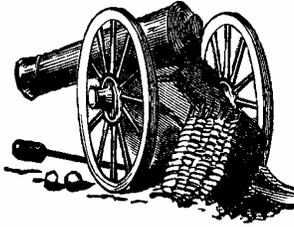


NOVEMBER 2008

EDITION ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVEN

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



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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

Special Notice

There has been a change in the schedule. Ed Bearss will be here on **January 13, 2009**. (This is an example of a change you can believe in). The time and place are the same, just the date is different.

We look forward to seeing you there.



Greg Mertz

-presents-

I'll Be Damned If I Will Cooperate: Gouverneur K. Warren At The Wilderness and Spotsylvania

November 18, 2008

6:45 PM

Civic Center Library

Born and raised near St. Louis, Missouri, Greg's interest in the Civil War Began and grew out of annual hiking and camping trips the scout troop made to the Shiloh, Tennessee battlefield every spring.

Greg holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Missouri, and a master's degree from Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania. He began his National Park Service career at Gettysburg National Military Park and Eisenhower National Historic Site as Park Ranger and transferred to Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park in 1984. Currently he serves as the Supervisory Historian at Fredericksburg.

His most recent article was on the fighting at Laurel Hill during the Battle of Spotsylvania Court House for the Summer 2004 issue of *Blue and Gray Magazine* and is also the 2002 recipient of the Jefferson Davis medal from the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

FROM WES' DEN

I had to miss the Minstrel Show, Oct 21; but opinion is mixed from great to so so. Hard to guess why extra attendance didn't materialize. More than half our members didn't come. This is the only program that we pay for. Please talk to me as to your reaction/opinion.

Sylvia & I just finished a month on the road driving to WI & back. We visited a bunch of museums. AAA travel books tell you what's coming and these special stops brighten the trip. 60 miles south-east of KC is the battlefield of Lone Jack, MO. They have a nice visitors center, museum, military cemetery, markers & monuments. On 8/16/1862, a union cavalry regiment was camped here. An independent CSA command gathered up all the men they could, and rode all night to launch a surprise attack. The fight lasted all day, with over 1000 casualties. After dark, the CSA unit headed south. In Topeka KS, we found the first exhibit ever on Quantrill and his raid on Lawrence Ks. Melted clumps of glass bottles and dishes from a burned kitchen and fused steel implements from a fired barn set the stage.

In Springfield II, we visited the Lincoln Museum again. One exhibit hall changes every year. They have a terrific collection of presidential campaign material from all of our elections, showing that there has never been such an election without fraud. Shocking to see that. Kenosha WI, has a new CW Museum, just open 6 months. Very well done. You enter a RR car & a mannequin is sitting in each row. When you sit next to it, it speaks to you. He introduces him or herself and explains what he is doing and where he is going. Later on, you come to a naval exhibit and these same people are standing on a steamboat deck and they will tell you how the 4 years have been for them. In this area was shown a fine collection of naval uniforms, insignia and material.

I urge you to check out museums on your next trip. The rewards are immense and not found in books. I remain your most obedient servant..... WES SCHMIDT



Book Reviews

by
Don Swanson
(SCWRT Member)



The Lincolns: Portrait of a Marriage

by Daniel Mark Epstein. Published by Ballantine Books. Notes, illustrations, index. 2008. 559 pp. \$28.00

Timed with the bicentennial celebration of the birth of our 16th president, no less than four major biographies of Abraham Lincoln will be published over the course of the next few months. This influx of scholarly works makes it difficult to get a study written by an author of poetry, plays and biographies of such diverse personalities as Nat King Cole and Edna St. Vincent Millay to receive the attention this excellent study might otherwise receive.

Daniel Mark Epstein focuses on the relationship of Abraham Lincoln and Mary Todd from the time of their first meeting in Springfield, through their on and off-again courting, their 22-year marriage, and ultimately to the end of their life together. It's this insight into the lives of Abraham Lincoln and Mary Todd that gives the reader of more traditional "Lincoln books" a different, yet valuable perspective. While the thought of "the private lives of Abe and Mary" might turn many Civil War enthusiasts away, Epstein's insight into the Lincoln's stormy, complex relationship reveals how that relationship influenced their lives and affected so the lives of so many others during those turbulent times. That insight makes this book a compelling read.

Southern Storm: Sherman's March to the Sea

by Noah Andre Trudeau. Published by HarperCollins. Notes, illustrations, bibliography, index. 2008. 671 pp. \$35.00

Noah Andre Trudeau has written outstanding studies of the Gettysburg, Overland, and Petersburg campaigns. An exhaustive account of Sherman's March to the Sea can now be added to that impressive list of detailed, but very readable books.

Trudeau's telling of this campaign that resulted in General William T. Sherman giving the city of Savannah as a Christmas present to President Lincoln (the words of that famous telegram was prompted by a Treasury Agent's comment to Sherman) is certainly exhaustive. More casual readers may be tempted to speed through some of the seemingly endless stories of foragers stealing food and livestock (Trudeau even discusses the term *bummer* which he says was absent from contemporary accounts). Unfortunately, these impatient readers might miss the author's analysis of who developed the original plan (Sherman acknowledged the idea was commonly held), the infamous incident at Ebenezer Creek (Brig. General Jefferson C. Davis gets much of the blame), and Sherman's concept of the rules of war (which included using prisoners to clear roads of torpedoes).

Although Trudeau's story certainly covers all aspects of the march that would be of interest to most readers, Sherman is the focus. Considering that his name has been inextricably attached to the "March to the Sea", that is as it should be.

BOOKS YOU MIGHT HAVE MISSED

(older books about the Civil War that I think just might be worth your time)

The Judas Field: A Novel of the Civil War

by Howard Bahr. 2007

Originally published in hardcover for \$25.00. Available in trade paperback for \$14.00.

Twenty years after Cass Wakefield returned from the war, he returns to the battlefield of Franklin, Tennessee to recover the bodies of a friend's father and brother. The somber story moves from the trip to Cass's tragic memories of the battle. The 2006 *Washington Post* review said: "The book's pace and detail are wrenching, and it is starkly devoid of romanticism. Within the battlefield scenes, Bahr's accomplishment is magnificent: a fully realized depiction of controlled mass butchery on a field of blood, body parts, and utterly obliterated human beings. The reader puts down the book with a sense of shock to find he is not actually inside a level of hell." Highly recommended.

Don Swanson, SCWRT Member

THIS MONTH IN THE CIVIL WAR

11/1/1861: Maj. Gen George B. McClellan supersedes Bvt. Lieut. Gen. Winfield Scott as commander of the Union Army.

11/8/1861: Capt. Charles Wilkes of the USS San Jacinto stops the British Mail Ship Trent off the coast of Cuba, and captured the two Confederate commissioners to France and England, James Mason and John Slidell.

11/8/1861: Gen. Robert E. Lee assumes command of the Department of South Carolina, Georgia, and South Florida.

11/9/1863: Lincoln sees J.W. Booth in "The Marble Heart".

From The Editor

Last month, I asked if someone who dies, because a cannonball fired in anger during the Civil War explodes in 2008, should that death be considered a Civil War casualty or not?

This month, I ask why are we so fascinated with this particular American war? What is it about the Civil War that draws us to it, that fascinates and engages us in a way that no other historical event does? Please e-mail your responses to either question to bgreenberg1@cox.net with Round Table in the subject line.

UPCOMING ROUND TABLES

01/13/09: **Ed Bearss** - *Six Civil War Military Figures That Made A Real Difference*

02/17: **Craig Symonds** - *Lincoln and The Navy*

03/17: **Dave Hinze** - *Artillery Hell: A Study of Artillery at the Battle of Antietam*

04/21: **Gail Stephens** - *The Shadow of Shiloh: General Lew Wallace and The Civil War*

05/19: **Richard McMurry** - *The General In the Jar: Joseph E. Johnston In Defense of Atlanta*

The date, time, and place for the Christmas party will be announced shortly.