

The Grapeshot Newsletter

March 2022



This month's presenter:

Dr. Brooks Simpson

The Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable welcomes Dr. Brooks Simpson, professor of history at Arizona State University as he speaks on “Lincoln, Grant and the Summer of 1864”.

Scottsdale Civic
Center
Library Auditorium

March 15, 2022,
5 pm

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Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable, Inc.

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

Also on Zoom

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About Our Speaker

Dr. Simpson is an award-winning Civil War historian. He earned his doctoral degree at the University of Wisconsin. For over twenty-five years he has taught history at Arizona State University. He is a noted authority on the Civil War, Ulysses S. Grant, and the Reconstruction era. His two books examining the career of General Grant -- "Let Us Have Peace" and "Ulysses S. Grant: Triumph Over Adversity," received critical acclaim. He has appeared on PBS and episodes of the American Experience.

Dr. Simpson's presentation will focus on the Union high command crisis in the Shenandoah Valley in the late summer of 1864. Simpson's lecture will focus on the failure of Union generals in the Shenandoah Valley and the quest by Lincoln to find an officer capable of defeating the Confederate army led by Maj. Gen. Jubal Early. The series of setbacks suffered by Union forces in the summer of 1864 ultimately led Lieut. Gen. Ulysses Grant to send Maj. Gen. Philip Sheridan to the Valley to establish Union supremacy and end Confederate operations which threatened Washington.

Zoom Meeting Information

Topic: March 15, 2022 Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable Meeting

Time: 05:00 PM Arizona

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82235279623?pwd=L210SFByVnBQSFFlRlFDcVpYT1BwZz09>

Meeting ID: 822 3527 9623

Passcode: 959956

SCOTTSDALE CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE SPEAKERS 2022

March 15: Brooks Simpson, “Lincoln, Grant and the Summer of 1864”

April 19 - Jim 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



It was great to be back in the library auditorium for our February event and to re-connect with so many of you in person (I missed the December meeting because of illness) and look forward over the next few months to having more of our members return to these get togethers.

I particularly enjoy the hour before our speakers start when we can talk with friends and there's an opportunity to meet the speaker, browse the books, or watch the video in the auditorium (we'll let you know in advance what video will be shown each month).

We will also continue Zoom through May and then decide whether that will continue for the 2022-23 season. Since starting the Zoom simulcast, we've had some comments about problems with sound and visuals. We are working to try to improve the Zoom experience for March.

Before Covid we consistently had 375 to 400 members. Currently, we are a little below 300. Now that we can once again hold regular events in the auditorium, we are broadening our media reach and beginning to connect (in some cases, re-connect) with other history and heritage groups in the area. If you have friends or family members who might be interested in the Roundtable, please invite them as guests for a meeting or two. We're confident we can regain our members over the next couple of seasons.

Even though membership is down, your generous donations have ensured the stability of the Roundtable and continuing contribution towards Civil War preservation projects. The Roundtable Board will decide on contribution recipients at our May meeting and inform you of the results at our last meeting of the season on May 17 and by email to all members.

Jo Roberts has done an outstanding job in redesigning the Grapeshot but as of September we will be looking for a new editor. 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.

There are multiple ways to connect with the Roundtable online:

The **Roundtable website** has the schedule and lots of other information. We've recently updated the Resources section of the site to provide new and active links to websites with interesting Civil War information. <https://www.scottsdalecwrt.org/>

If you miss a meeting and want to see a presentation or just rewatch, go to our **Scottsdale Civil War YouTube Channel**. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfxW2cvzCbGoKebHKPZsq5A>

And for the most timely information on speakers, schedule and what's going on with other Civil War Roundtables, stop by our Facebook page. **Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/Scottsdale-Civil-War-Roundtable-209429072422940>

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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

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Scottsdale AZ 85258-3749
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Introducing 2021-2022 Board & Roundtable Members



Jo Anne Roberts, Board Member

Jo Roberts is currently the editor of the Scottsdale Civil War Grapeshot. She grew up in Scottsdale, a true Arizonan. She graduated in 1974 from Scottsdale High School, and attended Arizona State University, graduating with a B.S. in Bio-Agriculture in 1978, and a J.D. in 1986 from the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law. Jo worked as a federal law enforcement officer for 25 years. After her retirement, she became a member of the Blue and Gray Education Society and has participated on many of the BGES Indian Wars tours. She became a BGES Board member and eventually the Board President. Now retired from the BGES board, Jo has a passion for U.S. history and found like-minded folks at the Scottsdale Civil War Round Table.

Jo is standing in front of the roots of a downed redwood in northern California on the BGES Pacific Northwest Indian Wars tour.

THIS MONTH IN CIVIL WAR HISTORY

March 7-8, 1862. At the Battle of Pea Ridge, Arkansas (aka Elkhorn Tavern), the Federal Army of the Southwest, under the command of Brig. Gen. Samuel Ryan Curtis, defeats the Confederate Army of the West commanded by Maj. Gen. Early Van Dorn. The victory is a key factor in deciding whether Missouri will remain in the Union or join the Confederacy. The battle is marked by poor Confederate



Battle of Pea Ridge

leadership. However, Col. Stand Watie, leader of the Cherokee Mounted Rifles, and his men distinguish themselves by capturing Federal artillery and covering the Confederate retreat. Watie will become the war's only general from an Indigenous group in 1864.

CIVIL WAR TRIVIA

1. Lt. Gen. Jubal A. Early of the Army of Northern Virginia became one of the principal founders and authors of the “Lost Cause” movement. In what publication did most of his post-war writing extolling the Confederacy appear?
2. What regiments made up the famous Irish Brigade in the Army of the Potomac?
3. Who uttered the famous words, “Damn the torpedoes! Full speed ahead!” and at what battle?
4. What was Confederate cavalry general “Grumble” Jones’s given name?

Trivia answers on page 24.

STAND WATIE, CHEROKEE CHIEF AND CONFEDERATE GENERAL

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Stand Watie

On April 9, 1865, Robert E. Lee surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia to Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox. Lt. Colonel Ely Parker, Grant's military secretary and a member of the Seneca tribe, recalled that Lee shook his hand and said, "I am glad to see one real American here." "We are all Americans," Parker replied.

For many Americans, Appomattox marks the end of the Civil War and Parker represents the sole involvement of native peoples in it. But the war's real end came months later, an unheralded event outside any state borders, in Indian Territory.

The man who surrendered the last Confederate forces there, on June 23, 1865, was not even an American citizen. He was Brig. Gen. Stand Watie (WAHtee), commander of the 1st Indian Brigade of the Confederate Army of the Trans-Mississippi and a citizen of the Cherokee Nation in what is now Oklahoma.

As historian Theda Perdue puts it, Watie had been fighting two civil wars – one against the United States and the other against fellow Cherokees. The latter war began nearly three decades earlier. Watie, who was born in Georgia, was part of a small, unauthorized group of Cherokees who negotiated the 1835 Treaty of New Echota, which ceded the Cherokee homeland in Georgia, North Carolina, Alabama and Tennessee to the United States for a promised payment of \$5 million.

The Cherokees were to be removed west of the Mississippi and settled with the other displaced tribes, the Choctaw, Chickasaw, Creek and Seminole. The vast majority of Cherokees, led by principal chief John Ross, opposed removal. Federal troops forced the removal, and the thousand-mile journey during the brutally cold winter of 1838-39 became known as The Trail of Tears. Over four thousand people died on the trek to what became known as Indian Territory.

Friends and relatives of those who died never forgave Watie and his associates. Watie's brother was killed and he narrowly escaped being killed himself. The turmoil between the warring factions lasted until 1846, when a treaty was signed that brought an uneasy peace. But the animosity between Chief John Ross and Watie continued to simmer.

The Cherokee Nation couldn't ignore the growing sectional crisis because its law recognized and protected slavery. The people removed to the Indian Territory brought their slaves with them. In 1860, 2,511 slaves, or 15% of the total Cherokee population, were slaves.

Chief John Ross acknowledged that slavery and ties to their former homelands in the southeast fostered sympathy with the seceding states, but the federal government had recently helped the Cherokee eject persons trying to poach their land. Therefore, the only feasible option was for the Cherokees to honor its treaties with the United States and remain neutral.

Watie was having none of it. He fanned anti-Union sentiment and formed a chapter of the pro-Confederate Knights of the Golden Circle. In the winter and spring of 1861, the Indian nations neighboring the Cherokee signed treaties with the Confederacy. Arkansas and Texas seceded and Federal troops withdrew from Indian Territory to Kansas, leaving the Cherokees vulnerable to invasion. By August, Ross had concluded that siding with the South was unavoidable, and in October the Cherokee Nation signed a treaty with the Confederate government. Among the generous terms the Confederacy offered was a seat in its congress. Watie's nephew Elias Boudinot was elected to the Confederate House of Representatives and served until the end of the war.

Earlier, in July, Watie began enlisting recruits in the 1st Cherokee Mounted Rifles, a Confederate cavalry battalion. He was commissioned a colonel in October 1861. As noted elsewhere in this newsletter, the Cherokee Mounted Rifles distinguished themselves at the Battle of Pea Ridge. They fought in a number of battle and skirmishes in the Western Confederate states, including the Indian Territory, Arkansas, Missouri, Kansas and Texas. Watie's battalion reportedly fought in more battles west of the Mississippi than any other unit.

However, Cherokee support for the Confederate cause soon waned. In August 1862, John Ross and his followers announced their support for the Union and went to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. The remaining pro-Confederate minority faction elected Stand Watie tribal chief.

After Cherokee support for the Confederacy sharply declined, Watie continued to lead the remnant of his cavalry. He was promoted to brigadier general by General Samuel Bell Maxey on May 10, 1864. Watie's cavalry remained a potent fighting force that kept Union troops out of Indian Territory and large parts of north Texas during the war but spent most of their time attacking pro-Union Cherokees.



Stand Watie's Surrender

The Confederate Army put Watie in command of all forces in Indian Territory in February 1865, but by then Confederate troops were no longer an effective fighting force. On June 23, 1865, at Doaksville in the Choctaw Nation, Watie signed a cease-fire agreement between Union forces and forces under his command, thus becoming the last Confederate field commander to lay down his arms.

Following the war, Watie joined the Cherokee Delegation to the Southern Treaty Commission, which renegotiated treaties with the United States. The old tensions between the pro-Ross and pro-Watie factions continued. The U.S. government played each faction against the other, and eventually a treaty was signed which, among other things, required the Cherokees to free their slaves and offer them land to settle on.

Watie stayed out of politics after the treaty episode. He died on September 9, 1871.

Dick Cox is SCWRT Vice President and chair of the Roundtable's History Committee.

SPECIAL EVENTS

John Bamberl and Mark Stoler recently attended the City of Scottsdale's 185th birthday celebration for the city's founder, Winfield Scott. Scott also served as a Captain in a New York infantry regiment, suffering wounds at Harpers Ferry, Gettysburg, and Spotsylvania Court House.



Left to Right: John Bamberl, Marshall Trimble (Arizona State Historian), Scottsdale Mayor David Ortega, Mark Stoler

Traveling with Board Member Shelly and Gordon Dudley:

On our recent trip to our second home/genealogical research base of operations in Goochland, Virginia, we visited three Civil War sites in the Richmond area. At one of these, Malvern Hill, one of Gordon's distant cousins, Richmond Butler was involved and killed.



Gordon at Malvern Hill

Richmond Butler is Gordon Dudley's first cousin, four times removed. Richmond's father was George Butler, brother to Clemontyne Butler Dudley, Gordon's third great grandmother.

Richmond was born in Georgia in 1834. He helped his father farm the land in Madison County. When the Civil War broke out, Richmond enlisted in the 16th Regiment, Georgia Infantry, Company D in August 1861. Howell Cobb was appointed the regiment's colonel and later brigadier general in 1862. The regiment was involved in the Peninsula Campaign where on July 1, 1862, the company attacked the Union forces at the top of Malvern Hill. Richmond Butler was among

the 11 men who died that day from the 16th GA. In total, the Confederates lost 5,600 men killed or wounded and the Northern forces received 2,100 casualties. The Army of Northern Virginia was not able to drive the federal troops from Malvern Hill, but General McClellan did it for them, when he ordered the Army of the Potomac to leave the area.

Today Malvern Hill is the best-preserved Civil War battlefield in central Virginia. The photographs show the terrain nearly unaltered in appearance since the North and South met in 1862.

For additional information, please view Frank O'Reilly's presentation to the Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable on our YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zt3XhG5mtK0>

After visiting Malvern Hill, we traveled to nearby Fort Harrison. The fort had originally been a Confederate fort, but in 1864 the union troops captured, occupied, re-fortified, and ultimately renamed it Fort Burnham, after a Union General who died during a Confederate counterattack in an attempt to retake the fort. The United States Colored Troops were stationed there.



Shelly at Fort Harrison-Burnham



Gordon at Fort Harrison-Burnham

Our third site visit was to Drewry's Bluff, a high, ninety-foot bluff overlooking a sharp bend in the James River about seven miles south of Richmond. It was from this location that Confederate forces successfully prevented Union gunboats, including the ironclads Galena and Monitor, from moving upriver toward Richmond in May of 1862. From the top of the bluff, it was easy to see why the Union forces had such difficulty moving up river past this strongpoint. The bluff holds a commanding position, and the Confederate cannon relentlessly bombarded the Union ships on the river below. After withdrawing, the Union never again attempted to sail up the James River to capture Richmond. Located at the bluff, the Confederate Marines were later trained at Camp Beall, built after the defeat of the Union gunboats at Drewry's Bluff.



Drewry's Bluff

President Emeritus John Bamberl entertaining canine friends in Scottsdale!



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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*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. The papers of the Southern Historical Society.
2. The 63rd, 69th and 88th New York; the 28th (originally the 29th) Massachusetts and the 116th Pennsylvania.
3. Rear Adm. David Glasgow Farragut during the Battle of Mobile Bay.
4. William Edmondson Jones. He earned his nickname by arguing with his superiors, notably JEB Stuart.

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>