

# THE GRAPESHOT

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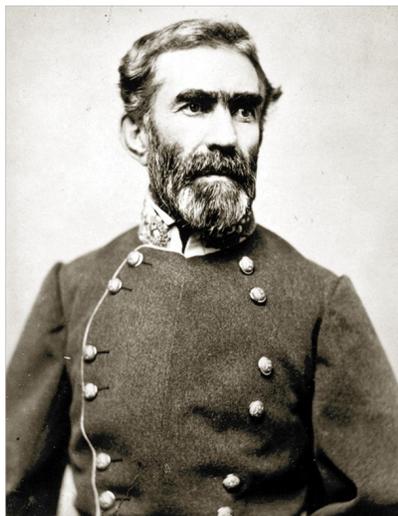
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.Meets @ Civic Center Library  
3839 N Drinkwater Blvd Scottsdale  
on the 3rd Tuesday of the month  
6:45 PM—8:45 PM

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



DAVE  
SMITH

presents-

HE ALWAYS STOPS TO  
QUARREL WITH HIS  
GENERALS:

THE MYSTERY OF  
BRAXTON BRAGG

May 18, 2010 6:45 PM

Civic Center Library

Dave Smith is a two-time, past president of the Cincinnati Civil War Round Table where he served as program chairman and webmaster and is now a member of the Scottsdale Civil War Round Table. He has spoken extensively throughout the Midwest on a wide range of Civil War topics, speaking to Round Tables ranging from Illinois to Alabama to Virginia and back to Ohio. Dave spent nearly twenty years at Cincinnati Bell Telephone before leaving in 1998. He has spent the last ten years in proprietary education and in private consulting. His book, *"Compelled To Appear In Print: The Vicksburg Manuscript of General John C. Pemberton"* was published by Ironclad Publishing in 1999.



## DID YOU KNOW?

.The principal weapon of the war and the one by which 80% of all wounds were produced was a single-shot, muzzle-loading rifle in the hands of foot soldiers.

.During the Civil War, it was legal and socially acceptable for a man to beat his wife, provided that the instrument used in the beating was no thicker than his thumb? Thus we get the term "rule of thumb".

.When a child died, parents would have a photograph taken of the child as they wanted to preserve the memory for as long as possible. A lot of photos taken of sleeping children are actually of deceased sons and daughters.

FROM WES' DEN... We had a good attendance (97) for our April meeting as vacations etc begin. Long time member, Howard Strouse gave us an interesting presentation on Heroes of Abolition. I find that a fascinating complicated topic. My favorite question is to ask that if in 1859, a crowd was gathered burning the Constitution and screaming for secession, would you be in Richmond or Philadelphia? There is no question. You are at an abolition rally in Philadelphia. In Richmond, most everyone will fight to defend the Constitution, written by their forefathers. And I hope you know that in that Constitution, slavery was guaranteed. None can say it wasn't. I am not saying it was right, just saying that is why we had the problem. The Abolition people knew they had to split the country so that the wicked document could be rewritten and we would not have to live with the evil South. And of course the South prepared to fight "The War To Preserve The Constitution". Did you ever wonder why the Northern States agreed to preserve slavery? They had to or there was no chance that the colonies could join to form a country. The proposed union was dead until this was agreed to. The year was 1789. It might just as well have been written in blood, this Maine plan, for the coming war was unavoidable. Price was staggering: over 1 million casualties, military and civilian.



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

## BOOK CORNER

reviewed by

Don Swanson  
SCWRT Member



**The State of Jones** by Sally Jenkins and John Stauffer. Published by Doubleday. Notes, illustrations, bibliography, index. 2009. 402 pp. \$27.50

**The State of Jones** tells a story that most Civil War enthusiasts are unaware of – that of a group of Confederate deserters and Mississippi residents led by a Confederate veteran of Corinth and Vicksburg who hid in the pine forests and swamps of southeast Mississippi fighting for the Union during the final two years of the war. This unfamiliar story centers on Newton Knight, a yeoman Mississippi farmer who fought at Corinth and deserted after learning of the “Twenty Negro Law” that the Confederate legislature passed on October 11, 1862 exempting white plantation owners with 20 or more slaves from army service. The belief that this made it “a rich man’s war and a poor man’s fight” caused Knight and other poor small farmers who never sympathized with the decision to secede from the Union to desert the Confederate army and return home. As Knight’s son wrote later “...They were poor men. They had no Negroes to fight for, but the most of them had a dear wife and little children that needed their protection at home. They came home and did their duty here at home in Jones County.”

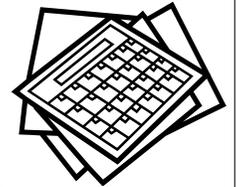
Knight’s attempt to be left alone didn’t last long. After being caught and forced back into service at Vicksburg he deserted again and returned home where he began actively resisting Confederate forces and their attempts to rid southeast Mississippi of unionist sentiment. The violent story of how Knight and his small group of followers disrupted Confederate activities and assisted the federals in this part of the Deep South is a remarkable one that will hold the interest of any enthusiast looking for an unusual aspect of the Civil War. But the story of Newton Knight didn’t end with the war. The rest of his story, and the last third of the book, describes how reconstruction and Jim Crow affected him and all Jones County residents - black and white, Confederate and Unionist.

*Recommended.*

**Walking to Gatlinburg: A Novel** by Howard Frank Moshier. Published by Shaye Areheart Books. 2010. 352 pp. \$25.00

Vermont author Howard Frank Moshier has written some outstanding fiction (**A Stranger in the Kingdom**, **Waiting for Teddy Williams**) so I picked up **Walking to Gatlinburg** anticipating a moving “... Civil War odyssey in the tradition of **Cold Mountain**...” as Publishers Weekly described it. While the story involves a Civil War era teenager from Vermont walking to Gettysburg and beyond in search of his missing brother, the story has little to do with the war and much with lunatic killers, the underground railroad and strange encounters involving elephants and talking turtles. While this may interest readers looking for a 19<sup>th</sup> century American allegory, those looking for more traditional Civil War fiction in the vein of **The Killer Angels**, **Andersonville** or **The Black Flower** should look elsewhere.

The Civil War ended  
in 1865 which was:



- two years before Dr Joseph Lister introduced aseptic surgery, a practice that would have saved countless lives during the war
- five years before Dr. Louis Pasteur and Dr. Robert Koch proved that diseases and infections were caused by microscopic germs
- ten years before the first practical typewriter was patented
- eleven years before Alexander Graham Bell patented his telephone
- fourteen years before Thomas Edison perfected the incandescent light bulb
- twenty years before Karl Benz introduced his gasoline-powered automobile
- thirty-three years before former Confederate generals Fitzhugh Lee, Thomas Rosser and Joseph Wheeler were appointed as generals in the U.S. Army during The Spanish-American War



## Galvanized Yankees by Mary Anne Hammond SCWRT Member

In 2007, the remains of unidentified-to-date 58 real Union troops, some of which were "galvanized" Yankee soldiers who had originally been Confederate soldiers were discovered in Tucson during construction of a new courthouse complex.

On Armed Forces Day, 2009, more than 120 U.S. veterans from Southern Arizona, including representatives of the SCV (Sons of Confederate Veterans) , gave a final salute to these veterans as they were re-interred, under American flags with 35 stars, representing the 35 states in existence during the time these soldiers served in the West.

On April 17, 2010 the Arizona SCV (Sons of Confederate Veterans) dedicated a new memorial to them at the Southern Arizona Veterans Memorial Cemetery, located on Buffalo Soldier Trail in Sierra Vista.

Who were these Galvanized Yankees? Galvanized Yankees were Confederate soldiers imprisoned during the War Between the States, but were granted their freedom in exchange for an oath of allegiance to the U.S. and enlistment in the Union Army. About six thousand former Confederates enrolled in six regiments of U.S. troops under this program during 1864 and 1865, and a few hundred others joined state units.

Why was the term Galvanized used? The term "galvanized" is most commonly associated with metal when it is coated with zinc to protect it from corrosion. In the process the surface color of the metal is altered, but underneath the metal has not been changed. In the same way both Northern and Southern prison camps soldiers were permitted to "galvanize," or change sides, in order to save themselves from the horrors of prison life. And like the metal, these galvanized soldiers in many cases were still "Johnny Rebs" or "Billy Yanks" underneath their new uniforms.

During the last two years of the War the prisoner exchange program had broken down, causing

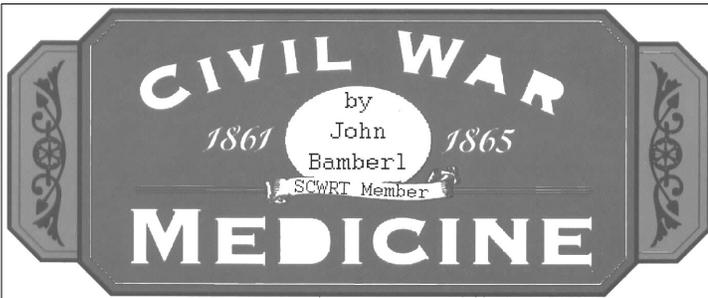
prison camps to become permanent areas of incarceration, filled with filth and disease, leading to death.

Since most recruits remained loyal to their original army, would not fight against it, and would desert at the first opportunity, effective use of these troops posed a problem. Ulysses S. Grant came up with a solution, to send the six regiments of "Galvanized" Yankees to service in the West. There they staffed frontier forts, guarded stagecoach routes, escorted supply trains, and rebuilt hundreds of miles of telegraph lines destroyed by Indians, thus avoiding service against former comrades-in-arms.



## NEXT SEASON'S LINE UP September 2010 - 2011

- Sept 21, 2010...Wilson Greene  
*The Misunderstood Campaign for Petersburg*
- Oct 19, 2010...Jack Thompson  
*Fort Sumter Captured...by The Camera*
- Nov 16, 2010...Dale Phillips  
*The Battles of Baton Rouge and Port Hudson*
- Jan 18, 2011...Ed Bearss  
*Well Known Myths & Little Known Facts About The Civil War*
- Feb 15, 2011...Brad Greenberg  
*Mary Chestnut: A Personal View of The Recent Unpleasantness*
- Mar 15, 2011...Lesley Gordon  
*TBA*
- Apr 19, 2011...Frank O'Reilly  
*TBA*
- May 17, 2011...Brian Wills  
*TBA*



Several areas of progress were made during The Civil War. The Union and Confederacy kept records of all their wounded and wrote journals describing how to deal with certain diseases and wounds. New techniques were developed. New hospitals were built and they organized an ambulance service. Despite these remarkable improvements, the greatest contribution of the war, in my opinion, was an organized nursing service.

Approximately 2000 women, North and South, served as volunteer nurses in military hospitals during the American Civil War. Prior to this time, the medical assistants were either stewards assigned to the duty or walking wounded. Very few women left any records of their wartime services and for a large measure they remain anonymous. As a group, they deserve attention as full participants in The Civil War conflict rather than mere helpers of the main actors. These women often had a notable impact upon the men they tended and served under. Furthermore, the introduction of female personnel into responsible roles in a traditionally male military environment was one significant step towards a fuller involvement in American society.

There was an 8,000 bed hospital in Richmond, Virginia. It was called The Chimborazo Hospital. It had five soup houses, a bakery that produced 10,000 loaves per day and a brewery that produced 400 kegs of beer. The farm had 200 cows and 500 goats. Altogether there were twenty military hospitals in Richmond. Winder Hospital had 5000 beds. The Jackson Hospital had 2500 beds.

Clara Barton was a leader of a national effort to organize the nursing corps to care for the war's wounded and sick.

Clarissa Harlowe Barton was born in North Oxford, Massachusetts in 1821. She was a very brilliant student and her only handicap was her shyness. At the age of twenty-nine, after teaching for ten years, she entered the Liberal Institute in Clinton, New York, an advance school for female teachers.

She accepted a teaching position in New Jersey and then opened a free school with attendance growing to 600 students. When the school board refused to offer

Barton the high paying position to head the school and hired a man instead, she found herself at a crossroads. Clara resigned and moved to Washington DC where she worked as a clerk in the U.S. Patent office.

At the outbreak of The Civil War, she left the Patent Office to work as a volunteer. She advertised for supplies and clothing for the wounded soldiers. In 1862 she was granted permission to deliver supplies directly to the front and immediately went to Antietam at the height of the battle. In 1864, she was given the position of superintendant of Union nurses. After the war, she received permission from President Lincoln to begin a letter writing campaign for missing soldiers. However by 1869, she had worked herself into a physical breakdown and following doctors orders, she traveled to Europe to rest. There she learned about The Red Cross and the Treaty of Geneva, which provided relief for sick and wounded soldiers. Twelve nations had signed it but the United States had refused.

When she returned to the United States in 1873, she began her crusade for the Treaty of Geneva and the American Red Cross. As a result, the American Red Cross was established in 1881 for which she served as the first president until 1904, and the United States signed the Geneva Agreement in 1882.

In 1862, a surgeon at Antietam said "in my feeble estimation, General McClellan with all his laurels, sinks into insignificance beside the true heroine of the age, the angel of the battlefield, Clara Barton".

In today's operating rooms, saving lives is based upon team work between the surgical team of men and women. Most chronicles of the Civil War hardly mention the role that women played in this great tragedy. Sadly, no mention is made of an organized nursing service, and at best, Clara Barton might be described as rolling bandages.



Clara Barton