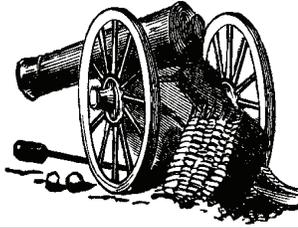


APRIL 2008

EDITION ONE HUNDRED AND SEVEN

SCOTTSDALE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE, INC  
A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION



# THE GRAPESHOT

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.Meets @ Civic Center Library  
.3839 N Drinkwater Blvd Scottsdale  
.on the 3rd Tuesday of the month  
6:45 PM—8:45 PM

.September thru May  
.\$35 Annual Dues (Due every Sept)  
.\$45 Annual Dues for Mr & Mrs.  
.Everyone Welcome

## MICHAEL KAUFFMAN

-presents-

### The American Brutus

April 15, 2008

6:45 PM

Civic Center Library

Political historian Michael W. Kauffman is a well-known figure among Lincoln assassinations researchers. He has written numerous articles on the subject and has been a guide for the John Wilkes Booth Escape Route tours for more than twenty years. His writings have been published in *Civil War Times*, *The Washington Post*, *American Heritage*, *Blue and Gray* and *The Lincoln Herald*. He has appeared on A&E, C-Span, The Learning Channel, The History Channel and the Discovery Channel. In 1995, he testified as an expert witness before the Baltimore Circuit Court in the Booth exhumation hearings. He is the editor of Samuel B. Arnold's *Memoirs of a Lincoln Conspirator* and more recently wrote *American Brutus: John Wilkes Booth and the Lincoln Conspiracies*, winner of the Walt Whitman Award for the best Civil War related book of the year.

#### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Only 23% of the members of the Scottsdale Civil War Round Table are members of the Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT). Belonging to the CWPT is important to everyone who is interested in the Civil War and wants to preserve our national heritage. The Trust has preserved 25,000 acres of Civil War battlefields in the last eight years.

The Civil War Preservation trust is an organization that is dedicated to the preservation of Civil War battlefields, and, with its various educational programs, the promotion of Civil War education in grade schools and high schools. Seventy-one classrooms across the United States have been adopted as members of the CWPT by generous members. It is important that we support this great organization. It is one of the best tax-deductible \$35 dollars you will ever spend.

It is important that we maintain and preserve the Civil War battlefields, and encourage Civil war education in our schools. It is important that our own children and grandchildren can walk the fields and experience the emotional empathy with the men who fought and died to make this a great nation.

The Civil War transformed a loose confederation of states into a united and confident nation that was launched into the twentieth century as the world's leading economic producer and foremost democratic nation. We need to preserve and protect this great legacy. One of the easiest ways to do this is to join and support the Civil War Preservation Trust.

Dr. and Mrs. John Bamberl



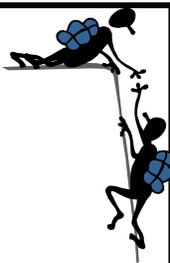
#### A THOUGHT ON THE LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dr. Bamberl's letter (at right) about the importance of the battlefield, and its preservation, reminded me of something one gentleman said seven score and four years ago, as part of his "few appropriate remarks".

"We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate—we cannot consecrate—we cannot hallow—this ground The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced.

## Changes to Your SCWRT



As you may be aware, the annual dues for the Round Table have gone up to \$35 for an individual, and \$45 per Mr. and Mrs.

This is the first dues increase in over 10 years. Back then, gas was about \$1.70 a gallon—and we thought THAT was outrageously high. It is expected that, by the end of summer 2008, gas will reach \$4 a gallon. All of our costs have increased dramatically. For example, it now costs us about \$500 to fly in speakers and to feed and lodge them.

As a board, we are committed to bringing the very best Civil War speakers to the Scottsdale Civil War Round Table. We could not continue to fulfill this commitment without taking this step. With this increase, we insure that we will continue to get the quality of speakers our members have rightly come to expect.

In addition to this, some of you may have noticed a couple of changes on our web site <http://scottsdalecwr.com>. We are now connected to Amazon.com. If you click on the link on our site, and then buy things from Amazon, we will get a percentage of the sale. This is a win-win situation for all of us. You get the items you want and we get money from the sale.

In addition, there is now a link that you can use to have the *Grapeshot* e-mailed to you either instead of, or in addition to, having sent to you through the post office.

There have also been changes at the *Grapeshot*. My name is Brad Greenberg, and I am the new editor. There are a couple of things that I am going to be adding to the newsletter in the months to come.

You have already seen two of them: the letter to the editor and a comment from the editor. I want make our newsletter interactive. I ask that you please write to us about **any** Civil War related topic you find interesting. You can write about something you found interesting in this paper—or any other information source (please tell us the source, or give us a link to go to) and what about you thought about what you read. You can write about any topics our speakers have covered, or any topics they have not covered. If you have a relative that was somehow involved in the conflict, tell us about it. If you went on vacation to a Civil War related site, write to us about it. The point here is that you can write to the newsletter about **ANY** Civil War issues that you are interested in—just like Dr. Bamberl did.

With that said, there are a couple of caveats. Letters may edited for space and grammar. We want as many people contributing their thoughts as possible. Also, please send your letters to [brgreenberg1@cox.net](mailto:brgreenberg1@cox.net) and put SCWRT in the subject line.

Finally, I would like to thank Karen, the previous editor, for all she has done. Putting together the newsletter is not easy. However, she has done this, and so much more, with grace, dignity, and style. The Scottsdale Civil War Round Table could not function nearly as well without her as it does with her. I hope that I my newsletters make her proud.

## Editor's Comments

In his letter to the editor about the importance of preserving Civil War battlefields, he talks about how they help us understand our history. For any one who has ever been to a location where they know about the major events that happened there, (Springfield, IL, and Antietam, for example), the location brings out thoughts and emotions that not even photos or videos can elicit. Being there makes history come alive.

He also talks about the teaching of history. What can we get from understanding the past? Winston Churchill, at the end of his *History of the English Speaking Peoples* says, "The future is unknowable, but the past should give us hope."

Why is this? How can the Civil War give us hope? Do generals no longer act on faulty intelligence? Has the Defense Department learned the lesson of Joe Johnston mistaking a painted log for a WMD?

On the other hand, doesn't the war teach us something about the strength of our commitment to certain core values and ideals? In his book *The Grand Alliance*, Churchill, a Civil War scholar and buff, wrote about the thoughts he had before he went to sleep at the end of an infamous day in December, 1941:

"Silly people—and there were many, not only in the enemy countries—might discount the force of the United States. Some said that they were soft, others that they would never be united. They would fool around at a distance. They would never come to grips. They would never stand the bloodletting. Their democracy and system of recurrent elections would paralyze their war effort. They would be just a vague blur on the horizon to friend or foe. Now we should see the weakness of this numerous but remote, wealthy, and talkative people. But I had studied the American Civil War, fought out to the last desperate inch. American blood flowed through my veins...Being saturated and satiated with emotion and sensation, I went to bed and slept the sleep of the saved and thankful."

However, battlefields can also help one come to terms with concepts that are not solely history based. In the January/February issue of *BizEd* (Volume 4, Issue 1), the article "Field Lessons" talks about two professors from the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Business, in Richmond Virginia, who lead all of the EMBA students on an all day trip to the Chancellorsville battlefield. In the morning, they take all of the National Park Service tours. In the afternoon, they are split into North and South and are told that they need to come up with new strategies that they feel would have led to their side winning the battle. During the afternoon, the professors remove the leaders from each group (Hooker and Jackson, so to speak), creating a leadership gap. At the end of the day, both sides make presentations. Finally, the students have to write a paper about the experience.

Battlefields need to be preserved because they connect us to our history and teach us things about ourselves.



### UPCOMING ROUND TABLES

May 20th...Frank O'Reilly...Lee: *Marching Out Of Step - From Lexington To Greatness*