



PVT. LUCIUS L. MITCHELL CAMP 4

March 2017

Camp Communicator

Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War



The Commander Speaks

Some thoughts on President Lincoln and the power of encouragement.

Just today I am reading a sermon by a Baptist Minister given about 4 years ago. His subject is the power of encouragement and he uses quotes mostly contained in New Testament stories that encouragement can be done through example or by a form of exhortation. What interested me on this 208th birthday of our 16th President was that Rick Crandall, the minister, had used a story about the life of Abraham Lincoln to illustrate the importance of encouragement to everyone, including a historically mostly revered person. Lincoln had just concluded over 4 years as President of the United States during which time so many decisions had to be made. You might say that surely this great man would have few doubts that his decisions were correct or you could go to the other extreme that his decisions at this time in our history must have set off constant rounds of second guessing. The evidence that Reverend Crandall present would support the latter.

Crandall reminds us that the night that President Lincoln was assassinated he was carrying: two pairs

To Commander - page 7

In this Issue

Page 2 - February Meeting Minutes

Page 3 - Battle of Pea Ridge - Elkhorn Tavern

Page 4 - Civil War Time Line

Page 5 - Department Encampment Photos

Page 8 - Blast from the Past



Next Camp Meeting

SATURDAY March 4, 2017

1 PM

St. Cloud Community Center

716 Indiana Avenue

St. Cloud, FL 34769

February 4th Camp Meeting Minutes

OPENING CEREMONIES

Opening prayer by Chaplain McCracken
Commander Urell-Present
Senior Vice Commander Iliff-Excused
Junior Vice Commander Bruggeworth-Excused
Patriotic Instructor Heiple-Present
Secretary/Treasurer Skip Whitlam-Excused
Minutes read and accepted.

Old Business

Anthony Frazier Update

Commander Urell and Chaplain Met in Sorrento, Florida with East Lake Historical Society and a representative of the Wekiva State Park and outlined cemetery and staked out dimensions.

Placement of tombstone building of fence and entrance and a proper ceremony needs to be accomplished.

Brochures and Stickers

Commander Reeves has been asked to bring recruitment pamphlets to Department Meeting. February 18th. We have additional stickers and would distribute.

Wreaths Across America

Excited about future involvement in Wreaths Across America Project. Care for Union tombstones and laying of wreaths will take place in Mount Peace.

For the Good of the Order

Historical slides of Camp 4, Old Soldiers Home, and GAR Art.

New Business

Demonstration of D-2 Tombstone Cleaner.

Aric Bruggeworth has Facebook site set up with Michael Urell, Skip Whitlam and Ron McCracken administering. Photos, events, history, news and stories may be added.

Roger Heiple has a very large trove of information about the old GAR, Sons and related organizations which need to be copied and made part of our library in waiting.

Nic Mahora of Melbourne, Florida has transferred from Los Angeles Rosecrans's Camp to Camp 4. Welcome Nick.

Closing Ceremonies

Closing Prayer -Chaplain McCracken

.....

Civil War Reading Bonanza

If you ever have some spare moments and want to delve into information that will enlighten you, visit this website which has issues of The Great Republic written by our own Brother Roger

<http://www.davidmaloney.com/gar/TheGreatRepublic1980-1989/Menu/>

This web site contains issues from Volume 1 to Volume 5 #2 which covers 1980 to 1989.



Blue and Grey Magazine

A Spring 2001 issue contains an article submitted by Camp 4 Brother Robert Fisk, Chaplain of Camp 4. The article discusses the a Memorial erected to GAR Founders of St Cloud, Florida. In some detail the article presents information on the Veterans Day ceremony and action taken to purchase land in Osceola County for the creation of St Cloud. Further information is presented on Lucius L Mitchell and the naming of our camp after this Civil War veteran.

You can get this back copy at <https://blueandgraymagazine.com/>



Officers 2017 - 2018

Camp Commander: Michael Urell

SVC: Timothy Iliff

JVC: Aric Bruggeworth

Secretary: Clair D.
"Skip" Whitlam

Treasurer: Clair D.
"Skip" Whitlam

Council 1: Ronnie G. McCracken

Council 2: Roger L. Heiple

Council 3: James G. Ward

Patriotic Instructor: Roger Heiple

Chaplain: Ronnie G. McCracken

Graves Registration: T Iliff

Civil War Memorials: Ronnie G. McCracken

Historian: Roger Heiple

Eagle Scout Coordinator: Michael Urell

Signals Officer: Steve Williams

JROTC contact: Michael Urell

Guide: Pending

Editor
Steve Williams
swilliams16@cfl.rr.com

The Battle of Pea Ridge

Battle of Elkhorn Tavern

The Battle of Pea Ridge (also known as the Battle of Elkhorn Tavern) was a battle of the American Civil War. It was fought from March 6–8, 1862, at Pea Ridge in northwest Arkansas, near Leetown. Union forces, led by Brigadier-General Samuel Curtis, moved south from central Missouri, driving Confederate forces into northwestern Arkansas. Major-General Earl Van Dorn launched a Confederate counter-offensive, hoping to recapture northern Arkansas and Missouri. Curtis held off the Confederate attack on the first day and drove Van Dorn's force off the field on the second. This battle, one of the few in which a Confederate army outnumbered its opponent, essentially established Federal control of Missouri and northern Arkansas for the rest of the war.

United States forces in Missouri during the latter part of 1861 and early 1862 had pushed the Confederate Missouri State Guard under Major General Sterling Price out of the state. By spring 1862, Federal Brig. Gen. Samuel Curtis determined to pursue the Confederates into Arkansas with his Army of the Southwest.

Curtis moved his approximately 10,250 Federal soldiers and 50 artillery pieces into Benton County, Arkansas, and along Little Sugar Creek. The Federal forces consisted primarily of soldiers from Iowa, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, and Ohio. Over half of the Union soldiers were German immigrants, grouped into the 1st and 2nd Divisions, which were under the command of Brig. Gen. Franz Sigel, himself a German immigrant. Upon learning that General Curtis would command the army instead of himself, Sigel threatened to resign, so the predominantly native-born regiments were assigned to the 3rd and 4th divisions to create an ethnic balance among divisions and their commanders.

Due to the length of his supply lines and to a lack of reinforcements Curtis needed for a further advance, he decided to remain in position and fortified an excellent defensive line on the north side of the creek, placing artillery for an expected Confederate assault from the south.

The Confederate major general, Earl Van Dorn, had been appointed as the overall commander of the Trans-Mississippi District to quell a simmering conflict between the Confederate generals Sterling Price of Missouri and Benjamin McCulloch of Texas. Van Dorn's Army of the West totaled approximately 16,000 men, which included 800 Indian troops, Price's Missouri State Guard contingents and other Missouri units, and McCulloch's contingent of cavalry, infantry, and artillery from Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Missouri.

Van Dorn was aware of the Federal movements into Arkansas and was intent on destroying Curtis's Army of the Southwest and reopening the gateway into Missouri. He intended to flank Curtis and attack his rear, forcing Curtis to retreat north or be encircled and destroyed. Van Dorn had ordered his army to travel light so each soldier carried only three days' rations, forty rounds of ammunition, and a blanket. Each division was allowed an ammunition train and an additional day of rations. All other supplies, including tents and cooking utensils, were to be left behind.

Action at Bentonville, Arkansas

Warned by scouts and Arkansas unionists, Curtis rapidly concentrated his outlying units behind Little Sugar Creek by placing William Vandever's 700-man brigade who marched a remarkable 42 miles in 16 hours from Huntsville to Little Sugar Creek.[11] But Curtis's right flank also suffered from the mistake of General Sigel, who sent a 360-man task force to the west, where they would miss the next three days of fighting. Sigel also withdrew a cavalry patrol from the road on which the Confederate army was advancing; however, Colonel Frederick Schaefer of the 2nd Missouri Infantry, on his own initiative, extended his patrols to cover the gap. When Van Dorn's advance guard blundered into one of these patrols near Elm Springs, the Federals were alerted. Still, Sigel was so slow in evacuating Bentonville that his rear guard was nearly snared by Van Dorn on March 6 as he advanced.

Waiting until the Confederate advance was nearly upon him, Sigel ordered his 600 men and six guns to fall back on a road leading northeast toward Curtis's position. The Confederate 1st Missouri Cavalry led by Elijah Gates attacked from the south to cut off Sigel's retreat. They managed to surprise and capture a company of the 36th Illinois, but many were freed when Sigel's withdrawing men unexpectedly bumped into them. Sigel managed to fight his way through Gates' men, helped by a blunder by confederate Brig. Gen. James M. McIntosh.

McIntosh had planned to envelop Sigel's force from the northwest while Gates closed the trap on the south. However, McIntosh mistakenly took his 3,000-man cavalry brigade too far up a northerly road. After marching three miles out of his way, he turned his troopers onto the road leading east into the Little Sugar Creek valley. By the time they reached the site where Sigel's northeast road met McIntosh's east-bound road, the Federal general's men had already passed the intersection thus avoiding a disaster. When the 3rd Texas Cavalry charged, they ran smack into Sigel's main line. The Confederates lost 10 killed and about 20 wounded to Federal artillery and rifle fire and the Union position

Civil War Time line

March in the Civil War



1861 - Throughout much of March forts on Texas were either abandoned by Federal forces or were seized by Texas troops. **March 2** Texas admitted to the Confederacy. **March 4** Lincoln Inaugurated; new cabinet decided upon; Confederate Committee On The Confederate Flag reported to their congress and the first Stars and Bars flown over the Montgomery AL state Capitol. **March 11** Confederate Congress unanimously adopted the Constitution of the Confederacy. **March 18** Sam Houston Governor of Texas refused to take oath of allegiance to the Confederacy and left office. **March 18 - 29** Discussions continued between the Federal government and South Carolina pertaining to the disposition of Ft Sumter.



1862 - **Mar 1.** Gen'l Grant ordered up Tennessee River to Ft Henry. President Davis ordered Martial Law in Richmond to arrest northern sympathizers. **March 2** Confederates invade NM. **March 6** Action begins at Pea Ridge (Elkhorn Tavern)AR. USS Monitor leaves NY for Ft Monroe VA to confront the CSS Merrimack (Virginia). **March 7** Battle of Pea Ridge (Elkhorn Tavern). **March 8** CSS Merrimack (Virginia) destroys Federal Vessels; Battle of Pea Ridge concludes. **March 9** Battle of the Monitor ad Merrimack. **March 11** Major changes in Federal command structure: Lincoln removed McClelland as Command-in-Chief of Federal forces; Gen'l Halleck given command of reorganized western forces - Department of the Mississippi; Gen'l Fremont given command of the Mountain Department (western VA and VA). **March 14** Federals capture New Madrid, MO and New Berne NC. **March 15** Gen'l W T Sherman & Hurlbut came to Pittsburg Landing TN. Gen'l Halleck restored Gen'l Grant to command. **March 17** Gen'l McClelland begins moving troops to James/York rivers for the Peninsula Campaign. **March 23** First Battle of Kernstown, VA (Shenandoah Campaign). **March 26** Engagement at Apache Canyon, NM. **March 28** Engagement at Glorieta Pass NM drove the Confederates out of the SW.



1863 - **Mar 2-** Federal Congress confirmed the appointment of 4 Major Generals, 9 Brigadier Generals for the Regular Army, 40 Major and 200 Brigadier Generals of Volunteers. Thirty Three U. S. Army officers were found guilty by court martial of various charges and dismissed from the service. **March 3** Federal Draft Act approved for all male citizens between 20 and 45 with certain exemptions. Other acts signed by Lincoln: Loans of \$300 M for 1863 and \$600M for 1864; act fixing Supreme Court to 10 justices; measure making Idaho a territory. **March 9** James Louis Petigru, a staunchly loyal unionist died at 74 - Respected by and friends of Charlestonians despite his political views. **March 10** Federal troops, mostly Negroes, reoccupied Jacksonville FL. **March 11** Fort Pemberton (MS) Blocks Yankees. **March 14** Passage of Port Hudson (LA) by Adm Farragut. **March 17** Battle of Kelly's Ford (VA).. **March 19 - 30** Federal efforts to surround Vicksburg continue with ultimate cessation of attempts to use backwater rivers. **March 30** Lincoln set aside April 30 as national fast and prayer day.



Meeting Schedule

Our meeting schedule is six consecutive months between November through April meeting on the first Saturday of every month except in January, then we will meet on the second Saturday. At 1:00 PM.

Community Center - 702 Indiana Ave in St. Cloud.





1864 - **Mar 1.** Raid on Richmond VA fails. Lincoln nominates U S Grant for newly created rank of Lieutenant General. **March 2** U S Senate confirms appointment of Grant. **March 4** U S Senate confirmed Andrew Johnson as Federal Military Governor of Tennessee. **March 7** Lincoln issued an order designating the starting point of the Union Pacific Railroad on the western border of Iowa. **March 9** General Grant commissioned Lieutenant General. **March 12** Red River Campaign (LA) under way. **March 17** Lt Gen Grant formally assumed command of the armies of the United States with headquarters to be 'in the field.' **March 18** Arkansas voters ratified a pro-Union constitution which ended slavery in that state. **March 21** Lincoln approved an act of the Federal Congress enabling the territories of Nevada and Colorado to become states. **March 24** Nathan Bedford Forrest on move to western Tennessee. **March 26** Confederate forces on Ohio River - Advance by Forrest unsuccessful. **March 28** 100 Copperheads (southern sympathizers) attacked Federal troops in Charleston IL **March 29** Lincoln dissuaded Gen'l Meade from requesting a formal court of inquiry in regard to Gettysburg.



1865 - The end was obvious; Northern attention turned to the political ramifications of a peace settlement; the split over reconstruction policy widened almost daily; people were looking forward to westward expansion, business, farming, and all the enticements of a non-war world. **March 1.** Wisconsin ratified the Thirteenth Amendment (abolition of slavery) - NJ rejected the amendment. **March 2** Engagement at Waynesborough VA. George Armstrong Custer defeated Jubal Early's cavalry. **March 3** Thirty-eighth Congress passed the Freedmen's Bureau Act (Bureau for the Relief of Freedmen and Refugees). Lincoln wrote to Grant " . . . To have no conference with General Lee unless it be for the capitulation of Gen Lee's army . . . You are not to decide, discuss, or confer upon any political question. Such questions the President holds in his own hands, and will submit them to no military conferences or conventions. Meanwhile, you are to press to the utmost, your military advantages." **March 4** With Malice Toward None - Second Inauguration of President Lincoln. **March 8 -10** Battle of Kingston NC. Confederate Senate (9 to 8) approved use of Negro troops. **March 11** Federal troops occupy Fayetteville NC. **March 13** Confederacy approves Negro soldiers. **March 16** Battle of Averasborough NC. Active discord between President J Davis and confederate Senate and

House. **March 18** Confederate Congress Adjourns. **March 19 - 20** Battle of Bentonville, NC. **March 23** President and Mrs Lincoln with Tad set out to City Point to meet with Grant. **March 25** Confederates attack Ft Stedman at Petersburg VA; Siege of Mobile AL begins. **March 27** Lincoln meets with Grant, Sherman. **March 29** Appomattox Campaign begins. **March 31** Engagement at White Oak Rd and Dinwiddie Court House VA.

Source: *The Civil War Day by Day, An Almanac 1861-1865*, E B Long, 1971, Doubleday.



Department Exncampment



The three Commanders. Commander in Chief David Martin Poses with Commander Michael Urell of L. L. Mitchell Camp 4 in St. Cloud, Florida And Commander Chuck Reeves Of the Department of Florida.

. Chaplain Ronnie McCracken and Commander in Chief David Martin pose by monument to the GAR in St. Cloud Florida's Veteran's Park. Brother McCracken was largely responsible for the concept and completion of the monument.



. Commander in Chief David Martin and L. L. Mitchell Camp 4 Commander Michael Urell stand by grave of Lucius Mitchell of Kentucky in Mount Peace Cemetery in St. Cloud, Florida.

Brothers of the Department of Florida pose with Commander in Chief Donald Martin newly inducted Department of Florida Commander David Palmer.



Upcoming Events

National

Lincoln Tomb Observance April 14 & 15, 2017. President Abraham Lincoln Hotel & Conference Center, Springfield IL 217-544-8800.

Department

No new events



The SVR roots date back to 1881 with the "Cadet Corps" of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) – the largest Union Veterans organization which formed in 1866 after the Civil War. The members of the GAR encouraged the formation of their sons as the SUVCW in 1881. These units eventually became known as the Sons of Veterans Reserve, when the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War moved toward a more patriotic and educational organization in design.

Many of the Sons of Union Veterans Camps (local organizations) formed reserve military units which volunteered their services during the Spanish – American War, World War I, and with the National Guard. Just prior to World War I, over 5,000 men wore the blue uniform of the SVR. As late as the 1930's, several states regarded their local SVR units as a military training component. Since World War II, the SVR has evolved into a ceremonial and commemorative organization. In 1962, the National Military Department was created by the SUVCW and consolidated the SVR units under national regulations and command. Since 1962, there have been five SUVCW Brothers that have held the SVR rank of Brigadier General and have had the honor to serve as the Commanding Officer of the SVR.

Department Officers 2015-2016

Commander: Charles S Reeves, PCC - E-mail reevesoldfarm@msn.com

Senior Vice Commander: James G Ward, PDC - E-mail nacheson1@att.net

Junior Vice Commander: David Palmer, PCC - E-mail Dayplm6@aol.com

Secretary: Clair D Whitlam, PDC - E-mail clairwhitlam@gmail.com

Treasurer: Clair D Whitlam, PDC - E-mail clairwhitlam@gmail.com

Councilor #1: Harvey K. Linscott, PDC

Councilor # 2: John M. Vaughn, PDC

Councilor # 3: James G. Ward, PDC

The purpose of this newsletter is to inform the members of Lucius L Mitchell Camp of activities and events related to the mission of the SUVCW and its interests.

If you wish to place a civil war article or SUVCW item please submit to the Editor at swilliams16@cfl.rr.com

The Editor reserves the right to censor and/or edit all material submitted for publication to the Camp Communicator newsletter without notice to the submitter.



Sutler Links

Link to list of vendors for any items to fill out your uniform and re-enactor accessories.

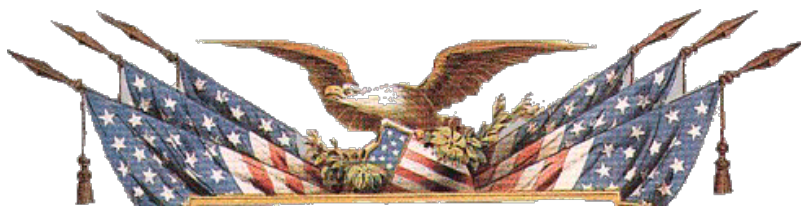
<http://www.fighting69th.org/sutler.html>

<http://www.ccsutlery.com/>

<http://www.crescentcity-sutler.com/index.html>

Camp Website

Be sure and visit our NEW Camp Website at <http://www.c4dofsuvcw.org/officers.html>. There is a page with a complete Calendar of Events that is updated regularly. Check back often for news of changes in time or place!



Commander from Page 1 of glasses, a small velvet eyeglass cleaner, an ivory pocketknife, a large handkerchief with “A. Lincoln” stitched in red, a tiny pencil, a brass sleeve button, a fancy watch fob, and a brown wallet with a Confederate five-dollar bill. And Lincoln carried 8 Newspaper clippings that he had cut out and saved. All of the clippings praised the President who carried so much weight on his shoulders.

All of us need to be encouraged to do the right thing. In a fraternal organization like the Sons of Union Veterans the time must be taken to remind ourselves of our mission and to encourage others through our example and our highlighting of other member’s actions. There are so many people within our

organization that are doing so much to keep the memory of our Union Civil War Veterans memory alive or as they often said “green”. I notice, I praise, I encourage you to do more.

Look at our own small camp in St. Cloud. Despite severe health problems our Secretary/Treasurer carries on. Five other members give exceptional service to the Camp that needs to be recognized and encouraged. Besides all that, if we carefully plan our work and with the old veterans in mind, work our plan, we can accomplish wonderful things. I think I will save my praise for those outside of the Sons that encourage and help us for another day. But I am thinking of them also.

Mike Urell, L. L. Mitchell Camp 4 Commander

.....

Pea Ridge from Page 3 held. Battle, March 7

Lee Town fight

South of the belt of timber lay Oberson’s Field, where Greusel had time to form his brigade and nine cannon on the forest edge on the south side. Sul Ross alertly led the 6th Texas Cavalry in pursuit of Bussey’s force. But when Ross rode into the field, his men were fired on and quickly fell back. Greusel shook out two companies of skirmishers from the 36th Illinois and posted them along the southern edge of the belt of timber between Oberson’s and Foster’s fields. The Federal gunners began lobbing shells over the belt of timber. Though the howitzers were fired blindly, their first shell bursts panicked the Cherokees, who rapidly retreated and could not be rallied. Meanwhile, McCulloch had formed Louis Hébert’s 4,000-man infantry brigade across a wide front and sent them south. Hébert took control of the four regiments east of the north-south Leetown Road, while McCulloch took charge of the four regiments west of the road.

The Texan general rode forward into the belt of timber to personally reconnoiter the Federal positions, and coming into range of the Illinois skirmishers was shot through the heart. McIntosh was quickly notified that he was in command, but his staff, fearing that the death of their popular leader would dishearten his soldiers, made the unwise decision not to share the bad news with many of the subordinate officers. Without consulting Hébert, or anyone else, McIntosh impulsively led his former regiment, the dismounted 2nd Arkansas Mounted Rifles Regiment into the attack. As the unit reached the southern edge of the belt of timber, it was met with a massed volley from Greusel’s brigade and McIntosh dropped dead with a bullet in him. In the meantime, unaware that he was now in command of the division, Hébert led the left wing of the attack south into the woods. Meanwhile, the colonels of the right wing regiments withdrew to await orders from Hébert. It was about 2:00 p.m. The blind Federal bombardment of Foster’s Farm and the breakdown in the Confederate command structure began to destroy the morale of McCulloch’s division.

Hébert’s powerful attack was stopped in the nick of time by Col. Jefferson C. Davis and the 3rd Division. Davis was originally destined for Elkhorn, but Curtis diverted his troops to Leetown after Osterhaus’ report reached him. The four South-

ern regiments nearly overran Davis’ leading brigade under Col. Julius White. Davis ordered a cavalry battalion to charge, but this effort was easily routed by the Southern infantry. When Col. Thomas Pattison’s brigade arrived, Davis sent them up a forest trail to envelop Hébert’s open left flank. Untroubled by the inert Confederate units on Foster’s Farm, Osterhaus was able to “box in” Hébert’s right flank. After very hard fighting in dense woods, the Confederates, pressed from three sides, were driven back to the Ford Road. In the smoky confusion, Hébert and a small party, having become separated from the rest of the left wing, blundered through a gap in the Federal lines and got lost in the woods. Later that day, a Federal cavalry unit captured Hébert and his group.

At this point, command of McCulloch’s division would normally have devolved upon Elkanah Greer, the commander of the 3rd Texas Cavalry Regiment, but due to the prevailing command confusion, he was not notified of his superior officers’ death or capture for several hours. In the meantime, Brig. Gen. Albert Pike, technically outside the chain of command of McCulloch’s division assumed command on the Leetown battlefield around 3:00 p.m. At 3:30 p.m., even as Hébert was still battling in the woods, Pike decided to lead the regiments nearest to him in retreat back to Twelve Corners Church. This movement took place in total confusion, several units being left behind on the field, some marching back towards Camp Stephens, others around Big Mountain towards Van Dorn and the rest of the army. At least one regiment was at this point ordered to discard its arms and bury them for later recovery. It was only several hours later that Greer assumed command of the remaining forces and was at that point informed of Pike’s actions. Initially, he considered remaining on the battlefield but after consulting with Van Dorn decided to withdraw his forces as well and join the remainder of the army in Cross Timber Hollow.

Elkhorn Tavern

Around 9:30 a.m., Cearnal’s cavalry battalion in Price’s advance guard bumped into a company of the 24th Missouri Volunteer Infantry in Cross Timber Hollow. Soon after, Carr arrived at Elkhorn Tavern with Dodge’s brigade right behind. Carr spread out his regiments facing north along the edge of the plateau near the tavern and pulled the 24th Missouri

Blast from the Past

Camp 4 members taking part in the March 2011 Last Naval Battle ceremony in Brevard County. WHO do you recognize?



Samuel Ryan Curtis (February 3, 1805 – December 26, 1866) was an American military officer, and one of the first Republicans elected to Congress. He was most famous for his role as a Union Army general in the Trans-Mississippi Theater of the American



Civil War, especially for his victories at the Battles of Pea Ridge in 1862 and Westport in 1864.

Franz Sigel (November 18, 1824 – August 21, 1902) was a German military officer, revolutionist and immigrant to the United States who was a teacher, newspaperman, politician, and served as a Union major general in the American Civil War.



His ability to recruit German-speaking immigrants to the Union armies garnered the approval of President Abraham Lincoln, but he was

strongly disliked by General-in-Chief Henry Halleck and rated overall as a poor leader.

back to cover their left flank at the base of Big Mountain. The Fourth Division commander then sent the 1st Iowa Battery's four guns forward to slow the Confederate advance.

At this point, Van Dorn, instead of rushing Carr's badly outnumbered force with all 5,000 of his available soldiers, became cautious and ordered Price to fully deploy his division, with the Missouri State Guard divisions on the right and the Confederate Missouri brigades on the left. When the Northern guns began firing, Van Dorn ordered his own artillery into action. Soon, 21 Southern guns were pounding the Iowa cannoners. By the time Price's infantry finally began edging uphill toward the Yankee guns, they met Carr's men advancing downhill in an aggressive counterstroke. The Confederate advance stalled near Elkhorn, but Price's left flank units were marching up Williams Hollow further to the east. Once this force reached the plateau, Carr's right flank would be turned.

By 12:30 p.m., Carr's second brigade, Vandever's, arrived at Elkhorn. The Federal division commander immediately launched this unit in a counterattack on Price's right flank. Superior numbers of Southerners eventually forced Vandever to pull back a short distance uphill. At 2:00 p.m. Van Dorn found out that McCulloch's division would not be meeting Price's at Elkhorn. At this time, Henry Little, on his own initiative, waved his 1st Missouri Brigade forward and the Rebel advance began to roll uphill. These events finally convinced Van Dorn to take more aggressive action. Price was wounded but remained in charge of his left wing while Van Dorn took tactical control of the Confederate right wing. But more time was lost in reorganizing Price's division to attack. Meanwhile, Curtis was rushing small units to Carr's assistance as quickly as he could. Carr himself was wounded three times: in the ankle, neck and arm, but refused to leave the field. In 1894 he would be awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions this day.

About 4:30 p.m. Price's left emerged from Williams Hollow and attacked, outflanking Carr's line. On the right, Dodge's brigade collapsed after putting up a terrific fight at Clemon's farm. On the left, in equally hard fighting, Vandever's men were steadily pushed back to the tavern and beyond. In the center, Little led his men forward into the teeth of Federal artillery. After being forced back from position after position, Vandever's men finally halted the Confederate drive at Ruddick's field, over a quarter mile south of the tavern. There they were joined by Dodge's men, part of Alexander S. Asboth's 2nd Division and Curtis. At 6:30 p.m., Curtis launched a brief counter-attack, but soon recalled his men in



the dark.

Battle, March 8 Second day Troop deployment at Elkhorn Tavern

In the early morning, Sigel sent Osterhaus to scout the open prairie to the

west of Elkhorn. The colonel discovered a knoll that promised to make an excellent artillery position and reported it to Sigel. Osterhaus also suggested that the 1st and 2nd Divisions simply march up the Telegraph Road and deploy on Davis' left, rather than retrace the route of the previous evening; Sigel agreed with his advice and his wing was put into motion. In the meantime, Davis ordered an Illinois battery to fire a few salvos into the woods opposite his position. This provoked a sharp Confederate reaction. Three Southern batteries opened fire, causing two Federal batteries to retreat and Davis to pull his men out of the open and back into the woods. This was followed by a Confederate probe which was quickly driven back.

Soon Sigel's men extended in a long line to the left of Davis. By 8:00 a.m., Asboth's division took its place on the far left, then came Osterhaus, Davis and Carr, with the Federal line generally facing north. It was possibly the only time during the war an entire army was visibly deployed in one continuous line of battle from flank to flank.[36] Sigel now massed 21 cannons on the open knoll to the west of Elkhorn. With Sigel in personal control, the Federal artillery began an extremely effective fire against the 12 Southern guns opposed to them. When the Confederate gunners pulled back under the deadly fire, Van Dorn ordered two batteries to take their place. After one of the new batteries panicked and fled, Van Dorn put its commander under arrest. But the Southern commander was unable to counter Sigel's devastating fire. Return fire from the Confederate artillery was ineffective and few Federals were killed.

With the opposing guns rendered nearly harmless, Sigel directed his gunners to fire into the woods at the Confederate infantry. Near the base of Big Mountain the projectiles created a deadly combination of rock shrapnel and wood splinters, driving the 2nd Missouri Brigade from its positions. "It was one of the few times in the Civil War when a preparatory artillery barrage effectively softened up an enemy position and paved the way for an infantry assault." During the bombardment, Sigel's infantry edged forward so that by 9:30 a.m. his divisions had executed a right wheel and faced to the northeast. By this time Van Dorn found that his reserve artillery ammunition was with the wagon train, a six-hour march away. The Southern commander bitterly realized that he had no hope of victory and decided to retreat via the Huntsville Road. This route led east from the tavern, then turned south. With Price wounded but still in command of the rear guard, Van Dorn's army began to move toward the Huntsville Road in some confusion.

At 10:30 a.m., Sigel sent his two divisions forward into the attack. On the far left, Asboth's regiments drove the 2nd Cherokee Mounted Rifles from the point of Big Mountain. Osterhaus was resisted by Little's 1st Missouri Brigade. Soon, Curtis ordered Davis to attack in the center. Not realizing that the Confederate army was retreating past his right flank, Curtis held Carr's mauled division in position on the right.

Van Dorn joined the retreat about 11:00 a.m. Sometime around noon, Sigel's soldiers met Davis' men near Elkhorn Tavern and a great cry of "Victory" was sent up. A number of Southerners were cut off and escaped up the Wire Road into Cross Timber Hollow. From there the infantry retraced their steps on the Bentonville Detour. Several batteries marched northeast into Missouri then south through the Ozarks. In the confusion, Curtis failed to understand that Van Dorn had escaped on the Huntsville Road. Thinking that Van Dorn had retreated via Cross Timber Hollow, he sent Sigel and some cavalry to pursue in that direction. Instead of taking the forces Curtis assigned for the pursuit, Sigel gathered both of his divisions and marched northeast toward Keetsville, Missouri. Near there, he requested that Curtis send his supply train to that place. "I am going forward not backward," remarked an annoyed Curtis to his staff. On March 9, Sigel finally returned to the battlefield and admitted that the Southern main body had not retreated by way of Missouri.

Aftermath

Federal forces reported 203 killed, 980 wounded and 201 missing for a total of 1,384 casualties. Of these, Carr's 4th Division lost 682, almost all in its action on the first day, and Davis' 3rd Division lost 344. Both Asboth and Carr were wounded but remained in command of their divisions. Van Dorn reported his losses as 800 killed and wounded, with between 200 and 300 prisoners, but these are probably too low. A more recent estimate is that the Confederates suffered approximately 2,000 casualties in the Battle of Pea Ridge. These losses included a large proportion of senior officers. Generals McCulloch, McIntosh, and William Y. Slack were killed or mortally wounded, and Price wounded. Among colonels, Hébert was captured, and Benjamin Rives was mortally wounded, with two other colonels captured and one wounded.

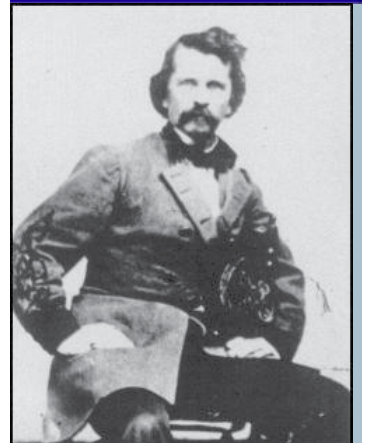
Separated from their supply train, Van Dorn's main body retreated through very sparsely settled country for a week, living off what little food they could take from the inhabitants. They finally reunited with their supply train south of the Boston Mountains, but thousands of Price's troops deserted and returned to Missouri. Pike meanwhile, believing that the Confederate army had been destroyed, returned to the Indian Territory. Van Dorn refused to admit that he was defeated "but only failed in my intentions". With the defeat at Pea Ridge, the Confederates never again seriously threatened the state of Missouri. Within weeks Van Dorn's army was transferred across the Mississippi River to bolster the Confederate Army of Tennessee, leaving Arkansas virtually defenseless.

With his victory, Curtis sent some of his troops east of the Mississippi and proceeded with the remainder of his army to move east to West Plains, Missouri. Then he turned south into undefended northeast Arkansas. He had hopes of capturing Little Rock, but this proved impossible because of a lack of supplies and because guerrillas had cut his supply lines. Instead, following the approximate course of the White River, Curtis continued south and seized Helena, Arkansas on July 12.

Legacy

The battlefield at Pea Ridge is now Pea Ridge National Military Park, founded in 1956, one of the best-preserved civil war battlefields. A reconstruction of Elkhorn Tavern, scene of the heaviest fighting, stands at the original location. The park also includes a 2.5-mile (4-km) section of the Trail of Tears.

Source: Wikipedia: Shea, William L.; Hess, Earl J. (8 June 2011). Pea Ridge: Civil War Campaign in the West. UNC Press Books. ISBN 978-0-8078-6976-5



Earl Van Dorn (September 17, 1820 – May 7, 1863) was a career United States Army officer and great-nephew of Andrew Jackson, fighting with distinction during the Mexican–American War and against several tribes of Native Americans. The former military installation Camp Van Dorn is named for him.

Sterling Price (September 20, 1809 – September 29, 1867) was a soldier, lawyer, planter, and politician from the U.S. state of Missouri, who served as the 11th Governor of the state from 1853 to 1857. He also served as a Confederate Army major general in the American Civil War. Price is best known for his victories in New Mexico and Chihuahua during the Mexican conflict, and for his losses at the Battles of Pea Ridge and Westport. Following the war, Price took his remaining troops to Mexico rather than surrender, unsuccessfully seeking service with the Emperor Maximilian there. He ultimately returned to Missouri, where he died in poverty and was buried in St. Louis.

