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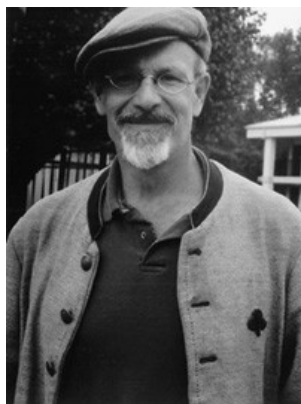
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.Meets @ Civic Center Library
.3839 N Drinkwater Blvd Scottsdale
.on the 3rd Tuesday of the month
6:45 PM—8:45 PM

.September thru May
.\$35 Annual Dues (individual)
.\$45 Annual Dues (family)
.Everyone Welcome



THOMAS CARTWRIGHT

-presents-

He Shone Like A Meteor On A Cloudy Sky: Pat Cleburne

January 19, 2010

6:45 PM

Civic Center Library

For the last twenty years, Thomas Cartwright has guided groups over the Western Theater battlefields. Lecturing over most of the United States for Civil War round tables, corporations, and preservation groups, he has also appeared on various documentaries for the History Channel, A&E, CNN, the Discovery Channel, and the Travel Channel. Cartwright served as Military Curator and Historian at the Carter House, 1989 - 1997, and then as Director there 1997 – 2008. He is now conducting Battlefield Tours and creative projects for Lotz House in Franklin, Tennessee. In addition, Mr. Cartwright has authored several articles and essays, and is currently working on two books: *Mascots In The Civil War* and *Battle Of Thompson's Station*.



DID YOU KNOW?

- .The State of Delaware did not ratify the 13th Amendment, which abolished slavery, until 1901.
- .The State of Mississippi did not ratify the 13th Amendment until 1995.
- .By the end of the war, annual inflation in the South had reached 9,000%. That meant that something that cost \$10 in January would cost nearly \$1,000 in December. A Confederate dollar printed in 1861 was valued at about 3¢ in 1865....if you could find anyone to take it.
- .Approximately 6000 battles, skirmishes, and engagements were fought during the Civil War.

FROM WES' DEN...Happy New Year and don't miss the coming lectures. As always, we had some fascinating "show and tell" museum items presented at our Christmas Party. I will name a few so you know what you missed: A Union officer's Presentation Sword, beautifully engraved on both sides; unique POW art of a standing four inch figure carved from a bone and a carved box & ball with 10 links whittled from a wood root that was 10 inches long; autographs framed with pictures of Robert E. Lee, Fitzhugh, Meade, Sickles & McClellan. Another rare item was an 1865 Rogers & Spencer .44 cal. limited pistol edition, one of 5000. This show could not be duplicated by any museum in the U.S./world.

Be sure to check our book and magazine table. A great assortment is available, highlighted by the *Gettysburg Magazine* series. We have never had even one issue for sale in the past. It is the "gem" of Civil War magazines. Give us a donation and give yourselves a treat. We are starting 2010 with over 200 members! Thank you for your tax deductible donations and support.



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

The Woman Who Named the McDowells

-by-

**Leonard Marcisz
Commissioner
Historical Preservation Commission
City of Scottsdale**

She was imprisoned by the United States government for spying. She died in action. On the anniversary of her death the Daughters of the Confederacy place flowers on her grave. And she may have a claim as the woman who named the McDowells.

Backing our way through history, we learn that the McDowell Mountains obtained their name from the local military post, Fort McDowell, established along the Verde River in 1865. The fort, in turn, was named for Civil War general Irvin McDowell. Ostensibly, the naming came via General Order # 5, issued by General John S. Mason, commander of the military department of Arizona. General McDowell was his superior officer at the time and sycophancy may have influenced the designation. But there may be more to the story.

Irvin McDowell, an Ohioan born in 1818, is often portrayed by historians as an incompetent and unlucky general, having been blamed wholly for the defeat of Union forces at the First Battle of Bull Run in 1861, and in part for the second Union defeat at Bull Run in 1862. His eventual appointment as the commander of the U.S Army's Department of the Pacific in 1864 has been attributed to political influence and the desire to "kick him upstairs," in order to advance more deserving junior officers during the war.

This bumbling image of McDowell overshadows the fact that up to the point of the first Battle of Bull Run his career as a soldier was exemplary. Educated in France and a West Point graduate, he served initially as an artillery officer, his competency resulting in assignment as a tactics instructor at West Point, where he taught for four years. During the Mexican War he received commendations and was brevetted a captain for meritorious service during the Battle of Buena Vista, where a U.S. force of 5,000 defeated a Mexican army three times their number. In subsequent years he served in the adjutant general's department in Washington, D.C., where his planning abilities and intellect brought him to the attention of senior generals and influential politicians, such as Secretary of the Treasury, Salmon P. Chase.

During the earliest stages of the Civil War there was great pressure put upon President Abraham Lincoln to expeditiously invade the Confederacy, capture its capital at Richmond, Virginia, and stamp out the insurgency by Christmas. That task fell to the forty-three year old McDowell, then in the prime of his career. Advancing with 35,000 troops against a Confederate force believed to number 20,000, McDowell would eventually face an additional 12,000 unexpected rebel reinforcements. The combined Confederate forces were able to route McDowell's army at a stream called Bull Run, much to the shock and chagrin of many U.S. senators, congressmen, government officials and their wives, who had arrived on the field of battle with picnic baskets to witness what they expected would be a Union victory. Thus began the decline of Irvin McDowell's career, which led eventually to his reassignment to duty in the West.

But how did those 12,000 unexpected Confederate troops happen to be at Bull Run? And how did they know when to get there?

The answer lies with a petite, well-read Maryland widow – Rose O'Neal Greenhow. In her mid-40s at the outbreak of the Civil War, she had been living in the Washington area since returning from California in the mid 1850s after the passing there of her husband, Dr. Robert Greenhow. Rose was attractive, a bibliophile, and an engaging conversationalist – the kind of woman who was frequently invited to Washington parties where she networked socially with government officials, politicians, and army officers. She was a popular guest at White House social functions during the administrations of president James Buchanan and his successor, Abraham Lincoln.

Nobody took her for a southern sympathizer. Nobody imagined her a spy. But she was. And not just a spy, but a spymaster! She had developed a personal network of at least 16 operatives who infiltrated the Union army general staff, the Navy Department, and several other government departments in Washington. It was through this network that Rose was able to acquire information about McDowell's plans for Bull Run, including copies of the orders that he had issued to his commanders. His line of march, proposed troop dispositions, and departure timeframes were identified with sufficient accuracy to permit Confederate commanders to begin their own defensive movements well in advance of the battle –

including the surprise appearance of those 12,000 reinforcements.

There were those who had their suspicions regarding Rose, including Allan Pinkerton, founder of the Secret Service. His operatives caught Rose in the act of spying in July of 1861. She was eventually sent to prison, accompanied by her maid and one of her daughters in January of 1862. In June of that year, upon the insistence of Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederacy, she was exchanged for several Union officers. Upon passing through Confederate lines she was met personally by Davis, who remarked: "But for you, there would have been no Battle of Bull Run."

Her effectiveness as a spy compromised, she decided to help the cause of the Confederacy as a P.R. agent. Smuggled to England on board a blockade runner's ship, she wrote a book, toured the British Isles advocating recognition of the Confederacy by Great Britain, and was a crowd-wowing sensation – a female spy master in an era of proper Victorian womanhood.

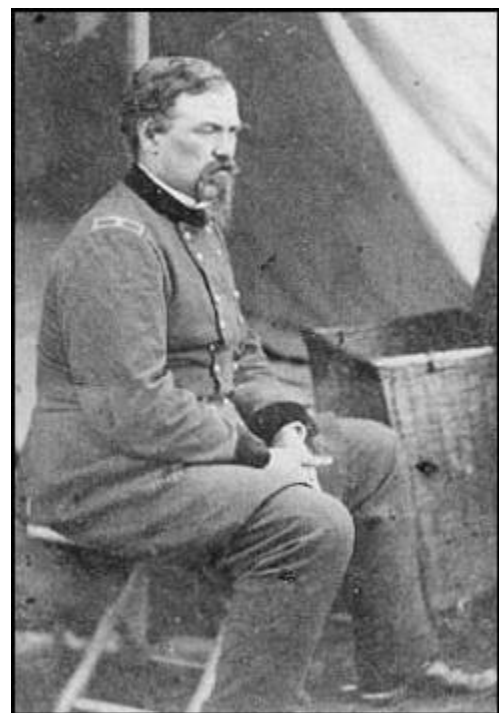
In August of 1864, off the coast of North Carolina, the blockade runner *Condor* was attempting to smuggle Rose back into the Confederacy when it was detected by Union warships. In order to allow the *Condor* to escape, Rose volunteered to be lowered over the side in a rowboat and to make her way through heavy surf to shore. She entered the boat with a pouch containing \$2,000 of gold pieces around her neck. The rowboat capsized in the surf. The body of Rose O'Neal Greenhow was discovered on the beach the following day. It was transported to Richmond, the Confederate capital. At the insistence of Jefferson Davis, Rose was given a state funeral. To this day, on the anniversary of her death, the Daughters of the Confederacy place flowers on her grave.

Had there been no Rose, perhaps there would have been no failure at Bull Run. Perhaps the Confederacy would have collapsed by Christmas. Perhaps the visage of a victorious Irvin McDowell might be staring at us from a \$50 bill.

And what might the mountains have been named? A good bet is the Wrights. General George Wright was Irvin McDowell's predecessor as commander of the Department of the Pacific. He was reassigned to the Department of the Columbia in order to make room for McDowell. Like Rose, Wright died at sea. His ship, the *Brother Jonathan*, sank off the California coast while transporting him to his new duty station.



A photo of Rose O'Neal Greenhow and her daughter, Little Rose, imprisoned in the Old Capitol Prison. Note the windows covered by nailed boards in the background. The Old Capitol Prison was not originally a prison but rather a government building that was used as the temporary Capitol for congressional sessions after the original Capitol was burned by British marines during the War of 1812. It was converted to a prison for Confederate spies and high ranking prisoners during the Civil War.



A picture of Irvin McDowell taken at the age of 43. Note the tired look and weary posture. This is a worn man.

BOOK REVIEW

reviewed by

Don Swanson, SCWRT Member



General Sherman's Christmas: Savannah, 1864 by Stanley Weintraub. Published by Smithsonian Books. Notes, illustrations, index. 2009. 256 pp. \$25.00

"I beg to present you as a Christmas gift the city of Savannah, with one hundred and fifty heavy guns and plenty of ammunition, also about twenty-five thousand bales of cotton." Major General William T. Sherman's famous December 22, 1864 telegraph message to President Lincoln after completing his "march to the sea" fittingly begins Stanley Weintraub's latest book relating Christmas to a wartime event (others being George Washington's *Christmas Farewell* and *Silent Night: The Story of the 1914 Christmas Truce*.) Although the author ties Christmas to the title, this is not a Christmas book. It rather is a brief account of Sherman's month-long march from Atlanta to Savannah "to make Georgia howl" in the fall of 1864 with a short section on occupied Savannah and description of how news of the successful march was received in the north.

With so much written about the march, it is interesting to note that Sherman wrote in his memoirs that it was merely a "shift of base" saying "I considered this march as a means to an end, and not as an essential act of war...I simply moved from Atlanta to Savannah, as one step in the direction of Richmond ..." If those words were accepted at face value such a "shift of base" surely wouldn't continue to garner attention all these years later. Since it does, this brief book is a good place to start. I just wish somebody had thought to include a decent map. *Recommended.*

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We are at an all time high for halfway thru the 2009-2010 season with 203 Members and counting!

A big THANK YOU to all of you who continue to support this group.

Also a big THANK YOU to all the hard working Officers and Members of the Board who continue to strive to make this organization such a success.



Please invite anyone you think would be interested in our group to the next meeting.



UPCOMING ROUND TABLES

- Jan 19th...Thomas Cartwright...*He Shone Like A Meteor On A Cloudy Sky: Pat Cleburne*
- Feb 16th...Chris Kolakowski...*Perryville: Battle for Kentucky*
- Mar 16th...Eric Mink...*Our Beau-ideal Of An Educator, Gentleman and Drill-master: Colonel William Gilham Of The Virginia Military Institute*
- Apr 20th...Howard Strouse...*Amazing Grace: Champions Of Abolition*
- May 18th...Dave Smith...*He Always Stops To Quarrel With His Generals: The Mystery of Braxton Bragg*