

THE BATTLE CRY



NEXT PROGRAMS

- 11/14/17-Wayne E. Motts, Chief Executive Officer National Civil War Museum Artifacts Slide Presentation
- 12/12/17-Philip Leigh-Reconstruction After the Civil War
- 1/17/18-Brian Steel Wills-Nathan Bedford Forrest
- 2/13/18-Frank Crawford-The Shenandoah Valley in the Civil War
- 3/13/18-TBA
- 4/10/18-TBA
- 5/8/18-TBA

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TRIVIA LIGHT

- What name did President Lincoln call his favorite horse?
- When ammunition grew scarce in the C.S.A. where did munition makers get a new supply of lead?

Our Club's Website:

For current & back issues of the Battle Cry, photos, news & more

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WAYNE MOTTS
TO SPEAK BEFORE
SARASOTA CIVIL
WAR ROUND TABLE
NOV. 14, 2017

Born and raised in central Ohio, Wayne graduated from The Ohio State University with a B.A. in military history in 1989. Moving to Gettysburg in 1990, Wayne earned a Masters Degree in American History from the Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania in 1994. He was one of the youngest persons ever to complete the licensing process to be a Licensed Battlefield Guide at Gettysburg National Military Park. He has guided parties around the famous field for 27 years. He has spoken to a wide range of historical bodies and groups on topics related to the American Civil War including the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC. In addition to his speaking engagements, Wayne has published several pieces related to the American Civil War in a variety of publications. He is considered the leading authority in the nation on Southern General Lewis Addison Armistead of Pickett's Charge fame and has published the only biography of the general entitled, *Trust in God and Fear Nothing: Lewis A. Armistead, CSA*. For ten years he was the research historian for renowned Civil War Artist Dale Gallon of Gettysburg where he assisted in the historical research of 40 works of fine art. He was the Senior Research Historian for TravelBrains Corporation and in this capacity researched material to be included in a number of audio visual products related to the American Civil War. The products produced by his research have been endorsed by the History Channel and have won numerous awards. In 2002, he accepted the position of curator at the Cumberland County Historical Society where he managed a collection of 8,000 artifacts. In 2004, he assumed duties as the collections manager of the Adams County Historical Society in Gettysburg. In 2005, Wayne was named executive director of the Society. He led this organization from January 2005 until April 2012 and assisted the Society and Lutheran Theological Seminary in the rehabilitation of Schmucker Hall one of the country's most significant Civil War structures. In April 2012, he accepted the position of chief executive officer of the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Opened in 2001, the National Civil War Museum has over 65,000 square feet of total space with more than 21,000 square feet dedicated to exhibit and educational areas. It holds more than 25,000 historical items related to both sides of the conflict.

ON GRANT BY RON CHERNOW

From *Grant* by Ron Chernow. [*The Complete Personal Memoirs of Ulysses S. Grant*](#) are considered a masterpiece of American literature, and Grant surprised observers with the clarity, directness and power of his prose. Grant had been insistent that he would never write his memoirs, but presidents in that era did not receive pensions -- so after suffering a financial catastrophe and contracting terminal cancer, he agreed, in order to provide for his beloved wife, Julia, after his death. Destitute and ailing, he gave his all to the task, writing 336,000 words in a year. Mark Twain's publishing house won the rights to Grant's memoirs, which sold a "record breaking 300,000 copies in two-volume sets." Grant finished the manuscript one week before his death:

"Terrified that if he died he would leave Julia [his wife] destitute, Grant agreed to pen his memoirs and relive his glory days of battle. As seen in his wartime orders, he had patented a lean, supple writing style, and a crisp narrative now flowed in polished sentences, honed by the habits of a lifetime.

"Words poured from this supposedly taciturn man, showing how much thought and pent-up feeling lay beneath his tightly buttoned facade. He wrote in an overstuffed leather arm-chair, his outstretched legs swaddled by blankets, resting on a facing chair. He wore a wool cap over thick brown hair now streaked with gray, a shawl draped over his shoulders, and a muffler around his neck concealing a tumor the size of a baseball. "Words poured from this supposedly taciturn man, showing how much thought and pent-up feeling lay beneath his tightly buttoned facade. He wrote in an overstuffed leather arm-chair, his outstretched legs swaddled by blankets, resting on a facing chair. He wore a wool cap over thick brown hair now streaked with gray, a shawl draped over his shoulders, and a muffler around his neck concealing a tumor the size of a baseball.

"Seldom, if ever, has a literary masterpiece been composed under such horrific circumstances. Whenever he swallowed anything, Grant was stricken with pain and had to resort to opiates that clouded his brain. As a result, he endured ex-tended periods of thirst and hunger as he labored over his manuscript. The tor-ment of the inflamed throat never ceased. When the pain grew too great, his black valet, Harrison Terrell, sprayed his throat with 'cocaine water,' temporar-ily numbing the area, or applied hot compresses to his head. Despite his fear of morphine addiction, Grant could not dispense entirely with such powerful med-ication. 'I suffer pain all the time, except when asleep,' he told his doctor. Al-though bolstered by analgesics, Grant experienced only partial relief, informing a reporter that 'when the suffering was so intense ... he only wished for the one great relief to all human pain.'

"Summoning his last reserves of strength, through a stupendous act of will-power, Grant toiled four to six hours a day, adding more time on sleepless nights. For family and friends his obsessive labor was wondrous to behold: the soldier so famously reticent that someone quipped he 'could be silent in several languages' pumped out 336,000 words of superb prose in a year.

"By May 1885, just two months before his death, Grant was forced to dictate, and, when his voice failed, he scribbled messages on thin strips of paper. Always cool in a crisis, Grant ex-hibited the prodigious stamina and granite resolve of his wartime effort.

"Nobody was more thunderstruck than Samuel Clemens, aka Mark Twain, who had recently formed a publishing house with his nephew-in-law Charles Webster. To snare Grant's memoirs, sure to be a literary sensation, Twain boosted the royalty promised by the *Century Magazine's* publishers and won the rights. Twain had never seen a writer with Grant's gritty determination.

"When this man 'under sentence of death with that cancer' produced an astonishing ten thousand words in one day, Twain exclaimed, 'It kills me these days to write half of that.' He was agog when Grant dictated at one sitting a nine-thousand-word portrait of Lee's surrender at Appomattox 'never pausing, never hesitating for a word, never repeating -- and in the written-out copy he made hardly a correction.' Twain, who considered the final product a masterwork, scoffed at scuttlebutt he had ghostwritten it. 'There is no higher literature than these modern, simple *Mem-oirs*,' he insisted. 'Their style is flawless ... no man can improve upon it.'" "When this man 'under sentence of death with that cancer' produced an astonishing ten thousand words in one day, Twain exclaimed, 'It kills me these days to write half of that.' He was agog when Grant dictated at one sitting a nine-thousand-word portrait of Lee's surrender at Appomattox 'never pausing, never hesitating for a word, never repeating -- and in the written-out copy he made hardly a correction.' Twain, who considered the final product a masterwork, scoffed at scuttlebutt he had ghostwritten it. 'There is no higher literature than these modern, simple *Mem-oirs*,' he insisted. 'Their style is flawless ... no man can improve upon it.'"

Pulitzer Prize winner Ron Chernow returns with a sweeping and dramatic portrait of one of our most compelling generals and presidents, Ulysses S. Grant.

Ulysses S. Grant's life has typically been misunderstood. All too often he is caricatured as a chronic loser and an inept businessman, or as the triumphant but brutal Union general of the Civil War. But these stereotypes don't come close to capturing him, as Chernow shows in his masterful biography, the first to provide a complete understanding of the general and president whose fortunes rose and fell with dizzying speed and frequency.

Before the Civil War, Grant was flailing. His business ventures had ended dismally, and despite distinguished service in the Mexican War he ended up resigning from the army in disgrace amid recurring accusations of drunkenness. But in war, Grant began to realize his remarkable potential, soaring through the ranks of the Union army, prevailing at the battle of Shiloh and in the Vicksburg campaign, and ultimately defeating the legendary Confederate general Robert E. Lee. Along the way, Grant endeared himself to President Lincoln and became his most trusted general and the strategic genius of the war effort. Grant's military fame translated into a two-term presidency, but one plagued by corruption scandals involving his closest staff members.

More important, he sought freedom and justice for black Americans, working to crush the Ku Klux Klan and earning the admiration of Frederick Douglass, who called him "the vigilant, firm, impartial, and wise protector of my race." After his presidency, he was again brought low by a dashing young swindler on Wall Street, only to resuscitate his image by working with Mark Twain to publish his memoirs, which are recognized as a masterpiece of the genre.

With lucidity, breadth, and meticulousness, Chernow finds the threads that bind these disparate stories together, shedding new light on the man whom Walt Whitman described as "nothing heroic... and yet the greatest hero." Chernow's probing portrait of Grant's lifelong struggle with alcoholism transforms our understanding of the man at the deepest level. This is America's greatest biographer, bringing movingly to life one of our finest but most underappreciated presidents. The definitive biography, *Grant* is a grand synthesis of painstaking research and literary brilliance that makes sense of all sides of Grant's life, explaining how this simple Midwesterner could at once be so ordinary and so extraordinary.

About the Author

Ron Chernow is the prizewinning author of six previous books and the recipient of the 2015 National Humanities Medal. His first book, *House of Morgan*, won the National Book Award, *Washington: A Life* won the Pulitzer Prize for Biography, and *Alexander Hamilton*—for the Broadway musical—won the American History Book Prize. A past president of PEN America, Chernow has been the recipient of several honorary doctorates. He resides in Brooklyn, New York.

