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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



LESLEY GORDON

presents-

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

**March 15, 2011 Tuesday
6:45 PM**

Civic Center Library

Dr. Lesley J. Gordon is Professor of History at the University of Akron, where she teaches courses in the Civil War and Reconstruction, U.S. Military History and the Early Republic. She is also the author and co-author of several books, including *General George E. Pickett in Life and Legend* and *Intimate Strategies of the Civil War: Military Commanders and Their Wives*. Dr. Gordon will also be the next editor of *Civil War History*, beginning with volume fifty-seven (2011). Issued quarterly by Kent State University Press, this is the foremost scholarly journal of the American Civil War, now in its sixth decade of publication.

DID YOU KNOW?

.During the Battle of Murfreesboro (Stones River), the Union artillery fired 20,307 rounds and the infantry exhausted over 2,000,000 rounds. The total weight of the projectiles fired was in excess of 375,000 pounds. .Approximately 6000 battles, skirmishes, and engagements were fought during the Civil War.



FROM WES' DEN....Last month I explained the "Japanese" banners sometimes seen in CW pictures. Now you know that is the red "Cannon Ball" insignia of I (First) Corps. Here is another surprise Corps flag. You may know that the "Greek Cross", as they knew it, is the insignia of the VI (Sixth) Corps. It looks like a Red Cross or Santa Fe cross (as we know it). The surprise is that it is always placed on the VI Corps battle flags as X, the cross on its side. Thus the ID is clear. To me, the X is always a shock to see in CW pictures. At least now the X (Tenth) Corps insignia is a X. The CW insignia for the Tenth Corps was totally different. The very real problem was that the V Corps and the VI Corps fought together in the Army of The Potomac. The V (Fifth) Corps insignia was a Prussian Cross. From any distance it would be impossible to tell a Prussian Cross from a Greek/Santa Fe Cross. The X was a very practical innovation. How many professors of history even know this?



Our member, Brad Greenberg, gave a very nice presentation on Mary Chestnut, the famous diarist of Richmond, "in the late unpleasantness". We had a good attendance of 139.

As long as SCWRT has had a program chairman, it has been Mack Stanley. I regret to inform you that Mack has announced his retirement from the busy job as of June 1st. Incredibly, the next 2 years of speakers is set. Coordinating each speaker each month does demand much personal effort and of course Mack's efficiency was always of the highest order. All of us should commend him for his efforts in our behalf, and he deserves to step down with a sense of satisfaction of great service faithfully performed.I remain your most obedient servant..... *Wes Schmidt*

SCWRT IS HOW OLD?

Thanks to Tom Kelly, who was a founding member of Scottsdale Civil War Round Table. He remembers he and six others started meeting in the library in the late 1970's. He moved from Scottsdale in 1980 and he knows they had met for several years before he left. The oldest date we could precisely be sure of was a newsletter from 1988. So our new start date is officially 1978 which makes Scottsdale Civil War Round Table in its 33rd year.



UPCOMING ROUND TABLES

Apr 19, 2011...Frank O'Reilly
*The Liberty Hall Volunteers:
Stonewall Jackson's
College Boys*

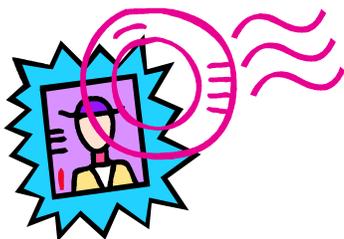
May 17, 2011...Brian Wills
*My Dancing Days Are Over:
William Dorsey Pender & The Civil War*



NEW CIVIL WAR STAMPS FROM THE U.S. POST OFFICE COMING APRIL 12, 2011

Commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, the U.S. Postal Service is issuing stamps paying tribute to the conflict during the tumultuous years from 1861 to 1865.

Sheet of two stamps will be issued each year through 2015. For this year, one stamp depicts the beginning of the war in April 1861 at Fort Sumter, South Carolina. The second stamp depicts the first major battle of the war...Bull Run, near Manassas, Virginia.



The panes will include comments on the war by Frederick Douglass, Abraham Lincoln, Robert E. Lee, and Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson.

LEE AND GORDON'S MILL

by John Bamberl
SCWRT Member

One of North Georgia's oldest buildings is Lee and Gordon's Mill on Chickamauga creek. In September 1863, the mill was the focal point of the battle of Chickamauga, although the only action it saw was a few cavalry skirmishes.

James Gordon came to the area in 1836. By 1838 he began to build his palatial estate known as the Gordon Lee Mansion. It is estimated that he owned 2000 acres of land and when Gordon's daughter married miller James Lee in 1857, the mill became known as Lee and Gordon's.

The well-known landmark became a point of reference as both armies moved into the area in September 1863 and a bridge crossed the Chickamauga creek just south of the structure that was of strategic importance to the rebels. The building housed a general store that was of interest to the Union troops.

William Rosecrans and his chief of staff James Garfield stayed with the Lee's. James Lee, an ardent confederate, was forced to mill grain for the Union Army.

After the war, James Lee continued to run the mill. His son Gordon Lee, who became a powerful United States Representative, inherited the business and ran it until his election in 1892. His family ran the mill until 1927 when they sold it to the Wallace brothers who ran it until 1967. In 1993, Frank Pierce purchased the property and restored the mill to its appearance in 1863.



MY UNCLE HENRY -- A GERMAN YANKEE

by Mary Jane Baetz
SCWRT Member

(Part Three of a four-part series)

After the defeat at Chancellorsville, the Army of the Potomac retreated across the Rappahannock River. My Uncle Henry and the men of the 26th, who had been labeled "Howard's Cowards" and "Flying Dutchmen," were discouraged and demoralized as they waited for their next engagement. In a letter home Uncle Henry wrote: "*We have endured so many a disastrous blow that in the end one cannot believe anything that aims to a success of our armies. Fortune seems to be with the wrong side in this war. May the devil get them, along with their idol Jeff Davis and his whole riff-raff of treacherous, freedom-suppressing gangs*".

Then, on June 5, while camped near Banks Station, Virginia, he wrote: "*We have been given orders this afternoon to keep ready so as to be able to march off from here upon a notice of only one hour. It might in the end be possible that we will be leaving our present camp tomorrow. Where we will be going to in that case, we of course do not know, and I do not like to indulge in speculations about that in this letter*".

On June 12 they received orders to march without delay and all of General Hooker's forces moved north through Virginia. The 26th proceeded to Centreville, then Edwards Ferry and finally reached Emmitsburg, Maryland on the 29th of June where they encamped.

On the hot summer morning of July 1, artillery fire was heard in the direction of Gettysburg. Immediately the men fell into order and resumed marching at a rapid pace, pushing forward and passing through Gettysburg at about 1:00 pm. They continued to a position northwest of the town on the right of the First Brigade. Ironically, they were once again placed in a vulnerable flanking position on a small hill. The Twenty-Sixth formed the second line, double column. As the enemy approached, the first line advanced against the overwhelming forces of the Confederate soldiers. They were overpowered and quickly broke into disorder. The Twenty-Sixth then became hotly engaged, checked the enemy and held its position until about 4:00 pm when the flank on its left was turned back by the superior numbers, forcing the brigade to retire.

The Union soldiers retreated across an open field under heavy fire. At the edge of town, Confederate skirmishers in houses just three to five hundred yards away were actively engaged as the 26th fell into the position of rear guard during a further retreat to Cemetery Hill. Finally the men were able to take a position behind stone walls, one that proved to be crucial in the days ahead. However, once

again the Germans were singled out as "Cowards" despite their orderly retreat, despite following orders to remove to the new position, and despite their courage in the face of the enemy. Contempt for the German soldiers remained strong; accusations of the Germans' flight and cowardice were denied, disputed and debated for years to come.

The 26th Wisconsin was seriously damaged on that first day of battle in Gettysburg. Among the many casualties was my uncle, Major Henry Baetz, who fell wounded.

Details are hard to find. List after official list simply states that "Major Baetz was wounded at the Battle of Gettysburg." A trip to the Library of Congress in Washington D.C. led me to one book which states that he was shot in the leg, which was shattered by a musket ball. One narrative, *The Battle of Gettysburg* by Jesse B. Young, states that "Lt. Col. Hans Boeble and Major Henry Baetz were both wounded and captured". If that is so, his captivity did not last long because records show that he was relieved of his position the next month and returned home to Wisconsin to recuperate.

I am personally amazed that I found no record that his leg was amputated. In fact, I am amazed at his survival as so many soldiers lost their shattered limbs to amputation or died of infection or lead poisoning from their wounds. I found no evidence of this; rather, after his service and sacrifice, Major Henry Baetz was ultimately honorably discharged from the Army.



Uncle Henry went on to live a long and full life and always remained proud of his service to his country. Next month - *Old Soldiers Never Die: Some Go On to do Great Things!*

Monument for the 26th Wisconsin Gettysburg Battlefield

Front side: July 1, 1863. On Cemetery Hill July 2 and 3. Effective strength 516, Killed 46, Wounded 72

Right side: Mustered in at Milwaukee Sept. 17, 1862. Mustered out June 28, 1865. Killed in Action 128, Died of Wounds 56, Died of Disease 63

Left side: Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Wauhatchie, Chattanooga, Atlanta Campaign to the Sea, Averysboro, Bentonville
Back side: 3rd Division, 2nd Brigade



Civil War Travels

Don Swanson
SCWRT member

In November of last year SCWRT members Tom Lannon, Hank Potosky, John Bamberl, and I traveled to Chattanooga, Tennessee to participate in a tour led by Thomas Cartwright, frequent SCWRT speaker. Bruce Vantor, longtime partner of SCWRT speaker Dave Hinze in Stars and Stripes Tours, hosted the tour due to Dave's sudden death just months before the tour. The 3-day tour entitled "Patrick Cleburne vs. George Thomas: From Chattanooga to Chickamauga" examined their actions first at Chickamauga National Battlefield and then moving to Chattanooga, Lookout Mountain, and on to Ringgold Gap where Cleburne justified his *sobriquet* of "Stonewall of the West" and now proudly displays his impressive monument. During the tour we were fortunate in having sunny weather that showcased fall in that spectacular part of Georgia and Tennessee making our examination of Cleburne's defense of Missionary Ridge on a cold, bright early morning especially memorable.

Thomas Cartwright, wearing his Confederate uniform, did a great job of analyzing the actions of Cleburne and Thomas throughout our battlefield examinations using humor, interesting anecdotes, and sparing no personal opinion – everything a tour attendee would want in a guide. The Visitor's Center at Chickamauga has one of the finest rifle collections anywhere and Lookout Mountain has great hiking trails that overlook spectacular views of the valley below. While any battlefield visit can typically be improved with a knowledgeable guide, Bruce's company (now operating as America's History, LLC) made this small tour (12 participants on a full-size bus) a great personal experience that any of us would recommend. While most areas of Chickamauga and some areas of Chattanooga National Battlefield Parks are special places where an unescorted visitor can readily contemplate the battle, unfortunately urban sprawl has impacted many of the Chattanooga sites limiting the visitor's ability to easily interpret what can be seen. Regardless, these important Civil War sites are certainly worth an extended visit with or without a great guide.



Cleburne Memorial at Ringgold Gap, Georgia



Snodgrass Hill at Chickamauga

Note: It is hoped that "Civil War Travels" can become a periodic column written by SCWRT contributors to provide members with brief overviews of personal trips or tours taken to Civil War sites. As personal insights and opinions can be helpful to other members contemplating a future visit or joining a tour, consider writing a brief article for our newsletter. Contributors can send their pieces to the Grapeshot editor at kkbecraft@a.com.

WAR IN MISSOURI

Missouri ranks third among the states with the most battles and engagements in the War Between the States. Missouri played host to both opposing sentiments almost on a daily basis.

At the beginning of the War, Missouri was considered a Union State. Politicians are responsible for shaping the rest. The majority of soldiers from Missouri are listed as Union from official records, however the sentiments of the people would be up for questioning. An accurate Confederate count would be impossible.