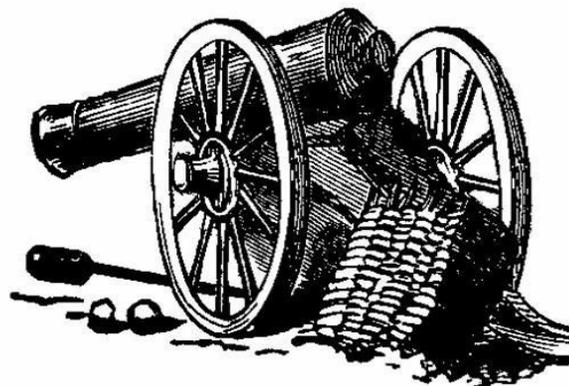


Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable. Inc. 501 (C) (3) non profit corporation  
Founded 1978

# The Grapeshot

January 2020



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## **This month's guest speaker:**

Don't miss our exciting presentation by David Ward "Mr. Lincoln Goes to Gettysburg with Spielberg, Daniel Day-Lewis & Ed Bearss"

Scottsdale Civic Library  
Auditorium 6:00 p.m.  
January 21 2020. Please join  
us for social hour and book  
sales at 4:30

## *About Our Speaker*

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David Ward will speak on the intersection between history and cinema - Lincoln's trip to Gettysburg in November 1863 and Mr. Ward's leading a tour of the battlefield for Steven Spielberg and Daniel Day-Lewis as they prepared for the movie Lincoln, along with their efforts to have Ed Bearss, historian emeritus of the National Park Service, appear in the film.

Mr Ward was founder and first chairman of the Connecticut Civil War Roundtable. He is also the founder of Civil War Tours which operated from 2000 to 2015 with more than 100 tours of battlefields guided by renowned historians. In 2019 Mr. Ward started a new historical interpretation tour company, Civil War Journeys.

He is an established Civil War scholar having written articles for several publications and his book, *The 96th Pennsylvania In The Civil War*, was published in 2018.

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## **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

***Meetings are held at the Scottsdale Civic Center Library Auditorium on the third Tuesday of every month Sept. thru May. Each meeting includes these activities: 4:30 Social Hour and Book Sales, 5:00 Movie, 6:00 lecture***



**Jan 21** - David Ward, “Mr Lincoln Goes To Gettysburg”, with Spielberg, Daniel Day-Lewis & Ed Bearss”

**Feb 18** - David Stewart, “The Impeachment of Andrew Johnson”

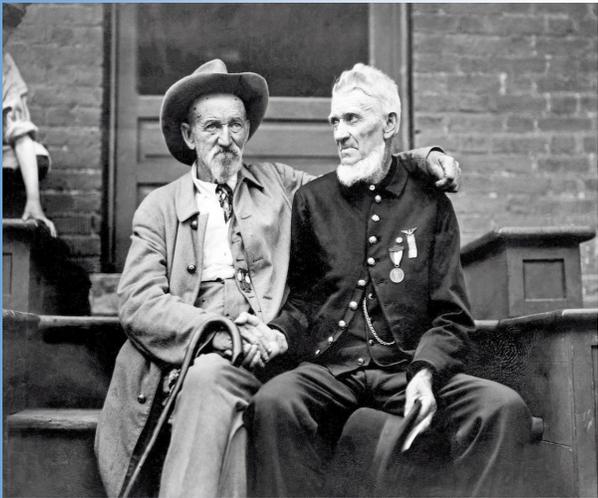
**March 17** - Eric Wittenberg, “Holding The Line On the River of Death: Union Calvary at Chickamauga”

**April 21** - Chris Mackowski, “The Bloody Angle at Spotsylvania”

**May 19** - Lorien Foote, “Retaliation: Bushwackers, Guerrillas, & Prisoners”

# History Discussion Groups

Didn't get enough Civil War at our speaker meetings? Here is the schedule for our History Discussion Group for this season. We encourage you to join us. Our meetings are casual and engaging with a lot of information. Not to mention it's a blast. The discussion group meets in the Gold Room at the Scottsdale Civic Center Library from 6 P.M. to 7:30 P.M.



1/30 What It's Like Consulting on a Civil War Movie. Facilitator: David Ward

2/27 Annual Trivia Contest

3/26 Open Discussion on the Battle of Chickamauga.

Facilitator: TBA

4/30 Open Discussion on the Battle of Spotsylvania. Facilitator: TBA

5/28 Confederate Partisan Rangers. Facilitator: Dick Cox

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***From Around the Campfire...A Message from Our  
President John Bamberl***



This had been a momentous first four months of our new fiscal year. We already have over 400 members and we still have 5 months to go.

We already have \$ 4655.00 in donations from members which will be designated to American Civil War battlefield preservation or the preservation of the Civil War memory.

We had a donation of ten Signed Limited Edition prints of John Clymer from Mrs. Joann Petersen in the memory of her late husband, Bill Petersen. Since they were donated we are offering them at a 30% discount off their appraised value.

We have four left and the proceeds will be donated to the preservation of American Civil War Battlefields.

One of our new members of the Advisory Board, Tom Merrill, is bringing ROTC cadets from the Cesar Chavez High school and last meeting they ran the Greeters table and enlisted 4 new members. It looks like our student recruitment is once more alive.

Our book sales income has almost doubled since we quit selling them and offering them for a tax deductible donation to battlefield preservation.

The board has found another matching grant. This time it is a \$593.00 to \$1.00 grant to buy land at Bristoe Station and we donated \$1000.00 which turned into \$ 593,000.00 and we have received a very nice letter of appreciation from the president of the Civil War Trust.

Last month we had a food drive for the Phoenix Rescue Mission and took in over 150 pounds of food. The mission people were very excited when I dropped the food off.

Our History club that is led by Richard Cox is very active and all members or guests are invited.

Peter Carmichael complimented Brad Cox at dinner by telling him that our SCWRT newsletter was the best one in the country and he said he reads all of them.

Our Advisory Board is getting more active and is becoming a great asset to the Board. If you would like to help our roundtable grow by doing more than just listen to a lecture please call me and we will talk about how you can help.

Because of our energized membership the Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable is one of the leading and most progressive roundtables in the country.

And it is because of our members. Thank you.

**OFFICERS/BOARD MEMBERS**

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**VICE PRESIDENT: Mark Stoler**

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**TREASURER: Michael Harris**

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**Dick Cox**

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**Web Master: Marc Echeveste, Brad Cox**

**Grapeshot: Brad Cox**

**Officers, Staff, and Meetings**

**Meetings @**

**Scottsdale Civic Center Library (Auditorium)**

3839 N Drinkwater Blvd

Scottsdale AZ

**3rd Tuesday of the month**

September thru May (except Nov. Dec. for holidays)

5:40 PM - 7:30 PM \$35 Annual Dues (individual)

\$45 Annual Dues (family)

**EVERYONE WELCOME**

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

SCWRT #274

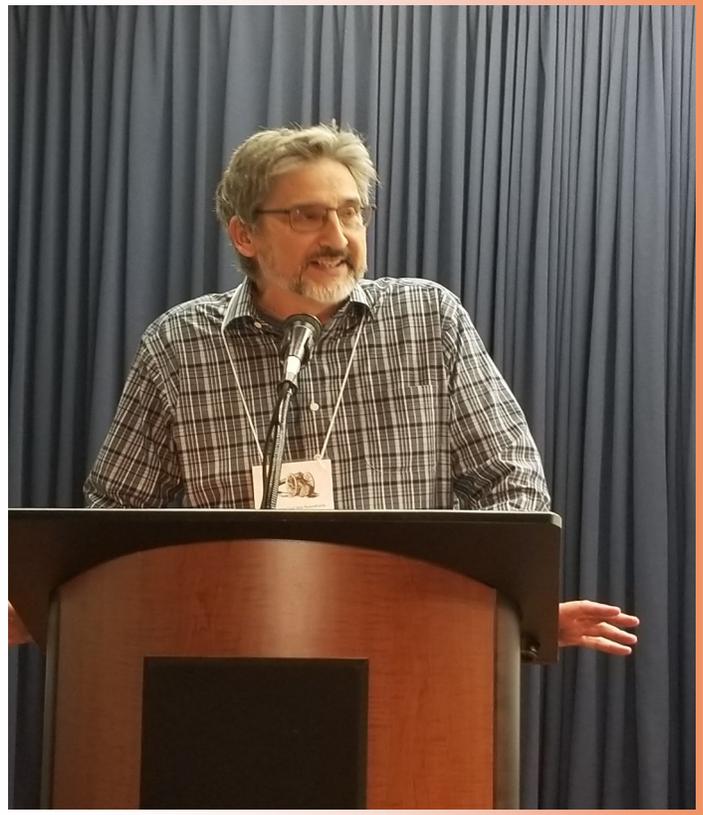
7349 N Via Paseo Del Sur Ste 515

Scottsdale AZ 85258-3749

e-mail: [scottsdalecwr@gmail.com](mailto:scottsdalecwr@gmail.com)

Our December speaker Peter Carmichael and Tom Merrill with the Cesar Chavez High School R.O.T.C.





**I found this article on line and since our topic is on Gettysburg, I thought that blending Civil War history with local history would intrigue some of our readers.**

Al Sieber was one of the greatest "scouts" the United States has ever seen. His truly remarkable skills were admired by all who knew him, Indian and white alike. His exploits are among the most thrilling to be found anywhere, and certainly his impact on the West is incalculable.

Albert Sieber was born in Mingolsheim (near Heidelberg), Germany, 29 February 1844. When he was a child he came to America, first settling in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and then moving to Minnesota, where he enlisted at the age of 18 in Company B of the 1st Minnesota Infantry. During the Civil War he served valiantly at Antietam, Fredericksburg, and Gettysburg. Al was involved in the suicide charge at Plum Run, where he received wounds that were to plague him the rest of his life.

However, after the Civil War, like many young men at that time, the East held no appeal. He decided to go "where the action was": the West. He prospected for a short while in both California and Nevada, but in about 1868 he arrived in the newly-founded town of Prescott, Arizona. He began managing a ranch there and also began learning Indian fighting skills. By 1871 he was well-known throughout the territory for his remarkable scouting skills. He was hired by General George Crook to be Chief of Scouts in 1871. Throughout 1872 and 1873 he was involved in most of the major engagements during Crook's great Tonto campaign. When Crook accepted the surrender of Chalipun at Camp Verde on 6 April 1873, Sieber remained at Camp Verde to help manage affairs there.

In February 1875 Sieber was asked to help transfer the Yavapais and Tonto Apaches at Camp Verde to San Carlos, when the Camp Verde Reservation was terminated. This was an extremely dangerous operation, and it was mostly due to Sieber that the operation was successful. This transfer was among the most tragic in the history of Arizona. It was carried out in the dead of winter, and involved the elderly, women, and children of a most unfortunate people. About 25 children were born en route to San Carlos, and a real tragedy occurred near the Mazatzal Mountains which resulted in the deaths of several Indians. It was Sieber's incredible bravery that helped prevent a truly horrendous massacre. From 1875 on, Sieber was mostly in San Carlos country.

In 1882 a serious outbreak occurred at San Carlos that required Sieber's expertise. The Indians that broke out (headed by Na-ti-o-tish) were finally cornered at Big Dry Wash (near what is now Chevelon Creek), and a battle ensued. Sieber again proved his fearless bravery in this engagement--the last battle with Apaches within the territory of Arizona itself. After this engagement Sieber was often sent on spy missions into Mexico.

In 1883 Crook led a major expedition into the Sierra Madre of Mexico (against the Chiricahuas who followed Geronimo). Sieber was a principal scout in this expedition. He continued to serve the army in the early campaigns against Geronimo, but he was not present at the final capture.

On 1 June 1887 Sieber was shot in the leg at the time of the outbreak of the Apache Kid at San Carlos. (See my page on the [Apache Kid](#).) The wound crippled Sieber for the rest of his life, and apparently he became rather bitter about it. He, however, continued to serve at San Carlos until Major John L. Bullis fired him in December 1890. Basically, Sieber felt that Bullis was unfair in his dealings with the Apaches at San Carlos. After he was fired, Sieber went into prospecting in the Globe, Arizona, area. He also prospected in the Sierra Anchas, north of Globe. When it was decided that a dam (Roosevelt) should be built on Salt River in Tonto Basin, Sieber was hired to lead an Apache crew to work on the roads leading to the dam. On 19 February 1907 a large boulder impeded construction of the road, and Sieber got underneath the rock to inspect it. It rolled over on him, and he was killed. Some feel, however, that some Apaches rolled the rock over on him. No one knows if that is true, but that rumor has been in this area ever since. Anyway, Sieber was buried in the old Globe cemetery, and a great tombstone was erected at his grave shortly after. Governor George W. P. Hunt convinced the Arizona Territorial Legislature that it should be built for him. The monument still stands as a fitting tribute to a remarkable man. Also, a stone was erected by Apache workmen at the site where the boulder killed him. It is still located just north of what is now the Roosevelt Dam bridge.

I wish I could convey to my readers just how much Sieber contributed to history in this area. I, personally have met many individuals who still have stories to tell: Apache and white alike. The great Western historian, Dan L. Thrapp, has written a wonderful book about Sieber, and I recommend it highly (*Al Sieber, Chief of Scouts*). I promise you the book will enthrall you. Sieber was a most amazing individual, and this area will always hold his memory in high regard

A personal note: I often go up to the old graveyard to ponder the lives of the many old pioneers buried there. There are many: old Judge Aaron Hackney, frontier journalist; Phineas Clanton-- last of the notorious Clanton brothers of Tombstone; Sheriff Glenn Reynolds, killed at the time of the disappearance of the Apache Kid into the mists of legend. But, it is Sieber's grave that continues to capture my imagination. Last year I went up there to honor his memory on Memorial Day. While there I saw an Apache lady just leaving the area. When I arrived at Sieber's grave I was surprised to something new there. Four large obsidian rocks had been placed at the head of the grave. We call those rocks "Apache Tears" in Arizona. Now, I don't really know if it was the Apache lady who placed them there, but I like to think so. You see, Sieber was thought of highly among some Apaches. When he died he was mourned by many in San Carlos. By others he was truly despised. (I have heard from them too.) However one looks at Sieber, it cannot be denied that his impact on this section of Arizona can never be questioned. He was truly a giant, in an age of giants





# Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable MEMBERSHIP

Please Join Us!

Your membership enables SCWRT to help with battlefield preservation and attract the best Civil War experts from around the country as keynote speakers at our meetings, September-thru-May!

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