



GENERAL ORDERS



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



General Orders No. 07-05

May, 2007

The **May 10th, 2007**, meeting is to be held at **Wisconsin Club**, Milwaukee

Visit Us on the World Wide Web: WWW.CIVILWARWL.ORG

Please wear period clothing for the May meeting if you can

May Speaker: Cricket Pohanka

Born and raised in Milwaukee, Cricket's interest in history was sparked by exposure to literature, the arts, and local historic places. After attending schools in Wisconsin and Minnesota, she obtained a Master's Degree in Costume History from the University of Maryland and pursued a career in museums. Her current projects are focused on topics that promote history awareness and preservation activism. These projects include producing a movie about the 5th NY Volunteer Infantry (Duryee's Zouaves), editing and publishing her late husband's remaining manuscripts, and active participation in the Civil War Preservation Trust. She has been a member of CWPT's Board of Trustees since April of 2007.

Cricket returns to the Midwest to report on the activities of several preservation groups, including recent victories and ongoing challenges. As a resident of both the Midwest and the Mid-Atlantic, she has actively sought new perspectives on preservation, par-

ticularly to make it relevant to those not in direct proximity to the affected historic sites. She supports a number of exciting educational initiatives aimed at creating the next generation of preservationists.

Proxies in Renewal Notices

In the annual renewal notices that members should be going out in August, members will find proxies for their votes from the Board of Directors. Members should be sure to read their proxies and related materials carefully.

Events this Spring

- Memorial Day Weekend Observance at Forest Home Cemetery. For information www.wssas.org or call (414)427-3776.
- Annual Reclaiming our Heritage Event at Zablocki Grounds June 2-3. Free admission and parking. Information: www.milwaukee.va.gov/ROH/ or (414)902-5599.

2007-08 Projected Schedule

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

- September — Horace Newborn *TBA*
- October — (Four Points Sheraton, Milwaukee) 60th Anniversary Meeting
- November — Gabor Borritt *Gettysburg Address Book*

- December — Holiday Gala
- January 2008 — Ed Cotham *Union Navy*
- February — *TBA*
- March — Brian Wills *Civil War in Cinema*
- April — *TBA*
- May — 60th Anniversary symposium in Kenosha with James McPherson, Ed Bearss and Ted Alexander

Schedule of Events

- Staff Meeting (when required;
open to all members) 5:00 PM
- Registration and Social Hour 6:15 PM
- Dinner 6:45 PM
- Program Begins 7:30 PM

Society of Women and the Civil War Wants Members

Our sister newsletter from the New Hampshire Round Table sends along this message:

“The Society of Women and the Civil War (www.swcw.org) is contacting Civil War Round Tables throughout the country in the hope of expanding our membership. We will be holding our 9th conference in Chester County, PA from July 27th - July 29th, 2007. Our members include authors, researchers, archivists, historians, librarians, genealogists, teachers, re-enactors, etc.

“Our conferences have been held at Hood College, Shenandoah University, the Museum of the Confederacy, and Virginia Tech University. Since its inception in 1997, SWCW has become one of the premier organizations promoting research and the dissemination on information on women and the Civil War.

“We would like to extend an invitation to join SWCW to all those interested in the contributions of women during the era of the Civil War. Please visit our website www.swcw.org.” Those interested can also contact Pat Lynch at pplynch@starmax.com.

Election of Officers at April Meeting

The Class of 2007 was elected in May.

- Tom Arliskas (new)
- John Beatty
- Crain Bliwas (new)
- Paul Eilbes
- Peter Jacobsohn

Officers normally serve for terms of three years.

From the Archives Committee

From Andy Oren, Chair of the Archives Committee:

“From 1974 thru 1987 the late Jack Thompson tape recorded almost all of our speakers. We have recently cataloged those tapes and now have a listing available. We would like to make these tapes available to any members who might be interested in hearing them. While we can’t promise crystal clarity on each tape, we know that there is a wealth of history available. If you would like to receive a listing you can e-mail me at aoren@wi.rr.com and I will send it out to you. We are also wondering if there is anyone in the organization who can transfer these tapes to disk. If so, also please e-mail me.

“The Archives Committee is also looking for pre-1970 *General Orders* or other notices of meetings. If you have these and would like to donate them for our historical record please contact me either by the above e-mail or by calling me at 414-744-3927.”

Officers of the Board of Directors, Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc., as of August 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	secondwisconsin@hotmail.net	2009

The Place of the American Civil War in History

Where does the Civil War fit into history as a whole? How does it fit into American history?

Chronologically it is wedged between the Mexican War, which established the United States and the hegemonic power in North America, and the Spanish-American war, which brought the Americans to world power status and made it dominant in the Western hemisphere with a presence on both sides of the Pacific. All this happened in the space of a half century, which is breathtakingly fast in historical terms.

In between is the Civil War and a string of conflicts with the Indians and a number of Latin American neighbors. None of the other conflicts reached the scale of the Civil War, nor did any of them require the resources (in absolute terms) that the War Between the States demanded.

The American Civil War was the primary organizing event in 19th century American history, followed by the War of 1812. Its outcome decided that national discourse was not to be the power of the sections, but the power of the nation, and of the continent as time went on. No longer would there be an endless chain of acrimonious debates about chattel slavery, about the evils of capital versus land. Never again would elected officials have to make another compromise to get anything at all done in Washington.

But the effects reached far beyond that. The largest economy in the world, that of Great Britain, had a technically capable trading competitor that made more steel, iron guns, and explosives than they could. Their miracle fleet had been built at a breakneck pace, and had shown itself to be able to maintain a long coastal blockade twelve months of the year for nearly four years, and mount a series of amphibious operations that closed hostile ports one by one. This, too, the French, Prussians and Russians watched with some interest, and Spain with some wariness.

And on land, although the Europeans disdained

the thought that the rude colonists could teach them anything about fighting, nothing surprised them more than the transformation of warfare wrought by the railroads, and by the simple idea that land forces could be used to destroy economic infrastructure wholesale.

American factory output surprised Europeans by its volume and its quality. And they did it, apparently, without losing significant agricultural output, even with one in four farmers and hands in uniform.

If this were not enough, their economic influence spanned the ocean, and marked a watershed for wartime financing and a pattern for economic warfare. The Lincoln government managed to borrow fairly little, but it was enough. But by doing it they were able to restrict the Confederacy's access to credit simply by borrowing in the same markets first. Borrowing from the Dutch in 1861 made any Confederate loans in 1862 expensive, almost prohibitive, since the Dutch still underwrote many European financial markets. Without adequate victories in the field or goods to sell on European markets, the Confederates rates were some of the highest of the period.

And at the end of the war, rather than just rest and lick their wounds, the American sent a significant military force to the Mexican border with the obvious intent of menacing the French out of Mexico. It worked, and the last major European land grab in the New World ended with an Austrian prince who had named himself Emperor of Mexico before a firing squad.

Where does the Civil War fit? It demonstrated for the first time that the Americans acted like a whole country, even though they were momentarily torn apart. The Union could act for itself with a capacity to produce goods they needed, maintain foreign trade, feed itself and defeat the tyranny of the slave power. It showed, by the mid 19th century, that the Americans could do almost anything.

Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for: May 10th, 2007

Mail your reservations by May 3rd 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: _____

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.