



GENERAL ORDERS

The Newsletter of the

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



February 12, 2015

Leslie Goddard

Why *Gone with the Wind* Still Matters

Do you mean to tell me, Katie Scarlett O'Hara, that Tara, that land, doesn't mean anything to you? Why, land is the only thing in the world worth workin' for, worth fightin' for, worth dyin' for, because it's the only thing that lasts.

Gerald O'Hara, *Gone With the Wind*



Seventy-five years after its blockbuster premiere in 1939, *Gone with the Wind* continues to inspire both passionate devotion and academic criticism. One historian has called it "almost certainly the single most powerful influence on American perceptions of the Civil War."

Our February speaker, Dr. Leslie Goddard, will take a close look at *Gone with the Wind* and its effect on American culture. In her illustrated slide show lecture about the history of the movie, Goddard will consider both the accuracy of its portrayal of the American Civil War and its lasting influence in shaping popular understanding of Civil War history. What accounts for this film's widespread – and enduring – popularity among viewers? Does *Gone with the Wind* still matter in scholarly and popular conversations about the Civil War?

Leslie Goddard is an award-winning actress and scholar who has been presenting history programs for more than ten years. She holds a Ph.D. from Northwestern University specializing in American studies and U.S. history as well as a master's degree in theater.

A former museum director, she is the author of two books on Chicago history and currently works full-time as a historical interpreter, author, and public speaker. Her nationally recognized programs have been presented for hundreds of museums, libraries, senior centers, clubs and organizations. Goddard currently serves on the executive board of the Chicago Civil War Round Table.



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February 2015

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February Meeting at a Glance

Wisconsin Club

9th and Wisconsin Avenue

[Jackets required for the dining room.]

5:30 p.m. - staff meeting- as needed
[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, February 9, 2015

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.

2014-2015 Speaker Schedule

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 – Garry Adelman
"4-D Civil War Photography Extravaganza"

milwaukeeecwrt.org

Civil War Round Table News

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-January 8, 2015.

Major Contributor (\$500 and above)

Grant Johnson

Patron (\$200-\$499)

Crain Bliwas, Robert Parrish, Guy Crane

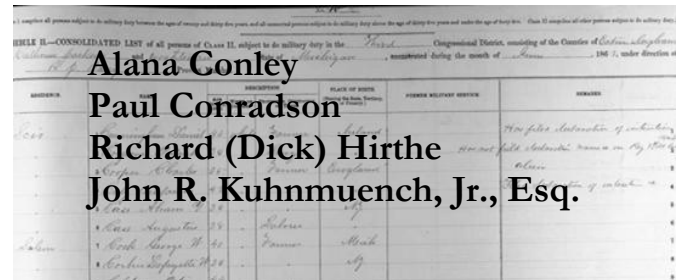
Associate (\$100-\$199)

Paul Eilbes, David Jordan, Stephen Leopold,
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Contributor (up to \$99)

George Affeldt, Dale Bspalec, John Busch,
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Eugene and Jane Jamrozy, Christopher Johnson,
Dr. Bob and Judy Karczewski, Ardis Kelling,
Jerome Kowalski, Rod Malinowski, Herbert Oechler,
James and Ann Reeve, David and Helga Sartori,
Jean Schwonek, Dennis Slater, Dan Tanty

The Muster Roll: NEW MEMBERS



NAME	PLACE OF BIRTH	FEDERAL MILITARY SERVICE	REMARKS
Alana Conley			
Paul Conradson			
Richard (Dick) Hirthe			
John R. Kuhnmuensch, Jr., Esq.			

COMING TO THE SOUTH MILWAUKEE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

In Thinking of America: Songs of the Civil War
March 29, 2015 @ 2 p.m. Tickets: \$10 - \$25

2014-2015 is the end of the Civil War sesquicentennial. In the tradition of variety and concert artists of the mid-19th century, Robert Trentham presents songs that inspired and comforted a divided nation.

Coupled with letters, speeches and social commentary from the 1860's, In Thinking of America: Songs of the Civil War offers contemporary audiences a glimpse into the past and calls to mind a time of unabashed sentiment and innocent vigor. Such familiar tunes as Dixie's Land, Steal Away, Just Before the Battle Mother, Goober Peas and Battle Hymn of the Republic are brought together with the honest and heartfelt words of statesmen, journalists, soldiers and citizens of the day. In Thinking of America: Songs of the Civil War was inspired by the lives and events of Trentham's ancestors who lived and died during the Civil War. Robert Trentham has been featured and reviewed in numerous U.S. newspapers and publications including the New York Times, Los Angeles Times, Chicago Tribune, New York Magazine and Opera Magazine. He has sung as a soloist at the finest American concert halls including Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center and the Philadelphia Academy of Music, and at regional theater and opera companies throughout the country.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – EVENTS - MEETINGS

February 9, 2015

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

February 10, 2015

Waukesha Civil War Round Table, 7 p.m.
Citizens Bank of Mukwonago Waukesha Branch
Program: General and Mrs. Grant

February 17, 2015

Prairieville Irregulars Round Table, 7 p.m.
Citizens Bank of Mukwonago Waukesha Branch
Speaker: Tom Arliskas, "The Blair Family"

Wartime Quotes from the Not-So-Famous

"War is a ghost that haunts you from the moment it exists until the moment you don't."

"You can whip them time and again. But the next fight they go into they're as full of pluck as ever."

Unknown Union officer referring to his men.

"Sherman will never go to hell. He'll flank the devil and make heaven despite the guards."

milwaukeeecwrt.org



In February 1953 Louis A. Warren talked to the Round Table on “A Folklore vs. An Historical Lincoln.”

David C. Meams was our Round Table speaker in February 1963 speaking on “The Gettysburg Address – Mysteries of the Manuscript.”

“Lincoln and His Children” was the topic of Warren A. Reeder’s presentation to the Round Table in February 1973.

Robert C. Douglas was our speaker in February 1983 speaking on “General George H. Thomas: Time and History Will Do Me Justice.”

In February 1993 our featured speaker was Brian Pohanka speaking on “Custer and the Little Big Horn.”

At last year’s February meeting we welcomed Harold Knudsen who spoke on “General Longstreet.”

COMING UP at the Kenosha Civil War Museum
Second Annual Great Lakes Home Front Seminar
Exploring the Civilian Experience During the Civil War Era

Saturday, April 11, 2015

Registration 8:30 – 9:30 with the last lecture at 3:30
\$60/\$50 Friends of the Museum – includes lunch

For further information call 262-653-4141 or visit
www.kenosha.org/wp-civilwar/

KENOSHA CIVIL WAR MUSEUM

Second Friday Lunchbox Series

General Thomas and the Battle of Nashville

Friday, February 13, 2015, Noon

Presented by: Jerry Kowalski as General George H. Thomas
 Hear this first person program as the General remembers the campaign that kept the Army of Northern Virginia from receiving assistance from the West.

Sponsored by the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table and the Iron Brigade Association

Lincoln Lore Discussion Group

Wednesdays, Noon – 1 p.m.

Discuss topics brought forth in the Civil War Museum’s collection of *Lincoln Lore Bulletins* first published by Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum in 1928.

- February 11, 2015 – Lincoln Material Culture and Artifacts
- February 25, 2015 – Lincoln the Lawyer

Lincoln Lore Bulletins available to download at:
www.TheCivilWarMuseum.org

Behind-the-Scenes Tour of Seeing the Elephant

Wednesday, February 25, 2015, 6:30 – 8 p.m.

\$15/\$10 Friends of the Museum

Curator Doug Dammann gives an insider’s story of how the 360° film was created from script development, to shooting and editing, to final installation and preparation of the gallery.

General Orders, the official publication of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.
 is produced September through June and upon request of the Board of Directors.

Send submission to **Donna Agnelly, Editor**, 420 Racine St. Unit 110, Waterford, WI 53185 or email
dagnelly@tds.net or donnaagnelly@gmail.com with “Civil War Round Table” in the subject line of your message.
 All submissions must be received by the Editor no later than the 10th of the month prior to the next issue. The Editor reserves the right to select articles and to edit submissions for style and length.

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

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Yearly memberships available: Individual (\$40), family (\$50), non-resident (\$25), attending an educational institution (\$20).
Contact Paul Eilbes for information: (262) 376-0568.

The Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc., admits members of any race, color, national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges and activities of the Round Table.

Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for February 12, 2015

Mail your reservations by Monday, February 9, 2015 to:

Paul Eilbes

1809 Washington Ave

Cedarburg, WI 53012-9730

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

peilbes@gmail.com

Enclosed is \$ ____ (meal price \$25.00 per person) for ____ reservations for February 12, 2015, 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: FEBRUARY 1865 MARKING THE CIVIL WAR SESQUICENTENNIAL

February 1865

Hopes of peace were beginning to spread. While things were quiet in Petersburg and Nashville, Sherman had left Savannah, starting towards Charleston before veering towards Columbia. Lee was now in command of all the Southern armies but outside of Virginia there was little for him to command.

February 1, 1865 • Illinois becomes the first state to ratify the Thirteenth Amendment. Sherman actively begins his march into South Carolina from Savannah, Georgia, and Beaufort, South Carolina. The troops of the Seventeenth and Fifteenth Corps move ahead despite fallen trees and burned bridges depending on the Pioneer battalions to clear the way. Slocum's left wing is slowed by the flooded Savannah River at Sister's Ferry but soon gets across. Confederate cavalry harassed the edges of the advance but did not hinder the march. Lincoln wires Grant: "Let nothing which is transpiring, change, hinder or delay your Military movements."

February 2, 1865 • President Lincoln left Washington for Hampton Roads, Virginia, where the three Confederate commissioners had already arrived by steamer. Rhode Island and Michigan ratify the Thirteenth Amendment. Sherman's right wing under Otis O. Howard is slowed by the swamps and Confederate cavalry as they reach the Salkehatchie River. The weather in Virginia has turned so severe that the James River was freezing over threatening Wilton Bridge, a communication link from Drewry's Bluff to Richmond.

February 3, 1865 • President Lincoln and Secretary of State Seward met with Alexander H. Stephens, John A. Campbell and R.M.T. Hunter. Although everyone was reasonably friendly, nothing would come of the meeting since the Federal demand was for unconditional restoration of the Union and the Confederate demand was for terms between two independent nations. The Confederate commissioners reported back to Davis. Maryland, New York, and West Virginia ratify the Thirteenth Amendment.

Sherman's right wing, with the Seventeenth Corps, clears the Confederates from Rivers' Bridge by crossing three miles of swamp with water sometimes up to their shoulders and then outflanking the Rebels.

February 4, 1865 • Lincoln returns home from Hampton Roads and reports to his Cabinet. President Davis, discouraged by Federal advances in South Carolina, writes to Beauregard at Augusta, Georgia that things were worse than he expected and places Beauregard in charge of the defenses of the Carolinas.

February 5, 1865 • At City Point, Virginia, Grant sends the Second and Fifth Corps south and west, extending the line Lee would have to cover with his dwindling numbers. Grant's objective was the railroads leading south, which supplied the Confederate Army and Virginia civilians. The action was at Hatcher's Run.

February 6, 1865 • At Hatcher's Run the Federals run into some resistance during which Brigadier General John Pegram, CSA, was killed trying to halt the Union advance.

President Davis named Major General John C. Breckinridge as Confederate Secretary of War, replacing James A. Seddon. Lee receives orders to assume the duties of General-in-Chief of the Armies of the Confederate States. Both appointments would be too late to do any good.

February 7, 1865 • Maine and Kansas approve the Thirteenth Amendment; in Delaware the amendment fails by one vote. Fighting at Hatcher's Run ends with the Federals abandoning the Boydton Plank Road but fortifying their new lines to Hatcher's Run at the Vaughan Road Crossing. Sherman's four corps, plus Kilpatrick's cavalry, continue their march in South Carolina against very light resistance although they are slowed by heavy rain and a flooded countryside.

February 8, 1865 • Massachusetts and Pennsylvania ratify the Thirteenth Amendment. The Federal House of Representatives passes a joint resolution declaring that Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas and Tennessee were not entitled to representation in the electoral college.

At Fort Fisher, North Carolina, the first of Schofield's XXIII Corps arrives from Tennessee for the assault on Wilmington.

February 9, 1865 • All was quiet along the Petersburg line as troops huddled against sleet and snow. Sherman advanced along the north bank of the Edisto River towards Orangeburg, South Carolina. President Davis approved a pardon to deserters who would return to duty within 30 days. Virginia Unionists ratify the Thirteenth Amendment.

February 10, 1865 • Ohio and Missouri ratify the Thirteenth Amendment. At Wilmington, Schofield's plan calls for a movement to outflank Confederate Fort Anderson by moving his troops on pontoon bridges and crossing the Myrtle Sound to the mainland of the peninsula behind the fort. Skirmishing occurs on James Island and Johnson's Station around Charleston Harbor as Confederates guard against attack from both Sherman's column and the sea.

February 11, 1865 • Sherman's men divide the Confederates as they are now in positions between the Confederates on the coast of Charleston and in Augusta. Davis wires Hardee that if the Confederate army could concentrate around Charleston, Sherman and the Union army could be defeated. At the same time, Beauregard is counseling evacuation of Charleston to save the army.

February 12, 1865 • The electoral vote is taken and Lincoln is officially elected. Sherman's troops sweep enemy opposition from the Orangeburg Bridge on the North Edisto River as the march continues in South Carolina. Wade Hampton's cavalry is reportedly at Columbia.

February 13, 1865 • Sherman's army approached the Congaree River, South Carolina, which his troops would cross the following day. Sherman had severed his supply line to the sea and was now foraging off the land.

February 14, 1865 • Sherman's troops cross the Congaree and turn toward Columbia. Davis once again advises Hardee to hold Charleston as long as prudent before evacuating but left it up to both Hardee and Beauregard to decide on their strategy.

February 15, 1865 • Fairly heavy skirmishing takes place as the Federals march toward Columbia making rapid progress despite harassment by Confederates, swamps, mud, burned bridges and blocked roads. In late afternoon action, Union troops once again outflank the Rebels by wading the river through waist high water and coming in behind the Confederates. Hampton would wire Davis that he had repulsed Sherman at Columbia – Davis would promote Hampton to Lieutenant General for this "action".

February 16, 1865 • Sherman's men arrive on the south bank of the Congaree River opposite Columbia. Much movement could be seen in the city by both civilians and Hampton's cavalry. Union artillery fired some shells into the city. Beauregard left the city in the late afternoon after wiring Davis that he could not save the city. At Wilmington, Schofield's XXIII Corps readied for their assault on Fort Anderson; their assault would be supported by naval gunboats.

February 17, 1865 • In the early morning, Major General Jacob D. Cox, part of Schofield's XXIII Corps, advances 8000 men toward Fort Anderson with the Navy in support. At Charleston, Union gunboats and other vessels support landings of Major General Foster's soldiers at Bull's Bay. During the night, the Confederate defenses at Forts Moultrie, Sumter, Johnson, Beauregard and Castle Pinckney were abandoned, and the Rebel troops marched north to join Lee. The defenses of Charleston were silenced.

At Columbia, the mayor with a delegation of officials rode out to meet the Federals and surrender the city. As Sherman's troops entered the capital, remnants of the Confederate cavalry fled. That night much of Columbia burned. William Gilmore Simms, a novelist who was a refugee in Columbia would write of the burning:

February 17, 1865 continues on the next page.

At 1 o'clock, the hour was struck by the clock of the Market Hall, which was even then illuminated from within. It was its own last hour which it sounded, and its tongue was silenced forevermore. In less than five minutes after, its spire went down with a crash, and by this time, almost all the buildings within the precinct were a mass of ruins.

Very grand and terrible, beyond description, was the awful spectacle. It was a scene for the painter of the terrible. It was the blending of a range of burning mountains stretched in a continuous series of more than a mile... The winds were tributary to these convulsive efforts, and tossed the volcanic torrents of sulphurous cloud – wreaths of sable, edged with sheeted lightnings, wrapped the skies, and at short intervals, the falling tower and the tottering wall, avalanche-like, went down with thunderous sound, sending up at every crash great billowy showers of glowing fiery embers.

February 18, 1865 • In Charleston, the evacuation continued all night. At about 9 a.m. Union troops under Brigadier General Alexander Schimmelfennig entered the city; the mayor would surrender the city shortly after. Land and sea forces begin their campaign for Wilmington as Federal naval units bombard Fort Anderson. At Columbia, the fires were nearly burned out.

February 19, 1865 • At Columbia, Sherman's troops continued to destroy the arsenal, railroad installations, machine shops, foundries, and railroad lines. The march north toward North Carolina began.

In Wilmington, Fort Anderson had been evacuated with the Confederates withdrawing towards the city at Fort Strong.

February 20, 1865 • Federal troops move quickly toward Wilmington. The Federals had outflanked the Confederate defenders on the west bank of the Cape Fear River, but still faced opposition on the east bank. The Confederate House of Representatives, after long debate, authorized the use of slaves as soldiers.

Sherman's columns leave Columbia with a large train of refugees following them. Sherman ordered them expelled from the columns.

February 21, 1865 • Union forces are close to Wilmington with a shaky resistance in front of them. Columns of smoke could be seen rising from the city as Confederates began destroying their stores. Braxton Bragg arrived and ordered evacuation to keep what forces he had left from being jeopardized.

February 22, 1865 • Kentucky rejects the Thirteenth Amendment. The Confederates evacuate Wilmington sending much of their military stores towards Richmond by rail and destroying the rest. Admiral Porter wrote Secretary of the Navy Gideon Welles:

I have the honor to inform you that Wilmington has been evacuated and is in possession of our troops... I had the pleasure of placing the flag on Fort Strong, and at 12 o'clock noon today shall fire a thirty-five gun salute this being the anniversary of Washington's birthday.

General Joseph E. Johnston was assigned as commander of all Confederate forces in South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Tennessee, and those concentrating in North Carolina. Beauregard, in ill health, was told to report to Johnston for orders.

Sherman feints towards Charlotte, North Carolina, and then aims his main drive towards Goldsborough and a hook up with Schofield.

February 23, 1865 • Minnesota ratifies the Thirteenth Amendment. Union troops in Wilmington consolidate their gains. Sherman's Twentieth Corps crossed the Catawba River in South Carolina moving closer to the North Carolina line.

February 24, 1865 • Heavy rain holds up Sherman's advance. Lee writes the War Department concerned over the "alarming number of desertions that are now occurring in the army."

February 25, 1865 • General Joseph E. Johnston assumes command of the Army of Tennessee, and all troops in the Department of South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. Johnston, at Charlotte, North Carolina, tells Lee that, including cavalry, militia, and units not recently heard from, he had between 20,000 and 25,000 men to oppose Sherman. "In my opinion, these troops form any army far too weak to cope with Sherman." Johnston urged that his force join Bragg in North Carolina.

February 26, 1865 • Sherman's Twentieth Corps reaches Hanging Rock, South Carolina; other movements are slowed by a constant rain. At Wilmington, Schofield is preparing for his move inland, refitting troops and evacuating the sick and wounded by hospital ship.



AND SO IT CONTINUES ...

February 27, 1865 • In the Shenandoah Valley, Sheridan's force of ten thousand cavalry leaves Winchester, Virginia, heading south. Sheridan had orders from Grant to destroy the Virginia Central Railroad and James River Canal, take Lynchburg, and then join Sherman or return to Winchester.

February 28, 1865 • The month ends with Sherman's armies near the North Carolina line at Rocky Mount and Cheraw, South Carolina, where they engaged in skirmishes. Johnston continued his attempts to get a force together to oppose Sherman. The Confederate military position was precarious.

FROM THE FIELD

February 1865

Ft. Gaines Dauphine Island, Ala.
February 10, 1865

Dear Sister Jane:

Your very kind and ever welcome letter of Jan. 18th has just been received and it is with the greatest of pleasure that I now hasten to answer it. It was accompanied by another one for Alfred but he was left back at Hennersville and has not arrived yet and so I will keep it for him. I also received a letter from Carrie & one from C. (Sister Clymena).

We left Hennersville the 5th while it was raining and the mud was knee deep and as you might imagine we had a nasty time of it, but we are now landed on a sand bank where the water does not make mud. The air from the sea is quite cold here but the sun shines down quite hot in the middle of the day. Last night it was so cold that the water was scaled over in the mud puddles with ice.

Oysters are free plunder and the boys are feasting on them but I am afraid at the present rate of consumption they will run out shortly.

I have been into Ft. Gaines and took a squint at it, and it seems curious that the rebels should be driven out of such works so easily. Ft. Morgan is across the bay on the main land right opposite to Ft. Gaines, they say that it is somewhat damaged but it is a much stronger works than Gaines.

I expect as soon as everything is in readiness that we will go out prospecting and probably feel of Mobile. There are about fifteen thousand troops at Pensacola, Fla. that

I expect will operate with us and I understand that there is a force about to strike into Miss. from Vicksburg and they think they are going to cooperate with us, and I expect the spring campaign will open with a crash and may be the rebels will be more willing to come to terms. They don't seem quite disposed to give up the contest and acknowledge themselves whipped and so we will give them another hunch or two.

You wanted to know if I read the letter you wrote to Alfred (her husband) in which you gave Cind a going over. I did and I guess Alfred did, but I suppose he thinks you will have to put up with inconvenience a spell longer and so he will get along as best he can and then he will be independent of other people.

I expect Alfred will be along in a day or two, just as soon as there are boats to take the quartermasters stores. Alfred has got a real good place if we have to go into active service and I am glad of it. I would rather he would have it than to have it myself. Alfred is real good to me and always does me a favor whenever he can and is always willing to divide whatever he may have, and I also have some kind sisters that I feel proud of, and I have been thinking what I could do to repay them for their kindness. You may ever be assured that you are kindly thought of by your absent brother and I am a thousand times obliged to you for your favors and if opportunity offers I shall do as much for you. Tell Sybil that I return lots of love to her in return for hers, tell her I am afraid she will never write if she waits for Alen (Sybil's husband). Please excuse this short letter and I will try to write again soon. Write as often as possible for I am always more than glad to get a letter from you.

With much Love I remain
Your Affectionate Brother Peter. (Tubbs).

From Missouri
St. Louis, Feb. 2, 1865

An order has been issued by the military authorities in Missouri for the banishment from that State of the wives and children of all men in the rebel military service.

Baltimore, February 1, 1865

A message was sent to the Legislature by Gov. Bradford, announcing the passage of the constitutional amendment abolishing slavery, with the recommendation that Maryland immediately concur in the amendment. The announcement was received at the State House early this evening that President Lincoln had signed the constitutional amendment abolishing slavery, upon which Gov. Andrew issued orders for a national salute of 100 guns, to be fired on the Common at 7 o'clock to-morrow, also recommending that the church bells be rung one hour, and suggesting similar demonstrations of rejoicing throughout the state.

Sherman's New Campaign

The War in Virginia

From the Sixteenth Wisconsin

Correspondence of the State Journal

Camp of 16th Regt. Wis. Vet. Vol. Inf.

Pocotaligo, S.C.

February 1, 1865

Our regiment left Atlanta with the rest of General Sherman's army and marched through to Savannah, Ga. arriving there December 11th having marched three hundred miles in twenty-six days. We destroyed the railroad running from Atlanta to Savannah as we marched and subsisted chiefly on the country generally finding abundance, and meeting with no opposition.

We remained in front of Savannah from the date of our arrival until the morning of the ... The city being surrounded with rice fields which the rebels had flooded with water, we were prevented from making an assault immediately upon our arrival, but on the morning of the 21st, the rebels having learned that Gen. Sherman had perfected his arrangements for successfully crossing the rice fields they evacuated, and crossing the Savannah river went into South Carolina. We immediately marched into the town and found everything in good order. The citizens appeared at their doors and windows and greeted our appearance with cheers and demonstrations of pleasure. It seemed like marching through one of our northern cities. Many ran out with refreshments distributing them among the men.

We remained in Savannah until... when we crossed on board of transports and came to Beaufort, on Port Royal Island where we remained until the 13th, when we marched to Broad river, which surrounds Port Royal Island, put over a pontoon bridge in the night, and in the morning crossed, and marching a short distance ran into the rebel pickets.

Skirmishers were immediately deployed, when we advanced, driving the rebels about three miles, when the 2d brigade of our division followed them up, and our brigade, Gen. Force commanding, consisting of the 12th and 16th Wisconsin Regiments and the 30th, 31st and 45th Illinois, with one section of artillery, were sent around to get in their rear, if possible, while the 2d brigade amused them in the front. Skirmishers were deployed from the 12th Wisconsin and 15th Illinois, the whole under charge of the brigade picket officers, Lieut. Chandler, of the 12th.

We found them in force in our front but succeeded in driving them easily. Our brigade being separated from the rest of the corps, we were obliged to guard our rear as well as front. Gen. Force accordingly ordered Col. Fairchild to take his regiment and the battery and be prepared to resist an attack from that quarter. After marching about four miles we again struck the main Charleston road, getting in just ahead of the two brigades but not cutting off the rebels, as we supposed we would. Marching about one mile further, we drove them inside their fortifications, Fort Pocotaligo, our skirmishers getting so near as to prevent them from using their artillery with much effect.

Our loss in driving them in was eight men and two officers, Lieut. Chandler, of the 12th, being killed as he was gallantly charging with his line of skirmishers upon the retreating rebels. No better officer has fallen. In the night the rebels evacuated and in the morning we pursued them until we came to Pocotaligo bridge, where the Charleston & the Savannah Railroad crosses, and where we at present remain. We are encamped upon the railroad, on ground previously occupied by the rebels for that purpose...

Gen. Foster has been trying to take this place for two years past and it was but recently he was defeated with a loss of four hundred...

Gen. Force is now commanding our division which puts Col. Fairchild in command of the brigade a position which the whole brigade is pleased to see him occupy, and one which he is well qualified to hold. He is esteemed as one of the best officers in the Corps, is universally and deservedly popular, and is an officer of whom Wisconsin and especially Madison may well be proud.

Our army is in splendid condition, the men are all healthy and feel fine, and are anxious to be led against Charleston, feeling perfectly confident of success.

A.J. Seneca

Have You Never Been to Andersonville?



It was the usual motley crew. Bob, the two Dave's, and Jeff - educators who met years ago at the Civil War Trust annual Teachers' Institute. A shared passion, sometimes referred to by "the wives" as a shared insanity, often led to interesting conversations. Please notice that, in the interest of full disclosure, the adjective "intelligent" is not applied to nor claimed for these informal but very energetic talks!

Discussions often swirled around good reads. A book called The Diary of a Dead Man was mentioned in one discussion. It happens to be among the favorite Civil War reads of Bob, who, if playing one of the Three Stooges on the Silver Screen, would find himself typecast as Moe.

So, one summer day Bob asked his travel pals, "Have you read The Diary of a Dead Man?" Blank stares were all the answer he needed to launch into heartfelt praise of the book, while looking like he felt the urge to bang a few skulls together for our lack of culture and refinement. (Again- think Moe.)

Ira S. Pettit was a Union lad from Wilson, New York. He served with the 11th Regulars at places like Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Antietam, and Manassas. Like many of his generation, he "saw the elephant" in all of its fearsome horror. As was common practice for a surprisingly literate generation, Private Pettit wrote many letters home while also keeping a diary of his wartime adventures. Upon his turning twenty-one, Ira's father Clinton Pettit might well have been able to afford a substitute to keep his son home on the farm. Ira would have none of that, and enlisted on May 29, 1862. He was blond-haired, blue-eyed, and stood five feet, six and a half inches tall. Captured on June 2, 1864 near Gaines' Mill, Virginia, Ira Pettit died of scorbutus, also known as scurvy, far, far from home.

Pettit's story haunted the author, Jean P. Ray, for over ten years. So, in 1969 she exorcised the ghosts his letters and diary had conjured by telling his tale. The unglamorous cover of the book has a simple, but thought-provoking comment under its title.

The unedited diary and letters of Ira Pettit, a Union Private, who fought on the battlefields of Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, and the Wilderness, and who died in the squalor of Andersonville Prison.



Have you never been to Andersonville? It's one of the most solemn places in America. Both a historic site and a military cemetery, the place speaks to those who will listen. Recreated stockade walls help the visitor envision the layout of the prison. Ratty tents, red Georgia clay, blockhouses, and artillery positions designed to fire towards the stockade tell the story well. Biting ants, undrinkable water, and the infamous "deadline" help fertile imaginations get a glimmer of what the inmates endured. No, that's not really true. The casual visitor really cannot begin to conceive of the horrors of the place. Andersonville must be experienced by hearing from someone who truly was there, someone like Ira Pettit.



The oppressive nature of the place may be better experienced at the Andersonville cemetery. Row upon row of numbered graves mark the final resting places of Andersonville's victims. Ira Pettit slumbers at grave number 11170.

Our foursome, unusually quiet and reflective, stood by his stone. Bob had had one item on his list of "must do's" on our Civil War trip that year. He wanted to visit Ira again. Better yet, he brought his friends so that they, too, could experience Ira's story and honor his memory. Ira's marker is surrounded by so, so many others. It's a somber place calling for thoughts of suffering and sacrifice.

Have you never been to Andersonville? If you are ever in the Atlanta area, put it on your bucket list, too. It's well worth the drive. And please say "hi" to Ira for us.

submitted by Dave Wege

RECOMMENDED BOOKS FOR FURTHER READING ON PETERSBURG



The Final Battles of the Petersburg Campaign

(Breaking the Backbone of the Rebellion)

A. Wilson Greene

In the Trenches at Petersburg

(Field Fortifications and Confederate Defeat)

Earl J. Hess

The Last Citadel

(Petersburg, Virginia, June 1864 – April 1865)

Noah Andre Trudeau



Dictator Mortar - Petersburg, VA 1864
Alexander Gardner



BETWEEN THE COVERS

The Petersburg Campaign Volume I & II

By: Ed Bearss and Bryce Suderow

Over the summer and early fall I read the excellent work by Ed Bearss and Bryce Suderow, *The Petersburg Campaign*

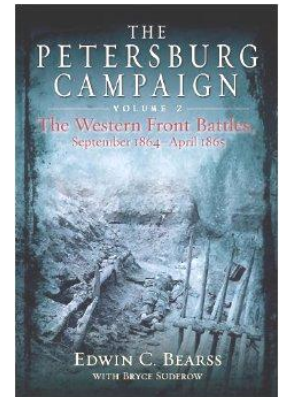
Volume I & II. I had never read much about the campaign, so when I had the opportunity to buy these fine studies by this noted author I had to pick them up. Volume I was purchased at a talk Mr. Bearss gave at the Kenosha Civil War Museum on November 5, 2013. I picked up the second volume while at the Civil War symposium this summer at Gettysburg College.

The first volume deals with six battles that began the Petersburg Campaign: the initial Attack on Petersburg, the Second Assault on Petersburg, the Battle of the Jerusalem Plank Road, the Crater, the Battle of the Weldon Railroad, and the Second Battle of Ream's Station. This volume covers the period from June through August 1864. Each segment has detailed maps on the actions and detailed descriptions of the unit's movements and attacks. What I discovered in my readings was that, while commonly called a siege, the city of Petersburg was never surrounded. These battles represent the many thrusts and counter thrusts that made this battle an almost continuous fight. In his writing, Mr. Bearss provides very detailed descriptions of the unit's maneuverings, the operational orders that Grant had issued and how the local commanders responded to the orders and the resulting Confederate reactions to the Union movements. He deals with both the actions on the tactical and strategic levels. I think the picture that Mr. Bearss paints about this phase of Grant's Overland Campaign helps the reader understand how this action was the continuation of his plan to move the Confederates out of the Richmond area. This would force Lee to fight the larger Union Army in the open and at a disadvantage in order to finally defeat Lee and end the war.

Mr. Bearss points out that, with more coordinated and aggressive action at the start, the Union forces could have taken Petersburg at the outset. However, timid and slow action on the Union side allowed the Confederates to shore up defenses, thereby making the objective of taking the city and cutting off the supply line to the south a long drawn out affair.

The second volume covers the time frame from September 1864 to April 1865. This particular volume features the battles of Peebles Farm, Burgess Mill, Hatcher's Run, Fort Stedman, Five Forks Campaign and the 6th Corps breaking Lee's Petersburg lines. With these two volumes, Mr. Bearss puts together the most comprehensive and thorough works on this longest and most extensive operation of the Civil War.

I think the serious student of the Civil War will find these two volumes a must have in understanding this war ending operation. The average reader might be overwhelmed by the detail on unit movements and actions and may find studying the maps to follow the unit movement descriptions not their cup of tea.



submitted by: Bruce Klem

Civil War Trust Celebrates Another Successful Year for Battlefield Preservation

(Washington, D.C.) – The cause of battlefield preservation took great strides forward in 2014, as the Civil War Trust, America’s premier battlefield preservation organization, announced several landmark projects, and laid the groundwork for continued success beyond the conclusion of the national Civil War sesquicentennial commemoration. Through the generosity of individual donors, coupled with strategic partnerships with government officials and nonprofit groups

across the country, the Trust protected more than 2,300 acres of battlefield land in 2014, eclipsing 40,000 total acres saved by the organization at 122 historic sites in 20 states.



“A generation from now, I believe that 2014 will be remembered as the year when the conceivable scope of battlefield preservation exploded,” remarked Trust president James Lighthizer. “This was the year that we demonstrated, in multiple ways, the tremendous level of public support for protection of hallowed ground as outdoor classrooms and living memorials to the sacrifices of America’s military.”

Working closely in cooperation with willing landowners and preservation partners, the Trust completed 45 transactions at 26 individual battlefields in 10 states. The battlefields where land was preserved in 2014: Appomattox Court House, Va.; Bentonville, N.C.; Brandy Station, Va.; Cedar Creek, Va.; Cold Harbor, Va.; Davis Bridge, Tenn.; Franklin, Tenn.; Gettysburg, Pa.; Glendale, Va.; Glorieta Pass, N.M.; Harpers Ferry, W.Va.; Kelly’s Ford, Va.; Mansfield, La.; Mill Springs, Ky.; North Anna, Va.; Petersburg, Va.; Port Republic, Va.; Rappahannock Station, Va.; Ream’s Station, Va.; Richmond, Ky.; Shepherdstown, W.Va.; Shiloh, Tenn.; South Mountain, Md.; Stones River, Tenn.; Trevilian Station, Va.; and Vicksburg, Miss.

With the October closing of the 654-acre historic Fontaine Farm at North Anna — a property encompassing nearly the entire scene of combat on May 23, 1864 — the Trust surpassed 40,000 acres saved in the organization’s history. In November, the Trust embarked on a large preservation opportunity at Chancellorsville, seeking to raise nearly \$500,000 to save 479 acres associated with Confederate Lt. Gen. Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson’s flank attack. Facilitating these types of landmark transactions was the Trust’s ongoing sesquicentennial fundraising effort, Campaign 150, which, in April, met its original \$40 million goal before being extended to an unprecedented \$50 million target.

Proving that acreage is not the only measure of a preservation project’s significance, in July, the Trust announced a \$5.5 million national fundraising campaign to save 4.1 acres in Gettysburg, Pa. The property played a key role in combat on July 1, 1863, and includes several historic buildings — most notably the Mary Thompson House, used throughout the remainder of the battle as Gen. Robert E. Lee’s headquarters.

In addition to its land acquisition successes, the Trust continues promoting greater appreciation and understanding of the Civil War through its innovative educational programs and digital offerings. In 2014, the group’s flagship website, www.civilwar.org, received more than 5.8 million unique visits — an increase of 30 percent from 2013. A popular new online feature was the War Department™ video series, an ongoing effort designed to move past lists of names and dates, encouraging viewers to analyze the broader impact of historical events. Classroom educators benefited from two new Trust programs: the Teachers Regiment, a virtual community of classroom educators, museum professionals, librarians, tour guides and other public historians eager to raise the level of history instruction nationwide; and the Field Trip Fund, a scholarship fund to assist teachers in planning and paying for student trips to historic sites.

The Civil War Trust is the largest and most effective nonprofit organization devoted to the preservation of America’s hallowed battlegrounds. Although primarily focused on the protection of Civil War battlefields, through its Campaign 1776 initiative, the Trust also seeks to save the battlefields connected to the Revolutionary War and War of 1812. To date, the Trust has preserved more than 40,000 acres of battlefield land in 20 states. Learn more at www.civilwar.org.

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CWRT Pin.....	\$5.00
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Contact Roman Blenski, Quartermaster
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You may also see Roman in person at the
Monthly Meeting at the Book Raffle table.

