



GENERAL ORDERS



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

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General Orders No. 06-05

May, 2006

The **May 11th, 2006**, meeting is to be held at **Wisconsin Club**, Milwaukee

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Mark Noll— “How the Bible Helped Start the Civil War”

The Civil War was a major turning point in American religious thought, argues Mark A. Noll, our May speaker. Although Christian believers agreed with one another that the Bible was authoritative and that it should be interpreted through commonsense principles, there was rampant disagreement about what Scripture taught about slavery. Furthermore, most Americans continued to believe that God ruled over the affairs of people and nations, but they were radically divided in their interpretations of what God was doing in and through the war.

In addition to examining what white and black Americans wrote about slavery and race, Noll surveys commentary from foreign observers. Protestants and Catholics in Europe and Canada saw clearly that no matter how much the voluntary reliance on scriptural authority had contributed to the construction of national civilization, if there were no higher religious authority than personal interpretation regarding an issue as contentious as slavery, the resulting public deadlock would amount to a full-blown theological crisis. By highlighting this theological conflict, Noll adds to our understanding of not only the origins but also the intensity of the Civil War.

Dr Noll has been on the Wheaton College faculty since 1979 and is presently the McManis

Chair of Christian Thought and the co-founder and present director of the Institute for the Study of American Evangelicals at Wheaton College. In recent years Dr. Noll has been a visiting teacher at Harvard Divinity School, University of Chicago Divinity School, Westminster Theological Seminary, and Regent College of Vancouver, B.C.

Period Costumes Invited to May Meeting

Traditionally our May meeting sees those members and guests who have them dress in period costumes. Gentlemen and ladies are invited to don their finery for the meeting, but all are cautioned that period weapons (including hatpins) are frowned upon.

Schedule of Events

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| • Staff Meeting (when required;
open to all members) | 5:30 PM |
| • Registration and Social Hour | 6:15 PM |
| • Dinner | 6:45 PM |
| • Program Begins | 7:30 PM |

Their Spirits Live On: Cemetery-by-Lantern Tours at Reclaiming our Heritage event 3 June

Offered just once a year during the annual Reclaiming Our Heritage at the historic Milwaukee VA, Cemetery-by-Lantern Tours of Wood National Cemetery sell out in a matter of hours.

Now in its fifth year, Reclaiming Our Heritage will once again feature these popular tram tours on Saturday, June 3, 2006, beginning at 7:30 p.m. and departing every 15 minutes through 11:00 p.m.

Cemetery-by-Lantern Tour tickets will go on sale on the event grounds beginning at 9 a.m. on June 3. Tickets purchased on the event grounds are \$10 each and are sold on a first come, first served basis. For those who wish to reserve their spot ahead of time, a limited number of tickets will be offered for sale on-line beginning April 1. These \$15 non-refundable tickets guarantee seats on tram and tour of choice while supplies last. These tickets may be purchased on-line only (no phone or in-person sales) at www.soldiershome.org.

The carefully chosen tram route allows visitors to hear the stories of the men and women buried in Wood National Cemetery, beginning with Civil War soldiers through veterans of recent conflicts. Guest appearances by notables including Abraham Lincoln and Teddy Roosevelt complement the presentations of "ordinary" heroes. The sounds of firing squad and bugle are accompanied by the solemn hymns of the 1st Brigade Band. Each year tour volunteers, including reenactors from the major eras of U.S. history, offer new in-

sights into the soul of our country.

The final stop on the tour is the historic 1889 Chapel, the preservation focus of the event sponsor, the Soldiers Home Foundation. An annual memorial tribute to Wisconsin's recent war dead, offered by Madison's Heritage Guard Preservation Society, is open for viewing in the Chapel throughout the 2-day event, including during Saturday's tram tours.

Reclaiming Our Heritage, a free-admission living history encampment, begins on Saturday, June 3, with a Positively Patriotic Parade (10:00 a.m.) and includes something for every family member: the Great Civil War Shoot Out (daily at 1:00 p.m.), field medical demonstrations, historic fashion shows, tours of historic buildings and grounds, children's activities. Sunday, June 4, will feature a day-long tribute to Vietnam veterans and veterans of the Vietnam era beginning with a Tribute Parade (10:00 a.m.) and Chaplain's Field Mass (10:30 a.m.).

Hosted by the Milwaukee VA, the event takes place on the Medical Center campus, 5000 W. National Avenue. To avoid Miller Park traffic during the weekend Brewers games, exit I94 at Hawley Road and enter the VA grounds from W. National Ave. For driving directions, public transportation options and parking, visit www.soldiershome.org or call the event line at (414) 902-5599.

Officers of the Board of Directors, Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc., as of April 2006			
Name	Office/Title	Contact	Term Expires
Gene Jamrozy	President	(414) 327-2811	2008
Ellen Kelling Vukovic	1st Vice President	(262) 334-6265	2009
Michael Benton	2nd Vice President	(414) 962-3767	2008
Paul Eilbes	Treasurer/Membership Committee Chair	(262) 376-0568; paul.eilbes@ipaper.com	2007
William Finke	Secretary	(414) 221-2764 bill.finke@we-energies.com	2008
John D. Beatty	Editor/Publisher, <i>General Orders</i>	jdbeatty@amcivwar.com	2007
Jim Johnson	Webmaster	secondwi@earthlink.net	2009

War Horses of the Civil War — Part 2

As late as mid-1863, Union Quartermaster Montgomery Meigs was receiving alarming reports. One described a shipment of a hundred horses from New York. Just forty-eight of these were fit for service, the rest were diseased, too young, too old or simply 'used up'. Even animals that were healthy when purchased were soon reduced to a pitiful condition by the low standards of care they received once in service.

In 1863, Wesley Merritt noted "the frightful loss among horses" to hoof rot, the result of standing in mud and filth; "the disease seems to have been contracted in the quartermaster's corrals in Washington." The situation was little better once remounts reached their regiments. Battle proved less costly in the lives of horses than exhaustion, disease and poor horse-mastery by inexperienced soldiers.

Excessive weight on the horses' backs was one problem. Green troopers, yet to learn the distinction between the essential tools of war and useless impedimenta, were the worst offenders. When the 10th New York Cavalry first took the field, one officer noted that "some of the boys had a pile [of equipment] in front on their saddle, and one in the rear, so high and heavy it took two men to saddle one horse and two men to help the fellow into his place."

On occasion, horses carried in excess of 200 pounds on campaign. Such a burden was little short of a death sentence. Henry Pyne recalled the condition of the 1st New Jersey Cavalry's mounts after a week of forced marching in the Shenandoah Valley, May 1862, "... with increasing frequency men would be seen to dismount and attempt to lead forward their enfeebled

animals, which with drooping heads, lackluster eyes, and trembling knees could scarcely support the weight of the saddles and equipment. Exposure to the elements could prove equally lethal. Pyne recalled that "...To save the cost of a few tarpaulins the lives of many horses, worth thousands of dollars, were sacrificed."

In the field, soldiers were in the habit of simply requesting more horses to replace those that died rather than perfecting the skills necessary to maintain their mounted arm on campaign. In response to demands for yet more remounts from William S. Rosecrans in early 1863, Meigs caustically retorted that "We have over 126 regiments of cavalry, and they have killed ten times as many horses for us as for the rebels."

In January 1864, The Times of London reported Henry Halleck's fury at the wastage of horses that was hampering his army's ability to conduct operations: "... probably the principal fault is in the treatment of their horses by the cavalry soldiers. ..." By Halleck's own calculations, Federal cavalry units had been supplied with 284,000 horses during the first two years of the war, although there had never been more than 60,000 mounted troopers in the field at any one time. In the final year or so of the war, he estimated a further 180,000 horses had been expended.

To Be Continued...

— **Gervase Phillips, principal lecturer in history at Manchester Metropolitan University**

— *Excerpted from History Today Magazine, December 2005 Volume 55, Number 12.*

2006-07 Schedule

- TBD — Summer Board of Director's meeting

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

Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for: May 11th, 2006

Mail your reservations by May 5th to:

Paul Eilbes, 1809 Washington Ave. Cedarburg, WI 53012-9730

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

Enclosed is \$_____ (meal price \$20.00 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: _____

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 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.