

# GENERAL ORDERS



The Newsletter of the

## Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc. and The Iron Brigade Association



JANUARY 9, 2014

### ROBERT I. GIRARDI

#### The Murder of Major General William “Bull” Nelson



The Union was in crisis in the late summer of 1862. Three separate Confederate offensives were threatening the Union War effort. In the East, Robert E. Lee was invading Maryland. In Kentucky, Braxton Bragg and Kirby Smith were launching a two-pronged drive targeting Louisville and Cincinnati, and in Mississippi, Earl Van Dorn was moving against Corinth, trying to recapture the vital railroad nexus.

Bragg’s Kentucky invasion took center stage after Lee was defeated at Antietam. Lincoln issued his preliminary Emancipation Proclamation, which did not sit well with most Kentuckians. It also did not sit well with Union Army of the Ohio commander, Don Carlos Buell. As he raced north to forestall

Bragg, Buell faced a storm of criticism for his dilatory movements and lukewarm approach to the war. His most trusted subordinate, William “Bull” Nelson was entrusted with defending Louisville.

Buell’s chief critic was Indiana Governor Oliver P. Morton. The governor jealously guarded all things Indiana, and he resented Nelson for derogatory comments and actions taken against Indiana officers. One of Morton’s pets, Brigadier General Jefferson C. Davis was serving under Nelson at Louisville until September 22, when Nelson summarily relieved him for what he perceived as incompetence. Stung, Davis went to Cincinnati, but returned to Louisville, where on September 29, accompanied by Governor Morton, he confronted Nelson in the lobby of the Galt Hotel, and shot him to death in front of numerous witnesses. But although he was indicted for manslaughter, Davis was never tried.

This month, our January speaker, Civil War historian and Chicago Homicide Detective, Robert I. Girardi, will investigate the case, both as history and as a murder investigation.

Robert I. Girardi earned his M.A. in Public History at Loyola University of Chicago in 1991. He is a past president of the Civil War Round Table of Chicago, a fellow of the Company of Military Historians and is an associate member of the Sons of Union Veterans. He is on the Board of Directors of the Camp Douglas Restoration Foundation as well as the Illinois State Historical Society. He is on the editorial review board of the *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society*. He has consulted for the Chicago Historical Society and the Bureau County Historical Society on their Civil War exhibits. He was the 2010 recipient of the Chicago CWRT’s Nevins-Freeman Award for service and scholarship.

Robert I. Girardi has written numerous essays and book reviews and was the guest editor for the 2011, 2012, and 2013 Sesquicentennial of the Civil War issues of the *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society*. He is the author or editor of nine books, including the recently released *The Civil War Generals: Comrades, Peers, Rivals—In Their Own Words*.

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January 2014

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#### JANUARY MEETING AT A GLANCE

Robert I. Girardi  
“The Murder of Major General  
William ‘Bull’ Nelson”  
January 9, 2014

The Wisconsin Club  
9th & Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee  
(Jackets required for dining room)  
5:30 p.m. – Staff Meeting  
(Open to all members)  
6:15 p.m. – Registration & Social Hour  
6:45 p.m. – Dinner  
7:30 p.m. – Program

Dinner – **\$25 by reservation.**  
Deadline: Monday, January 6, 2014  
See page 7.

Speaker and topic are subject to change.  
In case of inclement weather, listen to  
WTMJ or WISN radio.

[www.milwaukeecwrt.org](http://www.milwaukeecwrt.org)

## CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE NEWS

### WHEN YOU CANCEL YOUR RESERVATION

Please be aware that cancellations within 48 hours of the dinner meeting are subject to payment in full for the reservation amount. The Round Table is charged for these reservations whether the dinners are used or not.

### YOUR ASSISTANCE IS APPRECIATED

Please remember that our dinner counts are due at least forty-eight hours before the dinner meeting. We are always happy to see you and welcome you to the meeting and *will make every attempt to accommodate everyone who comes*, but we cannot always guarantee a dinner that evening if you have not called, emailed or sent in your reservation. If you do find yourself suddenly free the evening of our presentation, you are always welcome to come and hear the speaker after dinner, at no charge. Thank you for your understanding.

### CWRT ANNUAL FUND

The following members have shown their generous commitment by making an investment in the CWRT Annual Fund. This list reflects donations received from July 1 through December 12, 2013.

#### *Patron (\$200 - \$299)*

Crain Bliwas, Grant Johnson, Stephen Leopold

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### MILWAUKEE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE QUARTERMASTER'S REGALIA

What better way to show off your pride in our organization! All items are made of first-rate, quality materials, modestly embroidered with the Round Table/Iron Brigade logo, along with your name or initials.

ITEM	COST
Hooded Sweatshirt in Northern Blue.....	\$35.00
Baseball Cap .....	\$10.00
Blue Brief Case .....	\$25.00
Blue Light-Weight Sweatshirt.....	\$30.00
Blue Izod Polo Shirt.....	\$40.00
Blue Dress Shirt.....	\$40.00
Blue Fleece-Lined Jacket.....	\$60.00
Iron Brigade Pin.....	\$5.00
CWRT Pin.....	\$5.00
Bugle Pin.....	\$5.00
Iron Brigade Medal.....	\$25.00
Red River Medal.....	\$25.00
CWRT 60 Year Medal.....	\$10.00

Contact Roman Blenski, Quartermaster, 4601 W. Holt Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53219, (414) 327-2847, [dbcpmilw@execpc.com](mailto:dbcpmilw@execpc.com) or see him in person at the Monthly Meeting at Book Raffle.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS • EVENTS • MEETINGS

### January 8, 2014

Waukesha Civil War Round Table, 7 p.m.

Citizens Bank of Mukwonago, Waukesha Branch

Speaker: Kathleen Ernst: "Too Afraid to Cry" Maryland Civilians in the Antietam Campaign

### January 13, 2014

Manitowoc Civil War Round Table, 7 p.m.

25th Anniversary

Manitowoc Historical Society Heritage Center

### January 21, 2014

Prairieville Irregulars Civil War Round Table, 7 p.m.

2nd Floor Boardroom, Campus Center Building, Carroll University

Favorite or Not So Favorite Book Discussion



In January 1950, M. F. Cockrell spoke about "The Siege of Vicksburg."

Alan Nolan spoke to the Round Table in January 1960. The topic at that meeting was "Brawner's Farm."

"Perryville and the Kentucky Campaign" was the topic of Brooks Davis' presentation in January 1970.

John Y. Simon was our featured speaker in January 1980. The topic that evening was "Grant as Historian: The Memoirs Revisited."

At the January 1990 meeting, Alan D. Gaff spoke about "If This is War: An Account of the Second Wisconsin at the First Battle of Bull Run."

Cathy Beeler visited our Round Table in January 2000. Her talk that evening was on "Monocacy Junction: The Battle That Saved Washington."

In January 2009 the Round Table was visited by Frank O'Reilly. The subject that night was "Fredericksburg."

At last year's January 2013 meeting, our featured speaker David A. Powell spoke on "The Confederate Cavalry in the Chickamauga Campaign."



Mark Matranga

## KENOSHA CIVIL WAR MUSEUM

### 360-Movie Experience Press Release Seeing the Elephant Opening to the Public January 11, 2014

*Seeing the Elephant* is the term Civil War soldiers used to describe the first experience with combat. A new high-tech digital movie experience in The Fiery Trial at the Civil War Museum will allow visitors a glimpse at “the Elephant.”

One of just a handful of museums nation-wide using 360 degree movie technology, the Civil War Museum movie focuses on the personal experiences and accounts of citizen soldiers. Using letters, journals and diaries, the script follows several soldiers as they leave home and hearth, train with their troops, face battle together and ultimately deal with the consequences of war. “This poignant 10-minute film tells a story about the Civil War but it is also a tribute to all soldiers and veterans, as it tells the story of the ultimate life-changing experience of war, for the soldier and for the country,” comments Dan Joyce Museum Director.

Over 200 people, including actors, reenactors, film crew, technical and historical advisors and Museum staff, gathered at Old World Wisconsin for five days in June 2013 to film *Seeing the Elephant*.

The film is the centerpiece of the Fiery Trial exhibit and gives the visitor an historically authentic and accurate portrayal of Civil War battle, although not a specific, actual battle. Historical photos and special visual and sound effects augment the reenactment of battle filmed on site in June. The Civil War Museum is grateful to nationally recognized broadcast journalist Bill Kurtis for lending his voice as narrator of the film.

To see a trailer of the film visit the museum website: <http://www.kenosha.org/wp-civilwar/exhibits/#seeing>

## CIVIL WAR NEWS

### National Civil War Museum: “1864” Exhibit Opens with Robert K. Krick

The National Civil War Museum opens their newest exhibit “1864” on Wednesday, January 15, 2014. Robert Krick will present “Sixty-five New Generals: Fundamental Changes in the Army of Northern Virginia” during the Exhibit opening “1864” in the Education Gallery, main floor. The “1864” exhibit will cover the battles, strategies, and civilian lives throughout the fourth year of the American Civil War with a cost of \$10 for the general public and free to Museum members. For a complete listing of other events at the Museum, please visit the Museum website: [www.nationalcivilwarmuseum.org](http://www.nationalcivilwarmuseum.org) or call 717-260-1861.

### The Civil War Explored: New Offerings from Smithsonian Books

#### *Smithsonian Civil War: Inside the National Collection*

Through spellbinding narrative and stunning visuals, 550 treasures transform from objects into potent reminders of this devastating period in American history. Hardcover \$40.00

#### *Last of the Blue and Gray: Old Men, Stolen Glory, and the Mystery That Outlived the Civil War*

Richard Serrano tells the fascinating stories of several men who claimed to be the last survivor of the Civil War armies. All but one were fakes. As the nation approached the Civil War centennial in the 1950’s, the controversies over the last veterans of the war highlighted the continuing debates about a war that never really ended. Hardcover \$27.95

#### *Lines in Long Array: A Civil War Commemoration, Poems and Photographs, Past and Present*

A powerful juxtaposition of modern poems and period poems explores Civil War themes. Beautifully illustrated with modern photographs from Sally Mann and period photographs from Alexander Gardner, *Lines in Long Array* is an essential volume for poetry, photography, and history lovers alike. Paperback \$19.95

**You’re invited to...**  
**A Sneak Preview of**  
***Civil War: The Untold Story***

**Wednesday, February 12, 2014**  
**7:00 p.m.**



The Civil War Museum of Kenosha, Wisconsin will host a special sneak-preview showing of a single episode of a new five part series produced for public television entitled *Civil War: The Untold Story*.

The chosen episode—“With Malice Toward None”—follows a Union army commanded by General William Tecumseh Sherman as it battles its way from Chattanooga, Tennessee, to Atlanta, Georgia, in the summer of 1864. Interwoven within this military story is the Presidential Campaign of 1864 pitting Republican Abraham Lincoln against the Democratic candidate George B. McClellan.

*Civil War: The Untold Story* is a visually stunning and absorbing new 5-hour documentary series that examines the war through the lens of the Western Theater battles in the strategic lands between the Appalachians and the Mississippi River. Narrated by Elizabeth McGovern (*Downton Abbey*), the series is set to premiere nationally on public television stations beginning in April 2014. It is produced and directed by Chris Wheeler of Great Divide Pictures. For more than 20 years, Great Divide has been producing award-winning historical documentaries and National Park Service Visitor Center films. A question and answer period with Producer Chris Wheeler and Civil War Museum staff will follow the viewing of the episode.

The event is free and open to the public. No registration required. Questions or Registrations: (262) 653-4141.



**1864 January**

**Reception of the 7th Wisconsin at Madison**

On the arrival of this body of heroes at Madison yesterday, they were met by the Governor and other State officers and a large concourse of citizens at the depot when the regiment was taken in to the Railroad House where a bountiful breakfast had been provided for them.

Gov. Lewis welcomed them home warmly in behalf of the people of the state.

**From the 29th Regiment  
Pass Caballo, Texas  
January 22, 1864**

Editor Home League:

We of the 13th Army Corps have long boasted among ourselves that we were the best Corps in the service, but we were not aware until quite lately that we were held in such high repute in high military circles. We had not the most remote idea that Gen. Banks thought enough of us to warrant him in sending us at the public expense to this famous watering place — famous, not so much for what it had been in the past as it no doubt will be in the future. We are on the point of a long sandy strip of land, between the Gulf of Mexico and Matagorda Bay. True, there is nothing very romantic about this place, but it has its peculiar advantages, the eye is not tired by the variety of scenery such as wearies one in some less favored localities but is confined to two things very interesting and useful, in themselves in their proper sphere, viz; sand and sea shells.

As for evergreens, there are none, that is nothing that was ever green if we except Brigadier Generals (Maj. Generals are never green) growing on this out-post of God's creation. I may be wrong in regard to Gen. Banks idea in sending us here. It has been suggested that he had heard of the foraging habits of the 13th and he thought we should reform if sent here. If that is his idea, he has exhibited more than his average share of common sense; he has a tight thing on us, for we have come down to regular army fare. No extra sugar, no fresh meat of any kind — sleep is not broken by the usual cackling in the hen coop, a bleating in the sheep fold. Gen. Dana commands the forces now in Texas and he has just arrived from Brownsville. Gen. Washburn has had command here but has left for home since the arrival of Gen. Dana. Gen. Washburn has steadily grown in popularity ever since he has been connected with us. I do not count him as one of the militant kind of men, but one that has honesty of purpose and earnestness in the cause, with a good share of common sense which he carries into everyday routine of camp life. Our time so far has been spent in doing a little fatigue work, fixing up camp, digging clams and gathering wood which last is the worst feature of this watering hole. There is said to be plenty of wood 60 miles from here but it cannot be proved by us; all the wood we get is drift-

wood from some more favored land picked up by the boys and brought in two or three times in blankets or semi-occasionally, by a team going along the beach six or eight miles and bringing in a load. If these sources fail, we have recourse in dry buffalo chips only cows made them instead of buffalos. A few miles and some clams but not plenty yet though it is believed that there are enough when we learn to find them. A kind of soft shell clam can be had in abundance by digging, but unless others like them better than I do, they will be allowed to hold supreme sway in their sand bed. They are down in the same some 12 to 20 inches, but they stretch themselves out to the surface, amuse or support themselves (I don't know which) by drawing in and squirting out water. When disturbed, they contract themselves into their shell. They are, exclusive of their gutta percha part, about the size of an oyster and not unlike it in taste, although not near as good. What the object is in occupying this place is unknown to us but of course it is "strategy" in some of its form. Perhaps we are to cross the bay to Indianola where part of the corps now are and go by land and on foot of course (as we have had an order that we are to fight on foot and not on wheels) to Houston, where the rebs are said to be concentrating, and that we are to take Galveston by that route. Perhaps again we shall go back to New Orleans as part of the corps have gone into winter quarters. If that is done, all movements in this quarter will be called a feint. I learned by those that have been to Brownsville that there is considerable Union feeling there, and that enlistments have been going on pretty well. Deserters that have come into our lines over the bay report the same thing as existing in this section. Where the 29th will turn up next, time alone can determine, but we feel pretty sure we cannot move many times more without going towards home. When we left Wis. a little more than a year ago it was thought by many that we should never see active service, that the war would be over before we should be thought fit to go into a real fight, but since the campaign opened last Spring we have been kept on the move. There has been no abiding place for us. Into the few short months since we left Helena, events that in peaceful times would mark a life time, would have been crowded. The last of April, we witnessed the bombardment of Grand Gulf, one of the greatest naval exhibitions of the war, and though the iron clads did all that shot and shell, handled by all brave men could do, sand banks were too much for them and the soldiers marched around while the transports ran the blockade in the dark.

Then came the first of May, what a May day to us; after marching all night to the sound of cannons in the front, we stopped just at sunrise to get some coffee, and before it could be prepared, the booming cannon close by told us that our days of trial had come to and we went over those hills and through those cane breaks as though it were child's play instead of hunting the lives of our fellow men. Many a man kept up with his company that day, and who was still in death before night, that under ordinary circumstances would have succumbed to fatigue had not the fear of being called a coward urged him on. None of us who heard it will ever forget his feelings as Gen. McGinnis said in his pecu-

liar way — “Col. Gill, Col. Gill, forward the 29th!” and we did forward into what has, not ineptly been called a slaughter pen. Here I want to preserve a little circumstance that was told one of our officers by one of the Indiana officers. It seems that while we were at Helena and the formation of a Brigade was under consideration, Gen., then Col. McGinnis proposed to put in the 29th with certain Ind. Regs. that he commanded. He was remonstrated with by officers in those Regiments. We were conscripts, we should disgrace the Brigade, but the Col. was determined, and he had taken a fancy to us and went so far as to vouch for us. Of course he felt some anxiety in regard to our behavior before the enemy. He felt a load off his shoulders when he said “they won’t run” as a sudden and to most of us, unexpected fire tore our ranks, and we failed the concealed for, and for more than an hour poured in a fire that effectually checked that advance and foiled them in their intentions.

Gen. Halleck may say it, and history may repeat it, that Commodore Porter took Grand Gulf, but we know that McClernand was right when he said Grand Gulf was taken on the hills of Port Gibson, and if Gen. Grant had risen above petty jealousy as a man in his position should have done, he would have made this fact all right in his report, in confirmation of McClernand’s report. In sixteen days came Champion Hill, one of the battles seldom mentioned in the papers but one of the most important and when

we consider the number engaged, bloody engagements of the war. One of the Generals engaged at Gettysburg in making his report said that in two days fight, he sustained the almost unprecedented loss of thirty percent. At Champion Hill, the 12th, now the third division of the 13th A.C. lost in 2½ hours 27½ percent! On the siege of Vicksburg, of the constant exposure, excitement, labor and toil under a broiling sun, the steady wearing away by disease, and the awful yet unwritten slaughter in those charges, a better pen than mine must put upon record.

After a forced march to Jackson and back, we came to Natchez, then to New Orleans, staying just long enough to get a new hold, we were sent up the Teche country some 200 miles from N.O. and after an absence of more than three months, came back; the glorious fizzle was ended and the whole thing a feint, was strategy, was one of the best evidences that Gen. Banks ought to be President.

And right there is one of our greatest troubles in this war, so many are afraid if they do this, or do not do that, that somebody will, or will not be President or Maj. General! But thank God light is breaking; the march of human progress is onward, one border state after another is declaring for freedom and the thousands of precious lives sacrificed, have not been in vain.

*Random (Corporal Lloyd V. Nanscawen, Co. I, 29th WVI)*



*Assistant Engineers, Headquarters of the Army of the Potomac, Brandy Station, Virginia, January 1864. Library of Congress, LC-DIG-ppmsca-33029*

# AND SO IT CONTINUES: January 1864...

## Marking the Civil War Sesquicentennial

January 1864 would usher in what would become one of the bloodiest in our history. In those areas of the Confederacy controlled by the North reconstruction efforts would begin. In the North the Federal Congress was becoming more aware of the coming elections. In the South the economy continued its downward spiral; while blockade runners were getting some materials through, many ordinary, day-to-day items were either gone or so costly as to be affordable to only the very rich. The Confederacy had command issues in the West and discontent with the Davis administration was increasing in both Richmond and throughout the rest of the Confederacy.

**January 1, 1864** • Icy winds and frigid temperatures swept across both North and South causing soldiers in both armies to huddle around their campfires as they suffered in the cold. The usual New Year's Day ceremonies took place at both White Houses.

**January 2, 1864** • Secretary of the Navy Gideon Welles proposed to Secretary of War Stanton that a joint effort be made against the defenses of Wilmington, North Carolina, to close the port where blockade runners had been entering. Major General Halleck vetoed the idea saying that with the other ongoing campaigns the Army could not afford the manpower for the proposed operation.

The Confederate Senate confirmed Senator George Davis of North Carolina as Attorney General. Davis, formerly a pro-Union Whig, had eventually supported secession.

**January 3, 1864** • Union cavalry entered Jonesville, Virginia, driving out the Confederates. The Confederates would return on the 5th of January and after a severe fight the Federals would surrender over two hundred men.

**January 5, 1864** • In Washington, Congress passed a resolution prohibiting the payment of the \$300 volunteer bounty. President Lincoln would ask Congress to allow the bounties to continue for at least a month to help boost enlistments and that the resolution be revisited after that point.

**January 7, 1864** • President Lincoln commuted the death sentence in the case of a deserter "because I am trying to evade the butchering business lately." The day before, President Davis had suspended the execution of a Virginia private.

Admiral Dahlgren ordered all ships of the squadron to take precautions against attack by torpedo boats on the surface and warned them:

*There is also one of another kind, which is nearly submerged and can be entirely so. It is intended to go under the bottoms of vessels and there to operate...It is also advisable not to anchor in the deepest part of the channel, for by not leaving much space between the bottom of the vessel and the bottom of the channel it will be impossible for the diving torpedo to operate except on the sides, and there will be less difficulty in raising a vessel if sunk.*

**January 8, 1864** • President Davis would write to Governor Zebulon B. Vance of North Carolina regarding discontent in his state:

*I cannot see how the mere material obstacles are to be surmounted...this struggle must continue until the enemy*

*is beaten out of vain confidence in our subjugation. Then and not until then will it be possible to treat of peace.*

**January 9, 1864** • President Davis warned his commanders in Mobile that an attack by Admiral Farragut could be expected soon.

**January 10, 1864** • Federal cavalry began operations from Memphis to Meridian, Mississippi, under the command of Brigadier General William Sooy Smith. The operation would continue until the 25th of the month when they would finally be driven back by Nathan Bedford Forrest and his men.

**January 11, 1864** • In the U.S. Senate, John B. Henderson of Missouri proposed a joint resolution abolishing slavery throughout the United States by the amendment (the Thirteenth) to the Constitution.

**January 13, 1864** • President Lincoln directed Major General Nathaniel Banks in New Orleans to "proceed with all possible dispatch" in the construction of a free state government for Louisiana. The President also urged Major General Quincy A. Gillmore to cooperate in reconstructing a loyal government for Florida.

Rear Admiral Dahlgren, off Charleston, requested the use of torpedo boats to be used against the Confederate ships and defenses in Charleston Harbor.

**January 15, 1864** • At Halifax, North Carolina, the *C.S.S. Albatross*, under construction for some time, was placed under the command of James W. Cooke with instructions to complete the work as rapidly as possible.

**January 16, 1864** • A two-day engagement between cavalry units was fought at and near Dandridge, Tennessee, with notable casualties. The Federals would eventually withdraw toward Strawberry Plains.

**January 17, 1864** • A fire killed two officers in their quarters at Camp Butler, Springfield, Illinois, destroying quantities of quartermaster's supplies.

Admiral Farragut wrote to Admiral D.D. Porter about the availability of ironclad gunboats for the use on the assault on Mobile Bay:

*I am therefore anxious to know if your monitors, at least two of them, are not completed and ready for service; and if so, can you spare them to assist us? If I had them, I should not hesitate to become the assailant instead of awaiting the attack. I must have ironclads enough to lie in the bay to hold the gunboats and rams in check in the shoal water.*

**January 18, 1864** • Opposition to the Confederate conscription law continued to develop in western North Carolina, northwestern Georgia, and eastern Tennessee; protest meetings were held throughout the winter.

Admiral Farragut arrived off Mobile Bay where he inspected his ships and the Confederate defenses before he headed for New Orleans where he would resume command of the West Gulf Blockading Squadron.



**January 19, 1864** • The South was perfecting another device called the “coal torpedo” to be used against the North.

The Arkansas pro-Union Constitutional Convention at Little Rock adopted an anti-slavery measure. The measure would qualify the state for its possible return to the Union.

**January 20, 1864** • President Lincoln proposed an immediate election in Arkansas to bring the state back into the Union. Lincoln suspended five scheduled army executions.

**January 21, 1864** • Pro-northern citizens of Tennessee met at Nashville and proposed a constitutional convention and abolition of slavery.

**January 22, 1864** • In a shake-up, Major General Rosecrans was named commander of the troops in Missouri, relieving Major General Schofield, who was shifted to the Department of the Ohio.

In Arkansas, Isaac Murphy was inaugurated as provisional governor in the restored pro-Union government, pending elections in the spring. Murphy had been chosen by the State Convention.

**January 23, 1864** • President Lincoln approved a policy in which plantation owners would recognize the freedom of their former slaves and hire them by fair contracts in order “to recommence the cultivation of their plantations.” Lincoln urged the military authorities to support such a free-labor system.

Admiral Dahlgren wrote to his old friend President Lincoln:

*The city of Charleston is converted into a camp, and 20,000 or 25,000 of their best troops are kept in abeyance in the vicinity, to guard against all possible contingencies, so that 2,000 of our men in the fortification of Morris and Folly Islands, assisted by a few ironclads, are tendering invaluable service...No man in the country will be more happy than myself to plant the flag of the Union where you most desire to see it.*

**January 25, 1864** • After nearly 18 months, Union forces evacuated the area around Corinth, Mississippi, leaving it to the Confederates. The evacuation was a move made to consolidate their occupation points in the West.

Fire destroyed Confederate hospital buildings at Camp Winder near Richmond.

**January 26, 1864** • President Lincoln officially approved new trade regulations for dealing with former Confederate territory and for so-called “trading with the enemy.” Lincoln ordered the suspension of execution in nine cases.

**January 27, 1864** • President Davis ordered General Braxton Bragg to Richmond from Montgomery, health permitting, at his earliest convenience.

**January 29, 1864** • Bombardment at Charleston intensified. The Confederates added a new ironclad, *Charleston*, to their defenses.

**January 30, 1864** • Major General Frederick Steele assumed full command of the Department of Arkansas.

**January 31, 1864** • The month would end with little in the way of “heavy” fighting. President Lincoln would tell General Banks in New Orleans that he was “at liberty to adopt any rule which shall admit to vote any unquestionably loyal free state men and none others. And yet I do wish they would all take the oath.” Desertion was taking its toll in the South as many Confederates, thinking of their families at home who were in dire straits, left their units, for a while, or for others forever.

And so it continues.

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## FROM THE MILWAUKEE HOMEFRONT

TEN SOLDIERS OF THE FIRST WISCONSIN REGIMENT, prisoners of war at Danville, VA., have written to our society for assistance. Will any of our citizens assist by donations of tea, sugar, ham, dried beef, crackers, or any other eatables that will keep—or blankets? The smallest quantity will be welcome. (*Daily Milwaukee News*, January 10, 1864)

TO BENEVOLENT FARMERS: The ladies of the Soldiers’ Aid Society will be happy to give a lunch to any or all the farmers who bring in wood on Thursday for soldiers’ families at their room on Main street, third door above Wisconsin. (*Daily Milwaukee News*, January 12, 1864)

LADIES:—YOUR ESTEEMED FAVOR...in which you request the use of the Chamber of Commerce Hall, for the purpose of holding a fair and festival for the relief of the families of soldiers in our city, to be held on the 22d, 23d, and 24th of February next, was received.

The members of the association, immediately, upon your request being made known to them, voted unanimously to grant you free use of the hall; also, to furnish, free of expense, fuel and lights for the occasion.

Let me assure you, ladies, the members of the association, one and all, duly appreciate your noble efforts to alleviate the suffering of the families of those who are bravely fighting the battles of our country. J.J. TALLMADGE, Pres., JAMES B. KELLOGG, Sec’y. (*Daily Milwaukee News*, January 16, 1864)

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## Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for January 9, 2014

Mail your reservations by Monday, January 6, 2014, to: **ALSO, call in reservations to:**  
**Paul Eilbes** (262) 376-0568  
**1809 Washington Ave.** peilbes@gmail.com  
**Cedarburg, WI 53012-9730**

Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_ (meal price \$25.00 per person) for \_\_\_\_ reservations for January 9, 2014, meeting of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee. (Please make checks payable to the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.)

Name of Member \_\_\_\_\_

*General Orders*, the official publication of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc., is produced September through June and upon request of the Board of Directors.

Send submissions to **Donna Agnelly, Editor**, 420 Racine St., Unit 110, Waterford, WI 53185 or email to **dagnelly@tds.net** with "Civil War Round Table" in the subject line of your message. All submissions must be received by the Editor no later than the 10th of the month prior to the next issue. The Editor reserves the right to select articles and to edit submissions for style and length.

All address changes or problems receiving your *General Orders* should be directed through Membership Chairman Paul Eilbes.

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## 2014 SPEAKER SCHEDULE

**February 13, 2014**

Harold Knudsen  
"General Longstreet"

**March 13, 2014**

Charles "Chuck" Teague  
"Lincoln's Gettysburg Address"

**April 10, 2014**

Scott Bowden  
"Last Chance for Victory"

**May 8, 2014**

David Bastian  
"Grant's Canal"

**June 12, 2014**

Kenneth W. Noe  
"The War in Appalachia"