



# THE GRAPESHOT

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**PUBLIC RELATIONS:** available and  
in need of a volunteer

**WEBSITE:** scottsdalecwrvt.vze.com

.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



**Jack Thomson**

presents-

**Fort Sumter Captured..  
by The Camera**

**October 19, 2010**

**6:45 PM**

**Civic Center Library**

Local historian, author, re-enactor and tour guide Jack Thomson – in an earlier time in his life – was assigned to Germany as a motion picture photographer. This enabled him to develop his keen eye for battlefield photography. He has scoured the country searching the archives for Civil War photographs as most commercial photography of the time was oriented toward portraits.

A Civil War re-enactor since the 1960's, Jack has been involved in several movie roles. He is also a Charleston, South Carolina, historical consultant and his expertise has benefitted many restoration projects. Author of the book *Charleston At War*, Thomson compares the way Charleston, South Carolina was during the Civil War and how it is now through the presentation of Civil War images.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

.Only about 10% of the wounded were the victims of artillery fire even though artillery was used extensively.

.Captain Minie' of the French army invented an elongated bullet made of soft lead, about an inch long, pointed at one end and hollowed out at the base which was called a "minie" ball, which was the cause of most wounds.

.Dysentery, typhoid fever, malaria, pneumonia, arthritis and the acute childhood diseases such as measles, mumps and malnutrition were the most prevalent.



FROM WES' DEN...I am happy to report we are off to a great start and over 100 people came to our opening presentation. Wilson Greene, the Executive Director of Pamplin Historical Park in Petersburg, Virginia, was well received by an appreciative audience. I was never aware that the "siege" of Petersburg was a complete misnomer, or in the nine month "war" there were almost 300 casualties per day. Look up "siege" if you missed that. Great presentation by an expert. You should also know that we gave him a \$200 donation for his battlefield, besides his expenses. The Pamplin Museum is among the best. Put it in your mind as a must see. Be sure to come early and browse our book table. We have received wonderful donations of Civil War book collections that will provide great reading. We closed last year with 210 members. So far, 166 have paid their dues for our new year. Please continue your support of unique programs and battlefield preservation by sending in your dues and donations. Grateful for your faithfulness.



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

## BOOK CORNER

reviewed by

Don Swanson

SCWRT Member



### **Receding Tide: Vicksburg and Gettysburg, -The Campaigns That Changed The Civil War**

by Edwin C. Bearss with J.Parker Hills.  
Published by the National Geographic Society. Index,  
illustrations. 2010. 399 pp. \$28.00

“Lincoln knew that the war was now militarily and politically beyond winning for the South. The Confederate high tide had receded.” Co-author J.Parker Hills makes this observation referring, of course, to Vicksburg and Gettysburg, in the sequel of sorts to **Fields of Honor**, the earlier book based on the tours and observations of the SCWRT’s favorite speaker, Ed Bearss. While **Fields of Honor** was culled from 14 tours given by the premier battlefield tour guide, **Receding Tide** focuses on the two campaigns that the authors convincingly argue ultimately led to restoration of the Union. While Bearss’ portions make up the majority of the book, Hills’ observations (printed in italics) ensure the continuity and flow of the telling of these two very dissimilar campaigns. While the italics and the frequent jumps from one to campaign to another (often on the same page) takes some getting used to, ultimately this book flows better than its predecessor while still allowing the famous Bearss personality and insight to shine through. His casual observation that the Rebel yell used by a small band of Texans and Alabamians at Vicksburg was “a shrill cry used by generations of the South’s fox and coon hunters to bring in their dogs from the swamps” was something that I have somehow missed in my readings of literally hundreds of other Civil War books.

Bearss’ other observations and anecdotes that make this book so enjoyable to the general reader are sprinkled throughout: Winfield Scott Hancock’s overlooked decision to position the Iron Brigade atop Culp’s Hill forcing the Confederates to fight for it; the folklore surrounding General Richard Garnett’s advance on horseback during “Pickett’s Charge” (at least 21 other officers were mounted); his description of Lee as a poor politician but “good salesman” for getting permission to invade the North; Edward Porter Alexander, the Confederate artilleryman “who gets

good coverage in the movie *Gettysburg*”, but actually commands only about one third of the Confederate guns; and his simple observation that “so few people understand the yearlong process of getting at and capturing Vicksburg is a shame, because as the military art goes it is a classic.”

One final word about **Receding Tide**: in his final brief chapter Ed Bearss’ discusses why Vicksburg, Gettysburg and all American battlefields are special places and why battlefield preservation should be important to all Americans. It is a moving account by someone who has contributed so much to keep those special places for generations to come.

*Highly Recommended*

### UPCOMING ROUND TABLES

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

*So Much Suffering: The 16th Connecticut  
Volunteers in War & Memory*

Apr 19, 2011...Frank O'Reilly

*The Liberty Hall Volunteers:  
Stonewall Jackson's  
College Boys*



May 17, 2011...Brian Wills

*My Dancing Days Are Over:  
William Dorsey Pender & The Civil War*

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

SCWRT needs volunteers to continue to make our organization the best. Help is needed on the Membership Committee, so that we continue to grow. Plus anyone with experience in public relations? ....we really need to get the word out there about our great group. Please contact

Karen Becraft through our website  
[www.scottsdalecwrt.vze.com](http://www.scottsdalecwrt.vze.com) or at 480-991-2668

## Humor About the Civil War

### GUS THE WONDER DOG AT CHICKAMAUGA

by Dave Smith

(SCWRT Member)



One of the great mysteries of the American Civil War is just how Braxton Bragg should inexplicably blow the huge opportunities exploited by his wing corps commander James Longstreet at the battle of Chickamauga on September 20, 1863. After meeting with Longstreet early in the afternoon, Bragg "could not be brought to believe we were winning a victory," and refused Longstreet's request for a renewed attack by the Confederate right wing, noting "There's not a man left with any fight left in him." With that, Bragg retreated back to his headquarters back by Reed's Bridge, to sit the rest of the battle out.

The part of the story that hasn't been told is the fact that Federal Major General William Starke Rosecrans, who had himself fled the battlefield earlier in the day, had sent a young Yorkshire terrier named Gus through the lines to infiltrate the Confederate command post. Rosecrans knew that Bragg, who hated all of his subordinates, had a soft spot in his heart for young puppies. Gus, however, had been deliberately infected with fleas that carried a rare, undetectable sleeping sickness. This explains, parenthetically, the curious nap taken by Charles Dana (spy of Secretary of War Edwin Stanton) just prior to Longstreet's breakthrough. Dana had a terrier of his own back home in the North, and one can only assume he had played with young Gus early in the morning of September 20.

Evidently, Gus managed to flank the troopers of Nathan Bedford Forrest, a first in the Civil War, and found Bragg's headquarters prior to Longstreet's arrival. Bragg, from obscure sources recently discovered in SPCA archives, evidently spent about thirty minutes romping in the weeds with the aforementioned Gus, and was becoming quite sleepy by the time Longstreet arrived. The meeting, as we know from the historical record, came to nothing; Bragg retreated back to his headquarters, and Longstreet was left to his own devices. Bragg's obvious befuddled state was later confirmed when he challenged a Southern private later that evening, who reported that

the Federals were retreating.

"Soldier! Do you know what a retreat is?" demanded the sleepy Bragg.

"Hell, I ought to, General. I've been with you this entire campaign," shot back the private.

Because General Bragg's response is lost to the ages, we can only assume he fell back asleep, a victim of the sleeping sickness inflicted upon him by Gus, the Federal Wonder Dog, and his patriotic fleas.

To the best of my knowledge, this story of the battle of Chickamauga hasn't been documented elsewhere on the web. You heard it here, first.



## SOUTH FROM THE NORTH WOODS

Civil War Blog Site by James Rosebrock

[southfromthenorthwoods.blogspot.com](http://southfromthenorthwoods.blogspot.com)

Quotations by:  
George McClellan

*"It would probably have been better for me personally had my promotion been delayed a year or two".*

*"I don't think I am of a quarrelsome disposition...but I do have the luck of getting into more trouble than any dozen other officers."*

*"I don't care much for anybody's opinion as long as I am in the right."*

*"Every poor fellow that is wounded or killed almost haunts me."*

*"I am tired of the sickening sight of the battlefield with it's mangled corpses and poor suffering wounded...Victory has no charm for me when purchased at such cost."*

*"If we were defeated the Army and the country would be lost."*

*"I feel easy now. Thank you"*  
(his last words)



### David C. Hinze

David C. Hinze, of Rolla, Missouri, passed away suddenly on August 18, 2010. He owned and operated Stars and Stripes Events, a history tour company and was well renowned for leading the tours on lesser known battlefields. He taught history and was department chairman for Rolla High School for thirty-two years. David was the Scottsdale Civil War Round Table's key note speaker March of 2009 where he presented "Artillery Hell: A Study of Artillery at the Battle of Antietam". Our condolences to his family.

### INTRODUCTION TO ARMY LIFE

On the very first day that Confederate Randolph H. McKim enlisted in General Joseph E. Johnston's command near Winchester, Virginia in June 1861 he was handed a musket and placed in line to help repel an expected Federal attack. He soon found that army life could pose an even more serious danger to his well being:

General Patterson did not advance, however, so we had no battle that day, but I had two little foretastes of army life, which I will mention. Our captain having given instructions to the men as they stood in line of battle that, when any member of the company should be wounded, but one man should leave the field to care for him, my cousin Duncan McKim, who was immediately in front of me, turned to me and said with a twinkle in his eye and a smile on his lips, "Randolph, when you fall, I'll carry you off the field." I thanked him, with rather a sickly smile, and thought that soldiering was getting to be a serious business.

After waiting several hours for General Patterson's call, to no purpose, about four P.M. we stacked arms, broke ranks, and charged upon the camp-fires, eager for dinner, which had been interrupted by the call to arms. Having had nothing to eat since early morning, and having ridden eighteen miles, and stood in the ranks several hours, my appetite was keen, and I gladly accepted Giraud Wright's invitation to "dine" with him. My host provided the "dinner" by dipping a tin cup into a black camp kettle and procuring one iron spoon. He then invited me to a seat on a rock beside him and we took turns at the soup with the spoon, each also having a

piece of hardtack for his separate use. Alas! my dinner, so eagerly expected, was soon ended, for one or two spoonfuls of the greasy stuff that came out of the camp kettle completely turned my stomach, and I told my friend and host I was not hungry and would not take any more. Inwardly, I said, "Well, I *may* get used to standing up and being shot at, but this kind of food will kill me in a week!"

I had expected a baptism of fire, and looked forward to it with some nervousness, but instead I had had a baptism of soup which threatened an untimely end to my military career!

### Books You Might Have Missed:

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

Don Swanson, SCWRT Member

### Around the World with General Grant

by John Russell Young; Abridged, Edited, and Introduced by Michael Fellman. 2002. 448 pages. Available in hardcover.

For over two years correspondent John Russell Young accompanied Ulysses Grant on his around-the-world tour that began just 3 months after leaving the White House. Young published his 2-volume account of that trip in 1879 and while some of his descriptions of the places and people can slow the narrative at times, a civil war enthusiast will find Grant's candid civil war era opinions sprinkled throughout the book so engaging they're well worth it. As Fellman writes in his introduction, "Grant and Young had lots of time on their hands, and so the journalist got the famously taciturn man to ramble in a highly gossipy way that revealed far more of his beliefs, fears, and hopes than anything he later expressed in his famously close-to-the-vest memoirs." Those ramblings include Grant's questioning of Stonewall Jackson's reputation saying "It would have been a test of generalship if he had met Sheridan in the valley." Perhaps even more personally revealing are his comments about Robert E. Lee: "I never ranked Lee as high as some others in the army ...that is to say, I never had as much anxiety when he was in my front as when Joe Johnston was in front.... I never could see in his achievements what justifies his reputation." It's this insight into the man most modern historians consider the greatest general of the war that makes this book worth finding.

*Recommended.*