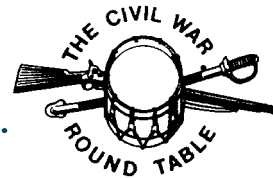


# GENERAL ORDERS

The Newsletter of the

## Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc. and The Iron Brigade Association



OCTOBER 9, 2014

### MARK BRADLEY

#### When East Meets West: Joe Hooker, O.O. Howard, and the Atlanta Campaign

Union generals Joseph Hooker and Oliver O. Howard were the Civil War's true Odd Couple. "Fighting Joe" Hooker was brash, blustering, and profane, and he had a reputation as a hard-drinking ladies' man. Howard, on the other hand, was a soft-spoken teetotaler whose devoutness had earned him the sobriquet, "the Christian Soldier."

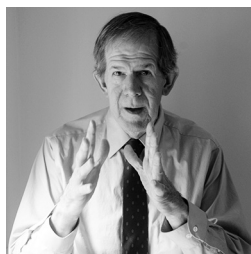
Fate thrust these two very different men together in the spring of 1863, when Howard assumed command of the XI Corps under Hooker, the commander of the Army of the Potomac. In the Battle of Chancellorsville, Howard's XI Corps was routed, paving the way for Confederate general Robert E. Lee's greatest victory. Hooker blamed Howard for the Union army's defeat at Chancellorsville and never forgave him.

Just two months later, Hooker dared President Abraham Lincoln to replace him while he was pursuing Lee's army into Pennsylvania and promptly lost his command. A few days after that, Howard's XI Corps was routed yet again, this time through the streets of Gettysburg. In July 1863, the prospects for Hooker and Howard appeared bleak indeed.

That fall, however, Hooker received command of two corps from the Army of the Potomac being sent to rescue the Union Army of the Cumberland, which was trapped at Chattanooga, Tennessee, after suffering a humiliating defeat in the Battle of Chickamauga. One of the units in Hooker's command happened to be Howard's XI Corps. In effect, the transfer provided Hooker and Howard with a fresh start and an opportunity for advancement in the Union armies of the Western Theater.

Our October speaker, historian Mark Bradley, will discuss how these two generals adapted to their new situation and how they exploited their opportunities in the West, particularly in the Atlanta Campaign. He will also note how their experiences underscore the differences between the war in the East and in the West.

Mark Bradley is a historian with the U.S. Army Center of Military History in Washington, D.C. He received his B.A. in History from North Carolina State University and his M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Mark's publications include *Last Stand in the Carolinas: The Battle of Bentonville* and *This Astounding Close: The Road to Bennett Place*.



Mark Bradley

GENERAL ORDERS NO. 10-14  
October 2014

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#### OCTOBER MEETING AT A GLANCE

Mark Bradley  
"When East Meets West: Joe Hooker,  
O.O. Howard and the Atlanta Campaign"  
October 9, 2014

The 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 – **\$25 by reservation.**  
Deadline: Monday, October 6, 2014  
See page 11.

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

## CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE NEWS

### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Please note that your membership renewal form was included in the September issue of the *General Orders*. Please take a moment to fill out and return your renewal in the postage-paid envelope provided. Don't forget our Annual Fund, which enables us to add to what we do to support the Civil War community. Thank you, Paul Eilbes, Treasurer/Membership

### WHEN YOU CANCEL YOUR RESERVATION

Please be aware that cancellations within 48 hours of the dinner meeting are subject to payment in full for the reservation amount. The Round Table is charged for these reservations whether the dinners are used or not.

### YOUR ASSISTANCE IS APPRECIATED

In recent months we have experienced a larger than usual number of "walk-in" dinner requests. Please remember that our dinner counts are due at least forty-eight hours before the dinner meeting. We are always happy to see you and welcome you to the meeting and **will make every attempt to accommodate everyone who comes**, but we cannot always guarantee a dinner that evening if you have not called, emailed or sent in your reservation. If you do find yourself suddenly free the evening of our presentation, you are always welcome to come and hear the speaker after dinner, at no charge. Thank you for your understanding.

### CWRT ANNUAL FUND

The following members have shown their generous commitment by making an investment in the CWRT Annual Fund. This list reflects donations received July through September 13, 2014.

#### **Major Contributor (\$500 and above)**

Grant Johnson

#### **Patron: (\$200 - \$499)**

Crain Bliwas, Robert Parrish

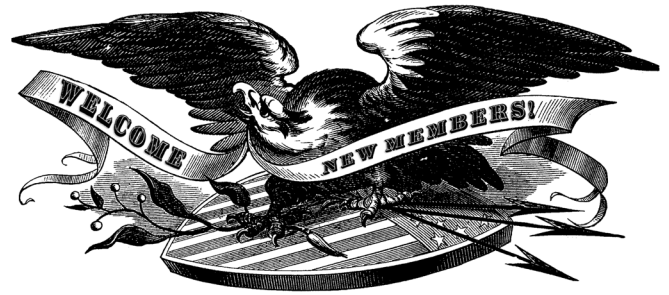
#### **Associate: (\$100 - \$199)**

Paul Eilbes, David Jordan, Stephen Leopold, Paul Sotirini

#### **Contributor (Up to \$99)**

George Affeldt, Dale Bspalec, John Busch, Cynthia Cooper, James DeValkenaere, Bob Dude, Lori Duginski, Gary & Judith Ertel, Ted Fetting, A. William Finke, Richard Gross, Douglas Haag, Erwin Huston, Eugene & Jane Jamrozy, Dr. Bob & Judy Karczewski, Ardis Kelling, Jerome Kowalski, Herbert Oechler, James & Ann Reeve, David & Helga Sartori

## CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE NEWS



Alana Anderson • John Conley  
Rev. Dr. Bobbie Groth • Donald B. Lawson



In October 1951 Palmer Boeger talked to the Round Table on "Hardtack and Coffee."

John Patrick Hunter visited the Round Table in October 1961. Hunter's talk was on "Wisconsin in the Civil War."

John Patrick Hunter would visit the Round Table again in October 1971. His talk that night was on "Haskell of Gettysburg: The Iron Brigade's Finest."

In October 1991 Gary Gallagher visited the Round Table and spoke to the assembled group about "Jubal A. Early and the Myth of the Lost Cause."

"Lincoln and the Constitution" was the subject of Vernon Burton's presentation at the October 2011 meeting.

At last year's October meeting the Round Table welcomed Doug Dammann who spoke on "Elmer Ellsworth and the United States Zouave Cadets."

### 2014-2015 SPEAKER SCHEDULE

**November 13, 2014:** Prof. Steven Towne, "Detecting Deserters and Disloyalty"

**December 11, 2014:** Jim Ogden, Nevins-Freeman Address, TBD

**January 8, 2015:** Father Robert Miller, "The Most Christian Nation in the World: Religion in American Culture on the Eve of the Civil War"

**February 12, 2015:** Leslie Goddard, "Gone with the Wind and Popular Culture"

**March 12, 2015:** Thomas Huntington, "Searching for George Gordon Meade"

**April 9, 2015:** Prof. Michael Burlingame, "The Assassination of President Abraham Lincoln"

**May 7, 2015:** Eric Leonard, "When We Held Each Other Prisoner: Civil War Military Prisons and Prisoners of War"

**June 11, 2015:** Gary Adelman, "4D Civil War Photography Extravaganza"

*Speakers and topics are subject to change.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS • EVENTS • MEETINGS

### October 4-5, 2014

Milwaukee County Historical Society Civil War Encampment  
Trimborn Farm 10 – 4 p.m.  
Adults \$5/Seniors & Students \$4/children under 6 free

### October 13, 2014

Manitowoc Civil War Round Table, 7 p.m.  
Manitowoc Historical Society Heritage Center  
Speaker: Dennis Moore, "Gunboats on the Mississippi"

### October 14, 2014

Waukesha Civil War Round Table, 7 p.m.  
Citizens Bank of Mukwonago, Waukesha Branch  
Speaker: Leslie Baellais, "Victoria's Secret"

### October 21, 2014

Prairieville Irregulars Civil War Round Table, 7 p.m.  
Citizens Bank of Mukwonago, Waukesha Branch  
Speaker: John Lundstrom, "One Drop in A Sea of Blue:  
The Liberators of the 9th Minnesota"

### October 26, 2014

West Side Soldiers Aid Society  
Dedication of Wisconsin Historic Marker, Wisconsin Soldiers' Home  
Ceremony, 1:30 p.m., 731 N. Plankinton, followed by reception at  
Turner Hall. Information: (414) 427-3776

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## AT THE WISCONSIN VETERANS MUSEUM

### Sunday, October 12, 2014, Noon – 4 p.m.

#### *Talking Spirits Cemetery Tour XVI*

Forest Hill Cemetery, 1 Speedway Rd., Madison

The sixteenth-annual Talking Spirits Tour features a 90-minute walking tour with local actors portraying important Civil War-era figures buried at Forest Hill. Admission: \$5, adults; \$2, children

### Thursday, October 16, 2014 – 7 p.m.

*A Wicked War: Polk, Clay, Lincoln, and the 1846 U.S. Invasion of Mexico*, presented by Dr. Amy Greenberg, Professor of History, Pennsylvania State University

Amy Greenberg's definitive history of the 1846 conflict paints an intimate portrait of the major players and their world, including the birth of both America's first national anti-war movement and the Daughters of the American Revolution.

### Saturday, October 19, 2014 – 11 a.m.

Lecture and Book Signing for *The World War I Doughboy Experience* and *Writing Alamo Doughboy*, presented by Jennifer Rude Klett, author and historian

2014 marks 100 years since the beginning of "The Great War" in Europe. Former journalist, Jennifer Rude Klett, author of *Alamo Doughboy: Marching Into The Heart of Kaiser's Germany During World War I*, discusses the contributions of the 4.8 million U.S. "doughboy" soldiers who served in the years following the outbreak of war.

### Breaking News

Wisconsin Veterans Museum has been awarded a grant by the Institute of Museum and Library Service. The museum will use the \$31,757 grant to fund a project that will digitize the museum's collection of Civil War images. See more at [wisvetsmuseum.com/newsroom](http://wisvetsmuseum.com/newsroom).

## KENOSHA CIVIL WAR MUSEUM

### Wednesday, October 8, 2014. 7 p.m.

*Embattled Rebel: Jefferson Davis as Commander and Chief*, presented by Dr. James McPherson

The museum welcomes Dr. McPherson for a dinner, program, and book signing for his latest work *Embattled Rebel: Jefferson Davis as Commander and Chief*. Dr. McPherson's new book is a powerful reckoning with Jefferson Davis as military commander of the Confederacy.

First edition copies will be available for purchase and signing at the event. Advance registration is required for dinner but not for the program. Social Hour and Dinner at 5:30 p.m./Program at 7 p.m.

Dinner and Program: \$45/\$35 FOM

Program only: suggested \$5 donation at the door.

### Friday, October 10, 2014, Noon

*The Prairie Lawyer & the Clarinet Player: Music at the Gettysburg Address*, presented by Ed Pierce

Lincoln's part in the great cemetery dedication of 1863 is a story well told. Missing in this tale is how music contributed to the success of the ceremony. Mr. Pierce's program shows how this President and the Marine Band came together at this long remembered event.

### Thursday, October 30, 2014

*Lincoln and the Power of the Press*, presented by Harold Holzer  
Public Reception, 6 p.m. / Program, 7 p.m.

The Civil War Museum welcomes back author and Lincoln scholar Harold Holzer for a program and book signing for his latest work, *Lincoln and the Power of the Press*. First edition copies will be available for purchase and signing the night of the event. Prior registration for the reception is not required. There is no cost to attend the reception or lecture, but a suggested donation of \$5 will be asked for at the door.

## COMING IN OCTOBER, 2015

The Civil War Museum will be sponsoring the Antietam Campaign Tour on October 18-21, 2015. Participants will provide their own transportation east and will meet at the Sleep Inn at Hagerstown on Sunday afternoon. After check in, there will be a casual dinner in the hotel meeting room followed by an Antietam overview program by either Tom Clemons or Ted Alexander.

Monday morning the group will board buses and tour the South Mountain gaps. Monday afternoon will be a tour of Harpers Ferry with Dennis Frye. Dinner will be in Sharpsburg.

Tuesday is Antietam day with lunch at the Red Bird Inn and dinner at the Old South Mountain Inn.

Wednesday morning will be a tour of the Pry House and other hospital sites in Keedysville and Boonsboro. The tour will end at 1 p.m. on Wednesday.

Cost of the tour will cover all lodging, meals, bus transportation, guide fees, and park fees.

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### Contact the Kenosha Civil War Museum:

[www.kenosha.org/wp-civilwar/](http://www.kenosha.org/wp-civilwar/) or (262) 653-4141.

## CIVIL WAR NEWS

### THE GRANT HOUSE — DETROIT

John Marszalek, Ulysses S. Grant Association Executive Director sends a message to us from Jack Dempsey, board director:

*I am pleased to report that due to work by Sandra Clark, director of the Michigan Historical Center, Keith Creagh, director of the State department protecting natural and cultural resources, and Kimberly Johnson, commissioner, the Center secured a grant to move the Grant House from the State Fair Grounds to the grounds of the Detroit Edison Public School Academy. The current site is on the outskirts of Detroit; the Academy is located just north of heavily patronized Eastern Market, which is just north of the Detroit Barracks where USG (Grant) was stationed. The funds will cover the needed architectural work and the move. Ms. Clark has had the launch meeting with the other State department that will bid on a contract for an architect to draw up plans for siting the house and any stabilization needed. She anticipates the RFP to be issued in the near future. One of the Advisory Board members, Mr. Ron Staley of the Christman Company, recently visited the house and reports that it is dry and in good condition.*

This is just one of the buildings going to be or in the process of being restored and revitalized. All is not lost in Detroit.

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### ALONZO CUSHING MEDAL OF HONOR

151 after his death at Gettysburg, Alonzo H. Cushing will finally receive his Medal of Honor. President Barack Obama has approved the Medal of Honor for Cushing, who was killed while he stood his ground during Pickett's Charge.

The story of the campaign to have the Medal of Honor awarded to Cushing begins in 1967 when Margaret Zerwekh moved into a home built as a grist mill; the mill was on property which had once been owned by Cushing's father. Zerwekh began researching the family and came upon Alonzo's heroism at Gettysburg; she believes she started campaigning for the medal sometime in the 1980's. The campaign is now at an end—the event will take place in Delafield with Memorial Day weekend being a likely candidate for when it will occur.

Philip Shapiro, an Air Force C-130 pilot who started a Facebook page in 2010 promoting Cushing and the Medal of Honor, commented on Cushing:

*I really believe that if not for his leadership and courage on that day, the history of the Civil War and possibly our country would be very different.*

An article in the June 29, 1911, *Waukesha Freeman* wrote about Cushing:

*Alonzo H. Cushing graduated from West Point in 1861 and was commissioned a second lieutenant, in the Fourth Artillery the same day and promoted to first lieutenant before leaving the hall. From West Point he went at once to Washington and entered heartily into the business of making soldiers out of the raw recruits pouring into the capital, and building defenses for the city. He assumed the duties of ordinance officer of the Second Corps, and for some time was engaged in topographical work, which he performed creditably though fighting was his real passion. He took part in the disastrous battle of Fredericksburg, and was brevetted captain, 'for gallant and meritorious service' by President Lincoln. He took part in several actions, during the next few weeks, and at Gettysburg, made such a soldierly and splendid figure as to place his name for all time on the roster of military heroes...*

*On the third day of the fight Cushing's was one of the three Union batteries which was receiving most of the fire of 115 Confederate cannon. The batteries suffered terribly, the guns and their carriages being disabled and the gunners killed. When Pickett's splendid column of 17,000 Virginians entered the field, they directed their course to the point where Cushing 'held' front place. The Confederate cannon sent volleys over the heads of their advancing troops into the Union lines. Cushing and his neighbors replied with never ceasing spirit, in spite of a constant rain, of shot and shell, with horses and men falling all around. Cushing was shot several times but kept on firing. He served his last round of canister, was struck in the mouth by a bullet and fell dead.*

*Said General Morris Schaff in The Spirit of Old West Point: 'On the field of Gettysburg, more than once I stood where the brave Cushing gave up his life, right at the peak of Pickett's daring charge. Oh, that day and that hour! History will not let that smiling splendid boy die in vain; her dew will glisten forever over his record as the earthly morning dew glistens in the fields...Fame loves the gentleman and the true-hearted, but her sweetheart is gallant youth.'*

A Battle Monument at West Point was built with contributions from men of the regular army. Near lies a headstone with these words:

BREVET LT. COLONEL ALONZO H. CUSHING  
4TH ARTILLERY  
FELL  
JULY 3RD, 1863  
AT GETTYSBURG  
"FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH"



**Mouth of the White River, Ark.**

**October 30th 1864**

Friend Willard:

I received yours of the fourth inst. while I was on my way down the White River. We broke camp at St. Charles on the 23rd, embarked on a steamboat for Duval's Bluff, with orders to proceed with the utmost speed. Coupled with mysterious hints that we would probably form part of an expedition destined to give Daddy Price his final quietus to say the very least.

Well we hurried up the River but found that no one knew of any such skull and cross bones expedition, nor even of the alleged facts of our being wanted at all. Still it might be one of those grand strokes of Masterly Strategy brought about by some of our peerless Generals, about which no one knows anything with the exception of the Rebs and the Master Spirit. So it was deemed expedient to send on the General to consult with Gen. Steele. He returned next day with the intelligence that we were not needed and might proceed to the mouth of the River to await further Orders. So here we are once more on the Mississippi out of our good comfortable quarters which we built at St. Charles and shivering under Shelter tents, and no material to better our condition. I hope that we will be sent to south soon, no more northern winters in mind, thank you.

We have just got the details of Phil Sheridan's last victory (I mean that of the 19th, he has got into the thing so that he may have another one before this time), he suits me. You can perceive clearly the difference between a mere passable common place man, and an officer of good sense and nerve. Sheridan turned a defeat into a victory, with a course, the very same material, quite a difficult feat as anyone who has had the mortification to had ever seen shattered columns, preceded by the debris, broke loose from them, hurrying to the rear.

Before entering the Army, I thought that raising an army, imparting proper knowledge of drill and enforcing and maintaining discipline sufficient to give it force and efficiency and finally handling and fighting it with fair success, against an equally well organized force, might all be learned and practiced by a person of good sound common sense coupled with a taste for such a profession, but from the time the war broke out and I heard so much of a "deep strategy", military genius etc. etc. and saw so little benefit results from it that I became quite skeptical in regard to the Soundness of Military Science and Authority, but for sometime I have been in proportion to the closeness which

we have followed Military Science as our enemies have departed from it. And I believe today, that a well selected number of intelligent earnest officers can take any material that walks on hind legs and bearing the human form, be they white, black or any shade between, and in one year have them a very superior fighting force to anything that can be found, as far as my experience goes in the Volunteer Service of the United States.

We have a peculiar Army so far as discipline is concerned but thank God the men are fighting as not much better in that respect, and a good deal inferior in many other points, and though we are bound to win, it is at times discouraging to think of the unpardonable waste of human life and money caused by inefficiency, carelessness and ignorance. Good material has been bountifully furnished and shamefully misapplied and abused, but as Jacob Faithful's Father would have said, "No use crying for spilled milk, better luck next time."

By the time you receive this letter McC. see will probably have received the quietus in the shape of a few thousand of those tokens of admiration and esteem with which his friends say he has inspired the Army, he may get more votes than his opponents expect, but he will get mighty few compared to the number claimed by his friends. In regard to your query of how a certain Gentleman will vote I can't really say. When McC. was first nominated he was fast for his election, he then heard frequent very plain expression of opinion given to the loyalty of persons who would vote that way, then came the returns from Indiana, Ohio and Pennsylvania, which had a very cooling effect. I have not heard him say anything lately on that subject, although some have inferred from some remarks he has made, that he may possibly vote the Union ticket. I hope merely on account of the position he holds at present that he may do so. I suppose George is tough and healthy, give him my regards when you write next. I have not yet received the paper containing Jack Logan's speech which you sent, it may get around yet.

The weather is very chilly here for this season of the year but we will have some fine weather even here yet.

Please write soon,

John  
(1st Lieutenant John B. Scott, Co. F, 29th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry)

*continued on page 6*

### **A Soldier's Idea of Peace Democracy**

*A friend in the 29th Regiment, writing from St. Charles, Arkansas, under the date of October 10th, after mentioning that his company is doing a provost guard duty, says:*

“We have had a number of bushwhackers in charge since we have been here. They are all very innocent and good Union men when they see they are caught. They all believe that McClellan is the greatest general the Union ever had, and are very sure that he will be our next President. I honor and respect them for upholding one of their best friends. They know it is for their interest for him to be elected; if not sure of it they would not be his friends. The Democrats North who support him are a meaner and more cowardly set of traitorous sneaks than the men we are in arms fighting, and I think more of the rebels, for they come out fairly before the world, and we know right where to find them. Why should Democrats be for a dishonorable peace, when the soldiers who are doing all the fighting are for fighting until every rebel is killed or lays down his arms? There is no guesswork about the soldiers being in favor of Lincoln and the war, and we will prove it by our votes four weeks from tomorrow. The soldiers vote this fall will astonish you. I don't think McClellan will get over 40 votes in this Regiment. The boys are wide awake and bound to do all they can to elect Lincoln, and they honestly believe that it will do as much toward ending the war as the capture of Richmond. We are sure of both these Union victories within the next month, and I think the time not far distant when we can come home to our homes with the Union restored, slavery abolished, and rebel copperheads politically killed and buried.”

—

*Newspaper clipping found in the 1864 diary of Captain David D. Curtis, Co. D, 29th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry*

### **Enlistment of Drafted Men.**

Special attention is called to the order of Adjutant General Gaylord in regard to the enlistment of drafted men. It should be distinctly understood that a man who is drafted is in service by virtue of being drafted and cannot volunteer either before or after receiving notification of being drafted, nor receive any bounty whatever. Ignorance and fraud in regard to this subject has created much difficulty. Some men who have enlisted after being drafted, and secured local bounties, have been remanded to the Provost Marshals and the towns are so much out of pocket. Many recruiting officers have been enlisting drafted men, ante-dating their — papers in some instances, and in others, secretly enlisting men the day before the draft and holding their papers with the understanding that they were to be destroyed if the man is not drafted. Supplemental drafts will have to be made in many towns in consequence of such transactions on the part of recruiting officers.

*Wisconsin State Journal, Oct. 3 1864*

Jim Lane is tough and must have metal in his flesh as well as mettle in his spirit. Under the broiling sun of last August he stumped Southern Kansas; rode fifty miles a day for eighteen days and made three speeches per day never missing an appointment.

(Editor: Jim Lane tried to gain command of the Second Wisconsin in 1861 to take them to Kansas to fight the bushwhackers. Gen. Sherman at the time said Lane was crazy)

*Wisconsin State Journal, Oct 3 1864*

There was the city brass band, a drum band and a bagpipe. The procession moved three times around the park, and what with the music, and the wagons, and the sidewalks. Thronged by soldiers of the 5th Regiment with their friends — who were in town making their last arrangements prior to the regiment's leaving the state — an impression was created that there was to be a large meeting.

But when the crowd finally came together in the Park, it proved to be a meeting of only ordinary size. Counting men, women and boys, soldiers and townsmen of all persuasions, with the liberality accorded to political meetings it might be estimated 3,000. In size it was just about like the Union meeting when Judge Dolittle and Long John Wentworth spoke here the previous week. And of the whole, at least three-fourths of the voters present who were for Little Mac, were natives of the Emerald Isle.

(Then followed a political presentation of Democratic party members.)

The soldiers furnished to guard the meeting sent word to Col. Allen praying to be relieved from so odious a duty, declaring that they had been insulted and felt degraded by such service.

*Wisconsin State Journal, Oct. 6 1864*

### **The Old Colors of the 19th Wisconsin**

The elegant colors have so long and so honorably borne by the 19th regiment, riddled with bullets and torn and tattered by the exposures of the campaigns in which they have been received and are deposited at the capitol. In returning them to the Governor, Lt. Col. Strong accompanied them with the following brief history:

Camp Randall

Madison, Wis. Oct. 4th 1864

To His Excellency, James T. Lewis:

Sir! I have the honor to intrust the old colors of the 19th Wis. Vols. to you as the representative of the State which, we are proud to serve and honor in the field and at home.

Presented to us by the State authorities in April, 1862, they have been borne on all our marches and reconnaissances, through the siege of Suffolk, Va, in April and May, 1863, being under fire eighteen days; through the Peninsula campaign of 1863, under Maj. Gen. Dix; through the siege of Newbern, N.C., February, 1864, being under fire four days; often in peril, but never furled or taken down in presence

of the enemy. These colors have not been carried through the campaign of the past summer having become tattered, torn and faded. A New National color was purchased by the officers and men of the regiment, which has received the baptism of fire, having been pierced by thirty-six balls.

The old colors we now leave in your charge. May the memory of the brave men who rallied around these "Dear old flags," many of whom sleep where "no sound shall awake them in glory again," keep fresh in the hearts of a noble and generous people.

I have the honor to remain  
Very respectfully, your ob't serv't  
R.M.Strong  
Lt. Col. Comd'g 19th Wis Vol.

*Wisconsin State Journal Oct. 5 1864*

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### **From Grant's Army Headquarters Potomac Army, Oct. 4**

The utmost quiet has prevailed in front of Petersburg since Sunday.

In going over the late battlefield, we found our dead entirely stripped of clothing, and some horribly mutilated, several being murdered after being wounded.

*Wisconsin State Journal, Oct. 7 1864*

The Copperhead papers are growling terribly because President Lincoln has seen fit to repose more confidence in Gen. Grant than in Mr. McClellan. Old 'Unconditional Surrender' earned that confidence. Would we could say that for Little Mac.

*Wisconsin State Journal*

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### **A SAVAS BEATIE INTERVIEW...from page 10**

forward process is not always true; re-examining the primary sources is essential; and relying too heavily on what others have already said is dangerous.

**SB:** So what are some features of your book that you think readers will really enjoy?

**FV:** This book examines several battles by comparing what Grant said about them, in his reports at the time and in his memoirs to what other people said about those same battles — a completely new treatment not done before. The side-by-side comparison is enlightening and shows the dangers of relying on a single source, even a well-regarded one when we study history. The conclusions I draw are in some cases completely at odds with what we thought we knew.

**SB:** Thank you for your time, we appreciate it.

**FV:** You're welcome.

This interview is presented in its entirety and with the permission of Savas Beatie. Please visit Savas Beatie at [www.savasbeatie.com](http://www.savasbeatie.com). You can contact Savas Beatie at [sales@savasbeatie.com](mailto:sales@savasbeatie.com)



## **2014 NATIONAL VETERANS CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL IS COMING TO MILWAUKEE!**

Presented by the Department of Veterans Affairs and the American Legion Auxiliary, the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival (NVCAF) is the culmination of year-long talent competitions in art, creative writing, dance, drama and music for veterans treated in the Department of Veterans Affairs national health care system across the nation.

On Sunday, November 2, 2014, over one hundred veterans will exhibit their artwork or perform musical, dance, dramatic, or original writing selections in a gala variety show accompanied by a professional orchestra at the Milwaukee Theater, 500 W. Kilbourn Ave.

VA medical facilities incorporate creative arts into their recreation therapy programs to further the rehabilitation milieu for both inpatients and outpatients. This annual competition recognizes the progress and recovery made through that therapy, and raises the visibility of the creative achievements of our Nation's Veterans after disease, disability or life crisis.

Admission to the November 2 art exhibit (noon-1:45 p.m.) and gala stage show (2 p.m.) is free, but tickets are required. For complimentary tickets, call (414) 389-4099.

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## **MARQUETTE'S KLEMENT LECTURE**

The annual Klement Lecture will be held not in October, but in the Spring of 2015. For more information, call: (414) 288-7217 or visit <http://www.marquette.edu/history>

Marquette University's History Department has been offering programming this fall on World War I. The series continues on Wednesday, October 1, 4:00 p.m., with a public lecture by Dr. Irene Gunther, University of Houston: "The Great War in Art," and concludes on October 22, 4:00 p.m. with a public lecture by Dr. Martha Hanna, University of Colorado: "Their Hearts Remained at Home: Marriage and the Great War in Britain, France, and Canada."

## AND SO IT CONTINUES:

October 1864...

## Marking the Civil War Sesquicentennial

### OCTOBER 1864

The capture of Atlanta proves beneficial to Lincoln's reelection campaign. On the Petersburg lines a stalemate keeps things quiet while Early continues to be a threat in the Shenandoah Valley. Hood is attempting to sever Sherman's long supply line running from Chattanooga to Atlanta in the hopes of driving Sherman back to Tennessee. Forrest is also trying to force a withdrawal of Sherman's troops. Uncertainty reigns on both sides.

**October 1, 1864** • Forrest's Confederates in southeastern Tennessee and northern Alabama are fully active and skirmishing with Union garrisons. In Missouri, Southern raiders under Price are also skirmishing with Union forces. In Georgia, Hood was moving around south of Atlanta towards Sherman's railroad supply line.

British blockade runner *Condor* pursued by the U.S.S. *Niphon* goes aground off New Inlet, near Fort Fisher, North Carolina. Confederate spy Rose O'Neal Greenhow, on board the *Condor* and carrying dispatches and \$2000 in gold fearing capture, leaves the *Condor* in a small boat. The boat capsizes in the surf and Greenhow, weighed down by the gold, drowns.

**October 2, 1864** • Troops from the Army of Tennessee reach Sherman's supply line tearing up the track of the Western & Atlantic Railroad and interrupting service on the line. At Augusta, Georgia, President Davis appoints P.G.T. Beauregard to command of the two western departments now under Hood and Richard Taylor. Although Hood had the top command he was not to interfere with the field operations except when he was personally on the field.

At Americus, Georgia, Pvt. Jackman of "The Orphan Brigade" would write:

*Sunday. Today my turn of service expired — three years. When I joined the army, I little thought the war would last so long...*

**October 3, 1864** • Hood's Army of Tennessee is astraddle the railroad linking Chattanooga and Atlanta and is tearing up more track. Sherman, forced to pay attention to Hood's troops, sends troops from Atlanta to deal with the problem. George H. Thomas arrives in Nashville sent by Sherman to organize the defenses in the event Hood heads in that direction.

**October 4, 1864** • Hood's troops increase their hold on the Chattanooga-Atlanta railroad line. Sherman, leaving one corps in Atlanta, is on his way to rescue several garrisons along the railroad. Sherman will set up his headquarters at Kennesaw Mountain.

**October 5, 1864** • From his headquarters at Kennesaw Mountain, Sherman could see the major conflict occurring

at Allatoona Pass where Federals under Brigadier General John M. Corse were garrisoned. After a cannonade at dawn, Confederate General French demanded surrender; Corse refused. The garrison is assaulted but the Confederates could not take the pass. French received a false report that indicated Major General Jacob D. Cox was moving with a Union force to relieve Corse. French pulled up stakes leaving Corse in charge of the field.

**October 6, 1864** • In the Valley, Confederate cavalry under Thomas L. Rosser attack two regiments of Custer's cavalry at Brock's Gap, Virginia. Custer repulses the attack.

The Richmond *Enquirer* prints an article in favor of enlisting Negro soldiers in the Confederacy.

**October 7, 1864** • Confederate troops, attempting to push Federal troops away from Richmond, attack the Union lines along the Darbytown and New Market roads. Sterling Price's men attack near the Missouri capital of Jefferson City.

**October 9, 1864** • Sterling Price leaves the Jefferson City area and moves towards Boonville.

**October 10, 1864** • In the Valley, Sheridan straddles the Valley Pike near Cedar Creek and waits. Jubal Early is coming down the Valley.

President Lincoln writes to Maryland political leader Henry W. Hoffman that he favors their new state constitution:

*I will all men to be free. I wish the material prosperity of the already free which I feel sure the extinction of slavery would bring. I wish to see, in process of disappearing, that only thing which ever could bring this nation to civil war.*

**October 11, 1864** • The elections in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Indiana show a strong Republican support. Lincoln stayed at the War Department telegraph office until after midnight to get the election returns.

**October 12, 1864** • Chief Justice Roger Brooke Taney died in Washington at the age of 89. Taney's most important written opinion was in regards to the Dred Scott Case, brought before the Court in 1857. Rear Admiral David Dixon Porter assumes command of the North Atlantic Blockading Squadron.

**October 13, 1864** • Maryland voters adopt a new state constitution which abolishes slavery by a majority of only 375 votes. West of Harper's Ferry, Mosby and his men hold up a Federal train carrying two paymasters. Mosby's men made off with \$173,000 and tore up a section of the track, wrecking the train. After robbing the train, the Confederates burned the train.

Sgt. Barber, Co. C, 15th Illinois Volunteer Infantry would write from Andersonville:

*Arose early, washed a shirt, pair of socks and one*



*pair of drawers and took a bath. The mortality of the camp is about twenty per day now. Rollin, Milton and Alex Killon are my messmates.*

**October 14, 1864** • Price continues to move through Missouri making a public plea for the people to join with him to “redeem” Missouri.

**October 15, 1864** • In Missouri, Jo Shelby’s Confederates, part of Price’s campaign, attack Sedalia; citizens and home guard stampede with the Federal troops putting up a confused fight before surrendering.

**October 17, 1864** • Hood’s Army of Tennessee halts their harassment of Sherman’s Chattanooga-Atlanta rail line and moves toward Gadsden, Alabama. Lt. Gen. James Longstreet returns to the Army of Northern Virginia at Petersburg after recovering from wounds received at the Wilderness in May.

**October 19, 1864** • Hidden by an early morning fog, the three main forces of Jubal Early struck the Federal encampment at Cedar Creek (Belle Grove). Northern positions crumple and when the fog lifted the Confederates had full possession of the camps and earthworks of the Eighth and Nineteenth Corps of Sheridan’s army. Wright’s Sixth Corps was Early’s next victim. Sheridan arrived from Winchester at around 10:30 in the morning, organized his force and attacked Early in the late afternoon. Early’s men were chased back to Fisher’s Hill suffering heavy losses of both men and material. Confederate Major General Stephen D. Ramseur was mortally wounded. This would be the last major battle of the war in the Shenandoah Valley; Federals would now control the Valley until the end.

**October 20, 1864** • Lincoln issues a proclamation setting aside the last Thursday in November as Thanksgiving Day.

**October 21, 1864** • In celebration of the victory at Cedar Creek there is a serenade at the White House. Lincoln proposed three cheers for Sheridan, Grant and “all our noble commanders and the soldiers and sailors...”

**October 22, 1864** • Hood moves from Gadsden to Gunterville, Alabama with his Army of Tennessee intending to head toward Tennessee. At Gunterville, Hood finds the Tennessee River high and supplies short and chooses to continue west across northern Alabama.

**October 23, 1864** • Sterling Price’s Missouri campaign would end on this day. Price ordered Shelby’s forces to attack Curtis’s Union forces and after routing them to turn on Pleasanton’s cavalry. Nearly four hours of fighting occurs. Pleasanton joined the fray with his cavalry about mid-morning. Rebel cavalry fled and Pleasanton then hit Shelby’s rear and flank. The Confederates fled the field and withdrew south along the Missouri-Kansas line. There would be no more major battles west of the Mississippi.

**October 25, 1864** • Pursuing Federals catch up with Price’s retreating columns near Mine Creek, Kansas. Pleasanton attacked with a full cavalry force and cause heavy damage to the Rebel wagon train. Shelby’s men came up to give aid holding for a while before falling back to protect the rest of

the wagons. Price was ultimately forced into burning about a third of his train and then hurry south with the rest of his command.

**October 26, 1864** • Lt. William Barker Cushing, USN, and fourteen men go after the ironclad ram C.S.S. *Albemarle*; their launch left at dark but ran aground and Cushing and his men spent the rest of the night getting her off and re-floated. The attack was postponed to the following night.

**October 27, 1864** • At Petersburg some 17,000 Federals were on the move to the left moving towards Burgess’ Mill, about 12 miles west and south of Petersburg. The advance was halted by Confederate forces under Heth and Mahone. The Federals retired and the South Side Railroad remained in Confederate hands for the winter.

Cushing’s launch armed with a torpedo on the end of a pole moved up the Roanoke River heading for the *Albemarle*. An alarm was sounded and firing commenced. The launch struck the log boom protecting the *Albemarle*, smashed through and the torpedo was exploded against her hull sinking her.

**October 28, 1864** • Action in Alabama increased as Hood moved west across the state. Sherman, at Gaylesville, Alabama, learned that Hood had left Gadsden for Decatur and decides to return to Atlanta. In Missouri, General Curtis catches up with Price’s Confederates near Newtonia. The Confederates held off Curtis until reinforcements for the Union arrived forcing the Confederates to withdraw.

**October 29, 1864** • As part of Curtis’s Union force is recalled, Price and his Confederates are able to cleanly escape. Sgt. Barber, Co. C, 15th Illinois Volunteer Infantry would write from Andersonville Prison:

*A little cloudy this morning. Market street is unusually active this morning. Notice articles for sale that I have not seen before, such as pies, radishes, apples, etc. The price of pies is one dollar and a half United States money...Washed shirt and socks this afternoon.*

**October 30, 1864** • Hood’s Army of Tennessee arrives at Tuscumbia, Alabama, with some parts reaching Florence. Federal forces begin to gather to trap and engage Hood’s army. On the Tennessee River, in the area around Fort Henry, part of Forrest’s cavalry was trying to get across the river but was hampered by Union gunboats.

**October 31, 1864** • The month would end with Hood arriving at Tuscumbia and sending reinforcements across the Tennessee River at Florence. Hood still hoped that Sherman would follow him. Forrest arrives near Fort Heiman, where his men have disrupted Union river traffic. Forrest creates a makeshift “navy” on the Tennessee using the vessels he had captured.

Nevada enters the Union as the thirty-sixth state by proclamation of the President.

And so it continues.

## A SAVAS BEATIE INTERVIEW WITH FRANK VARNEY

### Author of General Grant and the Rewriting of History

**SB:** Why did you decide to write your book on General Grant?

**FV:** I was re-reading Grant's memoirs, and realized that some of what he was saying about certain Union Generals seemed at odds with things I had seen in other primary sources. So I decided to re-examine his memoirs and compare them with other sources, which discussed the same people and events. I have always been interested in the concept of historical memory — why we remember things the way we do — and thought that perhaps I might find some indications that Grant had misjudged William S. Rosecrans and others. After all, Rosecrans had been involved in a whole string of Union victories — at Iuka, Corinth, and Stones River — and only one apparent defeat, which took place at Chickamauga. It seemed logical to assume that he may have been a somewhat better general than Grant had painted him to be. In fact, there was much more to the story than I had expected.

**SB:** What makes *General Grant and the Rewriting of History* unique from other books on the same topic?

**FV:** There really is no other book that looks at things from this perspective. There are studies of the battles I named before (most of them based on Grant's memories of them), and a single biography of Rosecrans written more than sixty years ago. There are no books however, which examine them as a unified whole, and none which question Grant's remarks on the subject. Essentially, what Grant said has gotten into the history books to the detriment of the truth in some instances. There are studies of Grant's generalship which are based almost entirely on Grant. Obviously that makes little sense. If we are going to look at someone's ability, it is logical to look at other sources beyond that person's own writings.

**SB:** How long have you researched this topic?

**FV:** It took me about five years to do the research, and a few more years to write the manuscript.

**SB:** Where did you conduct your research and what sources did you use?

**FV:** I did my research in the Cornell University library, which is an amazing repository of information; at UCLA, where the Rosecrans papers are kept; at Fredericksburg, Chickamauga/Chattanooga, and Stones River military parks; in the National Archives; in the New York State Archives; and at the Huntington Library. Some of the material I looked at had not been previously published, as far as I know, including some of the documents in the Rosecrans papers, letters, and journals. Some of the material will appear in a second volume, including the annotated transcript of a court of inquiry in which Grant perjured himself.

**SB:** Did anything surprise you during your research?

**FV:** There were quite a few surprises, actually. I was astonished at the degree of Grant's duplicity, particularly when I discovered no less than four instances in which he falsified War Department records. I was also amazed to realize, after I had put together the story of what really happened at the Battle of Chickamauga, that some of the most important and well-known aspects of that battle were completely false. That included the previously unchallenged story of Rosecrans' breakdown on the battlefield, and the myth that the Army of the Cumberland was starving and on the verge of retreat until Grant relieved Rosecrans, established a supply line, and saved the day. There were also important aspects of the Battles of Iuka and Corinth and of Price's Missouri raid which were also at odds with what the history books tell us. And I was very surprised to find that Rosecrans was the recipient of multiple offers to run for both president and vice-president. At various times he was approached as an alternative to Lincoln on the Republican ticket; as Lincoln's opponent on the Democratic ticket; and as Lincoln's running mate. He declined the first two but accepted the third; political machinations prevented that from happening, however.

**SB:** Let's discuss how the book is laid out. Can you describe the template you used for each battle?

**FV:** The introduction established the argument which is then examined chronologically. I look at each battle in turn beginning with Shiloh, where a pattern of deceit starts to emerge. It would mark what would become a consistent pattern for Grant; lack of preparation, outstanding battlefield flexibility, avoidance of blame, the search for a scapegoat, and the insistence that he had a master plan which was ruined by the mistakes of others. For each battle we look at the context, what the historians tell us, what really happened according to the primary sources, the aftermath, and then revisit the historiography to see what has changed based on this fresh look at the sources.

**SB:** Ultimately, when a reader puts down this book, what do you want them to come away with?

**FV:** I would like them to come away with several things. First, that although Ulysses S. Grant was in fact an outstanding general, he was quite willing to point fingers and to take credit rightfully due to others. Second, that he was very willing to manipulate the truth, including slanting his reports, falsifying the official records of the War Department, committing perjury, and lying in his memoirs. He was also very good at carrying a grudge, and would actively work to bring down those he did not like. Third, that William S. Rosecrans was a far more effective general than we had previously thought, and deserves much more credit than he has received. Finally, thinking history is a straight

*continued on page 7*

## BETWEEN THE COVERS

### Decision in the West (The Atlanta Campaign of 1864) by Albert Castel

This book focused, as the title indicates, on the Union campaign to capture Atlanta in 1864. Not having read a book covering the subject I thought this would be the definitive account to read. It also carried the recommendation of the Civil War Institute of Gettysburg College and it was also on the recommended reading list of the Lincoln Bookshop, which provided an overview of the campaign at the Kenosha Civil War Museum in May.

I felt the book, although published in 1992, thoroughly provides the reader with an excellent overview of the campaign covering both sides. Mr. Castel covers the strategies devised by the Union and Confederates. He shows the political issues confronting the commanders and how they dealt with those pressures both militarily and politically.

The book provides detailed explanations of Sherman's war maneuver against the Confederates and shows how General Johnston and later General Hood attempted to counter Sherman's moves.

Mr. Castel provides very good maps with his explanations of the battles that were fought during the campaign — Resaca, New Hope Church, Picket's Mill, Dallas, Hobbs Farm, Kennesaw Mountain and the battles around Atlanta. I think one area in which an author can greatly make the military actions of any campaign understandable begins with a good, clear explanation of troop movements and the how and why of those moves. In describing the campaign it also helps the reader understand how this particular piece fits into the overall campaign. The insertion of maps that detail those movements highlight, for the reader, the picture on the ground. More often than not military histories provide few maps of those moves and unless the reader is familiar with the territory being discussed mere descriptions of tactical and strategic movements ends up to a very boring read. In this Mr. Castel does a very good job in providing maps, so I found myself understanding the flow of the battles.

Castel also deals with troop conditions and their overall morale ups and downs. These descriptions help show the reader how the troops, after almost 3 years of combat, have changed in attitude and how they were now handling orders to make frontal assaults and how quickly both sides were digging in once the marching stopped.

The author also does a good job in showing the ebb and flow of both Union and Confederate political considerations during the campaign and provides a view of what concerns each capital had in the campaign and the guidance and reasoning that the political leaders put on the commanders of each side.

I highly recommend this book to anyone who is looking to read a detailed account to this key Civil War campaign and how it helped shape the course of the conflict. There are some newly written works that focus on the individual battles, but this book provides a fine overview of the entire campaign.

Submitted by Bruce Klem



*Image by Department of the Army • See story on page 4.*

## Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for October 9, 2014

Mail your reservations by Monday, October 6, 2014, to:  
Paul Eilbes  
1809 Washington Ave.  
Cedarburg, WI 53012-9730

ALSO, call in reservations to:  
(262) 376-0568  
peilbes@gmail.com

Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_ (meal price \$25.00 per person) for \_\_\_\_ reservations for October 9, 2014, 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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All address changes or problems receiving your *General Orders* should be directed through Membership Chairman Paul Eilbes.

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