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PUBLIC RELATIONS:

volunteer needed !

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

ED BEARSS

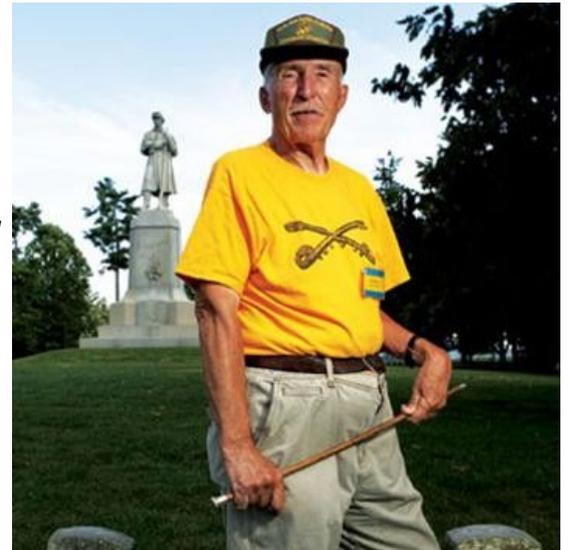
presents-

“Raising The Cairo”

January 17, 2012

6:45 PM Tuesday

Civic Center Library



Ed Bearss, Chief Historian Emeritus of the National Park Service, is one of the foremost Civil War historians on the planet. He is 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.” He was a featured commentator for Ken Burns’ PBS Series, “The Civil War” (1990), which is still the most popular program broadcast by that network to date.

The Civil War Trust created the Ed Bearss Award for achievements in historic preservation and made him the first recipient in 2001.

Locating two forgotten forts at Grand Gulf, Mississippi, along with helping to develop other new parks at Pea Ridge and Wilson’s Creek, he did the research that led him to the long-lost Union gunboat U.S.S. Cairo.

We are fortunate to have him speaking to our group once again, as this U.S. Marine Corps veteran of World War II is a speaker much in demand, who also maintains a busy schedule leading tours of historic battlefields.

DID YOU KNOW?



.That President Lincoln had a mild form of small pox (varioid) while he gave the Gettysburg Address? On the train back to Washington, he quipped, “Now I have something that I can give everybody”.

.The Atlantic monthly paid Harriet Beecher Stowe \$4 for permission to publish “*The Battle Hymn of the Republic*”.



(pictures by SCWRT Member, Joe Radley)



USS Cairo

From their unconventional shape and the designer's name, James B. Eads called his armed river boats "Pook turtles". His 512-ton USS Cairo could hardly be distinguished from sister craft. After having participated in half a dozen engagements, this turtle hit two torpedoes - considerably more sophisticated than the earliest "infernal machines" built by the Confederates and went to the bottom in twelve minutes on December 12, 1862.



COMPLIMENTARY CIVIL WAR BOOKS AT GUIDON BOOK STORE

Well know Civil War author and historian, David Shultz, has joined our Scottsdale Civil War Round Table. He has written six books on The Battle of Gettysburg and at the November meeting,

graciously donated two cases of his latest book, *The Battle Between The Farm Lanes*.

You can pick up your free copy at:

Guidon Books
7109 E 2nd Street Scottsdale
phone number 480-945-8811.

Be sure and tell them you are a SCWRT member. Any books that are not claimed will be raffled off at the February meeting.

**THANK YOU
THANK YOU
THANK YOU
THANK YOU**

To SCWRT member's Janet and John Cotton who have underwritten \$400 of the Scottsdale Civil War Round Table's essay contest with the Scottsdale Middle and High Schools. Thank you ever so much for making such a fantastic contribution to such a fantastic cause!

True False



Correction to article in the November Grapeshot

Due to the sharp eye of SCWRT Member, Laura Taylor....she caught an error in the article *What Happened To: The Children of President Abraham Lincoln*. If you remember the article stated that Robert Todd Lincoln did marry but had no children. Author of the article...Hank Potosky, had this correction: Robert Lincoln was the only one of the Lincoln children to reach adulthood. He married Mary Harlan and they had three children: Jessie, Abraham (also known as Jack), and Mary.



GREAT MAGAZINE DEAL!

The best magazine available is North & South. Be advised that a year's subscription special (6 issues) is being offered for \$9.99 by the editor to all of our SCWRT members. This offer runs thru February 14, 2012. Call: 760-743-6730 and have your charge card ready.

LEE JACKSON DAY..January 13, 2012

Lee Jackson Day is celebrated the Friday before Martin Luther King Day with state offices, schools and many business' closed. Virginia began observing Lee's birthday January 19, 1889; then added Jackson's in 1904. With the MLK holiday so close, combining them gives Virginians a 4 day holiday.



FROM WES' DEN.....

ROSE O'NEALE GREENHOW AND
JOSIAH HENSON

(3rd Installment).

Remember that I wrote that John O'Neale, Rose's dad, had a personal slave? He was called Jake, and later he was charged with his owners murder, convicted and hanged. Jake, now 20, was the most valuable of O'Neale's slaves and accompanied him every where. It was not unusual to see them trotting along the narrow country paths and through the apple orchards that linked one farmstead with another. The farmer would be perched high on his horse, his slave running and walking beside him.

Jake served at his master's pleasure at all hours of the day and night. He entertained his master's friends with acrobatic tricks when O'Neale was in the mood to show him off. Jake was double-jointed and dazzled audiences with body twisting leg and arm-bending maneuvers that made people gasp. He could turn on his hands and feet like a wheel and perform many athletic tricks like those seen in a circus. Uncle Tom's Cabin, which was published in 1852, opens with a description of a young male slave being asked to perform similar acrobatic tricks. Harriet Beecher Stowe, could only have learned this from Josiah Henson.

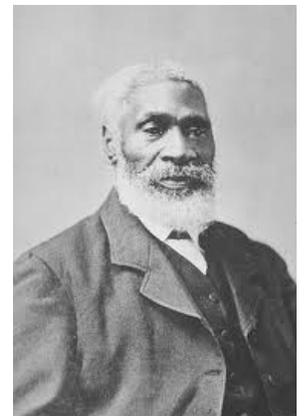
After John O'Neale's death and the trial that resulted in Jake being hung, the fatherless O'Neale family fell on hard times and Rose and her four sisters were farmed out to their aunts. Luckily for Rose and sister Ellen, both teenagers were sent to Aunt Maria Hill, in Washington DC. It was around 1828 and Uncle Henry Hill was just opening a three story boarding house. The two girls would grow up fast and experienced. The Supreme Court now sits on this site. Hill's Boarding House was one of several respectable places where congressmen, supreme court justices and other distinguished visitors could stay while congress or court was in session. The girls grew up among the elite of Washington DC, and obtaining information became a growth skill. John C Calhoun, who served as Vice President under John Quincy Adams, and the leading defender of slavery, was the Hill's most prestigious boarder. He died there in 1850. Rose was a close friend and worshipped him.

When the war came she was a glittering hostess and influential socialite and also a fearless spy. Rose was now in the center of union decision making. Always entertaining union officers, she gathered information. She was now a widow named Rose Greenhow, and supplied accurate and cleverly encrypted intelligence to CSA General PGT Beauregard that was very important to the CSA victory at First Manassas (Bull Run). Unfortunately Allan Pinkerton caught her and had her imprisoned. She should have been hung; but that would have enflamed world opinion, so they deported her to Richmond Virginia. Rose finally received help from President Jefferson Davis who arranged her passage on a blockade runner. Safely overseas she strongly pleaded the CSA cause in the royal courts of England and France. In August, 1864, she headed home with satchels of messages, gold and silver. The blockade runner ran aground, and the sea was rough. Still, rather than wait it out, she insisted on going toward Fort Fisher, which she could see. The small boat was immediately swamped and tipped over. In her heavy big dress and with a bag of gold around her neck, Rose was the only person they could not save. In the morning her body was found and taken to the fort. She could hardly not go down in history as a champion of the South and freely gave her life for her beloved CSA.

Your most obedient servant *Wes Schmidt*



Rose O'Neal Greenhow
(1817 - 1864)



Josiah Henson
(1789 - 1883)

PRESS RELEASE

CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE PARTNERS WITH SCOTTSDALE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Hosts Essay Contest for the Sesquicentennial

In honor of the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War, which begins in 2011, the Scottsdale Civil War Round Table is partnering with the Scottsdale Unified School District with an essay contest to promote awareness of the Civil War among Scottsdale high school and middle school students. Cash prizes and awards are being offered.

The contest will help Scottsdale students gain a better understanding of the war's history and the fundamental conflicts that sparked it. It will also help students create a personal connection to the past. Students will be encouraged to submit essays addressing the theme: *Preserving 150 Years of History*, and discuss the importance of preservation efforts in protecting the memory of this moment in history. The essay start time is January 3rd and end time is March 22nd. The first prize for high school is \$300 plus gifts and for middle school is \$100 plus gifts. Awards will be presented at the May meeting.

The Civil War Round Table is a preservation organization that has been active in Scottsdale for the past 33 years. Members meet at 6:45 PM, the third Tuesday of the month at the Scottsdale Civic Center Library, 3839 N. Drinkwater Blvd, Scottsdale, Arizona. The Round Table sponsors Civil War authorities from across the country to lecture at each meeting. Information about each speaker can be found on the Scottsdale Library calendar (library.ci.scottsdale.az.us) and the Scottsdale Civil War Round Table's website (www.scottsdalecwrtable.vze.com).

Ed Bearss, Chief Historian Emeritus of the National Park Service and one of the foremost Civil War historians in the world, will be present on January 17th, 2012; to kick-off the Sesquicentennial celebration. Bearss is a celebrated tour guide, lecturer, author and authority on all aspects of the 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". He was a featured commentator for Ken Burns' PBS Series "*The Civil War*" (1990), which is still the most popular program broadcast by that network to date.

The Round Table encourages a greater understanding and appreciation of this important time in U.S. History. The group also financially supports the Civil War Trust for the preservation of Civil War Battlefields. They feel it is important to maintain and preserve these battlefields so that our children and grandchildren can visit them and experience an emotional empathy with the men who fought and died to make this a great nation.

**For more information, contact Dr. John Bamberl at 602-430-4700
or the website at www.scottsdalecwrtable.vze.com**

The Other Irvin McDowell

by

Leonard J. Mareisz

Arizona Historical Society Board Member

2011 marks the third year of an emerging local tradition: the commemoration of Irvin McDowell's birthday, October 15th, 1818. The commemoration is pleasantly coincident with Scottsdale's annual October celebration of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve and mountain range, both named for McDowell.

An avid gardener, McDowell's legacy of parks in San Francisco may well be his lasting contribution to the nation. He very much enjoyed serving as San Francisco's Parks Commissioner after retirement from the Army. His spirit would, it seems, take some measure of satisfaction in knowing that a 54 square mile desert preserve, located in a city that did not exist during his lifetime, was named for him. That the city should be named for Reverend Winfield Scott, a cousin of General Winfield Scott, whose protégé McDowell was – well, that would no doubt amuse him.

Civil War historians, whose vision and focus typically end at 1865, have left us a one-dimensional Irvin McDowell as a two time loser – the general who lost the first major battle of the Civil War at Bull Run in 1861, and a year later was accused of failures that contributed to the defeat of Union forces at the second battle of Bull Run.

But Irvin McDowell's life is not one of unmitigated failure. Irvin McDowell's life presents a lesson in redemption.

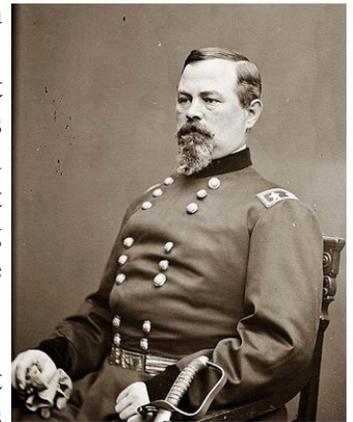
At the outbreak of the Civil War, then age 43, McDowell was considered one of the most able military planners in the Army. Within two years he was seen as a spectacular failure. Exiled to a desk job, his executive skills were eventually recognized by Ulysses S. Grant, who needed a competent administrator to hold together the understaffed and underfunded military forces attempting to quell Indian uprisings in the American West while the Civil War was prosecuted in the East and South to its bloody end. McDowell did the job. Grant and others continued to utilize McDowell's administrative skills for the next two decades in various assignments.

Let's take a few minutes to meet the "Other Irvin McDowell" – the real man you won't read about in Civil War histories.

This is the Irvin McDowell of the Civil War history books. Stiff, martial, every inch the general – and in over his head.

But this is the young Irvin McDowell.

- Educated in France at the College de Troyes at the ages of 14 and 15. Multilingual, fluent in French, a young savant of landscape gardening, painting, and music.
- A West Point cadet at 16 – at least two years younger than most of his peers and upper classmen.
- This is the young man who won the heart and hand of Helen Burden of Troy, NY, and married her at the 2nd Presbyterian Church in 1844. She was 18, he was 26. They were to have a happy relationship lasting 41 years. It produced four children: Irvin, Helen, Elsie and Henry.
- This is the young man promoted for gallantry at the Battle of Buena Vista during the Mexican War of 1846-1848. The battle, fought in northern Mexico, involved 5,000 U.S. troops and at least three times that number of Mexican soldiers. It was a complete victory for American arms.
- As he matured into his late 30s and early 40s, this was the man who impressed Treasury Secretary Salmon P. Chase, Secretary of War Edwin Stanton, General Winfield Scott, and President Abraham Lincoln with his intellect and loyalty. At a time when Army officers were either resigning to fight for the Confederacy or backstabbing each other to achieve rank in the expanding Union Army, Irvin McDowell was the good soldier and faithful subordinate. That his abilities as a field commander were overestimated at the outset of the Civil War may perhaps be more the fault of his superiors than of himself.



Competent soldiers – Ulysses S. Grant and William Tecumseh Sherman – knew the man and shrewdly assessed his abilities as an administrator. In addition to his service as commanding officer of military departments in the West from 1864 to 1868, consider these other responsible posts to which he was appointed:

- Commanding Officer, Department of the East, 1868 – 1872
- Commanding Officer, Division of the South, 1872 – 1876
- Commanding Officer, Division of the Pacific, 1876 – 1882

These assignments required competent administrative leadership and diplomatic skills, which Grant and Sherman appreciated in Irvin McDowell. His service in the Division of the South came at a particularly sensitive time - the winding down of the military occupation associated with post-Civil War Reconstruction. As commanding officer of the Division of the Pacific, he was responsible for military posts and deployments from Alaska to the Mexican border. In 1872, in recognition of McDowell's service, President Grant promoted McDowell to major general with these words: "I take great pleasure in elevating McDowell to atone for what I feel were unjust charges made against him over the Bull Run losses." Grant did not suffer fools nor tolerate incompetents.

Grant wasn't the only Civil War general and eventual US President to appreciate McDowell's character. In 1870, James Garfield, then an Ohio congressman and eventually elected as our 20th President in 1881, named his third son Irvin McDowell Garfield. But the story doesn't end there. Irvin McDowell Garfield had a son whom he named Irvin McDowell Garfield Jr. Junior had a son whom he named Irvin McDowell Garfield III, who passed on in 1990.

Irvin McDowell's finest hour may have been during his last command when, prior to his retirement, he launched a campaign to correct an injustice done to a band of the Piute Indians that had been relocated against their will from California to Washington. Here's the real McDowell, speaking to the War Department, and to us, from nearly 130 years ago:

The Presidio, San Francisco, Oct. 14, 1882.

Before relinquishing the command I now hold, I am constrained to ask the attention of the War and Interior departments to the case of certain Piutes who were taken away from their tribes and homes in California, and carried to an Indian reservation among a strange people north of the Columbia River. Their case is fully set forth in the accompanying papers...It will be seen, as it appears to me, that the reasons which caused the refusal of my application to have these innocent and suffering people sent back to their tribe and homes, have been mere questions of administration, of convenience and economy, while I submit their return is a matter of good faith and mercy. The Indians in question...were not hostile. They had done nothing meriting punishment. During the war they were carried away from their homes, because it was easier to move them during hostilities than to have a force to protect them at their homes.

They are held in exile against their wills...I am thus earnest...in arguing this question, because it arose under my command and by officers acting under me, and those people and their families and friends look to me to see their wrongs redressed...They have no representative, no newspaper to speak for them, and, even if they could get their case before the courts, are ignorant of the way to bring it there. I beg the proper officers may look again into this question, not as a matter of convenience to the service, but one of justice to unfortunate and innocent people.

This is the genuine Irvin McDowell. The citizens of Scottsdale should be proud of the spectacular manner in which they have "Preserved" his name.



Young Irvin McDowell



Irvin McDowell

Older Irvin McDowell