



# THE GRAPESHOT

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.meets @

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**

[www.scottsdalecwrt.org](http://www.scottsdalecwrt.org)

mailing address:

SCWRT

#274

7349 N Via Paseo Del Sur Ste 515  
Scottsdale AZ 85258-3749

e-mail: [scwrtwebmaster@vahoo.com](mailto:scwrtwebmaster@vahoo.com)

**ERIC MINK**

-presents-

**A**

## **STERNNESS TO HIS COUNTENANCE: STONEWALL JACKSON IN PICTURES AND ART**

**MARCH 18, 2014**

**6:40 PM**

**Scottsdale Civic Center Library  
(Auditorium)**



Eric J. Mink has worked for the National Park Service for the past twenty years. Having grown up in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania; Eric has worked on Civil War battlefields for two decades. He is a graduate of Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg, Virginia; where he earned a bachelor's degree in Historic Preservation and American Studies. Eric has held a variety of positions at Gettysburg National Military Park, Manassas National Battlefield Park and Richmond National Battlefield Park. He is currently a historian and the cultural resources manager at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park.

CIVIL WAR  
AT  
SCOTTSDALE CIVIC CENTER LIBRARY

**Don't miss:** *Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War* now running thru March 21st at our very own Civic Center Library. This is a traveling exhibition for libraries which was organized by the National Constitution Center and the American Library Association Public Programs Office.

**Next up:** *Born In Battle: Arizona Territory and the Civil War...* March 4th @ 6:30 PM. One hundred and fifty years ago Abraham Lincoln signed the organic act creating Arizona Territory. What prompted him to take these steps even as the nation was torn asunder by the Civil War? John P. Langellier, Ph. D. in military history and author of dozens of books will share insight about this timely topic.

**And get ready for:** *The Civil War 150.....* March 31st thru April 21st. A national traveling exhibition, utilizing letters, personal accounts, and images drawn from the Gilder Lehrman Collection, this exhibition traces major extents during the Civil War through the eyes of soldiers, presidents, freedmen and families. Visitors will come to understand how people dealt with the end of slavery, the nature of democracy and citizenship, the human toll of civil war and the role of a president in wartime.



## BOOK DONATIONS NEEDED

If you don't know what to do with all those Civil War books your are finished reading, please donate them to our book table. Hank would love to talk to you about what you might have and hand you a donation receipt for your gently used tomes.

And remember, all monies collected goes to Civil War Trust.

### APRIL AT THE LIBRARY

- ◆ Our Civil War: Reflections at the Sesquicentennial  
April 1st @ 6:30 PM
- ◆ Ulyssus S. Grant: "I Propose To Fight It Out"  
April 3rd @ 6:30 PM
- ◆ Film: Gone With The Wind  
April 9th 1:30 PM
- ◆ The African American Experience in Arizona: 500 Years of History  
April 17th @ 6:30



### UPCOMING ROUND TABLES:

April 15th: **Tom Cutrer...**  
*A Stepping Stone To A Great Eminence: The Mexican War and the Making of George B. McClellan*

May 20th: **William C. "Jack" Davis...**  
*The Making of the Confederacy*

## Bookworms in the Basement – A Point of View on Civil War Reading

By

Bill Spoehr, SCWRT member

*The Vicksburg Campaign: March 29 - May 18, 1863*, edited by Steven E. Woodworth and Charles D. Gear, 2013, 239 pages.

In anticipation of February's Civil War Discussion Group (held the 4th Thursday of every month at Guidon Books - [www.guidon.com](http://www.guidon.com)), I discovered this new collection of essays on the Vicksburg Campaign. Steven Woodworth, perhaps best known for his work on Jefferson Davis and the war in the west, and Charles Gear, a western theater Civil War scholar, edited eleven essays by various historians that discuss Ulysses S. Grant's "fluid campaign of rapid maneuver and lightning strikes that stunned" the Confederacy. Unlike some Civil War campaigns that are minutely known even to casual readers, Vicksburg, the "Gibraltar of the Confederacy" that controlled the Mississippi River from bluffs overlooking the channel, is best known for the surrender of its Confederate defenders on July 4, 1863, thus ending a 6-week siege by Grant's Army of the Tennessee.

The essays discuss how Grant relocated his army southeast of Vicksburg, overcame the geographic barriers of rivers, swamps and hills, defeated and demoralized the population of central Mississippi, burned the capitol city of Jackson, thereby destroying its usefulness as a manufacturing and rail center, and besieged Vicksburg. Beginning with an assessment of Grant's relationship with Union Admiral David Porter and their use of "combined forces," the writings detail Grant's improvisational skills and mastery of the "operational art of war". William B. Feis illustrates how Grant's campaign was "suggested and developed by the circumstances," especially the abandonment of traditional supply methods and forage while rapidly advancing. Steven Nathaniel Dossman's essay discusses the Vicksburg campaign as the cauldron in

which William Tecumseh Sherman learned the methods, as well as the economic and psychological impact, of "hard war." Central Mississippi was a fertile agricultural region in April 1863, untouched by the war (except for a marked absence of war-age white males). Upon unleashing the "Blitzkrieg through Mississippi", Dossman believes Grant "transformed his army into an instrument of economic and psychological warfare that would affect southern civilians and their ability to continue the war." The physical, emotional and economic damage, including the loss of slave labor, inflicted by the Army of the Tennessee was so extensive and complete that it prevented central Mississippi "from producing any agricultural supplies for the Confederate army until the war ended."



Grant never read Clausewitz' *Vom Kriege*, yet Paul L. Schmelzer succinctly proves that Grant's "manner" of operational execution displayed a "masterful harmonization of [the Clausewitzian concepts of] war and policy." While "intuitional and largely an outgrowth of his common sense," Schmelzer persuasively argues that Grant's strategic and operational moves changed the tenor of the war, dramatically impacting Union and Confederate governments, armies, strategies, politics and public opinion. Schmelzer calls the Vicksburg Campaign "perhaps the greatest example of strategic surprise accomplished in the Civil War," and echoes William Tecumseh Sherman's assessment that it succeeded even "if we never take the town."

*The Vicksburg Campaign: March 29 - May 18, 1863* is an excellent collection, and doesn't require an encyclopedic knowledge of Vicksburg to appreciate. And, as Dr. Bamberl says, the nice thing about essay collections is that you can read one before dinner, eat, then read another for dessert.

*Bill Spoehr holds a M.A. in Military History, cum laude, from Norwich University, and is a Scottsdale Civil War Round Table member.*



## STUDENT ART CONTEST

SCWRT members, Janet and John Cotton have generously sponsored a "civil war" art contest open to the students of the Scottsdale Unified School District. Come see the masterpieces exhibited in The Gallery at the Scottsdale Civic Center Library during the Civil War 150 exhibit beginning April 1st. The winner will be announced at the Civil War Round Table April 15th meeting.



## The Scottsdale Historical Society CATTLE TRACK CARD PARTY

March 29, 2014

11:00 AM

Salad Lunch! Door Prizes! Raffle!

Bridge, Dominoes, Pinochle, Canasta, Gin Rummy, Shanghai, Poker, Mah Jong

\$25 per person

Please R.S.V.P. by March 13th

For information call: 480-945-4499 or visit website at:

<http://www.scottsdalemuseum.com>

## CIVIL WAR SURVEY

A new survey was sent out to all members either in an e-mail or with your March Grapeshot. Please take the time to complete and return to:

SCWRT

#274

7349 N Via Paseo Del Sur Ste 515  
Scottsdale AZ 85258-3749

-or- bring to the March meeting.

This survey gives every SCWRT member a voice in what they want their round table to be!

**THANK YOU**



## CIVIL WAR VOCABULARY

- ♦ *Bonnie Blue Flag*: Extremely popular confederate song named after the first flag of the Confederacy, which had one white star on a blue background. The lyrics listed each state in the order in which they seceded from the Union.
- ♦ *Border States*: the states of Maryland, Delaware, Kentucky and Missouri. Although these states did not officially join the Confederacy, many of their citizens supported the South.
- ♦ *Flying Battery*: A system where several horse-drawn cannons would ride along the battle front, stop and set up the guns, fire, limber up, and ride to another position. This practice gave the impression that many guns were in use when only a few were actually being used.

