



# GENERAL ORDERS



## The Newsletter of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc. Since 1947 and The Iron Brigade Association

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General Orders No. 04-04 April, 2004

The **April 15th, 2004** meeting is to be held at **Wisconsin Club**, Milwaukee

**Speaker:** Jim Ogden, Historian, Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park

### Jim Ogden: Inflict All the Damage You Can

In the mid 19th century, the battle of annihilation, in which one nation's army is defeated so completely that it never takes to the field again, was still the much sought-after goal of nearly all major military operations, and was as elusive to attain as the Holy Grail.

In ancient times, this kind of battle was probably much more commonplace. The earliest recorded battle took place in 1469 BCE at a place called Megiddo in what is now Israel. The battle was such a complete victory, and likely such a complete slaughter, that the alternate name — Armageddon — has come to imply the end of the world.

The desire for nations to vanquish their enemies at one blow has always been strong. The classical battle of annihilation — at Cannae, where Hannibal's 20,000 wiped out a Roman army of over 60,000 in August, 216 BCE — failed to completely stop the Romans from eventually defeating Carthage. Other decisive battles such as Agincourt in 1415 and Waterloo in 1815 were complete victories, but not nation-destroying ones. As time went on there were many more battles and

many more victories, but few were so complete that their respective countries never rose again.

Indeed, because of the rise of national armies and the *levée en masse* in the 18th and 19th centuries, this sort of battle was becoming more and more unlikely simply because the armed forces of a country were so large and spread over such a large area that no single battle could defeat them all. Furthermore, by the American Civil War, national infrastructures had gone far beyond the single city model that was prevalent in the ancient world.

At the same time there was a desire to destroy not only a nation's will to resist, but also its ability to rebuild armies, and to replace equipment and ordnance supplies lost in battle. But even given this goal there were few ways to implement this desire short of actually moving troops through a country and destroying infrastructure on the way, as Sherman did after Atlanta. Even though no conflict had been conducted in this fashion before 1861, many afterwards would be. The strategic bombing offensives of WWI and WWII, the air campaigns in Korea and Vietnam, and in a minor way the war in Afghanistan and Iraq were all efforts to neutralize the infrastructure of a belligerent not too unlike Sherman's "making Georgia howl." Our April speaker will be elaborating on these themes.

#### Schedule of Events

- |                                       |         |
|---------------------------------------|---------|
| • Staff Meeting (open to all members) | 5:30 PM |
| • Registration and Social Hour        | 6:15 PM |
| • Dinner                              | 6:45 PM |
| • Program Begins                      | 7:30 PM |

## Annual Patriotic Event Adds Civil War School Day June 4, 2004

This year, Reclaiming Our Heritage is opening its Civil War encampment one day early, on Friday, June 4, to allow elementary and middle school students to experience camp life and Civil War history on a personal level. The Civil War School Day will be open 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Participating reenacting groups will include: 29th U.S. Colored Troops, two Union Field Hospitals, General Pettigrew's Brigade, and civilians. Presentations will focus on camp life, tour of an officer's quarters, camp cooking, civilian life, the care of the wounded during and after the Civil War, and a young person's experience.

Reclaiming Our Heritage Multi-Era Encampment, June 5-6, is a one-of-a-kind event in our area, featuring every major military era from the American Revolution through present day. Roundtable member Lance Herdegen will speak and narrate the Civil War Skirmish on June 6. Member Donna Agnelly will speak June 5 and 6. Lantern-light tours of Wood National

Cemetery will be offered on June 5 only.

Reclaiming Our Heritage Multi-Era Encampment was created in 2002 as a way of honoring our nation's veterans and inviting the community to experience history in a vibrant and engaging format on the grounds of the Milwaukee Soldiers Home Historic District.

The Civil War School Day and June 5-6 events are free. Pre-registration is required for the School Day. For information, visit [www.soldiershome.org](http://www.soldiershome.org), call (414) 389-4135 or contact Patricia Lynch (414) 427-3776. Interested re-enactors and sutlers should contact Laura Rinaldi at (414) 389-4135.

## Killer Angels in Chicago through 19 April

The Lifeline Theatre in Chicago is staging a play, adapted by Karen Tarjan, and directed by Ned Mochel, based on the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel by Michael Shaara that was the basis for the film *Gettysburg*. For more information, contact the Lifeline Theatre Box Office, 6912 North Glenwood Avenue, Chicago, IL 60626, phone (773) 761-4477, or fax (773) 761-4582, or [www.lifelinetheatre.com](http://www.lifelinetheatre.com).

*The Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc. admits members of any race, color, national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges and activities of the Round Table.*

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## Board of Directors, Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc., as of Sep., 2003

Name	Office	Contact	Term Expires
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## *Preludes to Shiloh: The Confederacy's Crisis, Part II*

**W**ith Maryland almost entirely and Virginia partly occupied by Federal forces, the Carolinas under a developing naval siege, governors from Texas to Virginia and Florida to Arkansas were pleading for more troops, more arms, and more of everything else: Confederate President Jefferson Davis well knew that he had nothing much more to give.

The Confederacy as a whole didn't have enough powder on hand to fight more than two Manassas battles. Most of the ammunition that had been captured had already been distributed, and new powder and shot had to be either captured or brought from Europe.

To defend the western theatre, Davis placed Albert Sidney Johnston, a Kentucky native who had lived much of his life in Louisiana and Texas, in command of the Western Department. Because of his rank (number two in the Confederate Army), for all intents he commanded everything Confederate between the Alleghenies and the Mississippi. However, because the Confederacy seemed to prefer chaos to order, departmental organization everywhere was unclear. It could shift from week to week or from complaint to complaint.

Nonetheless, Johnston was the top soldier in the area of Tennessee, and to him fell the responsibility for defending the west. He was regarded by many as the best soldier on the continent, and before he resigned from the US Army he was offered the number two spot to Winfield Scott. Including Tennessee, Mississippi, Louisiana and Alabama, he directly commanded a force of some 15,000, but as soon as he arrived at his command in January 1862 it started to wither away.

Johnston's second in command was Pierre Gus-

tave Toutant Beauregard of Louisiana, who had commanded the Confederate batteries against Fort Sumter when it fell, and the Confederate line at Manassas when the Federals were repulsed. But Beauregard thought more of himself than some of his superiors did, and when he clashed with the Confederate War Department he was transferred from Virginia west. Beauregard was a more than able administrator who in the spring of 1862 was a very sick man, bedridden with a respiratory ailment, some said near death.

In March, Beauregard produced a plan to attack the Federals in Tennessee where they had come to a temporary halt at a place called Pittsburg Landing, some 25 miles from the main Confederate force at Corinth, Mississippi. The matter was becoming even more urgent when it was learned that Don Carlos Buell was marching to meet Grant. Separate the plan might succeed, but there was no chance for the plan if the two Yankee armies combined. Speed was of the essence.

Confronted with a frontier to protect longer than that of the first thirteen colonies, his largest combined force at the moment was less than eight thousand men, in Alabama. Without an appreciable naval force to counter the Union's naval supremacy, without an army to speak of, without transport, adequate munitions or food, shoes, accoutrements, medical supplies or even horses, Johnston seized at the plan, to defeat the Yankee armies so swiftly approaching.

*Author's Note: Any comments on this feature will be greatly appreciated—JDB.*

## **2004 Schedule**

All meetings are at the Wisconsin Club unless otherwise noted. *Speakers and topics are subject to change without notice.*

- May 6: Bruce Tap, "Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War." Period costumes invited.
- June 10 (CARROLL COLLEGE): Brent Nosworthy, topic to be announced.

### **Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for: April 15th, 2004**

**Mail your reservations by April 9th to:**

**Paul Eilbes, 1809 Washington Ave. Cedarburg, WI 53012-9730**

**ALSO, call in reservations to (262) 376-0568**

Enclosed is \$\_\_\_\_\_ (meal price \$20 per person) for \_\_\_\_\_ reservations for the next 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: \_\_\_\_\_

## ***Meet the New Members***

GEORGE AND JUDY MARANGER,  
Racine, Wi. Interest, General

DANIEL AND MARY TANTY, Wau-  
watosa, Wi. Interest, Lincoln



## **Volunteers Encouraged**

Any member who wants to help out at the meetings or at other times is encouraged to contact the Board. Members are needed by the Membership, House, Program and *General Orders* Committees. Just contact any one of the Members of the Board.

### ***In the Event of Inclement Weather...***

Since we live in a part of the Union that has such wonderful weather, the President will decide if there is to be any change in a meeting due to winter storms. Listen to WTMJ or WISN radio for news of meeting cancellations if the weather turns on us.

## ***GO Submissions and Editorial Policy***

All submissions to the *GO* are used on a space-available, date-required basis. Electronic submissions are preferred over paper. The Editor/Publisher reserves the right to edit all submissions for length, propriety, content, and house style.

Submissions with a direct Civil War interest, or those that are date-sensitive, will be published first.

All submissions must be received by the Editor/Publisher at [jdbeatty@amcivwar.com](mailto:jdbeatty@amcivwar.com) no later than the 10th of the month before the next *GO* (for example, submissions for the January *GO* must be received by 10 December). All address changes, or problems receiving the *GO*, are handled through the Membership Chairman, Paul Eilbes.

### **A Gentle Reminder**

The Wisconsin Club and the Board of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee would like to remind our members that jackets are required for the dining room. Please contact club management if you have any questions.