



DRUM AND BUGLE CALL

MAHONING VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

DATE: Monday, December 11, 2023 @ 6:15 PM

LOCATION: A La Cart Catering, 429 Lisbon Street, Canfield, Ohio 44406

SPEAKER: BOB SCHNEIDER

Custer ascends the ladder of command

Dave Duchek, Editor/Reservations.....330-207-8810

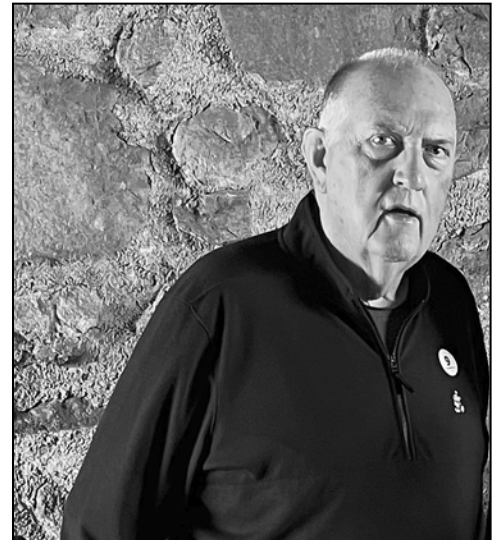
Gary Wholf, Program Director.....330-953-1965

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On June 29, 1863, Gen. George Gordon Meade, the newly appointed commander of the Army of the Potomac, sent a telegram to Gen. Winfield Scott Hancock requesting the promotion of three officers for the cavalry. The individuals he selected were Capt. Wesley Merritt of the 2nd U.S. Cavalry; Capt. Elon J. Farnsworth of the 8th Illinois Cavalry; and Capt. George Armstrong Custer of the 5th U.S. Cavalry. The

following day, Meade issued **Special Order #175** at Frederick, Maryland, promoting Merritt, Farnsworth, and Custer to brigadier generals under the command of Gen. Alfred Pleasanton. Of the three, often referred to as "the boy generals," Custer was the youngest at age 23. He was put in charge of the 7th Michigan Cavalry.

Bob Schneider is a longtime member, as well as a past president and treasurer, of the Mahoning Valley Civil War Round Table. A product of Pittsburgh, Bob and his wife Sally reside in Hubbard. He graduated from Youngstown State University with BS and MBA degrees in business and a minor in history. He retired from GM Lordstown in 2006. Bob is a member of the Braddock Road Preservation Association (BRPA) and Fort Ligonier. He's published articles in the Westmorland County Historical Society Magazine, the Pennsylvania Railroad Historical Society Magazine, Train Collectors of America, and the Antique Motor Coach Association. His interest in history spans a variety of subjects, which has led him to speak at Masonic Order #3 in Warren, Lordstown, Hubbard, and Liberty high schools, the Trumbull Correctional Institution in Leavittsburg, the Rotary Club of Hubbard, Central Christian Church in Warren, and the Custer Battlefield.

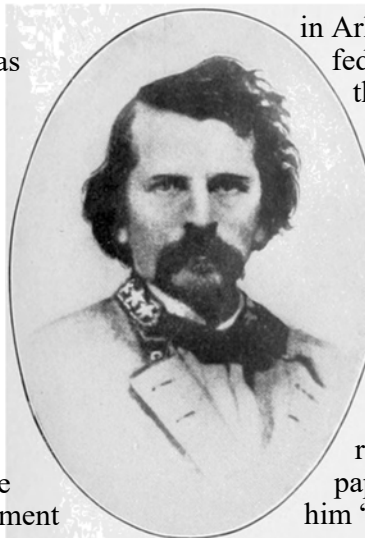


Van Dorn remembered for his demise rather than his military record

By Mike Miller

Confederate Gen. Earl Van Dorn was born in 1820 to the niece of Andrew Jackson. This connection got him into West Point where he graduated 52nd out of 56. He fought in many major battles of the Mexican War under Gen. Winfield Scott. Van Dorn was wounded on four separate occasions while fighting the Seminoles in Florida and the Comanche in the Indian Territory.

Van Dorn had been a cavalry commander but was promoted beyond his abilities by Jefferson Davis. His errors factored into the Confederate loss at the Battle of Pea Ridge, the largest engagement



in Arkansas (and a rare battle where the Confederates outnumbered the Yankees). At the Second Battle of Corinth, his ill-advised frontal attack also led to defeat.

In 1863, the 42-year-old major general was writing at his desk when he was shot in the back of the head by Dr. James Bodie Peters, who claimed that Van Dorn was having an amorous relationship with his wife. Peters was arrested but never brought to trial. Van Dorn's reputation as impulsive, emotional, and a womanizer was likely the reason there was no trial. In fact, a newspaper reporter had previously nicknamed him "the terror of husbands."