



# GENERAL ORDERS

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



APRIL 8, 2010

## DAVID O. STEWART

### The Impeachment of Andrew Johnson

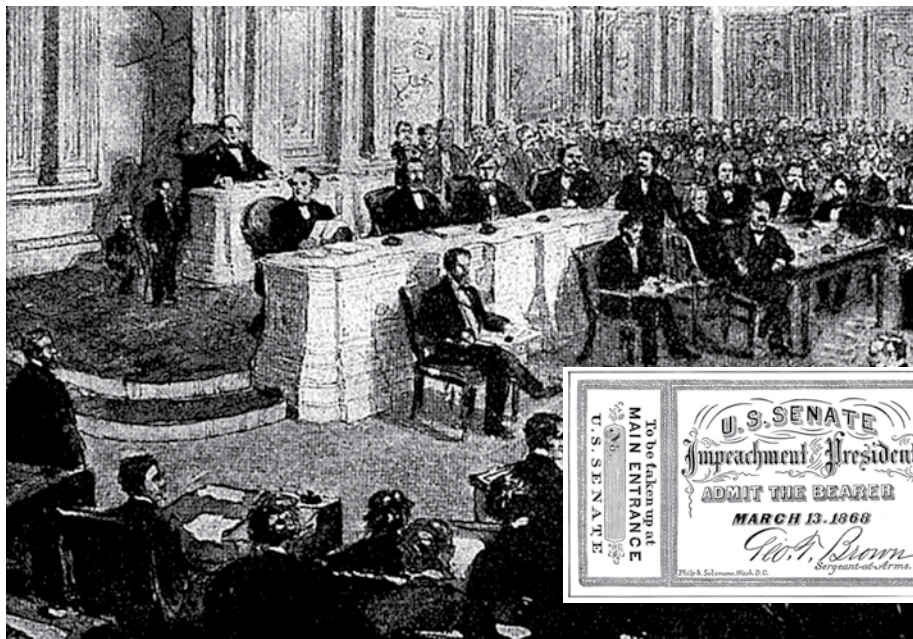
The 1868 Impeachment Trial of Andrew Johnson was a time when the nation's fate hung in the balance. Post-war the country was challenged with binding up the nation's wounds while still protecting the freed slaves from the prejudices of the day.

Was Andrew Johnson up to this challenge? What were the social and political revolutions that rocked the South with the end of slavery and the Civil War? These and other issues will be addressed by our April speaker, David O. Stewart.

Mr. Stewart will examine Johnson's relationship with post-Civil War radical republicans, challenging the traditional version of this moment in history, which portrays Johnson as pursuing Lincoln's legacy by showing leniency to the former rebels. He shows compelling reasons to remove Johnson from office, reveals the corrupt bargains that saved Johnson's job by a single senator's vote and credits Johnson's prosecutors with seeking to remake the nation in accord with the ideals that Lincoln championed and for which the war was fought.

David O. Stewart has been a trial lawyer for over twenty-five years with many of those years spent practicing with of Ropes & Gray, Washington, DC. He is the author of *Impeached: The Trial of President Andrew Johnson and the Fight for Lincoln's Legacy* and *The Summer of 1787: The Men Who Invented the Constitution*. He has been a reporter for the *Staten Island Advance* and, for almost ten years, wrote a monthly column on the Supreme Court for the *American Bar Association Journal*.

Mr. Stewart is married to Nancy Floreen, a council member on the Montgomery County Council, Maryland.



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**April 2010**

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#### APRIL MEETING AT A GLANCE

April 8, 2010



David O. Stewart  
"The Impeachment of Andrew Johnson"

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, April 5, 2010  
See page 5.

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

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

## 2010 Board of Directors Nominees

In accordance with the Articles of Incorporation, the Nominating Committee of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee recommends the following slate of nominees for the upcoming election of members to the Board of Directors:

Donna Agnelly • Tom Arliskas • Crain Bliwas  
Roman Blenski • Paul Eilbes

The slate will be voted on at the election held during the May meeting. Newly elected directors begin their duties upon election and typically serve three-year terms.

## Alonzo Cushing Recommended for Medal of Honor

On July 3, 1863, during Pickett's Charge, Alonzo Cushing died. In all Cushing sustained three separate injuries at Gettysburg, one to the shoulder, one in the abdomen, and the final injury to the head as he defended the artillery guns, refusing to leave at Cemetery Ridge at the height of the assault.

As reported in both the *Lake Country Reporter* and the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, local historian Margaret Zerwekh, now 90, initiated a campaign seven years ago to have Cushing awarded the medal posthumously. Earlier efforts in the 1980s also took place under the auspices of Senator William Proxmire.

Since a recommendation for the Medal of Honor, established in 1862, must normally be made within two to three years of the action and must be awarded within three to five years, it takes an act of Congress to waive the time limits; this waiver was done in Alonzo Cushing's case. Secretary of the Army John M. McHugh has approved the recommendation which now goes to the House and Senate Armed Services Committees and then to the floor where it is expected to be passed by a Special Act of Congress.

Alonzo Cushing was born in Delafield Township in 1841, was raised in Fredonia, New York, and was a graduate of West Point. A monument to Cushing was dedicated in Delafield in 1915.



Alonzo Herford Cushing is second from the right in this November 1862 photograph. Library of Congress, No. 0160.

### April 12, 2010

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

### April 20, 2010

Prairieville Irregulars, 7 p.m.  
Student Center Building, Carroll University  
Patrick Lynch: Cornelius Wheeler

## CIVIL WAR NEWS

The **National Museum of Health and Medicine**, on the campus of Walter Reed Army Medical Center, is currently running an exhibit called, "Abraham Lincoln: the Final Casualty of the War."

It is here that you will find a once-round form, now oblong with misshapen edges and about the size of a thumbnail. It is the bullet that killed the 16th President. Even now, this small item holds both power and mystery.

Edward Curtis, one of the two surgeons conducting the autopsy on the late president, later wrote in a letter to his mother:

*There it lay upon the white china, a little black mass no bigger than the end of my finger — dull, motionless and harmless, yet the cause of such mighty changes in the world's history as we may perhaps never realize.*

The exhibit is running indefinitely and was originally part of the Lincoln Bicentennial.

**U.S. Representative Norm Dicks** has received a Lifetime Achievement in Historic Preservation Award from the Civil War Preservation Trust.

Dicks (D-Washington) has a strong record working on behalf of public lands, including support for Civil War battlefield preservation. Since he became chair of the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee during the 110th Congress, he has become a strong advocate for the Civil War Battlefield Preservation Program, the primary federal program for protecting battlefield land in the United States. Dick said, "I believe it's important for all Americans to appreciate the historical locations where the bloody battles of the Civil War took place because of how these events shaped the course of our nation's history."

The Civil War Preservation Trust also recognized three top preservation advocates with the organization's Chairman's Awards for Achievement in Historic Preservation.

**The Friends of Wilderness Battlefield** was recognized as one of the most outstanding local groups supporting battlefield preservation in the country. **Robert Rinehart** received the award for Achievement in Education. Rinehart is a middle school educator in Maryland. Recently, his students achieved a significant landmark, raising a cumulative total of more than \$15,000 for battlefield preservation efforts. **Mark and Karen Perreault** of Norfolk, Virginia, received the award for Achievement in Philanthropy. Long-term supporters of CWPT, the couple is also active in a variety of historic preservation initiatives. Further, Mark Perreault has utilized his employer's charitable gift matching program. Most recently, the couple's generous gift enabled the CWPT to move forward quickly on an acquisition effort at Appomattox Station.

## Kenosha Civil War Museum Events

Two April lectures are being sponsored by the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee and the Iron Brigade Association.

### Baseball in the Civil War

Saturday, April 17, 2010, 1 p.m.

Marty Cain, Lake County Civil War Round Table

Did General Abner Doubleday invent the game of baseball? What were the rules of the game prior and during the Civil War? Soldiers from both sides played baseball, not just to relieve boredom at camp, but also to pass the time in prison camps.

### A Discussion with President Lincoln and Judge Douglas

Saturday, April 24, 2010, 1 p.m.

George Buss and Tim Conners

Veteran Lincoln and Douglas interpreters Timothy Conners and George Buss will recreate a portion of the famous 1858 Lincoln-Douglas debates and discuss the 1860 Presidential election during their presentation.

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## Other Upcoming Museum Events

### Divided By Conflict, United by Compassion

Dr. Gordon Dammann

April 7, 2010, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Kenosha Public Museum

Dr. Dammann presents a one-session class on the medical care that sick and wounded soldiers received during the Civil War.

\$10 members/\$15 non-members

### Forgotten Warriors:

#### The Forgotten Role of Native Americans in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan Regiments

Lance Herdegen

April 21, 2010, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Kenosha Public Museum

The service of Native Americans who fought with the regiments from the Upper Middle West is all but lost to history. Lance Herdegen will take a look at the evidence and uncover the stories such as a company of Ojibwas from Minnesota and Moses Ladd, an Oneida who served as a scout for Sherman. \$10 members/\$15 non-members.

Contact the museum for additional details: 262-653-4140.



Jere McGaffey  
Keith and Marcia Whittington  
Heidi DeForest  
Thomas Eddington

## Mark Your Calendar

On August 3, 2010, the Kenosha Civil War Museum is bringing in **Ed Bearss** to present a program and lecture. More details to follow.

### 3rd 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** speaking on *The Engineers at Fredericksburg*. Girardi will discuss the Federal engineering challenges of the Fredericksburg campaign

**Dan Netteshiem** speaking on *Grant's Wilderness Campaign*, focusing on Grant's generalship

**Tom Finley** speaking on *From the Jaws of Victory: Stonewall Jackson at Chancellorsville*. He 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.

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## Kenosha Museum Bus Trip

### In the Footsteps of Wartime Milwaukee:

#### Milwaukee Soldiers Home and Forest Home Cemetery

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

Cost \$60 , \$55 for Friends of the Museum

Join Doug Dammann, curator of The Civil War Museum, and Lance Herdegen, author and history professor at Carroll University, on a bus trip to two of Milwaukee's ongoing links to the Civil War: the Milwaukee Soldiers' Home and Forest Home Cemetery. The day begins with a guided tour of the National Soldiers' Home Historic District. After a German themed lunch at historic Mader's Restaurant in downtown Milwaukee, the trip will continue with a guided tour of the 200 acre Forest Home Cemetery. After the tour of Forest Home, the bus will return to the Kenosha Public Museum at approximately 5:00 PM.

Information and reservations: 262-653-4140



Northwestern Branch, National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, Milwaukee, view from the west



## On the Web

The Gettysburg Convention & Visitors Bureau has launched a website to share travel and event information with the millions of visitors expected during the Civil War's four-year commemoration. Visitors will be able to find listings of all events and information associated with the 150th anniversary, from 2011 to 2015.

The new website is a companion of the Gettysburg Convention & Visitors current website — [www.gettysburg.travel](http://www.gettysburg.travel) — where you can find information on accommodations, places to eat, entertainment, shopping and other events in Gettysburg and Adams County.

Although the official 150th anniversary for the Battle of Gettysburg will occur July 1-3, 2013, the commemoration in Gettysburg will run the duration of the four-year war, from 2011 to 2015. Visitation is expected to spike from an annual 3 million visitors to 4 million.

The new website is [www.gettysburgcivilwar150.com](http://www.gettysburgcivilwar150.com).



In April 1947, Otto Eisenschiml talked to our group about "Tramping Over Civil War Battlefields."

William Lamers was the speaker in April 1952. The topic that night was the "Battle of Murfreesboro."

Robert W. Waitt, Sr., talked to the membership about "The Kinsey Report on the Civil War" in April 1963.

In April 1971, Philip D. Jordan spoke on "A Hot Time in the Old Town Tonight: Boys and Gals in Wartime Washington."

Michael B. Chesson was the speaker in April 1987. He spoke about the Richmond, Virginia, Bread Riots, April 2, 1863.

Ted Alexander visited the Round Table in April 2000 and spoke about "The Confederate High Tide, The Fall of 1862."

**April 12, 1861** • War begins. At Cummings Point, Roger Pryor, a Virginian, was offered the honor of firing the first shot on Fort Sumter but he declined. Another Virginian, 67-year old avid secessionist, Edmund Ruffin, accepted the honor and at 4:30 a.m. pulled the lanyard and fired upon Fort Sumter.

**April 6-7, 1862** • At Shiloh, Pvt. Henry M. Stanley, 16th Arkansas Infantry, Hindman's Brigade wrote:

*As we tramped solemnly and silently through the thin forest, and over its grass, still in its withered and wintry hue, I noticed that the sun was not far from appearing, that our regiment was keeping its formation admirably, that the woods would have been a grand place for a picnic; and I thought it strange that a Sunday should have been chosen to disturb the holy calm of those woods... "There they are!" was no sooner uttered, than we cracked into them with leveled muskets... We heard the order to "Lie down, men, and continue your firing!" Before me was a prostrate tree, about fifteen inches in diameter, with a narrow strip of light between it and the ground. Behind this shelter a dozen of us flung ourselves... I marveled, as I heard the unintermitting patter, snip, thud, and hum of the bullets, how anyone could live under this raining death. I could hear the balls beating a merciless tattoo on the outer surface of the log, pinging vivaciously as they flew off at a tangent from it, and thudding into something or other, at the rate of a hundred a second.*

Pvt. Stanley's regiment was among the first Confederate units to be engaged.

Stanley later gained fame as a journalist and African explorer. The illegitimate son of a Welsh farmer and a butcher's daughter, he had immigrated to the U.S. 3 years before the outbreak of the war.

**April 7, 1864** • General James Longstreet, who had wintered in Greeneville, Tennessee, was ordered back to the Army of Northern Virginia.

Pvt. Jackman of "The Orphan Brigade," wrote from Dalton, Georgia:

*Our corps had another battle today. Cleburne and Bate against Cheatham and Walker; this time using blank cartridges. Many people were on the ground to witness the occasion. Ladies from nearly every city in the south, or in Georgia rather, were present.*

## Reclaiming Our Heritage 2010

Now in its 9th year, this annual event on the grounds of the Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center will take place on June 5-6, 2010. This year's offerings include a Saturday afternoon concert by the First Brigade Band and a twilight concert of hymns. The multi-era encampment, which includes a sizeable Civil War encampment and an expanded Vietnam encampment, spans 1600 to the present day. Popular features include: Saturday's Positively Patriotic Parade, Cemetery-by-Lantern Tours, historic exhibits and tours of buildings in the National Soldiers Home Historic District. The two-day event is free and open to the public. Donations are requested for ticketed tours. For more information, visit [www.forohmilwaukee.org](http://www.forohmilwaukee.org) or call 888-902-1865.

## Second Bull Run August 29 & 30, 1862

On the 29th, the brigade was present on the battlefield of Bull Run, as support to a battery. The Second and Seventh Regiments were consolidated, temporarily, the Second into four, and the Seventh into six companies, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Fairchild. The brigade took part in the battle of August 30th, and on the retreat of the army, was directed, by General Kearny, to act as rear guard, which they did, the whole army passing by them, and the Iron Brigade covered the retreat, the Second being the last to cross the Stone Bridge. Retiring with the rest of the Army, the brigade went into camp at Upton's Hill, near Washington, on the 2nd of September.

*Military History of Wisconsin*, E.B. Quiner, 1866.

*We then fell back across a valley and up on a hill behind passing, as we did so, a great pile of knapsacks and other equipment, lying in a piece of timber where they had probably been left when their owners had gone into action. As the troops moved back I caught sight of General Hooker on a spur just behind our former position, looking on at the battle. I rode up to him to make some explanation regarding my hesitancy in obeying the order he had sent me but he interrupted me saying, "That is all right," and added some complimentary remark about the way which we had held our position, which at once excited my pride and attracted me to him. I then left him and climbing the opposite slope, encountered General McDowell. He met me with unusual cordiality and shaking hands said he was glad to see me, as General Porter had told him I was killed. I spoke with enthusiasm of the way in which my brigade, just then passing, had behaved, and shall not soon forget his reply. "If you have such troops as that," he said, "you shall act as rear guard and be the last, except myself, to pass Bull Run!" I must admit that up to this time I had not got it through my head, that there was such a thing as a retreat or that we were to have a rear guard.*

*My brigade was now placed in position on the ridge alongside the Pike where it climbed the hill near the Robinson House, the pieces of Battery "B" being unlimbered, were prepared for action. The sun was now just disappearing and the atmosphere so thick with*

*smoke the eye could not reach to any great distance. We could not see any of the enemy's movements but the sound of cannon was still heard both to our right and our left.*

*Whilst waiting in position I heard someone inquire in a short quick tone: "Whose command is this?" and turning to look I recognized General Phil Kearny. I walked up to him and told him I was directed to act as rear guard. He was a soldierly looking figure as he sat, straight as an arrow, on his horse, his empty sleeve pinned to his breast.*

*Turning toward me, he said in his curt voice: "You must wait for Reno, too," "Where is he?" On the left you hear his guns? He is keeping up the fight and I am doing all I can to help." Then in a short bitter tone he broke out with: "I suppose you appreciate the condition of affairs here, sir?" I did not understand the remark and only looked inquiringly at him. He repeated: "I suppose you appreciate the condition of affairs? It's another Bull Run, sir, it's another Bull Run!"*

*"Oh!" I said, "I hope not quite as bad as that, General." "Perhaps not. Reno is keeping up the fight. He is not stampeded. I am not stampeded, you are not stampeded. That is about all, sir, my God that's about all!"*

*It is impossible to describe the extreme bitterness and vehemence with which he uttered these words as he rode away towards his command. Two days afterwards, September 1st, General Kearny was killed at Chantilly. I have seen one of the last letters he ever wrote, dated the 31st, in which he there alludes to the Battle of Bull Run. — "The army ran like sheep, all but a General Reno and a General Gibbon," and in a letter dated the next day (since published) he says, "On the 30th, nine-tenths of the troops disgracefully fled. I held the entire right until 10 p.m., as Reno did the left, and Gibbon the main road."*

John Gibbon

Submitted by: Jim Johnson, [www.secondwi.org](http://www.secondwi.org)

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## Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for April 8, 2010

Mail your reservations by Monday, April 5, 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 April 8, 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.

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## CWRT of Milwaukee, Inc. • 2010 Meetings

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### May 13, 2010

William W. Freehling, Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, "The Strange, Difficult Triumph of Southern Secession."

Civil War military or civilian dress is welcome at the May meeting.

### June 17, 2010

Robert Girardi, TBA

Originally scheduled for January 2010, the snowed-out meeting.

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

