

# GENERAL ORDERS



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



General Orders No. 04-12

December, 2004

The **December 9th, 2004** meeting is to be held at **CARROLL COLLEGE**, Waukesha

**Speaker:** Dr. David Zarefsky on Lincoln, Douglas and Slavery

### *Lincoln, Douglas, and Slavery: In the Crucible of Public Debate*

The debates between Stephen A. Douglas and Abraham Lincoln were held during the 1858 campaign for a U.S. Senate seat representing Illinois. The debates were held at 7 sites throughout Illinois, one in each of the 7 Congressional Districts.

Douglas, a Democrat, was the incumbent Senator, having been named in 1847. He chaired the Senate Committee on Territories, and helped enact the Compromise of 1850. Douglas was a proponent of Popular Sovereignty, and was responsible for the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854. The legislation led to the violence in Kansas, hence the name "Bleeding Kansas."

In the 1858 Illinois campaign Douglas, called the "Little Giant," by admirers, was pitted against a little-known Lincoln. The contest was made memorable by the debates, which gained Lincoln a national reputation.

Of the seven debates the second, held at Freeport on August 27, had the most important consequences. There Lincoln shrewdly put to Douglas a question exposing the inconsistency between Douglas's doctrine of popular sovereignty and the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in the Dred Scott Case— "Can the people of a United States Territory, in any lawful way...

exclude slavery from its limits prior to the formation of a State constitution?" Had Douglas answered no, in line with the Dred Scott decision, he would have offended many of his constituents and doubtless lost his seat in the Senate. As it was, he replied that people of a territory could exclude slavery, since that institution could not exist for a day without local police regulations and these could be legislated only with the people's approval.

The Republicans won a popular majority in the ensuing election, but the Democrats controlled the legislature (which at that time chose U.S. Senators), and Douglas was returned to the Senate. However, his Freeport doctrine, as his answer to Lincoln's question was styled, made him anathema to Southern Democrats. Since they controlled the Senate, he was relieved of the chairmanship of the Committee on Territories.

The Lincoln-Douglas debates drew the attention of the entire nation. Although Lincoln would lose the Senate race in 1858, he would beat Douglas out in the 1860 race for the Presidency.

Excerpted from <http://www.illinoiscivilwar.org/debates.html> and [http://www.encyclopedia.com/html/section/douglisa\\_theincoln-douglasdebates.asp](http://www.encyclopedia.com/html/section/douglisa_theincoln-douglasdebates.asp).

#### *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

*Times subject to local conditions*

## *Light Bulbs and the Civil War*

Well, not really, but those who indulge in news-groups on the Internet might appreciate this.

Question: How many list members does it takes to change a light bulb?

- 1 to change the light bulb and to post that the light bulb has been changed.
- One will note that it was CSA Col. Erasmus D. Pettibone who changed the first light bulb in 1883 in Foithboinder, AR, followed by:
- 6 really insightful messages under the topic of "light bulbs" on the performance of Col. Pettibone that analyzes his tactical brilliance at the little-known "Battle of Foithboinder Hill."
- 7 others will do an equally great job of defending/attacking his performance at Foithboinder Hill.
- And in a year and a half when someone reviews the messages for a paper, they will search forever under "Pettibone" or "Foithboinder Hill" and never think to look under "light bulbs."

## **Perryville: Worthy of Attention**

It was 142 years ago this autumn that General Braxton Bragg led a Confederate army 30,000 strong north from Chattanooga into Kentucky, hoping that a

smashing victory would swing the uncommitted border state into the Confederacy.

Near tiny Perryville, in central Kentucky, Union forces halted Bragg's advance in one of the Civil War's most important and confusing battles. Casualties totaled nearly 8,000, yet more than half of the opposing forces were never engaged because a freak combination of wind and topography (known as acoustic shadow) prevented the Union right wing from hearing the sounds of battle only two miles away.

Today, the Perryville battlefield ranks as one of the nation's top 11 in terms of historic significance and need for preservation. Through the use of federal and other funds, the nonprofit Perryville Battlefield Preservation Association has increased the area of protected battlefield land from 98 to nearly 600 acres.

Additionally, the association has acquired both battlefield buildings, such as the Dye House, which was the headquarters of Confederate General Simon Bolivar Buckner, and nine Civil War era buildings of the town of Perryville's Merchants' Row. The latter are in various stages of development as museums, an orientation center, etc.

Increasingly, the Perryville battlefield and community area are becoming worthy of attention by individuals and groups planning Civil War tours.

### **Board of Directors, Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc., as of May, 2004**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Office/Title</b>	<b>Contact</b>	<b>Term Expires</b>
Dale Brassler	President	(920) 682-5478	2006
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## *Shiloh — Powell's Patrol III*

It was still dark on 6 April when Powell's patrol encountered a picket from one of Sherman's regiments somewhere near the Pittsburgh-Corinth Road. As the patrol moved just beyond it they received fire from some Confederate videttes on horseback, who quickly moved off again.

Powell formed his patrol into a skirmish line and moved south into Fraley Field, which at the time was forty acres of cotton bisected by the west branch of the Shiloh Creek. At about 5 AM the Confederate outpost line fired a volley at Powell's men and withdrew. Powell's men kept moving south until they were within about 200 yards of the Confederate skirmishers of Aaron Hardcastle's Mississippians from S.A.M. Wood's brigade of Hardee's division, where they began a blind exchange of musketry that lasted until just about dawn.

As the sun rose Powell spotted some cavalry working its way around his left flank (they turned out to be mounted scouts looking for an artillery route), but sensing he was in too deep already he had the bugler sound retreat. Casualties of this exchange are hard to pinpoint, but Hardcastle later reported about four dead and some twenty wounded. Powell's have yet to be satisfactorily tabulated.

During the fighting Powell sent back word to his brigade commander Peabody that he was engaging an enemy force and was falling back in good order but

was in need of support. Peabody could hear the firing, but thought it was only a skirmish action. Even division commander Prentiss was roused by the shooting and rode to Peabody's camp.

Prentiss dispatched David Moore and five companies of Missourians to Powell's support, and then ordered the brigade pickets into camp. The long roll was sounding in Prentiss' camps before dawn.

At about 6:30, Powell encountered Moore's advance. Livid at Powell's withdrawal from what Moore still thought to be nothing but skirmishers, Powell was relieved and his troops marched south once again. At about 7:00, Moore was ordering a charge across the Seay Cotton Field against an enemy he could not see, but a few minutes later Moore was down with a shattered leg. Powell took command again and ordered his men back towards the division camps.

By the time they arrived Peabody's entire brigade was formed up and Prentiss was forming his division, having sent word to the other division commanders that he seemed to be engaging the enemy in some force. The battle had finally begun.

Everett Peabody, true to his premonition, was killed before 8:00 that morning, trying to rally his shaky troops. James Powell was killed at about 11:00 somewhere near the Sunken Road. But they had alerted Grant's army to the threat, so their sacrifice was not in vain.

### 2005 Schedule

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

- Jan. 13: Terry Winschel: *Steven D. Lee and the Making of an American Shrine.*

- Feb. 10: Rev. Bob Miller: *Religion during the Civil War.*
- Mar 10: Bruce Allardice: *Topic to be announced*
- Apr 7: Kent Gramm: *Topic to be announced*
- May 12: Dan Nettlesheim: *Topic to be announced*
- June: Nat Hughes: *Topic to be announced.*

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### Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for: December 9th, 2004

*Mail your reservations by December 3rd 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: \_\_\_\_\_

### ***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 weather. Listen to WTMJ or WISN radio for news of meeting cancellations if the weather turns on us.

*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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### ***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 Club's dining room. Please contact club management if you have any questions.

### ***General Orders 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.