

THE CHARGER



The Cleveland Civil War Roundtable

October 2022

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President's Message

October is now upon us, and it promises to be an exciting month for the Roundtable, if not quite as action-packed as September was. Our speaker last month, Phillip Greenwalt, delivered an engaging and informative presentation on the Valley Campaigns, a little over a week before twenty-two of us went to the valley ourselves for our field trip. Our guide, Bill

Miller, took us all over the battlefields surrounding Winchester as we studied Philip Sheridan's 1864 campaign and Jubal Early's attempts to counter it. Early certainly misjudged Sheridan early on, but both officers and both armies made mistakes, even though Union forces ultimately wound up victorious after the series of battles.

Having never been to Winchester before, I was not sure how much there would be to see, or what shape those battle sites would be in as of 2022. While some parts of the Third Winchester battlefield have been reduced to strip malls and parking lots--indeed, the first stop of the first day of the tour was behind the parking lot of a hotel!--significant amounts of land have been preserved through the combined efforts of many individuals and organizations. What I was not quite prepared for was how much of that land is now used for cattle! The Black Angus outside Belle Grove on Saturday were behind a fence, but the Herefords were roaming freely over a portion of the Fisher's Hill battlefield at the end of our Friday tour, leading to some unexpectedly close

encounters of the bovine kind. We covered quite a bit of ground Friday and Saturday, by foot and by car, and got a good sense of how the features of the land and roads affected the battles in 1864. Bill Miller handily answered all questions posed to him about varying aspects of the campaign. Based on what people told me during and after the trip, everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and learned quite a bit that they did not know before.

Speaking of unexpected encounters, I had forgotten how many Ohio units were involved in some of these battles, including the 23rd Ohio Infantry Regiment; Rutherford B. Hayes made several appearances on historical markers or in museum displays as we made our way across the battlefields. (Those of you who would like to learn more about Hayes' Civil War experiences should be sure to come to our December meeting this year!) An even more ubiquitous Ohio presence on signage were reproductions of the illustrations of James E. Taylor, an artist from Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper who traveled with Sheridan to cover the 1864 campaign in the Shenandoah Valley. His original sketchbook from which those illustrations were taken is held by the Western Reserve Historical Society, which coincidentally will be the site of our next meeting!

Outside of the obvious location change for the October meeting, there is also a slight time change--we will be meeting in the library at 5pm for the "white glove" portion of the evening, and then the cocktails and social hour will begin at 6pm as usual.

Parking for the event is free, and the lot is located by the entrance on Magnolia. The last time a "Night at the Museum" event was held was in 2019, and it was very popular. This is a rare opportunity to see Civil War-related objects and artifacts up close, including everything from print materials to weaponry. The social hour at 6pm will also include time to explore the museum, as well as an opportunity to tour the newly-opened exhibit on Clevelanders in Uniform, which includes a uniform worn by Frank Rockefeller, brother of John D. Rockefeller, in the Civil War.

As always, you can email ccwrtreserve@gmail.com to RSVP for the meeting. Feel free to invite family or friends who may be interested in attending, as this is a bit different from our regular meeting format and we are planning for a slightly larger crowd. Also note that, due to the nature of the event and the fact that it is dispersed across several rooms throughout the evening, there will be no Zoom livestream for this meeting.

See you in the library!

- Lily Korte

Rivals in the Valley, 1864



Philip Henry Sheridan and Jubal A. Early

Note from the Editor



General Meade's Assault on Stonewall Jackson's
Line at Fredericksburg

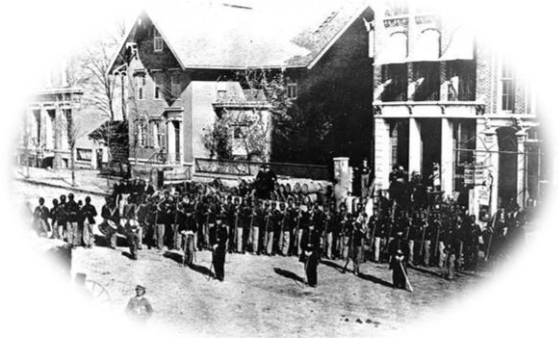
December 13, 2022 will be the 160th anniversary of the Battle of Fredericksburg. A disastrous defeat for the Army of the Potomac, the battle has ever since been remembered as a senseless slaughter of good men obeying an inept army commander as they stormed the Stone Wall on Mayre's Heights. The only bright spot may have been on the Union left wing when Major General George Meade's division of Pennsylvania regiments briefly breached the front line of Stonewall Jackson's positions on Prospect Hill south of the town. I would like to include an article or a couple notes or book reviews on Fredericksburg in the December issue of *The Charger*. Sharpen your pencils, and let's see what you can contribute!



The American Battlefield Trust, in July, honored CCWRT member and past president, Brian Kowell, as the featured Flag Bearer of the month in its newsletter, *The Color Bearers of the American Battlefield Trust*.

The article contains an interesting interview in which we learn that Brian's favorite Civil War battlefield is Brandy Station and that Brian would most like to meet Maj. Gen. Hugh Judson "Kill Cavalry" Kilpatrick. We also learn how important battlefield preservation is to Brian. During his interview, Brian insisted:

I hope future generations can understand that the people who fought across these battlefields during the Civil War were just like us. That they can visualize what happened here and see how the land dictated how the soldiers fought. That the soldiers sacrificed their lives to make this country a better place and that they forever changed the land they see. It just isn't another farmer's field.



A portion of the 127th Regt. OVI taken on Sandusky Street, Delaware, OH, circa 1863. This regiment was the first African-American regiment recruited in Ohio. It was later designated the 5th Regt, United States Colored Troops (U.S.C.T.).

I'll Trade You a Fredericksburg for a Winchester and Pea Ridge.

By David A. Carrino

The October 2021 meeting of the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable was an especially enjoyable one for me. It was not so much a memorable meeting, but a memory-able one. By memory-able, I mean that the meeting brought back memories for me. What made the meeting memory-able is that I sat with AJ Cianflocco, who at the time of the October meeting was a recent recruit to our organization. AJ and I were classmates at John Carroll University, Class of 1972, and we had not really seen each other since our days at John Carroll. The October meeting was a nice opportunity for us to catch up on the decades since our graduation. Talking with AJ is one of the things that made the meeting memory-able, because we had the opportunity to tell each other about our lives since graduation. AJ, like me, has a professional background in an area other than history. AJ is a physician, and I had no idea that he is interested in the Civil War. Because of this, I asked him how he came to acquire an interest in that conflict. His answer was another reason that the October meeting was memory-able for me, because AJ's answer brought back a memory from my youth. AJ said that his interest in the Civil War began with trading cards about the Civil War that were sold many years ago. I likewise collected those cards, and while I remember the cards, I do not remember much about the specifics of them. This led me to do some investigation into those cards.



I cannot recall the exact year when I collected the cards, but I remember that it was prior to my time in high school. I remember that each card focused on a particular aspect of the Civil War, such as a battle or a prominent person. I also remember that the cards had pictures on the front and text on the back. The pictures depicted Civil War events, and the text described the events depicted on the fronts. My most vivid recollection about the cards is that many of the pictures were exceedingly bloody and gruesome. To be honest, I must admit that at the time that I collected the Civil War cards, my reason for buying them was the inverse of the tried and untrue excuse that some people offer for purchasing certain less than wholesome publications. In other words, I bought the cards for the pictures and not for the articles. But then, at the time that I was infatuated with the cards, I was much younger and even more unsophisticated than I am now.

In gathering information about the Civil War cards, I learned that they were sold in 1962 in order to coincide with the centennial of the Civil War. This fits with my memory's estimate of when I collected the cards. The cards were produced and sold by Topps, the company that is

best known for baseball cards and other sports cards. As it happens, the Civil War cards were one of the most popular sets of non-sport cards that Topps produced. The cards were sold in packs of six cards and cost five cents per pack. Each pack also contained a piece of the same flat, rectangular, brittle, pink gum that Topps included in its packs of baseball cards, the gum that many kids of my generation, myself included, ground between our jaws.

In addition to the cards and the gum, each pack contained a replica of Confederate money. The replica Confederate currency was popular with kids who collected the cards, and there is anecdotal evidence that the replica currency enticed kids to buy the cards, if for no other reason than it gave kids the feeling that they were receiving something extra. However, I do not recall being influenced by this. In fact, the replica Confederate money made so little impression on me that I had forgotten about the replica currency until I was reminded of this while I was gathering information about the Civil War cards. There were 17 different denominations of the replica currency, ranging from one dollar to one thousand dollars, but every one of the 17 denominations had no monetary value, which made them roughly equal in value to that held by actual Confederate currency near the end of the Civil War. In addition to the multi-card packs, cards could be purchased for one cent in packs with a single card, the gum, and the replica Confederate money. My recollection is of only the multi-card packs.



The pictures on the cards were printed from drawings, but not drawings that were made at the time of the Civil War. The drawings were done contemporaneously with the time of the cards' production, and they were done specifically for the cards. The drawings were intended only to convey something related to the subject of the card and not necessarily a specific incident that actually occurred. For example, for the cards that focused on a battle, the picture showed a battle scene that was not necessarily an actual event that took place during that battle. However, the text on the back of some of the cards made it seem that the specific event shown on the front was a historical occurrence. Nevertheless, many of the pictures were simply generic depictions of the Civil War, not depictions of actual occurrences. I understood this about the pictures even at the young age when I collected the cards, but I did not really think at that time about researching the information on the cards more deeply. I was, as mentioned above, more engrossed by the blood and gore of the pictures than the accuracy of the events depicted in the pictures or recounted in the text.

The Civil War card set, of which some are still in existence, consists of 88 numbered

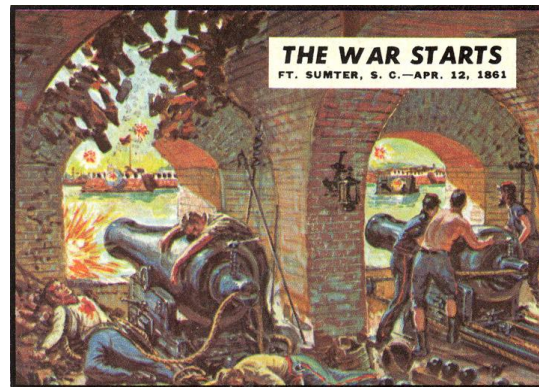
cards. The last card in the set is a checklist that the collector could use to keep track of which cards had already been acquired. The other 87 cards are the ones with the pictures and text of various Civil War subjects. On the front of these 87 cards, along with the picture, is a white rectangle in which the name of the card appears in large lettering. In smaller lettering beneath the card's name are the event and date depicted in the picture. The text on the back of the cards is made to simulate a newspaper report of the event shown on the card's front. The heading shows the name of a newspaper as it might appear on the newspaper's front page. Below this is a brief text describing the event on the card's front, sometimes with text in quotation marks, which suggests that these are exact quotes from the Civil War. The newspaper that is named on the cards' backs is fictitious, and that newspaper name, Civil War News, has come to be used as the name of the card set. Thus, current card collectors often refer to these cards as the Civil War News set.

Some cards show a well-known person from the Civil War. For example, the first card in the set depicts John Brown, and the card is named, appropriately, "The Angry Man." I find it interesting that the first card in the set is about John Brown's raid rather than the Battle of Fort Sumter, since John Brown's raid unquestionably was an important impetus for secession. At the time that I collected these cards in 1962, that insightful thought never occurred to me, nor, for that matter, did any erudite thought about the cards. Other prominent Civil War individuals who are depicted on cards are Jefferson Davis (card number 2, "President Jeff Davis"), Ulysses S. Grant (card number 38, "General Grant"), Robert E. Lee (card number 39, "General Lee"), Clara Barton (card number 58, "Angel of Mercy"), and Union spy Pauline Cushman (card number 50, "Stolen Secrets"). One important Civil War figure who, surprisingly, does not have a card of his own is Abraham Lincoln. I can only speculate if there is a subliminal message in the fact that Jefferson Davis has a card (and the second card in the series at that), while Abraham Lincoln does not.

Although Abraham Lincoln is mentioned a number of times throughout the texts on the cards' backs, the only card on which he is depicted is number 79, which is named "Council of War" and on which Lincoln is shown conferring with Grant. The date given on that card is November 1, 1864, but this was about four months before Lincoln and Grant actually met for the first time. It should be noted that this error in historical accuracy is not unique within the Civil War card set. Also, there is no card for Lincoln's assassination. The last card in the temporal sequence (card number 87) is Lee's surrender at Appomattox, which is named "The War Ends" and the text for which begins with, "The war is over!" This is another factual error, because, as Civil War enthusiasts know, the Civil War did not end with Lee's surrender, although this is a common misconception.

Most of the cards deal with a battle or some other military engagement. For example, card number 3 ("The War Starts") is the Battle of Fort Sumter. This card also has a factual error in that the picture shows three Union gunners slumped on or around their cannon, one of them bleeding from his chest. However, the only Union casualties at Fort Sumter occurred after the battle during the firing of a salute as the Union forces were preparing to leave the fort. There is also a card (number 10, "Destruction at Sea") for the engagement between the USS *Monitor* and

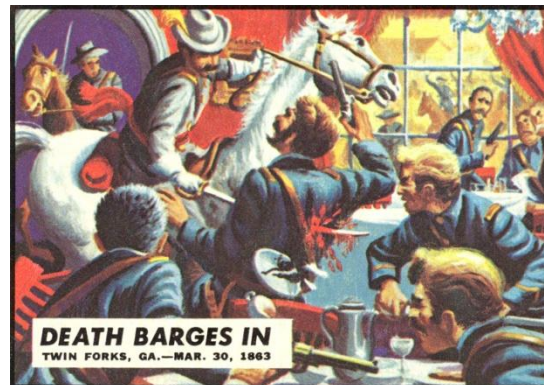
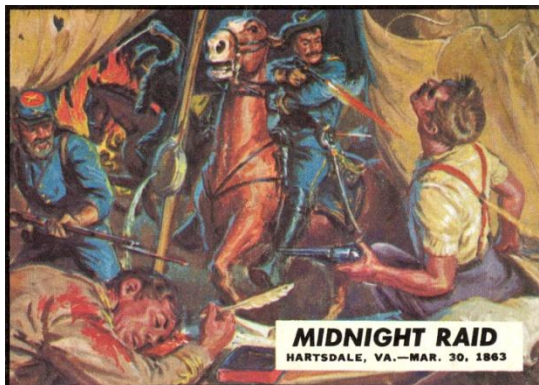
the CSS *Virginia*, although the *Virginia* is called the *Merrimac*, which is another not uncommon error. Another naval engagement is shown on card number 59 ("Submarine Attack"). This card depicts the attack of the *H.L. Hunley* on the USS *Housatonic*. The *Hunley* is depicted with a garish, brightly colored Confederate battle flag on the side of her hull, and Union seamen are shown flying in the air off of the *Housatonic* as the explosion occurs on the Union warship. The text on the back of this card says of the *Hunley's* attack, "With its guns not having much effect on the sea-craft, the officer in charge of the submarine decided to ram the steel vessel into a ship." Of course, the *Hunley* did not have any guns, nor did it ram the *Housatonic*, but placed a charge on the Union ship and then detonated the charge.



The pictures for the land battles are extremely bloody, and the names for these cards match the goriness of the pictures. Among these are "Pushed to his Doom" (number 19), "Painful Death" (number 21), "Wave of Death" (number 22), "Massacre" (number 27), "Bullets of Death" (number 40), and "Death Battle" (number 47). There are two cards for the horrific Battle of Fredericksburg: "Fight for Survival" and "Wall of Corpses" (numbers 33 and 34). The September 2021 Roundtable field trip receives sanguinary treatment on card number 57, "Hand to Hand Combat," which features the Battle of Missionary Ridge and shows a bloodied Union soldier and a bloodied Confederate soldier grappling on the side of a steep slope, each with his hand pushing on his adversary's face, while vicious fighting goes on behind them, and several bright yellow and orange flashes appear in the distance. Other cards that relate to the 2021 field trip pertain to Chattanooga (cards number 52 and 53, "Friendly Enemies" and "Train of Doom," respectively), Chickamauga (card number 54, "A Horseman Falls"), and Lookout Mountain (card number 56, "Burst of Fire"). There are also cards that relate to the 2022 Roundtable field trip. Card number 77, "Trapped" is for Fisher's Hill, and card number 78, "Sudden Attack" is for Cedar Creek. Another card for the 1864 Shenandoah Valley Campaign is number 85, "Attacked from Behind," which is for Waynesboro, the campaign's final battle, in which Phil Sheridan's force finished off the force commanded by Jubal Early.

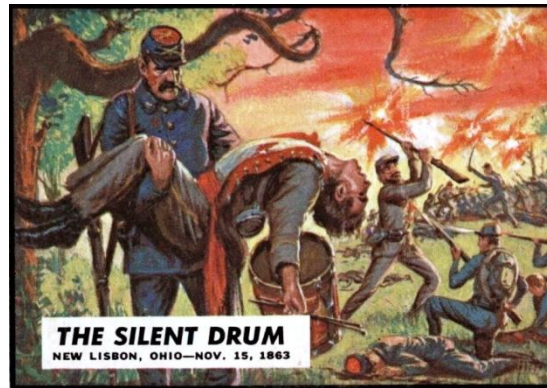
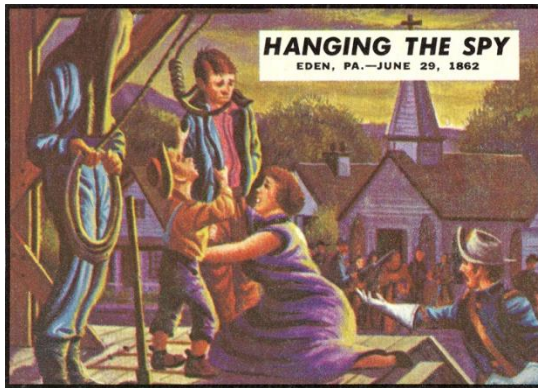


Another gory picture is on card number 36 ("Midnight Raid"), which depicts a Union soldier on horseback bursting through the opening of a tent in a Confederate camp and shooting a Confederate soldier. Not only is this quite a feat of horsemanship, but the picture on the card shows the bullet exiting the back of the Confederate. Not to be outdone, card number 37 ("Death Barges In") depicts Confederate cavalrymen on horseback storming into the dining room of a captured mansion in Georgia, in which Union soldiers were in the midst of enjoying dinner. The picture shows one of the Confederates driving his sword through the torso of a Union soldier. A particularly bizarre picture is on card number 69 ("Death in the Water"), which features the sinking of the CSS *Alabama* by the USS *Kearsarge*. The picture on the card shows a Confederate seaman in the water being attacked by a shark, as if the producers of the cards felt the need to supplement the gruesome depictions of death brought on by various weapons with a different mode for life to come to a violent end.

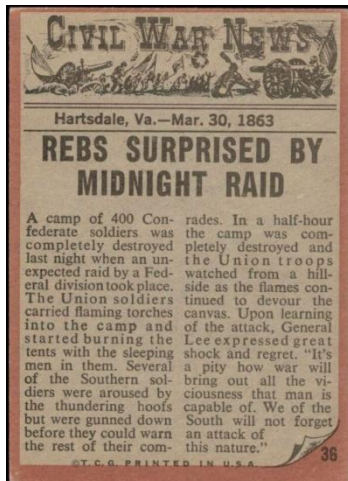


The cards depict not only the demise of nameless combatants, but also some historically well-known individuals. Stonewall Jackson is one of the prominent Civil War individuals included in the roster of grim depictions. Card number 43 ("Costly Mistake") shows the accidental shooting of Stonewall by his own troops. In the text on the back is a variation of Robert E. Lee's comment about the loss of Stonewall being akin to Lee losing his right arm, although the quote on the card is different from that generally attributed to Lee. Sequential cards numbers 62 and 63 ("The General Dies" and "Ambushed") depict, respectively, the death of John Sedgwick and the shooting of Jeb Stuart. The text on Sedgwick's card has his ironic comment

about the enemy being unable to hit an elephant, while the text on Stuart's card correctly indicates that he was shot in the stomach by an enemy soldier.



There is one card with an Ohio connection. Card number 55 ("The Silent Drum") depicts a Union soldier holding the body of a drummer boy who, according to the text on the back of the card, was a 14-year-old named Billy Harris who was killed during a battle near New Lisbon, Ohio on November 15, 1863. Despite efforts on my part to find information to confirm the reality of this incident, nothing was found to indicate that this is a historically factual occurrence. While it is true that absence of evidence is not evidence of absence, the strong suspicion is that the event depicted on this card is not factual. The closest occurrence to the information on the card is the raid by John Hunt Morgan through southern Ohio in 1863. Morgan was captured near New Lisbon, Ohio, but this happened on July 26, 1863, almost four months before the date on the card. Similarly, card number 25 ("Hanging the Spy") depicts a 15-year-old named Johnathan Peters about to be hung in Eden, Pennsylvania because he was caught selling secret Federal documents to a Confederate colonel. The picture shows him with a noose around his neck, while his mother is kneeling in front of him with her arms around him, and his six-year-old brother is standing next to him. As with the story of the drummer boy, no information confirming the factuality of this story was found, and it is likewise suspected that the story of Johnathan Peters is not true.



As mentioned above, the text on the back of some of the cards includes some wording inside quotation marks, as if these are actual quotes from the Civil War. One such apparent quote appears on the back of card number 36 ("Midnight Raid"), the card described above on which a mounted Union soldier is shown riding into a tent and shooting a Confederate. The text on the back of the card discusses a surprise Union attack on a Confederate camp, in which the camp was completely destroyed. The text concludes with a quote from someone who is identified only as General Lee, who presumably is Robert E. Lee, since the attack described on the card purportedly took place in Virginia. General Lee is quoted as saying, "It's a pity how war will bring out all the viciousness that man is capable of. We of the South will not forget an attack of this nature." While this sounds like the kind of ominous and threatening remark that a military leader might direct at the enemy, a search for this quote found no such quote attributed to Robert

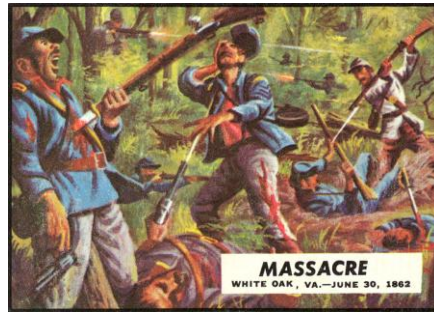
E. Lee, which makes it likely that this is another historical inaccuracy associated with the cards. If so, then this represents a historical sin of commission.

Card number 60 ("Suicide Charge") has a historical sin of omission. This card features the Battle of Fort Pillow, and the text on the card's back makes no mention of the massacre of African Americans that occurred at that battle. The text on this card states, "The Union troops in the Fort were badly outnumbered and surrendered when they saw that the fighting was useless." In other words, the text correctly notes that the outnumbered Union forces surrendered, but neglects to tell what happened after that surrender. The text further indicates that the commander of the Confederates at the battle was "General Nathan Forrest" and declares admiringly that he "leads his men after the enemy and continues to push down on them, never giving the opposition time to relax." But there is nothing in the text about the massacre of African Americans that occurred under Forrest's watch. Because the target demographic for the Civil War cards in 1962 was boys around the age of ten years old, maybe the omission of the massacre was a foretaste of the current crusade by political conservatives to eliminate any reference to historical occurrences that might inculcate discomfort or embarrassment in white children.

A 1998 interview with a person named Len Brown provides information about the creation and production of the Civil War cards. Brown, who was in the new product development department at Topps, was a writer for the Civil War cards. In the interview he noted that, in addition to himself, the people who were most responsible for the cards were Woody Gelman, Bob Powell, Maurice Blumenfeld, and Norm Saunders. As Brown explained, he and Gelman, who was the chief editor working on the Civil War cards, created a concept for the scene on each of the cards. Then Powell, an illustrator who worked on comic books in addition to the cards, made a few rough sketches for each concept, and Gelman and Brown selected the sketch that they "thought was most dramatic" for their concept. Powell then did a high-quality illustration of the scene in light pencil. After that, color paint was added directly onto the light pencil illustration by one of two artists, Blumenfeld or Saunders, both of whom were illustrators who worked on artwork projects such as comic books. Initially Blumenfeld was the only illustrator who did the painting, but Saunders was subsequently added to the Civil War card project to speed production. According to Brown, production started in 1961 and took, as he recalled, six months, and then sale of the Civil War cards began in 1962.

Brown recollected that the graphically violent depictions were the brainchild of Gelman. Brown stated in the interview that Gelman "had a great instinct for what kids liked" and that Gelman "felt that a straight educational series of cards based on the Civil War would not 'turn on' the kids." Given the widespread popularity of the Civil War cards, it certainly seems that Gelman correctly gauged his target audience of boys around the age of ten years old. However, the violence and bloodshed depicted on many of the cards did meet opposition among some of the parents of kids who collected the cards. This opposition came about because some parents did not want their kids viewing such gruesome depictions. My parents, fortunately for me, did not fall into that category. My parents never insisted that I stop collecting the Civil War cards, but I distinctly remember my mother commenting on the bloodiness of the pictures on the cards. With pictures such as the one on card number 27 ("Massacre"), it is not surprising that some

parents objected to their kids collecting the Civil War cards.



Brown recalled that the idea for the replica Confederate currency came from someone named Stan Hart, another member of Topps' new product development department who did some of the work on the cards, but who is best known as a writer for *Mad Magazine*. According to Brown, the replica money was not an exact replica, but a simulation. As Brown recollected, the replica Confederate currency was not "100% authentic" but "close to the original." Brown said that the people who produced the Civil War cards were worried about counterfeiting Confederate money in spite of the fact that it was no longer recognized as legal tender anywhere in the world. Brown also said in the interview that the Civil War cards were sold in England and that sales did very well there. Brown mentioned that he and Gelman were surprised at the success of the cards in England, because they thought that British children would not be interested in the American Civil War. But, as Brown pointed out, "I guess blood and guts and good artwork will win every time."

There were also sets of the Civil War cards in French and in Spanish. The French set used the same gory pictures as the sets that were sold in the U.S. and in England. In contrast, the Spanish set had entirely different and much tamer pictures on the fronts of the cards. Even some of the cards' names were made less violent, such as "Una Ola de Furia" ("Wave of Fury") instead of "Wave of Death" and "Combate en el Salon" ("Combat in the Reception Room") rather than "Death Barges In." But the subject material of the cards more or less followed that of the original set, such as the cards named "El Presidente Jeff Davis," "Conflicto Mortal," and "El Tren de la Muerte" as well as the card about the drummer boy, "El Tambor Silencioso."

With regard to the information on the backs of the cards, Brown admitted in the interview that historical accuracy was not a consideration. Brown, who was only 20 years old when he worked on the Civil War cards, wrote all of the text for the cards' backs. Writing text for the backs of cards was a niche that Brown was assigned to at Topps, because he also wrote the text for the backs of the baseball cards that Topps sold. Brown said that he "slaved over the backs" of the Civil War cards, "but what I am not proud of was that I misled lots of children to think that these were true events that took place during the war. Most of them were just fictional." Brown recalled that after the pictures were completed, "I wrote a little story about the front of the cards" and "then I would look up a town or date that seemed appropriate and would try to publish a newspaper back as if it were a real event." This admission confirms my suspicions regarding the

historical inaccuracies on the cards. In fact, Brown estimated that "80 to 85% of the stories were complete fiction pieces. The battles were based on fact, but the incidental details were really fiction."

Related to this, Brown shared a story that speaks to a danger of the cards that is arguably worse than the problem of young kids looking at graphic depictions of violence. Brown told of "getting a letter from a schoolteacher years ago, thanking us for helping the children in her class to learn about the Civil War. Yet, sad to say, facts never got in the way of telling an interesting story." This is certainly regrettable in light of what could have been for the Civil War cards. In spite of the numerous historical errors, it is clear from the text on the backs of the cards that the people who produced the cards had some knowledge of the Civil War. However, the numerous inaccuracies and the fictionalizing are serious flaws that preclude the high historical quality that could, and should, have been achieved.

In defense of the people who produced the cards, at the time that the cards were made in 1961, the people who made them did not have access to the internet or to the resources that are now available on it. Hence, compared to today, it would have been quite tedious, labor-intensive, and time-consuming to gather historically accurate information for the cards. Nevertheless, at the very least, knowledgeable individuals could have been brought in as consultants, so that the text on the cards' backs would have contained historically true information, and there would not have been any fictional information presented on the cards as fact. If the producers of the cards had taken the time and put in the effort to obtain historically factual information about the Civil War, they would have found numerous true stories that are more than interesting enough to market on a set of cards and plentiful enough to fill far more than 88 cards. Had the cards been done this way, then kids like me would have bought the cards for the gruesome pictures on the front, but actually learned some factually correct information about the Civil War from the text on the back.

Despite the avoidable problems with historical accuracy, the Civil War cards are entertaining for anyone who is interested in the Civil War. If nothing else, the cards provide an avenue for Civil War enthusiasts to look at one way that the war was presented in popular culture, with all the shortcomings associated with that presentation. Because the May meeting is the last meeting of the 2021-2022 season, and all of us must now go through our annual three-month summer hiatus in our regular feedings of Civil War presentations, maybe it would be enjoyable for Roundtable members to examine the Civil War cards while we wait for our next scheduled meal of factual Civil War information at the September 2022 meeting. With that in mind, through the wonders of the internet, members of the Roundtable can see the ghastly images for themselves and read the inaccurate information in the ersatz newspaper reports. This is because there are web pages that have images of the Civil War cards, and the web addresses (URLs) for two of those web pages are given below. There is also a web page that has the French version of the cards for those who want to read the historically inaccurate text in the romantic language that was spoken by the person who directed legendary wartime exploits at places such as Austerlitz. Another web page has the Spanish version of the cards, which provides the opportunity to compare the milder pictures in the Spanish set with the gruesome

pictures of the original set. Roundtable members can take advantage of these different web pages to see the cards for themselves, and those who do this may find some cards that they fancy. Roundtable members who look through the cards may even experience some of the same feelings of excitement that AJ and I had when we first looked at these cards back in 1962.

SOURCES:

Web addresses (URLs) for the original Civil War cards:

<https://www.historyonthenet.com/authentichistory/1860-1865/3-1962cards/index.html>.

(This web page has images of both the fronts and the backs of the cards.)

<https://www.deanscards.com/i/1617726/1962-Topps-Civil-War-News-1962-Topps-Civil-War-News-Complete-Set->.

(This web page has images of both the fronts and the backs of the cards.)

Web address (URL) for the French set:

https://www.bobheffner.com/cwn/a_french.shtml.

Web address (URL) for the Spanish set:

https://www.bobheffner.com/cwn/a_spanish.shtml.

Author's note: An especially valuable source of information about the creation and production of the Civil War cards was the 1998 interview with Len Brown. This interview is posted online on a website named "Bob Heffner's Civil War News Cards" (https://www.bobheffner.com/cwn/a_interview.shtml). According to Bob Heffner's website, the interview was done for a different website devoted to the Civil War cards, but that other website is no longer available, although the interview can be found on Bob Heffner's website.

St. Albans Raid

By D. Kent Fonner



On Wednesday, 19 October 1864, Lt. Bennett H. Young (seated on the right with some of his men) and twenty soldiers of the Confederate Army, having crossed the border from Canada posing as vacationers and hunters, appeared 15 miles away in the Vermont town of St. Alban's. The rebels planned to attack several towns near the Canadian border, hoping to divert Union troops from the front lines to protect the northern border, but St. Albans was the first. The Raiders confiscated \$200,000 from three banks in St. Albans, but resistance by local citizens shortened Young's stay to about a half hour. The Confederates were pursued back across the border. Lt. Young and twelve raiders

were arrested by Canadian authorities and about \$75,000 was recovered. Ignoring United States requests for extradition, the Canadian courts ruled that Young and his men were soldiers under military orders and released them on bond as internees. The only man killed in the raid was a Southern sympathizer who stepped into the line of fire. No Union soldiers were ever diverted to protect the border towns in the north, and the raid only strengthened the will of the Northern public to continue the war effort.

Sources: E. B. Long and Barbara Long, *The Civil War Day by Day, an Almanac 1861 – 1865*, pp.585 – 586; Patricia Faust, ed., *Historical Times Illustrated Encyclopedia of the Civil War*, p. 651.

A Tour of the Seven Days Battlefields

By Paul Siedel

While trolling through the web one day last April I came across an ad for a tour of the Seven Days battlefields sponsored by Woodbury Tours and directed by Mr. Bobby Krick, one of the foremost historians of the Seven Days Battles. As I had never studied this series of battles, I decided to attend. The tour lasted two days, June 11 and 12, 2022, so on June 10 I packed my car and my dog and headed for the Richmond Airport, where our hotel was located. That evening we congregated for pizza, drinks, and a lecture by Mr. Doug Crenshaw, author of the book *Richmond Shall Not Be Given Up: The Seven Days Battles, June 25 – July 1, 1862*. We all received a signed copy of the book and discussed our adventure of the next two days. The next morning we all got together for breakfast, and Mr. Krick introduced himself. He explained our agenda, and we were off at 8:15.

The battlefields are located just east of Richmond, and several have suffered as a result of 150 years of development. However, four of the six do survive in almost pristine condition. Two of the six have been totally obliterated by development, but the rest are almost totally intact, and one has been restored to the 1862 sight lines thanks to the American Battlefield Trust among others. Mr. Krick told us that we were going to take them in chronological order from Beaver Dam Creek on June 26, 1862, to Gaines' Mill on June 27, to Glendale on June 30, and wind up at Malvern Hill fought on July 1, 1862. I will also take them in order and briefly explain the experience we had when visiting each one.

We boarded the van, and the first battlefield we saw was Seven Pines.

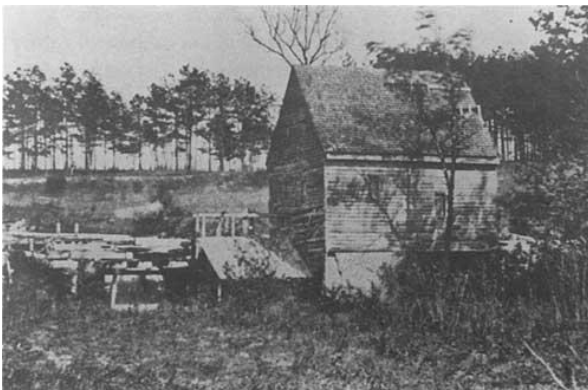
The Battle of Seven Pines

This particular site was gobbled up and dismembered during World War I, and much has been taken up by housing and the Richmond Airport. However, if one knows what they are looking at, they can relate somewhat. We traveled up the Nine Mile Road, which figured heavily in Joseph Johnston's battle plan. We drove through the village of Seven Pines and found the spot where General Johnston was wounded. We drove on to the Dabbs House, which was Lee's headquarters. The home is owned by Henrico County and has been restored, and several of

General Lee's letters are on display. We spent about 90 minutes there and had a wonderful guide. Leaving the east side of Richmond, we drove on northwest, crossed Meadow Bridge, where A.P. Hill crossed the Chickahominy River, and passed through the village of Mechanicsville. We drove on the Atlee Station Road across the Mechanicsville Turnpike to Beaver Dam Creek, arriving at the place where the Confederates attacked Fitz John Porter's V corps.

The Battle of Beaver Dam Creek or Mechanicsville

Lee's plan was to cross the Chickahominy River on the Union right and sweep southeast like a giant garden sickle, attacking Fitz John Porter's V corps. A.P. Hill was to cross the river at Meadow Bridge, join the rest of the Confederates in D.H. Hill's division, and then sweep southeast into Mechanicsville. Stonewall Jackson was to appear on the Confederate left and drive Fitz John Porter's V corps into the Chickahominy River. Jackson never appeared, but A.P. Hill drove the Federals through Mechanicsville to Beaver Dam Creek and Ellerson's Mill. The rebels tried time and again to scale the bank of the creek, but suffered heavy losses. Porter, after a successful defense, retreated southeast to the high ground above Boatswain's Swamp and prepared to meet the Confederate assault the next day.



Ellerson's Mill



Beaver Dam Creek

Most of the Beaver Dam Creek battlefield is in great shape, although in recent years much of the northern half has been built over. The southern half is well preserved and has been added to. We crossed the creek and stood at the spot where Ellerson's Mill was located, and we saw the creek bank where the Confederates unsuccessfully tried to break the Union line. Mr. Krick lectured on the battle and the recent additions to the battlefield site. I was not quite clear on this particular action until he pointed out the locations of various units and the retreat lines leading up to the Battle of Gaines' Mill.

The Battle of Gaines' Mill

The Gaines' Mill battlefield is in almost pristine condition and is being added to on a regular basis thanks to the American Battlefield Trust and other historically minded organizations such as the Central Virginia Battlefields Organization and the Richmond Battlefields Association. Matching funds from Congress are also being used to buy land and purchase options on acreage.

Mr. Krick directed the van around the area, which also is the site of the Cold Harbor battlefield. We saw several landmarks such as Old and New Cold Harbors, Walnut Grove Church, the Garthright House, and the trenches on the Cold Harbor battlefield. The American Battlefield Trust has acquired the crossroads of Old Cold Harbor and is developing a high-tech visitor experience of the area. That should be interesting. I can see why the late Ed Bearss labeled this area the most valuable land in the battlefield protection movement.

After driving through the area, we left the van, sat down, and had a great box lunch. Then we walked along the perimeter of the Union defense line on the heights above Boatswain's Swamp and stopped at the spot where John Bell Hood's Texans broke through and thus prompted the Union withdrawal toward the Chickahominy. We were caught here in a torrential thunderstorm, but Bob Krick continued on and explained the movements of the Confederates as General Hood's men crashed through the Union lines and made the day a resounding victory for the



Confederates, although Stonewall Jackson did not appear on the Confederate left until later in the day. We wound up the day with a visit to the Watt House right in the center of the battlefield. Mr. Krick told the story of old Sarah Watt, who had to be removed from her home under protest as the armies closed in on her beloved farm. The Watt House (pictured here) is still very much as it was in 1862 and is owned by the National Park Service. At the end of the day, we were all tired but glad to be so, and I had learned much about the first days in the campaign to save Richmond in 1862.

The Action at White Oak Swamp

It was at this time during the Seven Days that General McClellan began in earnest to move his army south toward the James River. As they moved south, they became established at the crossing of White Oak Swamp, where the Union forces took up position and Stonewall Jackson tried to find a way around their right to attack from the southeast. A huge artillery duel took place, during which a civilian farmer was killed and the Confederates were held at bay until the Union Forces retreated once again toward the James River. Although not preserved by any organization, this area is also in pristine condition. We drove past the Trent House, McClellan's headquarters, and arrived at the battlefield of Savage's Station.

The Battle of Savage's Station

The Battle of Savage's Station was located along the Richmond and York River Railroad. As McClellan moved toward the James River, he collected his wounded and supplies there at the Savage's Station depot. Here John Bankhead Magruder attacked the forces of Edwin Sumner along both sides of the railroad. The Confederates were unsuccessful, but Sumner abandoned

most of the wounded and tons of supplies before joining the Union retreat toward the James River.



Field Hospital at Savage Station

Almost nothing is left of the Savage's Station battlefield today. Most of the land was used for a freeway exit where interstate 64 and interstate 295 converge. Although the railroad is still there, the rest of the battlefield is taken up with a huge solar panel complex stretching across many acres. Maybe some day, as technology advances, these can be removed and at least part of the Savage's Station battlefield will be available for those who wish to study it. There are, however, several Virginia historical plaques in place explaining the battle, but in the words of one of the tour group, "Too little, too late!"

The Battle of Frayser's Farm or Glendale

The battlefield at Glendale is in pristine condition, and almost all of it has been purchased by the various battlefield protection agencies. The vast expansion of this site has taken place within the last ten years as the land has become more threatened. Many individuals have come forward to help preserve the land, although the site lines have been obliterated by forest. It will take some time, but after the forest has been removed and the site lines reestablished, one will be able to study and walk the land as it was in 1862. For those of us who contribute to the American Battlefield Trust or any other preservation organization, it is here that we can see the fruits of our labors.

As the Union army moved south toward the James River and its new base of supplies, Lee had plans to attack and dismember McClellan's army as it passed along the roads leading up to the Malvern estate and ultimately to Harrison's Landing. We parked the van, and Mr. Krick led us along the path to the site of the Whitlock House, which was in the center of the Confederate attack upon the Union troops of Joseph Hooker, John Sedgwick, and George McCall. They moved over the farms of the Sykes brothers and into the artillery fire of Truman Seymour, George Meade, and John Robinson. (The Sykes farms have been located and are set to be opened up to trailblazers once the forest has been removed.) This vast property has been almost totally preserved since 2007! The roads and homes of the farmers can be located and will be open to the public once the general site plan for the battlefield has been established by the National Park

Service. Meanwhile, more land is being purchased and added to the site, including the Frayser or Nelson Farm, which was General Sumner's headquarters during the battle.

On our way to Malvern Hill, we stopped and ate lunch at Fort Harrison, the first site protected by the government back in 1935. At that time the WPA did much of the restoration work. We dined on the porch of the first visitor center built for the Richmond battlefields. Today the trenches around Fort Harrison are some of the most well preserved in the country and definitely worth a visit if one is in the area. After our box lunch we pressed on toward the final Union defense position at Malvern Hill.

The Battle of Malvern Hill

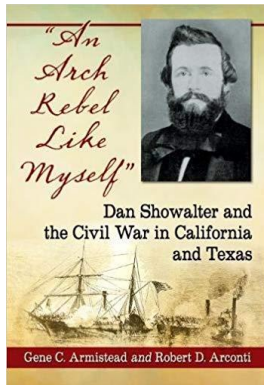
Malvern Hill is a prime example of what can be done to save these historic sites, where brave men of both sides sacrificed their lives. The Union Army of the Potomac reached its final goal on July 1, 1862 as it approached the James River and the old Malvern estate. (Our guide informed us that the Malvern House is the oldest brick building in Henrico County and dates from the 1600s.) This battlefield is in pristine condition and has been made more relevant by money donated by several battlefield preservation organizations. Several years ago the Malvern Hill battlefield was undeveloped, and the sight lines such as those at Glendale had been totally obliterated by the forest which had taken over the fields through which the Confederate troops moved toward the Union position atop Malvern Hill. Several hundred acres of timber were removed and the stumps ground down to restore the sight lines to their 1862 appearance. This was all done with money from the National Park Service, American Battlefield Trust, Richmond Battlefields Association, and several others. Malvern Hill has now been restored to the sight lines that were present in 1862. We can now see the exact plain across which the Confederates in John Magruder's division advanced against the Federal artillery clustered around the West House and the Crew House, both of which have been rebuilt. Archeological work has been done around the slave cabins around which much of the action took place, and historians are learning much about the battle from the artifacts unearthed. The Battle of Malvern Hill was a dismal failure for the Confederates, as the attacking forces were mowed down by the Federal artillery, which allowed the Union army to escape past the Malvern estate to Harrison's Landing and the relative safety of the naval guns on board Union gunboats.

Thus ended our second day on the battlefields of the Seven Days. We piled into the van and were more than tired when we arrived back at the hotel. On the way back Mr. Krick pointed out several points of interest such as the Old Williamsburg Road and the postwar home of General George Pickett. What a grand experience! I thought I knew about the Seven Days Battles, but once one has walked the very terrain, it all comes to life as never before. It was very heartening to see what strides have been made in recent years toward the preservation of these gems of American history and how many people have mobilized to secure them.

I highly recommend Woodbury Tours out of California. The event was well organized, the lunches were adequate, the transportation was adequate, and the expertise of Robert Krick was fantastic. He took a special interest in my attempt to take photos of then and now and directed me to the various sites. He showed me the location of the famous twin houses taken during the

battle, and I was able to stand exactly where the photographer stood in 1862. All in all, it was money and time well spent. After a very informative and thoroughly enjoyable two days of battlefield tours, my dog and I made our way home safely and had many fond memories which will last many years.

Book Review



Gene C. Armistead and Robert D. Arconti. *"An Arch Rebel Like Myself: Dan Showalter and the Civil War in California and Texas."* Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Company, Inc., Publishers, 2018.

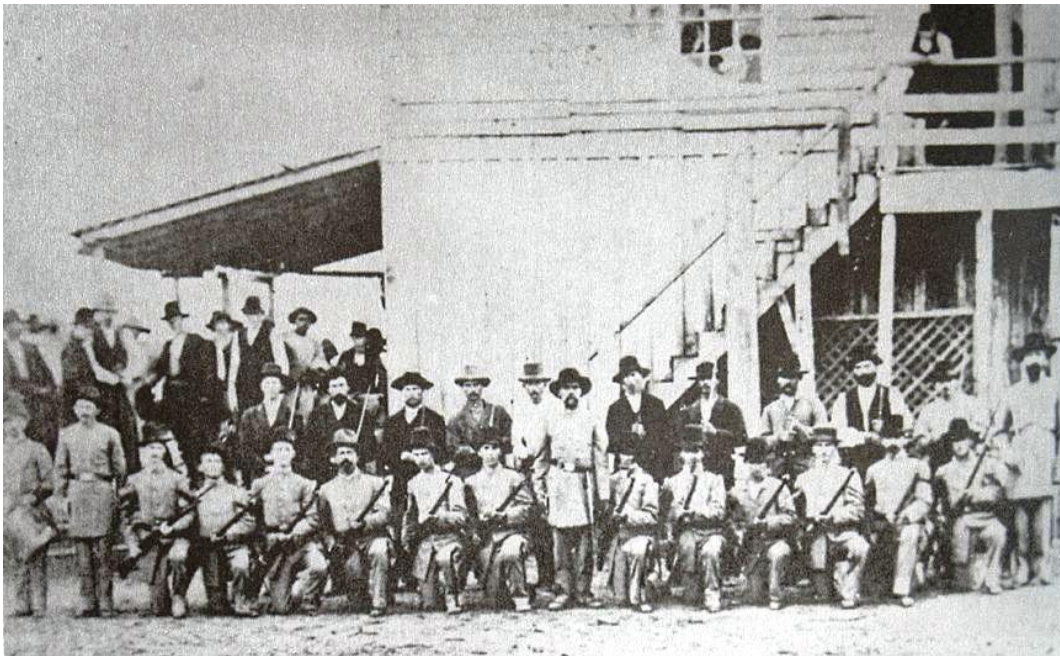
The "arch rebel of California," Dan Showalter, was born in Whitely Township, Greene County, Pennsylvania, about sixty miles south of Pittsburgh, around 1831. When Dan was 13 years old, his father, John M. Showalter, a descendant of a Mennonite missionary family who converted to Roman Catholicism when he married Dan's Irish Catholic mother, moved his wife and children to a new home near modern day Latrobe in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania. In 1852, at 21 years of age, Dan left home for the gold fields and "that land of promise called California." Successful as a miner in Mariposa County, Dan's outgoing personality and his handsome appearance, capped by piercing blue eyes and bright red hair, made him popular with both men and women in the mining district. He was elected to the California Legislature for the 1858 and 1861 sessions. During his 1861 term, he became associated with Southern sympathizers in the state, and as Speaker *Pro Tem*, made a procedural ruling that resulted in a duel with fellow legislator Charles Piercy, former sheriff of San Bernardino County. Piercy was killed, and the newspapers promoted the story as conflict between pro-Union and pro-Southern forces in California politics, with Showalter as the villain. That Fall, Showalter either joined or possibly led a group of Southern sympathizers leaving Los Angeles who intended to cross the Southwestern territories of the United States to join the Confederate army in Texas.

The expedition was captured by elements of Company A, 1st California Volunteers, and eventually placed in custody at the Federal Fort Yuma. In Yuma, Showalter denied any intention of leading an expedition to join the Confederates, claiming instead to be headed for the mining district in Mexico near Sonora. He and the other men with him were released in April 1862, after they had all signed oaths of allegiance to the United States. After that, Showalter made his way across northern Mexico to Texas. He joined a Confederate cavalry unit, eventually working his way up the ranks to become Lieutenant Colonel of the 4th Regiment of the Arizona Brigade, also known as the 4th Arizona Cavalry. Although the brigade had been formed to participate in a second attempt by the Confederates to take possession of the American Southwest, the force never saw service beyond western Texas. The 4th Arizona Cavalry saw service in the Indian Territory (Oklahoma) and Arkansas in 1863. Later, under the command of former Texas

Ranger, Colonel John S. (RIP) Ford, the 4th Arizona became part of a brigade sent to drive the Yankees out of the Rio Grande Valley. During Ford's absence, due to illness, Lt. Colonel Showalter led a successful campaign, driving the Federal troops to the outskirts of Brownsville. Here, Showalter and his men hit trouble when they met a defense force of Union and Mexican soldiers on September 6 and 7, 1864. The 4th Arizona, outnumbered by the combined force of 800 men, broke and scattered after being shelled by Mexican artillery firing from positions across the Rio Grande River. Showalter faced court martial when a fellow officer accused him of being too intoxicated at the time to exercise effective command. Showalter was eventually acquitted with the support of his superior officer, Col. Ford. After the war, Ford remembered that Showalter, "when not under the influence of liquor" was "as chivalrous a man as ever drew a sword." When the war ended in 1865, like hundreds of Confederates from Texas, Showalter left the United States to live in Mexico. He became a partner in a saloon and hotel in Mazatlan. His fiery temper got him into trouble, and he died in February 1866 after being shot and seriously wounded in a brawl in his own saloon.

Relying on a great deal of primary research materials, including documents provided by the Showalter family, the authors of this book have done a great job painting the life of Dan Showalter against the background of the Civil War era in California and Texas. The book is well-documented with notes and a strong bibliography. There are also numerous illustrations, including one portrait of Showalter as a California miner. In addition, one author, Robert D. Arconti, has put together an excellent online exhibit about Showalter titled "Dan Showalter: California's Arch Rebel" located at <http://caarchrebel.blogspot.com>.

-D. Kent Fonner



Co. C, 4th Regt., Arizona Brigade, a.k.a. 4th Arizona Cavalry, circa 1864.
Lt. Col. Showalter commanded the regiment as part of Col. John S. (R.I.P.) Ford's Cavalry Brigade.

MEETING: October 12, 2022

PROGRAM: “A Night at the Museum” – An opportunity for our members and guests to view and actually handle Civil War artifacts which are part of the museum’s Civil War exhibit.



LOCATION: Western Reserve Historical Society, 10825 East Blvd., Cleveland, OH 44106

TIME: Meeting begins at 5:00 PM

For reservations email:

ccwrtreserve@gmail.com or call 440-449-9311. To ensure a dinner is reserved for you, the reservation must be made by Wednesday, October 5, 2022, a week before the meeting.

Website: <http://www.clevelandcivilwarroundtable.com>

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