



GENERAL ORDERS

The Newsletter of the
Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.
Our 62nd Year
and The Iron Brigade Association



SEPTEMBER 9, 2010

WAYNE MAHOOD

Major General James S. Wadsworth

At age 29, James S. Wadsworth attended a meeting with former President John Quincy Adams, U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Joseph Story, Harvard President Josiah Quincy III, and Massachusetts Governor Edward Everett at the home of Charles Francis Adams – barely eleven years after Wadsworth had been dismissed from Harvard for improper dress and conduct.

Our September speaker, **Wayne Mahood**, will explore the life and times of this remarkable individual.

Wadsworth, the son of wealthy parents, attended both Harvard and Yale, studied law and was admitted to the bar. He became a philanthropist and entered politics, first as a Democrat, but then as one of the organizers of the Free Soil Party, which joined the Republican Party in 1856. In 1861, he was a member of the Washington peace conference but after war became inevitable, he considered it his duty to volunteer.



Wadsworth was subsequently appointed military governor of Washington. Mahood in his biography of Wadsworth writes, “With his headquarters close to the White House and having become the center of opposition to McClellan, Wadsworth’s voice was increasingly being heard.”

At age 56, on May 8, 1864, then Brigadier General James S. Wadsworth, 4th Division, 5th Army Corps, Army of the Potomac commander (an unpaid volunteer and millionaire), was dead, having rashly tried to stem the attack by Lt. Gen. James Longstreet’s Corps at the Battle of the Wilderness.

Mahood, who taught at SUNY-Geneseo from 1969-1994, grew up in Illinois and received his B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees from Hamilton College, the University of Illinois, and Syracuse University respectively. He taught high school social studies at York Community High School and chaired the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education at SUNY-Geneseo.

Mahood has written or co-authored eight books including five dealing with the Civil War: *The Plymouth Pilgrims* (1989); *Charlie Mosher’s Civil War: From Fair Oaks to Andersonville with the Plymouth Pilgrims* (1994); *“Written in Blood”: A History of the 126th New York Vols* (1997); *The Life and Times of Brevet Major General James S. Wadsworth* (2003); *Alexander “Fighting Elleck” Hays* (2005). Articles about the Civil War have also been published in *Civil War Times*, *Civil War Regiments*, *North & South* and *New York History*.

Wayne and his wife, Bobbi, have two sons, Bruce and David, two daughter-in-laws and four grandsons.

GENERAL ORDERS NO. 10-09
September 2010

IN THIS ISSUE

Announcements.....	2
Looking Back.....	2
Civil War Sesquicentennial.....	3
Klement Lecture News	3
New Books	4
Membership Renewal Form	5
September Meeting Reservation.....	7
This Month in Civil War History	7
Milwaukee CWRT Calendar.....	8

SEPTEMBER MEETING AT A GLANCE

September 9, 2010
Wayne Mahood
“Major General James S. Wadsworth”

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 – \$23 by reservation.
Deadline: Monday, September 6, 2010
See page 5.

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

Membership Renewal Notice

Under normal circumstances, the dues renewal notice would have been mailed to the membership in late July or early August. As, from a personal standpoint, this summer has been anything but normal, the notices are being included with your September *General Orders*. For your convenience, we are including the usual return envelope. As a bonus, The Round Table is pre-posting the envelope, to make this even easier for you. Please fill out the membership renewal, and return the top portion to me prior to September 30, 2010. Doing so makes recordkeeping much easier. If this seems easier for both myself and the membership, we may proceed this way in the future.

Remember that your dues and any contributions made to the Round Table are tax-deductible. I thank you in advance for your renewal!

Paul Eilbes
Treasurer/Membership Chair

IN MEMORIAM



It is with sadness that we report the passing of the father and brother of Board Member Paul Eilbes.

Paul's father, **Alois Eilbes**, 92, passed away on June 24, 2010. Paul's brother, **Allen Eilbes**, 52, after a long and courageous battle with cancer, passed away on July 19, 2010.

And flights of angels sing thee to thy rest.



On September 16, 1954, Robert S. Holzman spoke to the Round Table about "Stormy Ben Butler."

E.C. Kubicek was our speaker on September 21, 1964. The topic that night was "Matthew Brady's Civil War."

The topic of John R. Hubbell's talk on September 10, 1970, was "The Upper Midwest and the Secession Crisis of 1860-61."

G. Craig Caba spoke to our group on September 4, 1980, about "U.S. Military Uniforms Used Early in the War."

"Confederate Tells of Pickett's Charge" was the topic for William A Young, Jr., on September 9, 1993.

On September 12, 2002, Jennifer Cain Bohrnstedt visited our Round Table. She spoke about "Eternal Soldiers: The Role of Civil War Letters in Shaping History."

September 13, 2010

Manitowoc Civil War Round Table, 7 p.m.
Manitowoc Historical Society Heritage Center

September 21, 2010

Prairieville Irregulars, 7 p.m.
Student Center Building, Carroll University
Speakers: Tom & Terry Arliskas

September 25-26, 2010

20th Annual Civil War Weekend
Wade House, Greenbush, WI

September 27, 2010

West Side Soldiers Aid Society, 7 p.m.
Wadsworth Library, VA grounds
Speaker: Lance Herdegen "Old Soldiers and War Talk:
The Campfires of Civil War Veterans"

Kenosha Civil War Museum

THIRD ANNUAL GREAT LAKES CIVIL WAR FORUM

Saturday, September 11, 2010
8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

The Forum's keynote speaker, **James Lighthizer**, President of the Civil War Preservation Trust, will discuss battlefield preservation efforts taking place around Fredericksburg.

The other speakers are:

Robert Girardi, *The Engineers at Fredericksburg*. Girardi will discuss the Federal engineering challenges of the Fredericksburg campaign.

Dan Nettesheim, *Grant's Wilderness Campaign*. Nettesheim will focus on Grant's generalship.

Tom Finley, *From the Jaws of Victory: Stonewall Jackson at Chancellorsville*. Finley will consider Jackson's flank attack on the Union's XI Corps as the culminating event of his career.

\$45 members/\$55 non-members. A catered lunch served at the Kenosha Public Museum and admission to the Fiery Trial Gallery are included in the fee. Contact the museum for more information at (262) 653-4140.

THE ELECTION OF 1860

There's still time to cast your vote!

The election of 1860 was the most polarizing and divisive election in our Country's history as four candidates vied for president. For whom would you have voted? Now is your chance to have your vote count as the Civil War Museum recreates this historic election during its 150th anniversary year.

To cast your vote, visit the Museum, learn about the candidates, study the issues, and fill out a ballot.

Wisconsin Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission Announces Chairman

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum, under the direction of the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) is pleased to announce the formation of the Wisconsin Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission to honor the legacy, service and sacrifice of Wisconsin's citizen-soldiers.

"We look forward to commemorating the Civil War, honoring its veterans and their descendents, and highlighting Wisconsin's role in shaping our nation's history," says WDVA Secretary **Kenneth B. Black**.

From 1861 to 1865, Wisconsin sent over 91,000 men to fight, and suffered over 12,000 casualties. Known for their tenacity, leadership and skill on the battlefield, Wisconsin regiments were some of the most highly decorated and regarded of the war.

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum has long been the state's interpreter of the Civil War. Its award-winning galleries highlight the service and sacrifice of Wisconsin soldiers at Antietam, Gettysburg, and other epic battles, while its diverse educational programs showcase important Civil War topics. WDVA and its Museum are uniquely positioned to play a leading role in the Wisconsin Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission.

The Wisconsin Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission will bring together Wisconsin's museums, libraries, historical societies and veterans' organizations to develop educational programming, encourage exploration of Wisconsin's role in the war, and make resources available to the public.

Lance Herdegen, noted Civil War historian and former Director of the Institute for Civil War Studies at Carroll College in Waukesha, has been appointed as the Commission's Provisional Chairman. A highly regarded Civil War scholar, Herdegen authored the book *Those Damned Black Hats!: The Iron Brigade in the Gettysburg Campaign*. He has worked closely with both the Wisconsin Veterans Museum and the Kenosha Civil War Museum in developing programs and exhibits. Herdegen's strong statewide connections and familiarity with veterans groups make him the ideal candidate for the position.

"I am honored to be selected," Herdegen said, adding, "I look forward to working with the rest of the commission to share the amazing contributions of Wisconsin's soldiers and the families who supported them on the home front."

WDVA anticipates working with other state agencies, including the Department of Tourism, to promote this unique commemoration. Public interest will be high and there are dozens of opportunities for highlighting heritage sites, county historical societies, veterans' organizations, and civic events.

In the coming months, additional positions on the Commission will be filled. The eight-member group will be comprised of volunteers with expertise in the subject and interest in furthering understanding of the war. A website with an event schedule and links to participating institutions will also be developed. The sesquicentennial will be commemorated between 2011 and 2015.

For more information on the Wisconsin Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission, visit the Wisconsin Veterans Museum website at www.WisVetsMuseum.com

Klement Donation Beneficiaries

Notes of thanks and appreciation were received by this past year's Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee Klement Donation recipients.

Matthew Costello was able to attend his first history conference of his graduate career. He presented his paper at the Missouri Valley History Conference in Omaha, Nebraska, on March 5, 2010. Matthew said, "It was an amazing experience to share my research with others and your aid made that possible."

Jeff Ramsey, a first-year Ph.D. student at Marquette, thanked the Round Table for providing the funds to enable him to present his paper at a professional conference this summer. Jeff said, "This is my first professional conference as a historian, and I am excited about the opportunity. Thanks again for making it possible."

Bethany Harding used her funds to travel to the University of North Carolina at Charlotte to present her work on March 27, 2010, at the annual UNCC Graduate History Association Forum. Bethany thanks the Round Table, saying, "I am deeply grateful to everyone involved in making the Klement Award Fund available to the graduate students at Marquette University."

2010 Klement Lecture

The History Department at Marquette University will present the Nineteenth Annual Klement Lecture on Tuesday, October 5, 2010.

Kevin Boyle, the National Book Award-winning historian, will re-examine the controversial executions of two Italian-born anarchists for the murders committed during a 1920 bank robbery in Massachusetts. His lecture – "The Splendid Dead: An American Ordeal: Were Sacco and Vanzetti Terrorists or Martyrs?" – will begin at 7:30 p.m. in Cudahy Hall 001, 1313 W. Wisconsin Avenue. Parking will be available in the Wells Street Parking Structure. For more information contact Dr. Alison Efford: alison.afford@marquette.edu.

18th Annual Conference on Civil War Medicine

For its annual conference on October 1-3, 2010, the **National Museum of Civil War Medicine** has assembled an impressive panel of prominent historians, authors, and medical professionals speaking on topics ranging from personal experiences of Northern and Southern surgeons to the use of anesthesia in battlefield medicine. Conference attendees will have the opportunity to explore Civil War medicine from a number of perspectives including the experiences of African-American medical personnel, the development of advanced artificial limbs, the prominent role that the B & O Railroad played in the large scale movement of troops and evacuation of the wounded, and the ways in which weather, geological conditions, and surface topology affected the outcome of battle.

For more information, contact Karen Thomassen at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine: (301) 695-1864 or Museum@civilwarmed.org.

**APRIL 12, 1862, LETTER FROM THE FOURTEENTH REGIMENT,
PITTSBURG LANDING**

Friend Fitch:

It may have been some time since you heard from the 14th Wisconsin. We were in camp at Savannah, Tenn., eight miles below this place in very nice quarters till Sunday last, April 6th. On that day we could distinctly hear the roar of cannon and supposed there was a fight at Pittsburg. About 3 pm on the same day we were invited, (if ready) to pack up and start, which we did, and arrived here about 11 o'clock pm, marched into the main street and stood there till morning amid a most drenching rain. On arriving at this place we learned that about 4 o'clock am, April 6th, our forces under Gen. Grant and others were completely surprised and driven in every direction and the whole of our forces here would have been killed or taken prisoners had the day been a little longer. The number killed on either side is not known but between four and five thousand of our men were taken prisoners. The battle that day was no doubt a complete success for the rebels. Among the regiments engaged in the fight were the 16th and 18th Wisconsin and they were completely cut to pieces. Not one of the field officers of the 18th are left to command. The whole history of that day's fight would take more time than I have to spare, and its particulars you will soon hear. The next day at daylight we took up our march for four miles, and formed a line of battle. We were on the right of the centre, and our line of battle was about six miles long. The ball commenced on the right and left of our line and the centre remaining quiet for awhile but presently it became too hot to remain silent and the 14th pitched in. Directly in front of the 14th was a rebel battery and the shot and shell flew thick and fast. About this time the rebels were reinforced with 25,000 men and the fight was awful. The 14th did not belong to any division but fought on their own hook. In less than half an hour our regiment charged and took the battery but not being supported had to retreat a short distance and make another charge to retake it and again and to retire but the third charge they took the battery and spiked the guns that kept the ground. It was during this time that our beloved captain George E. Waldo received his death wound. He died in a very few minutes and is buried at Savannah eight miles below here. He fought desperately as well as his men. The fight lasted all day and it is the last we have seen of the rebel army. Quite a number of rebel generals were killed or taken prisoners; among them are Gen. Johnson killed and Gen. Bragg wounded and prisoner. Beauregard and Johnson led this army themselves and were on the battlefield. Gen. Johnson told his men Monday morning that they would water their horses in the Tennessee River by noon but they were greatly disappointed. In the 14th Regiment there were 12 killed and 70 wounded or thereabouts. The whole number killed and wounded on either side is not known but the rebel loss must be great as the woods are completely covered with their dead. It is supposed we had about 125,000 men and Beauregard and Johnson about 100,000 but it is impossible to tell at my present writing. Our boys behaved nobly and fought like tigers and Gen. Grant and others give the 14th Wisconsin a great deal of praise. The wounded being mostly slight will soon recover. I think it very probable that Gen. Grant will have to give up his command for I do not think he can show a clean hand for the result of Sunday. Gen. Halleck arrived here this morning and we expect something will be done. Probably our destination will be to Corinth. I must close for the present.

Yours, W.F. Eldridge

SEPTEMBER RELEASES FROM SAVAS BEATIE

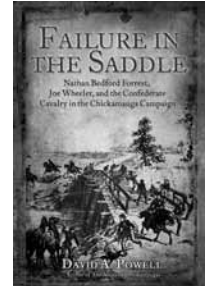
FAILURE IN THE SADDLE

**Nathan Bedford Forrest, Joe Wheeler,
and the Confederate Cavalry
in the Chickamauga Campaign**

David A. Powell

The Confederate Cavalry has a storied and generally favorable relationship with the history of the Civil War. Despite the brutal nature of the larger conflict, tales of the raids and daring exploits all create a whiff of romance that lingers about the horse-soldiers of the Lost Cause. Sometimes, however, romance obscures history.

This book is the first study of its kind to examine the impact of the Confederate Cavalry on the larger Chickamauga Campaign. The result is a richly detailed and elegantly written study full of insightful tactical commentary, new perspectives on the strategic role of the rebel horsemen, and fresh insights on every engagement, large and small, waged during the bloody North Georgia campaign.



THE RASHNESS OF THAT HOUR

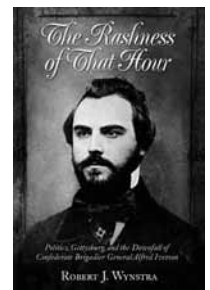
**Politics, Gettysburg, and the Downfall
of Confederate Brigadier General Alfred Iverson**

Robert J. Wynstra

No commander in the Army of Northern Virginia suffered more damage to his reputation at Gettysburg than did Georgia Brig. Gen. Alfred Holt Iverson. In little more than an hour during the early afternoon of July 1, 1863, much of his brigade (the 5th, 12th, 20th, and 23rd North Carolina regiments) was killed, wounded, or captured in front of a stone wall on Oak Ridge. Amidst widespread rumors that he was a drunk, coward, and had slandered his own troops, Iverson was stripped of his command less than a week after the end of the battle.

After months of internal feuding and behind-the-scenes political maneuvering, the survivors of Iverson's ill-fated brigade had no doubt about who to blame for their devastating losses. Almost to a man, they placed the fault directly on the failed leadership displayed by their former commanding general. What remains is the lingering question of how such a disaster could have happened.

Drawing on a wealth of newly discovered and previously unpublished resources, Robert J. Wynstra, in this new book, explores the story behind one of the Civil War's most notorious blunders. An in-depth analysis of the events at Gettysburg is balanced with an insider's examination of a brigade that was in turmoil long before its final rendezvous with July 1 destiny. Wynstra's penetrating analysis paints, for the first time, a complete picture of a flawed general and the bitter internecine feuds that made his downfall nearly inevitable.



THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF MILWAUKEE, INC.

YOUR DUES FOR 2010-2011 ARE NOW DUE

**To keep our roster and mailing lists up-to-date,
payment prior to September 30 would be greatly appreciated.**

The Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee is a Section 501(c)(3) organization. If you itemize, you may deduct as a charitable contribution on your federal and state income tax returns your dues and other contributions in cash and kind (but not the cost of dinners).

Your Name(s) _____

(PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF ADDRESS, IF ANY)

Fill in appropriate amounts:

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP – \$35 \$ _____

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP – \$45 \$ _____

(Two adults & children under 18 living at same address)

NONRESIDENT MEMBERSHIP – \$20 \$ _____

(Individuals living 100 miles or more from Milwaukee)

CONTRIBUTION \$ _____

(To help finance Round Table civic/charitable contributions)

TOTAL REMITTANCE \$ _____

Make checks payable to:
Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee.

Mail to: Paul A. Eilbes
CWRT of Milwaukee, Inc.
1809 Washington Ave.
Cedarburg, WI 53012-9730

PLEASE RETURN TOP PORTION WITH PAYMENT.

Retain this section for your Records.

CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF MILWAUKEE DUES, 2010-2011

\$35 Individual Membership Date Paid _____

\$45 Family Membership Amt. Paid \$ _____

\$20 Nonresident Membership Check No. _____

Contribution for CWRT good deeds \$ _____

The Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee admits members of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all its rights, privileges, programs, and activities.

U.S. Grant Association Coming to Galena

The Ulysses S. Grant Association has been holding annual meetings since it was formed in 1962, but it has never met in Galena, the city Grant considered his hometown.

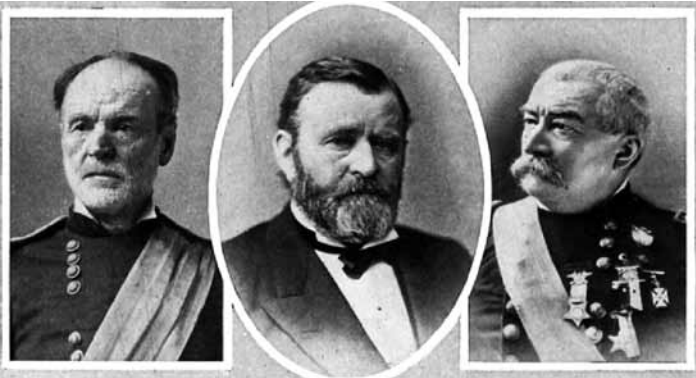
Now the association's board of directors has announced that Galena will host its 2011 annual meeting. In 2009 a contingent from Galena made the trip to St. Louis and lobbied long and hard for hosting a future annual meeting of the association in Galena. After the relocation of the Grant Collection from Southern Illinois University to Mississippi State University, the Association's board of directors determined the 2009 and 2010 meetings should showcase the new location of their collection and headquarters.

The Galena contingent traveled to Mississippi to reconfirm their invitation to host the group and achieved their goal with a unanimous decision by the Association's board to hold its 2011 meeting in Galena.

"The timing is really wonderful," said Nancy Breed, executive director of the Galena-Jo Daviess County Historical Society and Museum. "Hosting the Grant Association will be a great way to kick off Galena's sesquicentennial commemoration of such a pivotal event in our nation's history." About 100 attendees are expected. The DeSoto House Hotel, from which Grant ran his first Presidential campaign, will be the host hotel.

Plans for the 2011 conference are being formulated by a committee headed by the historical society. Some activities will be members-only, many others will be open to the public to enjoy.

To learn more about the Ulysses S. Grant Association, visit <http://library.msstate.edu/USGrant>.



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ IN THIS MONTH • SEPTEMBER ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

September 8, 1861 • President Davis wrote Gen. Joseph E. Johnston at Manassas, "*The cause of the Confederacy is staked upon your army...I have felt, and feel, that time brings many advantages to the enemy, and wish we could strike him in his present condition; but it has seemed to me involved in too much probability of failure to render the movement proper with our present means. Had I the requisite arms, the argument would soon be changed.*"

September 8, 1862 • Lee proclaimed to the people of Maryland, "*The people of the Confederate States have long watched with the deepest sympathy the wrongs and outrages that have been inflicted upon the citizens...We know no enemies among you, and will protect all, of every opinion. It is for you to decide your destiny freely and without constraint. This army will respect your choice, whatever it may be.*"

In Washington President Lincoln asked McClellan at Rockville, Maryland, "*How does it look now?*"

September 8, 1863 • Federal naval vessels bombarded the forts in Charleston Harbor as Admiral Dahlgren's men prepared for a small-boat operation by night against Fort Sumter. The attack comprised more than 30 boats with some 400 sailors and Marines.

The Chickamauga Campaign opened with fighting at Winston's Gap, Alabama, and at Alpine, Georgia.

September 9, 1963 • Outflanked, Gen. Braxton Bragg and the Confederate Army of Tennessee evacuated Chattanooga withdrawing into Georgia. Troops from Rosecrans' Army of the Cumberland immediately occupied the city while others marched ahead seeking to push Bragg farther south. The Federals were in a vulnerable position, spread out over forty miles of mountains south of Chattanooga, and they learned that Bragg was closer than they suspected, in La Fayette, Georgia. However, the Union Army held the rail and river center of Chattanooga.

September 8, 1864 • In Orange, New Jersey, Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan formally accepted the Democratic nomination for President by a letter to the official notification committee. McClellan disavowed the "peace plank" in the Democratic platform. "*The Union is the one condition of peace,*" he said, and emphasized that cessation of hostilities should hinge on the reestablishment of the Union.

Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for Sept. 9, 2010

Mail your reservations by Monday, Sept. 6, 2010, to:
Paul Eilbes
1809 Washington Ave.
Cedarburg, WI 53012-9730

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

Enclosed is \$ _____ (meal price \$23.00 per person) for _____ reservations for September 9, 2010, 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 May 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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Yearly memberships available: Individual (\$35), Family (\$45), and Non-Resident (\$20).

Contact Paul Eilbes for information: (262) 376-0568.

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.

CWRT of Milwaukee, Inc. • 2010 - 2011 Meetings

October 8, 2010

Earl Hess, Ph.D., Petersburg

November 12, 2010

Nevins-Freeman Recipient Robert Girardi, TBA

December 10, 2010

Samuel C. Hyde, Jr., Ph.D., "A Wisconsin Yankee in the Confederate Bayou Country: The Civil War Reminiscences of a Union General"

January 14, 2011

Lawrence L. Hewitt, Ph.D., "Slandered Heroes: Deserters Who Didn't"

February 11, 2011

TBA

March 11, 2010

Susan Boardman, Gettysburg Cyclorama

April 8, 2011

Richard M. McMurry, Ph.D., TBA

May 13, 2011

Tom Schott, Ph.D., Alexander Stephens

June 10, 2011

Peter Carmichael, Ph.D., TBA

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