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in need of a volunteer

WEBSITE: scottsdalecwrtr.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



ED BEARSS

presents-

Well Known Myths & Little Known Facts About The Civil War

January 18, 2011 Tuesday

6:45 PM

Civic Center Library

The “Civil War Walking Encyclopedia” is back! Ed Bearss, U.S Park Historian, Emeritus is one of the foremost Civil War historians on the planet. A celebrated tour guide, lecturer, author and authority on all aspects of our Civil War. Smithsonian Magazine featured him in 2006 as “an American who made a difference”. He has also been called “The Homer of the American Civil War”. A featured commentator for Ken Burns’ PBS Series, *The Civil War* (1990), is still the most popular program broadcast by that network to date. The Civil War Preservation Trust created the Ed Bearss Award for achievements in historic preservation and made him the first recipient in 2001. This U.S. Marine Corps veteran of World War II is a speaker much in demand and has a busy schedule leading tours of historic battlefields. We are fortunate to have him speaking to our group once again.

DID YOU KNOW?

.About 15% of the wounded died in the Civil War; about 8% in WWI; about 4% in WWII; about 2% in the Korean War.

.During the Battle of Gettysburg, the only civilian to die was twenty-three year old Mary Virginia “Jennie” Wade, who was shot through the heart while making bread.

.General Nathan Bedford Forrest, CSA, had twenty-nine horses shot from beneath him during the war years.



FROM WES’ DEN.....Happy New Year and welcome to the coming sesquicentennial, the 150th anniversary of Civil War events. The new Lincoln dollar is already available, check your bank. Two stamps will be issued April 12th, at Charleston, S.C. honoring Fort Sumter and 1st Bull Run. The Post Office is issuing a large souvenir sheet with the two stamps as part of the overall artwork of one big mural. On the back will be ten more like stamps. Definitely an item that stamp collectors love and ordinary people go ooh & aah! Thanks to all who have supported our book table with donations and money. Hank Potosky, our own special librarian, is now able to bring different boxes of books to each meeting. Several generous members have given us their book collections. Remember that the cash donations go to battlefield preservation.



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

UPCOMING ROUND TABLES

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*



WILBUR A. ZINK

1926 - 2010

Wilbur Zink passed away on September 27, 2010 in Springfield, Mo. Wilbur had been ill for several years but he and his wife, Dixie, still made Scottsdale their home during the winter each year.

Those of us who knew Wilbur, lost a good friend and history lovers lost a true historian of the Civil War and post war period in his home state of Missouri.

Wilbur, had done extensive research on Jessie and Frank James and the Younger family and was instrumental in the creation of the Appleton City History Museum.

He was a modest man, so this will be short. This was Wilbur's way.

More on The Civil war

The New York Times is running a series of articles on The Civil war over the next two years. The articles will appear on Mondays and will cover day-by-day happenings.

The link is www.nytimes.com. Click on "Opinions" in the Opinions section near the top right of the front page.



CRAVENS HOUSE

Article & Pictures courtesy of SCWRT Member
Dr. John Bamberl

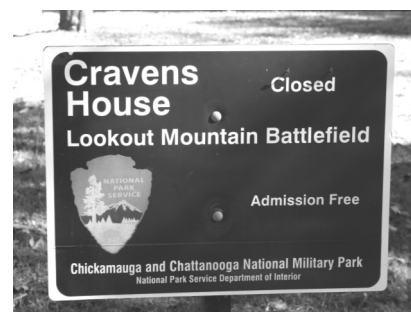
In 1854 Robert Cravens purchased a thousand acres of land on the side of Lookout Mountain, where he maintained an orchard and built several cabins as a summer retreat. When Cravens moved to the area, Ross's Landing had just been christened Chattanooga. Craven's manufacture of charcoal iron was a driving force in the Chattanooga economy.

During the battle of Chattanooga both sides used the opulent house as an observation post and headquarters. During the evening of November 23, 1863 Major General Carter signaled General Braxton Bragg from the Cravens House indicating a possible federal attack on Lookout Mountain. The message was decoded by the federals and an attack was ordered because of the Rebels concern. \

On November 24, 1863 the heaviest fighting during the "Battle Above the Clouds" occurred at the level plateau where the house was built. Although it sustained minor damage it was burned by Union soldiers.

Cravens returned after the war and rebuilt the house. In 1868 Cravens revolutionized the iron business with the introduction of coke-fired plants.

Today the Cravens house is part of the Chickamauga-Chattanooga National Military Park.



MY UNCLE HENRY -- A GERMAN YANKEE

by *Mary Jane Baetz*
SCWRT Member

(Part One of a four-part series)

My Great Uncle Henry Baetz was born in Hessen, Germany in 1830, educated there and served in the German military for two years. As did many Germans, including Union General Franz Sigel, my Uncle Henry left his homeland after the mid-century revolutions in Germany and came to America.

Most Germans shunned the slave-holding South and settled in the north. Uncle Henry settled in Wisconsin where he worked as a clerk, a notary public and land agent. As his love of his new homeland grew he became involved with politics and was elected as treasurer and then as president of his town. Then, in the summer of 1862, as the war escalated, President Lincoln authorized General Sigel to raise twelve regiments of infantry including one regiment from Wisconsin.

Uncle Henry stepped forward to help and organized Company F, 26th Wisconsin Infantry. All of his men were German and many did not speak English but they remembered Franz Sigel as a daring leader and to them he was a true hero. The credo of the eager recruits was an exuberant, "I fight mit Sigel!" Under Sigel, my great uncle was named Captain of Company F. On September 17, 1862, at Camp Sigel in Milwaukee, the regiment was officially mustered into the US Army of the Potomac.



Every German should join this regiment!" proclaims this recruiting poster for the 26th Regiment Wisconsin Volunteers. The new recruits were offered \$23 and a month's salary.

On October 6, the men of the 26th Wisconsin boarded a Milwaukee & Chicago train after a great celebration in their honor. In Chicago, they switched onto two freight trains which took them to Washington DC. They crossed into Virginia, then marched seventeen miles to Fairfax Court House where they were assigned to the Eleventh Corps of the Army of the Potomac.

Wrote one observer, *"The whole country is a scene of devastation. The houses are tenantless. Many of the orchard trees have been cut down, their bark gnawed by famished horses. The fields know no tillage but the pressure of the soldier's foot or the hoof of the cavalry horse. Batteries frown from every commanding eminence. Dead horses and mules that have succumbed to overwork and starvation putrefy by the wayside and load the air with stench. The whole country swarms with the bluecoated soldiers of the Union. One is hardly ever out of sight of an encampment of Federal soldiers all the way to Fairfax Court House."*

And so it was in the devastated countryside of Virginia that Uncle Henry and his company of Germans dug in and spent their first weeks in the field. In December they camped at Stafford Court House where they were on drill, guard and picket duty until April. Although committed to the cause, Uncle Henry and his men were mostly untried, untested and without military experience. In fact, most had never been in a battle or even a skirmish.

By then, the Eleventh Army Corps was known as the German Corp because 15 of its 26 regiments spoke German. And although the immigrants were generally well educated, literate and skilled there was a strong undercurrent of distaste for them among the non-German regiments. Many native-born Americans considered their German-speaking comrades to be dimwitted. They disliked the German-speaking officers for issuing orders in their native tongue; they disliked that many officers were "titled" Germans; they disliked their accent; and they disdainfully called them "Dutchmen."

At the end of April, the German Yankees crossed the Rappahannock River. Their long, hard march took them past Chancellorsville House and from there they continued up the hill. On May 2, under orders from General Oliver Otis Howard and General Joe Hooker, they formed the farthest right flank of the infantry, posted on a ridge above Chancellorsville. Hooker and Howard believed this was the best place for the untested Germans. The soldiers faced down the hill to where they anticipated the battle would be; behind them were dense and tangled woods.

At about 5 o'clock that afternoon they stacked their weapons and began to cook their evening meal. A few animals darted out from the bushes, then suddenly there was a crash of musketry and the terrifying 'Rebel Yell' of Confederate soldiers rushing through the dense and tangled woods, bearing down on the men. General Stonewall Jackson was leading an attack on the Union forces and my Uncle Henry and the German Yankees, confused and vulnerable as the Rebels surged forward, were in the fight of their lives....

Part two next month . . .



LINCOLN AND “POLITICAL “ CORRECTNESS

by Bill Samuels, SCWRT Member

1841, Lincoln personally witnessed the sight of ten or a dozen slaves shackled in irons while on a trip from Louisville to St. Louis. *“That sight was a continual torment to me which has, and continually exercises the power of making me miserable.”*

“I am not, nor ever have been, in favor of making voters or jurors of Negroes, nor of qualifying them to hold office, nor to intermarry with white people—there is a physical difference between the two races which, I believe will ever forbid the two races living together—while they do remain together there must be a position of superior and inferior, and I, as much as any other man, am in favor of having the superior position assigned to the white man.” --Fourth Lincoln-Douglas debate, 1858.

“Those who deny freedom to others deserve it not for themselves, and under the rule of a just God cannot long retain it.”--speech before the First Republican State Convention of Illinois, 1856.

“Resolved, that the United States ought to cooperate with any state which may adopt gradual abolishment of slavery giving to that state pecuniary aid-to compensate for the inconveniences produced by such a change of system.”--message to Congress on compensated emancipation, March 1862.

“Yet, if God wills that it continue until all the wealth piled by the bondsman’s two hundred fifty years of unrequited toil shall be sunk, and until every drop of blood drawn with the lash shall be paid by another.”-- Second Inaugural address 1865.

Certainly if the second and fourth quotations were spoken today they would, at the least, be politically incorrect, if not downright racist. Yet, they were spoken by the same Abraham Lincoln and reveal not only his deepest inward convictions but his gradual evolution leading to the gradual emancipation of the Negro and the complete abolition of slavery in the 13th amendment. What today would be considered as a pure racist attitude was revolutionary in the mid-1800’s. The words were spoken in a much different era.....not today.

Lincoln did not have a fixed attitude towards slavery and the relative position of the two races from early manhood to the final culmination of the complete abolition of slavery at the end of the Civil War. His ideas and attitude seemed to be a process of evolution and heavily affected by the political and military considerations of the nation as they themselves evolved.

Lincoln was not an abolitionist and initially based his public attitudes toward preserving the Union with eliminating the evil of slavery by preventing its expansion into the new territories of the U.S. Indeed, at that time his feelings were guided by addressing the problem of slavery and its expansion on a political basis with the humanitarian aspects secondary. Yet, to paraphrase, Lincoln felt *“that as I would not be a master, so I would not be a slave, that is my definition of democracy--whatever differs from that, to the extent of the difference is not a democracy”*. He believed that one should not profit from the enforced toil of another and that whatever the social condition of the Negro, he was entitled to the fruits of his own labor.

In the early days of the Civil War, when he was faced by the necessity of saving the border states from the Confederacy, he sharply reprimanded General Fremont for freeing the slaves in the conquered parts of Missouri and then subsequently accepted Union General Butler’s use of runaway slaves as “contraband” although that seemed to treat the slaves as “property” not refugees.

Lincoln denied that he planned to emancipate the slaves just prior to actually issuing the Proclamation and, of course, the actual document was considerably watered down by only freeing

those slaves already under Union control with the balance still under bondage although technically “free”. It did, however, speed the entrance into the Union armies of Negro soldiers so that by the end of the war approximately 10% of the Union army consisted of black soldiers. The Proclamation was successful in keeping European powers from participating in the conflict on the Confederate side and made the ending of slavery an additional aim of the war in addition to saving the Union.

The America of the 1800’s was not purely racist only in the South. The majority of the Northern States shared the attitude of white racial supremacy and feared that an influx of Negro freeman would compete with free white labor. However, they were unwilling to break up the Union because of the slavery issue. Perhaps this affected Lincoln’s attempt to propose the colonization of free Negroes to Africa and Central America away from the U.S. On August 14, 1862, he spoke to a delegation of free Negroes proposing colonization because *“white racism was an unalterable fact that would remain through time”* and blamed the problem on the very presence of the blacks. *“It is better for us both, therefore to be separated.”* One wonders how that statement would fly in the America of 2010, and, at the least does not sound like the Abraham Lincoln that is revered throughout the world today.

Lincoln was complex, of course. His position as the savior and interpreter of American democracy and its fledgling Republic is certainly marred by his suppression of civil liberties during the war and the horrendous casualties of that war. Would the America of today accept over 600,000 dead in such a national tragedy? It is a source of everlasting wonder that the nation continued to support such a cataclysm to its end.

As the war progressed so did Lincoln’s evolution from an anti-slavery position of leaving it alone in the South where he felt that the industrial revolution, then taking place in Europe and the North, would eventually doom Southern slavery to afterwards pursue war policies to destroy slavery totally throughout the entire U.S. His evolution in thought and action followed Northern victories and he was able to witness the passing of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution outlawing slavery throughout the nation just before he was assassinated in 1865.

As the war neared its end and victory was assured the need for political accommodation diminished. His 2nd Inaugural Address reveals a much deeper humanitarian and moral conviction - that the war was fought not only to preserve the Union but to eliminate a true evil. He did not live to witness the 14th and 15th Amendments granting citizenship to the Negro and for all natural born citizens. However, his accomplishments were an integral part of the eventual passage of the civil rights bills.

Lincoln was a moral giant, a political genius and a military leader who successfully guided the nation through the greatest trauma in its young history and whose evolution to greatness changed the political and moral tenor of his -and future-time.

Perhaps, we prefer to remember Lincoln as he strolled through occupied Richmond at the end of the war when newly liberated slaves knelt before him to which he said *“Never bend your knee to anyone again”*. This more fits the myth of his humanity.

We can try to ascertain what were his true feelings on how to deal with slavery but an even greater puzzle is to wonder how he would have handled the bitter post war racial trauma caused by Reconstruction had he lived and if he would have been able to prevent the subsequent tragedy of racial relations whose effects we still witness today.

In the end we can only judge from the accomplishments of his leadership and the lasting effects on the nation and not necessarily on whether his statements and actions during the era in which he lived would be “politically correct” today.