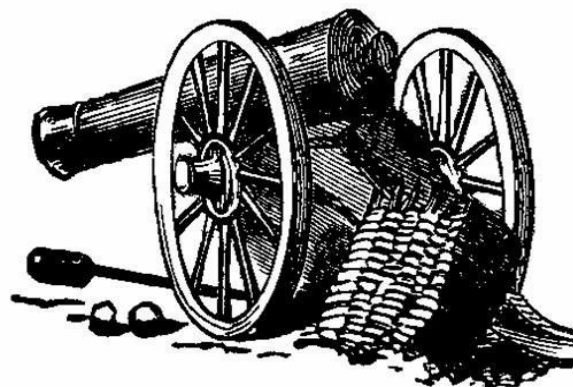


The Grapeshot

September
2019



This month's guest speaker:

Please join us as we welcome Mr. Lawrence Hewitt for the kick-off of our 2019-2020 speaker series. Mr. Hewitt will deliver his presentation "Fighting Dick Anderson: Lee's Most Maligned General."

Follow us on [Facebook](#)

Scottsdale Civic Library
Auditorium 6:00 p.m.
September 17, 2019

About Our Speaker

Though he was one of only seven men to serve as a Corps Commander under Lee, Anderson remains the least known and least regarded despite serving throughout the war, from Charleston at the beginning to Lee's final retreat. Come and listen to Mr Hewitt's insightful take on General Anderson.

Mr Hewitt has lectured and written extensively on the Civil War. Among his publications are Port Hudson, Confederate Bastion on the Mississippi, Leadership During the Civil War, four volumes of Confederate Generals in the Western Theater, Lee and His Generals, the multi-volume Confederate Generals in the Trans-Mississippi, and To Succeed or Perish for which he won the 2016 General Basil W. Duke Literary Award. He recently finished a history of Port Hudson Civil War photographs and is writing biographies of Richard Anderson and David Farragut.

Mr Hewitt is a native of Louisville, Kentucky. After receiving a Ph.D from Louisiana State University he taught at Southeastern Louisiana University. He was also manager of the Port Hudson and Camp Moore Historic Sites and is past president of the Baton Rouge Civil War Roundtable.

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.



Sept 19 - Lawrence Hewitt, "Fighting Dick Anderson: Lee's Most Maligned General."

Oct 15 - Linda Barnickel, "Milliken's Bend: Forgotten Battle On The Mississippi"

Nov 12 - Dennis Frye, "Antietam Shadows: Mystery & Myth"

Dec 10 - Peter Carmichael, "The War for the Common Soldier"

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"

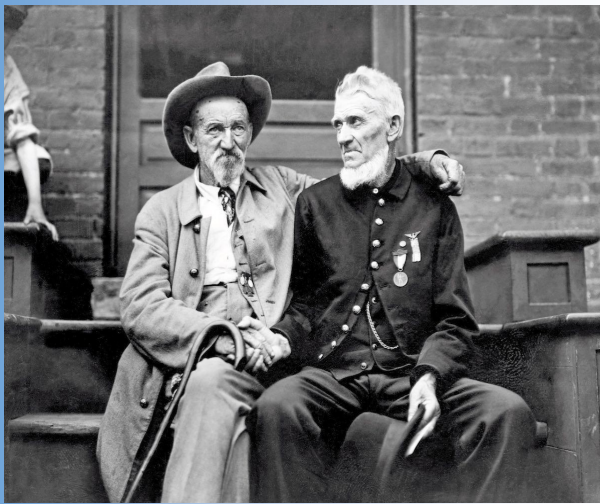
March 17 - Eric Wittenberg, "Holding The Line On the River of Death: Union Calvary at Chickamauga"

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.



9/26 Lee's Lieutenants, An Open Discussion on R.E. Lee's Principal Commanders

10/24 United States Colored Troops. Facilitator: Dick Cox

11/21 Open Discussion on the Battle of Antietam. Facilitator: TBA

12/19 The Real Lives of Billy Yank and Johnny Reb, Facilitator: Dick Cox

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

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



The Civil War Congress will be meeting in St. Louis on September 21, 2019. As a founding board member I have been asked to give a talk on “The Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable’s Board’s Common Sense approach to Membership Recruitment and Marketing.” The main part of my talk is emphasizing that our roundtable has a well-organized board that works well as a team. The team is divided into individual committees and each committee has specified duties and as a

a team we coordinate our activities. Also we are all good friends and are in continual communication. And our strong committal to our roundtable attributes to our continued growth.

I emphasize our Mission Statement and make it clear that the best marketing tool we have is a happy roundtable member. The Mission of the Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable is to inform the public about the American Civil War and contribute to Civil War Preservation and assist in the retention of the Civil War memory.

And we do that in many ways:

We are a Co-Sponsored Public Program with the Scottsdale Public Library System which assists us in running very well organized meetings. The library markets our programs for us in their monthly magazine and we in turn open our programs to the general public. Over 50% of our new members are a result of our affiliation with the library. And 84% of the population of Scottsdale have library cards.

(John Bamberl's September message continued)

The SCWRT Board has an advisory Board which assists us and functions to advise us and serve on committees and attend our board meetings. Several of our present board members were advisory board members prior to stepping up to the board. And the advisors are encouraged to attend the board meetings to offer their advice.

We are a 501c 3 Tax Exempt corporation which allows our members to deduct their dues, donations, book contributions, mileage to and from the meetings and mileage to and from committee meetings.

One of our board members keeps our web site up to date with educational and marketing material. There is material available to read prior to every lecture. We also have a very well supported Facebook page which has over 400 followers.

We work very actively with several museums and history groups to share articles in our newsletters and they are very helpful in the distribution of our Rack Cards. We have a very active News release and public relations committee to distribute information about all our activities.

We work actively with the Scottsdale Unified School District to put on Civil War programs at middle schools and support Civil War art contests and Civil War essay contests. It is important to support Civil War education at all age levels.

It is very important for our very well-organized and successful roundtables to share our knowledge and success stories with the over 450 roundtables in the country.

Even though we are 2,220 miles West of Gettysburg we have one of the most progressive and fastest growing Roundtables in the country.

John Bamberl, President Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable, [jbamberl @aol.com](mailto:jbamberl@aol.com)

Officers, Staff, and Meetings

OFFICERS/BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT: Dr. John Bamberl 480-699-5844

VICE PRESIDENT: Mark Stoler

SECRETARY: Hal Bliss

TREASURER: Michael Harris

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Genealogy: Chairman: Brad Cox, Cal Thompson, Jim Davis

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Web Master: Marc Echeveste, Brad Cox

Grapeshot: Brad Cox, Jim Fritsch

I Didn't Know That...

Editor's note: For the September Grapeshot our resident Civil War scholar Mr. Gary Dorris presents his original essay "The Diary of Mary Chestnut."

Every day she would write something in her diary. Usually, she wrote about the people of Charleston, South Carolina and her observations about her new country, The Confederate States of America. And her country was at War!

While most written recollections from the Civil War emphasize military strategies, information about battles, or focus on famous individuals, Mary Chestnut had a different interest. In her words we can see the growing dissatisfaction of the Southern aristocrats and politicians with the United States government, then the exuberance of the citizenry at the secession of South Carolina and the formation of the new Confederate nation, next their pride in early military victories, later the gradual realization of the tremendous toll the war brought, and then the agony as they realized their cause was lost.

Mary's father had been a Governor of South Carolina and the family lived primarily in Charleston where they were served by household slaves. Mary attended the city's best finishing school where she began a life-long interest in writing. At seventeen she married James Chesnut, a lawyer and politician who became a U.S. Senator in 1858. Although her family and her husband's family owned slaves, Mary was not silent about her belief that slavery demeaned the other positive aspects of Southern heritage and culture. She once wrote to a friend, *"Can we not, with the great minds in the South, find some way to end this (slavery), it breeds hypocrisy."* And noting that some slave owners took advantage of female slaves, she added, *"It undermines the sanctity of marriage. God forgive us, but ours is a monstrous system."*

However, James viewed slavery as legal and practical, but he only periodically owned any slaves, and then usually as housekeepers. James and Mary must have had some interesting conversations as she was known for speaking her mind, of course within the genteel courtesies of the day. Then, in December, 1860, James became the first Senator to resign his seat after South Carolina seceded and was later commissioned as a Major in the Confederate army. Mary started her new diary and, in one of her first entries she wrote, *"It has come to this. We are divorced, North and South, because we hate each other so. Or so it seems. Are not my old friends still my friends?"* And, *"We should not have to leave the United States but we must. The Northern people can be our friends but the (U.S.) government is no friend of South Carolina."*

In early 1861, James obtained rooms on the top floor of a hotel, which overlooked Charleston Harbor, to be close to his garrison. Mary was aware that Southern forces intended to take over all nearby federal facilities and had already forced the evacuation of several forts and docks. She knew that, if the Union forces tried to stay, it would probably mean War!

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(Gary Dorris, continued from previous page)

Mary was worried. Her husband had been one of three Southern officers to row out to the Fort to meet with Major Anderson to offer an ultimatum; surrender or be attacked! She only had to wait until early on the morning of April 12. *"At the heavy booming of cannon, I sprang out of bed, and on my knees, I prayed as I have never prayed before. There was a sound of stir all over the house, pattering of feet in the corridor-all seemed hurrying."* Mary then went to rooftop and noticed, *"The women were wild, they prayed while the men stood yelling their encouragement to the gunners."* Then on a more personal note she wrote, *"I knew my husband was rowing about in a boat somewhere in that dark bay, and who could tell what each volley accomplished of death and destruction."*

Mary's husband survived the battle, the Union soldiers left Charleston Harbor, and the Confederates moved into Fort Sumter. Charleston settled back into daily routines, but Mary was pensive; *"This Southern Confederacy must be supported now by calm determination and cool brains. We have risked all and we must play our best, for the state is life or death. Woe to those who began the war if they were not in bitter earnest."* She noted the excitement and optimism in Charleston where most believed that the South would quickly win the War. *"Charleston is crowded with soldiers....they fear the war will be over before they get sight of the fun."* And about a dinner she and her husband hosted: *"We enjoyed the merriest, maddest dinner we have had yet. The men were more audaciously wise and witty than usual"* and she added, *"For once in my life I listened."*

She visited Richmond after the Confederates won the first battle at Bull Run (which most Southerners called Manassas): *"The city seemed lifted up, and everyone appeared to walk on air."*

The Union soon blockaded major Southern ports, so delivery of imported goods became erratic. To avoid capture, ships had to "run the blockade" to deliver the goods. Their arrivals caused a profound change in mood: *"An iron steamer has run the blockade at Savannah. We raise our wilted heads like flowers after a shower."*

The Southern Press seemed to run unfettered throughout the war, printing attacks on the Confederate government, even detailing troop movements. *"The north does not need spies - for our own newspapers tell every word there is to be told by friend or foe."*

In April 1862, the Union Naval and Army forces captured New Orleans, the South's largest city and most important port: *"New Orleans gone-and with it the Confederacy? Are we not cut in two? That Mississippi ruins us if lost"*

In early October 1862, she wrote, *"If anything can reconcile me to the idea of a horrid failure after all of our efforts to make good our independence of Yankees, it is Mr. Lincoln's proclamation freeing the Negroes... slavery will surely end."* And, *"Some fear the Negroes will riot, but I think most will not-they also want peace."*

As the Confederate military situation worsened, so did the political climate: *"The Confederacy has been beaten to death by the politicians"*. And, *"If it is as the newspapers say, why waste our blood? Why should we fight and die when it is no use?"*

As did many women in both North and South, Mary volunteered time at local hospitals to care for wounded soldiers. *"Who are these southern boys, sometimes I can barely understand the language they speak, except suffering always sounds the same."* And, *"The wounds of war are so harsh, perhaps the dead are better."*

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As General Sherman's Union troops advanced on Atlanta in late 1864, they left a wide path of destruction: *"They say no living thing is found in Sherman's track, only chimneys and telegraph poles to carry the news of his attacks backwards."* A few weeks later after the fall of Atlanta: *"The agony is over. There is no hope, but we will try to have no fear."*

After Christmas of 1864: *"Darkest of all Decembers ever my life has known, sitting here by the embers stunned, helpless, alone."*

On Lincoln's assassination: *"This is dreadful. Who caused this calamity, for we will all be blamed?"* A few days later: *"What will the Yankees do to us now? Will retributions begin?"*

In one of her final entries after the surrender of the last large Southern army: *"We are scattered, stunned, the remnant of heart left alive is filled with brotherly hate. Whose fault? Everybody blames someone else. Only the dead heroes left stiff and dark on the battlefield escape."*

After the War, Mary stopped writing daily in her diary, but she preserved it.

In 1981, C. Van Woodward wrote "Mary Chesnut's Civil War Diary" which won a Pulitzer Prize. It is still the most historically accurate version and the only one I recommend.

Contact the author at gadorris2@gmail.com

Dear Members

We are asking that our members please make payments for dues and donations by our first meeting on September 17th 2019. We have operating expenses that need to be taken care of so we can continue to provide the quality programs that everyone has come to expect and enjoy.

Thank you for your understanding.

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:

Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable

#274 7349 N. Via Paseo Del Sur Ste 515 Scottsdale, AZ 85258-3749

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100% of your contribution (minus expenses) goes to battlefield preservation.

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

*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.

www.scottsdalecwr.org

Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable

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