

The Grapeshot Newsletter

April 2022



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This month's presenter:

James Hessler

The Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable welcomes James Hessler as he presents: How Dan Sickles Declared Himself 'The Hero of Gettysburg'

Scottsdale Civic
Center
Library Auditorium
April 19, 2022,
5 pm

Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable, Inc.

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

Also on Zoom

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About Our Speaker

James Hessler has worked as a Licensed Battlefield Guide at Gettysburg National Military Park for nearly two decades. Jim has authored or co-authored three full-length books on the Gettysburg campaign: *Sickles at Gettysburg* (2009), *Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg* (2015), and *Gettysburg's Peach Orchard* (2019). He also authored articles in *Gettysburg Magazine* and *America's Civil War*. His books received several distinguished book awards.

Jim currently co-hosts the popular *Battle of Gettysburg Podcast*, with an audience in more than 80 countries. His other media appearances include Travel Channel, C-SPAN, NPR, PCN-TV, Breitbart News, and other outlets. He was one of the primary content designers for the American Battlefield Trust's mobile Gettysburg application. Jim is a frequent speaker for the Gettysburg Foundation, Civil War Round Tables, and other historical groups nationwide. In addition to Gettysburg, he leads tours in Washington D.C. and other battlefields such as Chancellorsville and the Little Bighorn in Montana. He currently sits on the Board of Directors for the Little Bighorn Associates and the Executive Council for the Association of Gettysburg Licensed Battlefield Guides.

Zoom Meeting Information

Topic: Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable April 2022 Meeting

Time: Apr 19, 2022 05:00 PM Arizona

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88636192066?pwd=d28rMlc4Q2gwaFdQZkc5Y0IxTXV2Zz09>

Meeting ID: 886 3619 2066

Passcode: 68079

SCOTTSDALE CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE SPEAKERS 2022

April 19 - James Hessler, “How Dan Sickles Declared Himself ‘The Hero of Gettysburg’”

May 17 - Elizabeth Parnicza, “Stonewall Jackson’s Last Map”

Our originally scheduled February and March speakers, Caroline Janney and Eric Wittenberg, will appear in February and March of 2023.

All events at 5 PM in the Scottsdale Civic Center Library Auditorium and available simultaneously on Zoom.

If attending in person, you can come as early as 4 PM to meet our speaker, fellow members, and browse the book sale.

RECENT BOOKS BY ROUNDTABLE SPEAKERS

Adrian Brettle: Colossal Ambitions: Confederate Planning for a Post-Civil War World.

“Brettle’s *Colossal Ambitions* is the most unique work on the Confederacy to appear in many years. No other historian has so completely researched and presented the harrowing ways that Confederates envisioned their nation.” - Civil War Monitor

Walter Stahr: Salmon P. Chase: Lincoln’s Vital Rival

Following on his biographies of Stanton and Steward, Stahr has authored a study of Salmon Chase. In a Wall Street Journal review, Peter Cozzens calls it “an eloquently written, impeccably researched and intensely moving biography.” Harold Holzer hails it as a “sweeping, meticulously researched, and convincingly argued biography”.

Larry Daniel: Conquered: Why The Army of Tennessee Failed

“All Civil War readers will benefit from its many insights. . . . Highly recommended.” - Civil War Books & Authors

Eric Wittenberg: Holding the Line on the River of Death: Union Mounted Forces at Chickamauga

“Wittenberg makes a compelling case that Chickamauga was a three-day battle” - Civil War Monitor

Donald S Frazier: Tempest Over Texas: The Fall & Winter Campaigns of 1863-64

“Numerous existing works collectively address the war in the Trans-Mississippi between the July 1863 fall of Port Hudson and the launching of the 1864 Red River Campaign, but *Tempest Over Texas* is a complete original in presenting and interpreting all of these interconnected military and political events as a cohesive whole.” - Civil War Books & Authors

President's Message



The Roundtable Board became aware of an extraordinary matching opportunity (163-1!) through the American Battlefield Trust (ABT). The preservation project is for a 245 acre parcel of the Battle of Williamsburg (May 5, 1862) grounds. The parcel contains well-preserved redoubts and is also the ground on which General Winfield Scott Hancock made his reputation with a successful assault on Confederate lines.

We decided to act quickly and have made a \$1,000 contribution on behalf of the Roundtable and its members. In addition, through a generous donation by a Roundtable member who wishes to remain anonymous, the Roundtable was able to make an additional \$1,000 donation.

The Board will be deciding on additional donations at its meeting in early May which will be announced at our final meeting of the season on May 17. For more details read Dick Cox's article in this edition of the Grapeshot.

Pat Toftoy has announced her retirement from the Scottsdale Library. For years, Pat has been our invaluable link with the library, providing technical support, being our #1 advocate, and she's been a joy to work with. We are so grateful for her contributions to the success of the library. Since she's a Roundtable member, we can expect to see her at some of our future meetings! I hope to be able to introduce her replacement at our April meeting.

We made extensive changes to our Zoom setup to improve both the audio and visual presentation before the March meeting and got very positive feedback from viewers. A thanks to Board members Tom Merrill and David Ward who worked out the technical issues. We will continue to seek ways to improve the experience for Zoom participants.

The Civil War Roundtable Congress has created a new award, the Dr John Bamberl Phoenix Award, named after John in recognition of his efforts to help Roundtables across the country. The annual award will recognize the Roundtable that has done the most to help revitalize another Roundtable. Congratulations, John!

REQUESTS TO OUR MEMBERS:

As of September we will be looking for a **new editor** for the Grapeshot. All content is provided by other members, so this is strictly an editing and assembly job. If you have some experience with Microsoft Publisher and are interested please let us know.

Have you made any Civil War battlefield or related historical site visits over the past year? We'd like to publish in The Grapeshot any photos and commentary you've written. If you are interested, please submit any photos and written materials to me using the contact info at the bottom of this letter.

We are **still looking for vacant garage or warehouse space** for our books. If you know anyone with available space please let us know. We need about a 10 x 10 foot space.

Mark Stoler
203-645-1387
relots@gmail.com

SCWRT BOARD CREATES DONATIONS COMMITTEE

In addition to providing outstanding speakers, the Roundtable has always emphasized donating a portion of membership dues to the preservation of Civil War battlefields and related sites. To make sure our donations are having a significant impact, last Fall the SCWRT Board created a Donations Committee. The Committee is charged with compiling a list of non-profits around the country that are active in Civil War preservation efforts, finding out what projects those groups are working on and making recommendations to the full board for sending donations where they can have the most impact.

Many of our past donations have gone to the Civil War Trust, which is now part of the American Battlefield Trust. We will undoubtedly work with the ABT in the future as well but will not restrict our donations to that organization. Of course, we encourage all our members to become members of ABT and make their own contributions as well.

One of the Committee's highest priorities is to find opportunities where other groups and individuals are making matching grants. Leveraging our donations with others to get a multiplier effect is a wonderful way to make our contributions go farther. Mark Stoler's letter this month illustrates one recent example, where we participated in a 163-to-1 match to acquire a significant parcel at the Williamsburg battlefield in Virginia. Even though this effort is a once -in-a-blue moon jackpot, we will continue to look for opportunities like this one in the future.

The Donations Committee will be making more recommendations to the full board at its May meeting at the end of our fiscal year. If anyone has suggestions as to any other organizations we should support, please contact President Mark Stoler at reLOTS@gmail.com or Vice President Dick Cox, who chairs the Donations Committee, at praecipe101@msn.com.

Officers & Organization

Officers/Board Members

President: Mark Stoler (203-645-1387) (reLOTS@gmail.com)

President Emeritus: Dr John Bamberl (480-699-5844)

Vice President:: Richard Cox

Secretary & Parliamentarian: Hal Bliss

Treasurer: Michael Harris

Program Chair: David Ward

Board Members (thru 5/2022): Tom Merrill, Jo Roberts, David Ward

Board Members (thru 5/2023): John Bamberl, Shelly Dudley, Don Swanson, Cal Thompson

Committees

Book Table: Cal Thompson

Grapeshot: Jo Roberts, Richard Cox, David Ward

Greeters: John Bamberl, Jo Roberts

History: Richard Cox

Membership: Mark Stoler, John Bamberl, Cal Thompson

Press: Shelly Dudley

Social Media: John Bamberl, Mark Stoler

Student Outreach: Tom Merrill

Webmaster: Marc Echeveste

Dues:

\$35 Individual; \$45 Family

Website: www.scottsdalecwrt.org

Mailing Address:

SCWRT #274
7349 N Via Paseo Del Sur, Suite 515
Scottsdale AZ 85258-3749
e-mail: scottsdalecwrt@gmail.com

THIS MONTH IN CIVIL WAR HISTORY



Union Blockade Steamer

April 19, 1861. President Lincoln proclaims a blockade of the ports of the States of South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Louisiana and Texas. On the 27th, after Virginia and North Carolina secede, the blockage is extended to those states' ports as well. At the time, the U.S. Navy had sixty-nine ships to patrol 3500 miles of coastline. By the end of the war, the Union will have built another two hundred ships for blockade duty.

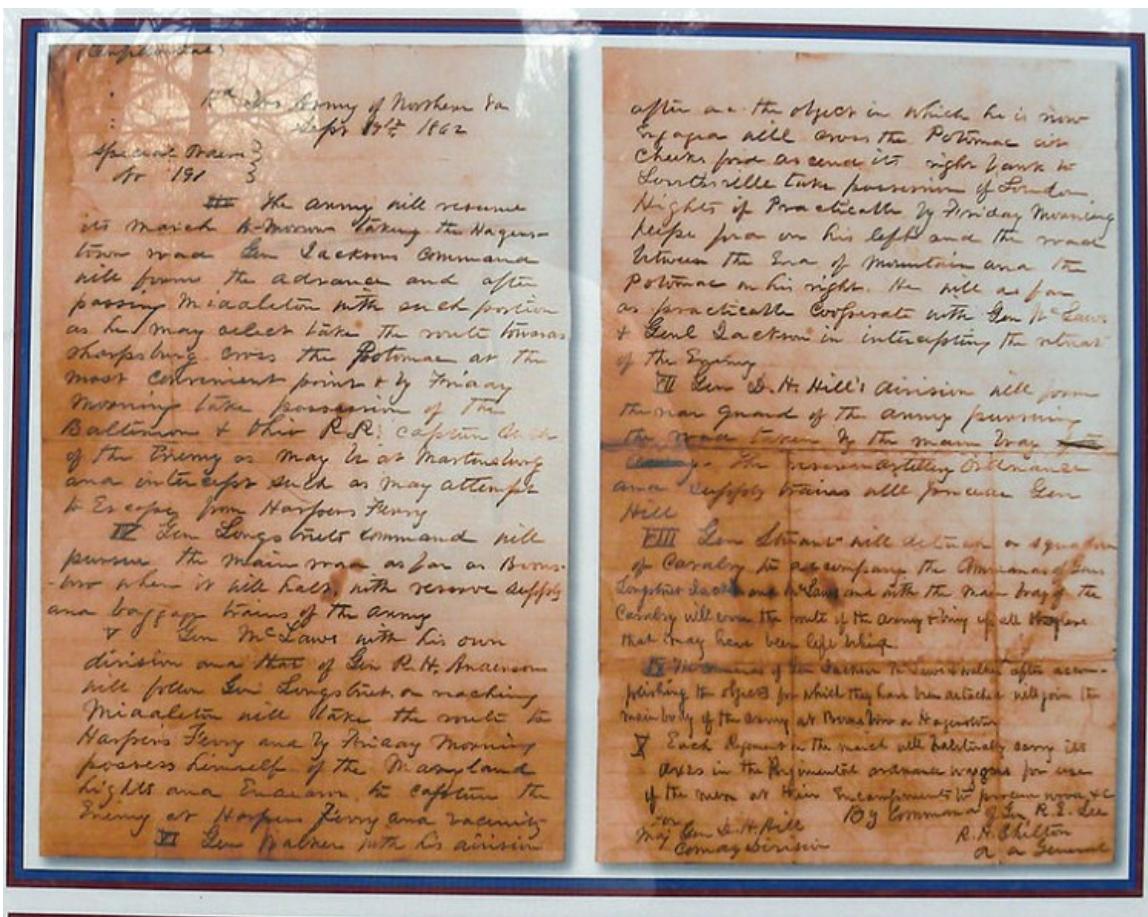
CIVIL WAR TRIVIA

1. Confederate Brig. General William "Extra Billy" Smith had a special reason for trying to distinguish himself during the Gettysburg Campaign. What was it?
 2. Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain of the 20th Maine became the "Hero of Little Roundtop" at Gettysburg. What did he do after the war?
 3. What breed of horse was Stonewall Jackson's Little Sorrel?
 4. What was William Tecumseh Sherman's job before reentering the U.S. Army in 1861?
- Trivia answers on page 18.

He Rode with Stonewall, and May Have Lost the “Lost Order”

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Who lost the copy of Robert E. Lee's Special Orders No. 191 prior to the Battle of Antietam (Sharpsburg) is one of the most enduring mysteries and hotly debated topics of the Civil War. Although many theories have been advanced over the years, circumstantial evidence points to the culprit being Henry Kyd Douglas, Stonewall Jackson's staff member and special courier.



Special

Orders No. 191

Henry Kyd Douglas (1838? – 1903) was born in Shepherdstown, Virginia (now West Virginia), the son of a Lutheran minister. His home, “Ferry Hill Place,” overlooked the Potomac on the Maryland side of the river near Sharpsburg. Douglas graduated from Franklin



and Marshall College in 1858. He became a member of the Virginia bar in 1860 and practiced in Lexington, Virginia and St. Louis before moving his practice to Sharpsburg.

Douglas enlisted as a private in the Confederate Army in April 1861. He was promoted to second lieutenant in the 2nd Virginia Infantry in August and was at the First Battle of Bull Run (Manassas). In June 1862, Douglas became Stonewall Jackson's youngest staff officer and saw extensive action during Jackson's 1862 Shenandoah Valley campaign and Second Bull Run. Among his exploits was a famous encounter with the Confederate spy Belle Boyd just before the Battle of Front Royal. Douglas knew Boyd, and the information she provided him allowed Jackson's forces to sweep the Union General Nathaniel Banks' army out of the Shenandoah Valley. During Lee's 1862 Maryland campaign, Douglas provided invaluable service as a guide and expert on local topography because of his intimate

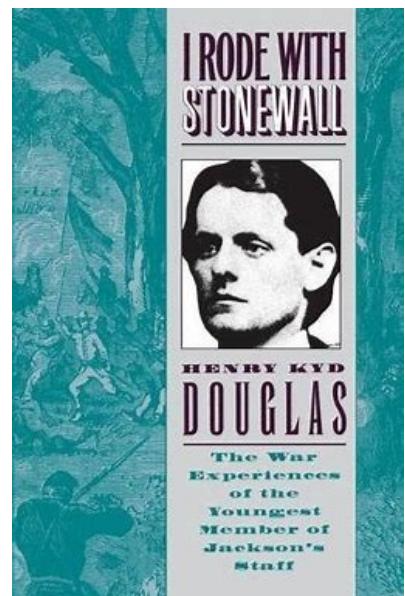
knowledge of that part of Maryland.

After the Battle of Antietam, Douglas left Jackson's staff and rejoined the 2nd Virginia Infantry as a captain. Douglas fought in all the major battles of the Army of Northern Virginia, was wounded six times and captured twice (including Gettysburg) and was exchanged both times. He was cited for bravery on several occasions. At Appomattox, Douglas was colonel of the Light Brigade, earlier commanded by Generals Jubal A. Early and A.P. Hill. Since his unit was the last to engage with Union forces, it was given the honor of being the last to stack arms during the surrender ceremony.

Immediately after the war, Douglas was held as a witness at the trial of the Lincoln conspirators, since it was alleged some officers of the Stonewall Division had conspired to assassinate Lincoln. He practiced law in Winchester, Virginia and later in Hagerstown, Maryland. He was active in veterans' affairs and led the initiative for the removal of the remains of fallen Confederates at Antietam to Rose Hill Cemetery in Hagerstown in 1877. He was adjutant general of the Maryland National Guard from 1892 to 1896 with the rank of major general. Douglas was a candidate for the Maryland Senate and the U.S. Congress but was never elected. Douglas died in 1903 and is buried in Shepherdstown.

Douglas wrote magazine articles about his Civil War experiences. His diaries and memoirs, posthumously edited and published in 1940 as *I Rode with Stonewall*, have recently been re-issued.

In the beginning of his memoirs he recounts a remarkable incident. On a rainy day in October 1859, Douglas reported helping a stranger get his horse team and wagon up a steep hill near Sharpsburg. The stranger said his name was Isaac Smith and his wagon was carrying "farm tools." Douglas later learned that Smith was really the abolitionist John Brown, whose wagon was loaded with pikes to be used during Brown's assault on Harper's Ferry soon after.



Some historians have expressed reservations about Douglas's veracity and consider his *I Rode with Stonewall* highly self-serving and inaccurate. One wag went so far as to say that Douglas should have named his memoirs "*Stonewall Rode with Me.*" Be that as it may, Douglas's memoirs are well written and are generally free of the prolix and purple prose of many memoirists of the war. They contain many interesting anecdotes about Jackson and other officers of the Army of Northern Virginia.

The Union Army's discovery of a copy of Robert E. Lee's Special Orders No. 191 on September 13, 1862, outlining the disposition of his dispersed army, precipitated the Battle of Antietam four days later. The document, called the "Lost Order" in the North and the "Lost Dispatch" in the South, allowed General George B. McClellan to force a battle that resulted in the bloodiest single day in American history.

The battle proved to be enough of a Union "victory" that President Lincoln was able to issue the Emancipation Proclamation. Perhaps of even greater significance was that the combination of Union military success and the Emancipation Proclamation denied the Confederacy the official recognition of foreign nations, notably Britain and France. Diplomatic recognition and more aggressive foreign financial assistance might have ensured southern victory and independence. Moreover, had General McClellan acted faster after learning about the disposition of Lee's army and thrown his reserves into the fray at Antietam, he might have crushed Lee's army, which had its back to the Potomac, and brought a speedy end to the war in the East.

The copy of Special Orders No. 191, addressed to General D.H. Hill, was found wrapped around three cigars in a clover field two miles south of Frederick, Maryland by soldiers of the 27th Indiana Infantry. Wilbur D. Jones, a historian of the 27th Indiana, penned "Who Lost the Lost Order" in 1997. His article lays out a strong circumstantial case that it was Douglas who lost the fateful order.

The standard practice in the Army of Northern Virginia was to carefully account for every copy of orders sent to field commanders. Lee would dictate an order, a staff officer would write it out, show it to Lee for approval and once approved, copies were then sent to the respective commanders. The couriers delivering the orders would get a receipt, usually a signature or initials of the recipient on the envelope containing the order. The received envelopes were returned to headquarters and logged in. But that procedure broke down on September 9, 1862.

Here is the chain of events according to Jones's scenario: Early in the afternoon of September 9th, after his meeting with Longstreet and Jackson, Lee directed Colonel Robert Hall Chilton, his chief administrative officer, to write the orders. Lee approved them and Chilton dispatched couriers to Jackson, Longstreet, Jeb Stuart, and others. Douglas received for Jackson's copy, read it and delivered it.

In mid-afternoon, Jackson wrote a modified copy of the order for D.H. Hill, a division commander, which Douglas carried to Hill's adjutant without requesting a receipt. On his return Douglas likely stopped by Lee's headquarters. Chilton had since written the modified copy for Hill but it was undelivered. He needed a courier and spotted Douglas, or possibly another officer, and asked him to take it to Hill. The courier just pressed into service was heard to say, "Oh, we have that order," but took it anyway. Chilton did not ask him to sign the envelope as a receipt and considered the matter finished.

The courier took three cigars from a pocket, stuck them in the envelope containing the order to keep them dry from perspiration and tied it with string. He placed the envelope inside his coat. But before returning to his own camp he forgot the message he was carrying.

Late that afternoon, having set out the basic plan, Lee then notified his commanders of the marching times for the 10th. Chilton dispatched couriers with verbal orders to Jackson and the other principal commanders. Jackson in turn likely sent Douglas to inform his subordinate commanders verbally.

Douglas would deliver Lee's marching orders to each of Jackson's generals except Hill. Douglas knew Hill already had the plan but not the departure hour. But there was no hurry; Hill was departing last. The courier, most likely Douglas, could have stopped along the way to Hill, dismounted, and lost the envelope somewhere along his route.

Why does the spotlight land on Douglas? He was undoubtedly a trusted adjutant of Jackson's. He had distinguished himself as a courier on many previous occasions. He was fond of hanging around headquarters, hobnobbing with the higher ranks, and volunteering to carry their dispatches. Most tellingly, he smoked cigars.

There are three theories of when Lee discovered that McClellan had the order in his possession. One is that a civilian Confederate sympathizer was in McClellan's tent when the order was read, got through to Jeb Stuart and Stuart informed Lee the night of the 13th. Other versions are that Lee did not know until McClellan testified before Congress in 1863 or when he read McClellan's postwar report. Douglas himself made only a passing reference to the incident in his memoirs, saying "the order was lost by an accident never yet explained."

In the postwar period Lost Cause writers, notably the Virginians, charged that North Carolinian D.H. Hill had lost the order. No proof was ever offered. Hill later wrote Gen. James Longstreet, a Georgian, that the Virginians were bent on upholding the honor of Lee and the other Virginians, "blaming me for Sharpsburg and you for Gettysburg."

What is known is that the culprit was either not known or disciplined during the war. The matter seems to have been treated as either beyond solution or too sensitive. Jones ends his essay by remarking, "If the culprit was not Douglas, Jackson's quintessential free-agent, then who remains in contention?"

Jones's article and full argument are contained in *Civil War Regiments: A Journal of the American Civil War, Volume 5, No. 3, 1997*, by Savas Beatty Publishing Company.

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

SPECIAL EVENTS

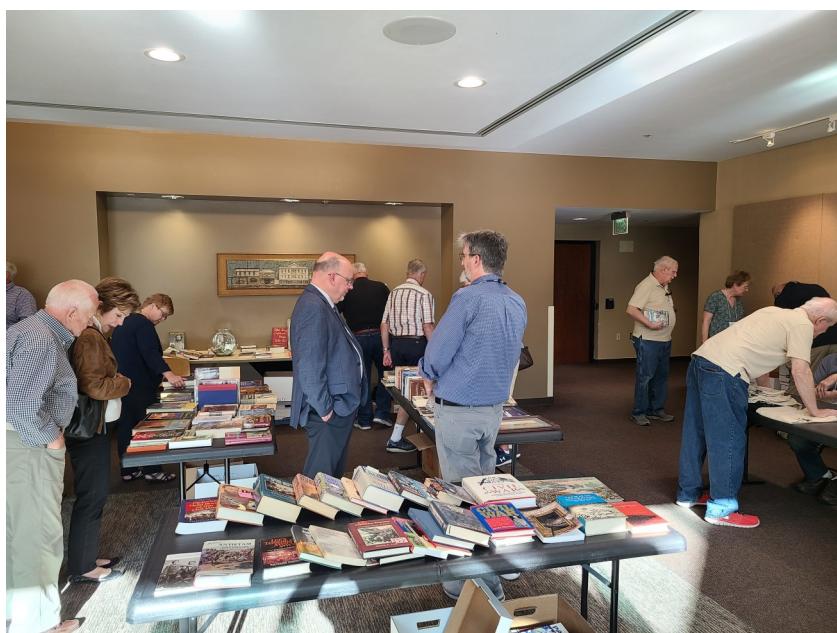
Pictures from the March 15, 2022 Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable:



Professor Brooks Simpson



Visitors



Visitors



Tom Merrill & Mark Stoler

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:

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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.scottsdalecwrt.org

Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable

480/699-5844

Meet the CWRT Congress

By Mike Movius, Founder and President

With the loss of nearly 70 Civil War Round Tables (CWRTs) in the past decade, it became abundantly clear that the movement that once boasted close to 500 CWRTs worldwide was in jeopardy. In 2016, Mike Movius, the president of the Puget Sound CWRT wanted to understand how that could be prevented. From that humble beginning, the CWRT Congress was born.

Since that time, we have held conferences in Centreville, VA, Harrisburg, PA and St. Louis, MO. Our conferences seek to inform CWRT members about practices that have proven successful in the areas of program development, fundraising, preservation, marketing, recruitment, governance, culture, partnerships and a host of other organization development areas. We also encourage networking with one another to better understand how CWRTs can succeed.

CWRT Congress does not have memberships. We do not charge dues of any kind. We are a registered 501(c)3 and rely on voluntary donations of those who want the CWRT movement to thrive. We are all about CWRT sustainability. Our motto is *Improvement through Education and Networking*. Our website is loaded with proven practices that CWRTs and their leaders should consider. www.cwrtcongress.org/proven.html

When the pandemic hit in the first quarter of 2020, we knew that CWRTs were going to be unable to meet for some time. Our fear was this was an existential threat as members would lose interest and that CWRTs would fail. So, we began to offer free, online Civil War lectures. The response has been overwhelming. Speaker have donated their time and talents because they believe in the movement. Watch them at www.cwrtcongress.org/videos.html

Reservations for upcoming events can be made at www.cwrtcongress.org/speaker.html We also a living historian series called "Fridays with Grant" by Dr. Curt Fields www.cwrtcongress.org/grant.html

Our 2021 conference will be held in the Philadelphia area September 17-19. We have a great lineup includes workshops on board organization, member retention, mission statements, the new normal, newsletter improvement, managing organizational change, changing organizational culture, meaningful partnerships, writing press releases, the sister CWRT connection, succession planning and targeted recruitment. Registration opens in July and we hope to meet you there.



Trivia Answers

1. He had just been elected governor of Virginia, his second non-consecutive term. He wanted to be promoted to major general before he left the army. He didn't perform well at Gettysburg but got the promotion anyway.
2. He was elected governor of Maine for four terms and later became president of Bowdoin College, his alma mater and where he had taught before the war.
3. Little Sorrel was a Connecticut-bred Morgan. It fell into Confederate hands when Rebels captured a train near Harper's Ferry carrying horses acquired by the Federal government for army use.
4. He was the first Superintendent of the Louisiana State Seminary of Learning & Military Academy in Pineville, Louisiana. The institution would later become Louisiana State University.

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>

Tucson Civil War Round Table

Next meeting: April 8, 2022 at 11:30 am via Zoom, see link below

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86931351705?pwd=WTdDN2VsTEhucjZWaENOVzhadEdDQT09>

Meeting ID: 869 3135 1705

Passcode: 883673