



GENERAL ORDERS

The Newsletter of the
Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.

Our 61st Year

and The Iron Brigade Association



MARCH 12, 2009

DR. JOHN A. LATSCHAR

Reinterpreting Gettysburg: Lessons from the Civil War



In March the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee will be visited by Dr. John A. Latschar, Superintendent of Gettysburg National Military Park. Dr. Latschar's presentation will focus on connecting the Gettysburg of the past with the present.

John Hope Franklin once described the art of history as "connecting the dots. The more dots that are connected," he explained, "the better the history." For the past decade, that's been the mission at Gettysburg National Military Park — connecting more of those dots.

But John Hope Franklin was also speaking of another kind of connection — the art of connecting visitors of today with the bygone past, with which they have little under-

standing or familiarity. To be truly effective, historians need to find points of connection between the present and the past. Without those connections, history truly does become irrelevant. If we can find parallels between the feelings and experiences which are familiar to the present — the hopes, dreams and fears of today — and if we can show how the same hopes, dreams and fears influenced the past, then we can establish a feeling of familiarity, of recognition, of understanding — that those distant folks of the past are just like us — trying their best to cope with the complexities of their world.

Dr. Latschar, in his presentation, will be telling a double-sided story. First, how they are striving at Gettysburg National Military Park to connect the historical dots, so that they may tell their visitors a more complete, a more balanced, a more nuanced story of how this nation descended into and emerged from the hell of the Civil War. And second, how they are striving to connect their visitors of today to those events from the past — so they can better understand how those events influenced the development of our nation and so that a better understanding of the decisions made in the past may help us make better decisions today and in the future.

Dr. Latschar has been the Superintendent of Gettysburg National Military Park since 1994. He is responsible for the long-term strategic planning as well as day-to-day operations for the battlefield and the Eisenhower National Historic Site. His responsibilities include coordination with local organizations and officials, state agencies and members of Congress. He maintains close working relationships with organizations that contribute to and support the National Park Service's efforts at Gettysburg.

Dr. Latschar is a 30-year veteran of the National Park Service and has been recognized by the NPS for his leadership numerous times. He earned his B.A. and M.A. in history from Kansas State University. He was awarded a Ph.D. in American History from Rutgers University in 1978. He is a combat veteran of the Vietnam War, serving in action there in the U.S. Army during 1970-1971. He retired from the U.S. Army Reserve as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1994.

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MARCH MEETING AT A GLANCE

March 12, 2009
 "Reinterpreting Gettysburg:
 Lessons from the Civil War"
 by Dr. John A. Latschar
 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, March 9, 2009
 See page 5.
 Speaker and topic are subject to change.
 In case of inclement weather, listen to
 WTMJ or WISN radio.

www.civilwarwi.org

2009 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.

Five members of the Board are seeking reelection:

Ellen Kelling Vukovic	Elaine Ottmann
Jud Wyatt	Frank Risler
Jim Johnson	

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

Donations for Camp Randall Guns

The Awards and Donations Committee is asking members to consider making their Civil War related donations to the Camp Randall Guns Fund. "The project is local, the effects are real, and we're grabbing a piece of history," John Beatty has said. "One of these guns was captured at Shiloh. Can't get much more authentic than that."

Sadly neglected over the years, the old artillery pieces are literally disintegrating in place. The first of the restored cannon was unveiled at a ceremony at Camp Randall on October 4, 2008. Think of the Camp Randall guns next time you want to give of your hard-earned money. John Beatty, Awards and Donations Committee chair, at jdbeatty@amcivwar.com

Iron Brigade Flag Fund

Donations to the Iron Brigade Flag Fund continue to be accepted.

Quartermaster's Regalia

Show your pride and identity in being a supporter of the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table or present a thoughtful gift for a special occasion. All items are made of first rate quality materials, modestly embroidered with the Round Table, Iron Brigade logo, along with your name or initials.

Mail: Roman Blenski, Quartermaster
4601 W. Holt Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53219
Call: 414-327-2847
Fax: 414-543-8289
Email: dbcpmilw@execpc.com
In Person: Monthly Meeting at Book Raffle

ITEM	COST
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

March Meeting...continued from page 1

Under Dr. Latschar's stewardship, the battlefield rehabilitation project returned the Gettysburg landscape as close as possible to its 1863 appearance. A new Museum and Visitor Center, funded through donations coordinated by the Gettysburg Foundation, opened in Spring 2008 and a renovated Gettysburg Cyclorama, opened to the public in September 2008.

Latschar Stays on as Superintendent

Gettysburg Superintendent, Dr. John A. Latschar will remain in his current post, reversing his decision to retire and become president of the Gettysburg Foundation. Latschar made the decision following advice by Department of the Interior ethics officials that the move would severely curtailed his ability to work with the park in his new position.

"When initially approached to consider heading the Gettysburg Foundation, Superintendent John Latschar did what any responsible federal employee should do," said National Park Service Northeast Regional Director Dennis R. Reidenbach. "He contacted National Park Service ethics officials, and he also contacted me as his supervisor."

When initially informed by the Washington office in October 2008 that there was no ethical issue in accepting the position, Latschar announced his retirement. Subsequently, Department of Interior ethics officials issued supplemental guidance because of Latschar's involvement in developing agreements between the Foundation and the NPS.

Current Foundation president, Robert C. Wilburn, will postpone his departure from the Foundation until a successor is found and named by the search committee.

"I had been looking forward to the challenges of moving to the private sector and working for the Gettysburg Foundation," said Latschar. "However, I can't complain about going back to the best job in the National Park Service as Superintendent of Gettysburg NMP and Eisenhower NHS. We'll now redouble our efforts to make our wonderful partnership with the Gettysburg Foundation the best that the National Park Service has ever seen."

Source: Gettysburg National Military Park.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS • EVENTS • MEETINGS

March 9, 2009

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

March 17, 2009

Prairieville Irregulars, 7 p.m.
Student Center Building, Carroll University
Speakers: Susan Kapanke and David Johnson

March 23, 2009

West Side Soldiers Aid Society Annual Meeting, 7 p.m.
Matusek Auditorium, Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center
Free Event and Open to the Public
Speaker: Dr. Beverly Gordon, "The Phenomenon of Civil War Fundraising Fairs"

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ IN THIS MONTH • MARCH ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

On March 4, 1861, Abraham Lincoln was inaugurated as the sixteenth President of the United States. Lincoln was ushered into office facing the crisis of a split nation. In his inaugural speech Lincoln argued that the Union could not be dissolved and that any secession resolves and ordinances were void – that acts of violence against the authority of the United States were “insurrectionary or revolutionary.” Lincoln noted that there need not be bloodshed or violence and that there would not be any “unless it is forced upon the national authority.”

In your hands, my dissatisfied fellow countrymen, and not in mine, is the momentous issue of civil war. The government will not assail you. You can have no conflict, without being yourselves the aggressors. You have no oath registered in Heaven to destroy the government, while I have the most solemn one to preserve, protect and defend it.

On March 4, 1865, Abraham Lincoln concluded his second inaugural address with words of hope and inspiration:

With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan — to do all which may achieve and cherish a just, and a lasting peace, among ourselves, and with all nations.



In March 1948, Frank Welcher spoke to our group on the Atlanta Campaign.

March 1957's featured speaker was Allen Oakey. The topic that evening was "The Battle of the Crater."

George R. Currie spoke to the Roundtable in March 1968 about the Dred Scott Decision.

In March 1973 "Lee vs. Longstreet at Gettysburg" was the topic presented by Marshall Krolick.

In March 1988, Mark E. Neely Jr. spoke on "The Confederate Image."

On The Web

Book TV on C-Span2 is currently offering 14 different video presentations on Abraham Lincoln. The presentations range from author talks, to panel discussions, to an in-depth three hour discussion on Lincoln. To view these free presentations, or just to see what is currently being offered on Book TV, please visit: www.booktv.org.

For a look at what the State of Wisconsin is doing during the Lincoln Bicentennial visit the Wisconsin Bicentennial Commission website at: www.lincoln200.wisconsin.gov. A complete listing of events is available at the site along with Lincoln news, history, Lincoln literature and featured reading.

Klement Lecture

Patricia Limerick will deliver the 17th annual Frank L. Klement Lecture at Marquette University on March 24, 2009, at 7:30 p.m. Her lecture is entitled: "The Ownership of the Public Lands. The Romance of Local Control meets the Romance of Expertise."

The lecture will take place in Emory Clark Hall 120, at 510 N. 16th St. Parking is available at: Parking Structure 1, 16th and W. Wells and Parking Structure 2, 1215 W. Wells.

Dr. Limerick is Professor of History and Director of the Center of the American West at the University of Colorado. She is the author of several books, including *Desert Passages: Encounters with the American Deserts* (1985); *The Legacy of Conquest: The Unbroken Past of the American West* (1987), an overview and reinterpretation of Western American history that has stirred up a great deal of both academic and public debate; and *Something in the Soil: Legacies and Reckonings in the New West*. Limerick has become a well-known public intellectual as the author of op-ed columns for the New York Times and other publications and as a frequent guest and expert commentator on NPR and for documentaries on the American West.

Later this year the Klement Lecture will feature Allen Guelzo, two-time winner of the Lincoln Prize. The lecture on October 1, 2009, is sanctioned by the Wisconsin Lincoln Bicentennial Commission and is open to the public. The following day, October 2, 2009, Marquette University Law School will sponsor a one-day conference examining Lincoln and the Constitution, Lincoln and Politics, and Lincoln the Lawyer. Among the panelists participating in the conference are Michael Les Benedict, Heather Cox Richardson and Mark Steiner. For information: <http://lincoln200.wisconsin.gov/>

Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for March 12, 2009

Mail your reservations by Monday, March 9 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 the March 12 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. • 2009 Meetings

March 12, 2009

John Latschar:
Reinterpreting Gettysburg

April 16, 2009

Steven Wise:
TBA

May 7, 2009

James Ogden:
Chickamauga
Period attire welcome

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



Bernard Van Dinter
Greendale, WI