

# THE GRAPESHOT

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## Spencer & Jackson Traveling Theatrical Troup

-presents-

*An Evening of Civil War Music and  
Musings*

October 21, 2008

6:45 PM

Civic Center Library

The Spencer & Jackson Traveling Theatrical Troupe is a group of actors, musicians and dancers who recreate a traveling show from the Civil War and antebellum period.

The Troupe's performances transport audiences back to a time when entertainment arrived packed in the back of a horse-drawn wagon. Such shows not only entertained, but also provided a connection between communities where gossip, trends and news was exchanged.

The Spencer & Jackson players have conducted extensive research to ensure that the content and format of the show is true to the original. The group performs in period attire and use vintage or reproduction musical instruments. Music includes minstrel songs as well as patriotic songs from the Union & Confederacy. The show is designed to demonstrate what might have been seen in a theatre in the 1850's & 1860's.

.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  
.\$35 Annual Dues (Due every Sept)  
.\$45 Annual Dues for families  
.Everyone Welcome

## FROM THE EDITOR

I want to continue making our newsletter interactive. I ask that you please write to us about **any** Civil War related topic you find interesting. You can write about something you found interesting in this paper—or any other information source (please tell us the source, or give us a link to go to) and what about you thought about what you read. You can write about any topics our speakers have covered, or any topics they have not covered. If you have a relative that was involved in the War, tell us about it. If you went on vacation to a Civil War site, write us about it. You can write to the newsletter about any Civil War issues that you are interested in. Please e-mail us at [bgreenberg1@cox.net](mailto:bgreenberg1@cox.net). Please put Grapeshot in the subject.

Several months ago, a Civil War relic hunter in Petersburg, VA, was killed when the cannonball he was working with exploded. This got me thinking about what constitutes a Civil War death. The gentleman in question was killed by a cannonball that was fired in anger during the war. One could argue that he was, therefore, a Civil War casualty.

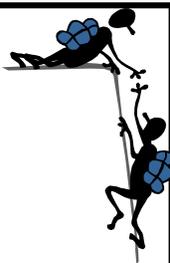
On the other hand, a case can be made that he was not a casualty of the War because the Civil War officially ended in 1866.

The question is: What constitutes a Civil War casualty? Is it time, or is it intention?

Please e-mail us at [bgreenberg1@cox.net](mailto:bgreenberg1@cox.net) with your response, and I will publish a sampling next month.

## Book Review

By  
Don Swanson



**Co. "AYTCH" First Tennessee Regiment or A Side Show of the Big Show** by Sam R. Watkins. Edited by Ruth Hill Fulton McAllister. Published by Providence House Publishers. Illustrations, appendix, index. 2007. 294 pp. \$34.95

It's rare to find a book dealing with the American Civil War that can be described as charming, but that certainly applies to this new edition of Sam Watkins' classic 1882 memoir, **Co. "Aytch"**. For those enthusiasts (myself included) who have never read earlier editions of this soldier's account of life in the Confederate Army, this edition is the one to read.

For the uninitiated, Sam Watkins published his memoirs as a "high private" in the First Tennessee Regiment in the *Columbia Herald* newspaper and then in book form in 1882. Sam's writings follow his experiences from the beginning of the war through many of its greatest battles including Shiloh, Chickamauga, the battles for Atlanta, Franklin and ultimately the surrender of Joe Johnston's army on April 26, 1865. In Sam's words, "the book is but anecdotes and incidents that would come under the observation of a private soldier, and while many of the incidents are overdrawn, every one has a foundation of truth in them and the book is written more in a spirit of humor and burlesque than the facts it contains". While his perspective of camp life and campaigning are enlightening and frequently amusing, it's his subtle insight that rewards the thoughtful reader ("An officer could resign and it was honorable. When a private resigned he was shot to death."). And while Sam's humor is plentiful, his description of a deserter's execution will suddenly sober any reader who is not prepared for his change in tone. His observations of Robert E. Lee ("his voice was kind and tender, and his eye was as gentle as a dove's") and Braxton "Braggston Braggart" Bragg ("who was running like a scared dog") are great to read, it is Sam's personal experiences (however exaggerated they might be) that make this book so fun. His hilarious accountings of dinner with a Southern family and his actions leading to promotion during the battle for Atlanta are classic anecdotes of the Civil War.

The original 1882 edition containing Sam's handwritten revisions for a second edition that the family had held for years was thought lost. But recently, in the true spirit of Sam's tales it was found in a desk that had once belonged to his wife's grandfather. Sam's great-granddaughter, Ms. McAllister, acquired the book and fulfilled Sam's wish for a new edition that cleverly highlights the changes he wanted over 100 years ago. This reader is happy that she did.

### GRAPESHOT MAIL CALL

Our offices received an interesting e-mail from Robert Stahl about a very good article by Jane Schultz about some common myths about women in the Civil War. One in particular stands out, that only a few thousand women served as nurses in the war. She found records that indicate that more than 21,000 women were on the Union payroll. Thank you Robert.

## Two Months in the Civil War

- 9/1/1964: General Sherman occupies Atlanta
- 9/4/1964: Confederate raider and cavalry leader John Hunt Morgan, is shot and killed in a Federal raid in Greenville, TN.
- 9/11/1961: Lee begins the five day Cheat Mountain Campaign in Virginia, which ends in a Confederate withdrawal that dims Lee's reputation.
- 9/15/1862: Confederates capture Harper's Ferry, taking 12,000 prisoners.
- 9/17/1862: The Battle of Antietam halts the Confederate advance into the North, making the bloodiest day of the war—and of American History.
- 9/20/1863: On the second day of the Battle of Chickamauga, Confederates exploit a gap in the Federal lines, and cause a confused Federal retreat.
- 9/22/1862: Lincoln announces the Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation
- In October, 1865, Gen. George McClellan and Joe Johnston keep their respective armies inactive, to the great consternation of Presidents Lincoln and Davis.
- Union victory at the battle of Perryville on October 8, 1862 ends Braxton Bragg's invasion of Kentucky
- In October, 1863, Lincoln created the Division of the Mississippi, embracing the whole region between that river and the Appalachians, and put Grant in command of all of the Union forces in the west and is ordered to lift the Confederate siege of Chattanooga.
- Following the orders of Gen. Grant in October, 1864, Gen. Sheridan implements a scorched earth policy on the fertile farmlands of the Shenandoah Valley.
- In October, 1865, after being found guilty of murder, Confederate Guerilla Champ Ferguson sentenced to hang in Tennessee.

### UPCOMING ROUND TABLES

- 11/18: **Greg Mertz** - *I'll Be Damned If I Will Cooperate: Gouverneur K. Warren At The Wilderness and Spotsylvania*
- 01/20/09: **Ed Bearss** - *Six Civil War Military Figures That Made A Real Difference*
- 02/17: **Craig Symonds** - *Lincoln and The Navy*
- 03/17: **Dave Hinze** - *Artillery Hell: A Study of Artillery at the Battle of Antietam*
- 04/21: **Gail Stephens** - *The Shadow of Shiloh: General Lew Wallace and The Civil War*
- 05/19: **Richard McMurry** - *The General In the Jar: Joseph E. Johnston In Defense of Atlanta*

The date, time, and place for the Christmas party will be announced shortly.