

GENERAL ORDERS



The Newsletter of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc. Since 1947 and The Iron Brigade Association



General Orders No. 441

March, 2003

The **March 13th, 2003** meeting is to be held at The **Wisconsin Club**, Milwaukee

Speaker: Ed Bearss, Historian Emeritus of the National Park Service

Ed Bearss Compares Medical Care in the Civil War and WWII

Ed Bearss, our March speaker, will provide a unique perspective and comparison between the medical services provided soldiers in 1861-'65 and those provided him in the South Pacific in 1944. On 2 January 1944, Bearss was a Marine with the 3rd Battalion of the 4th Marines on Cape Gloucester, New Britain. While on a patrol in front of the lines he was wounded by Japanese fire in the left elbow and right shoulder. Using this personal experience and his encyclopedic knowledge of the Civil War, Bearss will compare medical treatment in what promises to be an exciting, insightful talk.

Bearss's career in the National Park Service began in 1955 at Vicksburg, Mississippi where he was the park historian. He correctly identified a cannon which had long been displayed at West Point as *Whistling Dick*, as *Widow Blakely* that had been used on the Vicksburg River defense. Other research led him and two friends to the long lost resting place of the Union ironclad gunboat *Cairo*. He located the two forgotten forts at Grand Gulf, Mississippi, and contributed significantly to the establishment of Grand Gulf as a state military monument.

He is the author of *The Vicksburg Campaign*

trilogy, *Steele's Retreat from Camden & The Battle of Jenkins Ferry*, *Rebel Victory at Vicksburg*, *Decision in Mississippi*, *Sinking of an Ironclad*, and numerous other books and publications.

Historical studies Bearss has prepared for the National Park Service include those for Vicksburg, Pea Ridge, Wilson's Creek, Fort Smith, Stones River, Fort Donelson, Richmond, Monacacy, and a several other parks.

He received the 1961 Harry S. Truman Award in 1961 for Meritorious Service in the field of Civil War history. He was chosen Man of the Year at Vicksburg in 1963. In 1964, he became a member of the Company of Military Historians and was voted a Fellow in that organization and in 1980 received the Nevins-Freeman Award from the Chicago Civil War Round Table (1980) for his work in Civil War history. In 1983, he received the Department of the Interior's Distinguished Service Award, which was followed by a commendation from the Secretary of the Army in 1985. He served as an ex-officio member of the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission.

Bearss retired on September 30, 1995, after 40 years with the National Park Service and almost 50 years of federal service. He continues to lead battlefield tours for the Smithsonian Institution, National Geographic Society, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Civil War Round Tables, and other military history organizations.

Schedule of Events

- Staff Meeting (open to all members) 5:30 PM
- Registration and Social Hour 6:15 PM
- Dinner 6:45 PM
- Program Begins 7:30 PM

Surgeon Group Meeting in March

The Society of Civil War Surgeons will hold its 10th National Convention March 28-30 in Indianapolis. The society is the largest organization of its kind dedicated to the study of Civil War surgery and medicine.

The program includes lectures, hospitality reception, Saturday dinner, and a tour of selected Civil War sites, including the Lilly Museum. After-dinner keynote speaker will be Sophia Hammond, great-granddaughter of Union Army Surgeon General William A. Hammond. Drs. Peter Jacobsohn and Robert Karczewski will be speaking at the meeting.

A pre-conference workshop, for an additional fee, will feature Alvan St. Jacques, an expert and teacher in moulage techniques.

For information contact Peter J. D'Onofrio, Ph.D., 539 Bristol Dr. SW, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068; pjdsocws@aol.com; www.civilwarsurgeons.org.

—From www.CivilWarNews.com, 11 January 02

1st Brigade Band Concert 30 March

The 1st Brigade Band will perform at 2:00 PM on Sunday, 30 March, 2003, at the Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Performing Arts to benefit the Elmbrook Historical Society. The Center is at 19805 Capitol Drive (Mitchell Park) in Brookfield. Tickets are \$15.00. For more information call (262) 781-6385, or www.elmbrookhistoricalsociety.com.

The 1st Brigade Band is an affiliate of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin and is supported and sponsored by Heritage Military Music Foundation, Inc., a non-profit, educational, historical and patriotic organization. For more information on the 1st Brigade Band, see www.1stbrigadeband.org.

UK Fundraiser

The American Civil War Round Table-United Kingdom commissioned Keith Rocco to produce an oil painting as part of the group's 50th anniversary celebrations.

The painting will depict the 2nd Brigade, 2nd Division, XIX Corps, commanded by English-born Col. Edward L. Molineux, at the Battle of Cedar Creek, 19 October, 1864.

In addition to raffling the original painting, the Round Table will make artist's proofs and limited edition prints available. The painting will be shown at the 50th anniversary seminar in May. The winner will be drawn in October.

Proceeds will go towards the Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation's purchase of the XIX Corps trench line. For information contact Round Table president Peter Lockwood, Acwrtuk@aol.com; or Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation Director Suzanne Chilson, suzannec@shentel.net.

—From CivilWarNews.com, accessed 15 Feb 02

Tribute Fund for Ed Bearss

The friends and family of Ed Bearss, our March speaker, have been putting together a commemorative video and accompanying pamphlet of the life and times of Ed Bearss. Proceeds from the sale of the 50-minute video, which will contain vignettes of Bearss entire life, will go to the Civil War Preservation Trust.

To help pay for the video and booklet, the Edwin C. Bearss Tribute Fund is accepting donations from \$500 up. For more information, contact The Edwin C Bearss Tribute Fund, c/o William W. Vodra, Arnold and Porter, 555 12th St NW, Washington, DC 20004-1206, or HistoryAmerica at (800) 628-8542.

The Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc. admits members of any race, color, national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges and activities of the Round Table.

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What If: Gettysburg Had Ended Differently, Part II

Idea

While Southern victory at Gettysburg could not have been as decisive as some wish, this important battle might have turned out differently. Gettysburg is the second most studied battle of the 19th Century, the first being Waterloo, and some examination of this action's many counterfactual possibilities may be instructive.

Description

As in any battle, Gettysburg hinged on a number of small actions on different parts of the field, but Gettysburg also had the distinction of being one of the longer battles of the period. Events on three different days might have cost the Union the battle.

On 3 July the main attack on the Union center, usually referred to as Pickett's Charge, stood some small chance of success, but little chance of achieving decisive victory. Using his last fresh troops (who had been marching for nearly a week) Lee attacked the Federal center uphill, across open ground, against stationary infantry supported by artillery with adequate ammunition supplies in clear weather. Lee lacked a strong reserve to exploit and pursue a broken Federal force in the event of success and was certainly not strong enough to destroy any remaining elements of Meade's army. The best that might have happened would have been to push Meade southeast.

Similarly, 2 July's main efforts on the flanks, at Cemetery Ridge on the Federal right and the Round Tops on the left, were well-intentioned actions that had some chance of success. But at Cemetery Ridge most of the successes came close to dark, without much chance for exploitation due to inadequate force sizes.

On the Round Tops the Confederate attacks were somewhat stronger, but in the tangled terrain of the Federal left Rebel exploitation of Little Round Top would have been problematic, especially since there were more than adequate Federal reserve forces to stop any breaches, retake the key terrain, or both.

Any major successes on 1 July might have changed battle positioning, but there was nothing forcing Meade to fight at Gettysburg at all. Meade was following Lee, in a way, and the Rebels were fighting to protect their own line of retreat/supply at Gettysburg. Meade didn't have to fight or win to compel Lee to leave Pennsylvania because reinforcing his army required Lee to go back across the Potomac. That he beat Lee at Gettysburg was just gravy. As long as Meade kept his army in hand, Meade didn't have to fight Lee at all; he only had to block his route of retreat and supply to force a battle where and when he wanted it, if he wanted it.

Conclusion II

Gettysburg might have been lost by the Union, but such a loss would not have necessarily been disastrous. Any loss after 1 July would simply have moved Meade somewhere else, and Lee would have had to go back south, whatever happened.

One of the other favorite counterfactuals of the "what if" crowd has been Jackson surviving Chancellorsville. We'll look at that next.

Note: *The author does not endorse or use counterfactuals as historical tools.*

2003 Schedule

All meetings are at the Wisconsin Club Ballroom unless otherwise noted. *Speakers and topics are subject to change without notice.*

- April 10: Dr. Kenneth Noe on Petersburg; Election of

Board for 2003-2004 Season.

- May 8: William Beaudot on 24th Wisconsin. Period costumes invited.
- June 12: John Michael Priest, topic to be announced.

Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for: March 13th, 2003

Mail *and* call in your reservations by March 7th to:

Paul Eilbes, 1809 Washington Ave. Cedarburg, WI 53012-9730

ALSO, call in reservations to (262) 376-0568

Enclosed is \$_____ (meal price \$20.00 per person) for _____ reservations for the next meeting of the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table. (Please make checks payable to the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table.)

Name of Member: _____

Meet the New Members

JOHN AND GAIL CHELIUS —
Cedarburg, WI. Interest: General



GO Submissions and Editorial Policy

All submissions to the *GO* are used on a space-available, date-required basis. Electronic submissions are preferred over paper. The Editor/Publisher reserves the right to edit all submissions for length, propriety, content, and house style.

Those submissions with a direct Civil War interest, or those that are date-sensitive, will be published first.

All submissions must be received by the Editor/Publisher at jdbeatty@amcivwar.com no later than the 10th of the month before the next *GO* (for example, submissions for the January *GO* must be received by 10 December). All address changes, or problems receiving the *GO*, are handled through the Membership Chairman, Paul Eilbes.

In the Event of Inclement Weather...

Since we live in a part of the Union that has such wonderful weather, the President will decide if there is to be any change in a meeting due to winter storms. Listen to WTMJ or WISN radio for news of meeting cancellations if the weather turns on us.

A Gentle Reminder

The Wisconsin Club and the General Staff of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee would like to remind our members that jackets are required for the dining room. Please contact club management if you have any questions.