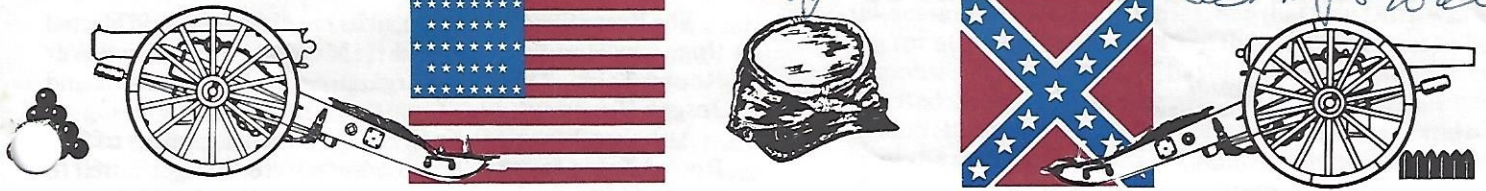


Dearborn Chemical - Joe Jaeger
438-6248

July 12th
Bob Walters



THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XL, Number 10

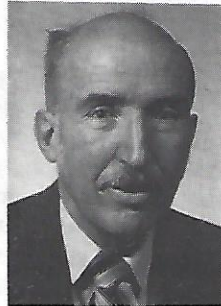
Chicago, Illinois

June, 1980

EDWIN C. BEARSS TO RECEIVE NEVINS-FREEMAN AWARD

To everyone who has been on a Battlefield Tour with The Round Table, the name Ed Bearss has a special meaning. As our chief guide, his encyclopedic knowledge of the battles and the participants, and his ability to communicate that knowledge, has greatly enhanced both understanding and enjoyment. His enthusiasm and total involvement with the subject at hand, in pouring rain and blistering sun, has served as an inspiration.

But Ed's abilities as a guide and companion on battlefield tours, both with our Round Table and others, is only one of his many accomplishments. He is also a prolific author, captivating speaker, and tireless promoter of Civil War scholarship. For all of these reasons, Ed Bearss is truly deserving of the Nevins-Freeman Award which will be presented to him on June 13.



EDWIN C. BEARSS

The Nevins-Freeman Award was created by The Round Table in 1974 to recognize individuals who have made significant contributions to our knowledge of the history and heritage of the past, and particularly the events of 1861-1865. During the first six years, the Award has gone to Bruce Catton, Ralph Newman, T. Harry Williams, Lloyd Miller, Bell Wiley, and E.B. "Pete" Long. All will agree that Edwin C. Bearss belongs in their company.

The Award evening's activities will begin at 5:30 with cocktails at the Gibraltar Room of Stouffer's Restaurant in the Prudential Building, to be followed by dinner at 6:15. At 7:30, members and guests will adjourn to The Chicago Public Library Cultural Center (use the Randolph Street entrance) for the installation of officers and ceremonies honoring Ed.

Ed Bearss was born in Billings, Montana, in 1923 and grew up on a ranch near Hardin, Montana, close to the Custer Battlefield. His interest in the Civil War goes back to his boyhood, as evidenced by the fact that he named the cattle on the ranch for Civil War generals and battles. During World War II he was a member of a Marine Raider Battalion and participated in the invasions of Guadalcanal and New Britain. Wounded in action, he spent 26 months recuperating in various hospitals.

Ed received a B.S. degree in foreign service from Georgetown University in 1949 and worked for three years in the Navy Hydrographic Office in Maryland. He then attended Indiana University where he received his M.A. in history,

(Continued on page 4)



392nd REGULAR MEETING

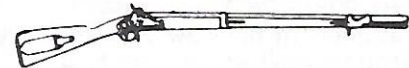
NEVINS-FREEMAN AWARD DINNER HONORING EDWIN C. BEARSS

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

FRIDAY, JUNE 13, 1980

Stouffer's Restaurant, Gibraltar Room
Main Lobby, Prudential Building
Cocktails at 5:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:15 p.m.

Grand Army of the Republic Rooms
The Chicago Public Library Cultural Center
Randolph at Michigan
Program at 8:00 p.m.



SPECIAL NOTICE

Special reservation forms for the Nevins-Freeman Award Dinner are enclosed with this Newsletter. Please send in reservations promptly with a check for \$18.50 per person—remittance must accompany reservations. No cancellations will be accepted after June 10. Guests are welcome; be sure to include their names on the reservation card.

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

18 East Chesnut Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611
Phone: (312) 944-3085

OFFICERS

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- Senior Vice President Robert G. Walter
- Vice President Donald E. Anderson
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Founding Newsletter Editor: Gil Twiss, 1954-1968

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- 400th Regular Meeting Festivities Robert G. Walter
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The only requirement for membership in The Round Table is a genuine interest in the Civil War and its era. For information, address Ward C. Smidl, 1104 Whippoorwill Lane, Palatine, Illinois 60067.



Under the auspices of the New Trier Extension Service, Past President and former editor of the Newsletter Marshall Krolick will conduct an adult education class entitled "The Civil War: A Military History." The 12-week course will begin in September and sessions will be held on Mondays from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m., probably at New Trier West High School in Northfield. The curriculum will emphasize the battles and campaigns, but attention will also be given to personalities, soldier life, weaponry, etc. For additional information or registration forms, contact Frank Sullivan, New Trier Extension Service, 3013 Illinois Road, Wilmette, Illinois 60091 (256-7070).

HONORARY AWARD LIFE MEMBERS

The Executive Committee, at its meeting on May 9, elected three new Honorary Award Life Members of The Civil War Round Table. They are Margaret April, Brooks Davis and Joseph Eisendrath.

Although Margaret April has only been a member of The Round Table for two years (women were first permitted to join in 1977), she has served our organization for 25 years as unofficial secretary and battlefield tour organizer. She has just been elected to serve as a trustee for the next two years. Brooks Davis, a member for over 20 years, is a past president and has been chairman of more battlefield tours than anyone else. In addition, he has been and still is active in many committees and special events. He was, for example, one of the leaders of the fall tour of Chicago held two years ago. Joseph Eisendrath, one of the earliest members (1943), served as president in 1950-51 and was active in many other ways. He has also spoken to The Round Table on several occasions.

SUMMER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

President-Elect Robert Walter has announced that the Summer Executive Committee Meeting will be held on Saturday, July 12 at 11 a.m. at his home, 1511 E. Miner, Arlington Hts., Illinois (253-7053). The agenda will include many important topics such as the budget and a new meeting site. Therefore, all officers, trustees, and committee chairmen, and all past presidents are urged to attend. Further details will be mailed to Executive Committee members.

A Maryland state senate committee recently voted to keep "Maryland, Maryland," a pro-Confederate song, as the state's anthem. Senator Howard Denis, who sought repeal of the law giving the anthem official status, said it "distorts history and is an insult to Marylanders who were loyal to the Union. This was a propaganda song for the South." The anthem, which calls Lincoln a despot and Yankees "northern scum," was written in 1861 by James Ryder Randall. The committee decided the Senate had more important matters to consider.

Speaking at the Palatine Historical Society on April 16 was fellow member David St. John. Dave spoke on "The Common Soldier in the Civil War." He included in his talk a display of equipment and weapons. On April 17, Dr. Gordon Dammann spoke to the 7th and 8th grades of James Hart, Jr., High School in Flossmoor, Illinois, on "Civil War Medical Practices."

The Sixth Annual Civil War Round Table Congress will be held in Chattanooga on October 2-4, 1980. Dr. Grady McWhiney, head of the history department at the University of Alabama, will be a featured speaker and Ed Bearss is scheduled to conduct tours of the Chattanooga, Chickamauga, and perhaps Stones River battlefields. For further details, write CWRT Associates, P.O. Box 7388, Little Rock, Arkansas 72217.

MAY MEETING

The short but interesting career of Albert Pike in the service of the Confederacy was the subject of remarks by Dr. Walter Brown when he addressed the 75 members and guests who attended The Round Table meeting on May 9. To provide a more complete picture of this unusual man, Dr. Brown also briefly discussed Pike's pre- and post-war activities.

Albert Pike was born in Boston and grew up in the east. Although he was accepted to Harvard, he could not afford to matriculate. In 1830 he decided to go west and ended up in St. Louis where he joined a wagon train to Sante Fe. There, he clerked in a store and traveled as a trader. In 1831, Pike joined a fur trapping party on the Red River. When that expedition amounted to nothing, he and a companion walked to Ft. Smith, Arkansas, where Pike lived for the next 30 years.

In Arkansas, Pike got a job on a newspaper and, later, became a lawyer. He prospered and was able to build a mansion as well as develop an extensive library. In addition, he became a leader of the Whig party and commanded a militia artillery unit which turned out on holidays. Although Pike himself had no use for the Mexican War, his boys wanted to go and since no artillery units were needed, they became horse soldiers. Pike performed well in the Mexican War.

By the time of the Civil War, Dr. Brown explained, Pike was the best qualified man in the south to make treaties with the Indians. He had handled Indian claims and hunted in the area. He was also interested in their culture and language and even took down the vocabulary (his work still serves as a source of knowledge today).

Many of the tribes, such as the Choctaws and Cherokees, owned black slaves and Pike felt it was essential that the Indians go with the south. Jefferson Davis authorized him to make treaties in which the south would take over the responsibilities being performed by the U.S.—with the stipulation that the Indians raise troops to defend their territory if invaded. These treaties were concluded in the summer of 1861. In the fall of 1861, Pike was commissioned a brigadier general and commanded the newly-created Department of the Indian Territory. He showed good administrative ability in organizing this command and raising white troops in Texas.

In early 1862, as Dr. Brown explained, Sterling Price had been run out of Missouri and was in Arkansas where Ben McCulloch commanded. The two did not get along and finally Earl Van Dorn was sent out to be over both. Unfortunately for Pike, however, he and Van Dorn had crossed swords in the 1850s over an Indian massacre carried out by Van Dorn.

Van Dorn told Pike he was expected to bring his Indians to Arkansas if needed—he ordered him to do so prior to the Battle of Pea Ridge. At that battle, it was Van Dorn's plan to get behind Samuel Curtis's position at Little Sugar Creek rather than make a frontal assault. Pike commanded two regiments—a total of 800 Cherokees and 200 Texas cavalry. However, they were left in the rear of the army and Pike was never informed as to Van Dorn's plans. McCulloch, who was to attack on the right, was killed but Pike did not learn of his death until late in the day. Believing he did not have enough men to hold McCulloch's position, he marched to join Van Dorn. (Van Dorn felt he should have held McCulloch's position). The Confederates were forced to retreat on the second day of the fighting; Pike was never informed of the retreat and was almost captured. After the battle it was discovered that some Yankees had been scalped; Pike's Indians were blamed, but, as Dr. Brown explained, it is not clear whether or not they did it.

After the battle Pike went back to the Indian country to take care of treaties and then learned that Van Dorn was leaving for northern Mississippi and that Arkansas was to be his responsibility. He objected, but did move his headquarters to the Red River valley. However, he left his Indian troops behind. In late spring, 1862, Arkansas sought a general to defend the state and Thomas Hindman was sent and ordered Pike to give him all his white troops.

At this point Pike resigned his commission and promised the Indians he would try to get the Department of the Indian Territory reestablished and have the treaties honored. The Indians felt they had made a mistake—the south would lose and the U.S. would punish the Indians by taking away their land. As Dr. Brown pointed out, this is what happened—much of the Indians' land was taken away during Reconstruction.

Pike's resignation was accepted in the fall of 1862. During the remainder of his life, he served as a judge on the Arkansas Supreme Court and was a Masonic scholar. He thought he would be hanged as a traitor by the U.S. (Pike was hated because he was a northerner who enlisted Indians to fight the north). He went to New York to seek a pardon and was almost arrested. He fled to Canada, but President Johnson finally let him return and he was pardoned in 1866. However, his property was confiscated by the U.S. The only thing he saved was his 100,000 volume library.

The director of the National Park Service, William J. Whalen, was removed from his job on April 24 by Interior Secretary Cecil D. Andrus. Russell E. Dickenson, a 33-year veteran of the National Park Service, was named to succeed him. Andrus said he was replacing Whalen because "I believe it best for the service, for the department and for Mr. Whalen's health". (Whalen was hospitalized for three weeks in March for "physical exhaustion.")

Whalen had been under fire from several fronts, including conservation groups and Park Service employees complaining of low morale. House Interior Committee Chairman Morris Udall (D. Ariz) told Andrus in a January letter that Whalen should be fired for "persistent discourtesy to the public."

An editorial in this Newsletter in February said that Whalen was unfit for his position because of his views on the preservation of Civil War sites and battlefields. It noted that he had been quoted as saying, among other things, "I've had it up to here with battlefields," and "If it was up to me, there would only be three Civil War Battlefields in the National Park system—Ft. Sumter, Gettysburg, and Appomattox."

A military Collectors Show and Swap, featuring books, art, uniforms, flags, military miniatures and pre-20th century weapons will be held at Northeastern Illinois University, Alumni Hall, 5500 N. St. Louis, Chicago, on Saturday, June 14 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tables are \$8 in advance or \$10 at the door (tables for display only are free). \$1 admission will be charged. For further information, call Bob Paprocki, 889-4843.

As a feature of Bardstown, Kentucky's Bicentennial, the Nelson County Historical Society is planning to recreate the entire Sixth Annual Reunion of the Orphan Brigade which was held in Bardstown in 1887. The festivities are planned for September 6, 1980.

THE NEW BOOKS



(Compiled by Dick Clark)

Chesnut, Mary Boykin. *A Diary from Dixie*. Edited by Ben Ames Williams. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1980. \$20.00; pbk \$6.95. A classic available again.

Davis, Burke. *Sherman's March*. New York: Random House, 1980. \$12.95.

Davis, Paxton. *Three Days*. New York: Atheneum, 1980. \$7.95. For young people: R.E. Lee at Gettysburg.

Edmondson, James K. *My Dear Emma: War Letters of Col. James K. Edmondson, 1861-1865*. Edited by Charles W. Turner. Verona, Va.: McClure Press, 1980.

Horowitz, Robert F. *The Great Impeacher: A Political Biography of James M. Ashley*. New York: Brooklyn College Press, 1979. \$15.00.

Huggins, Nathan I. *Slave and Citizen: The Life of Frederick Douglass*. Edited by Oscar Handlin. Boston: Little, Brown, 1980. \$9.95. In the Library of American Biography series.

Rabinowitz, Howard N. *Race Relations in the Urban South, 1865-1890*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1978. \$17.95.

Smith, John I. *The Courage of a Southern Unionist: A Biography of Isaac Murphy, Governor of Arkansas, 1864-68*. Little Rock, Ark.: Rose Publishing Company \$7.95.

Stampp, Kenneth Milton. *The Imperiled Union: Essays on the Background of the Civil War*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1980. \$15.95.

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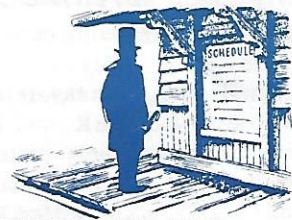
writing his thesis on Pat Cleburne. He joined the National Park Service in 1955 and served at Vicksburg, Mississippi, as park historian. While there, he did research that led to the lost resting place of the Union gunboat Cairo.

Also while at Vicksburg, Ed located the two forgotten forts at Grand Gulf, Mississippi, and helped to obtain for Grand Gulf status as a state military monument. He was the founder of the Mississippi Civil War Round Table in 1956 (it later consolidated with the Jackson Civil War Round Table), and, in 1963, he was chosen Man of the Year at Vicksburg. Ed has also received the Harry S. Truman Award for Meritorious Service in the field of Civil War History. Chosen to become a member of the Company of Military Historians, he was voted a Fellow in that organization in 1964. Ed is also an Honorary Award Life Member of The Round Table.

Besides the numerous articles, studies and battlefield pamphlets he has authored, Ed has written or edited many books, including, *Decision in Mississippi*, *Rebel Victory at Vicksburg*, *Hardluck Ironclad: Sinking and Salvage of the Cairo*, *A Southern Record: The Story of the 3rd Louisiana Infantry*, and, most recently, *Forrest at Brice's Cross Roads*.

Despite his busy schedule as Supervisory Historian of the National Park Service, and the many research and writing projects in which he is involved, Ed always finds time to speak to round tables around the country. He has appeared before us in Chicago on several occasions; the most recent was in September, 1974, when he discussed the battle of Fort Donelson. At the Nevins-Freeman Award ceremonies, Ed has promised to do something different. Instead of telling us about the Civil War, he will discuss Ed Bearss, and his interest in the War.

BULLETIN BOARD



FUTURE MEETINGS

Regular Meetings are held at the Chicago Bar Association, 29 South LaSalle, second Friday in each month except as noted.

June 13: Nevins-Freeman Award Dinner and installation of officers. Recipient of Award: Edwin C. Bearss.

July 12: Summer Executive Committee meeting.

September 5: C. Craig Caba on "U.S. Military Uniforms Used Early in the War". **Note:** This is the first Friday in September.

October 10: Rev. John Schmilt on "Roads to Gettysburg".

November 14: Dr. Gordon Dammann on "Civil War Medical Instruments and Equipment—Illustrated".

December 12: Robert G. Hartze on "General Van Dorn".

January 9: Howard C. Westwood on "The Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War".

February 13: Marshall D. Krolick on "Stuart's Cavalry in the Gettysburg Campaign".

March 13: To be announced.

April 10: 400th Regular Meeting Featuring Harold Howard.

May 8: To be announced.

Every Monday: Informal noon luncheon meetings at Wieboldt's Men's Grill, 9th Floor, State and Madison; all members welcome.

Last Tuesday of each month: Informal noon luncheon meetings at Caravelle Motel, River Road and Bryn Mawr Avenue, Rosemont; all members welcome.

NEW MEMBERS

Breck Androff, 9377 Whiteoak Avenue, St. John, Indiana 46373.

John A. Basoms, 4425 N. Francisco, Chicago, Illinois 60625.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Helmuth Waedt, 9725 S. Keeler, Apt. 310, Oak Lawn, Illinois 60453.

1981 BATTLEFIELD TOUR

At its meeting on May 9, just prior to the regularly scheduled meeting, the Executive Committee selected Vicksburg as the locale of our 1981 Battlefield Tour. It will be held the first weekend in May. President-Elect Robert Walter will announce the selection of the Battlefield Tour Committee in the near future. Further arrangements and details will be announced as they become available.

An original drawing of the Illinois Monument at Kenesaw Mountain, by the eminent historian of the Atlanta campaign and artist Wilbur G. Kurtz, Sr. has been presented to The Civil War Round Table by his widow. A suitable place to hang the drawing is being sought.