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WEBSITE: scottsdalecwrt.vze.com

.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 (individual)

\$.45 Annual Dues (family)

.Everyone Welcome



DR BRIAN WILLS

presents-

**My Dancing Days Are Over:
William Dorsey Pender
& The Civil War**

May 17, 2011 Tuesday

6:45 PM

Civic Center Library

Dr. Brian Steel Wills is the Director of the Center for the Study of the Civil War Era and Professor of History at Kennesaw State University in Kennesaw, Georgia (after a long tenure at the University of Virginia's College at Wise). He is the author of numerous works relating to the American Civil War, including a biography of Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest currently in reprint. *A Battle from the Start: The Life of Nathan Bedford Forrest* (reprinted as *The Confederacy's Greatest Cavalryman: Nathan Bedford Forrest*) was chosen as both a History Book Club and a Book of the Month Club selection. He also authored *The War Hits Home: The Civil War in Southeastern Virginia* (2001) and *No Ordinary College: A History of The University of Virginia's College at Wise* (2004). His most recent work is *Gone with the Glory: The Civil War in Cinema* (2006). In 2000, Dr. Wills received the Outstanding Faculty Award from the State of Virginia, one of eleven recipients from all faculty members at public and private institutions across the state. He was named Kenneth Asbury Professor of History, and won both the Teaching award and the Research and Publication award, from UVA-Wise.

FROM WES' DEN.....All of you know Program Chair, Mack Stanley, is stepping down as of June 1st. It is a very big slot to fill and WE have a huge problem at hand. Fortunately our schedule is set for the next 2 years, but coordination and preparation and delivery of speaker to the meeting, etc, etc, must be carried on. I need to get a sign that says: UNCLE SAM SCWRT NEEDS YOU! We do have volunteers to meet speakers at the airport and take that person to supper. Someone must be in charge of the checklist and cover it. We do not have a George to let do it. WE NEED YOU! Please call me at 480-299-0153.



We are very hopeful that we will continue meeting at the Civic Center Library Auditorium. Only time will tell. Who knows what the Scottsdale City Council will come up with. There are times when some members are required to physically help and this is very necessary now. If the SCWRT will continue, we need a Program Chair, now. Can you do this for at least 1 year? Call me, NOW. I remain your most obedient servant.....Wes Schmidt

MACK STANLEY..... YOU WILL BE MISSED

What do you say to someone who has been responsible for getting all those speakers flown in, wined and dined, lodged and taxi'd and to the meetings for 15 years and is now handing over his position of Program Chairman to someone else?

That's **FIFTEEN YEARS**, folks and I think Mack has held the position even longer than that. Our records barely go back that far!

What can we say other than without you, there wouldn't have been the years and years of great speakers to learn from and for us to enjoy their knowledge.

Without you, the SCWRT would not have the reputation it enjoys today.

And without you, Mack, there wouldn't be a Scottsdale Civil War Round Table.

UPCOMING ELECTIONS

The nominees for the position of board member thru 2013, to be voted on at the May 17th, 2011 annual meeting, are:

Jay Webber
Don Swanson
Henry Potosky



The Scottsdale Civil War Round Table is always looking for volunteers. If you are interested in becoming a board member, officer or assisting on one of the many committees, please step forward.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

THANK YOU to all of SCWRT's 207 members that supported this fine group thru this season 2010-2011. Thanks to all of you, The Program Chairman, Mack Stanley was able to ensure we had "top notch" speakers at every meetings as well as being able to contribute to Civil War Trust for battlefield preservation.

Membership renewal notices will be mailed out for the upcoming season (September 2011 thru May 2012) during the month of August. Please continue to support this fine group.



NEW SEASON 2011 - 2012

September 20th...Ed Bonekemper
October 18th.....Rick Hatcher
November 15th....Harry Bulkeley
January 17th.....Ed Bearss
February 21st.....Howard Strouse
March 20th.....Michael Kauffman
April 17th.....Craig Symonds
May 15th.....TBA



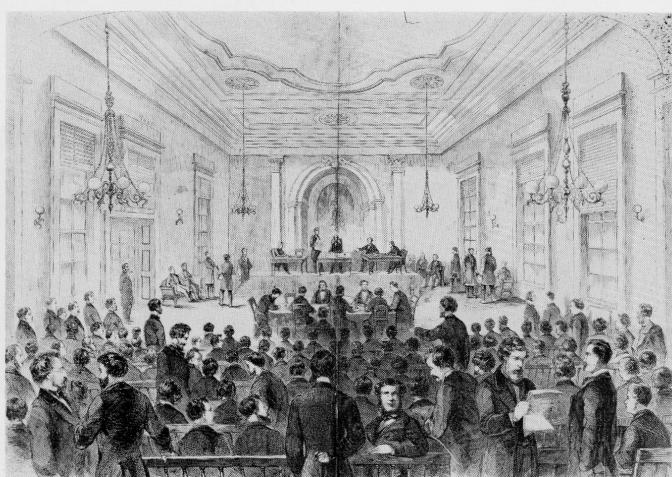
THE 1861 WASHINGTON PEACE CONFERENCE *aka* the “OLD GENTLEMEN’S CONVENTION”

Part 1 of 3

By Paul J. Buser
SCWRT Member

It was not until 1889 – 28 years after the outbreak of the Civil War — before the first major commentary was written about the 1861 Washington Peace Conference. The author in 1889 was William Warner Hoppin.

In 1861 Hoppin was in his own words “a boy, in the middle of his senior year of college life”. During the Peace Conference he had the extraordinary opportunity of seeing and hearing the ebb and flow of the debates. In 1889-90 Hoppin penned his remembrances, and then read his 27 pages of history before the Rhode Island Historical Society and the New Haven Colonial Historical Society. (Fn. 1)



The Peace Convention, held in Willard's Hotel.
Courtesy of the Library of Congress.

Three months ago – on February 11th at Washington D.C.’s famous Willard Hotel – in the same hotel ballroom that hosted the Peace Conference in February 150 years ago, I was fortunate to attend a history symposium which focused entirely upon this great event. **“The Peace Conference at 150 A Call to Compromise”** was co-sponsored by the Lincoln at the Crossroads Alliance and by the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Foundation.

Throughout the day-long symposium, I took copious notes and asked questions of the speakers. I learned the 1861 Peace Conference was crucially important at the time but was still little known to the public in 1889 as well as today. Upon my return to Arizona, I immediately began researching for

additional historical details. Following is a chronological report based upon both my notes and research.

Rapid Secessions of Seven Southern States

The fast-moving potential of war looming between the North and the South as well as the rapid secession of seven Confederate states in less than a two-month period (December 1860 through January 1861) were the two progenitors of this historic “Old Gentlemen’s Convention”. The Peace Conference was so called because of the ages of many of the delegates in attendance. (Fn. 2)

On December 10, 1860 former U.S. Secretary of War and then current U.S. Senator from Mississippi, Jefferson Davis, made a lengthy and impassioned speech of 15,000 words to the United States Senate. “[I]f in the pride of power, if in contempt of reason and reliance upon force, you say we shall not go, but shall remain as subjects to you, then gentlemen of the North, a war is to be inaugurated the like of which we have not seen...” (Fn. 3)

The rapid secession of seven Southern states soon followed:

On December 20, 1860 South Carolina seceded from the Union. On January 8, 1861 Mississippi seceded from the Union and Jefferson Davis returns to his home state. One month later – in Montgomery, Alabama at the “Convention of Seceding States” – Davis will be elected as provisional President of the newly formed Confederate States of America.

On January 10, 1861 Florida secedes. On January 11, 1861 Alabama secedes. On January 19, 1861 Georgia secedes. On January 26, 1861 Louisiana secedes. On February 1, 1861 Texas secedes.

U.S. Senate, House, Crittenden and Virginia’s Compromise Proposals

During the same two-month period of rapid secessions by these Deep South States, the United States Senate convened a special “Committee of Thirteen” to discuss and debate six proposed constitutional amendments which focused on resolving the slavery issue by compromise. The proposals were made by Kentucky Senator John J. Crittenden, who had been elected as a Unionist candidate. Three different times Crittenden’s amendments or revised versions of his proposed amendments were rejected by Committee of Thirteen or by the Senate as a whole. (Fn. 4)

At the same time the House of Representatives (Thirty-Sixth Congress) convened its “**Committee of Thirty-Three**” (one Congressman from each state). This action, also, was formed to compromise on the slavery issue in order to prevent a further division of the Union. On January 14th the Committee of Thirty-Three reported that a majority agreement had been reached to include the New Mexico Territory as a slave state and to protect slavery where it currently existed. (Fn. 5)

On January 19th the Virginia General Assembly invited other states, both slaveholding and non-slaveholding, “as are willing to unite with Virginia in an earnest effort to adjust the present unhappy controversies, in the spirit in which the Constitution was originally formed, and consistently with its principles, so as to afford to the people of the slaveholding States adequate guarantees for the security of their rights, **to appoint commissioners to meet on the 4th day of February next, in the City of Washington, similar commissioners appointed by Virginia, to consider, and if practicable, agree upon some suitable adjustment.”** (Fn. 6)

Thus, the 1861 Washington Peace Conference came into being. Former United States President John Tyler, a citizen of Virginia and one of the state’s delegates to the conference, was elected to chair the conference. The opening day session of the Washington conference was February 4th. On that same day – in Montgomery, Alabama – the seven Deep South States, already seceded, were forming their new government.

The Peace Conference took place while the United States Congress was still in session. The idea was that the results of the Conference would be proposed to Congress for consideration and also to stand as last ditch effort to ward off a war between the states.

Also called a “convention”, the 131 delegates met for three consecutive weeks and concluded their debates with a proposed 13th Amendment (with seven subsections) to the United States Constitution. The

proposed Amendment included provisions of the Crittenden Compromise plans and also focused on slavery in the territories.

The politics of the many state delegations attending the 1861 Washington Peace Conference, why some delegates – both slaveholding and non-slaveholding, initially did not want to attend and why they eventually did, President’s Lincoln pre-Conference and during-Conference activities and profound views concerning the Conference, and how all of these important events and personages were interpreted during the February 11th 2011 “A Call to Compromise” Symposium, will be the subjects of Part Two of this article. **PJB**

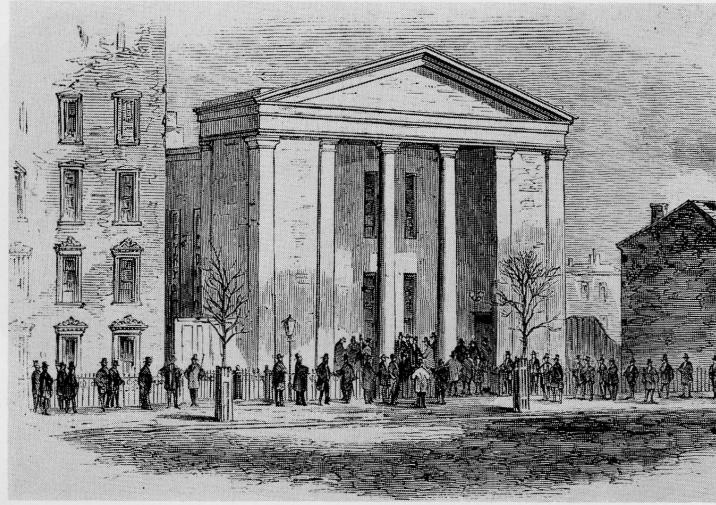
Footnotes for this Article:

Fn.1 - William Warner Hoppin, *The Peace Conference of 1861 at Washington D.C.* (October 1889 27-page manuscript read before the Rhode Island Historical Society and the New Haven Colonial Historical Society 1889-1890); **Fn. 2** – Robert Gray Gunderson, *Old Gentlemen’s Convention – The Washington Peace Conference of 1861* (1961, University of Wisconsin Press, Madison, 168 pages);

Fn.3 – Hudson Strode, *Jefferson Davis American Patriot 1808-1861 A Biography of the Years Before the Great Conflict* 381 (1955, Harcourt, Brace & Company, New York, 460 pages); **Fn. 4** – Daniel W. Crofts, *Reluctant Confederates: Upper South Unionists in the Secession Crisis* 201-208 (ISBN 0-8078-1809-7); **Fn. 5** – Jesse L. Keene, *The Peace Convention of 1861* [Chapter 1, “Compromisers and Compromises”] 33 (1961 Confederate Centennial Studies Series, Confederate Publishing Company, Inc., Tuscaloosa, Alabama, 141 pages); **Fn. 6** – *Proceedings of the Conference Convention D.C. Peace Conference 1861* [from old catalog digitally scanned and recreated by the Library of Congress (pertaining to the January 19, 1861 Resolution of the General Assembly of Virginia, which was considered by the delegates of the 1861 Washington Peace Conference)]

END OF PART 1 OF 3

Exterior of the Convention Hall, Willard's Hotel.
Courtesy of the Library of Congress.



A NICE MUSEUM IN A PLEASANT HISTORICAL TOWN

Article by Henry Potosky, SCWRT Member

Photo by Dr. John Bamberl, SCWRT Member

Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable members Dr. John Bamberl, Tom Lannon, Don Swanson, and I, along with 12 others, toured the Battlefields of Chickamauga, Georgia, and Chattanooga, Tennessee, this past November. The tour was conducted by historians Thomas Cartwright and Dr. Bruce Venter. It was informative and outstanding in all aspects.

On the last day of our tour, after visiting battlefield areas in Chattanooga, we made a stop at the memorial to General Patrick Cleburne in Ringgold, Georgia. Tom Cartwright described the holding action that General Cleburne had conducted against the Union Army allowing the Confederates to escape through Ringgold Gap.

We then made an unscheduled stop at "The Old Stone Church" in Ringgold, Georgia. The Church, which is now a museum, was a delightful, educational and entertaining surprise.

The Old Stone Church was organized in 1837 as the Chickamauga Presbyterian Church. It was considered a landmark in the Ringgold area by the time of the War Between the States. Its' members met in an old log schoolhouse located about one-quarter mile south of the present Stone Church from 1837 to 1845. In 1845, Church services were moved to a shed measuring about 40 feet by 70 feet and was known as the "Dogwood Campground".

It is believed that this shed was used by the Confederate Army as a temporary field hospital during the fighting at Ringgold. It was also used as a temporary hospital by the Union when General Sherman's Army started south toward Tunnel Hill and Dalton, Georgia.

Construction of the present "Old Stone Church" began in the summer of 1850. It was erected from stone quarried from the base of White Oak Mountain, not far from the location of the current building. The timber was obtained from forests in the Ringgold area. The total cost to build the Church was \$1600. It took two years to complete its construction.

The pews from the "Dogwood Campground" shed were moved to the present Church. During the fighting in the Ringgold area, The pews were moved outside and tilted in such a way as to allow them to be used for fodder troughs for the Union Army horses. Today, these pews still show indentations from the horses' teeth.

The name "Stone Church" was listed in field reports and military dispatches from the Civil War period. During this time, the Confederate and Union Armies used the Church as headquarters, hospital, and as a major reference point. Bloodstains from the amputations conducted in the Church, when it served as a hospital, can still be seen in the original wood floor planks. Attempts to remove the stains have failed.

On April 21, 1865, the Reverend Doctor Axson offered the closing prayer. He was the pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Rome, Georgia and the father of Ellen Louise Axson who later became the first wife of President Woodrow Wilson.

In November 1880, the Church went through a minor scandal

when a member of the Church, who was a doctor, was summoned before a "body of Presbyterians at Ringgold to answer the charge of being drunk". Apparently, he had been observed lying intoxicated under a counter in a local store. The charges of intoxication were proved and he was dismissed from the Church. He was reinstated in 1885.

In 1887, the Reverend C. Fraser, who preached every other Sunday, received a salary of \$225 a year, a typical salary for that time period.

By 1920, Church membership declined and the Church was sold to a Methodist group. In 1923, it was sold to a group of citizens.

Between 1923 and 1995, the Church was used on occasion for various functions. In 1995, the Catoosa County Historical Society with support and approval of the Government and the State of Georgia, acquired the Church. The Society completely renovated the building by October 1997.

Today, The Old Stone Church is a unique and fascinating museum containing artifacts and treasures from the past. The floors, pews and lectern are original. There are an amazing variety of relics, antiques, documents, weapons and clothing. The display cases contain items such as flags, photographs and newspapers. Pieces of coral reef are on display. They date back 360 million years, to a time when the Ringgold area (Catoosa County) was near the equator and was below water as part of a saltwater lagoon. Also displayed are Native American artifacts, including pottery, arrowheads, and tomahawks dating back 3000 years. They were discovered in the 1960's during the construction of I-75 not far from Ringgold. Confederate and obsolete currency can also be seen. A real surprise was the display of an old Ku Klux Klan robe and hood.

While visiting the museum, all members of the tour had the opportunity to meet and talk with Mrs. T. G. Shirley of the Catooga County Historical Society. She is the caretaker of the museum and is highly knowledgeable about it's history.

Mrs. Shirley, while discussing the museum and the Ringgold battles with Dr. Bamberl, mentioned that General Braxton Bragg stood in front of the Church "directing traffic" for the Confederate Army during their retreat. Dr. Bamberl asked her if she liked General Bragg. Her reply: "HE'S A CONFEDERATE ISN'T HE?"

Ringgold, Georgia is a nice pleasant town, with friendly and helpful residents. It has a significant Civil War history and a history that travels back thousands of years.

If you anticipate visiting the Chattanooga area, make sure you devote some time to visit Ringgold and several historical sites in the area, and especially, 'THE OLD STONE CHURCH MUSEUM'.



WAR OF THE REBELLION

Brother Against Brother



THE WAR, BY ANY OTHER NAME

by Mary Jane Baetz, SCWRT Member

As we admired the view of the river and were about to order dinner, the waiter asked cheerfully, "What brings you to Savannah?" Enthusiastically, we replied "We're here to visit some Civil War sites!"

The waiter paused. "Civil War?" he mused, and in a deep and somber voice he declared, "There was nuthin' civil about the war. It was the *War of Northe'n Aggression.*"

Another time, in New York, I purchased a book called The Illustrated History of the Civil War featuring historic photographs by Mathew Brady. The title page referred to *The Causes That Led to The Great Conflict* and explained that the book was published in commemoration of the *Fiftieth Anniversary of the Great National Struggle*.

In just these two experiences, in Savannah and New York, four names for the war had been used -- the Civil War, the War of Northern Aggression, The Great Conflict and The Great National Struggle -- and the list had just begun!

In the South in particular, it was called *THE War*, a name which continues to be preferred by many as if there had not been another shot fired in anger since '65 !

More commonly, of course, it is identified as *The Civil War* but was also known as:

- The War of the Rebellion
- The War to Suppress Yankee Arrogance
- The War of Secession
- The War of the Sixties
- The War of the North and South
- The War Between the States
- The War of the Southrons
- The Great Rebellion
- The Civil War Between the States

Sometimes the war was named to indicate a cause. In other words, it was for something:

- The War for Constitutional Liberty
- The War for Southern Independence
- The War for States' Rights
- The War for Southern Rights
- The War for Separation
- The War for Abolition
- The War for the Union
- The War for Nationality
- The War for Southern Nationality
- The War for Southern Freedom
- The Second War for Independence

Or against something:

- The War Against Slavery
- The War Against Northern Aggression
- The War Against the States

Sometimes the name implied it belonged to someone, or that someone caused the war:

- Mr. Lincoln's War
- The Brothers' War
- The Confederate War
- The Slaveowners' Rebellion
- The War of the Southern Planters

And in the end, especially for the losing side, the name took on a special bitterness:

- The Late Unpleasantness
- The Late Friction
- The Late Ruction
- The Schism
- The Uncivil War
- The Lost Cause

Of course, there are many other names for the war as well. The great poet Walt Whitman called it *The War of Attempted Secession*. The American historian Shelby Foote called it *The Crossroads of Our Being*. Former Poet Laureate of the United States Robert Penn Warren once wrote, "*It is an overwhelming and vital image of human and national experience.*"

The many and varied names are a powerful amplification of the passion and polarization of this war. Whether in Savannah, where a dignified waiter still carries his heart on his sleeve, or in New York where the Yankee spirit lives on, the names tell a story. Whatever it is called, it represents the commitment and ultimate sacrifice of more than 600,000 men who died in a war with so many names.