



# GENERAL ORDERS

The Newsletter of the  
**Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.**  
**Our 60th Year**  
and The Iron Brigade Association



NOVEMBER 8, 2007

## John Y. Simon Could the South Have Won the War?

In November the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table is pleased to once again welcome John Y. Simon. Mr. Simon will be speaking on "Could the South Have Won the Civil War?" with emphasis on his view that, as the nation headed for conflict, the advantages lay with the South and ultimate Confederate independence. At the same time, a series of decisions influenced the outcome, beginning with Jefferson Davis's choice of firing on Fort Sumter, moving to the violation of Kentucky neutrality, and to the persistent tension between the differing strategies of Davis and Robert E. Lee.

Mr. Simon will also look at the conventionality of much Confederate thinking about military operations and ambivalent Southern thinking about the role of the slave population.

Mr. Simon received a B.A. at Swarthmore College in 1955, an M.A. from Harvard University in 1956, and a Ph.D. in history from Harvard University in 1961. He taught at Ohio State University from 1960 to 1964 and became the Executive Director and Managing Editor for the Ulysses S. Grant Association in 1962. The Grant project began at the Ohio Historical Society and moved to Southern Illinois University-Carbondale in 1964. To date, twenty-eight volumes of *The Papers of Ulysses S. Grant* have been published.

Mr. Simon is the founder of the Association for Documentary Editing and a spokesman for the craft. Among his numerous awards is the Lincoln Prize from Gettysburg College in 2004. Mr. Simon delivered the 1996 Klement Lecture, speaking on *Grant and Halleck: Contrasts in Command*. He was the featured speaker at our Round Table in 1964, 1980, and 1997.



In 1963 Shelby Foote spoke of "Grant's Seven Failures Above Vicksburg."

In 1985 Donald Pfanz spoke on "The 11th Corps at Chancellorsville."

Alan Nolan visited us in 1991 sharing from his "Lee Considered."

Longtime Marquette history professor and Round Table member, Frank Klement, spoke to us in both 1957 and again in 1984—27 years later! Klement probably addressed our Round Table more often than any other speaker.

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#### NOVEMBER MEETING AT A GLANCE

November 8, 2007

"Could the South Have Won the War?"  
by John Y. Simon

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: November 2

See page 5.

**www.civilwarwi.org**

## Organizational Updates

At the September 13, 2007, Executive Committee Meeting it was recommended and voted on that the Iron Brigade Association Award for Civil War Scholarship be presented to John Y. Simon.

At the same meeting, First Vice President Mike Benton proposed that a fund be established to purchase a reproduction of the Iron Brigade Flag and Guidon. Mike Benton and Bill Upham, Jr., pledged \$100 each towards this goal. Ellen Kelling Vukovic, Crain Bliwas and Paul Eilbes pledged their support and their own \$100 contributions during the meeting. Round Table member Gregory Black has also contributed a \$100 pledge. The flag would be on display at our meetings. Members are encouraged to contribute to the cause and can submit their contributions to Paul Eilbes earmarked for "flag fund."

## 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. Think of the Camp Randall guns next time you want to give of your hard-earned money. To make a donation, contact John Beatty, Awards and Donations Committee chair, at [jdbeatty@amcivwar.com](mailto:jdbeatty@amcivwar.com).

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### MEET THE OFFICERS

## 1st Vice President Michael K. Benton

Mike Benton is the newly elected First Vice President of the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table. Mike joined the Round Table in late 1996 upon his retirement from the Reserves. He heard about the organization from other officers in the 84th Division (TNG). He enrolled at Carroll College and earned a Certificate in Civil War Studies. Mike is a CPA and has prepared tax returns for the Round Table.

Mike's interest in the Civil War started during the centennial of the Civil War when he was 11 years old. He has always been a student of Military History; this background was very useful to him during his active Army and Reserve service as an intelligence officer. His interests in the Civil War range from actual battles to overall strategy. His view is that there is always something new to learn. He tries to include battlefield tours on family vacations. In addition to visits to many Civil War battlefields, he has been to the D-Day landing beaches and Waterloo.

Mike met Bill Upham about 10 years ago, discovering that he lived around the corner. He takes Bill to meetings because "he is on the way" and he knows that Bill represents the link from the Iron Brigade to the present. Mike says, "When you shake Bill's hand you are three handshakes from both Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis. If that doesn't bring history to life for you, I don't know what will."

### ANNOUNCEMENTS • EVENTS • MEETINGS

#### November 10, 2007 • 7:30 p.m.

Twentieth Annual Harvest Ball, 1st Brigade Band  
Memorial Hall, Racine  
Info: Greg Davis, 608-527-4222

#### November 10, 2007 • 11 a.m.

Veterans Day Parade, downtown Milwaukee

#### November 12, 2007 • 7 p.m.

Manitowoc County Civil War Round Table Meeting  
Speaker: Dale Brasser, "The Battle of Franklin, Tennessee"

#### November 13, 2007 • 7 p.m.

Waukesha Civil War Round Table Meeting  
Jerry Kowalske as Maj. General George Thomas

#### November 14, 2007 • 7:30 pm

Klement Lecture, Marquette University  
Speaker: Nina Silber, "Why Northern Women Matter  
for Understanding the Civil War"  
Alumni Memorial Union

#### November 17, 2007

##### Remembrance Day, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

Remembrance Day activities commemorating Lincoln's Gettysburg Address include an afternoon parade and the 5th Annual Remembrance Illumination at the Soldier's National Cemetery, 5:30 - 9:00 p.m.  
Details: [www.gettysburg.travel/](http://www.gettysburg.travel/) and [www.friendsofgettysburg.org](http://www.friendsofgettysburg.org).

#### November 20, 2007 • 7 p.m.

Prairieville Irregulars Civil War Meeting  
Student Center Building, Carroll College  
Speaker: Peter Jacobsohn, "Medical Aspects of the Civil War"

#### November 26, 2007 • 7 p.m.

West Side Soldiers Aid Society Meeting  
Wadsworth Library, VA Grounds  
Speaker: Steve Michaels, "Milwaukee's Grand Army"

#### December 1, 2007

##### 18th Annual Antietam National Battlefield Memorial Illumination Sharpsburg, Maryland

On Saturday evening, December 1, Antietam National Battlefield and the American Business Women's Association will host the eighteenth annual Illumination in honor of those soldiers who fell during the Battle of Antietam. One candle will be lit for each soldier killed, wounded or missing at the battle—a total of 23,000 candles. The Illumination opens to the public at 6 p.m. The driving tour through the park is approximately 5 miles long. In the event of poor weather, the Illumination will be rescheduled for Saturday, December 8, 2007. This is a remarkable event!

#### December 10, 2007 • 7 p.m.

Manitowoc County Civil War Round Table Annual Christmas Program  
Manitowoc County Heritage Center

#### December 11, 2007 • 7 p.m.

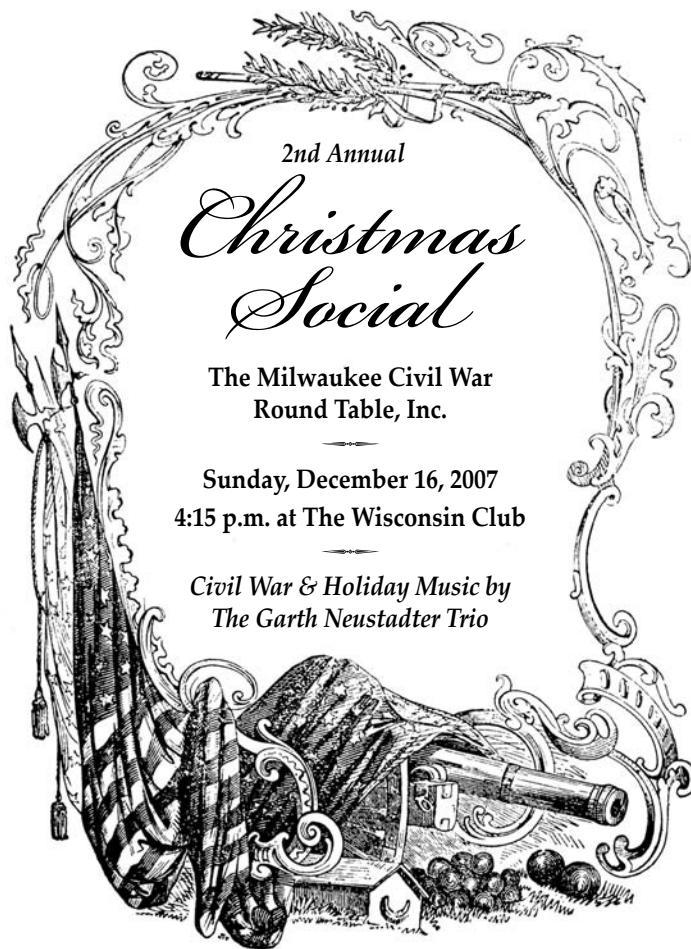
Waukesha Civil War Round Table Meeting

#### December 17, 2007 • 7 p.m.

West Side Soldiers Aid Society Meeting  
Wadsworth Library, VA Grounds  
2nd Annual Christmas Potpourri / Open Forum

#### December 18, 2007 • 7 p.m.

Prairieville Irregulars Civil War Meeting  
Student Center Building, Carroll College  
Speaker: Lance Herdeggen

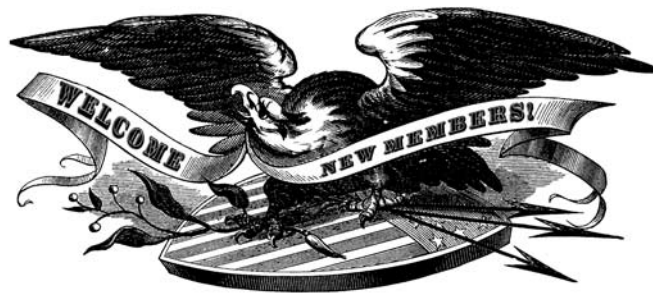


## Garth Neustadter Trio to Perform at Holiday Gala

Sunday, December 16, 2007, will mark the 2nd Annual Holiday Gala and Silent Auction of the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table. Musical entertainment, at the event, will be provided by the Garth Neustadter Trio.

The trio from Manitowoc features 21-year-old Garth Neustadter on violin, saxophone and vocals. Garth is accompanied by his father Gary on percussion, vocals and trombone and his mother Kristen on keyboard. Garth gained national attention in 2005, receiving four *Downbeat* magazine awards in the areas of Classical Violin Performance, Saxophone Performance and Jazz Composition. He was also featured in a 2005 *USA Today* article on 20 of the most accomplished young men in America. In July 2007, Garth, a Lawrence University student, was awarded first-prize honors (second place behind the grand prize winner) in the international film scoring competition sponsored by Turner Classic Movies. The competition drew from more than 800 participants. Garth was the youngest of the five finalists. He was awarded a laptop and software worth approximately \$4,000.00. He also received a job from a Nashville producer.

Be sure to mark your calendar, Sunday, December 16, for an evening filled with music and fellowship.



John Thielmann  
Milwaukee, WI

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ON THIS DATE • NOVEMBER 8 1964 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

It was election day and without need for exaggeration, one of the most important in American history. Pitted against each other in the polls were Abraham Lincoln and his running mate, Tennessee Senator Andrew Johnson, vs. Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan and his running mate, George H. Pendleton of Ohio. The efforts made to allow soldiers to vote were extraordinary—leaves were arranged, ballots were cast in the field. Lincoln, of course, won the election with over 55 percent of the total vote. He carried every state except for Delaware, Kentucky and New Jersey in the electoral college vote. He triumphed in the military vote with 116,887 to McClellan's 33,748. Lincoln spent the evening of election day at the War Office getting elections returns via telegraph. The following morning, Lincoln said that the election result "will be to the lasting advantage, if not to the very salvation, of the country." A day or two later, McClellan resigned from the Army and wrote, regarding the election, "For my country's sake I deplore the result."

## 2009 Penny to Feature Scenes from the Lincoln's Life

In commemoration of the 200th anniversary of Abraham's Lincoln's birth and the 100th anniversary of the introduction of the Lincoln penny, the penny will be going through a transformation.

The U.S. Mint, at the direction of Congress, will introduce four rotating designs on the penny for 2009, each penny depicting a different phase of Lincoln's life.

Currently, the choices for the "tails" side of the penny include a log cabin depicting Lincoln's 1809 birthplace, Lincoln as a young man reading a book and writing with a quill pen depicting his early years, and Lincoln on the floor of the Illinois legislature depicting his early adulthood. These are the recommendations so far from The Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee, one of three groups making recommendations to the Mint on what the final designs should look like. The recommendation for the final penny is Lincoln as a War President. The Mint will review all the recommendations before advising Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson, who, by law, will pick the final designs.

The "heads" side of the coin will continue to be the profile of Lincoln. After 2009, one of the four depictions will be chosen to replace the current penny which has the Lincoln Memorial on the "tails" side.



## SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

On September 19 and 20 my son and I made a return trip to Springfield, Illinois, along with a few members of the Prairieville Irregular Civil War group. The weather, as to be expected, was hot and humid.

If you have yet to experience Springfield, I highly recommend taking a wander into Lincoln country. The highlight of your visit should be the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, which opened its doors in 2005, and the Lincoln Library.

Two special presentations inside the museum are especially notable. The Union Theater presents *Lincoln's Eyes* in a multi-screen, multi-layered presentation. After that, take in *Ghosts of the Library*, a production that combines live actors with Holavision and does a wonderful job of presenting the library's archives. Both presentations are rich in detail and emotionally moving.

The Whispering Gallery uses holograms to present all the different voices of the Civil War—take the time to listen each one. Wonder what Lincoln's election would be like today? You can see that addressed at the museum in an interesting and very amusing presentation moderated by *Meet the Press* host Tim Russert. *The Civil War in Four Minutes*, located in the War Gallery, is perhaps my favorite stopping place in the museum. I wish they had this on a DVD! It is a terrific video presentation of the war years, the battles fought and how the map of the states changed during those years. In the corner of the map you see the casualty count on both sides mount as the war continues.

The museum also offers a special exhibit room. Last year it was on all the first ladies; this year it held a special exhibit on Mary Todd Lincoln (on display through November) with some rare artifacts. Of course, the gift shop has a lovely selection of books, CDs and DVDs. I limited myself and came home with three new acquisitions! Across the way, in the Lincoln Library, there was a special exhibit entitled "Thoroughly Modern Mary." The exhibit was a collection of paper dresses created as part of an artistic challenge project. I can't say this was my cup of tea—a little too "out there" for me.

The nice thing about Springfield is that most of the sites are within walking distance of each other. So put on your walking shoes! Springfield maps, pointing out everything from historic sites to parking areas to local eateries, are available everywhere and the locals are very gracious if you need help. Need a little snack to get you through the day? There are plenty of places for you to sit down, have a bite to eat, rest your feet and plan the rest of your day.

The Old State Capitol Building and the Lincoln-Herndon Law Offices are across the street from one another. The docent tour of the Old State Capitol is very good. We had a different guide for

the first and second floor. Our upstairs guide was a retired history teacher and quizzed us as we went through the upper rooms. In taking the docent tour of the Lincoln Herndon Law Offices, I found out that a restoration is being planned for the first floor of the building. When completed, the first floor will once again be the Tinsley Dry Goods Store. Tinsley owed the building at that time.

A few blocks away will put you in the Historic District with its Lincoln Home National Historic Site and Visitor Center. After getting your free ticket at the visitor center, you will be directed to meet a park ranger for a guided tour of the Lincoln home. Photos of the interior are allowed but the ranger keeps things moving pretty quickly. Other homes in the district are open for self-guided tours.

Finally, hop in your car and drive about 3 miles to Oak Ridge Cemetery and the Lincoln Tomb. You can either opt to go through the tomb by yourself or wait for the hourly docent guided tour.

On both trips, I found the outside upper level of the tomb off-limits. There has been some rather severe water damage to the ceiling of the tomb, and they are still completing the repairs. As we wandered the grounds of the cemetery, we also ran across the tombstone of one of the custodian's of Lincoln's Tomb. Just outside the cemetery is the Museum of Funeral Customs—my son made sure we took that in on our first visit to Springfield. I spent quite a bit of time explaining the difference between a casket and a coffin to him.

Don't forget to take in New Salem, about 20 miles or so away, near Petersburg. The recreation of the town is very nice and you will find very helpful living historians in your wanderings. There is also a fine video presentation and museum area inside the visitor's center building.

So, if you are looking to immerse yourself in Abraham Lincoln, Springfield should be on your agenda. It's an easy drive—about 4 hours in good weather and no detours. I'm the parent of a handicapped son, and I always like to see things through his eyes. He's already busy planning a third trip to Springfield! As we approach the Lincoln Bicentennial, what better time than now to "brush up on Lincoln."

*Submitted by: Donna Agnelly*

Where have your wanderings taken you? Have you visited a battlefield or other Civil War site? Share your reflections in the *General Orders*. Send submissions to **Donna Agnelly, Editor**, 420 Racine St., Unit 110, Waterford, WI 53185 or email to [dagnelly@tds.net](mailto:dagnelly@tds.net).

## A GENTLEMAN AND A SCHOLAR

### Remembering Frank L. Klement: Part II

A gentleman, properly understood, is devoid of affectation; he is natural in his manner in all circumstances. That certainly described Frank. His warm, open nature was on display in the classroom, in the halls and pathways of Marquette University, or in the Union chatting with students, faculty members or the custodial staff who shared his love of fly fishing. Professor Klement was a man filled with passion and enthusiasm for what he held dear.

As Civil War enthusiasts, we naturally think of Frank first as a Civil War historian. He certainly distinguished himself by what he did in that capacity, but it was simply the end product of who he was. In a multitasking world we can forget that it is not what we do that makes us who we are, but who we are that determines what we do. Frank never suffered from such confusion. He was forever the young lad who remembered his roots in small town Wisconsin, where a river was a venue for the art of fly fishing, and where a person's word was his sacred honor.

His constant encouragement of his young students was a hallmark of the classic teacher that Frank was. He sponsored the local chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, the National History Honor Society. His suggestion that I join Alpha-Delta, its local chapter, was immediately acted upon. My membership certificate is among my cherished possessions, along with the memory of receiving it from Dr. Klement at my first Alpha-Delta dinner. Frank graciously introduced each speaker and was, from start to finish, more polished than any mythical southern gentleman could be.

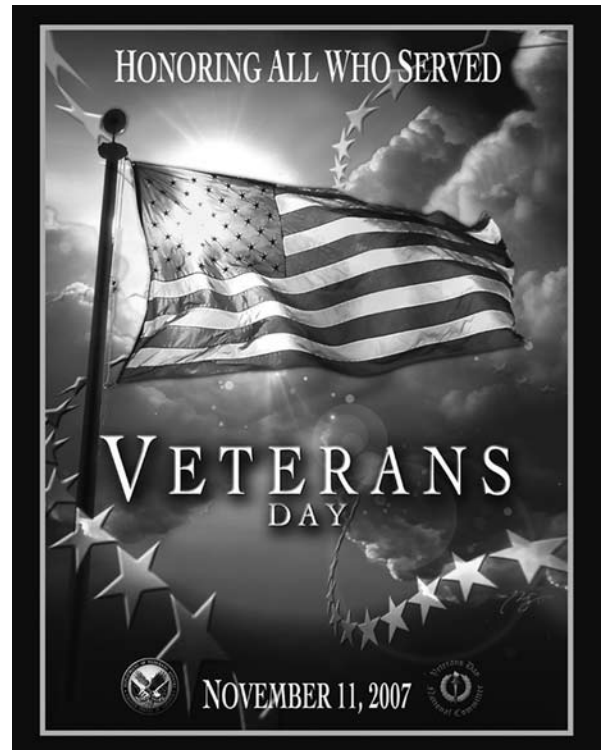
Mrs. Klement always accompanied Frank at these affairs. She was stately in appearance with magnificent silver hair, which put Frank's noble mane to shame. Having been through the ordeal of fire as a combat Marine, I was always impressed how these two people, who were obviously devoted to one another, were an island of tranquility in a turbulent world.

As I have aged, I've come to believe that the balance we need to survive is achieved by facing the world's turbulence with tranquility, not as a fatalist but as a realist. That, I also believe, is how Frank put his stamp on his scholarship. He was fascinated by the Northern dissenters: the Copperheads. Frank was determined to give them their due, not by excusing them, but by seeing them for what they were: people trying to make sense out of what was a troubling time.

In his three major works, *The Copperheads in the Middle West*; *The Limits of Dissent: Clement L. Vallandigham and the Civil War*; and *Dark Lanterns*, Frank presented real people who were not in agreement with the common wisdom of their time. By not dismissing the Copperheads, Frank delineated the distinction between the myth and the reality of Civil War dissent.

History is one of the humanities, and Frank was the complete humanist. Inevitably, as we age and pass into history, our memories of our beloved friend, Frank L. Klement, will fade away. But for as long as human beings study the Civil War, Frank will live on through his enduring scholarship—scholarship that brought the past to life, that allowed us to walk through those interesting times with its fascinating people who live forever in the storehouse of our minds.

*Submitted by: Jerry W. Martynski*



## Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for November 8, 2007

Mail your reservations by November 2 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 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 \_\_\_\_\_

*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. • 2007 – 2008 Meetings**

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November 8, 2007

John Y. Simon — Could the South Have Won the War?

December 16, 2007 (Sunday)

2nd Annual Holiday Gala and Silent Auction

January 10, 2008

Ed Cotham — The Union Navy

February 7, 2008

David Long — TBA

March 13, 2008

Brian Wills — Civil War in Cinema

April 10, 2008

Jennifer Weber — TBA

May 8, 2008

Steve Engle — TBA

Period dress welcome

May 2008

60th Anniversary Celebration—Part II

Opening of the New Civil War Museum in Kenosha

**Speaker Schedule Subject to change. In case of inclement weather, listen to WTMJ or WISN radio.**