

THE CHARGER

May 2012

487th Meeting

Vol. 33 #9

Tonight's Program:

Vicksburg!

In May and June of 1863, Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's armies converged on Vicksburg, investing the city and entrapping a Confederate army under Lt. Gen. John Pemberton. On July 4, Vicksburg surrendered after prolonged siege operations. This was the culmination of one of the most brilliant military campaigns of the war. With the loss of Pemberton's army and this vital stronghold on the Mississippi, the Confederacy was effectively split in half. Grant's successes in the West boosted his reputation, leading ultimately to his appointment as General-in-Chief of the Union armies.

Tonight's Speaker:

Ed Bearss

Perhaps the most famous and recognizable of living Civil War historians, Ed Bearss has appeared before the CCWRT a dozen times, most recently in 2000, and is an honorary member. Mr. Bearss began his long career in 1954 working in the Office of the Chief of Military History, US Army, before moving over to the Vicksburg National Military Park as historian. While at Vicksburg, Bearss was instrumental in locating the U.S.S. Cairo and two forgotten forts at Grand Gulf, MS. In 1958, he was named Southeast Regional Historian, and worked to develop a variety of new parks, including Pea Ridge and Wilson's Creek. In 1966, Bearss was transferred to Washington, D.C., ultimately rising to the position of Chief Historian of the National Park Service, a role in which he served from 1981-1994. Following his retirement in 1995, Bearss was named Chief Historian Emeritus.

Date: **Wednesday,
April 11, 2012**

Place: **Judson Manor
1890 E. 107th Street
Cleveland, Ohio**

Time: **Drinks 6 pm
Dinner 6:45 pm**

Reservations: **Please send an email to ccwrt1956@yahoo.com with your reservation, or call Dan Zeiser at (440) 449-9311 by 9 pm the Sunday before the meeting.**

Meal: **Chicken cordon bleu, rice pilaf with peas and carrots, green beans with butter, and dessert.**

**CLEVELAND
CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE
FOUNDED 1957**

President: **Paul Burkholder** (440) 918-0222
Vice President: **Michael Wells** (216) 371-8449
Treasurer: **Jim Heflich** (216) 381.8833
Secretary: **Tim Myshrall**

Directors:

Lisa Kempfer Dennis Keating
C. Ellen Connally Howard Besser

website: www.clevelandcivilwarroundtable.com
email: pkburkholder@gmail.com

Editor - THE CHARGER - Dan Zeiser

Cleveland Civil War Roundtable Past Presidents

2011 Lisa Kempfer
2010 Dennis Keating
2009 Jon Thompson
2008 Terry Koozer
2007 John Fazio
2006 Dave Carrino
2005 Mel Maurer
2004 Warren McClelland
2003 Maynard Bauer
2002 Bill McGrath
2001 William Vodrey
2000 Bob Boyda
1999 Dick Crews
1998 John Moore
1997 Dan Zeiser
1996 John Sutula
1995 Norton London
1994 Robert Battisti
1993 Kevin Callahan
1992 Bob Baucher
1991 Joe Tirpak
1990 Ken Callahan Jr.
1989 Neil Glaser
1988 Martin Graham
1987 George Vourlojanis
1986 Tim Beatty
1985 Brian Kowell

1984 Neil Evans
1983 William Victory
1982 John Harkness
1981 Thomas Geschke
1980 Charles Spiegle
1979 William Bates
1978 Richard McCrae
1977 James Chapman
1976 Milton Holmes
1975 Thomas Gretter
1974 Nolan Heidelbaugh
1973 Arthur Jordan
1972 Bernard Drews
1971 Kenneth Callahan
1970 Frank Schuhle
1969 Donald Heckaman
1968 Frank Moran
1967 William Schlesinger
1966 Donald Hamill
1965 Lester Swift
1964 Guy DiCarlo Jr.
1963 Paul Guenther
1962 Edward Downer
1961 Charles Clarke
1960 Howard Preston
1959 John Cullen Jr.
1958 George Farr Jr.
1957 Kenneth Grant

President's Message May 2012

Our May meeting ends my term as president of the Roundtable. I suspect I was like many future presidents when, four years ago, Jon Thompson and Mel Maurer approached me about serving as treasurer/vice president/president. I really wanted nothing to do with it and immediately started scheming on polite ways to say 'No.' Jon and Mel, of course, would have none of it. They played good cop, bad cop, Mel sidling up at meetings saying, "Hey, Paul, have you given any more thought to this presidency thing? I'm only asking again because Jon's been pressing me about it and I don't think I can control him much longer. I just wouldn't want anything bad to happen, you know, because I like you a lot." I would look over Mel's shoulder and see Jon glaring at me from across the room with a faint, threatening smile on his face. (OK, I might be making up large parts of this.)

As persuasive as that all was, it was actually Dick Crews who got me over the hump. Dick just said, "You gotta do it. It's the most fun you'll ever have." I have to tell you that Dick was spot on with his comments. I have had a blast serving as Roundtable president and it has been my best year in the Roundtable. Yes, it involved some work, but far less than I anticipated. And the amount of help I was both offered and received was far more than I anticipated. I was the beneficiary of the experience and insight of many people; Dan Zeiser and Dave Carrino, in particular, were continual sources of guidance, brawn, ideas, and inspiration. To everyone who showed me how it is done, I say thank you.

I would also like to thank Chris Fortunato, Mel Maurer, and William Vodrey again for creating and performing "The Last Lincoln-Douglas Debate" at our March meeting. Their "debate" was terrific. Lastly, I would like to thank you, the members of the Roundtable for allowing me to serve in this role and making the Cleveland Roundtable what it is. It is a pleasure and privilege to meet with such a smart, friendly, well-read group each month and share our common interest in history, books, and politics. It is just good fun and I love it.

For our final meeting of the year, we welcome the great Ed Bearss, without question the most famous, highly regarded living Civil War historian. His appearance at our May meeting, by the way, provides a good example of the help a Roundtable president receives. Here's the story: I'm on Lisa Kempfer's 2010 field trip, standing outside the Museum of the Shenandoah in Winchester, Virginia, and Dick Crews asks, "So, what speakers have you lined up for next year?" I run through my not yet complete program schedule and express to Dick that I am hoping to add at least one big name - "You know, someone like Ken Burns, Doris Kearns Goodwin, James McPherson or Ed Bearss." Dick immediately responds, "You want Ed Bearss? I can get you Ed. He's a friend!" I take Dick up on his offer and, as a result, we get Ed Bearss for May. And what did landing Ed Bearss cost me in time and effort? Nothing! Dick did all the work.

Like they say, it takes a village.

Respectfully and gratefully submitted, Paul Burkholder

CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

2011-2012 SCHEDULE

September 14, 2011

Experiencing the Civil War

**Robert
Olmstead**



January 11, 2012

The Barlows and the Gordons

John Fazio

February 8, 2012

A. P. Hill at Gettysburg

Jon Thompson



March 14, 2012

The Dick Crews Annual Debate: Lincoln and Douglas Debate

**Mel Maurer as Abraham Lincoln
Chris Fortunato as Stephen Douglas
Moderator: William F. B. Vodrey**



Destruction of the RR bridge
over the Monocacy River

October 12, 2011

The Battle of Monocacy

**Marc
Leepson**



November 9, 2011

The Battle of Nashville

**Dan
Zeiser**

April 11, 2012

How Robert E. Lee Lost the Civil War

**Edward H.
Bonekemper III**



December 14, 2011

How Sibling Rivalry Helped Spawn an Assassin

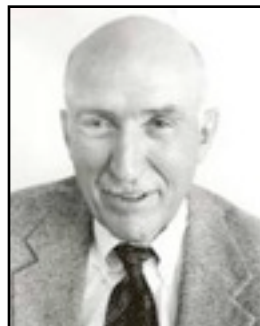
Nora Titone



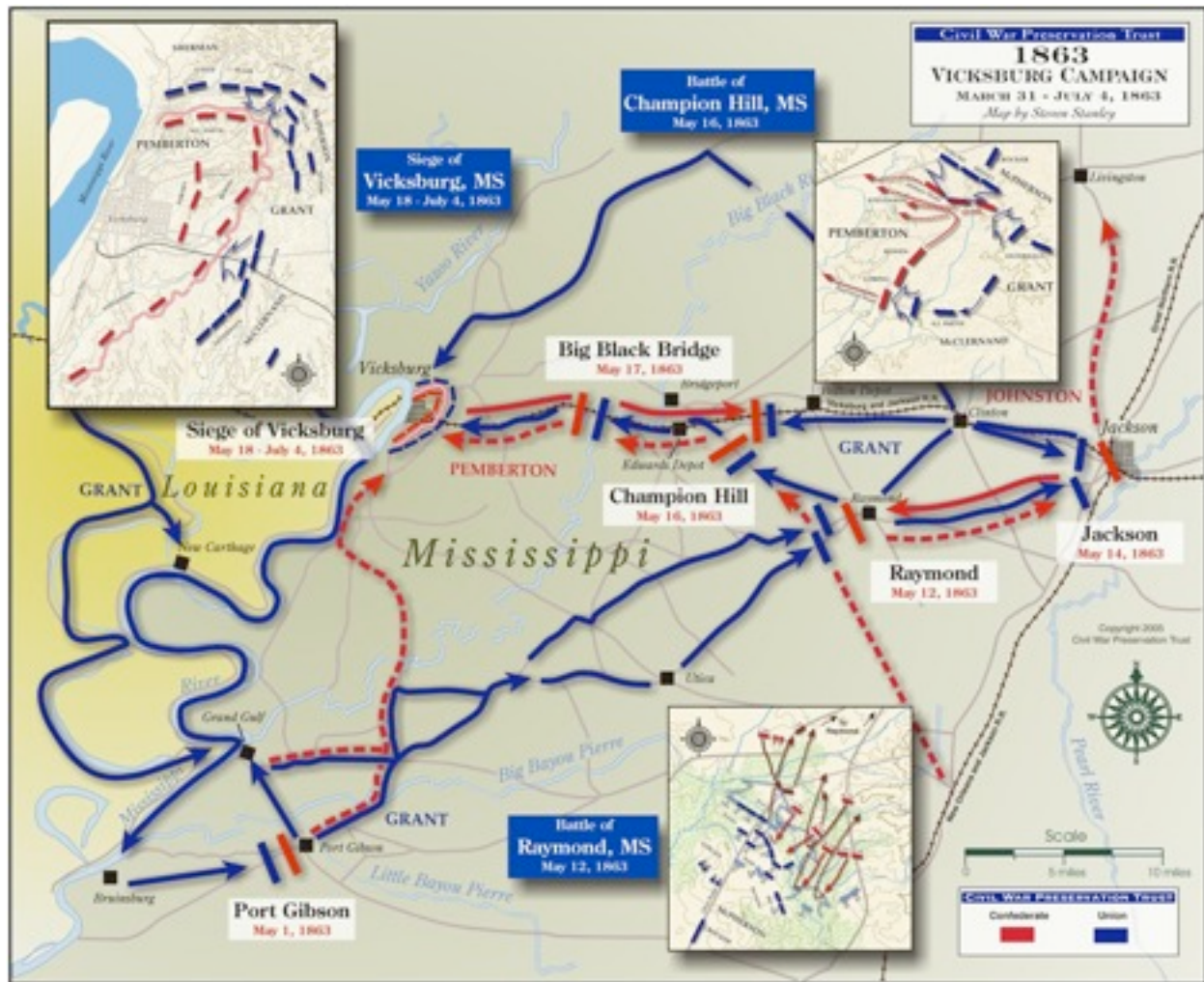
May 16, 2012 (Note later date)

Vicksburg!

Ed Bearss



VICKSBURG!



USS Cairo

Ironclad River Gunboat: City Class

Commissioned: January 16, 1862

Torpedoed and Sunk: December 12, 1862

Raised: December 12, 1964

USS Cairo

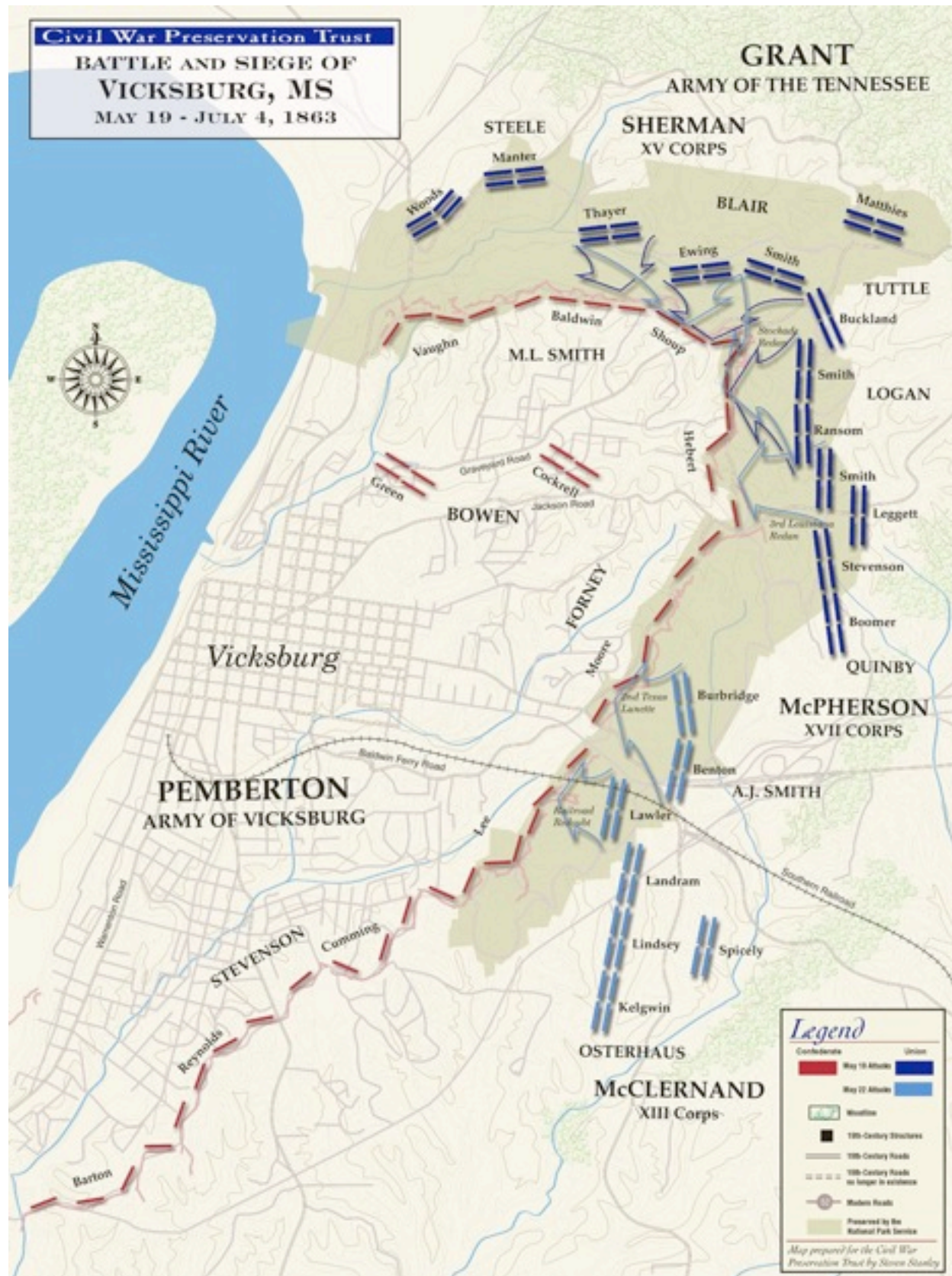


Conjunction of the Yazoo River with Steele's Bayou, starting point for the Steele's Bayou expedition. The Yazoo flows from right to left. View looking north up the bayou.



Steele's Bayou at the conjunction with Muddy Bayou (a few yards to the right out of the picture). View looking east across Steele's Bayou.

Civil War Preservation Trust
BATTLE AND SIEGE OF
VICKSBURG, MS
 MAY 19 - JULY 4, 1863





Mississippi River at Milliken's Bend



Zoomed view looking west from levee at Milliken's Bend. Trace of wartime Walnut Bayou in center of picture.

Maps taken from the Civil War Trust.
Photos taken from
www.civilwaralbum.com.



Book Sale
and
Silent Auction
May Meeting
Starts at 6 pm
Bids close at 7:30