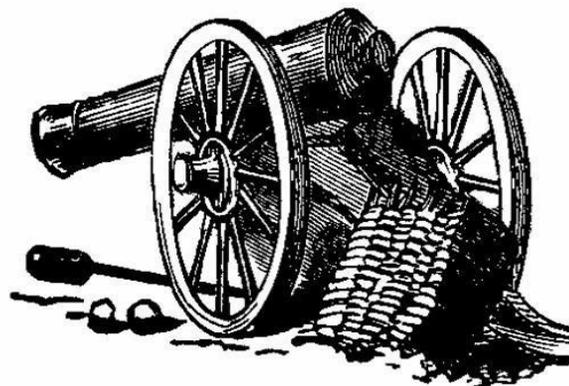


The Grapeshot

Newsletter

November
2018



This month's guest speakers:
Wayne Motts and James Hessler



Wayne Motts and James Hessler

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Please help us welcome Wayne and James as they present "Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg: A Guide to The Most Famous Attack in America History."

Scottsdale Civic Library
Auditorium 6:00 p.m.
November 13, 2018

About the Speakers

Wayne E. Motts is the Chief Executive Officer of the National Civil War Museum, one of the largest museums in the country dedicated to the study , interpretation, preservation and exhibition of the American Civil War.

His professional resume is an impressive list of nationally recognized organizations. Wayne has served as the Chief Executive Officer of the Adams County Historical Society, the curator of the Cumberland County Historical Society, and Senior Research Historian for the TravelBrains Corporation. Wayne has been a Licensed Battlefield Guide at the Gettysburg National Military Park since 1988. In 2013, Wayne received the Emeritus Guide designation for more than twenty five years of service, and as such was one of the youngest guides to be recognized with that honor.

Wayne received his Bachelor of Arts with a Major in Military History from the Ohio State University. He received his Master of Arts in American History from Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania.

Wayne is an accomplished author, publishing books and articles about the war including *Trust in God and Fear Nothing, General Lewis A. Armistead*, and (with James Hessler) *Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg: A Guide to The Most Famous Attack in American History*. Wayne can be seen on numerous television documentaries and videos produced by the History Channel, the TNT Network, and the A&E Channel.

An accomplished speaker, he has given hundreds of presentations about the war in 20 different states to a wide variety of groups, historical bodies, and organizations including the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.

James Hessler has been a Licensed Battlefield Guide at Gettysburg National Military Park since 2003.

His book *Sickles at Gettysburg (Savas Beatie, 2009)* was awarded the R.E. Lee Civil War Round Table's "Bachelder Coddington Award" and the Gettysburg Civil War Round Table's "Distinguished Book Award" as the most outstanding work on the Gettysburg Campaign.

His latest book, *Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg*, was co-authored with Wayne Motts and was released in July 2015. It has been received favorably by both readers and critics as the first battlefield guide ever published on the famous July 3 assault.

He has been a guest on Travel Channel, NPR, PCN-TV, Breitbart News, Civil War Radio, and *Gettysburg Daily*. He was one of the primary content designers for the Civil War Trust's mobile Gettysburg application and animated maps. Jim has written several articles for *Gettysburg Magazine*, and other national publications. He is a frequent speaker at Civil War Round Tables and has taught courses for the Gettysburg Foundation and Harrisburg (PA) Area Community College.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Meetings are held at the Scottsdale Civic Center Library Auditorium from 5:40 to 7:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of every month Sept. thru May.



Nov. 13 Wayne Motts and James Hessler, *Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg: A Guide to the Most Famous Attack in American History*

Dec. 11 James Hayney, *Lincoln: Lies, Legends and Myths*

Jan. 15 Ed Bearss, *Answering Your Questions on the Civil War*

Feb. 19 James Conroy, *The Hampton Roads Conference*

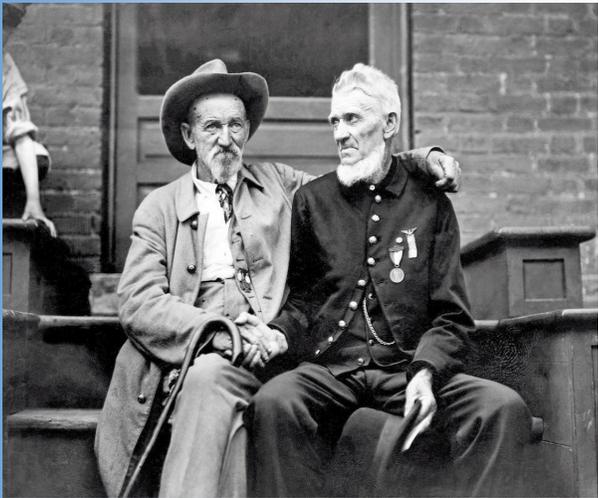
March 19 Howard Strouse, *Civil War Atrocities*

April 16 Frank O'Reilly, *Battle in the Balance: The Union Breakthrough at Fredericksburg*

May 21 Greg Biggs, *How Johnny Got His Gun: The Confederate Supply System*

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, it is 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.



November 15: *Pickett's Charge* facilitated by Joey Tickle

January 24: *Trivia Contest* with Dick Cox

February 28: *Civil War Name Game* led by Dick Cox

March 28: *Civil War Atrocities*, Howard Strouse facilitator

April 26: *Battle of Fredericksburg*, presented by John Bamberl

LETTERS FROM THE FRONT

Ed.: *The editors invite readers to submit their own stories of Civil War ancestors, battlefield visits, monthly speaker reactions or results of your own research into the limitless range of Civil War topics. Stories can be submitted to Brad Cox via email at <bbscox@cox.net> This month's letter brings to life the story of a rebel officer who fought at many of the war's storied places. Powhatan Boling Whittle is an ancestor of our member Jim Davis. Research by Jim Davis and Brad Cox and written by Brad Cox.*



Last season I began a conversation with our long time member Jim Davis. Jim shared with me some information about his ancestors that served in the Civil War. This past off season we started researching these relatives. The list kept growing on a daily basis. This list has now reached a staggering figure. To date Jim has identified 111 ancestors that fought on the Confederate side and 7 on the Union side. Jim now has stacks of papers full of notes and information. It is somewhat overwhelming to sort out and keep focused on who is who. I believe it would be hard pressed to find any-

one else that can claim so many ancestors that were involved in this conflict.

I spent nearly 5 hours at Jim's house the other day and we were able to pick out some of those that have very rich and interesting stories.

One of the more colorful is that of **Powhatan Boling Whittle**. Powhatan was named after his ancestor chieftain Powhatan who was the leader of the Indian tribes around Jamestown Virginia. Pocahontas was Chief Powhatan's daughter.

Powhatan Boling Whittle was born on June 26th 1829 in South Hill, Mecklenburg County Virginia. His family owned and operate the Whittle grist mill. Powhatan attended the University of Virginia. He was a large man for the times standing over 6 foot tall and weighing over 200 pounds.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, Powhatan organized company G of the 38th Virginia Infantry and was the commander of the company with the rank of Lt. Col. Company G was known as the Mecklenburg Rifles. The 38th Virginia was mustered into service in Danville Virginia in June 1861.

The 38th Virginia was engaged in many battles that included Williamsburg on May 5th 1862. In this battle Powhatan was wounded in the right leg. The wound was not very serious and Powhatan was back in action in time for their next engagement at Malvern Hill on July 1st 1862. In this battle Powhatan was wounded in the left arm which resulted in it being amputated. Powhatan was not with his regiment during the 2nd battle of Manassas, still recovering from his wound.

The 38th Virginia then fought at Antietam Maryland on September 17th 1862. The 38th Virginia was attached to General James Longstreet's 1st Corps and would remain with him until he was transferred to the western theater. They went on to fight at Fredericksburg Virginia, from December 11th to the 15th 1862. In early April of 1863, the 38th Virginia went with Longstreet on the Suffolk Expedition.

Longstreet's 1st Corps joined up with the rest of Lee's army in late June 1863 at Culpeper Virginia and prepared for Lee's invasion to the North. The 38th Virginia was attached to Longstreet's Corps, Pickett's Division and Armistead's brigade. The 38th was joined with the 9th, 14th, 53rd, and 57th Virginia regiments, giving it a strength of just over 2,000 men.

On July 1st 1863 the Battle of Gettysburg began. Armistead's brigade saw little action on the first two days of fighting, although much of Longstreet's Corps were fighting at the Peach Orchard on July 2nd, Pickett's division and Armistead's brigade did not participate.

On the third day of battle, July 3rd, Lee ordered a cannonading all along the Seminary Ridge aimed at Cemetery Ridge with the hopes of softening the Union line. Lee had failed on the first two days with assaults on Culp's Hill, Little Round top and probing for weak points in the Union positions. His plan was to hit the center with a massive charge. Because Pickett's division had the freshest troops, he was chosen to make this attack.

Pickett's brigades lined up in the trees along Seminary Ridge and stretched for over a mile with over 12,000 men. They stepped forward and started their march across an open field a mile away from Cemetery Ridge. Their objective was Cemetery Hill. It was a very warm and muggy day. The air was thick with smoke from the cannons that hung like fog. This condition only worsened with musket fire as the battle progressed. Armistead's brigade lined up behind Garnett's brigade. The 38th Virginia was positioned on the far left which was partially in the Spangler woods. Next to the 38th was the 59th then the 53rd the 9th and then the 14th on the far right. Although this brigade was taking casualties, it didn't suffer nearly as much as Garnett's brigade. As they neared the Emmitsburg Road, the objective was now focused on a copse of trees to their front, for it was the only visible land mark. Garnett's brigade was devastated with flanking fire and double canister shots. Armistead's brigade climbed the fence and crossed the road. At this point the 38th and 59th Virginians were being shredded by flanking fire to their left. Commander Col. Edmond's of the 38th was trying to position his men to check the flanking menace when he took a bullet to the head. Powhatan had already taken a shot to his right arm, the only arm he had left, but he kept pushing on. With Edmond's killed Powhatan took command and was then struck a second time hitting his left leg. Command now fell to Major Cabell. Powhatan now laying on the battlefield, ordered Cabell to pull back across the Emmitsburg Road. The 8th Ohio infantry had seized the colors of the 38th. With the 38th and 59th Virginians being cut to pieces, the 53rd, 9th and 14th pushed forward and were able to breach the Union line briefly. General Lewis Armistead fell mortally wounded. He was taken into custody and died the next day.

The 38th Virginia went into battle with 400 men. 55 were killed, 135 wounded and 40 either missing or captured. In a battle of this magnitude, charging over open fields and subjected to canister fire, men go missing. If you take a direct hit from a canister shot you disappear.

Powhatan has been listed on many publications as being mortally wounded and some have him as being captured. There is no truth to these accounts. Powhatan not only survived Gettysburg, he survived the war. Powhatan was promoted to Colonel and after recovering from his wounds again, joined his regiment as its Commander

The 38th Virginia after Gettysburg didn't see much action until they regrouped and tried to fill the ranks and make it a viable fighting regiment. They went back into action at the Battle of Cold Harbor and again sustained awful loses. After the Battle of Cold Harbor, Powhatan retired to the Quartermasters Department and Military Court System.

After the War, Powhatan moved to Georgia and practiced law and was Judge of the Corporation Court for the city of Macon Georgia. He lived in Valdosta Georgia and served on the Legislature. Powhatan passed away in Valdosta on February 21st 1905 at the age of 75. He was buried in the Davies Whittle Cemetery, Mecklenburg, Virginia.



Powhatan Whittle, CSA

From Around the Campfire...A Message from Our President



It was my honor to attend the Color Bearer's conference and represent our Roundtable. As you recall, last year we made a \$5500.00 donation to the Franklin Trust through the American Battlefield Trust. They gave us a \$21.17 match for every dollar we donated. This turned our donation into \$ 116,435. It was my pleasure to have dinner in Franklin with the President of the Battle of Franklin Trust and they were most appreciative

The Battle of Franklin, fought on November 30, 1864, was one of the fiercest and bloodiest battles of the Civil War. Near the end of 1864, Confederate General John Bell Hood launched a last ditch effort to strike back at General John M. Schofield and the Union Army. His plans resulted in inconceivable suffering at Franklin—around 10,000 men, 70% of them Confederates and 14 of them Confederate Generals became casualties.

Despite the importance of the Battle of Franklin, for many years its legacy was largely forgotten in the growing city. Save for a small tract preserving the Carter House, the historic landscape saw many disturbing developments, including a Pizza Hut and a strip mall on top of the site of the day's heaviest fighting near the Carter House. This is the only Civil War Battlefield site that has been reclaimed. The city had built a golf course just north of the Carnton Plantation where General Loring's 3700 men attacked across which has been purchased and turned back into a battlefield.

In 2005 the Pizza hut property was bought and restored to its 1864 appearance. In 2012 the Trust and its partners secured the strip mall , another acre and a half , and thus scored another major victory in the historic journey to reclaim the heart of a battlefield that was once considered lost forever.

And still preservation efforts continue and Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable is playing a big role.

Dr John A Bamberl

President

Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable

480-699-5844

Fax 480-659-8147

jbamberl@aol.com



Carnton Plantation House, Franklin, Tennessee

Officers, Staff, and Meetings

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Scottsdale Civic Center Library (Auditorium)

3839 N Drinkwater Blvd

Scottsdale AZ

3rd Tuesday of the month

September thru May

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

\$45 Annual Dues (family)

EVERYONE WELCOME

I Didn't Know That...

Did you know that the phrase “Whistle while you work” dates back to Civil War days and before?

For most of us, this would mean a way of entertaining a monotonous rigger or even testing dexterity. This actually was derived from slave operated plantations in the south, before, during and after the Civil War. Plantations back then were communities. The main house was opulent and stately with every amenity available at the time. The liability for these structures was the kitchen. Open fireplaces and cooking practices often resulted in the loss of the entire home. A new design was implemented and adopted. The kitchen would be a detached structure. This not only served as a safety feature, it allowed the master to monitor undue contact with the servants. Monitoring included the assurance that the slaves weren't sneaking a bite to eat. After all the meals were enticing. To combat this threat, the servants were required to whistle when they transported the meals from the kitchen to the dinner table. Have you ever tried to whistle and eat at the same time? This proved to be affective. This practice was well documented at the Carter house in Franklin Tennessee, it was called the “Whistle Walk”



The bullet-riddled siding on the Carter Plantation kitchen, Franklin, Tennessee

Scottsdale Civil War Round Table

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! Please fill out this form and return it with your check payable to Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable. Mail to this address:

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*Our monthly newsletter "The Grapeshot" will be emailed to you.

Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable is approved by the IRS as a 501 c (3) non-profit organization. Contributions are tax deductible for federal and state income tax returns. Check with your tax consultant.

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