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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

www.scottsdalecwrt.org

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#274

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



TOM PARSON

THE CAMPAIGN AND BATTLE OF TUPELO / HARRISBURG

SEPTEMBER 16, 2014

6:40 PM

Scottsdale Civic Center Library
(Auditorium)

Tom Parson is a native of Sylmar, California, a suburb of Los Angeles. He joined the US Navy right out of high school for a four year hitch which turned into twenty years. He served on four ships and retired in 1998 as a Chief Petty Officer. Not long after retiring he signed on with the National Park Service and has spent the last fifteen years with Shiloh National Military Park. Ranger Parson is assigned to the Corinth Civil War Interpretive Center and is the author of one book and two feature articles in Blue & Gray Magazine. His new book "Work for Giants: The Campaign and Battle of Tupelo/Harrisburg" will be released on October 15, 2014, by the Kent State University Press. He lives in Corinth with Nita, his wife of 33 years.

**WELCOME
TO
THE
NEW SEASON !**



**ANOTHER
GREAT
LINEUP OF
SPEAKERS !**

Oct 21: James Fritsch...*Scattered Bones: A Union Regiment Cares for Its Dead*

Nov 18: Brian Wills...*Unlikely Civil Warriors: George Thomas and Bedford Forrest*

Dec No Meeting...*Members Only christmas Party...date, time & place TBA*

Jan 20: Ed Bearss...*Another Evening with Ed Bearss: Your Questions Answered*

Feb 17: William Shea...*The Pea Ridge Campaign*

Mar 17: Anne Marshall...*Facts Get Forgotten: Kentuckians Remember the Civil War*

Apr 21: Thomas Cartwright...*Humor In The Civil War*

May 19: Frank O'Reilly...*Grinding, Relentless War: The Overland Campaign of 1864*

**PLEASE HELP MAKE THIS A RECORD YEAR
WITH YOUR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL AND DONATION**

Membership renewal notices have been mailed. If you have not returned yours yet, please do so. Donations are always appreciated as they help ensure we have "top notch" speakers at our meetings as well as being able to contribute to Battlefield Preservation efforts.

The best part of our meetings is sometimes at the very end!
Please stay in your seats until the program is over to
extend courtesy to our speaker.

THANK YOU



A FASCINATING AFTERNOON IN RAYMOND, MISSISSIPPI

-by-

Wes Schmidt, SCWRT Member

Earlier this year my wife and I decided to drive to Tyler, TX, and visit our son and family and see the Azalea Festival in April. However, the weather stayed cold and though dates are written in stone, flowers are subject to many other powers. A big freeze was a very convincing cause for delay. It seemed fortuitous that now extra time was available for Vicksburg and Raymond. They were only about 200 miles

Many of you should have an authority on the subject. He was just with us last year. He asked our Roundtable to have him here to speak on the survival of the Vicksburg campaign. They are a dedicated group of people who work to preserve the battlefield. They now have twenty-five cannons on high ground proper, maybe four house and the nice CSA Brigadier General John Walker's 3000 troops. The union line most impressive and posted. This group is very active in saving this battlefield from scratch.

A Visitor Center behind the blocks have been printed by members.

Brigadier General Gregg started his March 12th morning optimistically setting up a trap for the two union brigades, he thought, coming his way. Sometime in the afternoon he realized that his day was spent delaying briefly, Major General James McPherson's XVII Corps of four divisions, advancing on two parallel roads.

Poor Gregg never knew he was opposing almost 13,000 men. By dark both commanding generals had no idea who did what and who went where, except Gregg's command was in full retreat and McPherson knew he had taken Raymond and everything around it. Grant was happy with the victory; but the rebel army was headed east towards Jackson, Mississippi and Johnson's Army, and that meant trouble. Actually Johnson had not arrived yet and no army existed.

... continued below



Bledsoe's Battery Missouri Artillery Regimental Monument...courtesy of NPS

further away.

remember Terry Winschel, Vicksburg campaign. We every three to four years. February and spoke on population. Afterwards he donate our \$1000 gift in of RAYMOND, which we group of about fifty preserve their battlefield. cannon positioned where MO Battery of three ground right outside the blocks from the court monument. This is all Gregg had to support his of twenty-two cannons is markers have been active in saving this

A small collection is in City Hall. Two books very talented



Today, “The Fog of War” had been very thick. Students understand that this fight was the most messed up battle of the war. Anything that could go wrong did. It was hot and humid and drinking water was scarce. The dry fields yielded choking clouds of dust. Heavy smoke from weapons was unmoving, blanketing men and noise. Visibility was a couple feet. A fire-fight on the other side of a small hill might never be heard. Over-riding everything was the thick scrub growth interwoven with nettles, cats-claw and thistles. Units could not advance with any organization. Any actual fighting that occurred was due to regimental command decisions and the initiative of some men. Three regiments could go forward and never see friend or foe again. Brigade and division command ceased to exist. Unexplainable things happened: Two CSA regiments passed each other on a hill crest, going opposite directions and never spoke to each other. Bledsoe’s three gun battery saw the arrival of the first union battery, 1800 yards away, and opened fire. The union saw them and got off some shots; both sides never saw each other again . Sixteen more guns joined in. Twenty-two cannon against three should have seen the total destruction of Bledsoe’s Battery; but the next day his action report noted zero casualties for a three hour fight. Remember, visibility zero. Each army suffered about 400 men lost. Historians can look at a brigade attack of four regiments in line and one regiment disappears never to be mentioned again. Check that regiments action report and they attacked the enemy three hours later and 1.5 miles away and in a different direction. Historians agree that it was an incredible mess.

My visit started with a lucky decision when I parked in front of City Hall. We went in to see who might help us find the cannons. When the City Clerk found out the past president of SCWRT was here to see the battlefield and how \$1000 of their money was being spent, Mayor Isla Tullos came out to see us immediately. She is an active “Friend of Raymond Battlefield”, and showed us the little holding of bullets and shells and the painting of the death of Colonel Randal MacGavock, a regimental commander in Gregg’s Brigade. She gifted us with the two books members had done and maps to find the cannons. And even gave us “Saving Battlefields” T-Shirts. She was most gracious and it was a fascinating afternoon in Raymond.

NEW BOOKS

Embattled Rebel: Jefferson Davis as Commander in Chief -by- James M. McPherson
expected release date*: October 7, 2014

*Crucible of Command: Ulysses S. Grant and Robert E. Lee—
The War They Fought, The Peace They Forged*
-by- William C. Davis publication date+: January 6, 2015

Gettysburg, 1863 -by- Brooks D. Simpson
publication date+: October 2014



*release date is when the books are sent to the stores

+publication date is when the stores are authorized to begin selling the item