

The Charger

CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

P.O. BOX 5028 • CLEVELAND, OHIO 44101

September, 1979

Volume 23 No. 8

190th Meeting

DATE: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11th
SPEAKER: Robert Meinhard
SUBJECT: "Battlefield Preservation"
PLACE: The Hermit Club, Dodge Court
CANTEEN OPEN: 6:00 P.M. CHOW: 7:00 P.M.

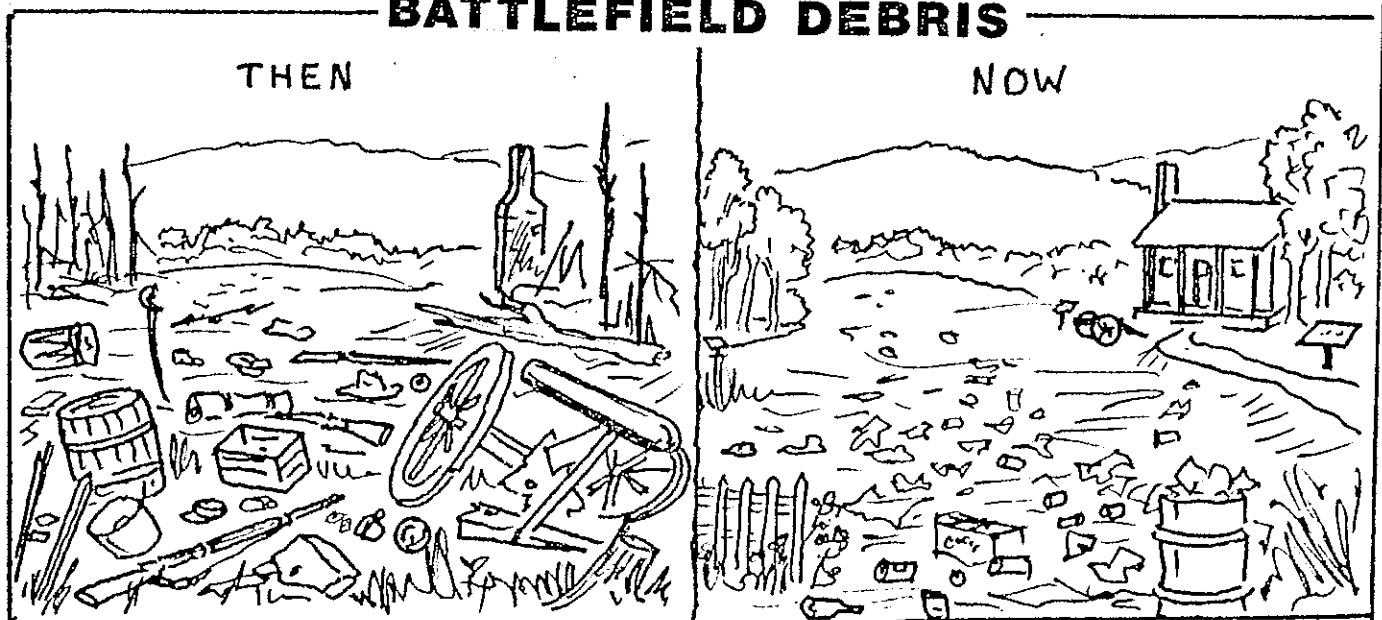
Our speaker comes very well-qualified and highly recommended by those who have heard him. He spent 27 years teaching social studies and American history in secondary schools in Iowa and Minnesota, 12 years as professor of history and education at Winona State University, three years as History Department Head.

Professor Meinhard has received many awards and has thoroughly covered the Civil War battlefields; in 1975 visiting over fifty sites, including all National Park battlefields, where he interviewed Park superintendents and historians regarding battlefield preservation problems. He has been the speaker at innumerable Civil War Round Tables and service clubs, and speaker at 1975-76-77-78 National Congresses of Civil War Round Tables.

We are fortunate to have Professor Meinhard, and we can all look forward to an entertaining and profitable evening.

On the personal side, our speaker is married, has four children and two grandchildren.

BATTLEFIELD DEBRIS



CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

Founded Nov. 19, 1957

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FIELD TRIP TO SHILOH ALL SET

As of this writing, we have 16 members signed up to take the field September 20-22 to Shiloh Battlefield. There is no other National Military Park quite like it, removed as it is from the mainstems of tourist travels...and retaining much of its original state. Every Civil War buff owes it to himself to enjoy the experience of visiting this great national shrine. Ed Bearss is to be the guide and no better historian - instructor could be found. There still might be room for you..call John Harkness 486-4200, or Bill Chamberlin 423-3806.

1978 TRIPPERS GET RE-RUN

Unreported in the last Charger was a delightful evening on May 29th, enjoyed by members and wives who went on the field trip to Columbia and Charleston, South Carolina, last September.

The dinner was held at the Hermit Club and engineered by Bob and Neville Bayless and John Harkness; after dinner John showed his slides of the trip. The photography was of professional caliber and the scenes brought back pleasant memories and sights.

Bill Chamberlin concluded the evening by showing his movies of a former field trip. Bill qualifies as the Mack Sennett of the Cleveland CWRT. While some of the humor may have been unintentional, the audience was convulsed, and when the lights went on many were wiping away tears of laughter.

Many thanks, Bob, Nev, John and Bill!

* * * *

MUR DE PIERRE JACQUESON

Ernest Grasset, Inspecteur en Chef de la Marine wrote The War of Secession, 1861-65, 2 vols., Paris, 1887.

In his two small books, this French observer makes some interesting remarks (en français, of course) about leaders of "les Fédéraux" and "les Confédérés."

"Fighting Joe Hooker" is referred to as "Joseph le bataille," and Stonewall Jackson, "mur de pierre." Forrest, Mosby and Morgan interested him romantically because of their horsey deportment.

Of Lee: "This man grows in proportion to the decline of his good fortune. One feels that he was crushed, not conquered."

Of Grant: "A man of the people...he never maneuvers; he conducts a crusade."

An interesting comment about John Hunt Morgan reminds your editor of something he researched in 1936. Mons. Grasset said, "The knightly Morgan, falling with weapon in hand, was mortally struck down by the hand of a woman." The result of my long-ago research was the story of the mysterious circumstances surrounding Morgan's death, a story I called "September Storm," and I might just dust it off for these pages someday.

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Scenes I'd Like to Have Seen



BOOK SALE IN NOV.

This year our annual sale will be expanded to include all books, manuals, and other military material on ALL WARS. In addition we are offering military artifacts, such as old uniform swords, guns, bayonets, leather and web accouterments, in fact, anything of a military nature.

Co-chairmen Drews and Heckaman are providing a home pick-up service. Call them: Drews: Office- 491 6767

Home - 442 4611

Heckaman: Office- 522-1350
Home: 382 0915 or 381 5996

Items should be in hands of committee by the October 9 meeting, with Prices. If desired above two troopers will help you with pricing.

Call Berny if you'd like to be a panelist on Quizz Program at November Meetg.

While the Battle of Belmont (really little more than a heavy skirmish) resulted in a hasty retreat by the Union forces under General Grant, it badly frightened the Confederate Commander, Leonides Polk, late Episcopal Bishop of Louisiana. He interpreted Grant's move as the beginning of a campaign against Columbus, expecting the Federal advance from Paducah and Mayfield, Kentucky. So he holed up in a fort and refused to strengthen Forts Henry and Donaldson.

At one of the Columbus river batteries, a large Dahgren gun exploded while General Polk was standing nearby. The explosion blew off the bishop's breeches, and while he was unhurt, it "unhinged his mind" for a month. This ludicrous, if sad sight, must have been something to see! It had the unfortunate consequence of putting in command an incompetent general who considered himself a military genius - Gideon Pillow.

Info. from Connelly, Army of the Heartland

NEW BOOK ON THAT OLD DEVIL

Edwin C. Bearss, this year's guide on the field trip to Shiloh, has just published another book, Forrest at Brice's Cross Roads, Morningside Bookshop, Dayton, Ohio 1979. This is the definitive history of that little battle, the site of which is on the itinerary this September. It has long been used in military institutions as a perfect example of the planning, execution and follow-up of a battle against superior numbers. The book also includes Forrest's Tupelo Campaign and his Repelling of A.J. Smith's Second Invasion of Mississippi. Book is illustrated with photographs and maps.

BOOK REVIEW by FRED GILL

THE EFFERVESCENT MAN

THE RISE OF THEODORE ROOSEVELT by Edmund Morris. Coward, McCann & Geoghegan: New York, 1979

Looking at a picture of Mt. Rushmore once I wondered what that guy with the mustache was doing up there with the likes of Washington, Jefferson and Lincoln. But now, after reading this remarkable biography, I wonder no longer. If Borglum's rock is a monument to America's men-for-the-times then certainly Theodore Roosevelt belongs there.

Viewed through three quarters of the century Roosevelt appears loud, brash, boisterous, simplistic. He was all of these but he was also scrupulously honest, very bright, possessing almost unbelievable energy and a very acute sense of politics. Truly, how else could a 23-year-old Harvard dude from New York City have come almost to dominate the state assembly for three terms in the steamy politics of Albany? This began his rise to national politics, leading, it now seems naturally, to the Presidency. The country itself then was loud, brash, boisterous, simplistic and in retrospect just waiting for Roosevelt.



If there is one word to describe this extraordinary man it is effervescence. Wherever he was, whatever he did, everything around him seemed to fizz. Read about his true life adventures as a deputy sheriff in Dakota Territory, his exceeding his authority as Assistant Secretary of the Navy in ordering Dewey and the Pacific Squadron to Manila, his vigorous stirring of the pot on the New York Police Commission and the U.S. Civil Service Commission. Wherever he was things just bubbled. T.R., Teddy, "that Man Roosevelt" or whatever he was called, he seemed to be a force of nature.

This book describes Roosevelt's life only to the death of McKinley and his succession to the Presidency. The only dull pages are the few describing New York state politics when Roosevelt was running for governor. In a book of this size that must be record and a tribute to the author's talents. I want to be on the list for the first copy of the book's presumed sequel.

* * * * *

FROM YE ED'S SPACE-FILLERS

Theodore Roosevelt's skinny young cousin, Franklin Delano, admired and emulated him. Even after he too had attained the presidency, F.D.R. liked to say that he considered Theodore Roosevelt the greatest American who ever lived.

* * * * *

Teddy Roosevelt (and they still sell "Teddy Bears") was a great admirer of Abraham Lincoln, and his interest was probably quickened by his participation in the laying of the cornerstone of the Lincoln Memorial at Hodgenville, Kentucky, where Lincoln was born. This program was held in 1909 on the 100th anniversary of the birth of the Emancipator. It was on this occasion that Roosevelt made what many consider his greatest speech. In that speech he referred to Lincoln as "the mightiest of the mighty men who mastered the mighty days." Another often quoted Roosevelt testimonial was, "Great Heart is my favorite character in allegory...and I think that Abraham Lincoln is the ideal Great Heart of public life."

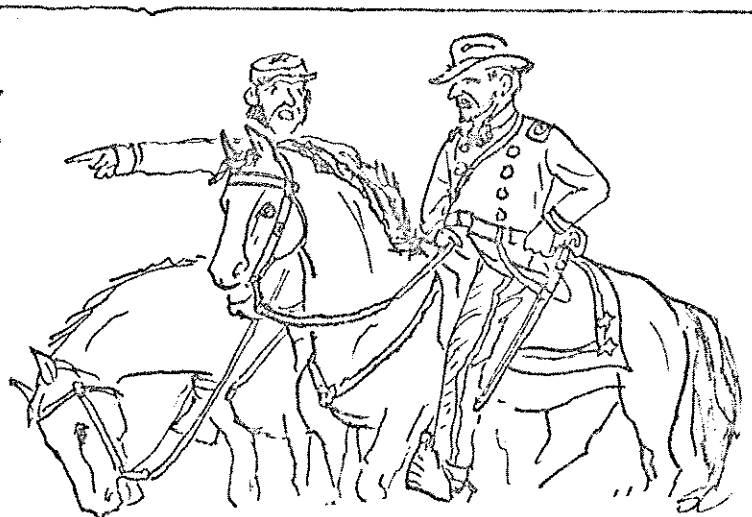
NOT ALL SURPRISED AT SHILOH

While there is no doubt that the Union Command, and the Union right were completely surprised by the Confederate attack at Shiloh early on the morning of April 6th, this was not true of the center. Here are the abbreviated observations of Colonel B. F. Sawyer, commanding the 24th Alabama, who lead his men against the Union division under General McClernand.

"The woods in the immediate front of our brigade, through which we had to pass to reach the enemy, were a tangle of swamp, brushes and brambles and exceedingly difficult to penetrate...we finally reached a point opposite the Iowa camps directly in front of the enemy's center. Having cleared this jungle, we crossed at double quick the little field beyond, when, rising to the crest of a sharp hill, we were brought face-to-face with them...

"I shall never forget the grandeur of that sight. The enemy's camps lay before us spread out far and wide, dotting the well-cleared slope... Dark masses of men clothed in blue were moving in soldierly precision before us, some were wheeling into line, others deploying and others recumbent on the ground, awaiting in tigerlike stillness our approach, to hurl death in our faces; the deafening roar of the guns; the unearthly shriek of the shells; the rattle of musketry; the venomous "pringe" of the bullet, all conspired to make it a scene the grandest ever mortal eye beheld."

Then came the order to form and charge. "Each company filed into line as deliberately as if that long line of sullen blue, that lay scarcely 300 yards in front was a line of friends instead of foes. Our line went forward until within 100 paces of the line of blue, and then we were lost in the blaze and frenzy of battle."



Sherman: "I'm glad you called that your humble opinion, Major; I'd hate to think you were proud of it."

LETTER TO EDITOR

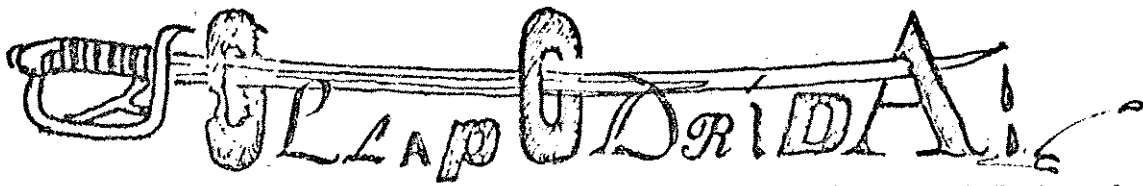
"I read with interest the "Spring Hill" item in the last Charger. I lived in the room in which General Van Dorn was shot. It was a dormitory then (The Martin Cheairs Place) and was called Ferguson Hall. Branham and Hughes Military Academy was the school.

Today, it is still a busy and beautiful building, and still used as a dormitory, (full of attractive young orphan girls) for it is now a part of a Church-owned orphans' home. When our old school folded in 1940, they took over the buildings.

When I attended B&H MA in 1918-19 World War I was on everyone's mind. I never heard the Civil War mentioned, much less Gen. Hood, Van Dorn, etc. Now! The "Morphans" are more alert. They have a photo of General Van Dorn affixed to the door of our old room; (but alas, no one wanted to sleep in such a notorious room; so it's been turned into a bathroom!) So times change.

When I lived in it, there was a fireplace, comfortable chairs, military regulations, and we did study (it was that or get out.) But never heard tell of Dr. Peters and Gen. Van Dorn. The other day at Spring Hill I spoke to a Mrs. Cheairs and she obviously still is not speaking about such things."

From our own member Gordon Tatum, Columbia, Tennessee



That unbelievable gentlemen's war: During the siege of Petersburg, Confederate General George Pickett became the father of a baby boy. Enemy generals Grant, Ingalls and Suckley sent a silver spoon through the lines as a gift to him.

* * * * *

Robert Ingersoll, who later became an internationally famous orator, known as "the great agnostic," was a Colonel in the 11th Illinois Cavalry, and even then was noted for his ability to talk loudly and at length on any subject at any time. When he was captured at Lexington, Kentucky, by General Forrest, he lost no time in making fiery speeches for the Union to his Confederate captors. Finally, in exasperation, Ol' Bedford told him if he didn't shut up, he would be exchanged for a government mule.

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Dan Butterfield did not compose "Taps." A manual on tactics published in 1835 contained a bugle call, used by the army years before the Civil War, called "Tattoo," or "Extinguish Lights." The last $5\frac{1}{2}$ bars contained the melody, and Dan simply lengthened some notes and shortened others to form the call as it was used from then on and called "Taps."

* * * * *

Two former U.S. presidents had sons serving in the Confederate Army: John Tyler's son, David G. Tyler, served as a private in the Rockbridge Artillery, 1st Virginia Bn., Army of No. Va., and Zachary Taylor's son, Richard, was a Confederate Lt. Gen..

* * * * *

Early in the Reconstruction, a veteran of Stonewall Jackson's "foot cavalry came down from the hills to vote, and was dismayed to learn that he would first have to swear allegiance to the Union. He protested, but the registrar was firm; no oath, no vote. Grudgingly he took the oath, and disconsolately asked, "Does this make me a Yankee?" "If you look at it that way." His face suddenly brightened, "Boy," he exclaimed, "didn't Old Jack beat the hell out of us in the Valley?"

Jms Bryan III The Sword Over the Mantel

* * * * *

During McClellan's retreat back down the Peninsula after getting within 7 miles of Richmond, much to the shock and disappointment of soldiers (and about everyone else) throughout the Union, a ditty was passed, copied over and over again and passed from camp to camp. It made fun of McClellan, and parodied Edgar Allan Poe's "The Raven." It was called "The Craven," and went like this:

On that mighty day of battle, 'mid the booming and the rattle,
Shouts of victory and of anguish, wherewith
Malvern's Hill did roar,
Did a General now quite fameless, who in these lines shall be nameless,
Show himself as rather gameless on the James's shore?
Safely smoking on a gunboat, while the tempest raged on shore -
Only this, and nothing more.

* * * * *

"In God We Trust" was first used as a coin motto on the two-cent pieces minted in 1864. Its use was extended to include other denominations by the law of March 3, 1865, a month and a half before Lincoln's assassination.

The striking off of the coins bearing the motto was a significant contribution, and one he seemed proud of, of the Lincoln administration to the religious and patriotic life of the nation.

A BRIEF, CONCISE, SUCCINCT, PITHY AND COMPACT MESSAGE FROM YOUR TREASURER:

Your dues are due.

The Cleveland Civil War Round Table dues are payable at the September meeting and run to September, 1980. Amount is \$15.00.

Also, please help maintain our long record of support to "The Civil War History Quarterly" by renewing or initiating a subscription at the reduced Round Table rate of \$6.50/year. (Note: 1978-79 subscribers who experienced delayed deliveries because of the fire and flood KSU suffered, should by now have your back issues.)

Please return the stub below with your check, payable to THE CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE, TO John Harkness.

Thanks for your immediate attention to this.

SEND TO: John C. Harkness
1585 Riverside Drive
Lakewood, Ohio 44107

* 1980 CWRT dues @ \$15.00.....Amount enclosed_____

* Outstanding 1979 dues if applicable..." _____

* "Civil War History" @ \$6.50...Amt encl. _____

Total enclosed _____

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Please check one: This is NEW_____ RENEWAL_____

article & photographs by ROBERT W. MEINHARD

Unchecked urban sprawl threatens to overwhelm the special character of our Civil War battlefield parks

BATTLEFIELDS UNDER FIRE

THE JULY AFTERNOON seemed to shimmer with heat as I marched with Brigadier General Lewis Armistead's Virginians across the rolling fields of Pennsylvania toward the distant ridge. Through the drifting smoke from the artillery bombardment, we could see the clump of trees and the line of blue-coated men that were our objectives. Suddenly that motionless blue line erupted in a roar, spewing forth a sheet of flame and shot. Great bloody gaps were torn through our line and hundreds fell around me, but the gallant Armistead, holding his hat aloft on the tip of his sword, steadily urged us forward.

As we pressed on through the confusion of smoke and shot, abruptly, in an instant, all vanished—the men and boys of Pickett's brigade, the rattle of muskets, the acrid smoke, the shouts and groans. Before me loomed not the Union line, but the reality of twentieth century commercialism. There, towering three hundred feet over the battlefield, stood the glittering steel framework of the National Gettysburg Tower.

Built on top of Cemetery Ridge, just a few hundred yards from the boundary of Gettysburg National Military Park, this privately owned observation tower symbolizes the most serious threat to our Civil War battlefield parks—urban encroachment accompanied by obtrusive commercial development.

MY VISIT to Gettysburg in 1978 was just one of many such visits I have made during the past four years. From Wilson's Creek to Cedar Creek, from Vicksburg to Gettysburg, from Nashville to Chancellorsville, I have traveled more than 20,000 miles to visit all of our Civil War battlefield sites and parks, most of them twice, some of them three times. In the summer of 1978, I revisited the eastern battlefield parks for the specific purpose of identifying their most urgent problems.

As a result of these visits and interviews with park officials, I have become acutely aware of the problems that confront these parks and of the widening gap between the ideal battlefield park of my imagination and the grim reality we are facing today.

Ideally, a battlefield park should have as much territorial integrity as possible—that is, most of the original site should be contained within park boundaries and park property should be contiguous.

Second, the park should have historical integrity. It should resemble as closely as possible its appearance at the time of the Civil War. Original structures and vegetation should be preserved or restored and nonhistoric buildings and vegetation, such as tree growth, should be removed.

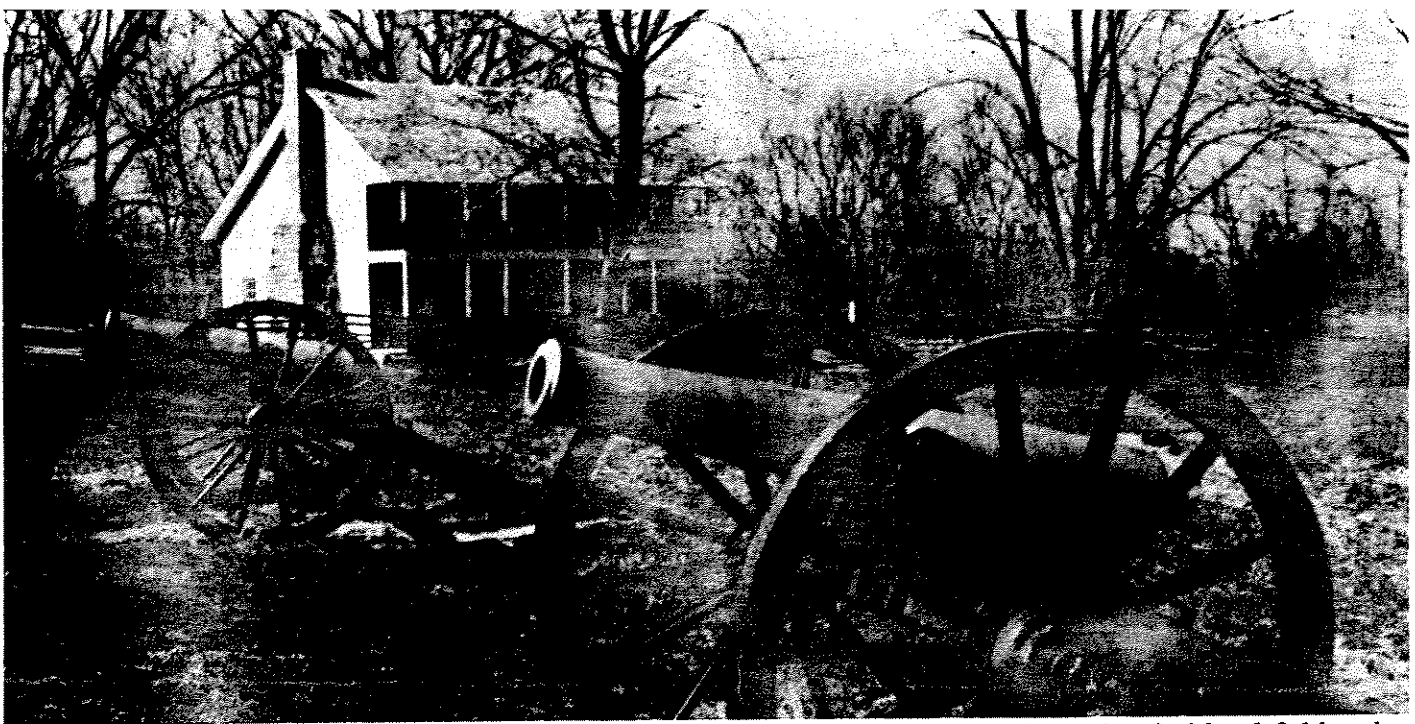
Third, multiple use—particularly such general recreational uses as horseback riding, field sports,

and swimming, for example—should be carefully controlled or in some cases banned altogether. Like the wilderness parks, the Civil War parks were established to protect distinctive and vulnerable resources. Thus, some recreational uses are incompatible with the primary purpose of these parks—namely, preservation of the sites and interpretation of what happened on them.

Fourth, there should be as little nonhistoric development as possible within the park or immediately outside the park's boundaries. Such developments include roads, monuments, visitors' centers within the parks, and commercial and residential development along park boundaries.

Do any of the existing battlefield parks measure up to these standards? Unfortunately, only two that I visited even come close to doing so—Pea Ridge National Military Park in Arkansas and Shiloh National Military Park in Tennessee, but both parks offer the visitor a most satisfying experience.

UNFORTUNATELY, the reality of the remaining Civil War battlefield parks stands in stark contrast to my ideal conception. Because many of them are within or near urban areas, the sites are chopped up into bits and pieces that are often separated or bordered by intrusive commercial or residential development, roads,



Intact, and free from crowds and urban sprawl, Pea Ridge in Arkansas comes close to being the ideal battlefield park.

safety of the park visitor. At some of the battlefields, tour roads specifically designed to enable visitors to reach the significant sites of the battlefield without ever stirring from their cars have only served to spoil the visitors' experience of these places.

As more and more people each year seek the open green space of the parks, the battlefields' fragile resources suffer from the onslaught. Heavy visitor traffic is seriously damaging or destroying entrenchments and earthworks along with the historic ambience cherished by Civil War buffs at Richmond, Petersburg, Fredericksburg, and Kennesaw Mountain.

On one spring day in 1978, so many visitors arrived at Petersburg National Battlefield, Virginia, that the park's gates had to be closed. In fact, the visitor explosion has become a critical problem for the Park Service. Chronically short of funds, it lacks the means either to prevent or repair the damages caused by heavy visitation.

WE MUST ACT NOW to meet this emergency head-on, to arrest the corrosive effects of urban sprawl and to restore and preserve our historic parks. Together, citizens and the National Park Service should formu-

late plans and initiate action not only for the parks but also for the surrounding areas.

Doesn't the bravery of those men and boys in blue and grey deserve more fitting commemoration than I-295s, observation towers, and shopping centers? Surely our sense of national identity needs these physical reminders of our past for nourishment. As the late Justice Felix Frankfurter said, "Unless we keep the stream of the past with living significance for the present, we not only have no past, but we have no present." ■

Message to Members

Help Defend the Battlefield Parks

NPCA members concerned about threats to our national battlefield parks, such as the development of shopping centers and high-rises along park boundaries, over-commercialization, inappropriate recreational uses, and neglect, should get involved in local zoning and planning decisions affecting the parks in their areas. Express your concern to local officials and to your representatives in Congress. Write to the Director of the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240, urging increased emphasis on proper preservation of the battlefield parks.

General management plans for seven battlefield parks will be available from

Professor of History at Winona State University, Minnesota, Dr. Robert Meinhard is chairman of National Battlefield Preservation for the Civil War Round Table Associates. A speaker at the annual National Congress of Civil War Round Tables since its inception in 1975, Dr. Meinhard has visited twenty of the twenty-one national Civil War battlefield parks.

the Park Service for public review during 1979-1980. For detailed information about how you can participate in the park planning process, send for NPCA's free booklet, *How to Help Plan Parks* and order NPCA's *Citizen's Action Guide to the National Park System* (\$1.50 postpaid). Ask to be put on the NPCA CONTACT List so you can receive alerts about specific park protection problems. You can obtain additional information about the national Civil War battlefields by writing to Civil War Round Table Associates, Box 7388, Little Rock, Arkansas 73317. The Associates publish a monthly bulletin featuring news and action alerts about the battlefields.

