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.\$25 Annual Dues (Due every Sept)

.\$35 Annual Dues for Mr & Mrs.

.Everyone Welcome



Dr. Lesley Gordon

-presents-

GENERAL GEORGE PICKETT AND WIFE

September 18th, 2007 6:45 PM

Civic Center Library



Lesley J. Gordon, received her B.A. from the College of William and Mary, and her M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Georgia. She is presently associate professor of history at the University of Akron in Akron, Ohio and resides in Economy, Pennsylvania. Dr. Gordon is author of *General George E. Pickett in Life and Legend* (Chapel Hill, 1998) and co-editor of *Intimate Strategies of the Civil War: Military Commanders and Their Wives* (New York, 2003). Dr. Gordon is also series editor of *Civil War In The North* at Kent State University Press and is currently completing a study of the 16th Connecticut Infantry Regiment.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

.Apparently, the 1st wartime volunteer unit on active duty was the 125th U.S. Colored Troops, which mustered out on December 20, 1867, at which time the regiment was down to only a few dozen men.

.George Pickett's appointment to West Point in 1842 was arranged by Representative John T. Stuart, who had for a time been Abraham Lincoln's law partner.

.During the Peninsular Campaign in mid 1862, the Confederate army acquired some 60,000 nearly new blue great coats, which had been discarded by retreating Union troops.

.In the Union army, colonels were five times more likely to be the subjects of court martial proceedings than were privates.



**FROM WES' DEN...**

Hope you had some special summer travel. Sylvia and I drove over 6500 miles in 28 days. We followed Lewis & Clark, on the Missouri River, from KC to the confluence with the Yellowstone River near MT/ND border. They wintered at the Mandan villages of Bismarck, ND in 1804. Here they found Sakakawea at Fort Mandan. This is also the place Custer left for the Little Big Horn in 1876. I urge you the next time you are in the KC area to visit our National WWI Museum/Monument. After almost 10 years of refurbishing, a terrific museum now lies below the monument and it is very well done! It took my wife and me four hours to tour it and we did not read everything. And back in Springfield, IL, the Lincoln Museum doubled the size of its collection with the acquisition of a very special private holding. Additions are Lincoln's beaver hat, his gloves with blood stains, an 1824 math book page which contains the first known sample of his handwriting, the second largest assortment of Mary Todd Lincoln's correspondence, with the museum having the largest collection and the most extensive archive of Booth family material anywhere. We are so fortunate to live at a time when so much historical treasure is available for us to see. Travel and partake, for the day is short.

Jim Schlike turned in over \$300 last year from the book/magazine table that he has under his care. Your donations keep this program going. Are you finished with some CW literature from last summer? Please put it on the table.

I remain your most obedient servant..... *Wes Schmidt*



✓ CHECK IT OUT !

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## CIVIL WAR NURSES

by Dr. John Bamberl (SCWRT Member)

Approximately two thousand women, North and South, served as volunteer nurses in military hospitals during the American Civil War. Seeking direct involvement in the National struggle rather than domestic support roles which society had traditionally confined the majority of their sex, they experienced at first hand the grim reality of war: amputated limbs, mutilated bodies, disease and death and provided invaluable aid to the sick and wounded soldiers and medical authorities on either side. Prior to this time, the medical assistants were either stewards assigned to the duty or the walking wounded. Very few of the women nurses left any records of their wartime service. They therefore remain in large measure historically anonymous, except for their names on hospital muster rolls and consequently the activities and influence of the woman nurse constitute one of the rare aspects of civil war history that has not been extensively recorded.

Available evidence indicates that their activities often had important ramifications in both an immediate and broader social sense and that as a group they deserved attention as full participants in the civil war conflict rather than as mere helpers of the main actors. These women often had a notable impact upon the men they tended and served under, advancing the introduction of female personnel into responsible roles in a traditionally male military environment which was one significant step toward a fuller involvement in American society.

Dorothea Dix and Clara Barton were the leaders of a national effort to organize a nursing corps to care for the war's wounded and sick. Dix was already recognized for her improving the treatment of the insane when she began to recruit women for the army medical bureau. Military traditionalists opposed her but she prevailed armed with an indomitable will and singleness of purpose. One of the standards that Dix established for her nurses was that they be middle-aged and plain looking. Recruits nicknamed her "Dragon Dix". One recruit stated that "in those days it was considered indecorous for angels of mercy to appear otherwise than gray headed and spectacled".

Clara Barton worked on parallel lines but outside the official military system. A Massachusetts school teacher, Barton came to Washington in 1854 to work in the U.S. Patent Office. Determined to play a role in the events in 1861, she cared for soldiers that returned to Washington from Manassas. Thanks to financial support from New England, Barton had the means and resolve to overcome the military bureaucracy to travel to the front lines. "I went in while the battle raged", she recalled with pride. After the war she was instrumental in the creation of an American branch of the International Red Cross.

Dr. James Dunn, surgeon at Antietam Battlefield stated "In my feeble estimation, General McClellan with all his laurels, sinks into insignificance beside the true heroine of the age, The Angel of the Battlefield...Clara Barton".

## Reading the Man: A Portrait of Robert E. Lee through His Private Letters

by Elizabeth Brown Pryor.

Published by Viking Penguin. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. 2007. 658 pp. \$29.95

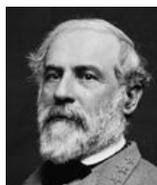
Reviewed by Don Swanson, SCWRT Member

In this 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of Robert E. Lee's birth, do Civil War enthusiasts need another book examining the life that was so reverently examined by Douglas Southall Freeman in the 1935 Pulitzer Prize-winning **R E Lee**, more recently by Emory Thomas in **Lee**, and a host of other books that have used his writings to examine seemingly every aspect of his life? Maybe enthusiasts don't really need it to feel they know a man who was a revered American soldier, a Confederate hero and an educator, but Elizabeth Brown Pryor's **Reading the Man** adds a new perspective certain to add to any buff's understanding of this complex man through his candid, at times even emotional letters.

Unlike more traditional biographies written in a chronological format, Pryor chooses to use private letters at the beginning of each chapter (what she terms a "historic excursion") to examine particular aspects of Lee's life and beliefs. While the style may not result in a thorough examination of his storied life, it compliments other biographies. It succeeds in this by individually examining issues including his role as husband and father to his wife Mary Randolph Custis and their seven children, his controversial actions as a slave owning aristocrat, his experience as a young officer in the Mexican War and his often candid thoughts during the Civil War.

It may be a surprise to many to discover that Lee was a wonderful letter writer who sometimes expressed feelings that we may not normally associate with him. We can thank Ms. Pryor for providing this insight through the letters printed in the book as well as her analysis of 10,000 pages of manuscript that she reviewed.

**Reading the Man** is a worthy supplement to the other classical biographies of RE Lee (as he always signed his letters) and deserves to be on the bookshelf of anyone wanting to gain a better understanding of this complex American hero and Confederate icon.





## THE CIVIL WAR LIBRARY

By Paul J. Buser

Scottsdale Attorney & SCWRT Member

### **TWO CIVIL WAR LEADERS ON OPPOSITE SIDES IN THE NEW MEXICO / ARIZONA TERRITORY – JAMES CARLETON FOR THE NORTH, SHEROD HUNTER OF THE SOUTH – LEADERS WHO NEVER MEET**

(Part 1 of 2 Parts)

In 1861 and 1862 two famous soldiers each separately planned for battling riding and marching through the same Far Southwest theatre – Arizona. This new Territory was prized by both the North and the South for its minerals and its strategic geographic position. Each soldier was a leader in his own right fighting for and defending a different cause.

**“In July 1861, after the fall of Fort Sumter and the secession of eleven Southern states, the U.S. government called on California for volunteer troops. The army needed soldiers to suppress the rebellion that seemed to be brewing in Southern California and protect the transcontinental mail routes from secessionists and Indian Raiders. . . .”**

**“A thrust from southern California across Arizona and New Mexico to the Rio Grande would serve several purposes. It would block a junction of Texas Rebels and California secessionists, reopen the southern overland mail route, provide garrisons for abandoned posts, and furnish protection to the citizens of the territories.....”**[Commanding U.S. General Wright, in California, said of Carleton to U.S. General In Chief George McClellan]: **“Under the command of Colonel Carleton, an officer of great experience, indefatigable and active, the expedition must be successful.”**

Quote from Andrew E. Masich, The Civil War in Arizona – The Story of the California Volunteers, 1861-1865, pages 9 & 13 (Oklahoma University Press, 2006).

**“On January 27, 1862, [Confederate General Henry Hopkins] Sibley informed headquarters that he had ordered Captain Hunter’s company to Tucson to protect the mineral resources of Arizona and to open communications with southern California. Hunter would carry a Confederate flag to raise over what would be, for the time being, the westernmost outpost of the new [Confederate] nation.”**

Quote from L. Boyd Finch, Confederate Pathway to the Pacific – Major Sherod Hunter and Arizona, C.S.A., page 112 (The Arizona Historical Society, Tucson, 1996).

More often than not they were hundreds of miles apart. As a consequence, James Carleton and Sherod Hunter only indirectly confronted each other.

Through advance soldiers and pickets, Carleton’s and Hunter’s troops were segmented into small numbers. These detachments engaged each other at remote and faraway places called Stanwix Station (80 miles east of Yuma), the Pima Villages (just south of present day Phoenix), and the more well known Picacho Peak (40 miles north of Tucson).

Far from the Atlantic seaboard, the cradle of the Civil War, and from the main points of more recent battles at Val Verde and Glorieta Pass in New Mexico Territory, Carleton and Hunter anticipated battling each other in the Arizona desert.

Yet, they each left Arizona desert country without experiencing a “face to face” planned, pitched battle that would bring victory for one of them (and his troops) over the other. Instead, these two leaders went onto other glories or accomplishments in the Civil War.

In two parts, here are their intertwined stories.



### **SHEROD HUNTER**

Sherod Hunter was born March 5, 1834 in Fayetteville, Lincoln County, Tennessee. His namesake father (spelled “Sherrod”) fought in the eastern Indian Wars under Andrew Jackson and with Davy Crockett. His father and his mother, Elizabeth, were farmers and health healers of strong, independent pioneer stock. Yet, cholera on the frontier took them early in life soon after producing three children.

Hunter and his siblings received an inheritance, from both parents and grandparents. After being raised by extended family and friendly patrons who saw over him, in his early 20’s Hunter opened a general store in partnership with the head of a prominent Fayetteville family.

In his mid- to late 20’s, he listened to and became accustomed to the debates involving disputes between ways of living and working in the North and the South. Through his work, neighborliness and observation of 1840’s and 1850’s politics, Hunter knew and lived within the cultural, economic and social differences then extant in these two sections of the country.

Only a few years after opening his general store, Hunter’s 19 year-old wife and his newborn son, Thomas, both died. Despondent, Hunter left his Fayetteville business to become active as an unofficial reporter (letter writer to newspapers) of civil unrest over the slavery issue.

(continued next page)

Hunter traveled north from eastern Tennessee to Missouri and Kansas. There he devoted some of his time writing as a correspondent about the Missouri – Kansas border wars. It was then presumed that Hunter also served as a Southern soldier in actual fighting, which occurred in the dispute over Kansas’s entry as a slave or free state.

In the late 1850’s and early 1860’s New Mexico/Arizona Territory was noted for its gold, silver, copper and other mineral discoveries. Also, land in certain parts of the Territory was suitable for farming. This was the attraction for Sherod Hunter. He moved from the Midwest to the Far Southwest to become a farmer. He settled in the Mimbres Mountains, on the Mimbres River, 90 miles northwest of La Mesilla [near present day Las Cruces, New Mexico].

Upon Hunter’s arrival in what was then called the Arizona Department of New Mexico Territory, he faced two challenges: the constant raiding of his fertile farmland by Apache Indians and the approaching Civil War, which by Southern sympathizers was moving westward from Texas.

Having been raised in Tennessee and having reported on and/or participated in the Kansas-Missouri border wars, Hunter’s initial Confederate volunteer services in eastern Arizona were based upon practical self-preservation steps: to protect his farm.

In 1861 – in order to move United States troops to the Midwest and Eastern (east of the Mississippi River) Civil War battlefronts of the country – the Union rapidly closed down and abandoned many of its Arizona forts. Years before the forts had been established to protect settlers from local Indian attacks.

Consequently, no public law enforcement authority was left to help Hunter, neighboring farmers and miners stave off the Indian depredations of their homesteads and livelihoods. Hunter led his cohorts in the Mimbres Mountains – primarily in the Pinos Altos area – to form a volunteer group called the Arizona Rangers to fight the Indians and to protect the settlers, their property and land.

In July 1861, the Civil War came to their front door at La Mesilla, on the Rio Grande River. These same Arizona Rangers decided to fight for the Confederacy against the Union. La Mesilla was the first armed “battle” or skirmish between Northern and the Southern troops in New Mexico Territory. There the Rangers fought side by side with Texas’s Colonel John Baylor and his mounted cavalry for a victory over Union troops.

Hunter’s obvious leadership at La Mesilla included his ensuing chase and assistance in the capture of retreating Union soldiers 100 miles distant at San Augustin Springs. After this two-day battle/trek, a Confederate lieutenant said of Hunter: “Among those who volunteered for the fight

was Sherod Hunter, who was one of the most gallant men in the Confederate Army”.

On the heels of the La Mesilla victory Colonel John Baylor anointed himself and pronounced himself to be the new governor of New Mexico Territory. A few months later, in December 1861, Hunter was appointed by Baylor to raise Company A. Hunter was to lead Company A on an important dual mission – strategically for offensive and defensive purposes – into central and western Arizona Territory.



## JAMES CARLETON

Company A was formed so that Hunter and his hand picked troops could move to secure and hold Tucson, a stronghold of Southern sympathy. Hunter was ordered to meet and oppose a California Column of Union Volunteers who were moving toward New Mexico Territory.

During the same approximate time frame when Company A was being formed for the Confederacy, the California Volunteers were being organized by Colonel James Carleton. Their intent was to provide much needed manpower for the United States war effort on the vast terrain of the Arizona desert.

The mission of Carleton and his troops was to secure the Yuma Crossing on the Colorado River for the Union’s military, commercial and transportation needs. The California troops planned to cross Arizona Territory, then to take and occupy the Confederate hotbed of Tucson.

Their plan, after the defeat of Confederates at Tucson, was for the California Column to join forces with Union troops already posted at different locations in New Mexico. They were to combine to oppose the 3,000 strong Confederate marching army and cavalry which was heading west from Texas. The Confederates had as their intention, making New Mexico and Arizona official territories of the Confederacy.

Though the stage was being set for an historic face to face battle between Carleton and Hunter, it was not to be. They knew of each other only through military dispatches, newspaper articles, and their own surrogate troops. Their victories and troop movements in New Mexico and Arizona territories generally occurred far apart from each other.

The saga of what later happened to these two military leaders – who went entirely in different directions for the balance of the Civil War – will appear in the next installment of this two-part story.