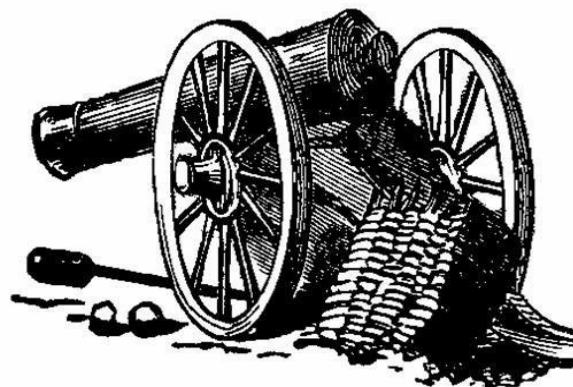


The Grapeshot

Newsletter



January
2018

Ed Bearss



Another evening with Ed Bearss. Ed will be taking questions from a list provided by our members.

January 16th 2018

Scottsdale Civic Library
(Auditorium)

Ed Bearss: Another evening with Ed Bearss. Ed will be answering questions again this year.

The “Civil War Walking Encyclopedia” will be joining us again. Edwin C Bearss, U.S. Park Historian, Emeritus, is one of the foremost Civil War historians this nation has known. Growing up on a family cattle ranch in Montana during the “Great Depression”, and listening to his father read accounts of military campaigns, peeked his lifelong interest in military history. He had a favorite milk cow named Antietam. Mr Bearss is a celebrated tour guide. Lecturer, author and authority on all aspects of the Civil War. The *Smithsonian Magazine* featured him in 2006 as “an American who made a difference”. He has also been called “The Homer of the American Civil War”. Mr. Bearss was a featured commentator for Ken Burns’ PBS Series *The Civil War* (1990), which is still the most popular program broadcast by that network. The Civil War Trust created the Edwin C. Bearss Lifetime Achievement Award for his work in historic battlefield preservation and made him the first recipient in 2001. This U.S Marine Corps veteran of World War 11 is a speaker that is in demand and still maintains a busy schedule leading tours of various battlefields. We hope you all we be able to come and spend an evening with Ed Bearss.

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Dr. John Bamberl 480-699-5844

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Don Swanson / Richard Cox

BOARD MEMBERS (thru 5/2018)

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Meets @

Scottsdale Civic Center Library (Auditorium)

3839 N Drinkwater Blvd

Scottsdale AZ

3rd Tuesday of the month

September thru May

6:40 PM - 8:45 PM \$35 Annual Dues (individual)

\$45 Annual Dues (family)

EVERYONE WELCOME

www.scottsdalecwr.org

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7349 N Via Paseo Del Sur Ste 515

Scottsdale AZ 85258-3749

UPCOMING

MEETINGS

Jan 16 . **Ed Bearss...**Another Evening With
Ed Bearss: Your Questions Answered

Feb 20 . **Krista Castillo...**From the Pages of
Harper's Weekly: The Illustrations of
Thomas Nast, Reconstruction Politics and
Popular Consciousness

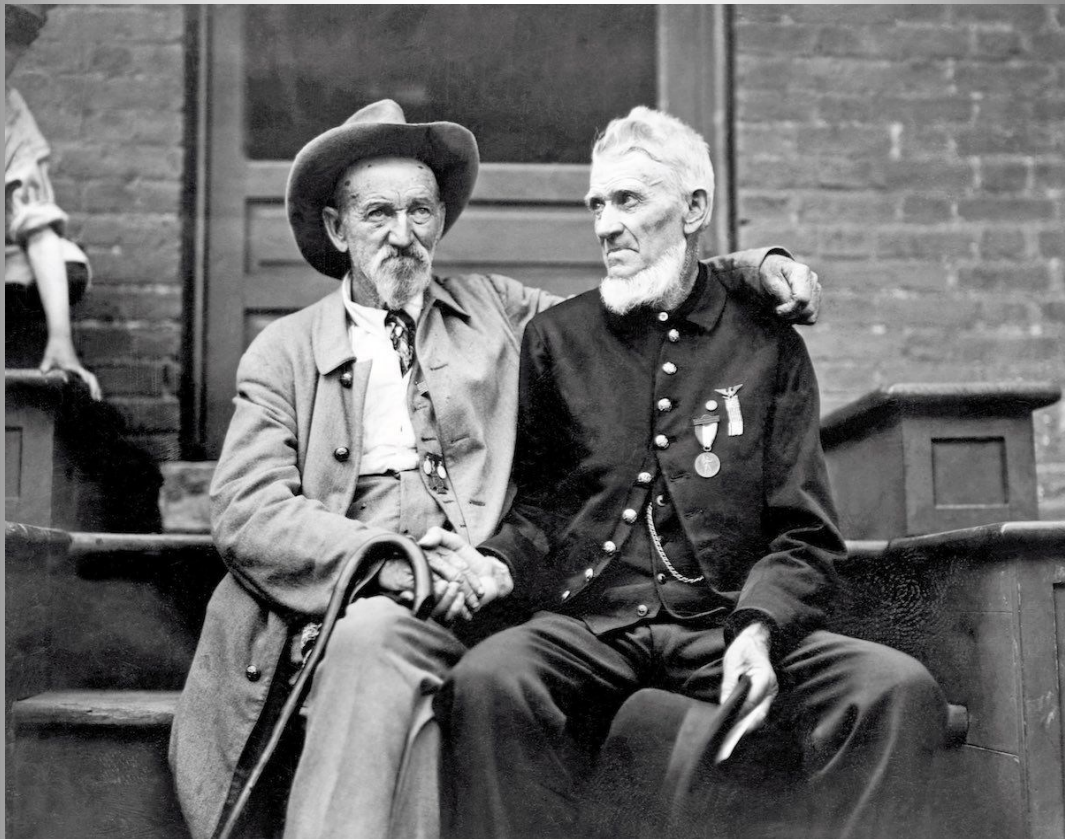
Mar 20. **Peter Cozzens...**Cahaba: Human-
ity and Hope in a Southern Prison

Apr 17. **Steve Davis...**General Hood's
Efforts to Save Atlanta, July 18 - September
2 1864

May 15. **Tim Smith...**Difficult and Broken
Ground: The Terrain Factor at Shiloh

History Discussion Group

Please join us at the library (Gold Room) on January 25th from 6PM to 7:30PM. The Topic will be Civil War Medicine and will be facilitated by John Bamberl.



The Civil War experience of Martin Van Buren Wood

Our member Gail Clayton called me one Saturday afternoon and said she had some documents that she wanted to share with me. We met at a restaurant in Tempe. As I started to examine the documents it became very clear to me that these were very special. Gail's Great grandfather was a private in the 22nd Illinois infantry company E. His name was Martin Van Buren Wood. The documents that Gail presented were copies of the original court martial proceedings that took place in Chattanooga Tennessee on October 10th 1863.

In this article I will attempt to tell the story of Martin V Wood and the 22nd Illinois infantry that lead up to the incident involving the court martial.

The Twenty-second Infantry Illinois Volunteers was organized at Belleville, Illinois, May 11, 1861, and was mustered into the United States service for three years, at Caseyville, Illinois, June 25, 1861, by Captain T.G. Pitcher, U.S.A.

On August 19, Colonel Dougherty, with Companies A, B, C, D and E, attacked Colonel Hunter at Charleston, MO., in the night, and drove him from his camp to the town in a hand-to-hand fight, capturing many prisoners and horses. In this engagement the Twenty-second had 1 killed and 11 wounded, including Colonel Dougherty, whose shoulder was broken with the butt of a gun, and Captain Samuel Johnson, who received a gunshot through the right leg.

April 8, 1862, expeditions to Tiptonville, under General Paine, to intercept retreating enemy from Island No. 10. Captured 4,000 prisoners, 2 Generals, and a large quantity of stores, ammunition, arms and guns.

The Regiment was engaged in the siege of Corinth, and in pursuit of the enemy two weeks, in June. The last day of the siege Captain Samuel Johnson was again wounded, receiving a gunshot through the head.

December 31, 1862, and January 1 and 2, 1863, the Regiment was engaged in the Battle of Stone's River, where it lost 199 out of 342 men going into action. Lieutenant Colonel Swanwick was wounded and taken prisoner, and remained at Atlanta and Richmond (Libby) until May, 1863. It is a singular fact, that at the battle of Stone River, every horse belonging to the Regiment, including the Battery, was killed.

After the battle of Stone's River the regiment spent their time in and

and around Murfreesboro until they headed south and encamped in Bridgeport Alabama around the 1st of August 1863.

On the 13th of August the regiment was preparing to go on picket duty after breakfast. Private Martin V Wood was preparing his gear for the picket duty. The tents of company D&E were separated from the officers tents by a distance of 15 to 20 yards. In that space laid a fallen tree. Martin's company commander Captain Samuel G McAdams signaled Martin over and assigned him the task of chopping the tree into logs. Martin stating that he had already performed extra duty, refused the task. Captain McAdams reminded him that he was disobeying direct orders and would do as told or had a choice to be brought up on charges or accept his punishment. Martin chose the Captains punishment which entailed donning all of his gear and was to demonstrate around the officers tents.

Captain McAdams retired into his tent. After a few moments the captain emerged only to find Martin sitting down with his rifle resting against the tent. The captain reprimanded him and Martin again began his demonstration. Shortly thereafter the captain again found Martin without any gear and sitting on the ground. Captain McAdams then placed Martin under arrest and ordered him to hand over his rifle. As the captain approached Martin, he lifted the rifle, cocked it and pointed it in the chest of the captain and stated that "Not he or any other man was going to take his rifle". Captain McAdams noticed Major Samuel Johnson standing behind Martin at a short distance. The captain walked to Martins side and being distracted Major Johnson wrestled the rifle from Martin.

Martin was then marched off to the guard house where he would stay until a general court martial could be arranged.

By the end of August Union forces under General William Rosecrans had occupied Chattanooga. The campaign against confederate general Braxton Bragg was about to culminate into the Battle of Chickamauga.

The Battle of Chickamauga started on the 19th of September 1863. The 22nd Illinois was attached to the XX Corps. 3rd Division commanded by General Philp Sheridan, 3rd brigade, commanded by Colonel Luther Bradley. On the second day of fighting Martin asked that he be able to join his regiment in the battle. Regiment commander Lt.Col. Francis Swanwick approved of Martins request. The 22nd Illinois was swept from the field on that day and scattered in chaos. Most of

Martins Company was able to regroup around Snodgrass Hill and helped General George Thomas fend off the confederates until the rest of the army could retreat back into the confines of Chattanooga. The 22nd Illinois lost 135 officers and men out of an aggregate of less than 300. Major Samuel Johnson again was wounded, this time severely and Captain French was killed.

The Union army was now under Bragg's siege in Chattanooga. With supplies cut off and men reduced to half rations it was a dire situation for the army as a whole.

Yet given these circumstances, the court martial of Martin V Wood would commence. The court was assembled and would take place at the division headquarters at 9 AM, October 10th 1863.

Presiding in the court martial were

Lt. Ansel Bates. 51st Illinois infantry. Judge Advocate

Capt. Nathan Hansen. 27th Illinois infantry

Lt. Henry White. 27th Illinois infantry

Lt. John Loomis. 42nd Illinois infantry

Lt. Robert McKenzie. 22nd Illinois infantry.

Martin pleaded "Not guilty" to all four specifications against him. After the court heard all testimonies by witnesses, the court adjourned.

At 1 PM the court convened and found Martin "Guilty" on all specifications. Martin was ordered to forfeit 6 months of pay and was sentenced to 4 months of hard labor in a military prison in Nashville Tennessee. In Captain McAdams testimony he stated that Martin was a very good soldier and never disobeyed orders and was always present for duty. He also highlighted Martins bravery and conduct during the awful battle at Chickamauga. He also stated that Martin "Is a passionate man and when excited has no control of his temper".

Martin would be incarcerated in Nashville for the months of November, December of 1863 and January and February of 1864, Martin rejoined his regiment which was now around the Knoxville area chasing the retreating confederate general James Longstreet.

On March 6th 1864 the 22nd Illinois marched to Cleveland Tennessee and what was left of the scanty regiment camped there until being ordered back to Chattanooga to join Sherman in the Atlanta Campaign.

The Campaign started on the 1st of May 1864. The 22nd Illinois was engaged at the battles of Resaca, Rocky Face and New Hope church, taking many more casualties. At this point the regiment was so decimated it didn't have enough men to constitute a regiment. On June 10th 1864, they were order to Springfield Illinois for muster out. On July 7th 1864, Martin mustered out of the service. What remained of the few veterans and new recruits were consolidated into the 42nd Illinois infantry.

After the war, Martin would settle in Sorento, Illinois and become a blacksmith

I have a special interest in this story because my great uncle Gilbert Shannon was in the 42nd Illinois infantry and fought in the same brigade as Martin at Stone's River, Chickamauga and the Atlanta Campaign.

Brad Cox. On behalf of Gail
Clayton

Scottsdale civil war roundtable

Chairman of the genealogy
committee

This article is also available on
our genealogy page.

The Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable has selected a new Program Chairman to assume the duties of Don Swanson who has stepped down. Don has done a wonderful job over the past seven years insuring that we have quality speakers for our members and will continue to do so until next season. Our new program chairman is Mark Stoler. Mark is very excited about getting started and in fact has settled in and is chomping at the bit. Please take some time to introduce yourself to Mark.