

THE DISPATCH

The Civil War Round Table of New York, Inc.

Volume 69, No. 8

639th Meeting

October 2020



• Guest:
Paul Michael Hoza
Br. Ben Frail.
National Patriotic Instructor, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW)

• Date:
Wednesday,
October 14th

• Place:
Zoom

• Time:
at 7:00 pm

You must email cwrtnyc1@gmail.com or call 718-341-9811 by October 12th if you plan to attend the Zoom meeting. An email link will be sent to members prior to the meeting.

Paul Michael Hoza

Paul Michael Hoza, host of the Untold Civil War podcast: *Hoza often coordinates his podcasts with the SUVCW (Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War), and on October 14, via Zoom Hoza will interview Br. Ben Frail of the SUVCW for members of our Round Table. We will open up for questions for both or either when their organized interview is concluded.*

Paul Michael (Jason) Hoza matriculated from St John's University in New York with a BA in History. Hoza joined the Army National Guard and served in the Fighting 69th Regiment of Civil War Irish Brigade fame. While serving he became a Sergeant in the Infantry. Hoza took his passion for history and the Civil War and decided to share this love through the creation of a multimedia project called the *Untold Civil War*. His podcast, and more recently on the YouTube channel, aims to bring to light untold stories of the Civil War that remain forgotten and are vital to our understanding of that era. Hoza continues to expand his project on the Civil War to include social media platforms such as Instagram and Facebook. He is eager to make connections with others who share his interest in the unique and little known information of the Civil War and its participants.

Check out the Podcast Episodes on Buzzsprout: <https://www.buzzsprout.com/796715>

Also find him on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube:

<https://www.facebook.com/untoldcivilwar/>

https://www.instagram.com/untold_civil_war/

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMMWxeF5zojtN8_NeWtyULw?view_as=subscriber

Hoza's guest for this evening's program is Br. Ben Frail.

National Patriotic Instructor, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW).

Born in Providence, Rhode Island in 1988, Ben has been studying the American Civil War since the age of six. In 2003, at the age of 15, Ben joined the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War as a member of Governor Elisha Dyer Camp 7, Department of Rhode Island and the 2nd Rhode Island Co. D Reenactors. In 2006, he graduated from Coventry High School and was a Charter Member of Major Sullivan Ballou, Camp 3, Department of Rhode Island having served every position but Treasurer. In 2008, he joined the 2nd Rhode Island Volunteers, Co. B Reenactors where he currently serves as Regional Events Coordinator and portrays a 1st Lieutenant.

In 2011, he graduated from Rhode Island College with his B.A. in History, focusing on Early American History. He has three times served as the Department Commander for the Department of Rhode Island, SUVCW and is in his first year as the National Patriotic Instructor.

Due to Corvid 19 ...

... this year 2020, has been a difficult year to say the least. In an effort to keep our members and ourselves safe, while at the same time holding monthly meetings and providing top notch speakers, our meetings, for now, will be held on Zoom. We know this is not the same as meeting in person, but we can still 'meet and greet' each other, listen to and see great speakers, and ask questions, all FROM THE CONVENIENCE of our easy chairs.

2020 • MEETING SCHEDULE • 2020

• **Wed** October 14th (Zoom) •
Paul Michael Hoza

• **Tues** November 10th (Zoom) •
Tom Clavin
The Civil War Careers of
Western Heroes

• **Tues** December 8th (Zoom) •
TBD

President's Message

A warm October greeting to all. I hope everyone is doing well and staying safe. I just want to thank everyone who was able to attend our first Zoom meeting in September to hear the excellent presentation by Dr. Samuel Mitcham regarding the New York City Draft Riots. The coronavirus pandemic has changed the world for all of us. At the beginning of the year, things like wearing masks, social distancing and Zoom meetings were unknown by most people. Now they have become the norm.



We now have the medical knowledge to protect ourselves from this invisible enemy. However, those who fought in the Civil War never had this luxury. Indeed, the Civil War represents a landmark in military and medical history as the last large-scale conflict fought without knowledge of the germ theory of disease. Unsound hygiene, dietary deficiencies, and battle wounds set the stage for epidemic infection, while inadequate information about disease causation greatly hampered disease prevention, diagnosis, and treatment. Diseases were generally treated by attempting to alleviate symptoms. There was no understanding of bacteria as a cause of disease or insect-borne infections.

Civil War history books depicting heroic battlefield actions are filled with thousands of pages of stories of mortally wounded soldiers, gallantly fighting the enemy to their last breath. When medics and doctors are tending to the wounded in hospitals, they are most often depicted sawing off limbs and sopping up blood from bullet wounds with rags, as their patient is screaming mercilessly. The undignified death of hundreds of thousands who vomited uncontrollably or hallucinated from extreme fever was seldom ever recorded. The total reported sick cases for all disease was over 5.8 million. Pneumonia, typhoid, diarrhea/dysentery, and malaria were the predominant illnesses. Altogether, two-thirds of the approximately 660,000 deaths of soldiers were caused by uncontrolled infectious diseases, and epidemics played a major role in halting several major campaigns.

In these difficult times, it is important to remember the advantages that we have over our ancestors in our knowledge about germ theory and the communicable transmission of airborne disease. Knowledge is power! So please remember to wash your hands, wear your mask, and continue to socially distance. I look forward to seeing you all at our next Zoom meeting.

KRIS J. KASNICKI

Question of the month:

What is the only state that has compiled a definitive listing of its citizens who served in the war?

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SPOTLIGHT: MICHAEL CONNORS

Dispatch: When were you President, and did you hold any other positions?

Michael Connors: I was President during the 2017 – 2019 term. Prior to that I had been Vice President of Operations and Vice President of Programming. I presently continue to serve as Treasurer.

Dispatch: Can you give us some information about your background?

MC: After college, I served three years in the United States Army as a military policeman in Germany. I attended Brooklyn Law School on the G.I. bill and have been a practicing lawyer for over 40 years. I am the managing partner of the law firm Connors and Sullivan, and for the past ten years have been the host of ‘Ask the Lawyer,’ ‘The Answer’ and ‘The Mission,’ which are broadcast on 970AM and 570AM.

Over the years we have had at least one hundred Civil War historians on the show, including Ed Bearss, James McPherson, and Bud Robertson, as well as numerous members of our Round Table. Finally, and most importantly, I have been married to my wife Beth for over 40 years. She is on the Board of Directors of the Civil War Round Table, and our son Michael is now the organization’s Vice President in Charge of Programming.

Dispatch: When did you first become interested in the Civil War?

MC: When I was a young boy my family took a trip to Gettysburg and I remember being awed by the history. Not long after, I saw the John Wayne movie *The Horse Soldiers* and my fate was sealed.

Dispatch: In your interview with Lisa Rozner on CBS News, you said that you started collecting as a result of a birthday gift of a Civil War toy soldier set to your son, Michael. That was over 22 years ago, and that gift has led to a collection of over ten thousand figures. How do you go about setting up a battlefield scene? Are you still collecting, and are there any battles that you are looking forward to setting up?

MC: We have taken liberties with many scenes; obviously even on this scale it is impossible to convey the scope of a battlefield

on which tens of thousands are converging. However, we use paintings, sketches, and essays as the basis for many of the dioramas we put together. We are looking forward to putting together the Battle of Yellow Tavern in our Brooklyn office and Pickett’s Charge in our home. As for whether I am still collecting, that is a journey that never truly ends.



Dispatch: Which battle do you think stands as one of the most important of the Civil War?

MC: The late, famed National Parks Service historian Ed Bearss once said to me that Vicksburg was the most important, but Gettysburg is where the money is. Truth be told, I am not sure any battle can be taken as a single moment in the conflict; everything preceding shaped the factors going in. There is no such thing as a battle as an event taking place in a vacuum.

Dispatch: Which movie do you think portrays the Civil War best?

MC: *Gettysburg* by Ronald F. Maxwell is one of the best and most accurate portrayals, as well as being a magnificent work of art in its own right.

Dispatch: Any last thoughts you would like to share with our readers?

MC: Never stop fighting to keep history alive. Watch movies and documentaries about the Civil War and other parts of our past that shaped us into who we are today. Read books about history when you have time. Encourage learning with your friends and family, especially the younger generations who might be asking, “Why does this matter?”. History always matters, and the American Civil War is part of what defines us as a people.

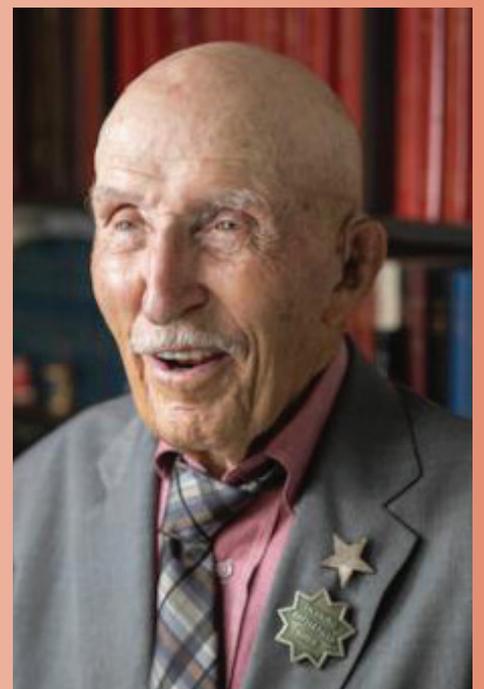
REMEMBERING ED BEARSS

By Joan McDonough

Our Round Table goes way back with Chief National Park Historian Emeritus Ed Bearss, who died September 15th at the age of 97. For years, he was our guide on battlefield tours, until a long-gone tour chairman suggested we replace him because “how long can Ed keep it up?” Ed was in his 60’s then.

We still saw him at the Round Table as he gave us talks on Vicksburg, CW generals, and many other topics. He was the recipient of the Bell I. Wiley award in 1986 and the Fletcher Pratt Award in 2014. Some members joined him on tours for Smithsonian or other groups. And some of us were lucky enough to attend a couple of his birthday parties. Up to the end, Ed was still as sharp as ever on names, dates and battlefields, although he had lost some of his hearing and was not able to move around as well as he had in the past. Some of us remember trying to keep up with him on the battlefields – remarkable when you think of his injuries many years ago on the fields of New Britain during WWII.

Ed was such a wonderful, iconoclastic character that no one will ever replace him. The fact that he remembered so many of our names, and so much about our personalities, considering the thousands of people he met every year, is astounding. And for us, of course, there will always be only one Ed Bearss.



Battle of Corinth

Battle of Corinth, (October 3–4, 1862), in the American Civil War, a battle that ended in a decisive victory of Union forces over Confederate forces in northeastern Mississippi. Believing that the capture of the strategically important town of Corinth would break the Union hold on the Corinth-Memphis railroad and drive Union General Ulysses S. Grant from western Tennessee, the Confederate generals Earl Van Dorn and Sterling Price attacked with 22,000 men. After indecisive fighting on October 3, a furious hour-long battle was fought near Corinth on October 4, during which Union forces under General William S. Rosecrans repulsed the Confederates and sent them into full retreat. During this brief but bloody clash, Union casualties totaled 2,520; the Confederates lost 4,233.

From the *Encyclopedia Britannica*



Battle of Corinth, Mississippi, October 3–4, 1862, colour lithograph

“The Picket-Guard”

Harper’s Weekly, 1861

“ALL quiet along the Potomac to-night!”

Except here and there a stray picket
Is shot, as he walks on his beat, to and fro,
By a rifleman hid in the thicket.
‘Tis nothing! a private or two, now and then,
Will not count in the news of the battle;
Not an officer lost, only one of the men,
Moaning out, all alone, the death rattle.

All quiet along the Potomac to-night!
Where the soldiers lie peacefully dreaming;
And their tents in the rays of the clear autumn moon,
And the light of the camp-fires are gleaming.
A tremulous sigh, as the gentle night-wind
Through the forest leaves softly is creeping;
While stars up above, with their glittering eyes,
Keep guard o’er the army sleeping.
There’s only the sound of the lone sentry’s tread
As he tramps from the rock to the fountain,
And he thinks of the two in the low trundle-bed,
Far away in the cot on the mountain.

His musket falls slack; his face, dark and grim,
Grows gentle with memories tender,
As he mutters a prayer for the children asleep,
For their mother—”may Heaven defend her!”

The moon seems to shine just as brightly as then—
That night when the love, yet unspoken,
Leaped up to his lips, when low, murmured vows
Were pledged to be ever unbroken.

Then drawing his sleeve roughly over his eyes,
He dashes off tears that are welling,
And gathers his gun closer up to his breast
As if to keep down the heart’s swelling.
He passes the fountain, the blasted pine-tree,
And his footstep is lagging and weary;
Yet onward he goes, through the broad belt of light,
Toward the shades of the forest so dreary.

Hark! was it the night-wind that rustled the leaves?
Was it moonlight so wondrously flashing?
It looked like a rifle: “Ha! Mary, good-by!”
And the life-blood is ebbing and plashing.
“All quiet along the Potomac to-night!”
No sound save the rush of the river,
While soft falls the dew on the face of the dead,
The picket’s off duty forever!

The poem was based on newspaper reports of “all is quiet tonight”, which was based on official telegrams sent to the Secretary of War by Major-General George B. McClellan following the First Battle of Bull Run. Ethel Beers noticed that the report was followed by a small item telling of a picket being killed. She wrote the poem that same morning, and she read it in September 1861

Civil War Events During the Month of October 1862

- October 1 David Porter is given command of the Mississippi Squadron.
Major General John Pemberton replaces Earl Van Dorn at the head of the reorganized Department of Mississippi and East Louisiana.
Abraham Lincoln visits Harpers Ferry on his way to Antietam.
- October 2 Abraham Lincoln arrives at George McClellan's headquarters in Sharpsburg, MD
- October 3 Battle of Corinth. MS
- October 4 Earl Van Dorn (CS) and Sterling Price (CS) attack William Rosecrans' (US) northern perimeter, driving it back to a reinforced line. Rosecrans successfully defends the city.
Richard Hawes is inaugurated as Confederate governor of Kentucky. Braxton Bragg attends.
- October 5 Battle of Hatchie Bridge (US) MS
Battle of Metamora (CS) MS
Edward Ord (US) discovers Confederates retreating from Corinth. When Ord was severely wounded fighting paused. A command passed to Stephen Hurlbut (US). Sterling Price was able to escape. MS
- October 7 Battle of Laverne, TN
- October 8 Battle of Perryville, KY
Braxton Bragg (CS) and Don Carlos Buell (US) fight the largest battle on Kentucky soil. The battle is generally regarded as a draw, although Buell claimed victory. Less than half of Buell's men participated because he did not know a major battle was taking place less than two miles from his headquarters.
- October 9 J.E.B. Stuart "rides around McClellan's Army" for a second time. MD
- October 12 Battle of Harrodsburg, KY
- October 16 Six men, Wilson W. Brown, Daniel Dorsey, Martin Hawkins, William Knight, John Porter, John Wilson, John Wollam and Mark Wood escape from the Fulton County Jail in Atlanta, Georgia. As members of Andrew's Raiders they would all receive the Medal of Honor.
- October 16 Major General Ulysses S. Grant is given command of the Department of Tennessee. (Sometimes listed as October 17th)
- October 18 Battle of Lexington, KY
John Hunt Morgan's (CS) raiders captured a federal garrison before moving to the southwest. KY
- October 19 Bragg moves south through the Cumberland Gap, essentially escaping the Army of the Ohio. TN & Ky
- October 24 Don Carlos Buell (US) is relieved of command from the Army of the Ohio for his failure to pursue Bragg (CS) following the Battle of Perryville. William Starke Rosecrans is ordered to replace him.
The XIV Corps, better known as the Army of the Cumberland, is created from the Army of the Ohio.
- October 25 Major General Ulysses S. Grant assumes command of the 13th Army Corps and the Department of Tennessee.
- October 26 Major General Samuel Heintzelman (US) is put in command of Union forces protecting Washington, D.C., replacing Nathaniel Banks.
- October 30 Major General William Rosecrans assumes command of the Army of the Cumberland.
Major General Ormsby Mitchel (US) dies from yellow fever, SC.

SUGGESTIONS

The Dispatch welcomes articles, book reviews (non-fiction only) and suggestions. Just send them in to our mailing address.

Answer:

North Carolina

Civil War Trivia and Fact Book
by Webb Garrison

Earl Van Dorn

Major General (CS)

Civil War

DATE OF BIRTH

September 17, 1820

DEATH

May 7, 1863

Earl Van Dorn began his military career after graduating 52nd out of 56 from the United States Military Academy in the class of 1842. He first served in several posts throughout the Southern United States, before being sent to Texas and then Mexico during the Mexican-American War. He saw combat during the battles of Monterrey and Vera Cruz, and received brevet promotions up to major for his participation in the battles of Cerro Gordo, Mexico City, Contreras, and Churubusco. After the war, he was once again sent to outposts in the South, and took part in action against the Seminole Indians from 1849 to 1850. He also fought several engagements in the West against Comanche Indians from 1858 to 1859.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, he resigned from the United States military and was appointed a brigadier general of the Mississippi Militia on January 23, 1861. He resigned this commission however, and was made a brigadier general in the regular Confederate army on June 5, 1861. He was first sent west to Texas, where men under his command helped capture U.S. Army soldiers in the state before they could make it North. He was promoted to major general on September 19, 1861, and was briefly transferred to Virginia, where he was made commander of the Army in the West in the Trans-Mississippi Theatre. His first major action of the war came at the battle of Pea Ridge, where Union forces under General Samuel R. Curtis defeated Van Dorn's large Confederate force.



After his defeat, Van Dorn was transferred to the Army of the Mississippi, and commanded his troops during the battle of Corinth. Van Dorn again did well during the initial stages of the battle, but misjudged the Union defensive position and was repulsed, forcing his men to retreat. After this battle, Van Dorn was taken out of command of the army, and placed instead in command of the cavalry under General John C. Pemberton.

Van Dorn's most impressive achievement came while in command of Pemberton's cavalry. He led his troopers in action in December of 1862 against the supply depots of Union General Ulysses S. Grant located at Holly Springs, Mississippi. Van Dorn's forces destroyed hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of supplies, and disrupted Grant's operations against Vicksburg. After the battle, Van Dorn took part in several minor cavalry skirmishes until his death in May of 1863. On May 7, 1863, George B. Peters shot and killed Earl Van Dorn after Van Dorn had allegedly committed adultery with Peters' wife.

From *American Battlefield Trust*

Dues are due

If you haven't already paid your dues, please send your checks in now. After October, the price rises to \$60. If we don't hear from you by January 1, we will be obliged to drop your name from our mailing lists. Sorry about that.

We now have three yearly dues categories:

	Individual	Family	
Basic	\$40	\$80	
Silver	\$70	\$95	
Gold	\$120	\$170	
Out of Town	\$25	\$35	(75 miles or more)
Student	\$25		

New members please add \$10 initiation fee

You may choose any appropriate amount to send in, but it will be greatly appreciated if you are able to remit the amounts in the second or third categories.

Send dues to Connors and Sullivan | 7408 Fifth Ave. - Suite 2 Brooklyn, NY 11209 | Att: Cathey

