

The Grapeshot

Newsletter

February 2024



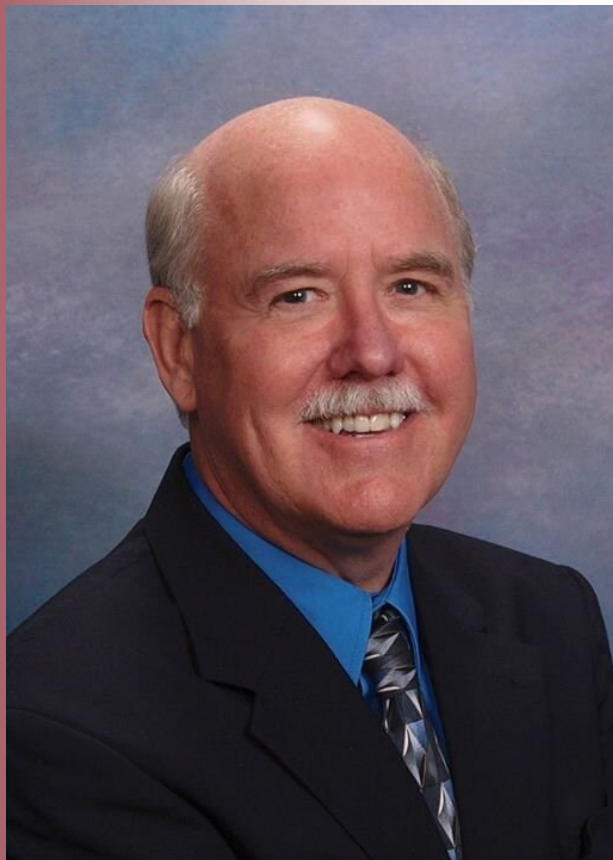
**The Scottsdale Civil War
Roundtable welcomes**

Dr. Dave Schrader

as he presents:

***Love Him or
Hate Him?***

***General Benjamin
“Beast” Butler***



Join the meeting on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G3Fy1XankI4>

Follow us on [Facebook](#)

Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable. Inc.

501 (c) (3) non profit Corporation , Founded 1978

Scottsdale Civic Center
Library

Copper Auditorium

February 20, 2024

6:00 pm

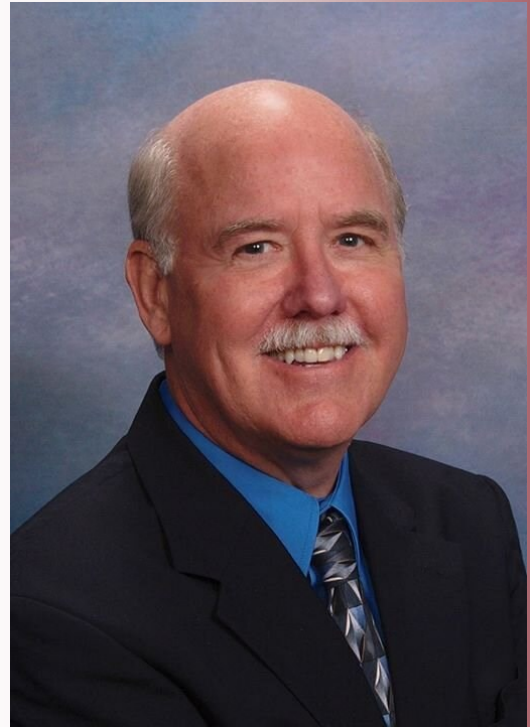
Doors open at 5:00 pm for
social hour, meet the
speaker, book sale, and
Civil War Video

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About Our Speaker

Dr. Dave Schrader



Dr. Dave Schrader is well known to Civil War lecture groups in California. For the past ten years, he has spoken to a number of Civil War Round Tables in the Golden State on a variety of topics. He has always

been particularly fascinated by “the rest of the story” - for example, the activities of support organizations such as the Signal Corps, the commissary Corps, and the Quartermaster Corps, who often played major but behind the scene roles helping generals achieve their goals. Most of his talks are interactive, so be prepared for audience participation!

Schrader’s lecture “Love Him or Hate Him? General Benjamin ‘Beast’ Butler” will examine the Civil War service of one of Abraham Lincoln’s most controversial political generals. Butler led a fascinating life, beginning as a lawyer and politician in Massachusetts, culminating in his command with the rank of Major General of the Army of the James. Schrader will explore Butler’s contributions to ultimate Union success while also addressing “Beast” Butler’s short-comings. According to Dr. Schrader, whether you “Love Him or Hate Him”, audience members will walk away with a better understanding of Butler’s interesting life, military service, and successes and failures.

Topic: Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable,
February 20, 2024 Time: 6:00 PM Arizona
Join the meeting on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G3Fy1XankI4>

Scottsdale Civil War Round Table Speakers & Programs September 2023-May 2024

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| February 20 | Dr. Dave Schrader “Love Him or Hate Him? General Benjamin ‘Beast’ Butler” |
| March 19 | Steven Cowie “When Hell Came to Sharpsburg: The Battle of Antietam and Its Impact on the Civilians” |
| April 16 | Eric Buckland “Mosby’s Rangers” |
| May 21 | Mark Bielski “A Mortal Blow to the Confederacy: The Fall of New Orleans, 1862” |

ANNOUNCING THE ROUNDTABLE'S 2024-25 SCHEDULE

- Sept 17: **Robert D Jenkins**, “The Cassville Affairs and the Failed Confederate Strategy in the Atlanta Campaign”
- Oct 15: **Thomas Cutrer**, “This Sink of Shame: The Red River Campaign, 1864”
- Nov 12: **Kristen Pawlak Trout**, “Missouri’s Civil War”
- Dec 10: **George Rable**, “Conflict of Command: George McClellan, Abraham Lincoln, and the Politics of War”
- Jan 21: **Gary Gallagher**, “Celebrating Union Victory: The Grand Review in History and Memory” (Ed Bearss Memorial Lecture)
- Feb 18: **Alex Rossino**, “Calamity at Frederick: Robert E Lee, Special Orders No. 191, and Confederate Misfortune on the Road to Antietam”
- March 18: **Chris Mackowski**, “Civil War Monuments and Memory”
- April 15: **Brad Gottfried**, “Lee Invades the North: A Comparison of the Antietam and Gettysburg Campaigns”
- May 20: **Terry Pierce**, “Thundering Courage: Union Boy Generals in the Gettysburg Campaign”

Letter from our President

Mark Stoler



You'll see our just announced 2024-25 program in this issue. We're very excited about the lineup with great speakers and a wide variety of topics, starting off with three presentations on the Western theater.

We are particularly pleased to be able to have Gary Gallagher as our Ed Bearss Memorial speaker next January. Gary does not do a lot of Roundtable events and I wanted to thank our program chair, David Ward, for getting him here. Dr Gallagher will be the third of our Ed Bearss speakers, following in the footsteps of Terry Winchell and Will Greene.

I also wanted to make special note of two other of next season's speakers. Dr George Rable, recently retired from the U of Alabama (and before that, LSU), and former President of the Society of Civil War Historians, will be speaking on his new book on the political and personal aspects of the Lincoln/McClellan relationship. He is moving to the Phoenix area so his first appearance at our Roundtable will also be a chance to welcome a new neighbor.

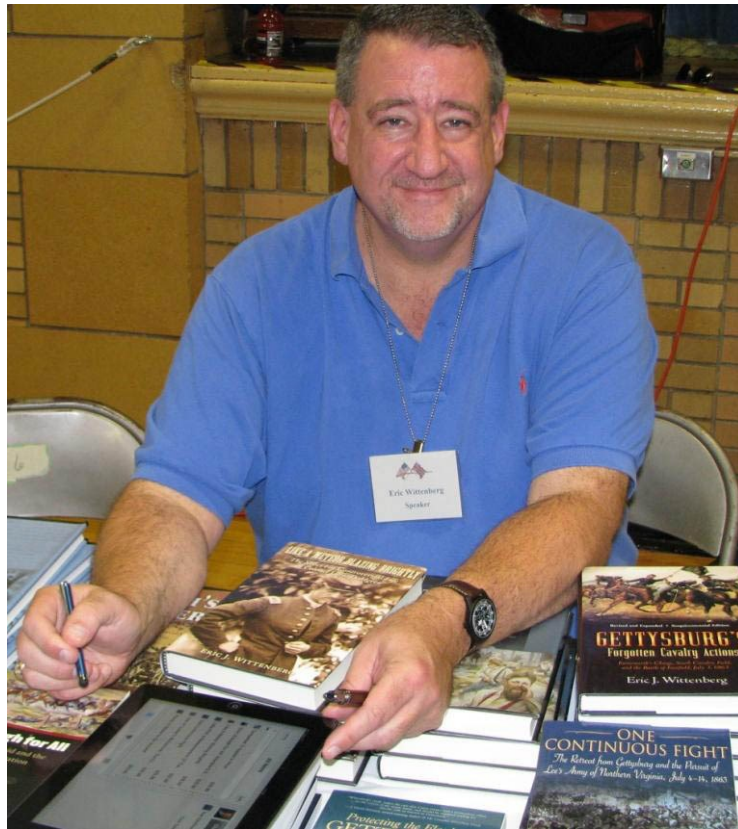
Many of you know Chris Mackowski, who seems to be everywhere recently when it comes to the Civil War, most notably as editor-in-chief and co-founder of the Emerging Civil War website and book series. This will be Chris' first appearance with us and he'll be speaking on the timely subject, Civil War Monuments and Memory.

As we've previously discussed, the Roundtable is increasing its outreach efforts to help expand our membership to 400 over the next 4 seasons. We will have a table at the upcoming Scottsdale Senior Expo on February 21, and are looking for other opportunities. If you should identify any potential speaking or exhibitor opportunities, particularly with history, heritage, veteran, or senior groups please let us know. Along with Scottsdale, we can participate in events in the East Valley, Phoenix, Paradise Valley, and Cave Creek.

Over the past month I've attended events at the Tucson and Sun City/Surprise Roundtables, our two fellow Roundtables in Arizona. The presentations were excellent and attendance strong with about 40 at each event. Each issue of the Grapeshot contains their schedules and, if you should be in their area, please consider attending.

Please drop a note to me at stolerscwrt@gmail.com on any of the topics mentioned here or if you have any suggestions or comments about the Roundtable. Look forward to hearing from you.

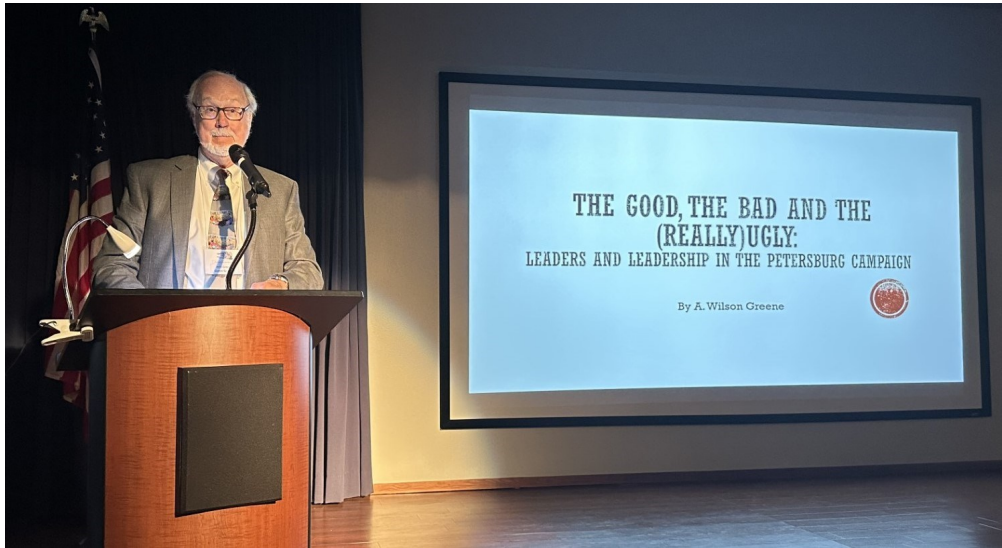
CIVIL WAR AUTHOR AND FREQUENT SCWRT SPEAKER ERIC WITTENBERG DIAGNOSED WITH CANCER



Prolific author and frequent Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable guest speaker Eric Wittenberg has been diagnosed with aggressive stage four diffuse large cell non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. The cancer has metastasized and caused multiple fractures to his pelvis. Eric is now confined to a wheelchair until it is determined that he is able to undergo surgery to repair the damage.

Eric and his family are incurring significant expense remodeling their home to deal with his limited mobility. Eric's wife, Susan, has also recently undergone some medical issues. Their friends have set up a Go Fund Me page to assist him with his medical and other bills. If you would like to help Eric, please follow this link. www.gofundme.com/f/please-consider-helping-eric-and-susan-wittenberg

Photos from January 2024 meeting



Top Left and Below: January speaker A. Wilson Greene enlightening listeners about the Petersburg Campaign



Left: John Fritz and Michael Fritz share their knowledge and memorabilia

2023-24 Roundtable Officers, Board, & Committees

President: Mark Stoler (203)645-1387; stolerscwrt@gmail.com)
Vice President: Richard Cox
Treasurer: Bruce Washburn
Secretary: Hal Bliss

(All Officers serve until 5/31/2025)

Board Members

Until 5/31/2024

Tom Merrill, Pat Toftoy, David Ward

Until 5/31/2025

John Bamberl (President Emeritus), Jim Payne, Jo Roberts, Cheri Stegall

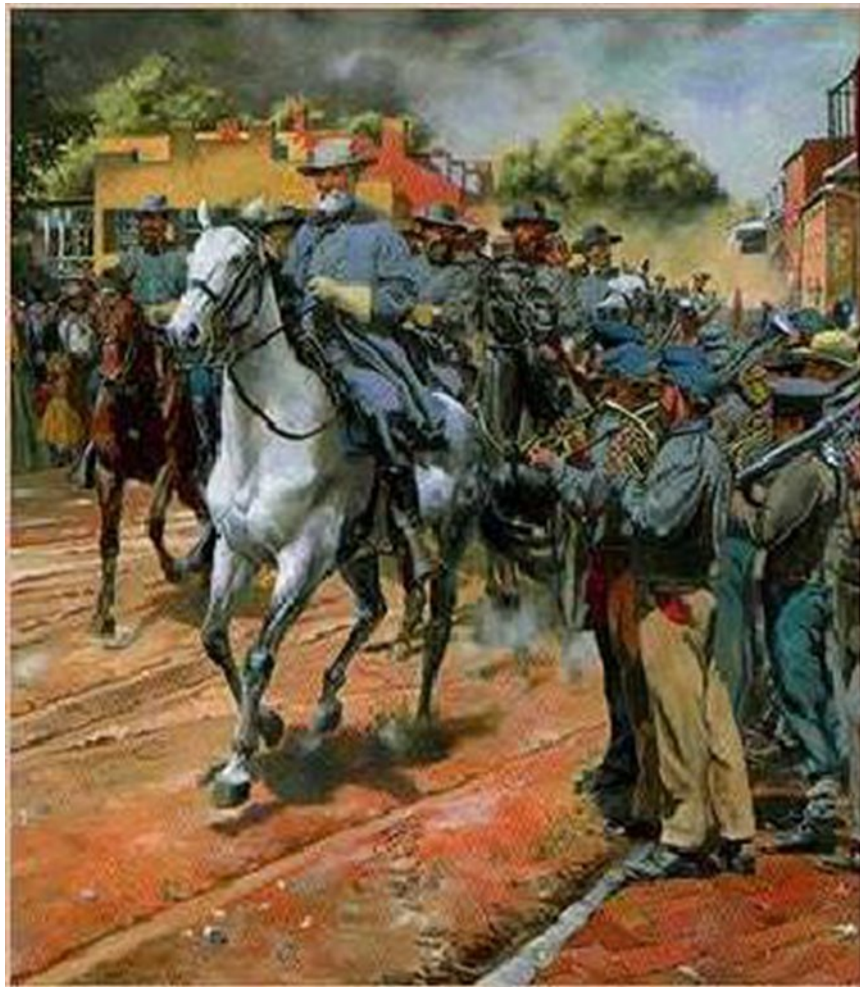
Committees

Program:	David Ward, Cheri Stegall
Grapeshot:	Richard Cox
Greeters:	John Bamberl, Jim Payne
History:	Richard Cox
News Media:	Jo Roberts
Social Media:	John Bamberl
Event Support & YouTube:	Tom Merrill
Book Sale:	Pat Toftoy
Membership:	Mark Stoler, Cheri Stegall

SILENT AUCTION AT FEBRUARY ROUNDTABLE MEETING!

Through the generosity of Roundtable member Ken Anderson, we will be conducting a silent auction at the February Roundtable meeting for this authenticated Don Troiani signed print (907 out of 950) of Lee and his generals.

The print will be on display in the gallery prior to the meeting and there will be forms there to make your bids.



**Roundtable member and reenactor John Fritz
at the 160th anniversary of Chickamauga.**



CLEMENT VALLANDINGHAM'S DEATH WAS AS UNIQUE AS HIS UNUSUAL LIFE

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Clement Laird Vallandingham of Ohio was one of the most controversial figures of the Civil War era, and his premature death was emblematic of his unusual career.

He was born in 1820 in New Lisbon, Ohio. His father was a Presbyterian minister, who educated his son at home. Vallandingham also attended Jefferson College in Pennsylvania but didn't receive a degree after a dispute with the college president.

Ironically, Edwin M. Stanton, the future Secretary of War under Lincoln, and Vallandingham were close friends before the war. Stanton lent Vallandingham money to study law and begin his own practice. Both Vallandingham and Stanton were Democrats but held opposing views on slavery. Stanton was an abolitionist and Vallandingham was pro-slavery.

Shortly after beginning law practice in Dayton, Ohio, Vallandingham entered politics. He was elected as a Democrat to the Ohio legislature in 1845. While in the state legislature, he voted against repeal of the "Black Laws," laws against the civil rights of African Americans, believing the matter should have been put to a referendum by the voters.

Vallandingham ran for Congress in 1856 but was narrowly defeated. He appealed to the Committee on Elections of the House of Representatives, claiming illegal votes had been cast. The House eventually agreed and he was seated on the next to last day of the term. He was reelected by a small margin in 1858 and again in 1860.

By the time the war broke out he was widely known as one of the most pro-slavery, pro-states-rights voices in Congress. He became one of Lincoln's most outspoken critics. He was the acknowledged leader of the anti-war Democrat faction called the Copperheads.



Congressman Clement Vallandigham

Vallandigham lost his bid for a third term in the House in 1862 by a wide margin. But as a lame-duck congressman he gave a fiery speech on the House floor denouncing abolition, Republican purported violations of civil liberties, and Lincoln's preliminary Emancipation Proclamation, charging that "war for the Union was abandoned; war for the Negro openly begun." He knew his public speeches and sentiments aided the Confederate war effort by raising skepticism about the Lincoln administration's policies and encouraged Northerners openly to violate Union wartime measures.

On April 13, 1863, General Ambrose E. Burnside issued General Order Number 38 warning that the "habit of declaring sympathies for the enemy" would not be tolerated in the Military District of Ohio. Nonetheless, Vallandigham gave a major speech in that state on May 1, charging that the war had become an attempt to free slaves by sacrificing the liberty of white Americans to "King Lincoln." Four days later he was arrested for violating General Order Number 38. He was tried before a military commission and sentenced to confinement in a military prison for the duration of the war.

Vallandingham's trial and sentencing elicited a storm of protest from leading Democrats. A former Ohio senator applied for a writ of *habeas corpus* in federal court despite the fact that Congress has passed an act authorizing the President to suspend *habeas corpus* as a war measure on March 3, 1863. When the Supreme Court finally heard the case in 1864, it ruled in Ex parte Vallandingham that it had no power to issue a writ of *habeas corpus* to a military commission.

Meanwhile, wary of making Vallandingham a martyr to the Copperhead cause, Lincoln ordered that he be sent through enemy lines to the Confederacy. The Confederate government didn't know what to do with him. Jefferson Davis sent him to Wilmington, North Carolina, and he was briefly under guard as an "alien enemy."

Vallandingham shortly thereafter left the Confederacy on a blockade runner for Bermuda and from there made his way to Canada. There he declared himself a candidate for governor of Ohio and actually won the Democratic nomination *in absentia*. But he lost the election in a landslide to a pro-Union War Democrat.



Vallandingham being sent to the Confederacy

While in Canada, Vallandigham openly conspired with Confederate agents to undermine the Union war effort. In June 1864 he crossed back into the United States in disguise and gave an anti-administration speech in Hamilton, Ohio. Lincoln was informed of his return but chose to do nothing. In late August, Vallandigham openly attended the 1864 Democratic National Convention as a delegate from Ohio. His reception at the Convention was decidedly mixed. On the occasions when he spoke, he was met with both cheers and hisses.

Vallandigham promoted the “peace plank” of the party’s platform, which declared the war a failure and demanded an immediate end to hostilities. He was highly indignant when presidential candidate George B. McClellan reputed the peace plank and he stopped campaigning for him.

Vallandigham lost post-war campaigns for the Senate and House of Representatives. He then resumed his law practice.

Vallandigham died in 1871 in Lebanon, Ohio, after he accidentally shot himself in the abdomen with a pistol. He was representing a defendant in a murder case charged with killing a man in a barroom brawl. Vallandigham attempted to prove the victim had accidentally shot himself while he was drawing his pistol from a pocket when he was rising from a kneeling position.

As Vallandigham was conferring with fellow defense attorneys in his hotel, he showed them how he would demonstrate his theory to the jury. Selecting a pistol he believed was unloaded, he put it in his pocket and enacted the events as they might have happened according to his defense theory. The loaded pistol snagged on his clothing and discharged into his stomach. Surgeons probed for the bullet but were unable to find it. Vallandigham died the next day from peritonitis.

Vallandigham’s bizarre death did have a silver lining. It confirmed his theory of the defense. His client was acquitted and released from custody!

Dick Cox is SCWRT vice president and chair of the History Committee.

THIS MONTH IN CIVIL WAR HISTORY

February 16, 1862. General Ulysses S. Grant lays down terms for the surrender of the Confederates besieged at Fort Donelson, Tennessee.

“No terms except unconditional and immediate surrender can be accepted. I propose to move immediately upon your works.”

The Confederates do surrender and he becomes known as “Unconditional Surrender” Grant.



BATTLE OF FORT DONELSON

February 2024 Trivia Questions

1. Soldiers of Company F of the 27th Indiana found the lost copy of Lee's Special Orders No. 191 prior to the Battle of Antietam. Company F had another distinction. What was it?
2. What was a "brevet" rank?
3. Admiral David Dixon Porter of the U.S. Navy had an even more famous relative. Who was it?
4. What was the only seceding state to lose territory as a result of the war?

Answers on final page

SWCRT History Discussion Group

The Roundtable's History Discussion Group meets at the Panera Bread at 7145 E. Indian School Road, near the corner of Scottsdale Road and Indian School. There is a large room at the back of the restaurant that is suitable for our needs. It would be good if attendees could buy a beverage or light meal while attending to help thank Panera for hosting us but is not required. We will start discussions at 6:30 p.m. and end at 8:00. In addition, we will be moving from Tuesday nights back to Thursday, which was our usual day before COVID. Our discussions are relaxed and lots of fun.

Everyone is welcome. Come and join us!

2023-24 SCWRT HISTORY DISCUSSION GROUP SCHEDULE

February 29, 2024, Military Discipline During the War

March 28, 2024, Prelude to Antietam: The Battles for the South Mountain Passes

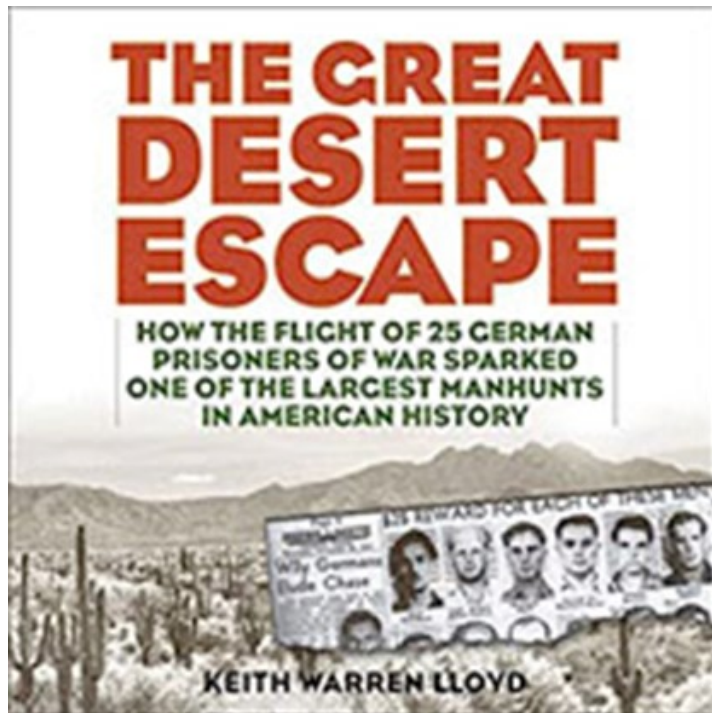
April 25, 2024, Annual Trivia Contest

May 2024, No Meeting

SCOTTSDALE HISTORY THIS MONTH

Some events you might find of interest:

The Great Desert Escape - 1 to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 21, Mustang Library Auditorium, 10101 N. 90th St. A special presentation for the 80th anniversary this year of the largest escape of prisoners of war in North American during World War II that happened in Scottsdale. Join historian and author Keith Warren Lloyd as he explores the factors leading up to the escape, the escape itself and the aftermath.



REGISTRATION REQUIRED.

To register go to: [https://
www.scottsdaleaz.gov/citizen-
service/college/registration](https://www.scottsdaleaz.gov/citizen-service/college/registration)

2024 Founders Day - Mark your calendars for 11 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 26th, for the 2024 Founders Day celebration in front of the Little Red Schoolhouse at 7333 East Scottsdale Mall. This year marks the 136th year since the founding of Scottsdale, when Winfield and Helen Scott purchased their land and began promoting the area. Feb. 26 marks the 187th birthday of Winfield Scott and the 114th year since the Little Red Schoolhouse was officially opened as Scottsdale Grammar School with Winfield Scott presiding over the event. This year's celebration will be a combined effort of the city of Scottsdale and the Scottsdale Historical Society, with assistance by the Daughters of the American Revolution Winfield Scott Chapter. Joan Fudala will host the celebration. Mayor David D. Ortega will read a proclamation making Feb. 26 as Founder's Day in Scottsdale.

Scottsdale Civil War Round Table Membership Form

Please Join Us!

Your membership enables the SCWRT to donate towards civil war preservation projects and attract the best Civil War experts from around the country to speak at our meetings, from September to May! Please fill out this form and return it with your check payable to Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable. Mailing address:

Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable

7349 N. Via Paseo Del Sur, Ste 515-274

Scottsdale, AZ 85258

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

Student Membership (no charge)

Active Duty Military (no charge)

Lifetime (\$500) \$ _____

Individual Annual (\$35) \$ _____

Family Annual (\$45) \$ _____

Additional donation \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

The Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable is an Arizona non-profit corporation and a U.S. 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.

Website: www.scottsdalecwrt.org

All members receive our monthly publication, The Grapeshot, from Sept-May

Follow us on Facebook at Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable

160 years ago
1864
 to War's End

CENTRAL COAST CONFERENCE

March 1-3, 2024

Monterey History & Art at Stanton Center
 5 Custom House Plaza, Monterey, CA 93955

Friday night Art Gallery reception and panel;
 Saturday and Sunday presentations & book signings

Five preeminent historians reflect
on the people, events and significance of the last year of the

AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

Gary
 Gallagher



Harold
 Holzer



Joan
 Waugh



Craig
 Symonds



Gordon
 Rhea



A prolific author, and Professor in the History of the American Civil War, Emeritus Director, John L. Nau III Center for Civil War History at the University of Virginia. [Biography](#)

Writer, lecturer, and winner of the 2015 Glider-Lehman Lincoln Prize, he is one of the country's leading authorities on Abraham Lincoln and the political culture of the Civil War era. [Biography](#)

Professor Emeritus at UCLA she researches and writes about nineteenth-century America, specializing in the Civil War, Reconstruction, and Gilded Age eras. [Biography](#)

Professor Emeritus of History at the United States Naval Academy, where he taught for over 30 years. He received Pritzker Military Museum & Library's 2023 Literature Award for Lifetime Achievement. [Biography](#)

A former Assistant U.S. Attorney in Washington D.C. and the Virgin Islands, he has written a magisterial five-volume campaign study of the 1864 Overland Campaign. [Biography](#)

For more information, visit:

<https://whtours.org/1864-the-tide-turns.html>

or email: CivilWarForum@mac.com



Stanton Center, left, and Custom House on Monterey's historic plaza



Monterey History & Art at Stanton Center
5 Custom House Plaza
Monterey, California 93940



All presentations will be held in the comfortable 100-seat theater at the Stanton Center

Parking is available at the Waterfront Parking Lot at the intersection of Del Monte Avenue and Washington Street. Additional parking is available at the East and West Parking Garages located at Del Monte Avenue and Tyler St.



REGISTRATION \$285 per person

What's included: Friday night (March 1) Art Gallery admission, wine & cheese reception in the gallery, and author panel in the theater. Full schedule of ten presentations in the theater, five on Saturday (March 2), and five on Sunday (March 3). **What's not included:** meals, or hotel accommodations. Visit "Places to Stay in Monterey County": <https://www.seemonterey.com/hotels/>

Mail check or money order to:
Woodbury Historical Tours
PO Box 60085, Palo Alto, CA 94306

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Confirmation will be sent to you via email (if given above), or mailed. Pick up your nametag with your registration packet at the Stanton Center on March 1, 2024

(Secure online registrations will be available on our website beginning October 1, 2023, at whitours.org)

WHAT'S GOING ON AT NEIGHBORING ROUNDTABLES?

TUCSON CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

February 2, 2024 – “General Montgomery Meigs—Engineer, Quartermaster, Architect” Bob Consigli

March 1, 2024 – “General James Longstreet—A Magnet for Controversy” Dan Paterson (Zoom)

April 5, 2024 – “The North Carolina Campaign — 1884” Don Waugaman

May 3, 2024 – “Civil War Music” Steve Smith

The Roundtable conducts lunch meetings at 11:30am at the Hungry Fox Restaurant in Tucson.

For more information contact Elise Moore at elisemoore7@gmail.com

Sun Cities and Surprise Civil War Round Table

Program Year 2023—2024

October through May on the first Tuesday each month

1:30 pm Social, 2:00 pm Program

Covenant Presbyterian Church

13601 W Aleppo Dr

Sun City West, AZ 85375

February 6, 2024	John Cox: More Civil War Letters
March 5, 2024	James Bish: Slavery and American Colonies
April 2, 2024	Jim Terasinski: Blazing the Railroad Trails
May 7, 2024	Steve Alexander: The Laws of War and Civil War Tactics— The USA Today Verses 1861—1865

Other Online Opportunities

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>

And See Your Round Table Online

Follow the Scottsdale Civil War Round Table on Facebook

Watch past speakers on our YouTube Channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfxW2cvzCbGoKebHKPZsq5A>

Visit our website <https://www.scottsdalecwrt.org/>

February 2024 Trivia Answers

1. Company commander Captain David Van Buskirk was acknowledged as the tallest soldier in the entire Union Army, standing just a half inch shy of seven feet.
2. A promotion to a higher rank, usually given for meritorious service. For example, a colonel promoted to brevet brigadier general held the rank of general but still received a colonel's pay. Established in 1806, brevet promotions were abolished in 1869.
3. His adoptive brother was Admiral David G. Farragut.
4. Virginia, when fifth counties seceded from Virginia in 1861 and became the State of West Virginia in June 1863.