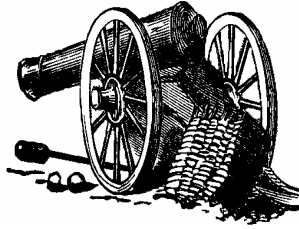


MAY 2009

EDITION ONE HUNDRED & SIXTEEN

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

NEXT SEASON

September 2009 - May 2010

Please continue to support SCWRT. Mack Stanley has made arrangements for a terrific lineup of speakers: Thomas Cutrer (Sept), Terry Winschel (Oct), Gordon Rhea (Nov), Thomas Cartwright (Jan), Chris Kolakowski (Feb), Eric Mink (March) and Howard Strouse (April) plus a TBA for May. Membership dues notices along with a detailed list of the meeting schedules (with speaker's topic) will be mailed to each of you in August. Thank you for your attendance and support this last season. You all have turned SCWRT into a huge success!



RICHARD MCMURRY

-presents-

*The General In The Jar:
Joseph E. Johnston
In Defense Of Atlanta*

May 19, 2009

6:45 PM Civic Center Library

A native of Atlanta, Richard M. McMurry received a B.A. degree in history from the Virginia Military Institute. He served two years active duty in the U.S. Army, as the Personnel Management Officer at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. Entering graduate school at Emory University in September 1963, he received his M.A. degree in 1964 and the Ph. D. in 1967. From 1967 until 1981, McMurry taught history at Valdosta (Georgia) State College. He taught as an adjunct professor at North Carolina State University from 1981 to 1988. Since 1988, he has been a freelance writer and speaker and has served as a guide/historian for many tour and cruise groups. McMurry's field of specialization is the American Civil War. He has authored more than one hundred articles on various facets of that great conflict. In 1994, two of his books, *John Bell Hood and the War for Southern Independence* and *Two Great Rebel Armies: An Essay in Confederate Military History* were listed among the one hundred best modern Civil War books as selected by the eminent historian Gary W. Gallagher for the magazine *Civil War*. In 1999, McMurry published *Virginia Military Institute Alumni in the Civil War: In Bello Praesidium*. His history of the 1864 military operations in North Georgia - *Atlanta 1864: Last Chance for the Confederacy*, was published by the University of Nebraska Press in 2000 as a volume in the *Great Campaigns of the Civil War Series*. McMurry's latest book, *The Fourth Battle of Winchester: Toward a New Civil War Paradigm*, was published in 2003 by Kent State University Press. Richard McMurry has spoken to Civil War groups; high school, college and university students; historical, literary, and library societies; and civic clubs in twenty-five state and the District of Columbia. He is a member of numerous historical societies and is active in such organizations as the Civil War Preservation Trust and the Blue and Gray Education Society. He presently lives and writes in Roanoke, Virginia.

FROM WES' DEN.....Everyone who came to our April lecture (attendance 130) got an excellent comprehensive overview of General Lew Wallace and his situation at Shiloh. I think a persistent mystery was certainly explained to our satisfaction. Lost orders and unwritten order are unfair to everyone. This was a good explanation by someone who has walked the walk, literally. A big Thank You to Speaker, Gail Stephens. Speaking of Shiloh, I thought I should tell you we had a CW Centennial baby in 1961. If he would have been born on April 6 or 7, I wanted to name him Shiloh Schmidt. Certainly, if born on 4/12, the name had to be Sumter Schmidt. I did have to rule out Appomattox Schmidt, for 4/9. Civil War April was a very busy time for four years. April 1 was the very important fight at Five Forks, which forced the fall of Richmond on 4/2 but the birth was March 31, and though significant, I could not go with Dinwiddie (Court House) Schmidt. A compromise was in order and thus Grant was mutually acceptable. Of course his middle name is Lee. He is now 47 and the name has served him well, or should we say he has lived up to the name? By the way, Member Alan Rockman will help me get some info on the Grant death mask, through some people he knows at the Lincoln Museum in Redlands, California. I hope I will have some info to relate at our next meeting.



I remain your most obedient servant...Wes Schmidt

TWO BOOK REVIEWS

Don Swanson
(SCWRT Member)



Sherman: A Biography (Great Generals Series)
by Steven E. Woodworth

Published by Palgrave Macmillan. Notes, illustrations, index. 2009. 224 pp. \$21.95

Steven Woodworth is a prolific author of books and essays including a study of the Army of the Tennessee, the relationship of Davis and Lee, and Grant's lieutenants. While those works engaged the reader and provided fresh insights, his latest short work on the Union's second-best general is able to touch only the highlights of Sherman's illustrious military career and personal life. Woodworth discusses his relationship with Grant, his fondness for the South developed before the war, all the primary battle actions and campaigns, but the reader is never able to grasp the essence of the man or the soldier.

**Cavalryman of the Lost Cause:
A Biography of J.E.B. Stuart**
by Jeffrey D. Wert

Published by Simon and Schuster. Notes, illustrations, bibliography, index. 2008. 512 pp. \$32.00

Although J.E.B. Stuart's reputation has suffered some recently, he remains one of (if not **the**) premier cavalryman of the Civil War and Jeffrey Wert's balanced biography provides enough engaging material for any reader to decide where he belongs on that list. Wasting little time, Wert covers Stuart's early life, West Point days (where he developed a close relationship with Robert E. Lee and family) and his frontier assignment all in the first 50 pages and then gets on to the main event. While there is plenty of action and analysis of his famous (and infamous) exploits, it is Wert's description of Stuart's personal life and staff interactions that are particularly insightful. His loving relationship with his wife Flora Cooke Stuart (daughter of Union General Philip St. George Cooke); close friendship with Stonewall Jackson ("...Stuart was the only man in the Confederacy who could make Jackson laugh – and who dared to do so."); his favoritism toward other Virginians in his command; and his relationship with father figure Robert E. Lee all provide the reader with a deeper understanding of the most famous Confederate cavalier. *Recommended.*

ENGRAVING FOUND IN LINCOLN'S WATCH

150 years later, museum curators at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History have confirmed a story, passed down in the Dillon family, is true.

A hidden Civil War message has been discovered inside Abraham Lincoln's pocket watch engraved by Jonathan Dillon, then a watchmaker on Pennsylvania Avenue, who had Lincoln's watch in his hands when he heard that the first shots of the Civil War had been fired in South Carolina. According to the Smithsonian, it was not unusual for professional watchmakers to record their work inside a watch. The museum decided to open the watch after being contacted by the watchmaker's great-great-grandson, Doug Stiles, who had heard about the message Dillon had inscribed and wanted to see if it was really there.

A magnifying glass was required to read the words etched in tiny cursive handwriting which filled the space between tiny screws and gears that jutted through the metal plate.

Lincoln himself never knew of the message he carried in his pocket.

For more information go to americanhistory.si.edu, type "Lincoln's watch" in the search box and several articles will come up about it, one of which you can watch video coverage of the event.



"Jonathan Dillon, April 13-1861, Fort Sumpter [sic] was attacked by the rebels on the above date J Dillon, April 13-1861, Washington, thank God we have a government, Jonth Dillon."

ATTENTION: Attendees at our May Meeting

Please come a few minutes early to look over our book and publication table. We have been fortunate in having several people donate books which are being offered at bargain prices. Not only will you find good reading at a low price but you will help our Round Table continue to bring first rate speakers and support battlefield preservation efforts.

