

THE GRAPESHOT

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.Meets @ Civic Center Library

.3839 N Drinkwater Blvd Scottsdale

.on the 3rd Tuesday of the month

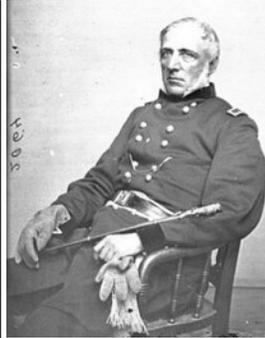
6:45 PM—8:45 PM

.September thru May

.\$25 Annual Dues (Due every Sept)

.\$35 Annual Dues for Mr & Mrs.

.Everyone Welcome



ERIC MINK

-presents-

A CONSUMMATION WORTHY A HERO'S SACRIFICE:

The Death, Retrieval & Remembrance of
Brigadier General James S. Wadsworth In
the Battle Of The Wilderness

May 15, 2007 6:45 PM

Civic Center Library

Growing up in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, Eric Mink's love of history took him to Fredericksburg, Virginia where he graduated from Mary Washington College with a degree in Historic Preservation and American Studies. For the past fifteen years, he has worked for the National Park Service at many of the Civil War battlefields in Virginia including Gettysburg, Manassas and Richmond. Eric is currently the cultural resources manager at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park.

DID YOU KNOW?

.To gather information on potential secessionist activity during the tense days of April 1861, Union Captain Peter Haggerty roamed the streets of Baltimore disguised as an organ grinder, complete with monkey.



.At the time he was mortally wounded at the Wilderness on May 6, 1864, Union Brigadier General James S. Wadsworth was wearing the same sword that his uncle, Brigadier General William Wadsworth, had wielded during the War of 1812 and his great-uncle, Major General James Wadsworth, during the Revolutionary War.

.Before he liberated himself, Frederick Douglass was a slave at Wye House, on Maryland's Eastern Shore, where he had occasion to take part in the wedding of Miss Nannie Lloyd and a young naval officer named Franklin Buchanan, later the Confederacy's most distinguished sea dog.

FROM WES' DEN...

Since this must be written and submitted prior to the Fort Union trip, that report will be given at the May meeting.

Surrounded by good and faithful people, I find myself running for a 12th term as President, at the next meeting. Because of your friendship and approval, I am willing to continue. It is an easy task and still fun.



In early May, I will be in the Dallas-Ft Worth area. I have three Civil War museums lined up to visit. I will take a few minutes next meeting to make sure you know about them and if they are really good or not. For instance, the Ft Worth Civil War Museum is just over one year old and was put together by six millionaires who merged their collections. It is supposed to be terrific. It occurred to me that some of you often go to various seminars and battlefield tours. If you are willing, I would be glad to have you briefly tell us about it. Either call me or tell me before the meeting that you are ready.

Last night, at the April meeting, Dean Becraft gave us a real home grown report on Missouri and the southern viewpoint. I found it a fascinating presentation by the nicest Rebel I know! I must say I am really pleased with the diversity of our presenters and thank our program planner, Mack Stanley, once again.

I remain your obedient servant, *Wes Schmidt*

www.scottsdalecwrt.vze.com

**CHECK IT OUT !
NEW WEBMASTER:
JAY WEBBER
... HAS OUR NEW WEBSITE UP AND
RUNNING AND IT LOOKS GREAT.**

Jay invites anyone with Civil War related information or possibly their own Civil War personal page*....to submit for consideration....a link thru our website. Send your information to:

scwrtwebmaster@yahoo.com

**check out the link to Jay's Civil War Personal Page on our website.....*



WHAT THEY ATE

Before Secession, a typical Southern family's grocery bill was \$6.65 per month. By 1864, it was \$400 per month.

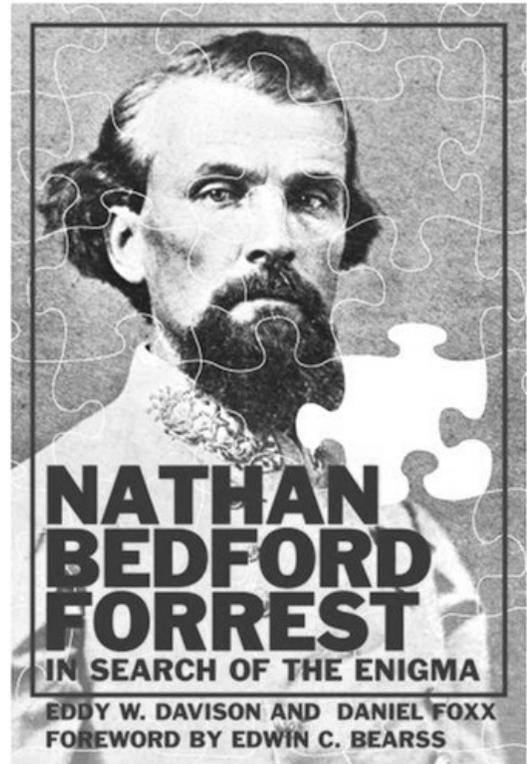
As produce became more and more scarce or expensive, people had to find substitutes for common foods. Many were quite creative.....

Meat: domestic animals, frogs, locusts, snails, snakes
Coffee: Okra seeds that were browned, roasted acorns
Sugar: Molasses, sorghum, honey, watermelon syrup
Salt: boiled sea water, wood ashes, gunpowder

Fighting men ate what they could get. "They tasted like young squirrel" so said a group of Confederates in South Carolina making a meal of rats. They cooked it in whatever means was most convenient, or most tasty.



The ingredients suggested by the respective commissaries and others may have predominated but when men were left so much to their own devices, innovations and improvisation, especially in the confederacy, it became a way of life. Dogs, cats, even mules went into stew pots. At Vicksburg, Mississippi, for years after the war, it was said that the city was rat free as the starving Confederate garrison during the 1863 siege had caught and eaten them all !



BOOK SIGNING

Eddy Davison

SCWRT Member

May 10, 2007

7:00 PM

Barnes & Noble
10500 N 90th St
Scottsdale

Notes from the editor:

- this is the 100th edition of *The Grapeshot*. Thank you to everyone who contributed articles or comments for publication over the last 100 editions.
- Our membership grows with every year...please continue your support by renewing your Membership this coming fall and bringing a friend...there is a great line-up for next season's speakers. A Round Table to be very proud of!
- and as always...The Grapeshot is constantly looking to improve. Please submit your comments or articles to kkbecraft@qwest.net for publication

A Very Southern Civil War Artifact

by Carol Fejes

Scottsdale Civil War Round Table Member

While visiting Australia, my husband and I were very surprised to find a Civil War cannon in the front garden of a summer home on the little island of Churchill, just off Phillip Island, south of Melbourne, Australia. The plaque with the cannon read “SIX Pdr M.L. CANNON FROM AMERICAN CONFEDERATE WARSHIP SHENANDOAH 18-2-1865”. When we asked the volunteer how this cannon came to be here, she said that in 1865 the Confederate Ship *Shenandoah* docked in Melbourne, Australia for supplies, repairs, and to replace a couple of sailors. This caused a bit of a problem with the Australian government who had a policy of neutrality and did not want to offend the US government (Union). However, this policy was ignored by the local people who wine and dined the captain and crew of the *CSS Shenandoah* anyway. As a thank you, the captain of the *CSS Shenandoah* (James I Waddell) gave a cannon and cannon balls to Amess, owner of a farm on Churchill Island, who placed the cannon and a plaque in the garden of the farmhouse. The volunteer went on to say that the cannon was shot off at exactly midnight every New Years Eve until the middle of the 1960's.

However, the volunteer did not know why a Confederate vessel was in the area and how they had made it to Australia. Thanks to one of the Scottsdale Civil War Round Table speakers, I was able to tell her that the *CSS Shenandoah* was in the Pacific to find and attack the Union whaling fleet, which they finally found and sank in the Bering Sea in June 1865. In fact, this took place technically after the end of the Civil War. When Captain Waddell discovered the war was over from a British vessel, fearing they would be hung as pirates, he stowed the ship's guns and headed out around Cape Horn on a 17,000-mile voyage to England where he surrendered himself, his crew, and the *CSS Shenandoah* to the British government on Nov. 5, 1865. (internet-Ships, Blockades & Raiders, *CSS Shenandoah* “Terror on the High Seas” October 19, 1864-November 6, 1865) The *CSS Shenandoah* was the only Confederate Naval ship to circumnavigate the globe.

After being surrendered, in 1866 the *CSS Shenandoah* was sold to the Sultan of Zanzibar and renamed *El Majidi*. In September 1872 or 1879, the



CSS Shenandoah/ El Majidi was reported to have been lost at sea. (internet – Department of the Navy – Naval Historical Center – Online Library of Selected Images:--Ships of the Confederate States—*CSS Shenandoah*)

So how did the *CSS Shenandoah* happen to end up in Australia? According to the internet, (Ships, Blockades & Raiders, *CSS Shenandoah* “Terror on the High Seas” October 19, 1864-November 6, 1865), on October 8, 1864, the British merchant vessel *Sea King* sailed from London for Bombay carrying coal while the steamer *Laurel* left Liverpool with 19 passengers and a cargo of 6 guns, (one of which was to be given to Amess in Australia later). The two ships met in the Madeira Islands where the passengers, actually Confederate naval officers, and the guns were transferred to the *Sea King*, which became the *CSS Shenandoah*. This ship had been purchased by the Confederate government to prey on Union ships. The *CSS Shenandoah* weighed 1,018 tons, was 220 feet long, and 32.5 feet wide. It had a propeller-driven steam engine with a top speed of eight knots, which could be doubled by using sails. It carried two 32-pounder cannons and six 68-pounders.

The *CSS Shenandoah* set out on October 19, rounded the Cape of Good Hope, and sailed across the Indian Ocean where they attacked and burned seven Union ships and ransomed two. Needing repairs, more sailors, and supplies the *CSS Shenandoah* landed in Melbourne, Australia on January 25, 1865.

Therefore, because of a need for supplies and repairs, a friendship between two men, and a thank you gift, one of the most southern Civil War artifacts can be seen and touched to this day on a little island of the coast of Australia.





2007 - 2008 Season's Line Up

(thank you Mack Stanley)

September 18th...Dr. Lesley Gordon
 "General George Pickett and Wife"

October 16th...Rich Masterson
 "A Death Camp Of The Civil War:
 Salisbury"

November 20th...Dale Phillips
 "The Red River Campaign of 1864"

January 15th...Ed Bearss
 "Booth's Escape"

February 19th...Howard Strouse
 "The Trent Affair: Lincoln Dodged A
 Bullet"

March 18th...Bobby Krick
 "The Colorful Confederate Major
 General 'Prince John' Magruder"

April 15th...Michael Kauffman
 "The American Brutus"

May 20th...Frank O'Reilly
 "Lee: Marching Out of Step--From
 Lexington to Greatness"

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 Duff McGovern
 Eddy Davison

Board Members (thru 2008)
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 John Bamberl

Civil War Soft Drink

In 1862, James Vernor, a Detroit pharmacist, was called off to the Civil War as he was attempting to develop a new drink. He left a mixture of ginger, vanilla and spices sitting in an oak cask in a pharmacy he had been working in. After returning from battle, four years later, the barrel was cracked open and the delectable taste of the beverage overwhelmed him. The drink inside had been changed by the aging process in the wood. He immediately began manufacturing Vernor's Ginger Ale and declared it "deliciously different" which remains the drink's motto to this day.

