

# THE GRAPESHOT

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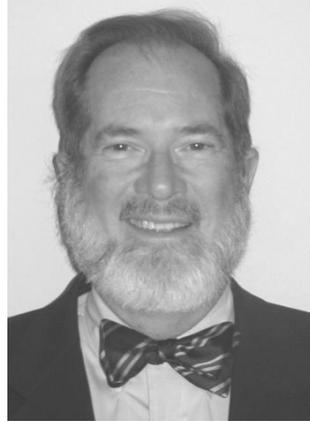
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.Meets @ Civic Center Library  
.3839 N Drinkwater Blvd Scottsdale, AZ  
.on the 3rd Tuesday of the month  
6:45 PM—8:45 PM

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



**THOMAS CUTRER**

-presents-

*A Stepping Stone To A Still  
Greater Eminence: The Mexican  
War Experience of George B.  
McClellan*

September 15, 2009

6:45 PM Civic Center Library

Thomas Cutrer's ancestors have been buried at Spring Creek, Louisiana, since 1804, whence they fled at the end of the War of the American Revolution. (They were Tories.) Two grandfathers (several greats ago) as well as three great-great uncles served in Company B, Sixteen Louisiana Infantry, CSA. Earning a B.A. in history at LSU in 1969, and serving for three years in the US Air Force (including a tour as a combat intelligence officer in Viet Nam), Professor Cutrer earned an M.A. in American literature at LSU in 1972, and a Ph.D. in American Civilization at the University of Texas in 1980. Presently a professor of American Studies at Arizona State University, Cutrer's main fields of interest are the cultural history of the American South and nineteenth-century U.S. military history, especially the American Civil War. As an author of several books, some of his books include *Parnassus on the Mississippi: The Southern Review and the Baton Rouge Literary Community, 1935-1942* (LSU Press, 1984), which won the General L. Kemper Williams Prize of the Louisiana Historical Society and the Louisiana Literary Award of the Louisiana Library Association; *Ben McCulloch and the Frontier Military Tradition* (University of North Carolina Press, 1992), which won the Summerfield G. Roberts Award of the Sons of the Republic of Texas; *Our Trust Is In The God Of Battles: The Civil War Letters of Robert F. Bunting, Chaplain, Eighth Texas Cavalry* (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2006); and *Stepping Stone to Still Greater Distinction: The Mexican War Papers of George B. McClellan* (forthcoming from the Louisiana State University Press). Cutrer is presently at work on a biography of Winfield Scott, general-in-chief of the United State Army from 1846 through 1862; and on a history of the Civil War in the trans-Mississippi West.



**WHOSE DOG IS THIS?**

The first presidential canine ever photographed but Fido never lived in the White House. He was terrified of cannon blasts so was given to a local family in Springfield with the stipulation he be an inside dog. Pictures of Fido were sold as souvenirs in the months after Lincoln's assassination. Fido was killed by a drunken man a year later.

FROM WES' DEN..... Another hot summer is behind us and we have a great set of speakers lined up for our new year. The consistent success of our SCWRT lead to my interview in the August issue of *CIVIL WAR NEWS*. If you don't receive that paper, you will also be able to read it on our website. Be sure to check it out. It is always nice for our Round Table to receive some credit among our peers.



Each year remarkable stories come to us regarding the preservation of Civil War battlefields. Sabine Pass Battlefield, on the Gulf of Mexico, is the scene of a most amazing CSA victory. Forty-eight men and six cannons stopped a huge Union invasion force in 1864. The entire site was covered by Hurricane Ike earlier this year and the gallant Dowling stood with water up to his neck. Though the site is still closed from damage, Dowling stands unharmed and defiant still. See the picture and article at our September meeting.

Your attendance is encouraged at the 25TH ANNUAL WEST COAST CW CONFERENCE, October 23-25, at Clovis, California. Program: THE CAMPAIGN FOR CHATTANOOGA, 1864. See: [www.chattanooga2009.com](http://www.chattanooga2009.com)

Following the admonition "GO WEST...", my wife and I were in Zion National Park last July. I took a really nasty fall and broke a couple ribs. I am recovering nicely and expect to join the fall campaign at full strength. Looking forward to personally greeting you, Tuesday, Sept 15, I remain your most obedient servant.... *Wes Schmidt*

## Books You Might Have Missed:

(older books about the Civil War that I think might be worth your time)

Don Swanson, SCWRT Member



### Gettysburg: A Journey in Time

by William A. Frassanito

1975. Available in trade paperback for \$18.95.

William Frassanito made a significant contribution to Civil War history in 1975 with the publication of **Gettysburg: A Journey in Time** examining the photos taken shortly after the battle by Mathew Brady, Alexander Gardner, Timothy Sullivan and other less well-known photographers. The book is part battle study, part detective story and part photographic history of the greatest battle fought in North America. The author followed this study up with similar photographic studies entitled **Antietam: The Photographic Legacy of America's Bloodiest Day** and **Grant and Lee: The Virginia Campaigns 1864-1865**. Any enthusiast who has walked these grounds, has an interest in Civil War photography or enjoys "then and now" comparison photos will find these books fascinating.

*Recommended*

## Women In The Confederacy

by John Bamberl, SCWRT Member

Women in the Confederacy had a great impact on the war. When their sons and husbands went off to war they were left with taking care of the land and other businesses. Whether they got directly involved in the war effort or kept the home fires burning, women contributed a multitude of skills to the war effort.

It is not known how many women actually participated in battle; however the numbers seem to be higher than anyone expected. Many women played the role of warrior and literally gave up their gender to fight. From the records the majority appear to have been motivated by shared patriotism and an unwillingness to be separated from their loved ones. After all, their beloved south had been invaded.

One such case was Amy Clark. She dressed like a man to serve in the Confederate Army with her husband. She fought in the Battle of Shiloh where her husband was killed. She then continued on with Bragg's army in Kentucky until she was wounded and taken prisoner. When she was discovered by the Federals to be a female, she was paroled but she was not allowed to return until she put on a dress.

Lucy Ann Cox was a nurse in the 13th Virginia Infantry traveling with her husband for most of the war. She marched with the soldiers, including the grueling campaigns of Lee's two invasions of the North and cared for wounded soldiers during combat. When she died after the war, she was buried with full military honors.

Two female casualties (one dead and one seriously wounded) were discovered after the Battle of Gettysburg. As confirmed by the Army official records of the war, the body of an unidentified female Confederate soldier was discovered by a burial detail near the stone wall at the angle of Cemetery Ridge.

At Johnson's Island prison camp on Lake Erie, an imprisoned confederate officer gave birth to a baby boy during the first week of December 1864.

Civil War graves hold a lot of secrets. Considering that the armies on both sides totaled about 1.5 million soldiers it would not be surprising to learn that several thousand of them were women.

Southern women picked up nursing quite easily. In Richmond, for example, almost every home was opened to the wounded. Sophia Gilmer Bibb headed the Ladies Hospital Association and had her own hospital. In fact, the Surgeon General informed Jefferson Davis that it was the best managed and most comfortable hospital in the South. Ella King Newsom of Arkansas was called "The Florence Nightingale of the Southern Army. Juliet Hopkins was called "Angel of the South" by Joseph Johnston because she helped the wounded on the battlefield and was wounded twice in doing so.

The most famous nurse however, was Sally Tompkins. She was the only woman in the Civil War to be given a rank. Mary Chestnut was a volunteer at the Tompkins Hospital and brought peaches and grapes to the wounded soldiers.

Many southern women served the Confederacy by sewing shirts, knitting socks and rolling bandages. Others helped clean up the battlefields once combat was done. Many women took a more feminine approach by cutting their hair and selling it to European wig makers and giving the money to the government.

Southern women were extremely patriotic. Women had to literally play the role of the cheerleaders. They encouraged their men to enlist. The women of the South knew that if they could appear to be courageous and take care of the home themselves, then that would enable their men to "emerge victorious". Standing by their men was one of the most difficult things women had to do in the 1860's. Not only to see their husbands go to war but also their father, brother and sons.

There is a memorial to women of the Confederacy in Rome, Georgia. I would like to close by reading the inscription:

*"She was obedient to the God she adored and true to every vow she made to man. She was loyal to the country she loved so well. And upon it's alter laid husband, sire, and son. The home she loved to serve was graced with sincerity of life and devotion to heart. She reared her sons to unselfish chivalry and their daughters to spotless purity. Her children delight to give her honor and love to speak her praise".*



This is the only monument that pays tribute to the women of the Confederacy.