

The Grapeshot

Newsletter

February 2023

This month's presenter:

Dr. Fay Yarbrough



The Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable welcomes Dr. Fay Yarbrough as she presents:

***CHOCTAW CONFEDERATES:
THE AMERICAN
CIVIL WAR IN INDIAN
COUNTRY***

Scottsdale Civic
Center
Library Auditorium
February 21, 2023,
5 pm
Also on Zoom

Follow us on [Facebook](#)

Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable. Inc.

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

Table of Contents

Page 3	About Our Speaker: Dr. Fay Yarbrough
Page 4	Upcoming Speakers and Programs
Page 5	President's Letter
Page 6	Celebration of the Life of Ed Bearrs
Page 7	Officers and Organization
Page 8	General Pender's Chip
Page 11	Little Red Schoolhouse
Page 13	Trivia Questions
Page 14	Ben Butler
Page 16	History Discussion and Group Meetings
Page 17	Membership Form
Page 18	Zoom Opportunities
Page 19	Trivia Answers

About Our Speaker

Dr. Fay Yarbrough



Dr Fay Yarbrough is professor of history, Assoc Dean, School of Humanities at Rice University in Houston, Texas. She earned her BA at Rice and later master's degree and doctorate at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. Her most recent book CHOCTAW CONFEDERATES: THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR IN INDIAN COUNTRY (UNC Press, 2021) is the subject of her lecture. Her first book, RACE AND THE CHEROKEE NATION: SOVEREIGNTY IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY was published by Uni Penna Press in 2008. The Fort Worth Civil War Round Table recently gave its annual A. M. Pate, Jr. Award in Civil War History to CHOCTAW CONFEDRATES. The Award is given for outstanding original research on the Trans-Mississippi sector of the Civil War.

A recent review of her book concluded that ...

“Fay A. Yarbrough’s Choctaw Confederates illuminates the complex and complicated path to an alliance with the Southern Confederacy, centering Choctaw sovereignty and agency at the heart of her discussion. While Yarbrough has previously written on race and gender in the Cherokee Nation, her focus in this work on the Choctaw Nation in the Civil War provides a much-needed contribution to the existing scholarship on the Civil War in the West and the role of the Five Tribes in the Civil War from their perspective. Though a rich and flourishing field, these studies tend to either synthesize the experiences of the Five Tribes, such as in Mary Jane Warde’s landmark *When the Wolf Came*, or overwhelmingly focus on the Cherokee experience. Yarbrough’s study has helpfully extricated the unique and understudied Choctaw experience from these syntheses which often speak about the Choctaw and the Chickasaw in the same breath.”

Topic: Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable,
February 21, 2023 Time: 05:00 PM Arizona

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85776666048?pwd=aG1VMqeAbFwnZDO7R84KQbUU8ZaC3Q.1>

Meeting ID: 857 7666 6048
Passcode: 374195

Scottsdale Civil War Round Table

Speakers & Programs

January 2023 - May 2023

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| February 21 | Fay Yarbrough “Choctaw Confederates: The American Civil War in Indian Country” |
| March 21 | Eric Wittenberg “Holding the Line on the River of Death: Union Cavalry at Chickamauga” |
| April 18 | Lesley Gordon “‘A Badge of Conspicuous Gallantry’: Allegations of Cowardice in a Civil War Regiment” |
| May 16 | Garry Adelman “Battlefield Preservation Extravaganza: People, Politics, Parcels, and Progress” |

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.

Letter from our President

Mark Stoler



I hope that those of you who joined us for the January meeting agree that Terry Winschel's tribute to Ed Bearss was a great success. Terry did a masterful job talking about Ed's contributions as an historian and connecting it to the need to maintain the knowledge of our nation's history and heritage. And, of course, he closed with some funny and touching personal stories about Ed.

We announced at the meeting that the Roundtable will be making a \$1,000 contribution to the Ed Bearss Memorial Fund established by the Civil War Roundtable Congress and administered through the American Battlefield Trust. All funds go to preservation efforts at the Vicksburg site which Ed was so associated with.

In early January, John Bamberl and I visited the Tucson Civil War Roundtable where we heard a rousing presentation on John Brown. It was terrific to meet members of our fellow Roundtable and to see the great turnout they had for their meeting. We will be returning.

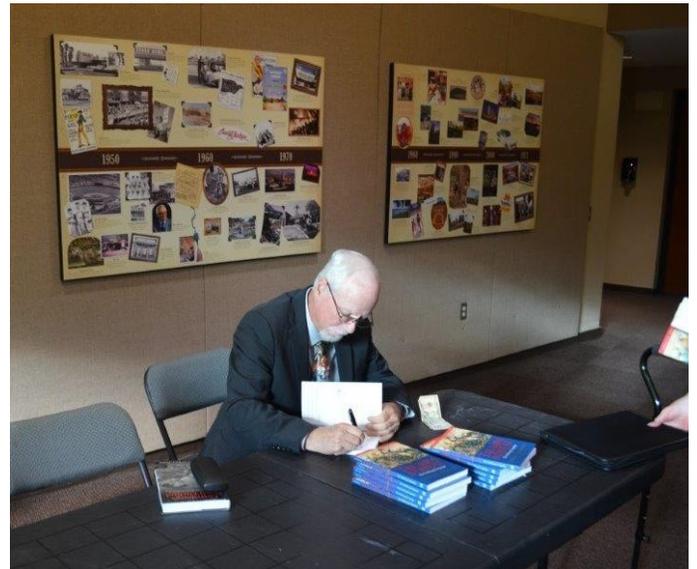
The Roundtable is closing in on 300 members for the 2022-23 season (we ended last year with 293). Please invite friends and family who may be interested to join us in person or on Zoom.

Our program chair, David Ward, is nearing completion on our exciting speaker schedule for the 2023-24 season and as soon as everything is confirmed we will share with you.

And, don't forget, tickets are still available for our special event, the play Ben Butler, on May 20. Details can be found elsewhere in the Grapeshot.

On February 23, at 5 pm, the Scottsdale Public Library is presenting a program in the auditorium which may be of interest to Roundtable members. Dr. Tamika Sanders will be speaking on The Underground and Aboveground Railroad. I plan on attending.

**A Celebration of the Life of Ed Bearrs
with Terry Winschel
January 17, 2023**



Officers & Organization

Officers / Board Members

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

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

Vice President: Richard Cox

Secretary: Hal Bliss

Treasurer: Bruce Washburn

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

Board Members (thru 5/2024): Tom Merrill, Pat Toftoy, David Ward

Committees

Program: David Ward

Book Table: Cal Thompson

Grapeshot: Richard Cox

Greeters: John Bamberl

History: Richard Cox

News Media: Shelly Dudley

Membership: Mark Stoler

Social Media: John Bamberl

Student Outreach: Tom Merrill

Libraries Liaison: Pat Toftoy

Dues:

\$35 Individual; \$45 Family; \$500 Lifetime; Students & Active Military Service - Free

Website: www.scottsdalecwrt.org

Mailing Address:

Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable
7359 N Via Paseo Del Sur, Ste 515-274
Scottsdale AZ 85258

General Pender's Chip

By

Gary A. Dorris

*"He fought like he had a chip
on his shoulder."*



General William Dorsey Pender, CSA

So said a contemporary of Confederate General William Dorsey Pender. And, the description was probably right!

The term "A chip on his shoulder" was common by the mid-nineteenth century. It alluded to a practice, perhaps hoping for a legal loophole, whereby a person, who had been disrespected, cheated, or insulted, wanted to retaliate against the other party, but did not want to be labeled as the primary aggressor. So, the aggrieved would place a wood chip on his shoulder and dare the other person to knock it off, when the offender obliged, it was no holds barred. The meaning has evolved over time, but still describes a person who feels they have been wronged and looks for ways to gain vindication.

That seems to describe, in part, William Pender.

He was born in 1834, in North Carolina where his family owned 500 acres of land and twenty slaves. They also owned a small mercantile store where William often worked as an apprentice to another relative. He was an intelligent and industrious boy and was accepted into the U.S. Military academy at West Point at sixteen years old. He graduated at the age of twenty, with a specialty in artillery, but was soon assigned to the cavalry in the U.S. Army, serving with distinction in the Northwest territories.

A famous story to describe Pender's daring relates that his unit was in a skirmish with a larger Native American force, when he charged on his horse at the nearest Chief, pulled him off his horse, and carried him back to his line of cavalrymen. After a brief stand-off, the Natives withdrew and Pender released the Chief. The act was considered so brazen and courageous, that the Natives gave wide berth to Pender's unit in the field from then on.

Some thought that Pender always had to prove himself. Even in the U.S. Army, before the Civil War, officers from Virginia seemed, to him, to have favored status. And it clearly bothered him. He did not suffer in silence, however, and his discontent was well known, as he often shared his feelings with other officers. However, his complaining did not affect his career as his otherwise exemplary leadership and battlefield results outweighed his personal issues in the eyes of his superior officers. In essence, he was a good United States Army officer.

In 1859, he returned home to North Carolina to marry Fanny Shepard, who he had known since childhood and, over the next few years, they had 3 children.

But Pender was a loyal Southerner and believed secession was warranted and he resigned his commission in the U.S. Army in March 1861 when the Confederate States of America was officially formed. He became a Colonel in the Confederate Army and, when North Carolina seceded in May 1861, he was placed in command of one of that state's units. He was an effective battlefield leader and, within a year, he had been promoted to Brigadier General. After one of his battlefield exploits became known he received a personal commendation from Confederate President Jefferson Davis who said, "*General Pender, I salute you.*"

Despite these rapid promotions, Pender still expressed his concerns that the Confederate Senior officers from Virginia favored their own. He was not just selfish in his opinion as he thought other good generals from other Southern states were also overlooked. One contemporary wrote that General Pender could become "*more than agitated*" when discussing the favoritism shown to Virginians.

However, in the field, he did his job and did it well. With his determination to lead his men from the front, he was wounded several times in different battles, but with one exception, always remained in command on the battlefield. In that one instance, he was forced by his superior officer to move back for treatment, but after a brief respite, he was soon back with his men. Once, a shot grazed his head and he wrote to his wife that his head was a "*little more bald of yore.*"

Confederate General A.P. Hill, wrote, "*Gen. Pender has fought with the Division in every battle, has been four times wounded and never left the field, has risen by death and wounds from fifth brigadier to be its senior, has the best drilled and disciplined Brigade in the Division, and more than all, possesses the unbounded confidence of the Division.*"

Another contemporary wrote, "*He was one of the coolest, most self-possessed and one of the most absolutely fearless men under fire I ever knew.*"

But the "Chip on his shoulder" still showed from time to time. Unlike most Confederate supporters, he did not like Stonewall Jackson, who is revered even today by most

southerners. Pender said Jackson was one of the Virginians who received undeserved praise and that he did not want to be under Jackson's command. He further noted that Jackson would *"kill up the army the way he marches"* and that Jackson was too forgetful of the fact *"that one gets tired, hungry, or sleepy."*

But Pender was a good soldier and was consistently given important missions.

Then Pender and his men were assigned to key positions in the looming battles at Gettysburg. As always, he was leading from the front when he received a wound in his thigh, brushing it off, he continued to rally his men. Soon, however, the wound began to bleed profusely, and Pender was taken back to the Confederate lines for care. Despite an amputation, the doctors could not stop the bleeding and it became clear General Pender would not survive his wounds. He dictated this final note for his wife, *"I do not fear to die. I can confidently resign my soul to God, trusting in the atonement of Jesus Christ. My only regret is to leave her and our two children. I have always tried to do my duty in every sphere in which Providence has placed me."*

And then he was gone.

Robert E. Lee wrote this: *"The loss of Major-General Pender is severely felt by the army and the country. Wounded on several occasions, he never left his command in action until he received the injury that resulted in his death. His promise and usefulness as an officer were only equaled by the purity and excellence of his private life."*

William Pender was certainly a devoted, committed, and courageous Confederate officer; however, just maybe, the chip on his shoulder drove him to prove something to those Virginians.

Contact the author at gadorris2@gmail.com and find more articles under BLOGS at www.alincolnbygadorris.com

Little Red Schoolhouse Reopens



The Little Red Schoolhouse reopened on January 27 for VIPs and members of the Scottsdale Historical Society. The official opening to the public will be on February 1. The building was closed for nearly three years due to repairs and the pandemic.

It is a wonderful museum that houses local historical artifacts from 1888 to the present and is the home of the Scottsdale Historical Society. It is a non-profit organization and is sustained by volunteers from the Historical Society and donations from the public.

The completion of the Little Red Schoolhouse in 1909 established a key threshold for the new community of Scottsdale. It quickly became a community center as well as a focus for educating local youth. The dedication in 1909 was one of the last events in Scottsdale founding father Winfield Scott took part in before he passed away a few months later.



THIS MONTH IN CIVIL WAR HISTORY

February 11, 1862. The U.S. War Department establishes the U.S. Military Railroad, which will become the largest railroad under one organization and contributes much to Union military objectives.



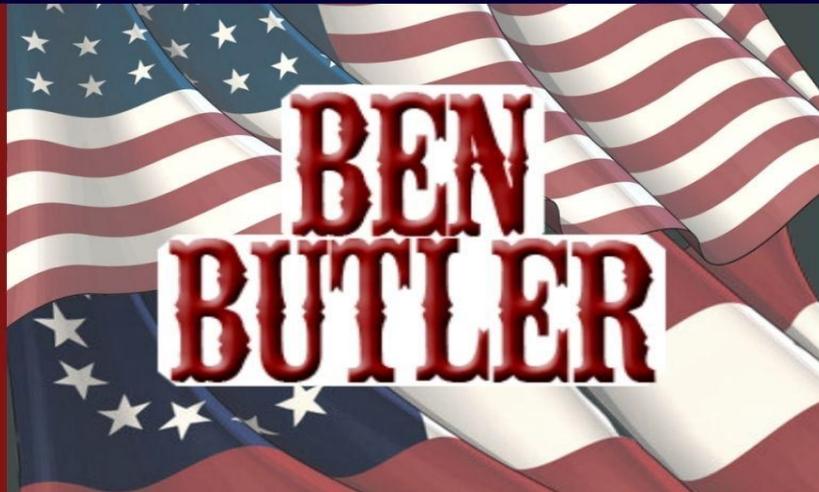
U.S. Military Railroad Depot at Nashville

February 2023 Trivia Questions

1. Who were “wagon dogs”?
2. What was memorable about the photograph made of Abraham Lincoln on February 9, 1864?
3. What Confederate artillery officer was the son of one famous American explorer and was named for another?
4. Who said, “Shoot, if you must, this old gray head, but spare your country’s flag”?

Answers on final page

SHARP. WITTY. CAPTIVATING.



SATURDAY, MAY 20, 2023 AT 2 PM

by Richard Strand

Directed by Lee Cooley

When an escaped slave shows up at Fort Monroe demanding sanctuary, Union General Benjamin Butler faces an impossible moral and legal dilemma that could alter the course of the Civil War and U.S. history. Sharply comic, a battle of wit and word play. Completely captivating!

DON BLUTH
Front Row
THEATRE.

BOX OFFICE 480-314-0841
8989 E VIA LINDA | SCOTTSDALE AZ 85258

JOIN FELLOW ROUNDTABLE MEMBERS FOR A UNIQUE THEATER EXPERIENCE!

Someone wrote a play about General Benjamin Butler? A play described as sharp and witty? A play performed by theater groups across America to glowing reviews? Surely, you must be joking! But it's true, and Scottsdale Roundtable members have a unique chance to experience it themselves.

In May and June of 2023, the Don Bluth *Front Row* Theatre in Scottsdale will present *Ben Butler*. We have arranged with the Theatre for the matinee show on Saturday, May 20 to be available exclusively to the Roundtable and tickets, normally \$30, will be discounted to \$25. In addition, at the end of the performance, cast members and the directors will come back out to answer questions and engage with us, something only being done for our group.

The play is about the incident early in the war, when escaped slaves entered the Union lines at Fort Monroe, presenting General Butler and the Federal government with the question of what to do?

To buy tickets, follow the directions below and click on this link: https://app.arts-people.com/index.php?perf_special=618466, which will take you directly to the theatre's website and this specific performance. You should also have recently received an email from us with the same information.

SCOTTSDALE CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

**Private Group Performance
& Post-Show Talkback with Company**

**SATURDAY, MAY 20 at 2 PM
Group Discount Tickets \$25**

1. **Go to special private ticketing page**
2. **Select Adult Ticket Type & Choose Seats - Continue to Cart Check Out**
3. **At Cart Sign Up for an Account**
4. **Enter Code: SCWR25**
5. **Pay with Credit Card**

BUY NOW

https://app.arts-people.com/index.php?perf_special=618466

After you select seats you will need to set up an account and password.
The discount code is only entered in the last step, so you will see the \$30 charge until then.

It's called the Front Row Theatre because it only has 74 seats, so get your tickets soon.

Look forward to seeing you there.

HISTORY DISCUSSION GROUP MEETINGS

Please join us for a relaxed and informal conversation at the Roundtable's History Discussion Group meetings. All are welcome, including non-members. Our discussions tend to center around a topic the previous week's speaker has presented. These are participant-led discussions, not lectures, facilitated by a Roundtable member. You can add your comments, thoughts, questions or just listen. It's always fun and interesting and sometimes goes off in unexpected directions.

Location:

Scottsdale Civic Center Library

SHC Program Room (on the right side of the Scottsdale Heritage Connection (SHC) Room on the main floor of the library. Just ask at the front desk if you have trouble finding the Program Room.

Discussion group meetings begin at 5:00 pm.

Here is the schedule for the remainder of the year with this season's topics:

February 29: American Indians in the Civil War

March 29: General Discussion on the Battle of Chickamauga

April 25: How did the Union and the Confederate Armies Deal with Desertion, Bounty-Jumping and other disciplinary infractions?

No meeting in May

Hope to see you there!

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

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>

February 2023 Trivia Answers

1. Confederates who pretended to be ill and dropped back to the wagon trains were called that by their fellow soldiers.
2. It was the image later used on the U.S. five-dollar bill.
3. Colonel Meriwether Lewis Clark of Missouri, a West Point graduate who commanded artillery for Sterling Price and Braxton Bragg, was the son of William Clark and was named for Meriwether Lewis – the leaders of the 1804-06 Lewis and Clark Expedition.
4. No one. American poet John Greenleaf Whittier attributed the defiant quote to 95-year-old Barbara Fritchie, a resident of Frederick, Maryland, who allegedly delivered this line while waving an American flag at gunpoint before Stonewall Jackson's passing Confederates. The incident Whittier romanticized did not occur. In reality, Mrs. Fritchie sat on her porch and watched Union troops march by a few days later while she held a small U.S. flag. Days before, as Confederate troops moved through Frederick, another woman, Mary S. Quantrell, did display a U.S. flag in their presence, but no one threatened to shoot her.