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Scottsdale Civic Center Library
(Auditorium)

3839 N Drinkwater Blvd
Scottsdale AZ

3rd Tuesday of the month

September thru May

(no meeting December)

6:40 PM - 8:45 PM

\$35 Annual Dues (individual)

\$45 Annual Dues (family)

EVERYONE WELCOME

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CHRISTOPHER L. KOLAKOWSKI

-presents-

THE TULLAHOMA CAMPAIGN



NOVEMBER 19, 2013

6:40 PM

Scottsdale Civic Center Library
(Auditorium)

Christopher L. Kolakowski was born and raised in Fredericksburg, Va. He received his BA in History and Mass Communications from Emory & Henry College, and his MA in Public History from the State University of New York at Albany. Chris has spent his career interpreting and preserving American military history with the National Park Service, New York State government, the Rensselaer County (NY) Historical Society, the Civil War Trust, and the Army Reserve. From 2005-2008 Chris was Executive Director of the Perryville Enhancement Project, which during his tenure, he added 152 acres of critical battlefield land and increased Perryville's national profile. He has written and spoken on the Civil War, American Revolution, Napoleonic Wars, and both World Wars. In 2009 the History Press published his first book, *The Civil War at Perryville: Battling For the Bluegrass*, and, in 2011, its sequel *The Stones River and Tullahoma Campaigns: This Army Does Not Retreat*. Mr. Kolakowski currently serves as Director of the General George Patton Museum and Center of Leadership in Fort Knox, Ky. In 2013 the U.S. Army will publish his volume on the 1862 Virginia Campaigns as part of its sesquicentennial series on the Civil War.



BOOKWORMS IN THE BASEMENT- A Point of View on Civil War Reading By Bill Spoehr SCWRT Member

A benefit of the SCWRT is the opportunity to discuss Civil War history with well-read, thoughtful and discerning members. I hope this column will suggest more "nightstand reading material" within the vast and varied Civil War historiography.

Gettysburg: The Last Invasion

by Allen C. Guelzo (Alfred A. Knopf, 2013, 630 pages)

Undoubtedly, there were groans at the publication of "another" Gettysburg treatise; the epic struggle is the most analyzed, documented and mythologized 72 hours in American history (a 2004 survey cited 6,193 Gettysburg-related volumes). In the 150 years since, the Gettysburg Campaign has been minutely described and assessed by, among others, Edwin Coddington's granular work, *The Gettysburg Campaign: A Study in Command* (1968), and Stephen Sears' *Gettysburg* (2003).

Gettysburg College's Allen Guelzo, like Clausewitz, believes war is political, and his smooth-flowing, somewhat Union-centric, narrative examines the Gettysburg Campaign within the context of nineteenth-century American politics. Armies reflect the society from which they arise; thus, to the extent the citizens of a democratic society disagreed on questions of union and slavery prior to 1860, so, too, did its soldiers. Union armies were overwhelmingly volunteer, led by career officers, officers elected by their regiments, and political appointees. These citizen-soldiers were a mixture of fervent abolitionists, strong Unionists, and peace-seeking "Copperheads", and an analysis of their motivations is critical to understanding the war.

The Civil War was fought "for Union" and the preservation of liberal democracy, but, Guelzo notes, "emancipation cannot be so easily detached from union". His discussion therefore focuses on advocates of a vigorous war against slavery and anoints Union general officers with "polished abolitionist and anti-McClellan credentials" (e.g., Brig. General Francis Barlow, Brig. General Otis Howard) with more accolades than in traditional assessments; it is Howard, not the McClellan-admirer Winfield Scott Hancock, who forcefully argues to fight at Gettysburg. Guelzo believes Major General George Meade "yank[ed] backward" Brig. General Abner Doubleday from temporary I Corps command due to Doubleday's abolitionist opinions, and that Meade's failure to aggressively pursue a retreating Robert E. Lee is the 1863 equivalent of George McClellan's "case of the slows" after Antietam. No admirer of those fighting for political gain, Guelzo skewers Brig. General Dan Sickles, a Congressional hack who "belonged in a

novel rather than an army", for endangering the entire Army of the Potomac.

This is not "drums and bugles" military history; Allen Guelzo skillfully asks questions beyond those Gettysburg queries that have relocated events and personalities from history to folklore. Guelzo notes (correctly) that traditional tales of Col. Joshua Chamberlain and Little Round Top are examples of how the Gettysburg "drama has been allowed to run away with the reality". Readers will recognize essential campaign landmarks, mileposts and assessments, and are challenged to reconsider traditional views when Guelzo brings less-familiar actors and circumstances into focus. *Gettysburg: The Last Invasion* is a "good retelling of the grand old story" of Gettysburg, and a thought-provoking read for both new and seasoned Civil War bookworms.

Bill Spoehr, an accounting executive, holds a Master of Arts in Military History, cum laude, from Norwich University. Originally from Pittsburgh, his great-grandfather served in the 198th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry from Petersburg to Appomattox.



UPCOMING ROUND TABLES:

Dec : No Meeting (Members Only Christmas Party...date, time, & place TBA)

Jan 21 **Ed Bearss**

An Evening with Ed Bearss: Your Questions Answered



TRIP PLANNED BY THE SCOTTSDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Scottsdale Historical Society has planned a bus trip to Historical Tucson as a fundraiser this year. It will take place on

Wednesday, February 12, 2014. Among other things, they will visit the original Walled Presidio Del Tucson and the De Grazio Gallery. Lunch will be at the El Chorro Restaurant. The all inclusive cost for the trip is \$75. If anyone from the Scottsdale Civil War Round Table would like to join us, there are sign-up sheets available in the Little Red Schoolhouse Wednesday through Sunday. The museum is closed on Monday and Tuesday.