

# The Grapeshot

## Newsletter

October 2022



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This month's presenter:

Dr. Ethan Rafuse

The Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable welcomes Dr. Ethan Rafuse as he presents: "Little Mac's Grand Campaign: The Struggle on the Peninsula."

Scottsdale Civic  
Center

Library Auditorium

May 17, 2022,  
5 pm

Also on Zoom

Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable. Inc.

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

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## About Our Speaker

On October 18 we will host Dr. Ethan Rafuse, a professor of military history for almost two decades at the Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. A native of Virginia, Dr. Rafuse earned his doctoral degree under the guidance of the distinguished Civil War historian Dr. Herman Hattaway. He has written extensively on the Civil War. His lecture, "Little Mac's Grand Campaign: The Struggle on the Peninsula and its Enduring Significance," is based on his book *McClellan's War: The Failure of Moderation in the Struggle for the Union* published in 2005.

Dr. Rafuse is a highly regarded scholar who has appeared on C-SPAN, led battlefield tour groups and worked as an interpretive ranger for the National Park Service at Manassas National Battlefield and the Harry S. Truman National Historic Site.

The Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable meets monthly except June, July and August at the Civic Center branch of the Scottsdale Public Library. Dr. Rafuse's lecture will begin at 5 pm in the Copper Auditorium located on the lower level of the library. The public is invited to attend the monthly meetings of the Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable

**Scottsdale Civil War Round Table**  
**Speakers & Programs October 2022-May 2023**

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| October 18  | Ethan Rafuse “Little Mac’s Grand Campaign: The Struggle on the Peninsula and Its Enduring Significance”                         |
| November 15 | David Dixon: “August Willich’s Civil War: Radical International Revolution”   |
| December 13 | Jeff Hunt “Meade and Lee After Gettysburg: Climax of the Gettysburg Campaign”   |
| January 17  | <b>SPECIAL EVENT: <u>A CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF ED BEARSS</u></b> . Terry Winschel: "Edwin C. Bearss: An Historian's Tribute” |
| 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.**

## President's Letter



Welcome to the new season of the Roundtable! This will be our first since 2018-19 to have all our monthly events in our home in the Civic Center Library Auditorium. Our thanks to the Scottsdale Library for working so closely with us over the past 2 1/2 years and for our continuing partnership for so many years.

We are continuing with the Zoom simulcast to accommodate members facing difficulties in attending as well as providing access to members we've added across the U.S. and foreign countries since 2020.

Program Chair David Ward has come up with an exciting lineup of speakers for the 2022-23 season and we are already starting to book some outstanding, and first time, speakers for the 2023-24 season.

I am particularly excited about our event on January 17 celebrating the life of Ed Bearss. We'll be honoring his contributions to Civil War history, the National Park Service and the critical role Ed played in the growth of the battlefield preservation movement. We also wanted to do so because of the role Ed played in helping our own Roundtable through his annual visits for more than twenty years. Our January speaker, Terry Winschel, along with being Ed's successor as Chief Historian at Vicksburg, was a life-long friend and he'll be sharing his experiences with us. It will also be an opportunity to swap stories about Ed with you r friends. Anyone who experienced Ed at our Roundtable or on a battlefield tour has some unforgettable memories.

We are off to a good start with our membership renewals. Retaining our existing members and bringing in new ones is essential our long-term viability and ability to support the cost of bringing in quality speakers from around the country. Please invite your friends and family to come to our events and give us a try. We'd also like to hear if you have any suggestions on how to expand our membership.

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

## Officers & Organization

### Officers/Board Members

President: Mark Stoler (203-645-1387) ([relots@gmail.com](mailto:relots@gmail.com))

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

Vice President:: Richard Cox

Secretary & Parliamentarian: Hal Bliss

Treasurer: Bruce Washburn

Program Chair: David Ward

Board Members (thru 5/20223: John Bamberl, Shelly Dudley, Don Swanson, Cal Thompson

Board Members (thru 5/20234 Tom Merrill, David Ward

### Committees

Program: David Ward

Book Table: Cal Thompson

Grapeshot: Richard Cox

Greeters: John Bamberl

History: Richard Cox

Media: Shelly Dudley

Membership: Mark Stoler

Press: Shelly Dudley

Social Media: John Bamberl, Mark Stoler

Student Outreach: Tom Merrill

### Dues:

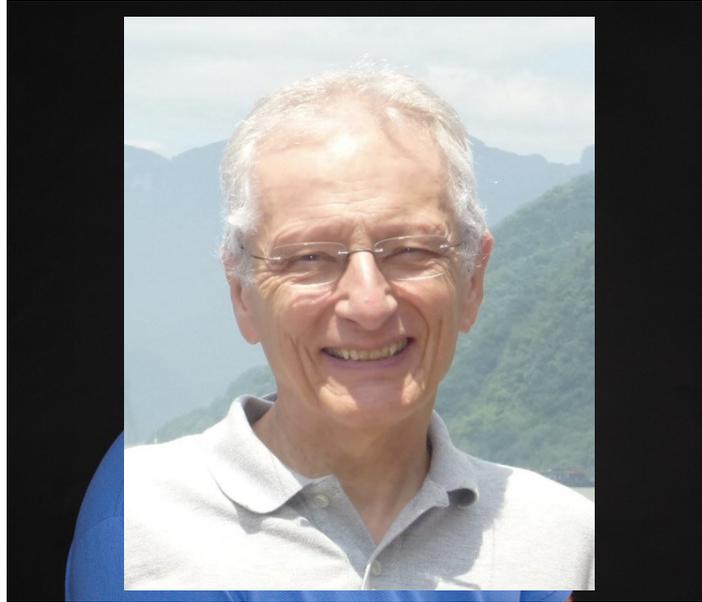
\$35 Individual; \$45 Family

Website: [www.scottsdalecwr.org](http://www.scottsdalecwr.org)

### Mailing Address:

Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable  
7349 N Via Paseo Del Sur, Suite 515  
Scottsdale AZ 85258-3749  
e-mail: [scottsdalecwr@gmail.com](mailto:scottsdalecwr@gmail.com)

## Introducing Board & Roundtable Members



**Bruce Washburn, Treasurer**

I had become interested in America's Civil War as a child growing up in western Kentucky. At the time the schools were still segregated. They had racially separated water fountains at the county courthouse and Jefferson Davis's birthday (who was born in Kentucky) was a state holiday. It seemed the issues that the war was sought to resolve were still present every day, and I started reading about the war and got drawn into this dramatic and highly consequential part of our nation's history. Bruce Catton's *Army of the Potomac* trilogy was my bedtime reading in those days.

It was the reading of Stephen Sears' *Landscape Turned Red* in 1983, about the Battle of Antietam, with its vivid "in the weeds" description of the battle that got me thinking about getting out on the ground and trying to understand what it would be like to be one of those men experiencing the maelstrom that must have been a Civil War battlefield. I have been trekking our battlefields for almost 40 years now, and thanks in no small part to the American Battlefield Trust in all its incarnations there is always more to see and learn.

Now that I have retired after 45 years of practicing law I am pleased to be able to be a more active part of the SCWRT. I have been a member for least a couple of decades, but for the last ten years before I retired I was the Scottsdale City Attorney. Since the City Council had one of its regular meetings on the night the Roundtable met I was unable to attend monthly membership meetings. I plan on making up for lost time and I truly appreciate the trust the Board has placed in me in allowing me to take on the duties of Treasurer.

## 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.

Here is the schedule with this season's topics:

October 25: What Went Wrong for the Army of the Potomac during the 1862 Peninsula Campaign?

November 22: Civil War Diplomacy: North and South

No meeting in December

January 24: Annual Trivia Contest

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!

## THIS MONTH IN CIVIL WAR HISTORY



**The Agar gun**

October 1861. A salesman visits President Lincoln in the White House. He hopes to sell a new invention, a “machine gun,” to the Union army. It’s called the Agar gun, named after its inventor Wilson Agar. Many people call it the “coffee mill gun” because of its unusual shape. Lincoln buys ten of the guns for \$1,300. Eventually the Union army will buy 54 more. But as with other so-called machine guns and repeating rifles, the Ordnance Department condemns them, stating their use would be a terrible waste of money and ammunition. They see little use in combat.

## CIVIL WAR TRIVIA

1. On May 22, 1849, Abraham Lincoln achieved a feat no other president before or after him has achieved. What was it?
2. In 1857, the son of a small slaveholder in North Carolina wrote a book called *The Impending Crisis of the South*. He argued that a cotton oligarchy had rigged the southern economy to benefit only itself. Non-slaveholders were veritable serfs in a sham democracy run by planters. The book was banned in several southern states. Who was the author?
3. Founded in 1845, the U.S. Naval Academy produced how many officers who served in the Civil War?
4. Sending more than 750 attendees to serve in the Civil War, what is the oldest private military academy in the U.S.?

Answers on page \_\_.

# 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](http://www.scottsdalecwrt.org)

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

Follow us on Facebook at Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable

## 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](http://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. Speakers have donated their time and talents because they believe in the movement. Watch them at [www.cwrtcongress.org/videos.html](http://www.cwrtcongress.org/videos.html)

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



1. Lincoln received a patent from the U.S. Patent Office. Patent No. 6469 was a device to lift boats over shoals and other obstructions. His invention was never manufactured.
2. Hinton Rowan Helper.
3. 400 graduates served in the U.S. Navy and 95 in the Confederate Navy. Twenty-three were killed in battle or died from wounds.
4. Norwich University, Northfield, Vermont, founded in 1819. It predates the Virginia Military Institute by 20 years.

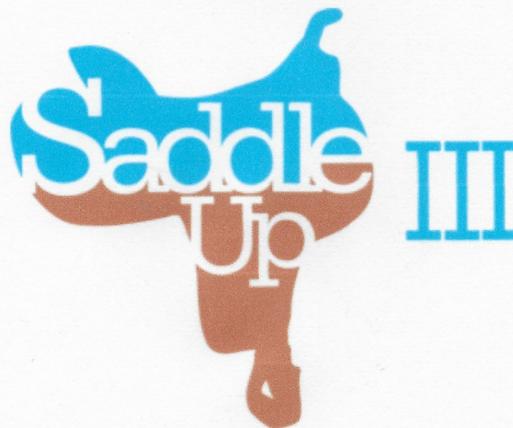
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## TICKETS

ARE YOU JOINING US FOR A GREAT EVENING OF FUN, FRIENDSHIP & FUNDRAISING?

Sep 30, 2022



Saddle Up III is fast approaching (October 15) – our premiere event supporting Western Spirit: Scottsdale’s Museum of the West, kicking off the social season in Scottsdale. Last year’s event was awarded *AZ Foothills* magazine’s “Best Annual Charity Event” and your support will help make this year’s event an even greater success!

If you haven’t yet purchased tickets, there’s still time. Don’t miss the camaraderie, live entertainment, great food, and highly entertaining auction of

great art, stunning jewelry, and getaway trips! This year's raffle prizes are sure to entice you as well.

Saddle Up III will be held in the outside courtyard adjacent to the museum at 3830 N. Marshall Way, Scottsdale, AZ 85251, on Saturday, October 15th at 6pm.

Those interested in purchasing tickets may do so online at:

<https://scottsdalemuseumwest.org/saddleup/> and those unable to attend have an option to donate to the museum at: <https://my.scottsdalemuseumwest.org/donate/q/15>.

This critical fundraising event for Western Spirit: Scottsdale's Museum of the West supports the high-quality public programming and exhibitions audiences have come to anticipate season after season. Don't miss this casual, fun event. Thank you in advance for your support!



## 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](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>