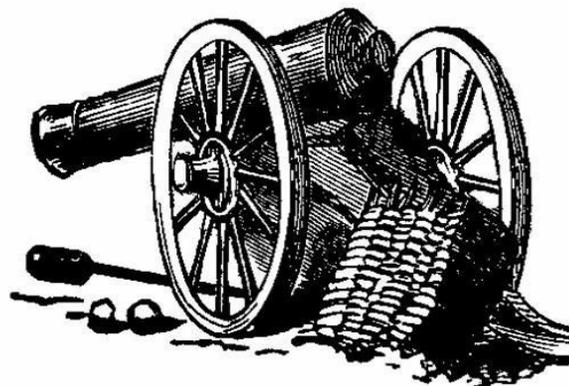


The Grapeshot

April 2019



This month's guest speaker:

Mr. Frank O'Reilly

Mark this on your calendar: On April 16 Battle of Fredericksburg expert Frank O'Reilly will present his talk "Battle in the Balance: The Union Breakthrough at Fredericksburg."

Scottsdale Civic Center Li-
brary Auditorium

6:00 p.m.

April 16, 2019

About Our April Speaker

Union General Ambrose E. Burnside almost won the December 1862 Battle of Fredericksburg in spite of himself. Several miles south of Marye's Heights and its terrible Stone Wall, a Union command surprised and broke through the Confederate lines of Stonewall Jackson. The breakthrough witnessed some of the most brutal close combat of the Civil War and, for a moment, the fate of the battle — and the nation—hung in the balance. On April 19, one of the Scottsdale Roundtable's favorite speakers, Frank O'Reilly, will tell the dramatic story of "Battle in the Balance: Union Breakthrough at Fredericksburg".

Mr. O'Reilly is Lead Historian at the Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park. He is a noted author and lecturer, having spoken extensively on military history to audiences around the world. Frank also served as the Civil War Sesquicentennial special events coordinator for the Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, and Overland Campaign 150th anniversary commemorations.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Meetings are held at the Scottsdale Civic Center Library Auditorium from 5:40 to 7:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of every month Sept. thru May.

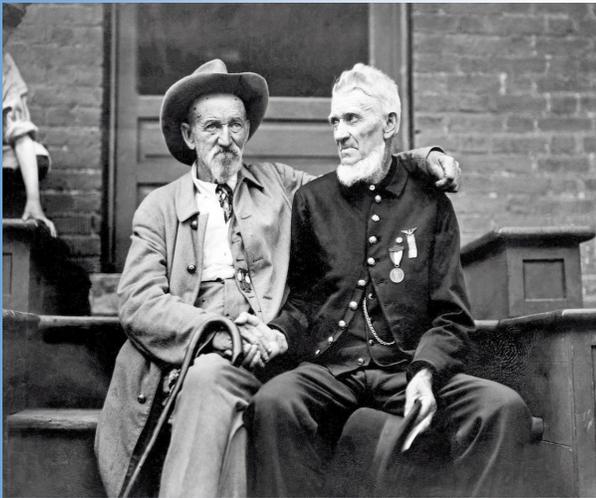


April 16 Frank O'Reilly, *Battle in the Balance: The Union Breakthrough at Fredericksburg*

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. Our meetings are 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.



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

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



This month, Dr. Bamberl shares his essay titled "Women of the Confederacy."

Women in the Confederacy had a great impact on the war. When their sons and husbands went off to war, they were left with taking care of the land and other businesses. Whether they got directly involved in the war effort or kept the home fires burning, women contributed a multitude of skills to the war effort.

It is not known how many women actually participated in battle; however, the numbers seem to be higher than anyone expected. Many women gave up their gender to fight. From the records, the majority appear to have been motivated by shared patriotism and unwillingness to be separated from their loved ones. After

all, their South had been invaded.

One such case was Amy Clark. She enlisted as a private in a cavalry regiment with her husband Walter so she wouldn't be separated from him. She used the name Richard Anderson. She fought in the battle of Shiloh where her husband was killed. After burying her husband, she continued on with Bragg's army in Kentucky until she was wounded and taken prisoner. When she was discovered by the Federals to be a female, she was paroled. But she was not allowed to return until she put on a dress. The following August when the people of Cairo heard of her predicament, they donated money to buy the proper clothing. She was seen wearing Lieutenant's bars at Turner's Station, Tennessee and was recognized as the heroic Amy Clark, causing a bit of sensation among the soldiers.

Another female warrior was Madame Loreta Janeta Velasquez also known as Lieutenant Henry Buford. She was born in Havana, Cuba on June 26, 1842. She was very well educated in New Orleans where she attended Catholic schools and was educated in English, Spanish, and French. At age 15, she developed a relationship with a dashing young Army officer and when the war broke out, she convinced him to renounce his commission and join the Confederacy. He refused to let her go with him to fight so when he left for war she proceeded to Arkansas and raised her own cavalry unit called The Arkansas Grays and took them to Florida to present to her husband to command. But he was killed a few days later. After the first Battle of Bull Run, she decided to become a spy and borrowed female attire and went to Washington to gather information. She grew weary of being a spy and fought at the Battle of Fort Donelson where she was wounded. She re-joined the Battalion she had raised in Arkansas and fought at the Battle of Shiloh where she was wounded

again and an army doctor discovered she was a woman. She then traveled to Richmond where she was hired as a spy. After the war she wrote a 600-page book called "The Woman in Battle". Her claims have been verified in 2007 when the History Channel broadcast "Full Metal Corset" and confirmed her story.

Many women helped the Southern cause by becoming "covert operatives" or spies.

One such woman was Rose O'Neal Greenhow. She was an attractive widow with extensive connections on both sides of the conflict. At the age of 26, Rose married a man 17 years her senior. Dr Robert Greenhow was a physician who belonged to a distinguished Virginia family and was well placed in Washington society. Dr Greenhow was not wealthy and when he died in 1854 he left his widow and four daughters little more than a small brick house. Mrs. Greenhow used her political friendships to obtain jobs and promotions for those who were willing to contribute to her upkeep.

Her career as a hostess and informal powerbroker reached its zenith during the administration of the bachelor President James Buchanan who was a frequent visitor to her home. The most devoted admirer of all was the abolitionist senator from Massachusetts, Henry Wilson, who was chairman of the powerful Senate Military Affairs Committee.

She was recruited as a spy by captain Thomas Jordon, a graduate of West Point. He was the roommate of a cadet named William Tecumseh Sherman. He had long since made up his mind to join the Confederacy but as Assistant Quartermaster of the war Department staff he could foresee a need for military intelligence. He was one of the last officers to leave.

He was a man about town and learned of an "intimacy" existing between Rose O'Neal Greenhow and Senator Henry Wilson. Beyond that, Captain Jordon and Mrs. Greenhow worked together to recruit and select other members of the spy ring.

General Beauregard knew that a battle was imminent and was pleading with Richmond to be reinforced with 11,000 troops under General Joseph E. Johnston in the Shenandoah Valley. Rose got word to him that McDowell was advancing on the 16th and the rest is history.

She was eventually arrested in August of 1861 and placed in house arrest in her own home. In January of 1862 she was transferred to the Old Capital Prison. She was allowed to take her maid and daughter with her. She was released on June 2, 1862 and sent South.

The Confederacy sent Rose to England and France on a secret mission and while she was there, she wrote her memoirs. The title was "My Imprisonment and the First Year of Abolition rule at Washington". On the way back her blockade runner was attacked by a union ship and she was asked to be put ashore in a small boat which capsized and she drowned.

Belle Boyd was probably the most notorious Southern spy and she was quite proud of it. She was well educated and learned to speak French and became thoroughly conversant in classical literature. She is probably most famous for killing a union soldier who was trying to remove a Confederate flag from the front porch of her mother's home and getting away with it. She was only 17 and pled self-defense. She overheard the union plan for Front Royal and rode through union lines to report to Stonewall Jackson. She was arrested several times and after the war toured on stage and wrote a book entitled "Belle Boyd in Camp and Prison". Until her death she toured the country performing her show in a confederate uniform and cavalry style hat. Belle Boyd may have been an accomplished spy but could not separate fact from fiction. She was awarded the Southern Cross of Honor. This was originally intended to be on par with the Medal of Honor.

Belle Edmondson smuggled goods to the Confederate soldiers under her petticoat. Her family had a farm which was about 6 miles south of the Memphis city limits. The farm was located between enemy lines. The family were Confederate loyalists and she had two brothers that had enlisted. She kept a diary of her smuggling activities and she was able to smuggle amputation saws and medicine under the hoops of her skirt. So many trips through enemy lines attracted attention and a warrant was issued for her arrest. She fled to Clay County Mississippi where she lived out the duration of the war. Her memories live in her book, "Diary of Belle Edmondson".

And Jennie Chew whose nickname was "Rose of the Valley" tracked Sheridan's moves through the Shenandoah Valley. The Confederate women were also of great help to the wounded soldiers.

Lucy Ann Cox was a nurse in the 13th Virginia infantry traveling with her husband for most of the war. She marched with the soldiers, including the grueling campaigns of Lee's two invasions of the north and cared for wounded soldiers during combat. When she died after the war she was buried with full military honors.

Two female casualties (one dead and one wounded) were discovered after the Battle of Gettysburg. The body of an unidentified female Confederate soldier was discovered by a burial detail near the stone wall at the Angle on Cemetery Ridge.

At Johnson's Island prison camp on Lake Erie an imprisoned Confederate officer gave birth to a baby boy during the first week of December 1864.

Civil War graves hold a lot of secrets. Considering that the armies of both sides held about 1.5 million soldiers, it would not be surprising to learn that several thousand of them were women.

Southern women picked up nursing quite early. In Richmond, for example, almost every home was opened to the wounded. Sophia Gilmer Bibb headed the Ladies Hospital association and had her own hospital. In fact, the Surgeon General informed Jefferson Davis that it was the best managed and most comfortable hospital in the South. Ella King Newsom of Arkansas was called the "Florence Nightingale of the Southern Army". Juliet Hopkins was called "Angel of the South" by Joseph Johnston because she helped the wounded on the battlefield and was wounded twice doing so.

The most famous nurse however, was Sally Tompkins. She was the only woman in the Civil War to be given a rank. Mary Chestnut was a volunteer at the Tompkins Hospital. Captain Sally (as her patients called her) was born at Poplar Grove in Mathews county, Virginia in 1833. Her grandfather had been commissioned by George Washington. This family tradition led her to believe fervently in the Southern cause. After her father's death her mother sold the family estate and moved to Richmond. Here they joined the James Episcopal Church where they encountered the wealthy and socially prominent of the city including Judge Robinson. When the war broke out in 1861 Robertson moved his family to the country and Hopkins was allowed to use his empty home as a hospital. With contributions from well healed friends and with her own money she formed "The Ladies of the Robertson Hospital". The hospital was noted for its efficiency and especially its cleanliness. During its four years existence it treated 1,333 patients with only 73 deaths. This was the lowest mortality rate of any military hospital during the Civil War.

The Confederate government had to close all private hospitals because of cost but she appealed to President Davis and pointed out the high percentage of men that were returned to active duty. Davis relented and offered her a commission as Captain and put her hospital under control of the army. She accepted the but

commission but refused to be paid.

After Lee's surrender she stayed in Richmond devoting her time and gave what was left of her money to charitable and religious causes. She never married and eventually took up residence at the Richmond Home for Confederate Women and died penniless in 1916 at the Age of 83. She was buried with full military honors. She was a true Angel of the Confederacy.

Southern women were extremely patriotic. Women had to play the role of the perpetual optimist. They encouraged their men to enlist. The women of the South knew that if they could appear to be courageous and take care of their home themselves, then that would enable their men to "emerge victorious". Standing by their men was one of the most difficult things a woman had to do in the 1860's. Not only see their husbands go to war but also their father, brothers and sons.

There is a memorial to Women of the Confederacy in Rome, Georgia (next to Nathan Bedford Forrest) . I would like to close by reading the inscription.

"She was obedient to the God she adored and true to every vow she made to man. She was loyal to the country she loved so well. And upon it's alter she laid husband, sire and son. The home she loved to serve was graced with sincerity of life and devotion to heart. She reared her sons to unselfish chivalry and their daughters to spotless purity. Her children delight to give her honor and love to speak her praise. Whose purity, whose fidelity, whose courage, whose gentle genius in love and in counsel kept the home secure, the family a school of virtue, the state a court of honor, who made war a season of heroism and peace a time of healing; the guardians of or tranquility and of our strength."

Dr. John Bamberl

President, Scottsdale Civil War roundtable

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I Didn't Know That...

Editor's note: We are privileged to offer our readers the first in a series of essays researched and written by our Round table member Mr. Gary Dorris. Enjoy!

"Confederates Raid St. Albans, Vermont"

Throughout the Civil War there were Confederate operatives based in Canada. Some were on diplomatic missions to observe Canadian and British neutrality, while others were merchants who brought Southern cotton, rice and tobacco into Canada for sale or barter to return funds to the Southern states.

But there were also Confederate military forces based in Canada which, despite that nation's neutral position, conducted raids into the northern most parts of the United States. Confederate Captain John Yates Beall led a group that attacked federal facilities and rail lines around Lake Michigan until his capture. He was charged by the regional military commander as a spy, rather than held as a prisoner of war; and he was sentenced to death by a military court. President Lincoln was asked by numerous northern politicians and citizens, who knew Beall's family before the War, to commute the sentence, but he refused to intercede. Later, Lincoln said, *"It was a lack of decision I now regret because the boy was surely a soldier."*

However, the most audacious raid by Confederate soldiers, and the one farther north in the United States than any other, was at St. Albans, Vermont on October 19, 1864. Lieutenant Bennett Young, a Confederate officer stationed in Canada, had proposed to his superiors in the South that his unit of about twenty men conduct various raids in Maine, Vermont, and New York, but had not received permission to enter the United States. The Southern leaders were concerned that Canada, and the rest of the British Empire, would consider such forays as a breach of their neutrality.

By 1864, however, the Confederate government's financial situation was grim with their currency devalued to near zero and no new opportunities to raise money from other countries. Equally important, they desperately needed a successful military action which might demoralize northern citizens, energize their own people, and distract Union forces which were pushing deep into the South. So, they gave Lt. Young permission to raid into the U.S. from his base in Canada.

So, Lt. Bennett made his own tactical decision! He decided to rob banks.

His target was the town of St. Albans, Vermont, about 15 miles from the Canadian border, a commercial hub for the area, which boasted three banks. Also, the Governor of Vermont had a residence there and Lt. Young planned to burn that house and other buildings in the town, as retaliation for similar acts by Union troops in the South.

Lt. Young sent several men into town to scout the banks, any police or military presence, and find the best escape route back into Canada. They checked into two hotels in town and some passed themselves off as Canadian businessmen looking for opportunities, while others claimed to be part of a group planning a hunting trip. On October 19th, the rest of Lt. Young's men, dressed in civilian clothes, rode into town and joined the group already there waiting on horseback. The combined force began riding through town firing their weapons and rounding up citizens who were on the

or in nearby buildings, and herded the crowd into the town's central park. The raiders told their captives that they were only a part of a larger force of 100 Confederate soldiers who were there to take over the town; not a true number, but certainly effective crowd control, at least for a while. Simultaneously, three teams of soldiers charged into the three banks, overwhelming the small staffs and a few customers.

The first few minutes of the robberies went as planned and all three units emerged from the individual banks and onto the streets at about the same time, with their bags full of cash; a surprising amount of over \$200,000! (Adjusted for inflation, the haul was worth over \$5 million).

But then, Captain George Conger, a Union officer on leave, broke free from the containment at the park and found a few others who had avoided capture. They located various firearms and began firing at the Confederates. In the exchange of gunfire, one citizen was mortally wounded and died three days later, while one Confederate soldier also died a few days later of wounds. As they hastily retreated from St. Albans, Lt. Young's men, on orders to burn the town, threw incendiary devices into several buildings, but they failed to ignite and the raiders never even made it to the Governor's house.

The Confederate force returned into Canada where all were eventually captured by Canadian authorities and most of the money was confiscated as evidence. However, Canadian prosecutors determined that no crime had been committed in their territory. When Secretary of State William Seward demanded that the soldiers be extradited to the United States, Canadian courts blocked the move. Some politicians and other leaders in the U.S. recommended that Union soldiers be sent into Canada to capture and return the Confederates; however, President Lincoln would not allow any such action across the border. In the long term, Lincoln's careful response was appreciated by the British who made it clear to the Confederate government that further "expeditions" from Canadian territory would be considered a "belligerent act" upon the British Empire. In 1865, Canada returned some of the stolen funds, but, in the year since the raid, much of the money had just mysteriously disappeared.

In 1911, when he was seventy-one, former Lt. Young returned to Canada and met a contingent of St. Albans citizens. He told the group that he appreciated that a few sympathetic Canadians had helped him get some of the money to Richmond. And, he said that, while he regretted the loss of life, it was a wartime raid and he considered his mission a success.

On October 19, 2014, St. Albans commemorated the 150th anniversary of "The northernmost military action by Confederate forces." One resident noted that, this time, although there were several "Southerners" in town again, the only shots were taken by photographers and bar patrons.

Contact the author at gadorris2@gmail.com or see other articles under BLOGS at www.alincolnbygadorris.com

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