

# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XLVII, Battlefield Tour Edition

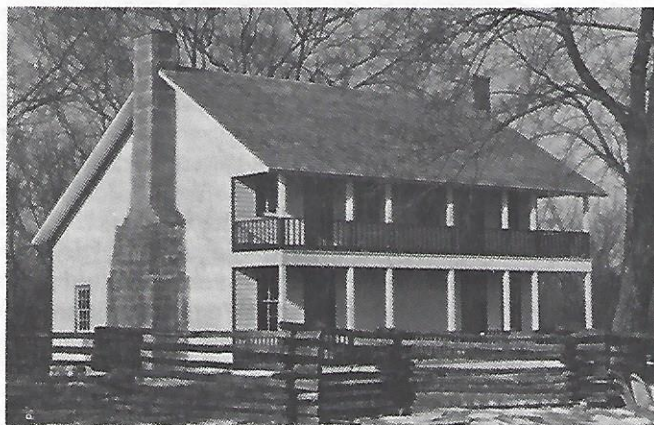
Chicago, Illinois

April 30-May 3, 1987

## 37th Annual Battlefield Tour: The Trans-Mississippi

This year, for only the second time in the history of The Civil War Round Table, the Battlefield Tour will be conducted entirely west of the Mississippi River. The battle sites to be visited in Missouri and Arkansas will bring forth a cast of characters mostly apart from the more familiar names of other areas of the Civil War which we have visited. Accordingly, we hope that the books we have recommended in the reading list will help you enjoy your tour more fully.

Headquarters for the tour will be the Ramada Inn in Bentonville, Arkansas. Bentonville served as a crossroads



**Elkhorn Tavern (reconstruction). The original building was destroyed by fire about a year after the battle of Pea Ridge.**

for the armies during the Civil War, sitting near the major routes for invasion. The tour will begin in Bentonville on Thursday morning. Accommodations will be waiting for you there on Wednesday night. Tour kits and badges will be distributed in Bentonville. Transportation to the seat of war will be on your own. Those who are flying should plan on a flight to Fayetteville. A list of available flights is available from the tour committee.

On the first night of the tour, Thursday, we will hear a speech on Nathaniel Lyon by Park Historian Richard Hatcher, who with the able assistance of Jim Joplin will have led us through the Wilson's Creek campaign earlier in the day. We will have lunch on Thursday at the Springfield Sheraton and will tour the famous Wire Road (Telegraph Road), gateway to the pioneers who travelled west. We will also visit several sites in and around Wilson's Creek.

Chief Guide Ed Bearss will be leading us to the Pea

### Cost of tour

\$280.00 per person, double occupancy, or \$350.00, single accommodation. (Please indicate the person with whom you wish to share a room.) Transportation to and from Bentonville, Arkansas is not included.

**Includes:** Motel room, all lunches and dinners (breakfasts are on your own), bus transportation in the field, tour kits and badges, group service tips, admission fees where required, refreshments on buses, and a non-refundable \$25.00 registration fee per person.

**For variations:** portions of the tour, joining enroute, individual meetings, meals or rooms, write or phone Registrar Richard McAdoo, 638 Douglas, Elgin, Illinois 60120. Phone (312) 697-8982.

Local Civil War Round Table groups and others joining in lunches or dinners, please make reservations through the Registrar so that caterers can be notified of the number to prepare for, and so payment can be made.

Ridge Battlefield on Friday and will speak to us on the Trans-Mississippi at dinner that evening. We will cover the battle in detail with sidelights on the campaign. If time permits, we may take a look at some local skirmishes. Lunch will be at the Ramada Inn, Bentonville.

Saturday we will divide our forces and a group will have an alternate tour to the delightful community of Eureka Springs which furnished many of the locales for the television movie "The Blue and The Grey." The remainder of the tour group will proceed during the day to the battlefields of Newtonia, Carthage and Baxter Springs with other skirmishes and battles included, should time permit. Lunch will be at the Neosho Ramada Inn as we wend our way through the smaller area of war on the personal level. Fun Night dinner will be at the Ramada Inn, Bentonville with all the usual features and honors. There will be an extra surprise at Fun Night in the form of a highly unusual entertainment, but this is being kept under wraps.

Sunday will see our caravan move to the battlefields of Prairie Grove, and, should time permit, Cane Hill before a return to the hotel for our last luncheon and the end of the tour. Chief guide will again be Ed Bearss.

There will be the usual bus accommodations for our touring pleasure, and our usual command posts will be held

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# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



Founded December 3, 1940  
18 East Chestnut Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60611  
Phone: (312) 944-3085

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| Maps .....                           | Marshall Krolick, Marvin Sanderman,<br>Robert Douglas, John Coverick          |



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each evening. Your tour committee has made every effort to see that you enjoy your visit to the Trans-Mississippi.

Veterans of our last excursion across the Big Muddy will no doubt be pleased to note that we will not be changing our base during the tour. Buses must be boarded promptly each morning; we know that your cooperation will be magnificent as always. All meals will be provided, except breakfast, each day from Thursday until the close of the tour on Sunday.

Of special interest to the book-lovers among us will be the library at the newly-constructed Wilson's Creek National Battlefield. According to Richard Hatcher, the library is among the top two in the National Park system and the new electric map is the finest in the system.

## Battlegrounds to be visited

Thumbnail sketches of the battles and battlegrounds to be covered by the 37th annual tour:

**Carthage, July 5, 1861.** The troops of Governor Jackson were still not members of the Confederate forces when they met Franz Sigel at Carthage. After the capture of the majority of the Missouri State Guard at Camp Jackson and the subsequent riot in the streets of St. Louis, most of the surviving state units were making their way to the safety of McCulloch's Arkansas troops. Governor Jackson, against the advice of Marmaduke, tried to make a stand at Boonville against Lyon and failed. Jackson was able to rally about 3,000 men to himself on the retreat. Unbeknown to Jackson, Franz Sigel and Frederick Salomon had taken position in the Neosho-Sarcoixie area to intercept Sterling Price, who had slipped by him.

Sigel's entire force numbered only about 950 men as he marched on the poorly-equipped but numerically larger State Guard. Sigel's initial attack on the Missouri center was by artillery. General Rains Missouri cavalry used the time of the artillery duel to begin a flanking movement on Sigel's forces. Sigel mistook a movement by the unarmed portions of the Missouri forces for a massive attack and panicked. Sigel began a retreat to Carthage with several stands. The retreat continued all the way to Springfield.

**Wilson's Creek, August 10, 1861.** After Nathaniel Lyon had secured St. Louis, he moved to southwest Missouri with Franz Sigel and his St. Louis Germans. Ben McCulloch, who had fought with Sam Houston in Texas, with a force raised in Arkansas, moved to the aid of former Missouri Governor Sterling Price and his troops.

The Union attack began in the foggy dawn of August 10th; Lyon's forces drove back the Missourians of Price until a counterattack. After beating off this attack, the Federals stood on Oak Hill, awaiting Price who was reforming for another attack. Sigel, commanding a Federal detachment attacking toward the southern rear, got muddled. When he heard the sound of the attacking guns of Lyon, he captured the Confederate camps and then moved on to the Sharp house. McCulloch came up and routed Sigel's forces. Meanwhile, Lyon, who had been wounded in the leg and head, led a last vigorous charge at the rebels which succeeded, but at the cost of his life.

Another Confederate attack was somewhat successful, but the Federals retreated unmolested to their base at Rolla. McCulloch returned to Arkansas while Price seized Springfield and then struck into northwest Missouri. Wilson's Creek was the first large-scale battle west of the Mississippi.

**Zagonyi's Charge, October 25, 1861.** Major Charles Zagonyi was a Hungarian who commanded the colorful (and piratical, according to John Page) bodyguard of General John C. Fremont. In the area covered by the fighting on October 25th, the good Count's first charge was from Wilson's Creek to the northwest up a wooded hill to Judge Farmer's House. From the summit of the hill, he made a second charge northeast into Springfield along the line of Wilson's Creek Valley to a point where the monument stands today.

**Pea Ridge, March 7-8, 1862.** Earl Van Dorn was sent into the Pea Ridge area of Arkansas and decided to attack the Federal troops nearby. He divided his forces of 16,000 on March 7th. Samuel R. Curtis was the opposing Federal

commander with about 10,500 men. Curtis ordered Eugene Carr's division to the vicinity of Elkhorn Tavern to resist Sterling Price and about 6,000 Confederates. Sigel's two Union divisions moved north of Leetown to oppose the other southern wing under McCulloch. In the fighting against Carr, General William Slack was mortally wounded, but Carr was driven off at dusk. The tavern that was Carr's headquarters and a Federal hospital became Van Dorn's for the remainder of the fight.

North of Leetown on the other edge of the fight, General Albert Pike led his Indians against the enemy and scored some success with the capture of three pieces of artillery by James McIntosh. McCulloch's troops joined with McIntosh to attack Colonel Peter Osterhaus. As McCulloch moved into the open on the attack, an Illinois private named Peter Pelican killed him. Within 15 minutes, McIntosh was also slain. Pike was losing control of his Indian troops and the first day ended with Confederate success at Elkhorn and Federal victory at Leetown.

On March 8th, the artillery would decide the battle in and around the Elkhorn Tavern. Franz Sigel had a rare good day in command and had posted his artillery with telling effect. Van Dorn, dangerously low on ammunition, moved out upon the Huntsville Road. By noon, the engagement at Pea Ridge was over and Missouri was saved for the Union.

**Newtonia**, April 30, 1862 and October 28, 1864. Like many communities in the Valley, Newton County saw many small and large encounters. Two battles at Newtonia were pivotal for the command of the region. Brigadier General Frederick Salomon and approximately 6,000 Union troops attacked Confederate forces under Colonel Douglas H. Cooper on April 30, 1862. The Confederates had taken position at Newtonia as a part of their overall strategy to hold control of the lead mines at Granby. The first Federal assault on the Confederate positions was repulsed and Colonel Tandy Walker's Indian troops caused a hasty retreat. Salomon reformed and advanced on the Confederate right and was again repulsed. A third Federal action after dark was also unsuccessful and the Federals withdrew through Sarcocoxie, about 12 miles from Newtonia.

The second major fight at Newtonia took place during Price's Missouri Expedition on October 28, 1864. Spotting dust clouds south of the town during Price's retreat, Blunt thought that Price was attempting to escape. Blunt then galloped around his own flank to attempt to cut him off. He was cut off in turn by Jo Shelby who handled him roughly and nearly captured him before other Federal units cut through to save him. The fighting ended at sunset without advantage to either side. This was the last battle fought by Union and Confederate regular troops west of the Mississippi.

**Prairie Grove**, December 7, 1862. General James G. Blunt's Federal division was in an exposed location at Cane Hill, to the southwest of Fayetteville. Confederate General Thomas C. Hindman marched on his position with nearly 11,000 troops. Blunt called for help from General Francis Herron's two divisions based near Springfield at Wilson's Creek. Herron made the forced march of over 110 miles in less than three days. On the morning of the 6th, Hindman drove in Blunt's pickets and began plans to turn to defeat Herron in detail. Marmaduke's cavalry hit Herron's advance on the morning of the 7th and drove them back. Hindman made two more attacks before being joined by Blunt. Blunt rolled up the Confederate flank, but was held

## Tour schedule

All times local. Any changes will be announced on tour.

### Thursday, April 30, 1987

Breakfast on your own, as on each day of the tour.

8:00 a.m.—Board buses for trip to Wilson's Creek. Tour Wilson's Creek Battlefield and Visitor's Center.

12:30 p.m.—Luncheon at the Springfield Sheraton

1:30 p.m.—Continue tour of National Park, Cemetery and site of Zagonyi's Charge.

6:30 p.m.—Command Post (Cash Bar).

7:30 p.m.—Dinner. Speaker, Richard Hatcher on "Nathaniel Lyon."

### Friday, May 1, 1987

8:00 a.m.—Board buses for tour of Pea Ridge National Battlefield

12:30 p.m.—Luncheon at the Ramada Inn, Bentonville

1:30 p.m.—Continue Tour of Pea Ridge area.

6:30 p.m.—Command Post (Cash Bar).

7:30 p.m.—Dinner. Speaker, Edwin Bearss on the Trans-Mississippi.

### Saturday, May 2, 1987

8:00 a.m.—Board buses for tour of Newtonia and other actions

or

Board bus for Eureka Springs

12:30 p.m.—Luncheon at Ramada Inn, Neosho

1:30 p.m.—Tour of Carthage and Baxter Springs

6:30 p.m.—Command Post

7:30 p.m.—Dinner. Fun Night.

### Sunday, May 3, 1987

9:00 a.m.—Board buses for tour of Prairie Grove and Cane Hill

12:30 p.m.—Luncheon at Ramada Inn, Bentonville

1:30 p.m.—End of Tour.

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by Jo Shelby and others. The Confederates withdrew after dusk without Blunt perceiving it.

**Baxter Springs**, October 6, 1863. One of the bloodiest engagements in Kansas, Baxter Springs is really two actions. Confederate raiders under William C. Quantrill attacked Fort Baxter on October 6th. While the attack was going forward, Quantrill became aware of an escort of 100 men accompanying the movement of Blunt's headquarters from Fort Scott to Fort Smith. Quantrill's men were dressed largely in Union uniform and were mistaken by Blunt for an honor guard from Fort Baxter; 65 Federals were killed in the ensuing attack, including the headquarters band and Major Henry Curtis, son of General Samuel R. Curtis. Quantrill had the distinction of being honored by Confederate leaders for his defeat of Blunt until the news of the attack on Lawrence reached Confederate ears.

### Battle of Prairie Grove

By Edwin C. Bearss

Union General John Schofield in October, 1862, invaded northwestern Arkansas and compelled Confederate General Thomas Hindman and his troops to retire across the Boston mountains. During this campaign, one of Schofield's divisions, led by Gen. James Blunt, mauled Douglas

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# Armchair Generalship



by Marshall D. Krolick

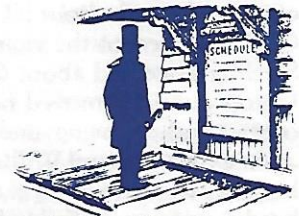
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Cooper's Indian brigade at Fort Wayne. Schofield, satisfied that it would be difficult to supply his army in the area north of the Bostons, started back up the Telegraph road with two of his divisions. Blunt's division was left to hold northwest Arkansas, guard the passes through the Bostons, and watch the Indian Territory Confederates. Not feeling well, Schofield reported himself ill and placed Gen. Francis J. Herron in charge of the two divisions posted south of Springfield, Missouri.

By the end of November, the aggressive Hindman was ready to strike back at the widely separated wings of Scho-

## BULLETIN BOARD



**On the Tour:** Please be prompt in boarding the buses at the appropriate time each morning to allow maximum time for touring. A bus marshal will be on each bus to help you. If you plan a side excursion, join a car group, or for any other reason will not be on the bus, you must notify your bus marshal so that buses are not detained waiting for you.

field's army. It took Hindman's corps two days (November 29 and 30) to recross the Arkansas. After ferrying the river, the Rebels camped in the hills overlooking Van Buren. Hindman on December 3 put his columns (9,000 infantry, 2,000 cavalry, and 22 pieces of artillery) in motion. The Confederates intended to fall upon Blunt's division at Cane Hill and destroy it before it could be reinforced. It was 45 miles by road from Van Buren to Cane Hill. Gen. John S. Marmaduke's cavalry division, which had been posted at Dripping Springs, screened the Confederate march up the Telegraph Road.

Information had reached Blunt's Cane Hill headquarters on December 2 that Hindman's foot soldiers and artillery had crossed the Arkansas. At 9 a.m. Blunt telegraphed this news to Springfield. Blunt's dispatch was in Herron's hands at 8 a.m. on the 3rd and he promptly put his two divisions in motion. One of the most amazing marches of the Civil War ensued. Herron's columns marched 100 miles in 80 hours, the last 57 miles in 31 hours.

Hindman's movements were lethargic. Nightfall on the 6th found the Rebel artillery and infantry at Morrow's. Marmaduke's troopers during the day had driven in Blunt's outposts. While he was making plans to assail Blunt's bluecoats, Hindman was notified by his scouts of the approach of Herron's divisions. As his corps lay between Herron and Blunt, Hindman determined to defeat the Federals in detail. He would strike Herron first, then fall on Blunt.

On December 7 Hindman turned his troops out long before daybreak. To mask his movements, Hindman had one of his cavalry brigades feign an attack on Blunt's division, while Hindman advanced against Herron with the rest of his corps. Marmaduke's cavalry encountered Herron's horse soldiers and drove them back toward Fayetteville. Herron called up his infantry and artillery, forded Illinois Creek, and checked Marmaduke. Hindman thereupon committed his infantry, but, instead of attacking as he should, he posted his men in a strong position overlooking Crawford's Prairie, thus allowing Herron to retain the initiative. Herron attacked at noon. When he heard the roar of artillery, Blunt marched to Herron's assistance. Hindman was now called upon to confront a reunited Army of the Frontier, which was stronger numerically and in organization than his.

Darkness ended the battle of Prairie Grove, and Hindman withdrew his corps, retreating back across the Boston mountains. The Federals failed to launch an effective pursuit, and the Confederates retired south of the Arkansas. Confederate losses in the battle were 1,317, while the Federals reported their casualties as 1,251 killed, wounded and missing.