

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 families
.Everyone Welcome



Frank O'Reilly
-presents-
**Lee Marching Out of Step:
From Lexington to
Greatness**

May 20, 2008
6:45 PM

Graduating in 1987 with a B.A. in American History from Washington & Lee University, Frank O'Reilly worked for the Stonewall Jackson House in Lexington and even guest lectured at Washington & Lee on Civil War topics while still an undergraduate. Joining the National Park Service in 1987 as a temporary historian at the Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park, he later took a fulltime position at Independence Hall in Philadelphia. Returning to Fredericksburg in 1990, Mr. O'Reilly filled the permanent historian's position at the Stonewall Jackson Shrine, also serving as a historical consultant for the City of Fredericksburg and the Shenandoah Valley Battlefield Planning Commission. He has also released a book on the Fredericksburg Campaign titled *Stonewall Jackson at Fredericksburg*, in 1993. *The Fredericksburg Campaign: Winter War On The Rappahannock* was released by LSU Press in the fall of 2002, along with appearances in several video documentaries, including *Civil War Journal*.

This Month in the Civil War

- MAY 1861: Arkansas, Tennessee, North Carolina, and Virginia secede from the Union.
- MAY 1862: Union Naval forces under Flag Officer David Farragut capture New Orleans, LA, the largest city in the Confederacy.
- MAY 1863: Gen. Lee wins at Chancellorsville, VA, despite being vastly outnumbered. Also, Gen. Grant's army wins five battles in three weeks, but is denied at the gates of Vicksburg.
- MAY 1864: Gen. Grant begins the Overland Campaign in VA. Sherman starts his drive to Atlanta.
- MAY 1865: Confederate President Davis is caught.

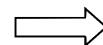


FROM WES' DEN...

After the last meeting, Hank Potosky, came up to me and volunteered to take care of the book table. I think Hank is deserving of a brevet, and Jim Schlicke and I thank him profusely. Please drop off donations of CW books/magazines anytime. For the early birds we will have a CW VCR going at 6:15pm to 6:45pm every meeting. We always used to do this and Don Swanson will get this going again. It is so nice to have volunteers come forward. Yes, I need to brevet another good man. Thanks.

Last month I was astounded to read about a cavalry battle in the west, with the odds of over 3000 against a 500 man union strike force, that luckily had 2 cannons. It was a pitched battle with no quarter from first light till dark when the union organized a fighting retreat. How about this? No CSA troops involved. Gen. Kit Carson commanded and it was Thanksgiving Day, 1864, in the Texas panhandle. The Comanche/Kiowa ruled this area and dared the US Army and anyone else to do something about this. In the dead of winter Carson tracked them down and attacked. The battle is remembered as Adobe Walls, because that was all that remained of an old Bent fur post. It became the center of Carson's defense. Now, just a bronze tablet on a boulder mark this amazing fight on a field of private property.

Happily, I can report a strong Roundtable with a terrific lecture program, and
I remain your most obedient servant.....Wes Schmidt



The Bloody Shirt: Terror after Appomattox by Stephen Budiansky. Published by the Penguin Group. Notes, references, index. 2008. 322 pp. \$27.95

Redemption: The Last Battle of the Civil War by Nicholas Lemann. Published by Farr, Straus and Giroux. Notes, index. 2006. 257 pp. \$24.00

Reviewed by
Don Swanson, SCWRT Member

Most serious enthusiasts understand that the Civil War included horrific, ugly incidents – the grievously wounded left for days between the lines at Cold Harbor; the deliberate massacre of Colored Troops at Fort Pillow; the exploding mine and subsequent shooting of surrendering troops at the Crater in Petersburg. What most Civil War enthusiasts don't realize, however, is that the ugliness did not stop with the surrender of the armies in the spring of 1865. In fact, as these two books convincingly argue, the war and its horrors continued throughout the post-war Reconstruction period few enthusiasts know much about.

Stephen Budiansky's **The Bloody Shirt** takes its title from the shirt worn by a Northerner in Mississippi as he was savagely beaten by members of the KKK. As the story (which the author says didn't actually happen) goes, the shirt was given to Congressman Ben Butler (of "Beast Butler" fame) who waved it on the House floor in Washington during a fiery speech calling for a bill to break the KKK's reign of terror. Budiansky explains that "waving the bloody shirt" became the expression of Southern contempt whenever Northern politicians mentioned any of the thousands of crimes committed against freedmen in the South in the years following the end of the war.

The author tells the story of this ugly time in American history through the lives of five brave, but ultimately unsuccessful men who worked to change the lives of all Southerners. All are almost unknown today, except for James Longstreet, the famous Confederate general who was not to be forgiven by many in the South for becoming a Republican and aligning himself with Ulysses Grant. The others in the group of five are less well known, but have equally compelling, if disturbing stories. They include a former slave who became a South Carolina legislator, an Army officer sent to stop the violence of the Klan, a Union war hero who became the governor of Mississippi and a federal soldier turned county sheriff in the heart of the Old South. Through the events in the lives of these five, readers learn the harsh reality of the murder of an estimated 3,000 freedmen during this period of

American history so few know.

The title of **Redemption: The Last Battle of the Civil War** refers to the word that Lemann says white southerners chose to denote the retaking of authority they had lost in the Civil War and the re-establishment of white supremacy in the South during and after Reconstruction. While some Southerners saw this as "redeeming" their states by ridding them of Northern carpetbaggers and the negative political impact of voting freedmen, the author personalizes the terror campaign waged by examining the pattern of threat and murder used against blacks trying to find their place in this "New South."

While these books cover some of the same ground (including Lemann's version of the "bloody shirt" story which he says **did** happen), they complement one another well. While Budiansky focuses on five individuals who played such a large part in this time, Lemann provides a more traditional narrative of the continuation of the Civil War that most enthusiasts would rather not think about – a disgraceful period of our nation's history in which the honor and courage that we value in our Civil War heroes was displayed on a different battlefield and was lost to the history most of us know– until now.

UPCOMING ROUND TABLES

Sept 16: Rick Hatcher *The Life and Death and Life Again of the H.L. Hunley.*

Oct 21: Spencer & Jackson Traveling Theatrical Troup *An Evening of Civil War Music and Musings.*

Nov 18: Greg Mertz *I'll Be Damned if I Will Cooperate: Gouverneur K. Warren at the Wilderness and Spotsylvania.*

December: Christmas Party. Date and Time TBA. Oh, Come All Ye Members.

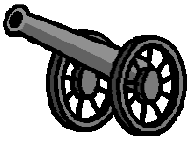
Jan 20: Ed Barrss: *Six Civil War Military Figures That Made a Real Difference.*

Feb 17: Craig Symonds: *Lincoln and the Navy.*

Mar 17: Dave Hinze *Artillery Hell: A study of Artillery at the Battle of Antietam.*

Apr 21: Gail Stephens *The Shadow of Shiloh: General Lew Wallace and the Civil War.*

May 19: Richard McMurry *The General in the Jar: Joseph E. Johnston in Defense of Atlanta.*



THE CIVIL WAR LIBRARY

by Paul J. Buser,
Scottsdale Attorney & SCWRT
Member

The Author of the “Dred Scott” Decision –
Chief Justice Roger B Taney

Two months ago, we printed an article about Chief Justice Taney. As a follow up to that, we are providing a summary of his life and of some of his major cases—ed.

Roger Brooke Taney

12th United States Attorney General

In office

July 20, 1831 – November 14, 1833

Preceded by John M. Berrien
Succeeded by Benjamin Franklin Butler

12th United States Secretary of the Treasury

In office

September 23, 1833 – June 25, 1834

Preceded by William John Duane
Succeeded by Levi Woodbury

5th Chief Justice of the United States

In office

March 28, 1836 – October 12, 1864

Nominated by President Andrew Jackson
Preceded by John Marshall
Succeeded by Salmon P. Chase

Born March 17, 1777
Calvert County, MD, U.S.

Died October 12, 1864 (age 87)
Washington, D.C., U.S.

Political Party Federalist, Democrat

Spouse Anne Arnold Phoebe
Charlton Key Taney

Alma Mater

Dickinson College

Profession

Politician, Lawyer, Judge

Case: *Charles River Bridge v. Warren Bridge*

Citation: 36 U.S. 420 (1837)

Summary: Contract Clause of the Constitution.

Case: *The Amistad*

Citation: 40 US 518 (1841)

Summary: Slave trade and slave ownership.

Case: *Swift v. Tyson*

Citation: 41 U.S. 1 (1842)

Summary: Federal common law in diversity jurisdiction cases, later overturned .

Case: *Luther V. Borden*

Citation: 48 U.S. 1 (1849)

Summary: Guarantee clause of Article Four of the United States Constitution.

Case: *Prigg v. Pennsylvania*

Citation: 41 U.S. 539 (1842)

Summary: Runaway slaves.

Case: *Passenger Cases*

Citation: 48 U.S. 283 (1849)

Summary: Taxation of immigrants, constitutionality of state laws regarding foreign commerce.

Case: *Sheldon v. Sill*

Citation: 49 U.S. 441 (1850)

Summary: Congressional control of the jurisdiction of the lower federal courts.

Case: *Strader v. Graham*

Citation: 51 U.S. 82 (1851)

Summary: Slavery and the application of state laws thereof.

Case: *Cooley v. Board of Wardens.*

Citation: 63 U.S. 299 (1852)

Summary: Pilotage laws under the Commerce Clause.



Case: *Dred Scott v. Sandford*

Citation: 60 U.S. 635 (1856)

Summary: Slavery, the definition of citizenship.

Case: *Prize Cases*

Citation: 67 U.S. 635 (1863)

Summary: Presidential powers in wartime.



Chief Justice Roger Brooke Taney

I would like to thank Wes for his contribution this month, and for his leadership of the Round Table over the years. His column will continue to be a feature of the *Grapeshot*.

A “thank you” also goes out to Don Swanson for his review of the two books about the “Bloody Shirt” episode.

Thanks also go out to Paul Buser for his contribution this month, and for his continual help and support of the Round Table.

Thanks to John Bamberl for his column on “This Month in the Civil War”, which will be a continuing feature.

Finally, thanks to the members, and those who would like to be members, of the Scottsdale Civil War Round Table for reading and—in one case this month—contributing to your *Grapeshot*.

I saw online the other day that Civil War relic hunter Sam White died when the cannonball he was working on restoring went off. One piece of shrapnel was found more than a quarter mile away. White is said to have restored over 1500 Civil War cannonballs. He had 18 more lined up for him to work on.

This was not the first live cannonball found in a long time; it was not even the first live one found this year. In March, a 44 pound, 8 inch mortar shell was found at the Petersburg Battlefield.

Editorial Comments

We have come to the end of another Round Table season. We have had a number of very good speakers discuss a number of interesting subjects this year. We covered military and diplomatic issues, and even spent two evenings on Lincoln’s assassination and Booth’s escape.

As you have seen the list of speakers and topics, you know that next year is going to be just as fascinating.

With that said, let me reiterate something I mentioned last month, and that Wes stated at the last meeting: we are still looking for women to volunteer to serve on the board. We want to make sure that their voices are heard in the decision making process, and that our topics are meeting their interests.

A Thought

Brad,

A number of years ago, a new chapel was dedicated in Washington D.C.

As a part of the dedication ceremony, the names of those who had died in the Vietnam War were read at a steady pace without stopping. It took three complete days and nights to read all the names—around 60,000.

I took this idea and turned to the Civil War. According to my calculations, if the names of those who died in the Civil War - somewhat over 600,000 - were read out at a steady pace without stopping, it would take 30 complete days and nights plus a few more hours. Think of this, a solid month of reading names. This helps one really comprehend how many were lost during this war.

Sincerely,

Carol Fejes

Carol, thank you for your comment. Thirty days just to read the names. That makes the casualty figures easier to comprehend, and, yet more horrific to realize.

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. You can write about relatives that fought in the war or a Civil War site you just saw. The point here is that you can write to the newsletter about **ANY** Civil War issues that you are interested in—just as Carol did.

Please e-mail me at bgreenbergl@cox.net, and put *Grapeshot* or *SWCRT*—or something like that—in the subject line.