



GENERAL ORDERS

The Newsletter of the

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



November 13, 2014

Professor Stephen Towne

Detecting Deserters and Disloyalty:

U.S. Army Intelligence Operations in the Midwest during the Civil War

At the beginning of the Civil War, as U.S. Army intelligence operations ramped up, state governors in Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois cooperated with federal law enforcement officials in various attempts to investigate reports of secret groups and individuals who opposed the Union war effort.

Beginning in 1862, army commanders took it upon themselves to initiate investigation of antiwar sentiment in Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois. By 1863, several of the commanders had established intelligence operations staffed by hired civilian detectives and by soldiers detailed from their units to chase down deserters and draft dodgers, to maintain surveillance on suspected persons and groups, and to investigate organized resistance to the draft. By 1864, these spies had infiltrated secret organizations that, sometimes working in collaboration with Confederate rebels, aimed to subvert the war effort.

Our November speaker, Stephen E. Towne, will address this issue as he examines how, during the Civil War, the U.S. Army responded to growing threats to its integrity arising from desertion, draft dodging, and armed resistance to the draft in the Midwest. Army commanders in those states created detective bureaus in order to collect intelligence on armed secret organizations aimed at impeding the Union war effort. Army detectives who successfully infiltrated these groups helped to foil plots to raise insurrection and release Confederate POWs. As a result of his research, Towne argues that Copperheads and other subversive factions were not merely important fringe groups but truly dangerous provocateurs whose threat to Northern internal security was more real than imagined.



Stephen E. Towne is an archivist at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI). He has written extensively on the Civil War in the Midwest, including articles in *Civil War History*, *Journal of Illinois History*, *Indiana Magazine of History*, *Journalism History*, *Ohio Valley History*, and others. Towne has edited two volumes

and is the author of *Surveillance and Spies in the Civil War: Exposing Confederate Conspiracies in America's Heartland* to be published in December, 2014 by Ohio University Press.

**General Orders No. 11-14
November 2014**

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November Meeting at a Glance

The Wisconsin Club

9th and Wisconsin Avenue

[Jackets required for the dining room.]

5:30 p.m. - staff meeting

[Open to all members]

6:15 p.m. - Registration/Social Hour

6:45 p.m. - Dinner

[\$25 by reservation, please]

Reservations are accepted until

Monday, November 7, 2014

7:30 p.m. - Program

**Speaker and topic are subject
to change. In case of inclement
weather, listen to WTMJ or WISN
for meeting status.**

milwaukeeecwrt.org

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*. If you have not done so, please take a moment to fill out and return your renewal in the postage-paid envelope that was 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 Reservations are Cancelled

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

Your Cooperation is Appreciated

"Walk-in dinner" requests are sometimes difficult to honor. Remember, dinner reservations are to be made at least 48 hours prior to the meeting date. We are always happy to accommodate where possible, but we cannot always guarantee a dinner that evening if you have not called in or emailed your reservation. Thank you for your understanding.

MCWRT Annual Fund

The following members have made a generous commitment to the MCWRT by investing in that fund. The following list reflects those made from July-October 2014.

Major Contributor (\$500 and above)

Grant Johnson

Patron (\$200-\$499)

Crain Bliwas, Robert Parrish

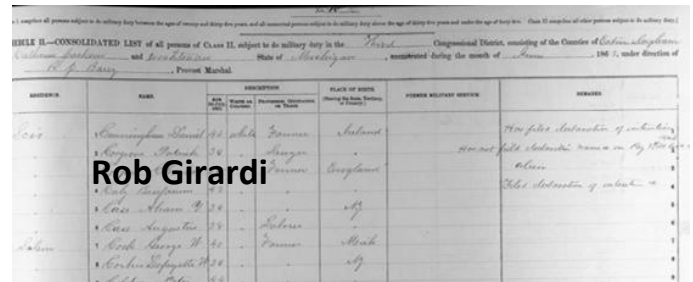
Associate (\$100-\$199)

Paul Eilbes, David Jordan, Stephen Leopold,
Paul Sotirini, Bernard VanDinter

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, Jean Schwonek, Dennis Slater,
Dan Tanty

The Muster Roll: NEW MEMBERS



| NAME | RANK | COMPANY | PLAZA OF BIRTH | PLAZA OF RESIDENCE | REMARKS |
|-------------|------|---------|----------------|--------------------|---------|
| Rob Girardi | | | | | |

2014-2015 Speaker Schedule

December 11, 2014 – Jim Ogden

Nevins-Freemans 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 – Professor 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 – Garry Adelman

"4-D Civil War Photography Extravaganza"

Speakers and topics are subject to change.

NEWSLETTER CHANGE

Due to increased demands on her time, Patricia Lynch, who has volunteered her time since 2008 in laying out and designing the *General Orders*, is unable to continue in her voluntary capacity. The Round Table board and in particular, Donna Agnelly, editor of the newsletter, would like to thank and acknowledge Patricia for donating her time and artistry in helping to bring the newsletter to life every month. Going forward, Board member Dave Wege has volunteered to take on the job of laying out the content of the newsletter. Although the layout will have a slightly different look we hope you continue to enjoy the content in each issue.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – EVENTS – MEETINGS

November 10, 2014

Manitowoc Civil War Round Table, 7 p.m.
Manitowoc Historical Society Heritage Center

November 11, 2014

Waukesha Civil War Round Table, 7 p.m.
Citizens Bank of Mukwonago Waukesha Branch
Speaker: Steve Acker, "Life in the Trenches of Petersburg"

November 13-14, 2014

The Last Campaign in Tennessee
Tennessee Sesquicentennial Signature Event
A variety of events in Franklin, Tennessee
For a complete list of events visit:
<http://www.franklin150.com>

November 15-16, 2014

150th Battle of Franklin Re-enactment
Carnton Plantation
1345 Eastern Flank Circle, Franklin

November 18, 2014

Prairieville Irregulars Civil War Round Table, 7 p.m.
Citizens Bank of Mukwonago Waukesha Branch
Speaker: Jim Heinz, "Damn the Torpedoes, Full Speed Ahead: The Life of America's First Admiral, David Glasgow Farragut"

KENOSHA CIVIL WAR MUSEUM

Sunday, November 16, 2014, 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

***Freemasonry and the Civil War:
Fraternal Brothers Across the Lines***

Presenter: Trevor Steinbach
During the Civil War, Freemasons on both sides laid down their weapons to help each other. Come learn about how masons on the battlefields, on the back roads, and in graveyards were united together wearing both the Blue and Gray.

Tuesday, November 18, 2014, 7 – 8:30 p.m.

Civil War Media Club

A Stillness at Appomattox by Bruce Catton

Curator Doug Dammann leads a discussion of Bruce Catton's Pulitzer Prize Award-winning book. Participants are encouraged to read the book before the meeting and come ready to discuss it. Used versions of the book are available in the Civil War Museum gift shop.
\$10/\$5 Friends of the Museum

KENOSHA CIVIL WAR MUSEUM

**Wednesdays, November 5 & 12, 2014,
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.**

***Long Abe & Little Mac: How Lincoln
Almost Lost America***

Presented by: Steve Rogstad
Take an in-depth look at the election of 1864 which pitted old foes Abraham Lincoln and George McClellan against one another in the political arena.
\$25/\$20 Friends of the Museum

Saturday, November 8, 2014, 1 – 3 p.m.
***The Known and the Unknowns – Civil War
Uniforms and Clothing***

Presented by: Tom Arliskas
Author Tom Arliskas' class will discuss the why's, how's, different types and who wore what and when of Civil War uniforms. His visual class will reveal many never before viewed photographs of Civil War soldiers. Bring your questions and thoughts on a very interesting and rarely discussed Civil War topic.
\$20/\$15 Friends of the Museum

Please pre-register for class. Registrations can be made by calling 262-653-4140.

Saturday, November 8, 2014, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Veteran's Heritage Day

Visit with veterans throughout the day as they display memorabilia from all branches of service. A soldiers and veterans brick dedication will begin at 11 a.m.

Friday, November 14, 2014, Noon -1 p.m.
Ozaukee County Civil War Draft Riot of 1862

Presented by: Allen Bucholz
In November of 1862, residents of Ozaukee County who opposed the draft attacked the Draft Commissioner and did significant damage to the city of Port Washington. This program covers the cause, the riot, the aftermath, and a few significant contributions made by Ozaukee soldiers during the war.

This program is sponsored by the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee and the Iron Brigade Association.

milwaukeeecwrt.org



Still More Civil War Offerings!

AT THE WISCONSIN VETERANS MUSEUM

Thursday, November 6, 2014, 7-8 p.m.

A Quiet Corner of the War: Hijinks and Home
A Musical presentation

Judy Cook, folksinger and author, will perform songs and stories from the Civil War. Cook's presentation will highlight the often overlooked aspects of Civil War era history by exploring the everyday activities and pastimes of those that served and those that remained at home.

AT THE MILWAUKEE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

October 3 – November 15, 2014

***Scenes Such as Would Make
the Stoutest Hearts Tremble:
The Civil War Letters and Artifacts
of Milwaukee Participants***

Letters, though often sporadic, were the only way for friends and family to keep in touch with soldiers serving in the Civil War. This exhibit uses letters and documents from the Milwaukee County Historical Society Research Library collection to give a first-hand account of the Civil War experiences of Milwaukee soldiers and their friends and family. The letters drive the story and the artifacts give it additional substance as the war is portrayed through the eyes of soldiers serving in many capacities and in all theaters of the war.

In November 1951 Herbert O. Brayer talked to the Round Table on "Fort Fillmore."

W.B. Hesseltine visited the Round Table in November 1961. Hesseltine's talk was on "Two Who Might Have Been Stonewall."

Lowell Reidenbaugh visited the Round Table in November 1981. His talk that evening was on "Stonewall Jackson at White Oak Swamp."

In November 1991 Alan T. Nolan was the featured speaker. Nolan's topic that evening was "Considering 'Lee Considered.'"

"1861 in Missouri" was the subject of our own C. Judley Wyant's presentation in November 2001.

Gail Stephens visited the Round Table in November 2011 and spoke to the assembled members on "Jubal in the Valley, Summer 1864."

At last year's November meeting the Round Table welcomed Lawrence Hewitt who spoke on "Civil War Myths."

Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for November 13, 2014

Mail your reservations by Monday, November 10, 2014, to: **Paul Eilbes**
1809 Washington Ave
Cedarburg, WI 53012-9730

ALSO, call in reservations to: **Paul Eilbes (262) 376-0568**
[**peilbes@gmail.com**](mailto:peilbes@gmail.com)

Enclosed is \$ ____ (meal price \$25.00 per person) for ____ reservations for November 13, 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 _____

AND SO IT CONTINUES: NOVEMBER 1864 MARKING THE CIVIL WAR SESQUICENTENNIAL

NOVEMBER 1864

Attention in the North is focused on the election, rather than the war. State elections in October boosted Lincoln's confidence but he was still anxious about the outcome. Victories in the Shenandoah, the coast and in Missouri helped quiet some of the opposition to Lincoln.

November 1, 1864 • Nathan Bedford Forrest heads south up the Tennessee River with his captured gunboat and two transports; artillery followed along the riverbanks. Forrest's goal was Johnsonville, Tennessee, the site of a Union depot and small garrison.

Two divisions of the Sixteenth Army Corps under Major General Andrew Jackson Smith, in Missouri to help expel Price, are finally on their way to Nashville to join Major General George H. Thomas.

November 2, 1864 • *Venus*, one of Forrest's two transports, is driven ashore by two Federal gunboats six miles below Johnsonville. Forrest's gunboat, the *Undine*, was damaged but escaped.

November 3, 1864 • The *Undine* challenges three Federal gunboats at Johnsonville on the Tennessee River, but the three gunboats would not engage in a fight.

November 4, 1864 • Sherman would comment when he heard that Forrest was on the Tennessee River: "...that devil Forrest was down about Johnsonville and was making havoc among the gunboats and transports."

Forrest, with batteries placed on the west bank, shells Federal gunboats, transports, warehouses, wagon trains and Union soldiers at the supply base on Johnsonville. The *Undine* was abandoned and burned by the Confederates but succeeded in disrupting Thomas's supply line and diverting forces Thomas needed at Nashville.

November 5, 1864 • Forrest pulls away, unharmed, and heads south toward Hood via Corinth, Mississippi. Forrest estimated that he had caused \$6,700,000 worth of damage at the depot.

Sgt. Barber, Co. C, 15th Illinois Volunteer Infantry writes from Andersonville Prison:

Another day has passed and we remain in this miserable pen, and get rations barely sufficient to sustain life. One year ago this evening, after nearly three years' absence, I crossed the threshold of home. Friends and plenty there surround me. How great a contrast now!

November 6, 1864 • In Chicago, the Confederate ringleaders of a plot to take over the city and free Camp Douglas prisoners were arrested.

November 7, 1864 • The Congress of the Confederate States of America gather in Richmond for the second and last session of the Second Congress. President Davis sent a message that was surprisingly optimistic playing down the capture of Atlanta writing: "There are no vital points on the preservation of which the continued existence of the Confederacy depends." Davis called for a general militia law and an end to most exemptions from service. Davis also recommended that the government purchase slaves for work in the Army then free them on discharge replacing the current impressment system. He would conclude his message by saying the Confederacy favored a negotiated peace, but only with independence.

November 8, 1864 • Lincoln is reelected with Andrew Johnson as Vice President by a 55 percent majority of the popular vote of the people. Lincoln spent the evening in the War Office getting telegraphed election returns. In the early morning he responded to a serenade and said that the election result "will be to the lasting advantage, if not the very salvation of the country."

November 8, 1864 • Georgian Dolly Sumner Lunt would write in her diary:

Today will probably decide the fate of the Confederacy. If Lincoln is reelected I think our fate is a hard one, but we are in the hands of a merciful God, and if He sees that we are in the wrong, I trust that He will show it unto us...

November 9, 1864 • At Kingston, Georgia, Sherman issues orders. Sherman organizes his army into a right wing under O.O. Howard and a left wing under Major General H. W. Slocum. There were to be no long “trains” and only a bare minimum of wagons. Sherman indicated: “The army will forage liberally on the country during the march.” The March to the Sea was almost ready to begin.

November 10, 1864 • Jubal Early, trying to demonstrate opposition in the Valley, moves north from New Market to Sheridan but his force was now so weak that it had little effect. Sherman continues his preparations to move back toward Atlanta. Forrest, back at Corinth, was about ready to join Hood.

Lincoln responds to another election victory serenade: ...*We cannot have free government without elections; and if the rebellion could force us to forego, or postpone a national election, it might fairly claim to have already conquered and ruined us.*

Lincoln now called for unity in a “common effort, to save our common country.”

November 11, 1864 • In Georgia, Sherman ordered the railroads destroyed. At Rome, Georgia, Federals destroyed bridges, foundries, mills, shops, warehouses, and other property of use to the Confederacy.

November 12, 1864 • Sherman sends his last message to Grant and was now cut off from all communication with the rear; his army is destroying Atlanta except for the houses and churches. Sherman’s force of 60,000 men and 5,500 artillery are ready to march.

In the Valley, Sheridan and Early’s men fight at Middleton and Cedar Creek.

November 13, 1864 • In the Valley, the Confederates moved back to New Market. A large portion of Early’s force is detached to strengthen the siege lines at Richmond and Petersburg. Early’s 1864 Valley Campaign was nearing its end. Early had fought 72 engagements and marched nearly 1700 miles in a 5-month span.

November 14, 1864 • Sherman’s men are preparing to depart for the coast. Federal cavalry under Judson Kilpatrick left Atlanta heading towards Jonesborough and McDonough. Sherman’s left wing under Slocum went out to Decatur and Stone Mountain, demolishing the railroad, bridges and anything else of military value.

In Nashville, Thomas was getting his troops into position with John Schofield’s two corps at Pulaski where they would act as a blocking force. McClellan, defeated in the election, resigned his commission as a Major General. Lincoln accepts McClellan’s resignation and promotes Sheridan to Major General in the Regular Army.

November 15, 1864 • Atlanta lies in ruins. Major George W. Nichols, USA, Sherman’s Headquarters, Atlanta, Georgia, writes:

A grand and awful spectacle is presented to the beholder in this beautiful city, now in flames. By order, the chief engineer has destroyed powder and fire in all the store-houses, depot buildings, and machine shops. The heaven is one expanse of lurid fire; the air is filled with flying, burning cinders; buildings covering two hundred acres are in ruins or in flames; every instant there is a sharp detonation or the smothering booming sound of exploding shells and powder concealed in the buildings, and then the sparks and flame shoot away up into the black and red roof, scattering cinders far and wide...The city, which, next to Richmond, has furnished more material for prosecuting the war than any other in the South, exists no more...

November 16, 1864 • In lower Tennessee, the Federals at Pulaski wait for Hood to enter the state. Forrest had arrived. In eastern Tennessee, John C. Breckinridge's Confederates skirmish at Strawberry Plains before pulling back into southwest Virginia.

November 17, 1864 • Sherman, using four different routes to confuse the enemy, leaves the Atlanta area moving toward Savannah.

November 18, 1864 • Heavy storms along with other factors had delayed Hood's advance, but he was now ready to move into Tennessee. President Davis tells General Howell Cobb at Macon, Georgia, to "get out every man who can render any service even for a short period" to oppose Sherman and to employ Negroes in obstructing roads.

November 19, 1864 • Governor Joseph Brown of Georgia called for every able-bodied man in the state to come forward to defend their homes from the deprivations of Sherman's marching men. Brown received very little response from anyone.

November 20, 1864 • Sherman's army skirmishes with cavalry, militia, and "pickup" troops at Clinton, Walnut Creek, East Macon, and Griswoldville, Georgia.

November 21, 1864 • Hood moves his Army of Tennessee out from Florence, Alabama, and heads for Tennessee. Hood's first objective is to get between Schofield at Pulaski and Thomas at Nashville. Benjamin Cheatham's corps led with Stephen D. Lee and A. P. Stewart following accompanied by Forrest's cavalry. Hood's Confederates numbered some thirty thousand infantry and eight thousand cavalry.

Sherman's forces defeat Georgia state militia at Griswoldville.

November 22, 1864 • Slocum's left wing of Sherman's army occupy the Georgia state capital at Milledgeville, ransack the State House, throwing the archives and files on the floor. Sherman's "bummers" and foragers scour the countryside for food, draft animals, wagons, carts, and anything useful to the marching army. In their wake, many are left without food or shelter as the Federals burn the crops and outbuilding on the plantations.

In Tennessee, Schofield pulls back towards Columbia, since the Confederates were in a position to flank him.

November 23, 1864 • In Georgia, Sherman stayed overnight at Howell Cobb's plantation before entering Milledgeville. In Tennessee, Schofield's Union force moves northward from Pulaski toward Columbia in a footrace with Hood's infantry. Thomas waited in Nashville.

November 24, 1864 • In Tennessee, the footrace to Columbia was won by Schofield's two corps, with General Jacob D. Cox arriving just ahead of the Confederates. Forrest's cavalry, in the lead of Hood's army, is repulsed by the Union infantry. Schofield arrives with the rest of his force, beating Hood's Army of Tennessee to the river crossing on the main road to Nashville. The Federals take up a strong position south of the Duck River.

President Davis, referring to Sherman, tells General W. J. Hardee:

When the purpose of the enemy shall be developed every effort must be made to obstruct the route on which he is moving, and all other available means must be employed to delay his march, as well to enable our forces to be concentrated as to reduce him to want of the necessary supplies.

November 25, 1864 • In New York City rebel arsonists are arrested with incendiary chemical bombs and their plot to burn the city is foiled. They did manage to set fires in ten or more New York hotels and in Barnum's Museum but all were contained. Southern agent R. C. Kennedy was later captured and hung for setting the fire at Barnum's.

November 25, 1864 • Skirmishing occurs between Sherman's men and Wheeler's cavalry in the area of Sandersville, Georgia. At Columbia, Tennessee, Schofield was entrenching both south and north of the Duck River; Hood was still delayed in getting his force to Columbia.

November 26, 1864 • Units of Hood's Army of Tennessee arrive in front of Federal positions south of the Duck River. Sherman's troops continue to skirmish with Confederate cavalry at Sandersville. In northern Virginia troops skirmish at Fairfax Station.

November 27, 1864 • By evening the Army of Tennessee was in front of Columbia, Tennessee, just south of the Duck River. Schofield, receiving faulty intelligence, believed Hood was across the river and on the Union's flank; Schofield moves all his men across the Duck River into the trenches dug on the north side at Columbia.

At Waynesborough, Wheeler's Confederate cavalry halts Kilpatrick in two days of skirmishing.

November 28, 1864 • In the evening, Forrest's cavalry crosses the Duck River and is later followed by more of Hood's men. The crossing was above the city of Columbia, Tennessee, where Schofield's men were skirmishing with other members of Hood's army.

In the Valley, Confederate cavalry under Thomas L. Rosser raid west of Cumberland, Maryland, taking some prisoners and supplies.

November 29, 1864 • Early in the morning two of Hood's three corps of the Army of Tennessee, plus another division, cross the Duck River above Columbia. Hood hopes to flank Schofield's Federals north of the Duck River and cut him off at Spring Hill. Forrest's cavalry skirmishes at Spring Hill midday; in midafternoon Confederate infantry under Patrick Cleburne come in. Federals under David S. Stanley worked hard to keep the turnpike to Franklin open. Schofield finally pulls all his troops away from the Duck and manages to pass his entire army up the pike without suffering an attack by Hood's army. Schofield's Federals reach Franklin and take up a position south of the town.

November 30, 1864 • The month would come to a bloody end as Schofield's Federals battle Hood's Army of Tennessee at Franklin. Hood initiates a massive frontal attack at about 4 p.m. against the well-posted Federals on the southern edge of Franklin. After a near break, the Federals rallied on the interior lines. Some of the war's bloodiest fighting occurs in front of the Carter House and up and down the lines at Franklin. The battle lasted well into the night. The Confederates would lose six generals: Patrick Cleburne, States Rights Gist, Hiram B. Granbury, John Adams, and Otho F. Strahl were killed outright while John C. Carter was mortally wounded. The dead generals would be laid on the porch of the Carnton Plantation. Hood also lost 54 regimental commanders killed, wounded or captured. Hood's army was decimated suffering nearly 6300 casualties out of a force of 27,000. At night, Schofield pulled his men out of Franklin and headed up the road to Nashville.

AND SO IT CONTINUES ...

150th ANNIVERSARY BATTLE OF FRANKLIN ILLUMINATION

On November 30, 2014 luminaries will be present along Columbia Pike, at the Carter House, the Lotz House, and at several points on the battlefield in that area. Luminaries will also be present at Carnton Plantation adjacent to the McGavock Confederate Cemetery.

The arrangement of the luminaries will be very different at both locations. Along Columbia Pike the luminaries will be scattered and random, and bunched in places, to reflect the chaos of that part of the field. At Carnton, the luminaries will be in the block and square arrangements which have typified recent illuminations.

Church bells will toll for five minutes downtown beginning at 4 p.m. The ceremony at the Carter House will begin around 4:05 p.m. The ceremony at Carnton will begin at 4:45 p.m.

The Carter House and Carnton Plantation will be open to the public free of charge at 5:30 p.m.



FROM THE FIELD

November 1864

Mouth of White River
Nove. 8th 1864

Dear Mother: Election 1864 & c.

I wrote to Ella the 6th and October 29th but no letter has reached me since the day after our arrival at this place. That was Ella's of Oct. 20th with \$5.00 inside.

However, I will write today, just to keep you posted if I do remain in ignorance of your welfare. Besides, I expect to move at once, when the thing does break loose and letter comes at all. Nothing startling has transpired since my last. Yesterday we had an election and Abe got a large majority. McClellan getting 88, Abe 280. Total number votes cast, 360! In the 21st Iowa, in our Brigade, the vote stood, Lincoln 410, McClellan 24! The other regiments are from Ill. and Ind. and do not vote. The 120th Ohio has less than 130 voters, and stands very equal.

Co. "G" went 25 Union – 14 copperhead. The latter votes were German from Cross Plains. V. Springfield, Schroeter, Walter Zimmerman and Hammerly were Union and Weymars, V. Otto from Madison, Uphoff from Cottage Grove and Bracht from Sun Prairie. All the Westpost men voted for Abe!!! Enclosed I send the identical ticket which I voted. I want you to preserve it, as they do the copies of the "Emancipation Proclamation" as I consider it a valuable relic. I also send a "secesh" ticket, voted at the same time. Please, keep both, as I may want to refer McClellan men to the "men they voted for" in future time. I shall frame them, and keep them for my "grandchildren" to look upon with pride! Tell Cramer that I recalled his prophecy made four years since – that "men who voted for Lincoln in 1860 would be damned shamed of it before his term of office expired" and "Lincoln would kill the Republican party!"

I was a Lincoln man then, and I voted for him yesterday! I am proud to say it, and am ready to avow it "from the housetops"! But the "Little Mackerels" were so much ashamed of their position that they were shy and foxy, as old Damp, and have no reason to give for voting as they did except "Dey had fought long enough and want to have Peace and go home"!!! This is in our company. In others, they think "Mac will fight just as well as Lincoln and besides he is a Democrat"! Co. "H" is "Paddy" and "Be jasus – they are Dimmecrats two!" They gave a majority of four for Mac. Co. "I" 46 for Lincoln! None for Mac. Cos. "B" and "K" each two for Mac and forty five & 35 respectively for Abe!

We are "Union" men all the time! Consequently, we are Lincoln men! We are "Peace men" too, but not anxious to give the South Independence or to abate one "just a little" of our first claims until we are decidedly and unequivocally whipped! We don't see that this war has "failed", even so far – it is gradually restoring the Union!

And I go in for calling out all the men at home and keeping all now in the field until the rebs are whipped or we are! If it is not considered necessary to have all out, then let those at home take a turn at serving the country, which feeds and protects them! One word more to Cramer. He prophecied that in case of war between the states, foreign powers would step in and we would lose our liberty and the right to vote "in less than six months!" Please tell him I voted, after four years of war!

Ed has been on fatigue duty at the commissary and is getting his supper. Sends love and regards to which add mine.

Yours affectionately,

M.P. Wheeler

(Sgt. Marcus Pratt Wheeler, Co. G, 29th Wisconsin)

Little Rock, Ark.
Nov. 22nd 1864

Friend Willard:

I wrote you on the 8th inst. giving the returns of the 29th etc. etc. I have not heard from you for sometime but having a little spare time I concluded to bother you once more.

Immediately after election our Brigade received Orders proceed to "Duvals Bluff", which we did as soon as transportation could be obtained. We lay around there some two days when a telegram was received ordered the 47th Indiana and our Regiment out to this place. Where we have been shivering with cold ever since. It freezes every night and the wind has howled a perfect hurricane for the last forty-eight hours. We are all sighing for the Gulf of Mexico, and damming "Arkansaw" generally. The 9th, 27th Infantry and 3rd Cavalry Wisconsin Regts. are here and the 28th is expected in from Pine Bluff today. This makes the greatest amount of Badger's we have ever met since we have been in the service.

I have just been privately celebrating the re-election of "old Abe" and have the news here that "Mike Lellan" has only received 20 Electoral Votes. I suppose we will have to be contented although that is 20 more than I wanted to see him have. The thing don't seem to suit the "Dimmy crats." They are very "touchy" at present. A person has to be careful of talking about them especially if some of them are his Superiors in rank, but thank God I neither give, nor ask quarters from any such beings. Their extreme sensitiveness in regard to the name you may choose to give them politically, reminds one of the daintiness of a newly emancipated nigger. In fact the scale of names correspond very well. Call a Traitor a democrat and an African a colored gentlemen, and they will both be quite well suited. If you want to banter them a little you may call one a "straight hard shell Democrat" and the other a "Darkey."

Should you desire to make them sulky and snappish call the one a Copperhead and the other a Negro. But if you are bound to bring the thing to a focus just call the white one a traitor and the swarthy one a nigger, and the devil is let loose at once. There is nothing going in this Department of interest at present, but that is nothing new for it. I don't see anything special except the absurd rumor that N. P. Banks is going to be Secretary of War, only think of the Hero of Sabine Cross Roads, the Duke of Grand Ecore, directing the movements of the U. S. forces. God forbid...

If such a thing should happen I sincerely hope that the programme will be finished by Congress enacting a law making Secretary Wells head of the Navy Department during life as bad behavior and authorizing him to purchase a sufficient number of Chinese junks to make the blockade non effective, together with a few such slight changes necessary to make the policy complete. I am so cursed cold that I can't make my fingers work so I'll wind up.

John

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



Washington, Nov. 1, 1864

The military commission of which Gen. Doubleday is President, it was announced, would today take up the case of Col. Samuel North, a New York state agent who was arrested on the charge of fraud in regard to votes of the New York soldiers. The court however, adjourned until tomorrow in order that a consultation might be held by the military commission with the commissioners appointed by Governor Seymour.

Donahue and Ferry, the Baltimore agents in recent election frauds, have been convicted by the military commission, and sentenced to imprisonment for life. The sentences have been approved by President Lincoln, and will be immediately carried into execution.

Madison Wisconsin State Journal November 2, 1864

Thanksgiving Day in Madison

The day selected by the President and endorsed by the Governor proved most propitious. It was a bright and glorious day of Indian summer – a sunny passage in our gloomy November weather – a day on which the very earth and sky seemed to rejoice and to give thanks. All places of business were closed, and the people generally observed the festival...

Madison Wisconsin State Journal November 25, 1864

From Memphis

Cairo, Nov. 23

The Bulletin relates that nearly 300 butternuts have been arrested about Memphis within the past two days. They were from nearly all portions of Tennessee and Mississippi, and were to sell cotton, under the impression that they would be allowed to take back one-third of the proceeds in supplies, and two-thirds in greenbacks.

A report to this effect had been circulated throughout reeldom and the way the butternuts and greybacks came into Memphis with their cotton was a caution. On Sunday morning nearly every wagon-yard in town was full of them. Satisfied that so many able-bodied men could not live in the Confederacy without being identified with the rebel army, the commanding General ordered the arrest of every countryman in town.

The authorities were right. It was found that the majority were rebel soldiers and among them one or two officers. Many had furloughs, which they doubtless obtained with the express purpose of bringing in their cotton. All were taken to Irving Block and examined; some were subsequently released, no evidence appearing to show that they were anything but peaceable citizens.

Madison Wisconsin State Journal November 25, 1864

Rebel Plots

Buffalo, Nov. 2

The dispatch was received this p.m. by Mayor Fargo of this city. He has already taken the matter in hand, and any attempt upon Buffalo will be worse than futile.

The following is the dispatch:

Washington, Nov. 2

To the mayor of Buffalo:

The Department has received information from the British Provinces to the effect that there is a conspiracy on foot to set fire to the principal cities in the Northern States on the day of the Presidential election. It is my duty to communicate this information to you.

WM. H. Seward

The Great Storm

The storm which began Tuesday and continued through Wednesday was the most severe and extensive known for a long time. It wound up here with a snow squall, a violent wind and a stiff freeze. We may expect to hear of disasters to the shipping. Telegraph lines have been generally prostrated. We have this afternoon the first news since election night, brought by mail to Chicago and telegraphed thence.

Madison Wisconsin State Journal November 10, 1864

milwaukeeecwrt.org

WHAT IT MEANT TO BE A UNION SOLDIER



Excerpts from General Edward Livingston Campbell's address at the 16th anniversary reunion of the Battle of Cedar Creek

My comrades of the 15th Regiment New Jersey Volunteers:

I find around me today a remnant of a noble body of men. As I see that regiment in my mind's eye, on the morning when it first marched into action – marched with unwavering front, with nearly a thousand young faces animated and beaming with a sense of conscious duty as they look forward into the possibilities and probabilities before them, their step more firm and steady for those very probabilities, every nerve and sinew and muscle rendered more vigorous and elastic by sights and sounds of real war now first saluting their eyes and ears; and compare that sight with the array of diminished numbers and altered mien which greets us today, my mind is filled with sad and solemn thoughts. What storms of battle you passed through from year to year; what trials of courage, of endurance, of strength; and what trials of faith, hope and charity, faith in the principles that made you soldiers, hope for the triumph of these principles, and charity for those who in mad fury and blind folly strove to overthrow them. And what furrows those storms ploughed in your ranks. Three hundred and sixty-one, almost wholly taken from the original nine hundred and forty-seven, (the balance of the total 1871 were late recruits) thirty eight per centum of the companions in arms endeared to you by common toils and perils, and more still by virtues which only trial by fire can develop, were left beneath the sods of the battlefield. Years of struggle in life's battles since the last roll call, have again decimated your ranks by dragging down many of those crippled by wounds, or wasted by incurable disease. You today represent the living reminder. Your limbs are not so stout and flexible as once; your faces are not so fresh and buoyant; your heads are splashed with the tinsel of time; your cheeks are furrowed with the grooves of care and increasing years; but you are the living representatives of a regiment which challenges the pages of history near or remote, by its record in camp and march and battle, its courage, its discipline, its tenacity, its intelligence, its patriotic devotion to duty and country. It was an honor to lead such a body of men, of which any man might well be proud; and for one I feel it to be a crown of honor to have led it often into battle...

I propose to ask you this question: Do you regret that act which made you soldiers? In view of all the past; however much it may have entailed upon you of loss and suffering; however much it may have wrecked your plans of life; are you sorry today that you were Union soldiers? ...I for one do not regret it. If I could turn back the wheels of time and had a thousand lives to offer, I would lay them all on the same altar. What was it to be a Union soldier? I would magnify your appreciation of yourselves. I would have you truly value what you have been and what you have done. I fear you do not do this. Your modesty is equal to the courage you display. Hence it is that I invite your attention to this theme today. What did it mean to be a Union soldier?

The story of the struggle between Liberty and Oppression is a long one. It is full of dark pages of hardship, toil, suffering, tyranny, cruelty and slaughter. To understand this struggle we must glance at the origin of these ancient enemies...

As the intellectual and moral faculties of man were cultivated and developed they began to feel that they had "rights" – rights to the fruits of their own toil, rights to the soil which God had given them to cultivate, rights of contract and trade, rights to freedom of action, locomotion, thought and speech, rights of conscience. These intuitions of truth grew and strengthened with the growth of society, grew in obedience to the laws stamped by the Creator upon the human mind and heart, under the impulse of those mysterious social forces which develop civilization out of barbarism...

The day of crucial trial came at last – the great and, as we believe, final test. Eleven millions of our people became dissatisfied. Let us speak no hard words of them. They were descended from the same patriotic fathers; they were bone of our bone, flesh of our flesh; their country was our country and their God our God. Let us have malice toward none of them and charity for all. ..

Shall this rebellion be suppressed? This was the question presented in April, 1861. In view of what we have said we may see what this question implied. It was not merely the preservation of the Union as so commonly represented. That alone would have been a sacred and sufficient cause. That Union was founded in the blood and sufferings of ancestors whom we revere. It was hallowed by the most sacred memories that ever clustered about the birth and youth of any nation. The South was part of it – part of the great purchase – the great inheritance. Our fathers as well as theirs fought, bled and died to make it free... To preserve that Union, in all its integrity, as handed down to us, was a cause which elicited all the honest impulses of patriotism. It was not the destruction of slavery as some thought and even yet seem to think. That was one of the results – a grand and glorious result. No one can estimate its importance higher than myself, but it was not one of the purposes for which we took up arms against our brothers... Many of the best of our people failed to grasp the gravity, the immensity of the crisis... It was more than these, immeasurably more. If our National Government could be forcibly rent asunder, without cause and without serious provocation, for no purposes but those of wicked ambition, it was clear proof to all the world that the great experiment of free government was a failure... The fathers of our republic called out to us from their graves to preserve what had been won by their swords and consecrated by their blood. Future generations held out their hands to us and implored us to hand down to them the sacred heritage unimpaired. The whole world looked upon the contest with abated breath... It was impossible for any human mind to magnify, or even to measure the height, the depth, the breadth of the crisis of 1861...

The Union soldier fought and fell, not only for his country but for mankind. The motive which animated him was not only love of country but love of Universal Liberty. The Union was saved. The problem was solved. It was shown that man was capable of self-government, as our fathers had vindicated his right to self-government...

Wherever that glorious, historic star spangled banner shall go, it will be hailed as the emblem of Liberty – the symbol of justice and human rights... made indelible by the blood of a million patriots, that “all men are created equal”; that man has a right to self-government; that he is capable of self-government...

This is what is meant to be a Union soldier. Now I ask you again, do you regret that you wore the blue? In view of all the achievements of the past and all the promise of the future, in view of all that it cost you, do you repent or are you proud that you were a Union soldier?

General Campbell was the brother of General Eleazar Jackson Campbell who fought with the 19th Regiment, Co. C Wisconsin. Eleazar Jackson Campbell is the great-great grandfather of Round Table members Susan Kapanke and David Johnson. The excerpts from General E.L. Campbell's speech are just a small part of the material Susan and David have gathered in their ongoing research into his life and service.

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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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You may also see Roman in person at the
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