This month Bruce will continue his talk from November on Civil War Medicine. We will discuss the roles and duties of the Army Surgeon, Hospital Steward, and Nurses. Army Surgeons who were awarded the Medal of Honor. The organization of Union Hospital System. The role of private relief organizations played. Women and Union Army Leaders. Medicine in the Confederacy. The role of the Veterans Relief Corps. Union and Confederate Medical Navy Departments.

UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS

March 10, 2016 - Critical Decisions at Second Manassas: The Fourteen Decision that Shaped the Battle - Matt Spruill
April 14, 2016 - If I Have Got to Go and Fight, I Am Willing” A Union Regiment Forged in the Petersburg Campaign. -Ed Rutan’s
May 12, 2016 - TBA
June 9, 2016 - No Meeting
July 14, 2016 - Dr. Tim Smith
Aug 11, 2016- Dr. Glenn Robertson
September 15, 2016 - TBA
October 13, 2016 - TBA
**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

As your incoming president, my first order of business is to thank Past President Ray Polster for all of his dedicated service to this round table. Likewise, I wish to thank Renee Powers for her longtime service as Treasurer. Renee is continuing to serve as Secretary, while Ian Duncanson has accepted the position as Treasurer.

I have two major goals for the future of our round table. The first is to keep it as a welcoming organization to anyone interested in the Civil War, providing informal presentations about most any aspect of that war as well as a forum to meet other students of the Civil War. However, we are now recognizing that we have grown considerably as an organization and we need some more structure to enhance our ability to continue. Therefore my second goal is to put into place some additional structure, not to interfere with the first goal, to keep the round table functioning without overburdening any one individual.

The Steering Committee has already provided help: we have split the position of Treasurer into separate Secretary and Treasurer positions. Also we now have a Presentations Committee, consisting of Ian Duncanson, Don Hallstrom, and Nick Muller, who are actively filling our speakers schedule for 2016. We plan on bringing two or three well known speakers from out of town as well as searching for speakers from within our ranks.

As additional help, I am looking for three individuals: one to serve as a sort of sergeant-at-arms, one as a snack and coffee manager, and the other as a greeter. The sergeant-at-arms would need to be at the church by 6 pm to help set up the room and assist with any speaker needs. At the close of the meeting he/she would put the room in order and help lock up. The snack and coffee manager would insure that we have a couple of snacks and coffee for each meeting by asking for donations from different members over the year. Jim Powers has been a good greater and book drawing ticket distributer, but has some family issues keeping him from full time attendance. I would like to have someone back him up by keeping a lookout for first time attendees.

I want to thank Past President Dave Townsend for continuing to be our "Nametag Guy," and Don Hallstrom for taking care of the book raffles each month. Also I want to thank Don for volunteering to chair the first meeting of the 2016 Study Group, which will take place immediately after the January 14 monthly round table meeting. The Study Group is open to any member interested in doing a little more investigation into whatever battle or campaign that groups decides to study in some detail. This is a great forum!

Please remember that this is YOUR round table. If you have any suggestions or ideas to make it better, call or email me. But be warned that I very well may appoint you to carry out your idea.

I look forward to seeing you at the January meeting.

–Larry Peterson
General Nathan Bedford Forrest, by his own hand, reportedly killed 30 Union soldiers during the war...and one Confederate officer.

Let me explain. Confederate Lieutenant Willls Gould was irate. Having commanded a section of artillery under Forrest, he was relieved of command and transferred out of the unit by the general in June, 1863. No explanation was given but, ostensibly, Forrest was upset with the lieutenant for having lost 2 guns in a recent action. Lieutenant Gould demanded an audience with the general to plead his case. Reluctantly, General Forrest agreed to discuss the matter with the aggrieved lieutenant. The meeting was set for the morning of June 14, 1863 at Forrests' headquarters in Columbia, Tennessee.

Lieutenant Gould was ushered into the commanders office and found the General sitting at his desk, picking his teeth with a pocket knife. The two were alone. Gould explained that a black mark of cowardice would follow him forever after if the general did not rescind the transfer order. His career and more importantly his honor was at stake. General Forrest was unconvinced. The order would stand. The lieutenant was dismissed. But he did not leave Forrests' office. From beneath his coat he pulled a pistol, took a few steps toward the general, aimed, and fired. However, just before pulling the trigger, Forrest had jumped from his chair and grabbed for the pistol deflecting the shot. Though the bullet passed through his hip, the two continued to tussle. Forrest stabbed Gould with all his might and the knife cut an artery in Goulds' side. The lieutenant ran from the office and headed across the street. Forrest slumped to the floor.

A doctor was immediately summoned and after a cursory examination the physician told Forrest that the wound appeared fatal. Now it was Forrest who became enraged. Screaming “Get out of my way, I am mortally wounded and will kill the man who shot me.” Forrest leaped from the examining table, grabbed a revolver, and went chasing after Gould. By this time, the lieutenant was being examined by 2 doctors across the street in a tailors shop. He was bleeding profusely from his wound but upon hearing that the general was gunning for him he made a bee-line for the back door, ran about 50 yards and collapsed. Forrest reached the unconscious man and was about to put him out of his misery when one of the doctors yelled at him that the man was already mortally wounded. Forrest turned and walked away.

Ultimately, Forrests' original diagnosis was incorrect. The wound was not fatal. Apparently General Forrest, upon learning of this, softened. He ordered that Gould be given the very best of care. He was. For two days. And then he died. General Forrest was back in the saddle 12 days later. His war would continue. Lieutenant Goulds' would not.
Horrors of the Rebellion
The Late Execution of North Carolina Unionists. Twenty-Four Loyal Southern Soldiers Hung at Kinston.
What it Costs a Southern Man to Fight for the Union. Sufferings of Wives, Widows and Orphans.

From last month...

After receiving the consolations of religion, one of their number stepped forward, and, in a firm and clear voice, declared that he and his companions died, as they had lived, “Union men.” One of the victims was a little drummer-boy, named Joey Neal, only fourteen years of age, a fair complexioned, blue-eyed child, an orphan, enlisted in Beaufort by the writer of these lines, out of pure compassion for his destitute state; another, a robust man, Amos Amyett, was tortured for fifteen minutes before the ill-adjusted rope could strangle him to death.

Those twenty-four corpses swinging between heaven and earth, all that remains of as many brave and loyal North Carolinians, are not to be forgotten, nor the lessons they teach to be lightly passed over by the rich and prosperous people of the North. The rank and file of the Second Regiment North Carolina Union Volunteers, is composed of native North Carolinians, every one of whom is threatened with the fate of these twenty-four, if captured; and that that is no improbable contingency, may be gathered from the fact, that although the regiment has only been a few months in existence, and up to this time has not been fully organized, detachments from it have on several occasions, rendered services of sufficient importance to be recognized in General Orders. The men of the regiment fight with a halter around their necks, not merely because many of them are refugees from the rebel conscription, and Union men who have taken the first opportunity to leave the rebel army, but because every citizen of North Carolina taken in arms against the Confederacy, is declared by a statute of that State to be a traitor; and death is the decreed penalty of his offence. Hiding for months in swamps and thickets, and enduring perils and hardships that are almost incredible, these men, or such of them as are not murdered by the guerrillas, gaunt with hunger and clad in rags, a last reach our lines. Here they can find abundant and profitable employment as mechanics and laborers; but they are burning for the emancipation of their State and the rescue of their families from the horrors of the rebel despotism; and they enlist, without the lure of large bounties, in the service of the United States, which, on its part, guarantees them, or should do so, the same protection afforded to soldiers of the loyal States. Many of them have now been four months in the service, and have never received one cent of pay or bounty. This was the case with the twenty-four hung at Kinston; not a man of them had ever received a dollar from the United States.

Part two of three ... Cont. next month
George Armstrong Custer was without a peer as a Civil War cavalry combat commander. Call it 'Custer's Luck' as many authors have, I like to believe that Custer had an unusual ability to quickly understand the tactical situation he faced, and made the proper decisions which lead to his many victories.

Another book recently hit the bookstores by T.J. Stiles titled CUSTER'S TRIALS. This makes at least seven books on Custer in recent history. No other 19th century American personality other than Abraham Lincoln can command such attention. Why? Despite the recent book review (December 20, 2015) in the Denver Post in which the reviewer stated "Only in battle did his greatness shine, and that is how most Americans view him", which I take exception with as most Americans view Custer in a very dark light, what makes him continue to provide material 140 years after his death?

Maybe the explanation lies in the changing times in America during Custer's lifetime. Not only was the culture changing, so was economic, social, racial and political norms being redefined. As T.J. Stiles points out Custer represented the antebellum period. After the Civil War he could not adjust to the new America. He never acquired the self-discipline to fit comfortably into the greatly reduced army, continuing to behave like a prima donna, in his relationships with his subordinates and superiors. Yet, when the time came for fighting, he called for him again and again to march against the plains Indians. From 1861 to 1876 the spotlight became brighter and brighter on him. He was able to move among the political and financial elite, was great copy for newspaper editors and even partnered with Jarius Hall of Georgetown, Colorado in a silver mine that left his widow with an $8000 debt. What was it about Custer!

T.J. Stiles' book is worth the read as he does a fine job of explaining Custer as a bridge between two periods in America history. Unlike other books on Custer's life, the author covers the Little Big Horn Battle from records produced by congressional inquiries and the court martial of Major Jesse Reno. This approach relegates Custer's last day to its proper place, a final chapter that is not overblown as many authors do in the life story of George Armstrong Custer.

Ian Duncanson
The Rocky Mountain Civil War Round Table (RMCWRT) is a Colorado-based group of Civil War enthusiasts that met for the first time in 1991. Our membership represents a variety of backgrounds including published Civil War authors, scholars, battlefield tour guides, librarians, lawyers, doctors, active participants in Civil War Trust, and casual hobbyists. New members and guests of all interests are welcome. Annual dues of $20 confer full membership privileges including the monthly newsletter. The RMCWRT is a 501c3 organization and all donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Requests for contribution receipts may be sent to the RMCWRT, c/o Renee Powers, PO Box 460102, Denver, CO, 80246 or email gettysburg@rockymtncivilwar.com.

### POINTS OF CONTACT

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**Presentation Committee:**
- Ian Duncanson, Don Hallstrom and Nick Muller

**Newsletter:**
- Michael Lang, Nick Muller and Ian Duncanson

**Email/Website/Photography**
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- http://www.flickr.com/groups/rmcwrt/
Noted Civil War author and Rocky Mountain Civil War Round Table member Matt Spruill will be a guest January 13 on the internet talk show Civil War Talk Radio. The show is part of the Voice America (not Voice of America, just Voice America) Variety Channel.

Civil War Talk Radio is hosted by Dr. Gerald Prokopowicz, a history professor at Eastern Carolina University in Greenville, North Carolina. The hour-long show is broadcast live through the internet each Wednesday at 5 p.m. Mountain Standard Time. Each hour-long show is a free-wheeling discussion of varied Civil War topics.

The show, now in its 12th year, has featured well-known Civil War authors, editors, museum directors, game designers, reenactors and others active in Civil War history. Guests have included Ed Bearss, Ken Burns, Peter Cozzens, Larry Daniel, Gary Gallagher, Doris Sterns Goodwin, John Hennessy, Earl Hess, Robert Lee Hodge, Harold Holzer, James McPherson, David A. Powell, Ethan Rafuse, Theodore Savas, Jeff Shaara, Tim Smith, Don Troiani, and Eric Wittenberg.

To listen to Matt Spruill live on Civil War Talk Radio at 5 p.m. Wednesday, January 13, use this link on your computer, tablet or smart phone – www.voiceamerica.com/show/2205/civil-war-talk-radio.

If you are not able to listen to the show live, Voice America archives the episodes for later listening.

There are several other ways to listen to current and past episodes as well. Impediments of War – www.impedimentsofwar.org – is a website devoted solely to Civil War Talk Radio. All episodes are archived and can be accessed by computer, smart phone or tablet. Episodes also can be downloaded to any MP3-compatible device.

For iPod users, Civil War Talk Radio can be downloaded through the iTunes website. Users also can subscribe to the show on iTunes and new episodes will be downloaded automatically when the site is accessed.

There are over 330 hours of listening material relating to the Civil War through this unique show. Civil War enthusiasts, welcome to the 21st century.