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Battle Cry

Founded 1961,
Newsletter of the Sacramento Civil War Round Table
P.O. BOX 254702
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President's Message

As we are within a month of a presidential election, I thought it would be the time for a letter about the Union Election of 1864. It seems impossible that an election was more important than the current one: even more critical.

The 1864 Election pitted President Lincoln and Vice President candidate Andrew Johnson against General George McClellan. Early on as the War was going badly for the North, Lincoln's re-election looked unlikely. Things on the battlefields changed all that.

2,223,035 Northerners or 55.1%, cast their ballots for Lincoln and 1,811,754 or 44.9% voted for McClellan. The Electoral College was 212 to 21. This popular vote is much closer than I was ever told.

If a state had a Democratic Governor, that state's soldiers were not allowed to vote in the field. If the governor was a Republican, they were. Ohio with 50,903 votes, had the most votes cast in the field by soldiers. With 265, Rhode Island had the fewest soldiers vote.

With 17%, Kansas had the highest percent of soldier votes relative to total votes. With 0.6%, Vermont had the lowest relative to total votes.

It is easy to think things are worse now. But are they?

Dennis Kohlmann, President

MINUTES
SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
Wednesday, September 9, 2020
HOF BRAU RESTAURANT, 2500 WATT AVENUE, SACRAMENTO

ATTENDANCE – 0:

MEMBERS – 0: No meeting and no Members.

GUESTS – 0: No meeting and no Guests.

1. No meeting. Meetings are cancelled for the remainder of 2020. The next meeting in 2021 is unknown at this time.
2. The next Board Meeting is unknown at this time.

George W. Foxworth for Vacant, Secretary

Treasurer's Report

The cash balance on September 9th was \$5,013.45. No meeting and no raffle.

George W. Foxworth, Treasurer

Board of Directors' Meeting

A Board of Directors' Meeting was held at the home of Richard Sickert in Sacramento, on Wednesday, September 30, 2020. The purpose of the Meeting was to update and discuss the Round Table's activities for 2021.

The Hof Brau is still closed to inside dining and meetings. The Board will meet again in November or December 2020 to update plans for 2021. At that meeting, we will decide our 2021 activities which will be dependent on COVID-19 and the Hof Brau.

We will continue to publish the newsletter each month.

If you have any questions, please contact any Board Member.

Coming Programs for 2020 & 2021

Date	Speaker	Topic
October 14th	"No Meeting"	"No Topic, No Meeting "
November 11th	"No Meeting"	"No Topic, No Meeting "
December 9th	"No Meeting"	"No Topic, No Meeting"
January 13th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"
February 10th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"
March 10th	"To Be Determined"	"To Be Determined"

2020 Membership

The 2020 membership renewal was due as of January 1, 2020. The dues are \$30.00 and you can renew and send to the Treasurer through the mail. For all checks, make them payable to **Sacramento Civil War Round Table** and send them to:

George W. Foxworth
 9463 Salishan Court
 Sacramento, CA 95826-5233

NOTE: 2020 memberships are good for 2021 due to COVID-19.

NEWSLETTER CIVIL WAR ARTICLES

Civil War articles/book reviews are welcome. The submission deadline is the first of each month for that month's **Battle Cry**. However, you can submit articles at anytime. Please submit your items in Microsoft Word or regular email to:

qwfoxworth@sbcglobal.net

The **Battle Cry** is the monthly newsletter of the Sacramento CWRT. Submissions are subject to availability of space and size limitations. Submissions do not necessarily reflect the views of the organization or the Editor. The official address of this organization is: Sacramento Civil War Round Table, Post Office Box 254702, Sacramento, CA 95865-4702. <http://www.sacramentocwrt.org> is the web site address. Check the web for past newsletter editions and information about the group.

NORTH & SOUTH IS BACK!

Re-Launched in July 2019, three issues have already appeared by December 31, 2019. Each 100-page issue is packed with 7 - 8 articles plus the familiar Departments--Knapsack, Crossfire, and Briefings-- and a new one, *Civil Warriors*, that looks at little known participants in the War.

Lead article in Issue 4 is a detailed examination of whether Meade could have - and should have - trapped and destroyed the Army of Northern Virginia. (Editor says yes, 98%.) There will be a follow-up discussion article.

To subscribe go to northandsouthmag.com or call Keith on (559) 260 3852 (Pacific time).

AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST

History and Preservation Community Mourns the Loss of Legendary Historian Edwin Cole Bearss



Edwin C. Bearss is seen at his desk at his home in Virginia.
Buddy Secor/American Battlefield Trust

(Washington, D.C.) — Legendary military historian and preservationist Edwin Cole Bearss passed away yesterday (September 15, 2020), peacefully and surrounded by family, at the age of 97. A decorated U.S. Marine veteran of the Pacific Theater of World War II, he attended college and graduate school on the GI Bill before pursuing a distinguished career in the National Park Service, ultimately rising to be Chief Historian of that agency in 1981. As one of the powerful voices in the Ken Burns documentary, *The Civil War*, he brought history alive for millions of Americans with his deep voice and evocative descriptions, a style once described by the *Washington Post* as nearly “Homeric monologues.” Although a prolific author on topics in military history, Bearss was particularly dedicated to the importance of preserved landscapes enhance our understanding of the past. He was among the originators of the modern battlefield preservation movement and a devoted tour guide, travelling up to 200 days per year into his 90s.

“For those of us who value the preservation and perpetuation of American history, few figures are more revered than Ed Bearss. His knowledge, passion, and energy were without equal, and he will be missed tremendously by so many,” said American Battlefield Trust President

James Lighthizer, “Ed’s decades-long commitment to protecting special places and making the stories of our past come to life laid the groundwork for organizations like ours, which will embody his legacy for generations to come. The Trust — our board and staff, as well as our members and supporters — send deepest condolences to the entire Bearss family.”

Bearss, born on June 26, 1923, grew up on a Montana cattle ranch just outside the Crow Indian Reservation that includes the Little Bighorn Battlefield. Although he gravitated toward history at an early age, his passion was the Civil War – he even called his favorite milk cow “Antietam.” After graduating from high school in 1941, he spent the summer hitchhiking across the country to visit battlefields. Bearss returned home and, after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, followed in the footsteps of his father and Medal of Honor–recipient older cousin to enlist in the U.S. Marine Corps. He left for the South Pacific in mid-July 1942 but was severely wounded on January 2, 1944 during the Battle of Suicide Creek on the island of New Britain, injuries that limited his dexterity for the remainder of his life.

After recovery and discharge, Bearss went to college and graduate school on a version of the GI Bill for veterans with disabilities. While researching his master’s thesis on Confederate Major General Patrick Cleburne, he had an epiphany during a visit to Shiloh National Military Park. “I’d already realized from my service in the Marine Corps that if you’re hit by small arms fire, they pretty well have to see you,” he later recalled during an oral history project for the Trust. “I lived rather than died because I used the configuration of the terrain to get out of there.” [That hard-earned lesson in terrain helped him better understand how history could be gleaned from historic battlefield landscapes.](#)



Ed leads people on a tour of a Civil War battlefield in Kentucky.
David Duncan/American Battlefield Trust

Bearss resolved to become a historian within the National Park Service, helping others understand the inherent connection between physical landscapes and history. His first posting was at Vicksburg, Mississippi, where he met his wife, fellow historian Margie Riddle, who passed away in 2006. His tireless research led to the discovery and raising of the Ironclad USS *Cairo*, which is preserved within a museum that is now a fixture of Vicksburg National Military Park. In 1958, he was promoted to Regional Historian and played a key role in shaping the two new parks created as part of the Civil War Centennial: Pea Ridge National Military Park and Wilson's Creek National Battlefield. In 1966, he was called to Washington, D.C., to join a new corps of research historians and became involved in various preservation battles.

Bearss was named Chief Historian of the National Park Service in 1981, and later that decade and into the next, he was a key figure in the early years of the modern battlefield preservation movement. He served on the Congressionally appointed Civil War Sites Advisory Commission and was an early Board Member of the Civil War Trust, a predecessor organization of the American Battlefield Trust. He retained a position on that governing body as historian *emeritus* until his death.

Whether acting on behalf of the Trust or other organizations, including the Smithsonian Institution, Bearss was perhaps the greatest battlefield guide to ever walk a historic landscape. [Writing in Smithsonian Magazine in 2005](#), author Adam Goodheart described his presentation style as being a “battlefield voice, a kind of booming growl, like an ancient wax-cylinder record amplified to full volume—about the way you'd imagine William Tecumseh Sherman sounding the day he burned Atlanta, with a touch of Teddy Roosevelt charging up San Juan Hill.” Tours at Trust events led by Bearss invariably booked up, often within hours, even when all options included industry-leading experts.

Bearss is the recipient of numerous awards in the fields of history and preservation; the [America Battlefield Trust has named its lifetime achievement award in his honor](#) and dedicated a monument to his achievements on Champion Hill Battlefield in Mississippi. He wrote extensively, including a three-volume history of the Vicksburg Campaign, and was a regular guest on programs for the History Channel, A&E Networks, and TLC, as well as appearing throughout Ken Burns's iconic documentary *The Civil War*.

At the request of the Bearss Family, in lieu of flowers, donations in memory of Ed Bearss may be made to the American Battlefield Trust. Recognizing the special place that these battlefields held in his heart, such gifts will be used to secure additional lands associated with the Vicksburg Campaign. Please visit www.battlefields.org/RememberingBearss for more information.

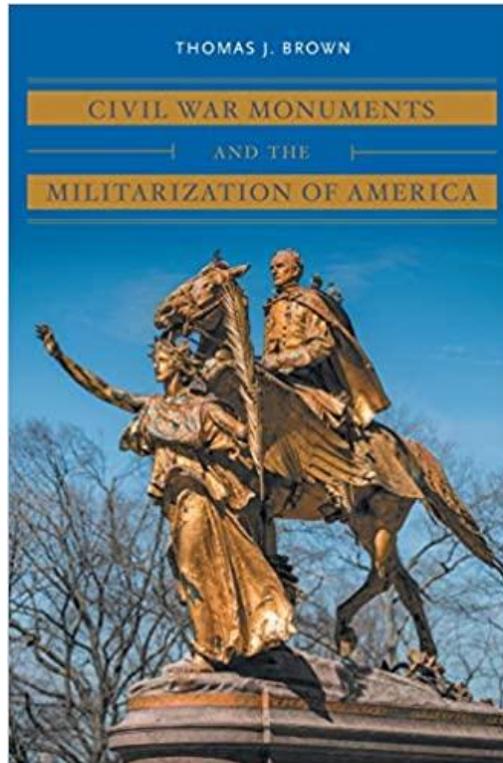
The American Battlefield Trust is dedicated to preserving America's hallowed battlegrounds and educating the public about what happened there and why it matters today. The nonprofit, nonpartisan organization has protected more than 53,000 acres associated with the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, and Civil War. Learn more at www.battlefields.org.

Submitted by Joseph A. Inderkum

Civil War Monuments and the Militarization of America

By Thomas J. Brown. North Carolina University of North Carolina Press, 2019. 384 pp. \$29.95 (paper), ISBN 978-1-4696-5374-7.

Reviewed by Rory T. Cornish (Winthrop University). Published on H-CivWar (June, 2020). Commissioned by G. David Schieffler.



As an international student at Davidson College in the 1970s, I took every opportunity to visit American Civil War battlefield parks and came to admire many of the public monuments commemorating Confederate soldiers in Southern cities. Particularly impressed by the equestrian statues of General Robert E. Lee in both Richmond and Charlottesville, as well as the statue depicting General P. G. T. Beauregard in New Orleans, I wondered why Americans were much better at memorializing and recording their past than we were in Britain. In retrospect, one may be forgiven for not foreseeing the controversy these particular statues, together with the many others dedicated to Confederate soldiers, would generate, for as Thomas J. Brown notes, in 1998 only four individuals turned up at a New Orleans rally to urge the removal of the Robert E. Lee statue that towered above Lee Circle. Just fourteen years later, however, New Orleans would become "the epicenter" of a powerful movement that resulted in fifteen Southern communities taking down their outdoor Confederate monuments by 2017 (p. 289). This

movement, which the author believes echoes the iconoclastic removal of the equestrian statue of George III in New York City at the birth of the Republic in 1776, is not the dominant theme of this study but the epilogue to an investigation of why Civil War monuments began to proliferate across the American urban landscape from the 1870s, and how this impacted American historical memory. More importantly, Brown suggests, the growing memorialization, which extended well into the 1920s, greatly enhanced the militarization of American society, to the extent that antebellum distrust of the military as an agent of corruption and the despoiler of innocent youth was gradually replaced by an assumption that patriotism, the flag, and military discipline enhanced American civic virtue.

The subject of the Civil War and American memory has been explored by a number of other historians, including David W. Blight, Robert Cook, Gary W. Gallagher, Tony Horwitz, and Michael Wilson Panhorst. In 2015, Professor Brown published *Civil War Canon: Sites of Confederate Memory in South Carolina*, an examination on how South Carolina's commemoration of the Civil War era helped White Southerners negotiate their shifting political and social perceptions. This new study expands his investigation nationwide and offers a detailed and engaging account of the changing patterns of memorial building, the motivations behind the artists involved, how various agencies promoted the process, and how the dedication of these monuments captured public attention. In 1890, for example, 100,000 people attended the unveiling of the Lee monument in Richmond, while in 1891 not only did some 250,000 witness the dedication of the Ulysses S. Grant statue in Chicago, but in the decades following 1897 an estimated 500,000 people annually visited the Grant Monument in Washington, DC. It is no surprise to learn that President Theodore Roosevelt himself was an avid booster for such memorials, for he participated in the unveiling of statues to Generals William T. Sherman, Philip Sheridan, Henry Warner Slocum, and George B. McClellan, together with several other soldier monuments. Advocating that the War itself had been an unsurpassed example of the "exaltation of a lofty ideal over merely material well-being," Roosevelt proclaimed that the characteristics that produced a good soldier were exactly those "qualities needed to make a good citizen" (p. 172). In this new study, Brown highlights three distinct, yet overlapping periods of memorialization: statues to the ordinary citizen soldier, monuments to military leaders, and later, victory monuments, such as the triumphal arch celebrating the achievements of both Union soldiers and sailors created in 1901 at the entrance to Prospect Park, Brooklyn. The sense of triumphalism that characterized these later Northern monuments was replicated in many Confederate monuments, which hardly resemble, the author notes, the revanchiste monuments of a defeated France during the same period. Consequently, many of the Southern monuments created after Reconstruction represented the transient victory of White segregationists who refused to join the ranks of the vanquished, thus perhaps typifying and deepening an "American failure to recognize failure" (p. 200)

The author's main thesis concerning the interconnected relationship between the militarization of the United States and memorialization of the Civil War as represented by its monuments is well argued. Initially, Civil War remembrance statuary consisted

largely of an obelisk or a variation of a single figure of a volunteer soldier first unveiled by Randolph Rogers in 1863 as *The Sentinel*. As the Country became more urbanized and the economy expanded, veteran associations became more prominent. Consequently, the whole process of memorialization became more politicized, and remembrance itself became something of a business. Furthermore, as the Country became more racially diverse, the image of the Civil War soldier not only continued to portray an Anglo-Saxon athleticism but also became more dynamic, often representing soldiers in action and frequently accompanied by a standard bearer. In short, as the expenditure of the Pension Bureau became larger (it already consumed more than one-fifth of the Federal budget by 1878), veteran organizations, especially the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), were making the "American flag an instrument of reactionary discipline" (p. 168). This is well illustrated in the text by the author's treatment of the Chicago monument to General John A. Logan, who had helped create the GAR in 1866. Indeed, it is argued, during the Populist era--when the elite and the growing middle classes were confronted with labor strife, economic uncertainties, and class confrontation--the figure of the man on a horse, of the Civil War general, increasingly became a symbol of leadership and authority from the 1880s into the early Twentieth Century. Initially, Civil War monuments had reflected individual sacrifice, civic duty, and volunteerism, but these were gradually transplanted by a symbolism designed to encourage patriotic norms and economic and ethic discipline. Statues sometimes even became part of commercial urban planning and were thus situated to encourage the development of desirable neighborhoods. As such they became even more closely associated with business interests. As the writer Frank O'Hara later sarcastically remarked on the gilded statue of Victory leading General Sherman on Fifth Avenue and Fifty-Ninth Street in New York City, the allegorical "angel seems to be leading the horse into Bergdorf's" (p. 207).

During the 1890s, when the Army was becoming more professionally organized, centralized, and enlarged, a rising American Gilded Age plutocracy, it is further suggested, strengthened its grip on a Nation that "avoided introspection in favor of martial self-congratulation" and which came to view history as "as a set of unforgettable moments elevated above the wearisome obscurity of human experience" (p. 208). This trend was encouraged by the Spanish-American War and by American involvement in the First World War, but it began to wane with the creation of the American Battle Monuments Commission, which centralized the building of monuments after 1923 and actively discouraged local military memorials. The glorification of war was also weakened by the catastrophic loss of life from 1914 to 1918 and counterbalanced by the reappearance of a wish that individual sacrifice be celebrated. The reappearance of this earlier trend was further buttressed by a post-War wish to celebrate the establishment of peace itself. The pre-World War I celebration of the martial spirit and the post-War trend of recognizing individual sacrifice were later exemplified, Brown concludes, by two of the most important public monuments constructed after 1945: the

1954 Marine Corps Monument in Arlington, Virginia, and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, established in Washington, DC, in 1982.

Overall, this is a well-illustrated, interesting, and deeply researched study that is copiously footnoted and contains a useful twenty-five-page bibliography. It will remain a standard work on American Civil War monuments for some time, but what of the author's main thesis that the building of Civil War monuments both reflected and helped transform the institutionalization of the military in American life? Generally, the argument is persuasive, but perhaps a little overstated. The Civil War was unquestionably a watershed in the development of the United States, but Antebellum America was hardly a Jeffersonian, antimilitaristic idyll. Jefferson himself, it should be noted, authorized the founding of West Point, and historians of the early Republic, such as Eliga H. Gould in *The Powers of the Earth* (2012), have reemphasized that the Antebellum period may have been once portrayed as an empire of liberty, but it was an empire nonetheless, and one that invaded Canada twice, purchased Louisiana, invaded Spanish Florida, and in the three decades before the election of Abraham Lincoln, annexed Texas, undertook a number of campaigns against Native Americans, fought a War with Mexico, and elected four ex-generals to the presidency. Consequently, during the 1850s four notable equestrian statues appeared, and if the statues to Andrew Jackson in Washington, DC and New Orleans are not considered here, one may question whether the Henry Kirke Brown statue of George Washington, finally constructed in Union Square, New York City, in 1856 envisioned "equalitarian leadership on the battlefield" or even the "republican subordination of military glory" (p. 153). In a work of such a wide canvas one would expect to find the occasional questionable remark, such as Zachary Taylor being "one of President Polk's inept commanders of Mexican War volunteers" (p. 4), but these do not diminish the importance of the vast research that underpins this study.

The author's claim that the recent protests against, and the removal of, Confederate statues constitutes a return to the iconoclasm of 1776 remains something of a moot point. Motivated by the unfortunate killing of black youths in Miami, New Orleans, and Ferguson, Missouri, the resulting effective online tagging of these Confederate memorials as outdated symbols of White supremacy greatly aided the movement on the ground to take them down. Whether the erasure of such monuments can cleanse the American past remains to be evaluated, as does the possibility that the modern use of mobile telephones and computers is creating an obsession with the present at the expense of understanding, but not necessarily condoning, the historical past. Brown's conclusions thus point the way to further evaluations of the impact technology has, and will have, on our future relationship with aspects of our history we may now find disagreeable.

Submitted by Bruce A. Castleman, Ph.D.