

# *THE CHARGER*

CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE  
P.O. BOX 18900, CLEVELAND, OHIO 44118

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APRIL 1994

324TH MEETING

VOL. 15 #8

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**DATE:** Wednesday, April 13, 1994

**PLACE:** The University Club  
3813 Euclid Ave., Cleveland The Mirror Room

**SUBJECT:** The Battle of Pea Ridge

**SPEAKER:** Mr. Edwin Cole Bearss  
Chief Historian of the  
National Park Service

(see next page for bio)



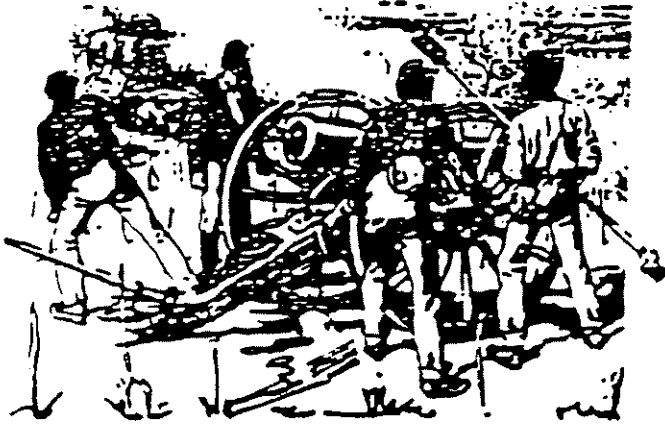
**TIME:** Drinks 6PM Dinner 7PM

**RESERVATIONS:** Please call Dr. Robert Battisti at 831-2700  
and make your reservations with the answering  
service. RESERVATIONS ARE A MUST!



# CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

1957 \* 1994



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2389 Babcock Road  
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(216) 273-9780

Our thanks to Travel Services Unlimited of Chesterland and Patricia-Safran for making the travel arrangements for our speakers who will arrive aboard Delta Air Lines, our exclusive partners in this venture. We are declaring Delta Air Lines as the official carrier of The Civil War Round-Table of Cleveland.

 **DELTA**  
WATTEL And It Shows

# THIS YEAR'S SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS & SPEAKERS

April 13

Mr. Edwin Bearss  
TBA

May 11

Special Program Narrated  
by Mr. Joe Tirpak

Our thanks to Ms. Anne Caputo at J.A.C. Business Communications Inc. for the professionally looking letterheads and format for our newsletter and for all her valuable time and service in mailing "The Charger" to our membership. If you are in need of any office support services please call Anne or John Caputo.

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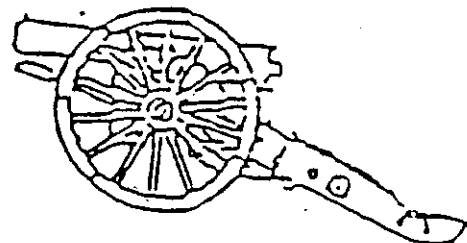
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## EDWIN COLE BEARSS

Edwin Cole Bearss was born in Billings, Montana, on June 26, 1923. He grew up on his grandfather's ranch near Hardin, Montana, in the shadow of the Rosebud Mountains within a bike ride of the Custer Battlefield. On the ranch, the E Bar S (E-S), he named the cattle for Civil War generals and battles. His favorite milk cow was Antietam.

He attended a one-room school at Sarpy, Montana, until he went to St. Johns Military Academy in Delafield, Wisconsin, in 1937. He graduated from Hardin High School and immediately joined the Marine Corps. During World War II, he was with the 3d Marine Raider Battalion and 1st Marine Division in the invasion of Guadalcanal and New Britain. Badly wounded by machine gun fire, he spent 26 months in various hospitals.

He studied at Georgetown University and received a B.S. degree in Foreign Service in 1949. He worked for 3 years in the Navy Hydrographic Office in Suitland, Maryland.

Later, at Indiana University, he received his M.A. in history, writing his thesis on Pat Cleburne.

Ed's National Park Service career began in 1955 at Vicksburg, Mississippi, where he was Park Historian. While he was there he did the research leading him and two friends to the long lost resting place of the Union gunboat *Cairo*. He located two forgotten forts at Grand Gulf, Mississippi. He helped get Grand Gulf made into a Mississippi State Military Monument. He was the founder of the Mississippi Civil War Round Table in 1956, which later consolidated with the Jackson Civil War Round Table, a newer group.

He was chosen Man of the Year at Vicksburg in 1963. He received the Harry S Truman Award for Meritorious Service in the field of Civil War History. In 1964 he was chosen to become a member of the Company of Military Historians and was voted a Fellow in that organization. He received a commendation from the Secretary of the Army in 1985. He is a veteran of 45 years of Government Service.

He is married to the former Margie Riddle of Brandon, Mississippi. They have three children: Sara Beth, born in 1960, who has received her M.A. in history and is now editor of the *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*; Edwin Cole, Jr., born in 1962, who is a Staff Sergeant in the Marine Corps and has served as an Embassy Guard in Bucharest and Lisbon, as a Drill Instructor at Parris Island, South Carolina, and is now Marine Corps liaison at Fort Benning, Georgia; and Mary Virginia, born in 1965, who is a Corporal in the Marine Corps and is stationed at Camp Pendleton, California.

In 1966, Ed was transferred to Washington, DC.

He has been the recipient of a number of awards in the field of history and preservation: the T. Harry Williams Award; the Bruce Catton Award; the Alvin Calman Award; the Bell I. Wiley Award and others.

At present, Ed lives at 1126 South 17th Street, Arlington, Virginia 22202. He is Chief Historian of the National Park Service. In 1983 he won the Department of the Interior's Distinguished Service Award, the highest award given by the department.

He has done detailed studies for the National Park Service for many areas: Vicksburg; Pea Ridge; Wilson's Creek; the Ray House; Fort Smith; Stones River; Fort Donelson; Battles around Richmond; Bighorn Canyon; Eisenhower Farm; the gold miners' route over Chilkoot Pass; LBJ Ranch; Fort Moultrie; Fort Point; William Howard Taft House; Fort Hancock; Boston Navy Yard; Herbert Hoover National Historic Site and others.

In 1990 he was featured as a commentator on the PBS program The Civil War, which as of this writing is the most popular program ever to be broadcast by that network.

# **WE HAVE CHANGED OUR BASE**

## **PLEASE NOTE**

The location of April's meeting will not be at the Hermit Club. Instead, Mr. Bearss will speak to us at the University Club, 3813 Euclid Avenue. The social hour and the dinner time remain the same. Due to the change of location, it would be appreciated if you would call your reservations in as early as possible.



*Routed Federals flee down Ball's Bluff in October 1861.*



# PRESERVATION REPORT

## How Fighting Erupts in Historic Battlefields

**KIRMISHES IN VIRGINIA** between Civil War battlefield preservationists and two developers — Walt Disney and the builder of a racetrack — could mark the beginning of a wave of battles. After a sessionary lull, development is heading outside Washington, D.C., Atlanta and other Southern cities where fighting was heavy.

"The developers have the same bias as the generals had. They're marching out the natural transportation routes from the cities," explains Rae Baxter, president of the nonprofit Civil War Trust, which raises private funds for preservation.

A commission created by Congress has identified 384 significant Civil War battlefields in 26 states. A third have been lost to private development, and another third could be within 10 to 15 years, the group said. The development of an auto racetrack was recently approved for the Brandy Station, Va., battlefield, and Disney hopes to put up a historic theme park near the Haymarket, Va., battlefield.

"There isn't enough money in the federal Treasury to buy back all the land at full development value," says Randall Arendt, vice president of Natural Lands Trust in Media, Pa., a nonprofit land conservation group retained by National Park Service to devise ways to preserve battlefields. "We have to use our heads, not our wallets."

One idea championed by Mr. Arendt and others is for developers to build around old trench lines, cannon batteries and other battlefield landmarks, much as communities are developed around golf courses. "It doesn't penalize the developer," says Mr. Arendt. "He gets the same number of houses and a marketing advantage. Open space sells."

When Harold Isbell of Corinth, Miss., stumbled upon a cannon battery and trench line on several hundred acres he had planned for housing, he rerouted a planned road, set aside several acres to preserve the historic features and even bought a cannon replica to adorn it. "I think it's an asset to the development," he said.

Preservationists convinced NTS of Louisville, Ky., to hold off developing 400 acres of a 3,000-acre luxury community adjacent to the Wilderness Battlefield national park near Fredericksburg, Va. NTS scaled down its plans, but wants some compensation from the government or preservationists for giving up 250 lots.

"If we can preserve it and we can come out whole, we're very happy to cooperate," said NTS President Richard Good. "But if there's no economic solution, we may have to select some areas of it to develop."

SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL

## OHIO CIVIL WAR COLLECTORS SHOW AND



## 2nd ANNUAL ARTILLERY SHOW

REVOLUTIONARY 1776 thru 1898 INDIAN WARS

Saturday, April 30, 1994 9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, May 1, 1994 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Richland County Fairgrounds  
U.S. 30 and Trimble Road Exit  
Mansfield, Ohio

LOCATED 7 MILES WEST OF EXIT 176 (US-30) ON I-71

550 Tables Available - Strictly Military Items, Relics and  
RELATED Memorabilia for Buy, Sell & Trade from the Period of  
1776 thru 1898, Including Books, Pictures & Etc.  
Reproduction Items Permitted, if so Marked

### — SPECIAL FEATURES —

Three (3) Building Show - One Admission; Ample Free Parking;  
Handicapped Facilities. Free Outdoor Living History Encampments by the  
U.S. 64th O.V.I. and the C.S. 1st Davis Infantry Brigade.  
**FREE** - 20 Gun Artillery Show - Indoor/Outside; Displays & Guns Inside  
4th Building. 19th Annual GAR & Civil War Veterans Organization Encampment.

For Information & Tables Contact:

Don Williams • 1083 Oak Hill Circle • Ashland, Ohio 44805  
Phone (419) 289-3120

## Civil War Show in Frederick

SHAF will again have a table at the Frederick (MD) Civil War show. The show is set for May 7 & 8 and will be held at the Frederick Fairgrounds. The show is sponsored by the Frederick Civil War Round Table and the Central Maryland Heritage League, two very worthy organizations, and we encourage all of you to attend.

Fellow member and past-President Ken Callahan informs us that July 2, 1994 marks the 100th Anniversary of Cleveland's Soldiers and Sailors Monument on Public Square. A celebration is planned with Dr. James McPherson talking at a lunch to be held at the Marriott on the Square in the Society Bldg. Cost of lunch will be \$20.00. A re-dedication of the monument will immediately follow. All are welcomed to attend.

## LOCAL FIELD TRIP

April 23rd will be the day of our local field trip. We will be going to the Sherman family house in Lancaster, Ohio. We will leave Cleveland around 9:30 in the morning. The Sherman house staff will give us a guided tour. Afterward, we will have time for a group question and answer session in the parlor of the house. There is also a gift shop on the premises.

Following the tour, we will proceed to Shaw's Inn and Restaurant where we will dine on the local fare. The cost of the tour is \$1.75. Shaw's will provide us with a selection of meals and prices, including tax and gratuity. Family and friends are welcome to join the group. If we get a sufficient number of people on the trip, we will charter a bus to drive us. I will determine the cost of everything and come up with a per person charge.

Lancaster also has several other historic buildings within walking distance of the Sherman house. If all goes well, there may be some on-your-own time to explore these other historic sites. If you are interested, please call Dan Zeiser at 449-1391 and let me know how many will be attending. I would like to have a rough number by March 1 so I can tell the Sherman house and Shaw's how many we will have. Thank you.

### Plaque honors blacks in Civil War battle

ASSOCIATED PRESS

#### VICKSBURG, Miss.

A plaque honoring blacks who fought in a key Civil War battle is being placed on display in the Vicksburg National Military Park.

The cast iron marker is dedicated to black Union Army soldiers who battled Confederate forces at Milliken's Bend, La., on June 7, 1863. The marker was un-

veiled Sunday and is to be installed soon in a section of the park across the Mississippi River at Delta, La.

About 900 black soldiers were among 1,500 Union troops who rallied that day to beat back Confederate attacks near Tallulah, La.

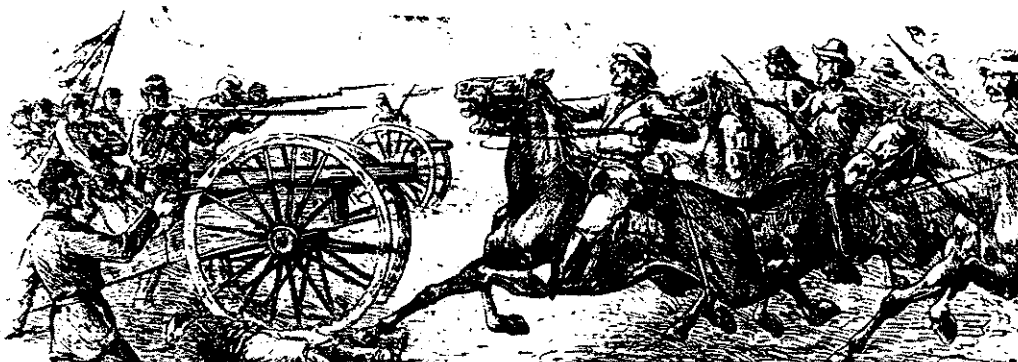
About 190,000 blacks fought for the Union, and more than one-third were killed or injured, park ranger Patrick Shell said.

President Woodrow Wilson was born in Staunton, Va. in 1856 and was raised in the south. At some point in his presidential term when things were not going as hoped he related the following:

A Confederate veteran, discharged after Appomattox returned to his home. Limping and with his arm in a sling he looked at his demolished house, at the broken fence, the lost livestock, his scattered family and said "I'm not sorry I fought, but I'm - damned if I'll ever love another country again."

from John DosPassos  
"Mr. Wilson's War"

submitted by Matt Slattery



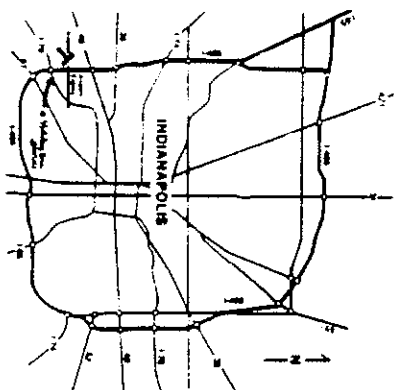
# Thirteenth Annual Midwest Civil War Round Table Conference

April 29 - 30, 1994  
Indianapolis, Indiana

HOLIDAY INN AIRPORT  
2501 S. High School Road  
Indianapolis, IN 46241



**Abraham Lincoln**  
An Anthology



DIRECTIONS: Take interstate 465 west following signs to Indianapolis International Airport. Left at the stop; hotel is on left.

## Schedule of Events

### FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 1994

3:00-6:00 p.m. . . . . REGISTRATION  
6:15 p.m. . . . . WELCOME RECEPTION  
(finger food — cash bar)  
7:00 p.m. . . . . BANQUET  
8:15 p.m. . . . . ADDRESS: Jerry L. Russell  
"Preservation Today and Tomorrow"  
(Q. & A. following speech)

### SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 1994

8:00 a.m. . . . . REGISTRATION/COFFEE  
8:15 a.m. . . . . ADDRESS: Dan Weinberg  
"Abraham Lincoln — The Early Years"  
9:00 a.m. . . . . BREAK —  
COMPLIMENTARY COFFEE  
9:15 a.m. . . . . ADDRESS: Alan T. Nolan  
"Abraham Lincoln — Lawyer"  
10:00 a.m. . . . . STRETCH BREAK  
10:15 a.m. . . . . ADDRESS: Dr. David Long  
"Abraham Lincoln and Civil Liberties"  
11:00 a.m. . . . . BREAK  
11:30 a.m. . . . . COMPLIMENTARY LUNCH  
1:15 p.m. . . . . ADDRESS: John Hennessy  
"Year Of Trial — Abraham Lincoln"  
and "The Virginia Front In 1862"  
2:00 p.m. . . . . BREAK  
2:15 p.m. . . . . ADDRESS: Theodore P. Savas  
"Lincoln and Davis on Ordinance  
& War, A Comparison"  
3:00 p.m. . . . . BREAK  
3:15 p.m. . . . . CWRT WORKSHOP  
(officers, board members,  
newsletter editors, and others)  
6:15 p.m. . . . . RECEPTION  
(finger food — cash bar)  
7:00 p.m. . . . . BANQUET  
8:15 p.m. . . . . ADDRESS: Dr. Mark E. Neely, Jr.  
"The Triumph of the Two Party  
System?"

CLIP AND MAIL TO: **INDIANAPOLIS CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**  
3816 Clubhouse Ct., Greenwood, Indiana 46142

## REGISTRATION FORM

PLEASE PRINT

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ROUND TABLE AFFILIATION \_\_\_\_\_

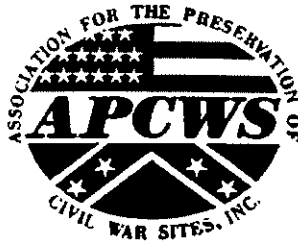
WILL YOU BE STAYING AT THE HOLIDAY INN  
AIRPORT? \_\_\_\_\_

FEE: \$85.00 per person. MAIL CHECK/MONEY ORDER  
WITH REGISTRATION FORM. DOES NOT INCLUDE  
LODGING.

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO:

**THIRTEENTH ANNUAL  
MIDWEST CWRT CONFERENCE**

THE ASSOCIATION FOR  
THE PRESERVATION  
OF CIVIL WAR SITES



**1994 ANNUAL MEETING AND SEMINAR**  
**"CONTEST FOR LEE'S LIFELINE"**  
***Petersburg to Five Forks***

Held on May 6-8, 1994, the Seminar will key on the struggle to control the Army of Northern Virginia's supply lines during the siege of Petersburg in the latter part of 1864 and into 1865. Tour guide Christopher Calkins, Historian at Petersburg National Battlefield and noted author on this aspect of the war, will lead two days of tours of the area's numerous battlefields. Of special interest will be a pre-opening visit to Pamplin Park Civil War Site, and an insider's look at the Five Forks Unit of Petersburg National Battlefield. The Annual Meeting gives the membership a chance to meet the APCWS Officers, Trustees, Advisors, and staff, and learn about accomplishments in battlefield preservation in the past year.

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

Friday, May 6      7:45 Evening Reception

Saturday, May 7

8:15 Morning lecture with Chris Calkins.

9:30-5:00 Tour of Battlefields: Jerusalem Plank Road, Weldon Railroad, Reams Station, Peebles Farm, Hatcher's Run, & Boydton Plank Road.

7:30 Banquet

9:00 APCWS Annual Meeting

Sunday, May 8

8:15 Morning Lecture with Dr. Glenn Robertson

9:30-5:00 Tour of Battlefields: Quaker Road, White Oak Road, Dinwiddie Court House, Sutherland Station, Five Forks, & Pamplin Park.

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**HEADQUARTERS:** Holiday Inn Koger Executive Conference Center  
On Midlothian Turnpike south of Richmond, Virginia.

Room Rate -- \$56.00 Make reservations at (804)379-3800. Tell them you are with the Civil War Group for the conference rate. Free shuttle to and from Richmond airport for guests.

**COST:** Annual Meeting & Seminar -- \$150.00

(Includes tours, lunches, banquet & reception)

Banquet only -- \$25.00

Saturday or Sunday Tour only -- \$100.00

(Includes lecture and lunch)

Annual Meeting is free and open to all APCWS Members.

*Make reservations by sending checks to:*

APCWS Seminar, P.O. Box 1862, Fredericksburg, VA 22402



# MORE THAN YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT

## ★ Earl Van Dorn ★



Earl Van Dorn was born on September 17, 1820, at the "Hill," near Port Gibson, Mississippi. His father was Judge Peter Aaron Van Dorn of the Claiborne County Probate Court and his mother, Sophia Donelson (Caffery) Van Dorn, was Mrs. Andrew Jackson's niece. Judge Van Dorn was a 1795 graduate of the College of New Jersey (Princeton) and had moved first to Virginia before settling in Mississippi. Earl was educated in the Claiborne County common schools and on July 1, 1838, he entered the United States Military Academy.

Van Dorn graduated from West Point on July 1, 1842, fifty-second in a class of fifty-six. Commissioned a brevet 2d lieutenant in the 7th U.S. Infantry, he reported to his unit, then stationed at Fort Pike, Louisiana. The next year saw a brief tour of duty at Fort Morgan, Alabama, followed by an eighteen-month assignment at the Mt. Vernon, Alabama, arsenal, where he married Caroline Godbold in 1843. He was promoted to 2d lieutenant on November 30, 1844, while stationed at Fort Barrancas, Florida. He was ordered to Texas with his regiment in the autumn of 1845 and participated in the defense of Fort Texas (May 3-9, 1846) when it was invaded by Mariano Arista's Mexican army. He was with Major General Zachary Taylor's army on its advance from Camargo to Cerralvo and fought in the Battle of Monterrey (September 21-23).

The 7th U.S., along with most of the regulars, was transferred from northern Mexico to join Major General Winfield Scott's army that landed at Veracruz and carried the war into the Valley of Mexico. Van Dorn, having been promoted to 1st lieutenant on March 3, 1847, was named aide-de-camp to Brigadier General P.F. Smith. He was brevetted captain on April 17 for gallantry and meritorious conduct at Cerro Gordo, and major on August 20 for similar actions at Contreras and Churubusco. He was wounded in the September 13 fight for Garita de Belen that led to the capture of Mexico City. Van Dorn returned to the United States in 1848 with the 7th Infantry and was

posted first at Baton Rouge and then Jefferson Barracks, Missouri. It was then to Florida and duty in the Third Seminole War. From 1851-55, Van Dorn was posted at New Orleans, from where he served as secretary of the East Pascagoula Military Asylum.

On March 3, 1855, he was promoted captain and transferred to the recently constituted 2d U.S. Cavalry, one of the two elite mounted regiments organized by Secretary of War, Jefferson Davis, with the mission of bringing peace and order to the frontier. Captain Van Dorn's company was posted to Camp Cooper, Texas. On July 1, 1857, he participated in a skirmish against the Comanches. Two years—1856-58—were spent at Camp Colorado, and on October 1, 1858, he led an attack on a Washita village in Indian Territory, in which he was struck by four arrows. On May 3, 1859, while posted at Camp Colorado, he again engaged the Comanches, this time at Nessentunga. He was promoted major on June 28, 1860, and three weeks after Mississippi's withdrawal from the Union, Van Dorn resigned his commission in the "Old Army" dated January 31, 1861. He was named brigadier general of Mississippi state troops and in early February was made major general and placed in command of the state troops, succeeding Jefferson Davis, who had been elected provisional president of the Confederacy.

On March 16 Van Dorn was commissioned colonel of cavalry in the Confederate army and briefly commanded the garrisons at Forts Jackson and St. Philip, guardians of the Mississippi River approach to New Orleans. Some four weeks later on April 11, he was named to command the Department of Texas. In rapid-fire order he captured *Star of the West* at Galveston (April 20); five days later received the surrender at Saluria of seven companies of United States regulars; and on May 9, near San Antonio, compelled six companies of the 8th U.S. Infantry to lay down their arms. His Texas successes earned him promotion to brigadier general on June 5.

The War Department had high expectations for Van Dorn and on August 14 he was ordered to turn over

his Texas responsibilities to his second in command and to hasten to Richmond. He arrived in the capital city in mid-September. Promoted major general to rank from September 19, Van Dorn reported to General Joseph E. Johnston and on October 4 took charge of the Army of the Potomac's First Division, then camped on Bull Run. He led the division until January 13, 1862, when he was detached and returned to the trans-Mississippi where on his January 29 arrival in Little Rock he assumed command of the recently constituted Trans-Mississippi District.

In late February he headed for the Boston Mountains where on March 3 he took charge of the sixteen-thousand-man Army of the West. The next day he put his columns in motion by forced marches, expecting to overwhelm Samuel Ryan Curtis' army. Alerted to Van Dorn's approach, Curtis regrouped his four scattered divisions and posted his ten thousand, five hundred soldiers on the bluffs overlooking Little Sugar Creek. Van Dorn made a night march and, on March 7-8, the Battle of Pea Ridge raged. By noon on the second day, Van Dorn lost his nerve and the Confederates abandoned the field and retreated south of the Boston Mountains.

Van Dorn led his Army of the West across the Mississippi as reinforcements for the Army of the Mississippi, and dropped his responsibilities as district commander. He reached Corinth on April 23, two weeks after the Confederate defeat at Shiloh, and reported to General P.G.T. Beauregard. During the Siege of Corinth (April 29-May 30), Van Dorn and his troops—posted in the rifle-pits east of the town—three times moved out to assail Major General John Pope's Army of the Mississippi at Farmington. On May 4 and again on the 9th, the Yankees pulled back. Then, on the 22nd, when Van Dorn's army was to trigger an all-out attack by the Confederates, he and his generals got lost and Beauregard scrubbed the attack.

On the night of May 29 the Confederates evacuated Corinth and regrouped. On June 28 Van Dorn was named to command the Department of Southern Mississippi and East Louisiana and rushed to Vicksburg. Flag-Officer David G. Farragut's deep-water fleet had captured New Orleans and ascended the Mississippi and before daybreak on the 28th (the day Van Dorn reached Vicksburg) fought its way upstream past the "Hill City" river batteries. On July 1 the river gunboats arrived from upriver and, except for the three miles of the Mississippi under the

Vicksburg guns, the Federals controlled the great river from source to mouth. Van Dorn rallied the defenders: the ironclad ram *Arkansas* sortied; the river stage fell; and in late July the Union threat was mastered and the fleets recoiled. The ocean-going ships retreated downstream and the river squadrons headed up the Mississippi to Memphis.

Van Dorn's military success was dimmed by a political miscue on July 4, when he declared martial law in a number of Mississippi counties and Louisiana parishes. The resulting howl reached Richmond and though Van Dorn was a native Mississippian, President Davis found it necessary to replace Van Dorn with Lieutenant General John C. Pemberton. Pemberton reached Jackson and assumed command of the department on October 14.

Meanwhile, Van Dorn had marched against Major General William S. Rosecrans' twenty-two-thousand-man army posted in and around Corinth. A savage two-day battle (October 3-4) ended in Confederate defeat. This was the second time that Van Dorn had been bested in a major battle in which the Confederates had the heavier battalions. The Corinth fight and the ensuing retreat caused much bitterness among the Confederates, and Brigadier General John S. Bowen preferred serious charges against Van Dorn at a court of inquiry. The court, as to be expected, held that the evidence "fully disproves every allegation...."

On December 12, General Pemberton named Van Dorn to command his cavalry. This decision by Pemberton demonstrated that he was a keen judge of character. Van Dorn, a mediocre or worse army commander, proved to be a hard-hitting, first-rate cavalry leader. His Holly Springs raid (December 17-28) destroyed a major Union depot with hundreds of thousands of dollars in supplies and in conjunction with Bedford Forrest's West Tennessee raid, derailed U.S. Grant's initial campaign aimed at destruction of Pemberton's army and capture of Vicksburg.

Van Dorn and his mounted corps were transferred from north Mississippi to Middle Tennessee in late January and early February 1863. There he reported to General Braxton Bragg, established headquarters at Columbia, and assumed the task of guarding the Army of Tennessee's left. Van Dorn aggressively carried out his mission, crushing the twenty-eight-hundred-man Union column led by Colonel John Coburn at Thompson's Station on March 5 and capturing more than twelve hundred prisoners. Two weeks later

on March 25, Forrest's division, under orders from Van Dorn, attacked the Federals at Brentwood and captured seven hundred and eighty five prisoners and sixteen wagons and teams. On April 10 Van Dorn's forced reconnaissance drove the Federals back into the fortifications covering the Franklin approaches. Meanwhile, Van Dorn had transferred his headquarters to Spring Hill, which was closer to the enemy. There his relations with Forrest soured and there was a confrontation. Both drew their swords before passions cooled.

Van Dorn, short of stature, lithe of figure, sensuous-eyed, was a ladies' man. The general's frequent riding companion while at Spring Hill was Jessie McKissack Peters, the young wife of Dr. James Bodley Peters, a man in his late forties. On May 7, 1863, Dr. Peters called on the general in his quarters in the Martin Cheairs house and shot and killed Van Dorn as he sat at his desk. Peters fled to Union-held Franklin. He justified the killing, testifying that Van Dorn had "violated the sanctity of his home." Van Dorn was first buried at Spring Hill, Alabama, in his wife's family plot, but in 1902 his remains were sent to Port Gibson and interred in Wintergreen Cemetery.

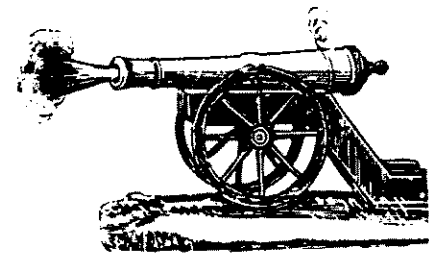
*Edwin C. Bearss*

Hartje, Robert G., *Van Dorn: The Life and Times of a Confederate General* (Nashville, 1967).

Hooker, Joseph, *Mississippi*, Vol. VII in Evans, *Confederate Military History*.

Miller, Emily Van Dorn, *A Soldier's Honor: With Reminiscences of Major General Earl Van Dorn, by His Comrades* (New York, 1902).

--- Confederate Generals Vol.6



An Alabama soldier in one of Gen. Joseph Wheeler's cavalry regiments was involved in a skirmish. A soldier in battle will naturally take advantage of any cover or protection available, no matter how slight. On this occasion the bullets were flying thick and there was little cover available. The Alabama trooper ensconced himself behind a small sapling only a few inches in diameter, and turned himself sideways so as to expose as little of his person as possible, when "zip" came a Minie ball through the part of his anatomy that filled the saddle.

For some minutes the air seemed fairly blue with his sulphurous ebullitions when someone told him to go back to the rear. This seemed only to add to his wrath.

"Go back to the rear, Hell!" he fairly screamed. "I would be only too glad to go back if wounded anywhere else, but I will be damned if I go back shot where I have been."

--- Campaigns of Wheeler and His Cavalry, 1862-1865 ed. by W.C. Dodson pp 183-184



Please Make Reservations

Please call Dr. Robert Battisti at:  
831-2700

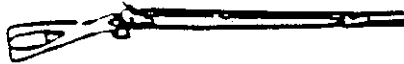
**RESERVATIONS ARE A MUST!!**



## OLLAPODRIDA

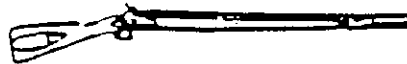
Charles H. Colley of Gray, Maine, fell mortally wounded on August 9, 1862 at the battle of Cedar Mountain. He died soon thereafter in an Alexandria, Virginia hospital. When his parents recovered their son's body, having had it sent to Maine in a coffin after no little trouble and expense, they discovered that the coffin contained the body of a Confederate soldier. They subsequently straightened out the situation and retrieved Charles' body, but meanwhile the unknown Southerner had been buried in the local cemetery. To this day the lone Confederate grave in Gray, Maine, is decorated with a Confederate flag on Memorial Day.

--- Stonewall Jackson at Cedar Mountain by Robert K. Krick  
pp 392



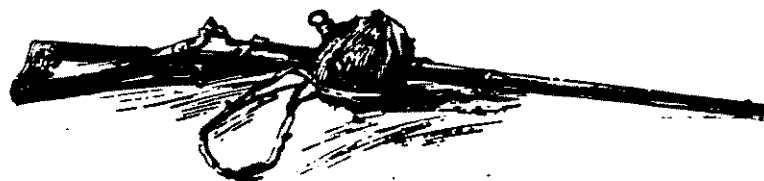
In 1864 there was a proposal in the Confederate Government to enlist and arm all able bodied slaves to fight for the Confederacy with the stipulation that at the successful conclusion of the war the slaves that fought would earn their freedom. A prominent Confederate officer in 1864 said to his faithful negro: "Now, Bob, we have concluded to put all of the able bodied slaves in the war and give them their freedom when it is over. What do you think of that?" Old Bob looked at him and scratched his head and said: "Boss, jest let me tell you. Did you ever see a bone do anything when two dogs was a fighting over it?"

--- Butler and His Cavalry, 1861-1865 by U.R. Brooks pp487



During Stonewall Jackson's march toward McDowell in 1862, a Confederate cavalryman rode along the infantry column. One of the foot soldiers shouted the familiar jibe, "Ten thousand dollars for a dead cavalryman." Instead of spurring on, the horseman reined up and snorted, "I tell you what, if this war lasts much longer, damned if I don't give ten thousand dollars for a live infantryman."

--- A Single Step by Jeffery D. Wert CWTI Mar/April 1994  
Vol. XXXIII #1 pp33



President's Letter, April 13, 1994

I imagine that all of us in the Roundtable were fortunate that family members and teachers taught us an appreciation of history, starting with a history of our family. Everyone has this need to know his heritage because to have the broadest vision of the future, you have to know who you are and where you came from. Beyond our parents and teachers, we of the RT are students of the CW, this agonizing slice of history, in part, because we want to know where we came from as a nation. The study, of course, never ends or as James Ogden III said: "I have enough unstudied information on Chickamauga to last a lifetime." To aid our study we have had a long line of exceptional speakers over the years, some of them even legendary like Catton, Bishop Tucker, Robertson, and Bearss. We equally have legendary speakers from our RT like Callahan, Clarke, and DiCarlo and I am sure others who preceded my membership. And there are emerging legends within our group of more recent vintage, although their names will await the 50th anniversary. In my final newsletter next month, I will tell you about my own personal history legends of my youth and college years. I will include an unedited letter my great-great grandfather Wadding wrote home to his wife Abby in 1864. His letter, written over a two day period told about what was happening around Fairfax County, Virginia at that time.

As I was thinking about these personal reasons why we come together to study the CW, I kept reflecting about Al DeCola of the Mahoning County Roundtable when he spoke to us on the Battle of Franklin on 3-12-91. His words are worth repeating: "I get this eerie feeling of contact with these long ago heroes of the CW. The love of these people started when I was around 11. The library I started at is still there. I go there once in awhile to remind myself what it was like. This eerie feeling leads me to a special communion with people in CW Roundtables. Associating with you reduces the distance between me and people like Grant, Lee, you name them, the 19th Ohio, 6th Ohio Volunteer Calvary. When I'm with you, I feel that I'm at "Decoration Day" or like I'm attending the annual reunion of the 19th Ohio who met right here in Cleveland."

From our records I note that Mr. Ed. Bearss, Chief Historian of the National Park Service and thus our nation's historian, was our speaker in 1969 on the topic "Grant-McClernand Controversy at Vicksburg". He also led our group on a fieldtrip so he is looking forward to meeting old friends. It is indeed an honor to have him speak again, the topic "Pea Ridge." Interesting how a thread of an idea can lead to something entirely different. When I started to compile a list of topics in the fall of 1992 for this year, I was given many suggestions. One was from Neil Evans: "We haven't had a talk on Naval history in a long time." Any other ideas Neil? "Nope, just try to get one on Naval history." Every lead I tried, came up empty. One of you suggested calling the Dept. of Navy, which led me to The Great Lakes Historical Society, but no call-back initially. So I called my Uncle George Stillwagon of The Montgomery County Civil War Roundtable near Washington DC. He said he would ask at his next meeting. Two days later David Upson of The Great Lakes Historical Society called, he had a Naval speaker, Mr. Kurnat. Finally. Two hours later, Uncle George

called, Mr. Harry Pfanz, Second Day of Gettysburg author and former historian at Gettysburg, asked Ed Barsse if he would speak to the CCWRT, he could speak on anything, so certainly he could speak on the US Navy. When I talked to Mr. Barsse, indeed he was willing to come and would leave the topic open. Recently I talked to him again, what did we want him to talk on, our choice? Two quick calls to Baucher and Kowell, a short list emerged, thus we will have a talk on "Pea Ridge". 'Round about way of getting somewhere, but the good news, we did have a talk on naval history and Mr. Barsse is coming.

Last month Dennis Cahill talked about the new social history of the Civil War. In addition to reminding us that Lincoln was 56 not 54 when he died, Dennis commented on the lack of emphasis on ethnic soldiers and the general neglect of western campaigns in the popular PBS series on the Civil War. Dennis' presentation offered the perspective of history from the non-heroic bottom up approach through the eyes and diaries of the privates. For example, he discussed, Mother May You Never See The Sights I Have Seen, about the 57th Massachusetts, written from the point of view of the privates. He went on to say that one social change was that the local community went to war with the soldiers in that the soldiers were from the same town, the town leaders were the officers, they were under state militia laws, and soldiers served as correspondents for their hometown newspapers. Death was another theme that Dennis discussed. Before the Civil War, death was a personal matter, with family members and friends as participants in the process. With the mass slaughter in war, individuals, young men at the prime of their lives, died alone and without friends. There is much to digest in Dennis' talk; a talk of a different nature. I suggest that if you did not hear it ask for a written or audio copy. Thanks Dennis, for pitching in on short notice. You didn't lose your reputation of being controversial, which pleases you!

The local fieldtrip to Sherman's home in Landcaster is scheduled for April 23. See Dan Zeiser for signing up. Dr. Callahan and Neil Evans have recently announced that July 2, 1994 will be the 100th anniversary celebration of The Sailors and Soldiers Monument. As part of the celebration, James McPherson of Battle Cry of Freedom fame will speak at a luncheon. There will be an opportunity for you to purchase a ticket for around \$20 for the luncheon. See Bob Battisti or General Tirpak if you want to sign up for the fall fieldtrip to Nashville.

As the 1993-94 season winds down, I have a special request. I would like a big turn out for Ladies Nite/Founders Nite which will be May 11, 1994 at the Hermit Club. There will never be a night quite like this. We will reach back 37 years to recall the founding of our Roundtable. Mr. Charles Clarke, Jr., a founder, will be co-master of ceremonies, Dr. Ken Callahan will present awards to founders and charter members, and Mr. Guy DiCarlo, a charter member, will present a scroll to twenty-five year members. The special program, entitled, "Division, War and Saving Graces", has been created especially for this meeting. It will be narrated by General JET and will include several members from the Roundtable. Robert E. Battisti.





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