



C-SPAN American History TV (C-SPAN2) will be filming the March meeting for broadcast at a later date.

# The Grapeshot

## Newsletter

### March 2026



*The Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable*

*Welcomes*

***Roseann Bacha-Garza***

*as she presents*

***The Civil War***

***On the Rio Grande***

Scottsdale Civic Center

Library

Copper Auditorium

Tuesday, March 17, 2026

6:00 pm

Doors open at 5:00 pm

for social hour, meet the speaker,  
book sale, and Civil War Video

Join the meeting on YouTube:

<https://youtube.com/live/QHcD63yumBU?feature=share>

Follow us on [Facebook](#)

Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable, Inc.

501 (c) (3) non profit Corporation , Founded 1978

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## About Our Speaker

### ***Roseann Bacha-Garza***



Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable is proud to host Roseann Bacha-Garza. She will present “The Civil War on the Rio Grande.”

Ms. Bacha-Garza will highlight the region's significance during the Civil War, including its role in the Confederate cotton trade and the social histories of its inhabitants. The development of the Rio Grande Valley Civil War Trail project will be discussed and its importance in relation to the Texas borderlands and US Civil War history.

Ms. Bacha-Garza is an Associate Professor of Anthropology and Public Heritage as well as the Projects Director of the Community Historical Archaeology Project at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. The author of two books on the Civil War in the Rio Grande Valley, she was a 2020 nominee for the University of Texas Regent's Outstanding Teaching Award and was a 2021 nominee for Texan of the Year by the Dallas Morning News.

Tuesday, March 17, 2026 at 6:00 PM

Join the meeting on YouTube:

<https://youtube.com/live/QHcD63yumBU?feature=share>

## **Scottsdale Civil War Round Table Speakers & Programs September 2025 -May 2026**

**March 17** - Roseann Bacha-Garza, "Civil War in the Rio Grande Valley"

**April 21** - Lynn Herman, "The New Mexico Campaign & Glorieta Pass"

**May 19** - Neil Chatelain, "Treasure & Empire in the Civil War"

### **GENTLE REMINDER**

*For those of you attending events in the library auditorium,  
please remember to turn off your phones and  
keep voices down during the presentation. Thanks!*

## Letter from our President

*Mark Stoler*



Our week of events with Curt Fields was a great success. We had 200 in the audience for Curt as General Grant at our February meeting, the Roundtable's largest turnout since 2019. The following evening Curt appeared as the General at a dinner attended by 60 at the Sun City/Surprise Roundtable. On Thursday, President Grant spoke during the day to 75 seniors at the Museum of the West, and a further hundred that evening at the museum on the president's Indian policy. We are discussing with Curt a return during the 2027-28 season.

The March meeting marks a first for the Roundtable as C-SPAN American History TV will be here to record our meeting and speaker. The Roundtable was approached by a producer for the network last month and with the Scottsdale library's concurrence we've given permission for the filming. Get ready for your closeup!

With the success of the Picacho Peak trip, the Roundtable Board is considering another day excursion during the 2026-27 season.

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We are always on the lookout for members who would like to work to support our organization. It takes a lot to keep it going. If you are interested in becoming more involved please contact me at [stolerscwr@gmail.com](mailto:stolerscwr@gmail.com) or speak with me or other Board members at one of our meetings.

## **NOTICE: CHANGE OF LOCATION!**

### **ROUNDTABLE MEETINGS FOR 2026-27 SEASON**

The Scottsdale Civic Center Library Auditorium will be unavailable to the Roundtable from September 2026 through January of 2027. During those months, Roundtable meetings will be held in the auditorium of the Mustang Branch of the Scottsdale Library System. Starting time for our meetings remains unchanged.

The Mustang Library is located at 10101 N 90th St in Scottsdale, just south of Shea Blvd, and has ample free parking available.

The location is very close to the 101 and is easily accessed from the north using the Shea exit and from the south via the 90th St/Pima Rd exit. For members in North Scottsdale and North Phoenix the drive to Mustang is a few minutes shorter than to Civic Center. For our East Valley members, though Mustang is further north on the 101, the driving time should be about the same as the Civic Center because Mustang is so close to the 101. For those in central Scottsdale and Phoenix or in Paradise Valley it will probably be a few minutes longer drive.

We apologize for the inconvenience and will continue to provide you with reminders and more details as September approaches.

## 2025-2026 Roundtable Officers, Board & Committees Officers

President: Mark Stoler (203)645-1387; [stolerscwr@gmail.com](mailto:stolerscwr@gmail.com)  
Vice President: Richard Cox  
Treasurer: Bruce Washburn  
Secretary: Hal Bliss

(All Officers serve until 6/1/2027)

### Board Members

Tom Merrill, John Taylor, Pat Toftoy (until 6/1/26)

Elise Moore, Jim Payne, Cheri Stegall (until 6/1/27)

### Committees

Program:	John Taylor, Cheri Stegall
Grapeshot:	Richard Cox
Greeters:	Jim Payne
History:	Richard Cox
News Media:	Jim Payne
Event Support & YouTube:	Tom Merrill
Book Sale:	Pat Toftoy
Membership:	Mark Stoler, Cheri Stegall
Travel & Tours:	Elise Moore
Grapeshot Editor:	Barbara Ray
Database Management:	John Machir

## Photos from February meeting



**Above:** Well-attended social hour to meet our speaker Curt Fields, socialize, and peruse the excellent book selections

**Below left:** Curt Fields as General U.S. Grant

**Below right:** John Bamberl, Richard Cox, and Curt Fields visit the battle site at Picacho Pass



## HIS EXCELLENT PENMANSHIP ALLOWED HIM TO DOCUMENT THE 13,000 DEAD AT ANDERSONVILLE

2026 Richard P. Cox. All rights reserved.

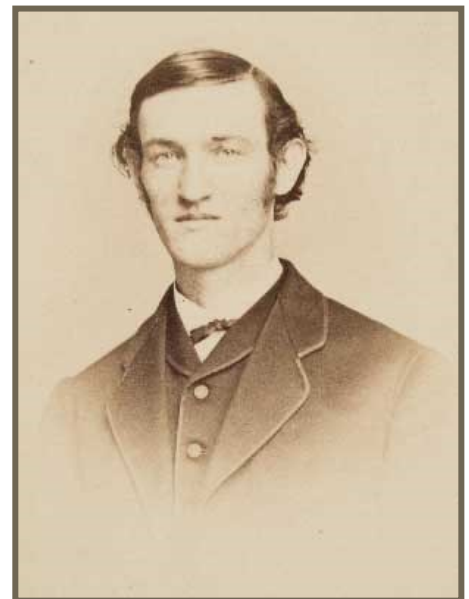
Dorence Atwater is probably the best-known inmate at the notorious Confederate prison camp of Andersonville, and it was all due to his fine handwriting.

He was born in 1845 in Terryville, Connecticut. As a youngster he got a job as a store clerk because of his excellent penmanship and facility with numbers. When the war began, he lied about his age and joined the 2<sup>nd</sup> New York Cavalry. For two years he served as a scout, delivered dispatches, and took part in several battles.

One morning in July 1863, while exercising his horse, he was captured by two Confederate soldiers wearing Yankee uniforms. He was sent to the Belle Isle Prison outside Richmond. "Belle" was hardly an appropriate name for this POW camp. Most of the prisoners were left out in the open. In the humid heat of the summer, it stank of raw sewage; in the winter, men lost feet to frostbite or simply froze to death. Confederate officers stole the food packages prisoners' families had sent through the lines. Atwater's life was saved when he got a transfer to an indoor part of the camp because officials thought his excellent handwriting and pre-war clerking experience could be useful. He was put to work keeping the camp records.

Due to overcrowding, in early 1864 Atwater and many of the other Belle Isle prisoners were transferred to a newly built POW camp in Georgia that the Confederates called Camp Sumter. The world would know it as Andersonville.

By the close of the war, the camp was at four times its capacity. There was an inadequate water supply, not enough food, and sanitary conditions were abominable. Of the approximately 45,000 Union prisoners held in the camp, nearly 13,000 died from scurvy, diarrhea, and dysentery. Captain Henry Wirz



*Dorence Atwater*

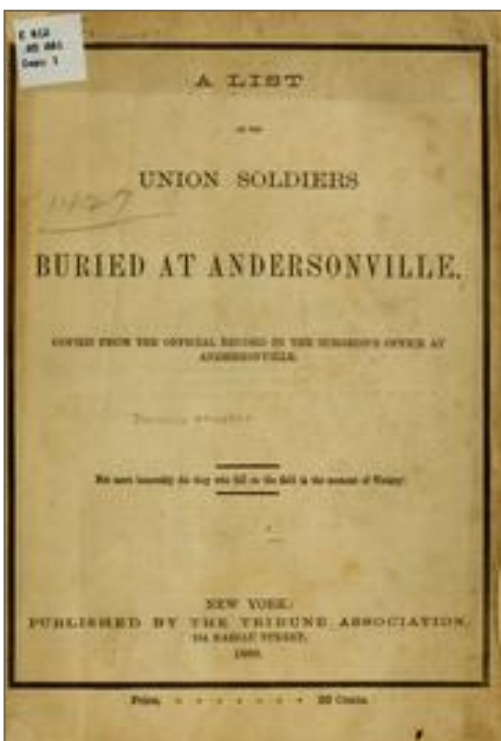
was the camp's commander. He was tried and executed after the war for war crimes.

Atwater's fine penmanship was discovered once again, and he was tasked with keeping the "Death List," a register of those who died in the camp. He was ordered to produce two copies, one for the Confederates and one which, he was told, would go to the U.S. government. He suspected the Union would never see this copy and decided to keep his own list, hidden among the papers belonging to the Confederates. He kept his own copy secret because he knew if Wirz found out about it he would be hanged.

Due to General Sherman's maneuverings in Georgia, the Andersonville prisoners were transferred to a camp in Florence, South Carolina. In February 1865, Atwater received a parole and was released to Union authorities. He smuggled his list out with him.

Somehow the news of his list had reached Union authorities. Three weeks after he had gone home and while still recovering from his ordeal as a POW, he got a telegram requesting he turn to the capital and bring his list. There he met Clara Barton, who was prepared to mark the graves of the Andersonville dead but needed Atwater's list to mark them. He traveled to Georgia with Barton, a medical doctor, and forty-two headboard carvers to begin the process of identifying the prisoners' remains.

On his return to Washington, Atwater became embroiled in army politics when "other" lists surfaced. He refused to reveal where his list was and was subsequently court-martialed for insubordination. Barton lobbied on his behalf and President Johnson granted him a general pardon in December 1865. The federal government eventually published his "Death List" (making it the official list) and it was reprinted by *The New York Tribune*.



*Atwater's List*

Clara Barton knew Atwater's list was essential to preserving the memory of the prisoners at Andersonville and lobbied to further his career. He was appointed U.S. Consul to the Seychelles Islands and three years later became Consul to Tahiti. In 1875, he married Princess Moetia Salmon, the sister of Queen Maran and the second consort of King Pomare V. She had been educated in France and England.

Atwater died in 1910 in San Francisco and was temporarily interred there. The royal family had his body returned to Tahiti and he was given the first non-royal state funeral in the country's history. He was buried beneath a 7000-pound stone. On one side is carved "Tupuuataroa" (Wise Man). On the other side an inscription reads, "He builded better than he knew that one day as might awake in surprise to found he had wrought a monument more enduring than brass."



*Atwater's Funeral in Tahiti*

Atwater's list that allowed the Andersonville dead to be remembered is his enduring monument.

**Dick Cox is SCWRT Vice President and Chair of the History Committee.**

## THIS MONTH IN CIVIL WAR HISTORY

March 9, 1861. The Confederate Convention passes a bill authorizing the issuance of currency.



## March 2026 Trivia Questions

1. What U.S. steamer, loaded with provisions for Fort Sumter, was fired upon by South Carolina Troops near Charleston on January 9, 1861, and arguably received the first shots fired in the war?
2. Name the two locomotives involved in the Andrews Raid or “Great Locomotive Chase.”
3. Nathan Bedford Forrest held the record for the largest number of horses shot from under him in battle. How many?
4. The C.S.S. *Alabama* was sunk by what U.S. ship off the coast of Cherbourg, France, on June 19, 1864?

*Answers on final page*



**Thunderbird Chapter #2102**  
United Daughters of the Confederacy  
*cordially invites lovers of history to the*

# HEADSTONE DEDICATION

*of*

## Thomas Cox

2nd Lt., Alfred Hunter's Co.

Texas State Troops, 1864 - 1865



*Thomas Cox*  
(1829 - 1891)



*at Globe Cemetery in Globe, Arizona*

**March 21, 2026 at 11 AM**

In honor and memory of Thomas Cox, 2nd Lieutenant of the Alfred Hunter's Company, Texas State Troops, who served from 1864 to 1865 during the War Between the States.

*Ceremony will include historical remarks, a headstone dedication, and honors in recognition of Thomas Cox's service.*

*All are welcome.*



THE KIDS HAVE  
“POTENTIAL”  
BUT YOU HAVE  
*Reinvention*

**AI & Technology Week**

April 6 - 10, 2026

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Arizona State University (OLLI at ASU) invites lifelong learners and curious minds to explore the future of innovation during **AI & Technology Week**, taking place April 6–10, 2026. This dynamic week-long series of courses, workshops, and presentations highlights how artificial intelligence and emerging technologies are reshaping society, creativity, ethics, and everyday life.

Designed for adults 50 and better, AI & Technology Week brings together leading ASU faculty, industry experts, and thought leaders to offer engaging, accessible learning experiences that demystify complex technologies and encourage thoughtful discussion. Sessions range from hands-on workshops exploring everyday uses of AI tools like ChatGPT, to in-depth lectures examining ethics, governance, education, creativity, and the role of technology in warfare and global conflict.

**Registration is now open. For full course listings and enrollment information, visit [www.asuolli.org](http://www.asuolli.org).**

## **HISTORY DISCUSSION GROUP TOPICS SET FOR 2025-26**

### **LOCATION AND MEETING TIMES**

SCWRT's History Discussion Group is an informal monthly get-together for Civil War buffs in the greater Phoenix area to discuss topics in Civil War history.

We meet at the Wildflower Bread Co. in the Seville Shopping Center, at the northeast corner of Indian Bend and Scottsdale Roads. The McCormick Stillman Room, which is a partitioned meeting room at the back of the restaurant, has been reserved for us.

Our meetings start at 6:00 p.m. and end at 7:30 p.m. There is ample parking in the shopping center parking lot. In exchange for the Wildflower's hospitality, we encourage but don't require attendees to buy some food and beverages from the restaurant before our meetings.

Everyone – members, non-members, family, friends, and visitors – are welcome. We're casual and have lots of fun talking about history! Come and check us out!

The following is our schedule and list of topics for the coming season:

3/26/26 In what ways did the war permanently change the U.S.?

4/30/26 Films about the Civil War: Which are the best?

**NO MEETING IN MAY**



The  
**ARIZONA CIVIL WAR COUNCIL**



Presents An

**AMERICAN CIVIL WAR  
ENCAMPMENT**



**COME VISIT  
THE  
FURTHEST  
WESTERN  
BATTLEFIELD  
OF THE CIVIL  
WAR!**



**A  
PERFECT  
EVENT  
FOR  
ALL  
AGES!**

**MARCH 21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026**



**LOCATION: Picacho Peak State Park**

15520 PICACHO PEAK RD. PICACHO, AZ 85141



**SCHEDULE: 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.**

**Saturday & Sunday**

Living history demonstrations & interpretive  
talks will occur in the Union & Confederate  
camp throughout the day.

Come see Civil War living history displays at Picacho Peak State Park! Walk through the Union and Confederate camps, and chat with reenactors to learn about the life of a Civil War soldier.

**COME OUT TO AN EVENT, OR EVEN BECOME A REENACTOR!**

WE ARE STRICTLY A HISTORICAL AND EDUCATIONAL 501(C)(3) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION AND DO NOT HOLD ANY POLITICAL VIEWS AS AN ORGANIZATION.



**CONTACT:**



[www.ArizonaCivilWarCouncil.com](http://www.ArizonaCivilWarCouncil.com)

ArizonaCivilWarCouncil

@ArizonaCivilWarCouncil

ArizonaCivilWarCouncil@gmail.com

# ***What's Going On at Neighboring Roundtables?***

## **TUCSON 2025/2026**

- March 6** Don Wauguman on "The Top General from Each State in the Civil War"
- April 3** Bob Consigli "Capt. Frances Lowell"
- May 1** Dr. Christopher Oakley Prof at NC "Placing the Platform: Using 3D Technology to Pinpoint Lincoln at Gettysburg" (Zoom)

## **SUN CITY WEST AND SURPRISE 2025-26**

<b><u>DATE</u></b>	<b><u>TOPIC</u></b>	<b><u>LEADER</u></b>
<b>3/03/26</b>	U.S. Army Camel Corps	Bill Andrews
<b>4/07/26</b>	Quantrill's Raiders	Brian Callahan
<b>5/05/26</b>	Gen. Ambrose Burnside	Dan Lookabill

# Scottsdale Civil War Round Table Membership Form

## Please Join Us!

Your membership enables the SCWRT to donate towards civil war preservation projects and attract the best Civil War experts from around the country to speak at our meetings, from September to May! Please fill out this form and return it with your check payable to Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable. Mailing address:

Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable  
7349 N. Via Paseo Del Sur, Ste 515-274  
Scottsdale, AZ 85258

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Membership (no charge)

Active Duty Military (no charge)

Lifetime (\$500) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Individual Annual (\$35) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Family Annual (\$45) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Additional donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL ENCLOSED** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

The Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable is an Arizona non-profit corporation and a U.S. 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.

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

All members receive our monthly publication, The Grapeshot, from Sept-May

Follow us on Facebook at Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable

## Other Online Opportunities

A series of free lectures on **Wednesdays hosted by the Civil War Round Table Congress** (CWRTC). Check out their website for topics and to register.

[2025 Lectures | CWRT Congress](#)

**CWRT Congress Fridays With U.S. Grant** for a special series with Dr. Curt Fields.

To register (free)

[www.cwrtcongress.org](http://www.cwrtcongress.org) › [videos](#) › [grant.html](#)

**YouTube Channel for CWRT Congress** includes 40+ recorded past talks:

[CWRT Congress - YouTube](#)

**From Chambersburg Civil War Seminars and Tours**

Zoom presentations 15th and 30th of every month.

For schedule and registration [www.civilwarseminars.org/lectures](http://www.civilwarseminars.org/lectures)

**See Your Round Table Online**

Watch past speakers on our YouTube Channel

[Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable - YouTube](#)

**Visit our website:** [Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable - SCWRT Home](#)

**Follow us on Facebook:** [Facebook](#)

**Gary Gallagher** presents a series of 48 lectures entitled “The American Civil War.”

Available on Audible as part of [The Great Courses](#).

**Chris Mackowski** hosts [The Emerging Civil War Podcast](#). New episodes on Tuesdays.

Find articles by **Gary Dorris** on his blog at [alincolnbygadorris.com](http://alincolnbygadorris.com).

## March 2026 Trivia Answers

1. The *Star of the West*
2. “The General” was stolen by 22 Union volunteers on the night of April 12, 1862. “The Texas” gave chase.
3. 29
4. The U.S.S. *Kearsarge*