



THE COURIER



Northeast Ohio Civil War Round Table



Tuesday, December 14th, 2010 Meeting #112 Ladies Night

Dino's Restaurant at I90 & State Rt. 306 Willoughby, Ohio

Guest Speaker: Michael Kraus

Topic: "Filming the American Civil War"

Canteen at 6:00 pm Dinner at 7:00 pm Guests are welcome

Reservations required Please call Steve Abbey

Phone 440 255 8375 e-Mail: abbeysr@yahoo.com

Michael Kraus's interest with history began when he was 10 years old with the discovery of a Native-American stone ax found behind his parent's home in New Castle, Pennsylvania. From that moment on Michael developed a lifelong affinity for historical artifacts and the background stories they hold.



In a recent Pittsburgh newspaper interview, a reporter referred to Kraus as the "go to" person for all things Civil War. Michael is recognized in the Civil War field not only as an authority on historical artifacts, but also as a long time re-enactor, who attended his first re-enactment event in 1966. He continues to enjoy re-enacting holding the rank of Captain of the 116th Pa. Volunteer Infantry, Company "I", Irish Brigade. Several Hollywood film companies have utilized the valuable Civil War period perspective Kraus has acquired by hiring him as an on location historical consultant. Michael has worked on, and appeared in the films, "*Gettysburg*" in 1993 and "*Cold Mountain*" in 2003. Among his other media credits Kraus is the co-writer of a nationally distributed documentary DVD series titled "*Civil War Minutes*" which has recently been broadcast on PBS.

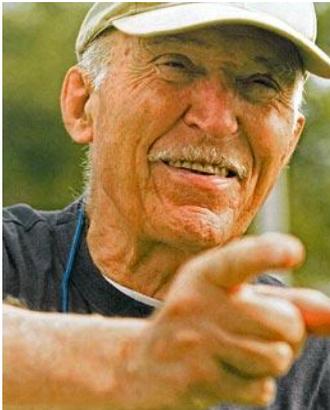
Michael Kraus graduated from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania with a degree in Fine Arts, formally recognized in 2009 as a distinguished alumnus. Combining artistic talent and a passion for history, Kraus has been commissioned to create at least six large public bronze monuments with historical themes. When not working in bronze Michael creates decorative works of art in stone that he sells through shows and by commission. Currently employed as the Curator of Collections at *Soldiers and Sailors National Memorial and Museum Trust in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*, Kraus lives nearby with his wife Cheryl. Together they have two children, a son Dylan who is an art student at Cooper Union in New York City, and a daughter Madison who attends the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor.

CIVIL WAR MINUTES by Franco M. Sperrazzo Events Coordinator / Pres. Elect

NOVEMBER 9TH Meeting Forty-two members and guests were on hand and even though the program ran a bit late, no one left early or was disappointed as member **Brian Kowell** took us back to the middle of the Civil War. General George Gordon Meade, assumed command of the Army of the Potomac on June 28th, 1863, just prior to the 3 dramatic days at Gettysburg. Brian dedicated his talk to his long time friend and CWRT member, the jovial Peter Holman. Brian Kowell's extensive research was as good as it gets in developing a talk. Brian spoke of General Meade's character and reluctance to command the Union Army. Brian pointed out that it is no coincidence that Meade's legacy will always be tainted by the fact that adversaries like Sickles, Pleasanton and Doubleday criticized Meade before the Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War. Meade's ranking among the Union generals was badly affected. Nobody presents a better talk than **Brian Kowell**.

In Memory of John Krouse As we assembled for our November 9th meeting we were greeted at the door by our usual steady Sergeant of Arms, **Steve Abbey**. This time he had to be the bearer of bad news. We were saddened to learn of the passing of our 4 year member and friend John earlier that morning, after fighting through a long illness. He was a gregarious and unassuming individual that many of us exchanged pleasant time with at the Pine Lake outing on August 22nd and the September 14th Dino's meeting. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Louisa, his family and friends. He will be missed by his fellow comrades. **James R. Donahue Sr.:** Father of member **James R. Donahue Jr.** since 2002. James Sr. also battled a long illness. James Jr. often spoke fondly of his dad to me. They were close and attended many sporting and family events together. We hope Jim's work schedule will allow him to attend more meetings than in the past. This may be a helpful remedy in getting him through this difficult time.

Memorial Dedication Program: A tribute to honor our NEOCWRT 6 fallen soldiers will commence January 11th, to kick off the 2011 New Year! **Theodore J. Karle** is doing diligence in collaboration with our **Founding Fathers** due to the impact and nature of this specialized program. More details on this subject in next month's Courier Newsletter.



Edwin Cole Bearss: It will be 17 months before the momentous return of **Ed Bearss**, American History's "pied piper" to our club on May 15th 2012. **Ed Bearss** became our first honorary member when he spoke to our founders and charter membership in December 1998 for our Club's first anniversary. Many historic journeys, guided tours, books, periodicals and speaking engagements occurred between his revisit on November 15th 2005. The highlight for me that night was Ed's response to a question regarding the sinking and salvage of the Cairo from his book [The Hard Luck Ironclad](#). His response generated a mini talk. We were overwhelmed with our special friend and his gift of knowledge. Unfortunately **Mr. Bearss** has lost his best friend and wife Margie since we last shared time together. Judging by his remarkable itinerary he really hasn't lost a step. I will report updates from time to time leading up to his visit.

Left, Edwin Bearss photo

Michael G. Kraus: This month's holiday gathering will feature note military historian **Michael G. Kraus**. In 2002 **Michael** co-authored the documentary series "Civil War Minutes" portraying the everyday life of soldiers during the Civil War. This series also produced the movies "Shot to Pieces" and "Left for Dead". He has worked with other historians including artists **Don Troiani** and his friend, the late **Brian C. Pohanka**, as military consultants for the 1993-1995 series Civil War Journal/ History Channel. **Michael's** credits are extensive considering his young age. He is an actor, re-enactor and a consultant for the Hollywood movies "Gettysburg" 1993 and "Cold Mountain" 2003. In addition he is a PBS contributor, a collector of Civil War artifacts, appraiser and a renowned sculptor. **Ted Karle, John Sandy, Arlan Byrne** and **Captain Franco** traveled to the Erie CWRT to enjoy his unique perspective on the Civil War in film earlier this year. **Michael** plans to bring some historical mementos. Be sure to mark December 14th on your calendar for a night to remember. Left, *Actor Jude Law with Brian Pohanka on location for "Cold Mountain"*

December 14th Meeting Addendum: Please note the cost for this month's meeting will be \$25.00 per person! There will be a second entrée and an array of fine wines provided by the club and the generosity of **JET Tirpak**. If you possess any books that appeal to our special guests please bring them and forward them to **Carl Dodaro** for the raffle.



Get well Wishes: Please keep a couple of spouses in your thoughts and prayers during this holiday season. **Frank Yannucci's** wife **Doloris** has had some health issues for some time and we hope for positive news. Just before Thanksgiving **Arlan Byrne's** wife **Patricia** was admitted to University Hospital Geauga Campus with some medical problems. Both **Frank** and **Arlan** could use some words of encouragement with dealing with these circumstances.

The following article was presented in the September 2008 edition of the Courier. We present it again as a tribute to our Brother and Friend John Krause.

Ups and Downs of a Confederate Soldier

Part One of a two-part book review and perspective by John Krause

It was a hot day in July 1861 at Manassas, Virginia. James Huffman was thirsty and tired after a long march from Winchester, where just a month earlier he had joined Company 1, 10th Virginia Infantry Regiment of the Confederate States Army. The 21-year-old son of a plantation owner, Huffman was born and raised on Naked Creek, a small stream in Page County, Virginia, in the heart of the Shenandoah Valley. His reasons for joining the army: defense of rights, home, loved ones and liberty.



Above photograph of James Hoffman

Barely trained and weary, Huffman's regiment was sent to support a battery being cut to pieces, and he had to run the last five miles in shoe-deep dust to reach the fighting. Rebel troops were unseasoned and being beaten back, but much to the surprise of the US Government – and the many spectators from Washington who came to watch with picnic baskets – the tide of battle turned and Confederate forces prevailed that day.

“After firing a few rounds we charged, their lines began to waver and then they broke and ran. We were in close pursuit and pressed them across the stone bridge over Bull Run, and the Yanks ran like the dickens was after them!” The victory was won. President Davis, General Joe Johnson and P.G.T. Beauregard passed us on the field. After following some distance, we returned to Manassas where I dropped to the ground, exhausted.”



So begins James Huffman's first-hand account of what was to be the first major land battle of the American Civil War. He was my Great, Great Uncle, and was part of the regiment that saw action in every major engagement in Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania. His book “Ups and Downs of a Confederate Soldier” is a fascinating chronology of battles, marches and hardships from the unique personal perspective of a Southern foot soldier.

He lay on the ground all night in the rain after the First Battle of Bull Run, and next day marched in the downpour and camped in a wheat field on the cold, wet ground all night. Then they marched to Fairfax station, where he said that he “suffered dreadful aches and pains in his back and head for more than a week.” *Left photograph of the ruins of the bridge at Bull Run*

Hearing of the battle, his father Ambrose and brother-in-law Wilson Carrier – also from Naked Creek and a Confederate Captain – came to see who was left of the slaughter, saw that he had typhoid fever and took him by wagon over thirty miles back to Naked Creek. There he was treated by the family doctor, recuperated for three months and returned to his unit. Such support was common for Southern troops, and Huffman noted family from home would often come to camp with provisions and clothing, and stay for a week or more. Tragically, Huffman's father contracted typhoid and died at the age of 57.

After Manassas, Huffman describes marching, shooting – and being shot at – in numerous skirmishes and encounters with the Federals. His firsthand accounts of the sights and sounds of the battles are riveting. “If you can form an idea of a hundred or more cannon and one hundred thousand or more small arms, and sometimes thousands of men – yelling at the top of their voices – then you can begin to understand the raging terror and the roaring, lumbering noise of this big battle that was going on,” he wrote of the heavy fighting in June 1862 at Gaines Mill and Cold Harbor during The Seven Days’ Battles around Richmond.

“Tons of iron was hurled across that field of oats where we lay that day in support of our battery,” he wrote about a battle at Malvern Hill during this campaign. “The shells exploding over us made iron hail in the oats. One round ball – about a four inch ball – came in low, struck the ground in front of us, bounded over the line, and with another bound went clear – not touching anyone. But Joe Monger lay in a little gully and the concussion of one of the exploding shells caused his face and side to swell almost beyond recognition.” Huffman wrote of several occasions in such battles where he himself was shot, with his clothing and pack being torn in many places by bullets and shrapnel that generally failed to break the skin and instead produced bruises “that turned black and was as large as the palm of my hand.”

During the battle of Antietam, Huffman’s regiment was in a support position to prevent a flank movement of Federal forces across the river. “We had one large four-horse cannon planted on a high hill which was in almost constant service. They fired over our heads, a mile and a half or two miles, and as they were shooting shells with fuses and fire to them we could see them

from the time they left the cannon’s mouth, coming straight to us as if they would strike us between the eyes, but they always passed over. After night, it was still more beautiful to see those shells sailing, apparently slowly, through the air. It was a sight not to be forgotten.”



He also described becoming numb to much of the noise and killing. “It seems unreasonable, yet one can get so hardened as to lie down and sleep during the noise of these big battles. During one day of the heaviest fighting, while shells were exploding in all directions and while we were in reserve for a few hours, I lay against a tree and slept. Hard marching, loss of sleep and becoming accustomed to the noise enabled one to sleep in time of battle or among the dead and wounded at night.”

Regimental Battle flag showing major engagements from the 16th Virginia Volunteer Regiment Archives

During the summer and early fall of 1862, the regiment marched up and down the Shenandoah valley and through mountains between towns such as Harpers Ferry, Port Republic, Richmond, Culpepper and down to Leesburg and then back up into Maryland, Frederick,

Boonesboro, Sharpsburg and then back to Virginia. “Marching over 1,000 miles – a portion of the time marching in almost daily rains, in hub-deep mud, no tents to cover our heads at night, eighteen days’ hard fighting besides small fights and skirmishes, often on short rations and sometimes none at all. Companies were reduced to 10 or 20 men, regiments to 200 to 300 and Lee’s army to 35,000.”

At the battle of Chancellorsville in 1863, Huffman wrote about the mortal wounding of Stonewall Jackson, revered by his men for an uncanny ability to confuse and defeat an enemy having far greater troop strength and equipment. Huffman and others in his regiment idolized their commander, referring to him as “The Great Chief” and “our noble General Jackson.” Huffman noted with sadness “His death was the defeat of the Confederate cause.”

Some of the most intense fighting Huffman encountered was in May of 1864 during the ferocious battle of Spotsylvania. A Federal assault on what was called “the bloody angle” – a five-mile long system of Confederate entrenchments in the shape of an inverted U – included some of the most savage and desperate hand-to-hand fighting of the war, with firepower so intense that the entire landscape was flattened and all the foliage destroyed.

“Above the angle they were pouring mortar volleys into us and at the same time several new lines charged up our front. I was loading and firing with my eyes on the front by the side of our flag,” Huffman wrote. “After these lines of Yanks charged, I found myself and five others entirely surrounded. The Yanks above the angle had crossed and were as thick as bees in the woods behind us.” In this assault, Huffman was severely wounded in the left leg, surrounded by Federals and captured. “On the 10th of May, 1864, I ended my days of soldiering, and lying on the wet ground with a wounded leg, became a prisoner of war.”

THE “NUTS AND BOLTS” OF THE CIVIL WAR

COMPILED BY CARL DODARO

“THE CONFEDERADOS”

After the American Civil War, many of the Confederates of the Southern States, the soldiers and the citizens, looked over a landscape that none of them could have imagined just four years earlier as the first cannons were fired at Fort Sumter. Many Confederates decided they did not want to live under the rule of the U.S. occupying forces or



could not live in the conditions left them after the military actions around them destroyed everything they held sacred. Thousands of southerners immigrated to Southern Brazil between 1865 and 1885.

Origins of the Confederados

The Civil War was the bloodiest war ever fought on American soil, and in fact was the deadliest war in American history, killing over 600,000 Americans.

In the wake of these turbulent times, with the Civil War ending and Reconstruction beginning, Emperor Dom Pedro II of Brazil offered southerners a chance to come to Brazil and start life anew. Pedro sought to capitalize on their knowledge of modern agricultural techniques, particularly in the area of cotton farming.

Many southerners rejected the Emperor's offer.

General Robert E. Lee, perhaps the most famous and respected of all Confederates, asked southerners to reject the Brazilian's offer. Despite his pleas, as many as 4,000 and some estimates state that as many as 9,000 southerners packed up and moved south to Brazil. These people would come to be known as the Confederados. Families packed up what they could, leaving behind their homes and bringing all they could to start life anew in another land. Passage to Brazil cost between \$20 and \$30. Once their Dom Pedro had land set aside which he would sell to these Confederados at only \$0.22 an acre.

Up to 60% of the Confederados would eventually return back to the United States of America, but those that stayed worked to keep their southern traditions alive. One of the most important colonies they founded was Americana, Brazil, in the state of Sao Paulo. It is a sugar-cane growing region about 85 miles northwest of Sao Paulo. The soil is fertile and brick-red in color. In fact it is very similar to that found in Alabama or Mississippi and very good for growing cotton. In the beginning the Confederados kept primarily to themselves, keeping their own traditions. In 1868 they founded Campo Cemetery. Being Protestants the Confederados were not allowed at the time to bury their dead in the Catholic cemeteries of the area, and thus they were required to create their own cemetery. Today Campo Cemetery is of central importance to the Fraternity of American Descendants, an organization made up of descendants of the Confederados founded in 1954. It is the strongest memorial to this unique community in Brazilian History.

The Confederados Today

As time moved on the Confederados eventually began to assimilate more into their new Brazilian home. While the earliest generations had married among themselves, they soon began intermarrying with the rest of Brazilian society and all of the various groups that make up the Brazilian population. Today only 10% of the

population of Americana, Brazil is related to the founding Confederados. Still they remember strongly their Confederado heritage. In 1954 Confederado descendants from across Brazil created the Fraternity of American Descendants which remains a strong and vibrant community.

The forgotten Confederados and their descendants made headlines in 1972 when Governor Jimmy Carter of Georgia and his wife, Rosalyn visited Americana. Rosalyn Carter's great-uncle had been one of the original Confederados and the Carters visited his grave at Campo Cemetery on their trip. Today tourism is a major industry in Americana. Visitors come from around Brazil, and even around the world to see the historic cemetery and hear English spoken with a southern drawl. Although they have been largely forgotten, the Confederados remain a fascinating part of American and Brazilian history. The community of their descendants thrives to this day. It's a little bit Southern hospitality with a lot of Latin Warmth. For nearly a century and a half the descendents of the original Confederate émigrés have maintained their unique cultural identity.

The descendents of the Confederados have spread throughout Brazil. Evidence of their heritage can still be found, especially in the area around Americana, which is home to a chapter of the Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV) who call themselves "Os Confederados". It was formed in 1994 by these "Southerners" in Brazil who want to retain their heritage. The organization hosts an annual party at the Campo Cemetery every April. The menu features Southern-fried chicken and corn bread. Portuguese, Southern English and an even a mixture of the two languages can be heard at the celebration.

For more information on the “CONFEDERADOS”

SCV Camp #1653 @ www.confederados.com

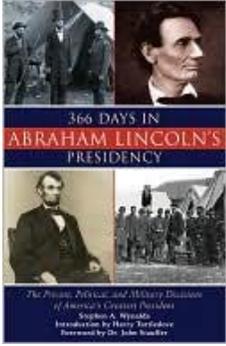
“CONFEDERADOS” on Wikipedia

ALAN M. TIGAY, “THE DEEPEST SOUTH” ,
AMERICAN HERITAGE 49(2), APRIL 1998, .
PAGES 84-95

AUBURN UNIVERSITY IN ALABAMA maintains a
special collection of material related . to
Confederado immigration.



**366 Days in Abraham Lincoln's Presidency by Stephen A. Wynalda –
a book review by Tom Horvath**



The first question I had was, “Which 366 days did the author choose?”. To my surprise, he did not choose 366 contiguous days, but 366 days selected from more than 1600 -- from Lincoln’s election in November, 1860 to his death on April 15, 1865. The entries concentrate on a single issue Lincoln dealt with on that day, though history and, sometimes, even future events, are often included to provide necessary background and to complete the story. Certainly, he dealt with a number of issues each day, but this volume selects only one. Most days are given a page or less – about 300 words -- so the entries are not very long and do not include many details. They provide a taste of history, rather than a full course meal.

Mr. Wynalda also includes a number of entries that he calls sidebars, such as information about Lincoln’s physical stature and appearance. They are written in line with the daily entries but do not fit the established format of a single day’s activity.

As the sub-title (*The Private, Political, and Military Decisions of America’s Greatest President*) indicates, there is no single theme to the topics selected. As a result, there is no flow to the book. In fact, Mr. Wynalda apparently does not expect the reader to start at the beginning and continue to the end, because he often repeats information from previous entries. In at least one instance, the information repeated is from the very last entry. So either Mr. Wynalda expects the reader to have an extremely short memory; he expects the volume to be referenced for the individual entries; or no one edited the book. I don’t know the real reason, but there are a number of additional instances of failed editing.

As long as I am carping about problems with the book, I’ll add an item of little importance that bothered me. There is a section of photos and, for some reason, a number of the photos are much smaller than available space would allow. It doesn’t seem like much, but when combined with unnecessary repetition and poor editing, I have to conclude that this volume was thrown together with little thought to how it would be read. The end result is a very bumpy read.

On the positive side, within each entry the writing is smooth and reads well. In his introduction, Mr. Wynalda writes that there is no new information for the Lincoln scholar, just an unusual presentation that addresses all aspects of Lincoln’s presidency. I have read a number of books about Lincoln and still found some new material. Many of the new items were interesting and, given Lincoln’s propensity to tell stories and jokes, some were even entertaining. I also appreciated his “Afterword I” that describes how Lincoln’s lack of close personal friends, his changing opinions, and his habit of keeping his plans and opinions hidden, has led to a number of organizations, some as far afield as the Ku Klux Klan, to claim Lincoln as a member or sympathizer.

In summary, there is some information and entertainment to be found in the book, but it takes a very lengthy, bumpy read to find it.

Published by Skyhorse in 2010, the volume is 590 pages long and includes a notes section, bibliography, index, and photographs. Amazon has the hardcover edition available for \$7.30 (that is not a misprint), while Barnes & Noble has it for \$21.74. Mentor Public Library owns one copy and the ClevNet System has three.

The Courier is the monthly newsletter of the Northeast Ohio Civil War Round Table

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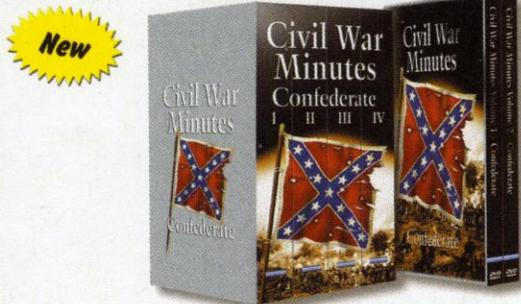
GREAT GIFT IDEAS FOR FAMILY, FRIENDS AND YOU!



Scene from
"SHOT TO PIECES"

"This is history at its best - informative, educational and entertaining."

-Brian Pohanka, Historian

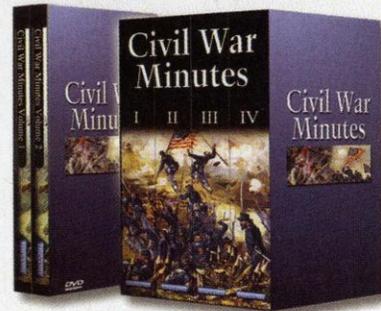


New

Running time: 180 Minutes

Civil War Minutes - Confederate

Featuring Michael Kraus, *Civil War Minutes - Confederate* reveals little known facts and stories about major Confederate players in the Civil War. Discover why few photographs exist of General Robert E. Lee and get an eyewitness account of J.E.B. Stuart's death. Learn why both Union and Confederate soldiers fought with Confederate General John Chambliss' sword and how General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson earned his nickname. See never before told stories of Confederate soldiers including accounts of the battle at Fort Sumter and a Confederate After Action Report at Gettysburg.



Running time: 180 Minutes

Civil War Minutes

Featuring Michael Kraus, *Civil War Minutes* is a compilation of never-before-seen photographs and artifacts from private collections, live action footage and digitally captured engravings and photographs from rare books. This series contains answers to questions like what is the Red Tape; what is the Report of Samuel Weaver and how was it related to Gettysburg; what is the General Beauregard Pipe and from where did it come; and what is a musket. And many more!

"CIVIL WAR MINUTES is a treasure trove of interesting information not to be found elsewhere on video."

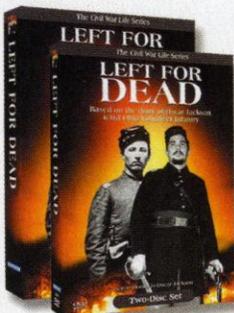
-DON TROIANI, America's Civil War Magazine



Michael Kraus, Military Coordinator for New Line Cinema's film *Gettysburg* and Military History Advisor for Miramax Films' *Cold Mountain*. Michael also served as Northern Commander of many Civil War 125th Anniversary reenactments.

"LEFT FOR DEAD tells an engaging story of the war through the eyes of one young man who, like so many others, was forever changed by it."

-BRENDA WILT,
Civil War Times Illustrated



Running time: 50 Minutes
Special features: 25 Minutes

Left for Dead

Written by Michael Kraus and David Neville, *Left for Dead* is a true story based on the life of military leader, Oscar Jackson. Learn how and when Jackson was shot, and the unusual turn of events that transpired afterwards. Listen to actual excerpts from Jackson's own diary describing what life was like during the Civil War. Follow Jackson through many of the western campaigns of the Civil War including the battles at New Madrid, Missouri and Corinth, Mississippi; the joining with General Sherman during the burning of Atlanta; and the great march to the sea. Based on the true story from *The Colonel's Diary*.

Shot to Pieces

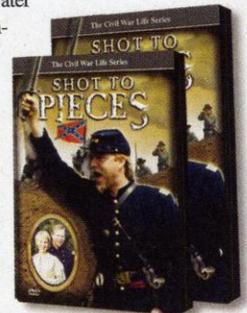
New

Follow in the footsteps of General William Francis Bartlett, a Harvard student who joined the Union Army, climbing the ranks to lead his men into many Confederate won battles such as: Ball's Bluff, Port Hudson, The Crater

and more. Discover how he overcame life threatening injuries and fights to stay alive in prison for the woman he loves. This feature-length, action-packed story of courage and devotion to duty, immerses the viewer in the smoke, gunfire and pathos of America's Civil War. *Shot to Pieces* also includes a cameo appearance by Military History Advisor Michael Kraus.

"I found Bartlett's courage in the face of enemy fire and adversity very inspirational. Also, this film has a very broad view of America's Civil War with its portrayals of combat, prison life, medical detail and home front as well as his personal story."

-MARIJEAN FERGUSON, Department of Sociology Chair, La Roche College



Running time: 80 Minutes