

THE GRAPESHOT

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.Meets @ Civic Center Library
.3839 N Drinkwater Blvd Scottsdale
.on the 3rd Tuesday of the month
6:45 PM—8:45 PM
.September thru May
.\$25 Annual Dues (Due every Sept)
.\$35 Annual Dues for Mr & Mrs.
.Everyone Welcome

DID YOU KNOW?

.Of 155 officers who served as instructors and administrators at West Point from 1833 to the outbreak of the Civil War, only twenty-three (14.8%) joined the Confederacy, a figure significantly lower than the percentage of officers in the Army as a whole who “went South”.

.Settling in Brazil after the Civil War, former Confederate officer J.D. Porter, urged other Unreconstructed Rebels to do the same, explaining “The rumors you have heard to the contrary notwithstanding, slavery will not be abolished soon in this country”.

.Hearing yet another of his veteran sire’s tales of derring-do during the late war, a young child growing up in the 7th Cavalry after the Civil War reportedly once asked “Father, couldn’t you get anyone to help you put down the Rebellion?”



DEAN BECRAFT

-presents-

LYIN’ THIEVIN’ YANKEES

Growing Up In Missouri’s Little Dixie In A Family of Unreconstructed Rebels

April 17, 2007 6:45 PM

Civic Center Library

Born in 1936 in a town in Missouri’s “little Dixie” into a family that was three-quarters Confederate Southerners, Dean grew up listening to elders talk about the Civil War. His Great Grandmother (alive during the War) told many stories about her experiences. The more Dean studied his family, the more interested he became in their value system and their mind set which has led him to his interest in the Civil War today.



FROM WES’ DEN...

Jim Schlicke, Sylvia and I are making plans to drive to Fort Union National Monument to present the Ed Bearss “Glorieta” frame to them for permanent display.

Ms. Marie Sauter, Superintendent and staff will have an 11 AM luncheon for us on April 26th. If you can stop in, I will see that you have a seat with us. All our members are welcome. Please contact me for reservations (480-391-1813). Ed Bearss thought it a grand idea and complimented Jim Schlicke for arranging this. Thanks also to Paul Buser who provided this historical map/display and indeed, the idea itself, to give a special thank you to Ed Bearss.

I understand Dean Becraft is wavering on just what the title of his presentation will be. No matter what the title is, I will guarantee you that this will be an evening to be remembered. It is not easy to get a local boy to tell his story. Do not miss this and remember it will take me another five years to get him back!

I remain your obedient servant, *Wes Schmidt*



Scottsdale Civil War Round Table is looking for a new “Webmaster”. Helen is giving up her coveted position and is looking for a replacement. Duties are keeping the website up to date with the latest speakers, happenings and general information about our group. Also possibly establishing our own website instead of our having a link thru geocities. Anyone interested , please contact Wes Schmidt @ 480-391-1813.



UPCOMING ROUND TABLES

May 15....Eric Mink.....*A Consummation Worthy A hero’s Sacrifice: The Death, Retrieval & Remembrance of Brigadier General James S. Wadsworth in The Battle of the Wilderness*

WHAT IS IT?



(Answer at bottom of page)

ELECTIONS FOR NEXT SEASON
September 2007 - May 2008

President: Wes Schmidt
Vice President: Dean Becraft
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Secretary: Dean Becraft

Board Members (thru 2009)
Bradley Greenberg
Duff McGovern
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Board Members (thru 2008)
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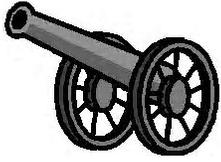
These are the candidates selected by members of the board. A vote will be taken at the April meeting.



A **“thank you”** to Jim Schlicke and John Callahan for your service this past season.

Wording on the plaque of the “Glorieta NM Battlefield Map” being presented to Fort Union by Wes Schmidt & Jim Schlicke on April 26th:
PRESENTED, APRIL 26 2007
FORT UNION NATIONAL MONUMENT, NEW MEXICO
IN HONOR OF MR ED BEARSS
JANUARY 16 2007 FROM THE
SCOTTSDALE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Clothing Hook: This is the regulation U.S. caliber .58 musket bayonet which was adapted as a hook for dragging the bodies of dead soldiers to the burial site. Members of burying parties used these bayonets (presumably still attached to their muskets) in order to stay as far as possible from the decaying corpses.



THE CIVIL WAR LIBRARY
by Paul J. Buser, Scottsdale
Attorney

**THE CONFEDERACY'S GOAL IN NEW
MEXICO TERRITORY: FORT UNION,
CITADEL OF THE UNION**

In prior articles in this series -- Civil War in the New Mexico and Arizona Territories -- I have reviewed troop movements, strategies, tactics, skirmishes, battles, victories, defeats, conquests, retreats, and the leadership as well as the line soldiers who composed the troops of the North and the South.

For this article put on your thinking caps. Apply your knowledge of geography and topography. Now trod the same ground and imagine yourselves in the shoes of both the Federal and Confederate troops. The latter sought the prize of Fort Union but the Federals successfully prevented the Fort's investiture by Johnny Reb.

Fort Union is situated on the Santa Fe Trail. It is approximately 25 miles NE of Glorieta Pass, the great 1862 battle site that ended the war for the Confederacy in New Mexico Territory. It is 45 miles NE of New Mexico's territorial capitol, Santa Fe.

Prior to and during the Civil War the Fort was "the Federal supply center for the entire Southwest. Capture of the military goods and food in Fort Union was absolutely necessary for continuation of [Confederate Brigadier General Henry Hopkins] Sibley's plan to invade Colorado Territory and secure the wealth of its booming mining regions for the Confederacy." Don E. Alberts, The Battle of Glorieta - Union Victory in the West, p.12 (Texas A & M University Press/Military History Series 1998).

After Glorieta, Confederate Prisoners to the Fort?

With the completion of the Battle of Glorieta Pass (March 26-28/1862) at Pigeon's Ranch -- on the east end of the Pass -- both the Union and the Confederate troops left the field each believing they had defeated the other. They were unaware until later that true victory and undisputed success, for the North, occurred at Johnson's Ranch -- at the west end of the Pass:

"Guided by a New Mexican [Lt. Col. Manuel Chavez] who knew the area, Major Chivington and his 430 men had circled 16 miles through the mountains to a wooded precipice directly overlooking Johnson's Ranch, where [Confederate Lt. Col] Scurry had left his supply train. Lowering themselves over the cliff with ropes and leather straps, Chivington's troops had stormed the ranch, driven away the guard and destroyed the entire train of 73 wagons. They burned all of Scurry's ammunition, food,

baggage, saddles, tents, clothing and medical supplies -- everything the Texans would need to continue their campaign. In addition, the Federal detachment had found 500 horses and mules -- mostly mounts left behind by Scurry's cavalry -- corralled in a ravine about half a mile from the ranch, and they had destroyed the animals with bayonets."

From Alvin M. Josephy Jr., Time-Life "Civil War Series" - War on the Frontier, p. 32 (1986).

After the tremendous losses at Johnson's Ranch, the Confederates retreated to Santa Fe. Before the Union troops followed, the U.S. took Confederate prisoners at Pigeon's Ranch, then they moved west to Santa Fe. A few weeks later, in early April, the Union traced the steps of the South's retreat. More Confederate prisoners were taken, this time near the villages of Algodones and Bernalillo, between Santa Fe and Albuquerque.

After all numbers were totaled, U.S. Captain Rafael Chacon reported that the Union had taken an (unconfirmed) 500 Confederate prisoners as a result of the aftermath of Glorieta. J.D. Meketa, ed., Legacy of Honor - The Life of Rafael Chacon, p. 188-189 (University of New Mexico Press 1986).

Did it make sense for the U.S. victors to house, clothe and feed to the Confederate prisoners at nearby Fort Union? Absolutely not. This was a Union garrison meant to supply Union troops of the Far Southwest. Five hundred prisoners, many wounded and in need of medical care, would drain the resources of Fort Union. So, the Confederate prisoners were shipped thousands of miles away from New Mexico Territory. Here is the story of their journey. (For the story of the retreat of Confederates not taken prisoner after Glorieta, see my February 2007 "Civil War Library" installment.)

"On April 11, the Federals reoccupied Santa Fe, Captain James Ford's company of Colorado Volunteers riding into town escorting eighty-four Texans who had been captured at Apache Canyon and Glorieta. Taken back to Fort Union, four officers and thirty-five enlisted men had been exchanged for Union soldiers of equal rank previously captured and held by the Confederates. Another seven officers and thirty-eight men were released on parole, agreeing not to take up arms against the United States until later exchanged. . . .

"Other Confederates in Santa Fe got to see more of the enemy's homeland than they expected. First Sgt. Robert Williams had stayed to tend his sick younger brother, Pvt. John Williams. Both soldiers found themselves unexchanged, but signed paroles. Rather than being sent home [to Texas - remember, the 3,000 strong Confederate force invading New Mexico was largely made up of Texans], however, they were grouped with other similar prisoners and marched up the Santa Fe Trail to Fort Union, thence across Kansas to Fort Leavenworth. . . .



"Mixed in with other Confederates captured in Arkansas and Indian Territory, the Texans were shipped by steamboat down the Missouri River, then up the Mississippi to Quincy, Illinois, and from there by rail to Camp Douglas, south of Chicago. After two weeks in the prison pen at Camp Douglas, the Williams brothers and other New Mexico captives were exchanged and taken by rail and riverboat back down the Mississippi to Vicksburg. . . .

"From that Confederate bastion, their odyssey continued after the Texans lingered in camps awaiting orders and transportation; they finally crossed into Louisiana in early October. The two Williams brothers . . . walked across Louisiana and eastern Texas, reaching their home on December 4, 1862, after a journey of more than three thousand miles."

This story of the Williams brothers' journey is based upon "The Diary of Robert Thomas Williams: Marches, Skirmishes, and Battles of the Fourth Regiment, Texas Militia Volunteers: October 1861 to November 1865", entries for April 11 and April 22-December 4, 1862. The Williams diary was compiled by Connie Sue Ragan O'Donnell and was translated into the above narrative by Don Alberts, *supra*, The Battle of Glorieta - Union Victory in the West, pgs. 160 & 166-167.

What Became of Fort Union After Glorieta?

According to Robert L. Utley, historian for the U.S. Park Service in 1962, the building of Fort Union in 1851 "illustrates the formative years of New Mexico Territory." The patterns of two hundred fifty years of Spanish and Mexican rule were being changed by "American newcomers", who began tearing down the barriers set by the western Indian tribes.

In 1861 Fort Union was rebuilt not just as a more valuable supply depot for the Great Southwest but also as an earthen star shaped fort, because of the troublesome Civil War years looming ahead. Then, in 1863, after Glorieta, the third Fort Union took hold. Fort Union

"became and remained the supply center of the Army in New Mexico [and for] posts to the south and west, illustrating the stirring drama of subjugating the Indians of the Great Plains and the Southwestern deserts. . . .

"Scouting, patrols, and campaigns relieved the tedium of a daily life that varied only in minor details throughout the year. The official routine and the off-duty past times at Fort Union were duplicated at every frontier station in the West . . .

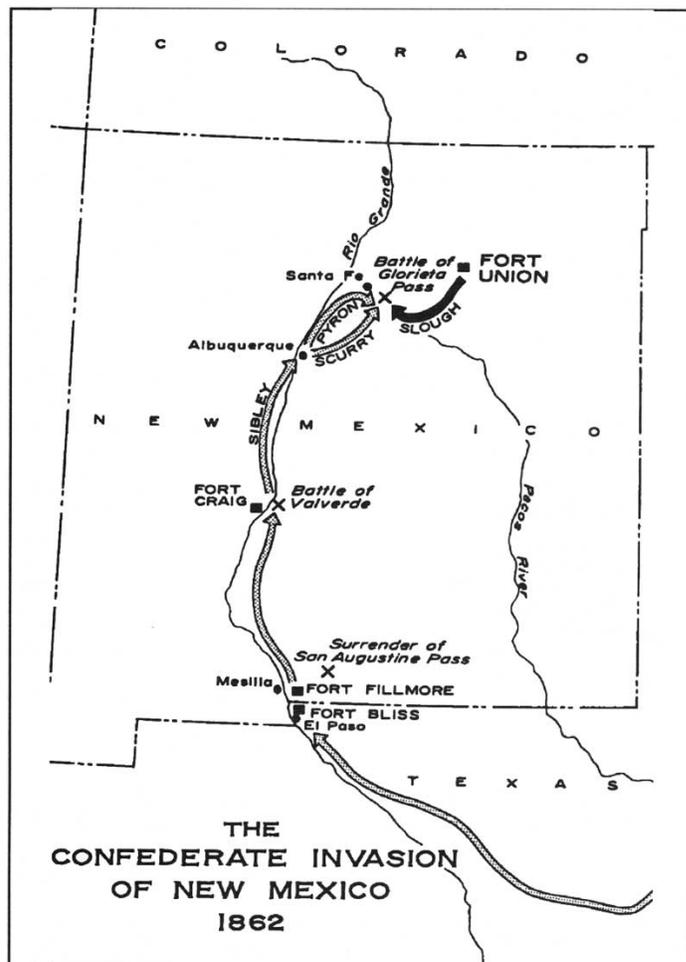
"Of all Fort Union residents, the private soldier led the hardest life. Many were immigrants, chiefly German and Irish, only currently off the boat; others were dregs of eastern society; those who lacked either ability or desire to find a better job; some were fugitives from justice, from business failure, from a shrewish wife, or from family

responsibilities; a few adventurers who liked soldiering. Meager pay, monotonous fare, hard work, and above all, strict discipline made the private's lot an unenviable one. Desertions were common. . . .

"For the most part, the men drilled, practiced target firing, cared for weapons and horses, policed the grounds, and performed a variety of fatigue labors. Officers and noncommissioned officers supervised every activity. A rigid caste system dominated human relationships. Rank determined one's privileges, authority, and social standing in the military community."

From Robert M. Utley, Fort Union National Monument, pgs. 1, 50, 52-53 (National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C., 1962).

Next Month concludes our series, for a while anyway, on the Civil War in the Far Southwest.



From Robert M. Utley, Fort Union National Monument, p. 28 (Courtesy: National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C., 1962).