

# THE GRAPESHOT

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Scottsdale Civic Center Library  
(Auditorium)  
3839 N Drinkwater Blvd  
Scottsdale AZ

3rd Tuesday of the month  
September thru May  
6:40 PM - 8:45 PM

\$35 Annual Dues (individual)

\$45 Annual Dues (family)

## EVERYONE WELCOME

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## GREG BIGGS

### The Question Was One of Supplies: The Logistics for William T. Sherman's Atlanta Campaign

May 17, 2016

6:40 PM

Scottsdale Civic Center  
Library (Auditorium)

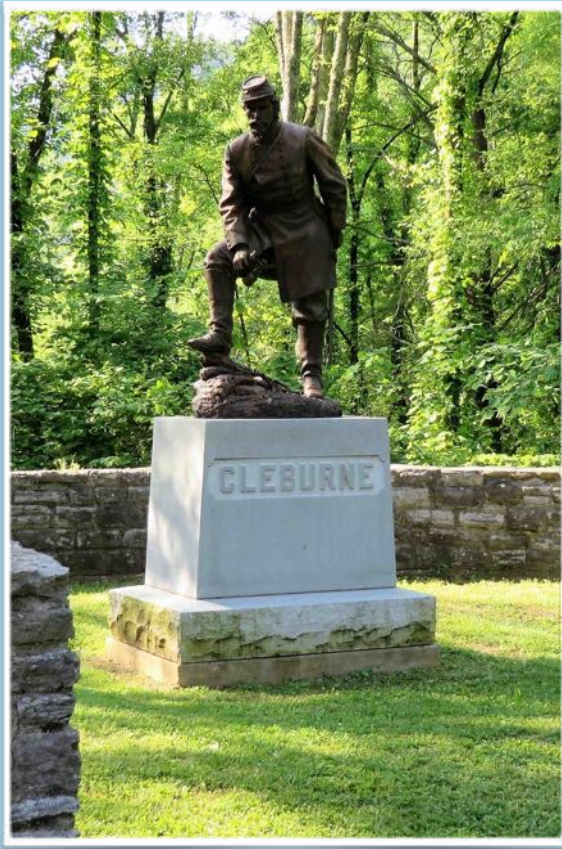
*"No army in history moved without a secure line of supplies especially if it moved into enemy territory. If an army got cut off from its supplies then calamity usually followed often ending in defeat and/or destruction. When William T. Sherman set his sights on Atlanta he prepared for the supplying of his army in a manner that surpassed every other Civil War general. Rebuilding railroads and confiscating locomotives and cars to haul supplies, Sherman set a daily goal for shipments to his forward base in Chattanooga. Ruthless in making sure that only supplies got on the cars, Sherman also had to worry about protecting the line of rails that ran back to Louisville, Kentucky from Confederate raiders. Building on a system begun by William S. Rosecrans, Sherman's engineers built forts and blockhouses and prepared pre-fabricated trestles for replacing those brought down by Confederate raiders. While his preparations were masterful and thorough, they were not without some flaws. This program will examine the nuts and bolts of these logistics and cover the errors that were also made. In the end, his supply line performed as expected and Atlanta was captured. This set the stage for two more campaigns that Sherman would undertake before the war ended in April 1865."*

Born in Elmhurst, IL (Chicago suburb); Greg attended college at the University of Tampa in Florida and Stephen F. Austin State University in Texas. Owner of two businesses; one in the music industry and the other a Civil War research firm that includes his work on Civil War flags. While contributing to several books on flags as well as published articles on the topic in North-South Trader, Sons of Confederate Veterans publications, the Flags of the Confederacy web site ([www.confederate-flags.org](http://www.confederate-flags.org)), he has also published Civil War items in Blue & Gray magazine, Hallowed Ground (Civil War Trust publication), Civil War Regiments, an essay on Union cavalry in the Tullahoma Campaign in a recent book and the Battle of Franklin Trust magazine. Biggs is currently working on projects including the 83rd Illinois Infantry in Middle Tennessee, Hood's logistics in the Tennessee Campaign and some flags items.

President of the Clarksville, Tennessee Civil War Round Table and an officer of the Nashville and Bowling Green, Kentucky CWRT's doing programs, he is also a member of the Company of Military Historians, the Clarksville Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee, lead historian for the Clarksville Fort Defiance Interpretive Center, former Associate Editor of Blue & Gray magazine and past president of the Friends of Fort Donelson Campaign.

## General Patrick Cleburne Monument

Confederate Park - Ringgold Gap, GA



**Austin House - General Sherman's  
Headquarters early in the Atlanta  
Campaign / Tunnel Hill, GA**

**\*\*photos by SCWRT member JOE RADLEY  
and used with his permission**



**HEAR THIS !  
MEETINGS  
FOR  
2016 -2017  
SEASON**

**September 20: *Tom Carhart***

**October 18: *John Waugh***

**November 15: *Wayne Motts***

**December 13: *John Quarstein***

**January 17: *Ed Bearss***

**February 21: *Eric Wittenberg***

**March 21: *Kyle Wichtendahl***

**April 18: *William C. "Jack" Davis***

**May 16: *Ed Bonekemper***



Mark your calendar now as you won't want to miss a single meeting! Another slate of fantastic speakers thanks to our Program Chairman,  
**DON SWANSON.**

A big "THANK YOU" to all of the Scottsdale Civil War Round Table Members who made this season (2015-2016) another huge success with record membership and donations! You will be receiving your Membership Renewal Form for next season (2016-2017) this coming August. **THANK YOU !**



# **MY CIVIL WAR HEROES**

by

**Gordon Whitaker**

SCWRT Member

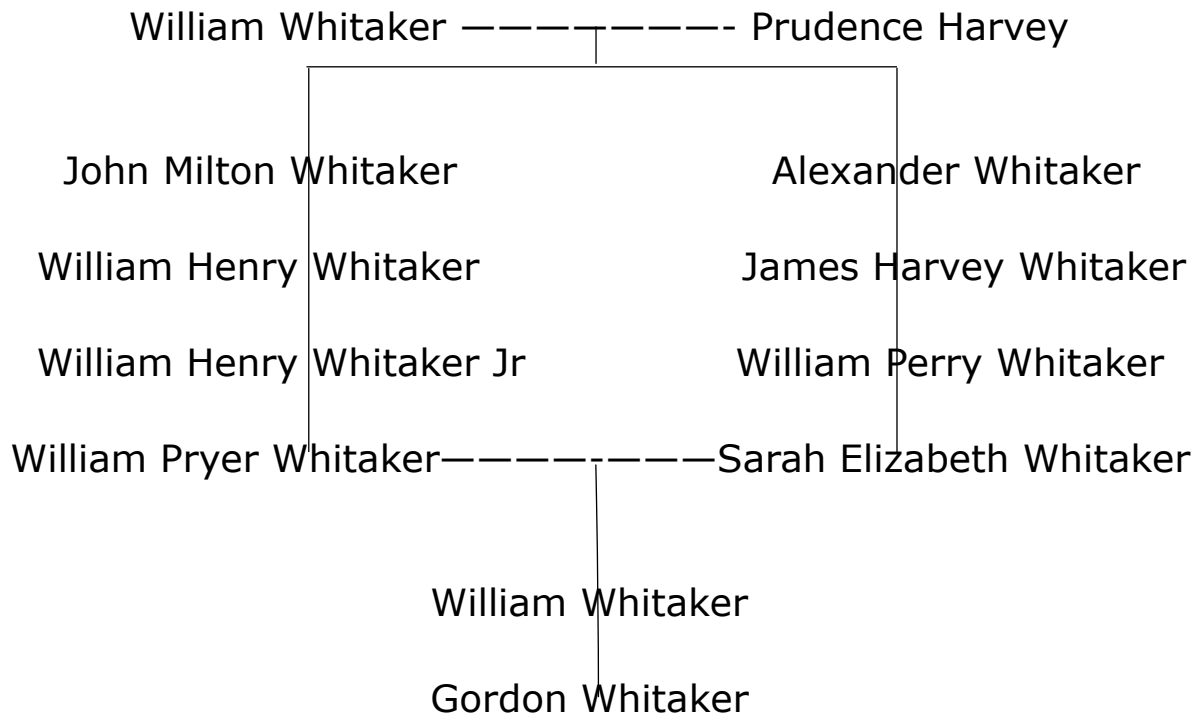
My ancestors, William Perry Whitaker and William Henry Whitaker, joined the Union's 12<sup>th</sup> Kentucky Regiment in December 1861. They fought through the entire Civil War until 1865 and finished with General Sherman in North Carolina. Their regiment lost 41 killed or mortally wounded and 198 died of disease.

They fought earlier under General Thomas at Nashville when he demolished Confederate General Hood's army. General Hood made tragic errors that were disasters for his army. He let my ancestor's army Division, under General Rousseau, slip by to reinforce General Thomas at Nashville. On the way to Nashville, my ancestor's Division dug in at Franklin. In spite of his Confederate General Cleburne's protest, General Hood ordered his frontal attack on the entrenched Union lines at Franklin. Cleburne and thousands of his soldiers were killed. My ancestors were with the two Kentucky regiments that stopped the Confederate attack in the center. It was said they charged on their own when the line was breaking.

Prior to the Nashville battle, William Perry and William Henry fought under General Schofield in the many bloody battles for Sherman's army to capture Atlanta. They were part of the unsung common soldier hero that provided victories for the famous Generals. For example they marched almost 300 miles from the Shiloh area to Louisville to stop General Bragg's invasion of their home state, Kentucky. They survived freezing rains and sleeping on the ground such as at their first battle at Mill Springs, Kentucky in January 1862. There, Confederate General Zollicoffer was killed when he mistakenly rode into Union lines. I visited the "Zollicoffer tree" where he was killed and where dozens of Confederate soldiers were buried in an earthen pile grave.

I am proud and am very fortunate to have these ancestors and their offspring, William Perry's daughter, my grandmother, and William Henry's grandson, my grandfather.

## Whitaker Family Tree



Neil Whitaker (the son of SCWRT member, Gordon Whitaker) with his Great Great Great Grandfather, William H. Whitaker's gravestone.

Please note in the background behind Neil, the gravestone of William H. Whitaker's first wife, Susan Poynter Whitaker, Neil's Great Great Great Grandmother.

\*\*Printed with permission from Neil Whitaker