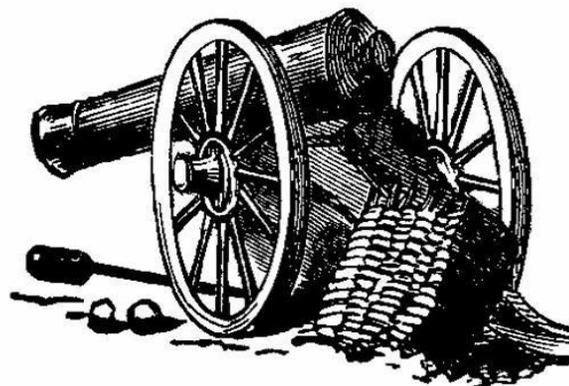


Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable, Inc. 501 (C) (3) non profit corporation
Founded 1978

The Grapeshot

Newsletter

April 2021



This month's guest presenter:

Frank O'Reilly

Please join us as Mr. O'Reilly speaks on "Malvern Hill: Retreat from Victory", the final battle of General George McClellan's Peninsula Campaign of 1862.



Follow us on [Facebook](#)

Presented through Zoom

April 20th, 2021

6 pm

About Our Speaker

On April 20th, one of the Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable's favorite speakers, Frank O'Reilly, will speak on "Malvern Hill: Retreat from Victory", the final battle of General George McClellan's Peninsula Campaign of 1862. After almost reaching Richmond, a series of attacks by Robert E. Lee, the new Confederate commander, drove the Union Army back and General Lee prepared a final blow on the Federal troops on Malvern Hill. Mr. O'Reilly will discuss the battle and how the dramatically different temperaments of Lee and McClellan contributed to the outcome of the campaign. 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. The meeting will be at 6pm via Zoom.

Topic: Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable April 2021

Meeting Time: Apr 20, 2021 06:00 PM Arizona

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82346966595?pwd=WFdWQjVVGQmVkQWtaTTVoQjdrMXdQZz09>

Meeting ID: 823 4696 6595

Password: 473488

SCOTTSDALE CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE SPEAKERS 2021

All meetings at 6 pm on dates below and via Zoom until further notice.

April 20 - Frank O'Reilly, "Malvern Hill: Retreat from Victory"

May 11 - Brian Wills, "Inglorious Passages: Noncombat Deaths In The Civil War"

Officers, Staff, and Meetings

OFFICERS/BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT: Dr. John Bamberl 480-699-5844

VICE PRESIDENT: Mark Stoler

SECRETARY: Hal Bliss

PARLIAMENTARIAN: Hal Bliss

TREASURER: Michael Harris

ASSISTANT TREASURER: Richard Cox

PROGRAM CHAIRMAN: Mark Stoler

BOARD MEMBERS (thru 5/2021): Cal Thompson, David Smith, Shelly Dudley, Hal Bliss

BOARD MEMBERS (thru 5/2022): Richard Cox, David Ward, Tom Merrill, Jo Roberts

COMMITTEES

Book Table: Cal Thompson

Bylaws: Chairman Hal Bliss, Richard Cox, Mark Stoler

Grapeshot: Chairman Jo Roberts, Richard Cox, David Ward

Greeters: John Bamberl

History: Chairman Richard Cox, Brad Cox, Mark Fischer

News Release: Chairman Shelley Dudley

Program: Mark Stoler, Gordon Dudley, George Bennet

Social Media: Chairman John Bamberl

Student Outreach: Chairman Tom Merrill

Webmaster: Mark Echeveste

MEETINGS

Zoom Meetings scheduled the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6 PM by email invitation

September thru May

\$35 Annual Dues (individual)

\$45 Annual Dues (family)

EVERYONE WELCOME

www.scottsdalecwr.org

SCWRT #274

7349 N Via Paseo Del Sur Ste 515

Scottsdale AZ 85258-3749

e-mail: scottsdalecwr@gmail.com

Trivia Questions

1. What was Maj. Gen. George Gordon Meade's reply on being told that he was the new commander of the Army of the Potomac?
2. What was the fate of Robert E. Lee's horse Traveller?
3. What were the only breach-loading cannons used at Gettysburg and who used them?
4. What Confederate States cabinet member ended his career as a British barrister in London?

Trivia answers are on page 13.

THIS MONTH IN CIVIL WAR HISTORY

April 20, 1861. Lt. Colonel Robert E. Lee, who has declined an offer to command all Federal forces, resigns from the U.S. Army. On the 23rd he takes command of all Virginia forces.

Scottsdale Civil War Round Table

Membership

Please Join Us!

Your membership enables SCWRT to help with battlefield preservation and attract the best Civil War experts from around the country as keynote speakers at our meetings, September thru May! Please fill out this form and return it with your check payable to Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable. Mail to this address:

Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable

#274 7349 N. Via Paseo Del Sur Ste 515 Scottsdale, AZ 85258-3749

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, & Zip _____

Phone # _____

E-mail _____

Student Membership (no charge) _____

Active Duty Military (complimentary) _____

Individual Membership \$35 \$ _____

Family Membership \$45 \$ _____

Additional contribution of \$ _____

100% of your contribution (minus expenses) goes to battlefield preservation.

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

*Our monthly newsletter "The Grapeshot" will be emailed to you.

Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable is approved by the IRS as a 501 c (3) non-profit organization. Contributions are tax deductible for federal and state income tax returns. Check with your tax consultant.

www.scottsdalecwr.org

Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable

480/699-5844

"We are beginning an occasional series highlighting other historical and heritage groups in the Phoenix area.

The *Buffalo Soldiers of the Arizona Territory* were organized to ensure the heritage of the AZ territorial period and the Black Americans of that time are not lost to destiny. The regiment is a group of individuals who research and re-enact the parts of history and the characters of the Old West.

The Buffalo Soldiers consisted of the 9th and 10th Cavalry Regiments and 24th and 25th Infantry Regiments of the U.S. Army, and included soldiers who also fought for the Union in the Civil War. All of these regiments were stationed at various times in Arizona.

Buffalo Soldiers of the Arizona Territory - Ladies and Gentlemen of the Regiment, Mesa, AZ was founded by Cmdr. Fred Marable, a Vietnam Veteran, and Deputy Cmdr. Michelle London-Marable. The organization has been authorized by the Arizona Legislature to raise funds and construct a monument to the Buffalo Soldiers on the grounds of the Capitol in Phoenix. To learn more about this project, which is a 501(c)(3) charity, and to make donations if you desire please [visit their website](#). They can also be found on Facebook."

GEORGE ALFRED TOWNSEND AND THE NATIONAL CIVIL WAR CORRESPONDENTS MEMORIAL

© 2021 Richard P. Cox. All rights reserved.

High up on the Maryland extension of the Blue Ridge known as South Mountain, near Burkittsville and the Battle of Crampton's Gap, stands one of the strangest and most obscure Civil War monuments. It's dedicated to the memory of 157 Northern journalists and artists who reported on the Civil War. The monument was the brainchild of war correspondent George Alfred Townsend.



George Alfred Townsend (1841-1914) was born in Georgetown, Delaware, the son of an itinerant Methodist minister. He began his career as a journalist with the *Philadelphia Inquirer* and in 1861 moved to the *New York Herald*. He covered the Army of the Potomac in many of its early battles for the *Herald* and is generally considered to have been the youngest Civil War correspondent.

Like many journalists today, Townsend realized there was a good deal of money to be made from being a "media celebrity." He sailed for England and gave well-received lectures on the American war to British audiences.

He came home in 1864 and served again as a war correspondent for the *New York World*. He became famous for the accuracy of his reports. Lincoln reportedly was once asked if he should visit a battlefield. “No,” he replied, “George Alfred Townsend has been there.”



Townsend worked as a journalist both at home and overseas after the war and became one of the best-known novelists of the Reconstruction period. In 1865, he wrote one of the first comprehensive accounts of the life and capture of John Wilkes Booth. When writing fiction he published under the pen name “Gath,” which was formed by adding an H to his initials, and was inspired by the biblical verse, “Tell it not in Gath, publish it not in the streets of Askelon” (2 Samuel 1:20). His best-known novel is “The Entailed Hat,” into which he incorporated the true story of Patty Cannon, a woman from Maryland’s Eastern Shore who led a gang of murderers and kidnappers who abducted free blacks and sold them to slave traders from the deep South in the early 19th century.

Made wealthy from his writing, in 1884 Townsend purchased about 100 acres on South Mountain just above the site of the Battle of Crampton’s Gap. He was motivated by the site’s natural beauty as well as its proximity to the Battles of South Mountain and Antietam. He built a home (named Gapland or sometimes Gathland) and several outbuildings. Some of the buildings still stand and are part of Gathland State Park.

Townsend's most unique architectural enterprise is his monument erected as a memorial to his fellow Civil War correspondents. He prevailed upon wealthy men like J.P. Morgan, George Pullman, Joseph Pulitzer and Thomas Edison to contribute money to the project, but the design and execution were entirely his own. As Ruthanna Hindes, Townsend's biographer, describes it,

"In appearance the monument is quite odd. It is fifty feet high and forty feet broad. Above a Moorish arch sixteen feet high built of Hummelstown purple stone are superimposed three Roman arches. These are flanked on one side with a square crenellated tower, producing a bizarre and picturesque effect. Niches in different places shelter the carving of two horses' heads, and symbolic terra cotta statuettes of Mercury, Electricity and Poetry. Tables under the horses' heads bear the suggestive words "Speed" and "Heed," the heads are over the Roman arches. The three Roman arches are made of limestone from Creek Battlefield, Virginia, and each is nine feet high and six feet wide. These arches represent Description, Depiction and Photography.

The aforementioned tower contains a statue of Pan with the traditional pipes, and he is either half drawing or sheathing a Roman sword. Over a small turret on the opposite side of the tower is a gold vane of a pen bending a sword.

At various places on the monument are quotations appropriate to the art of war correspondence. They are from a great variety of sources beginning with Old Testament verse. Perhaps the most striking feature of all are the tablets inscribed with the names of the 157 correspondents and war artists who saw and described in narrative and picture all of the events of the four years of the war."

Maryland Governor Lloyd Lowndes dedicated the monument on October 16, 1896 and in 1904 it was turned over to the National Park Service. After Townsend's death in 1914, his daughter sold Gathland. In 1943, a church group purchased the property and used it as a summer conference site. Later, members of the Frederick Chamber of Commerce and the Historical Society of Frederick County, Inc. acquired it. In 1949, the property was transferred to the State of Maryland and the Department of Forests and Parks now administers it as Gathland State Park.



The National Civil War Correspondents Memorial

Aside from a small monument located within Arlington National Cemetery, Townsend's creation is the only memorial in the United States dedicated to war correspondents. On October 1, 2003, Maryland Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. dedicated a plaque on the grounds of the memorial in memory of four journalists who died in the post-September 11, 2001 war on terrorism. The honorees were David Bloom, Daniel Pearl, Michael Kelly and Elizabeth Neuffer.

Journalists played an indispensable role in bringing news of the Civil War armies to the public as well as to the families and friends of those who served. Reporters, sketch artists (some, like Winslow Homer, later became famous) and photographers captured the reality of battle and its aftermath in a way that was new for the age.

As journalist and author James M. Perry puts it, modern American journalism began with the Civil War, largely thanks to two inventions. It was the world's original instant-news war, made possible by the invention of the telegraph. The telegraph could transmit information about battles and troop movements "as if by lightning," as the reporters put it. Almost as important was the steam engine, which powered the printing presses and drove the locomotives that moved reporters and armies from place to place at speeds no one had ever contemplated before.

Civil War era journalists were a colorful lot. They called themselves and were called by others “a Bohemian Brigade.” Perry writes they were:

“rowdy and boisterous. They competed hard to be first with the news and got it wrong more often than they should have. They were frequently arrogant and pompous. They lied; they cheated; they spied on one another and on the generals they wrote about. They made up battles they had never seen. They speculated in cotton. They drank too much. They did a lot of things reporters are still doing today.”



Detail from the War Correspondents Memorial

Press censorship was instituted on the armies’ telegraph lines in 1861 but was often haphazard or nonexistent. Robert E. Lee reportedly was an avid reader of northern newspapers so he could gather intelligence about Union politics, military intentions, strategy and morale.

Many Union generals openly despised reporters and some went so far as to brand them traitors. William T. Sherman famously hated all journalists, and on one occasion George G. Meade had a reporter ridden out of his camp on a rail. But not all generals had negative opinions of journalists, especially if they thought they could be used to enhance their reputations. Townsend wrote that after the Battle of Five Forks, near the end of the Petersburg campaign, he congratulated Phillip Sheridan on his victory. Sheridan was pleased and gave Townsend a half-hour summary of the battle and helpfully drew him a map of the engagement.

Perry writes that Townsend's monument is also a stark reminder that part of the story is missing. Reporters covered the war for newspapers in the South, too. Although much less is known about southern newspapers and reporting during the war, some recent studies have tried to correct the imbalance.

Covering the war was especially hard for southern journalists. Telegraph and rail connections were sparse and unreliable. Southern newspapers were cut off from the Associated Press, the leading news-sharing cooperative. Southern publishers organized their own press association in 1862, which did its best to distribute news dispatches to its members.

All too often, copies of southern newspapers from that time have disappeared. Just as in the North, the South had its own "celebrity" journalists but they didn't write much about themselves and few wrote memoirs about their war experiences. Northern reporters, on the other hand, babbled about each other in their stories and many wrote colorful memoirs when the war was over.

Unfortunately, Townsend's monument stands in an out-of-the-way corner of Maryland. Aside from Civil War buffs inspecting the South Mountain battle sites, few people have ever been there or know it exists. As Perry writes,

"It stands there today, lonely and neglected, reaching out to the occasional tourist who stops by to look at it in wonder and amazement. It is the only monument ever built to honor the memory of the Bohemian Brigade."

Dick Cox is a SCWRT board member and chairman of the Roundtable's History Committee.

Trivia Answers

1. "Well, I have been tried and convicted without a hearing. I suppose I shall have to go to execution."
2. Traveller remained with Lee after the war, going with him to Washington College in Lexington, Virginia. Traveller died in 1871, a year after Lee, and his skeleton was placed on display until 1970. It was then buried on the Lee Chapel Grounds a few feet away from Lee's crypt.
3. Whitworths, imported from England. The Army of Northern Virginia had two of them.
4. Judah Benjamin, former U.S. Senator and Confederate Attorney General, Secretary of War and Secretary of State.

Other Opportunities via Zoom

A series of free lectures on **Wednesdays hosted by the Civil War Round Table Congress (CWRTC)**. Check out their website for topics and to register.

<https://www.cwrtcongress.org/speaker.html>

CWRT Congress Fridays With U.S. Grant for a special series with Dr. Curt Fields.

To register (free)

<https://www.cwrtcongress.org/grant.html>

YouTube Channel for CWRT Congress includes 40+ recorded past talks: https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=cwrt+congress

From Chambersburg Civil War Seminars and Tours

Zoom presentations 15th and 30th of every month. Nationally known speakers. \$5 per registration

For schedule and registration

<https://www.civilwarseminars.org/lectures>