

GENERAL ORDERS



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



March 12, 2015

Thomas Huntington

Searching for George Gordon Meade

War is very uncertain in its results, and often when affairs look most desperate they suddenly assume a more hopeful state.

George Gordon Meade

Searching for George Gordon Meade is our March speaker's account of his travels to sites associated with Union General George Meade. From Texas to Pennsylvania, each stop on Tom Huntington's travels illuminates more about Meade and paints a portrait of Meade for his readers.

Who was George Gordon Meade and why has history pushed him aside? Meade, noted for his fiery temper, would receive command of the Union's Army of the Potomac only three days before Gettysburg and the defeat of Lee's army. After Gettysburg, Meade would see his reputation decline, partly due to the escape of Lee's army after the battle, hostility from the press and politicians, Dan Sickles and the rise of Ulysses S. Grant. Meade would even say, at one point, "I suppose after awhile it will be discovered I was not at Gettysburg at all."

For our speaker, Meade becomes the Rodney Dangerfield of Civil War generals – he gets no respect. Huntington set out on a journey to find out why.

Huntington will take us on a journey of Meade's life and his participation in the Civil War providing us with accounts of his own investigations into Meade's legacy. As the past editor of the magazine *Historic Traveler* and inspired by Tony's Horwitz's *Confederates in the Attic*, Huntington went on his own journey by traveling to the places Meade knew and the battlefields where he fought. He sought out people who could tell him about their take on Meade and the Civil War. Along the way he hiked across battlefields, recited the names of fallen soldiers at a candlelit ceremony at Gettysburg, drank champagne at Meade's grave on New Year's Eve, and visited a buried arm, a severed leg and a horse's head.

Tom Huntington is the author of *Searching for George Gordon Meade: The Forgotten Victor of Gettysburg* as well as *guide to Gettysburg Battlefield Monuments*. In addition to *Historic Traveler* he is also the former editor of *American History* magazine. During his tenure as editor he developed a love for writing that merged stories from the past with journeys of discovery in the present. In his book on Meade he continued his tradition of merging the past with the present. Huntington visited battlefields and museums and talked with historians, curators, park rangers and Civil War enthusiasts as he examined the life and reputation of the general who won at Gettysburg. Huntington's many magazine articles have appeared in *American Heritage*, *Smithsonian*, *Air & Space*, *British Heritage*, *America in WWII*, *Civil War Times*, *America's Civil War*, *Invention & Technology* and many others. He lives in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania, with his wife, Beth Ann, and his children, Katie and Sam.

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March 2015**

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March 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, March 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

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"

milwaukeecwrt.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, Laura Rinaldi, Paul Sotirin, Bernard VanDinter

Contributor (up to \$99)

George Affeldt, Dale Bspalec, John Busch, Cynthia Cooper, Tom Corcoran, James DeValkenaere, Dr. Gordon Dammann, Bob Dude, Lori Duginski, Gary and Judith Ertel, Ted Fetting, A. William Finke, Richard Gross, Douglas Haag, Erwin Huston, 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

ANNOUNCEMENTS – EVENTS - MEETINGS

March 9, 2015

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

March 10, 2015

Waukesha Civil War Round Table, 7 p.m.
Citizens Bank of Mukwonago Waukesha Branch
Speaker: Doug Dammann, “Dr. Benjamin Franklin White, Surgeon, 1st. Wisconsin Volunteers (90 Day Troops)

The Muster Roll: NEW MEMBERS

THE MUSTER ROLL - CONSOLIDATED LIST of all persons of Class II, subject to the military duty in the ...

| NUMBER | NAME | RESIDENCE | PLACE OF BIRTH | PREVIOUS MILITARY SERVICE | REMARKS |
|--------|--------------------|-----------|----------------|---------------------------|---------|
| 1000 | Randall Garczynski | ... | ... | ... | ... |

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.

More ANNOUNCEMENTS – EVENTS – MEETINGS

March 14, 2015

Annual West Side Soldiers Aid Society Meeting
Kenosha Civil War Museum
Lunch and Meeting to take place immediately after 11 a.m.
Mother Bickerdyke presentation

March 17, 2015 (rescheduled from January)

Prairieville Irregulars Civil War Round Table **7:30 p.m.**
Citizens Bank of Mukwonago Waukesha Branch
Program: Our Favorite and Not so Favorite Civil War Books

March 29, 2015 [see description above]

In Thinking of America: Songs of the Civil War
South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center, 2 p.m.
Tickets: \$10 - \$25



In March 1953 Harry Hershenson talked to the Round Table on "Thaddeus Stevens."

Guilbert Piper was our Round Table speaker in March 1963 speaking on "Civil War Small Arms & Ammunition."

"Lee vs. Longstreet at Gettysburg" was the topic of Marshall Krolick's presentation to the Round Table in March 1973.

John E. Divine was our speaker in March 1983. The topic was "Calvary Campaigns: Prelude to Gettysburg."

In March 1993 our speaker was Dr. Richard H. Zeitlin speaking on the "New Wisconsin Veterans Museum."

Ed Bearss spoke to our group in March 2003 about "Comparing Medical Care in the Civil War and World War II."

At last year's March meeting we welcomed Charles "Chuck" Teague who spoke on "How Lincoln Came to be "Under God" at Gettysburg."

COMING UP at the Kenosha Civil War Museum

Life and Limb - The Toll of the American Civil War

March 14 – A traveling exhibition by the National Library of Medicine.

More than three million soldiers fought in the Civil War. More than half a million died and almost as many were wounded, but survived. Hundreds of thousands were permanently disabled by injuries or surgery, which saved lives by sacrificing limbs. These men served as a symbol of the fractured nation and remained a stark reminder of the costs of the conflict for long after the war. This exhibition brings their experiences to light.

"Life and Limb" describes the damage caused by the weapons of the time, the treatment of wounds, and their consequences for the young men who survived. The narrative highlights aspects of life after the amputation of a limb, from military service in the Veterans Reserve Corps to civilian life and the use of artificial limbs.

Sponsored in part by the West Side Soldiers Aid Society with additional panels provided by the Civil War Museum

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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General Orders design & layout by Dave Wege.

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.

KENOSHA CIVIL WAR MUSEUM

Second Friday Lunchbox Series

The Other Civil War Prisoner Camps in Illinois

Friday, March 13, 2015, Noon

Presented by: Trevor Steinbach

During the Civil War one out of every four Confederate prisoners were held in an Illinois prison camp. This program details the truths and myths of the Illinois camps including the one that "detained" Ashley Wilkes in the book *Gone With the Wind*. Learn about the soldier who died a prisoner and was "discovered" to be a woman from Tennessee and the "dead" prisoner who visited his Illinois grave monument 30 years after the war.

Civil War Medical Weekend

Saturday, March 14, 2015, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Sunday, March 15, 2015, Noon – 4 p.m.

A weekend of living history, programs, and exhibits commemorating the role of physicians, nurses, and caregivers during the Civil War. Watch surgeons and nurses of the 17th Corps demonstrate bullet removal, brain surgery, and amputation. Role play as a sick soldier during a sick call demonstration, and participate in a medical inspection for new recruits.

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.

- March 11, 2015 – Lincoln the Congressman
- March 25, 2015 – Lincoln's Co-Workers and Staff

Download Lincoln Lore Bulletins available at www.TheCivilWarMuseum.org

Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for March 12, 2015

Mail your reservations by Monday, March 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 March 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: MARCH 1865 MARKING THE CIVIL WAR SESQUICENTENNIAL

MARCH 1865

Thoughts were beginning to turn more towards peace as the end of the war was becoming inevitable. Abraham Lincoln would be inaugurated for his second term on March 4. The split over a reconstruction policy was widening in the North while, in the South, there was growing dismay over what the post war would bring.

March 1, 1865 • Sheridan's cavalry are moving up the Shenandoah Valley in hard pursuit of Jubal Early's two battered brigades. The right wing of Sherman's Army of the Tennessee spends the day getting across the river at Kelley's Bridge. Wisconsin ratifies the Thirteenth Amendment while New Jersey rejects it.

Admiral Dahlgren is in Georgetown, South Carolina, visiting the naval forces there and inspecting Fort White. While awaiting breakfast in his flagship *Harvest Moon* the ship, sailing for Charleston, struck a torpedo. Dahlgren wrote:

Suddenly, without warning, came a crashing sound, a heavy shock, the partition between the cabin and wardroom was shattered and driven in toward me, while all loose articles in the cabin flew in different directions...A torpedo had been struck by the poor old Harvest Moon, and she was sinking.

In five minutes, the ship was gone with one life lost. Dahlgren survived with nothing but the uniform he wore.

March 2, 1865 • The rest of Early's forces were dispersed by the Federal cavalry at Waynesborough, Virginia. George Armstrong Custer led the assault with close to five thousand men. Sheridan's cavalry now headed toward Charlottesville. Sherman's Twentieth Corps entered Chesterfield, South Carolina.

Lee wrote to Grant proposing a meeting to try and arrive "at a satisfactory adjustment of the present unhappy difficulties by means of a military convention." Grant replied that he had no military authority to hold the proposed conference and that there must have been some misunderstanding.

March 3, 1865 • The Thirty-Eighth Congress of the United States held its last regular session. Their most important work in this last day was the establishment of the Bureau for the Relief of Freedmen and Refugees, which would be known as the Freedmen's Bureau. The Bureau would have "control of all subjects relating to refugees and freedmen from rebel States." It would provide temporary subsistence, clothing, and fuel and also assign land. Later, it would be used to build schools, establish secondary learning institutions, and provide a political base for Negro elected officials.

Sherman was at Cheraw, South Carolina, where large amounts of ammunition and other munitions were captured.

Lincoln writes a message, signed by Stanton, directing Grant:

To have no conference with General Lee unless it be for the capitulation of Gen. Lee's army...you are not to decide, discuss, or confer upon any political question. Such questions the President holds in his hands; and will submit them to no military conferences or conventions. Meantime you are to press to the utmost, your military advantage.

The message laid the policy for the generals in the surrenders to come; it was sent only to Grant, and not to Sherman.

March 4, 1865 • President Lincoln is inaugurated for his second term. There was no discussion of policy or a review of the past in his inaugural address – just words of inspiration, hope and understanding:

...With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan – to do all which may achieve and cherish a just, and a lasting peace, among ourselves, and with all nations.

The Senate met in a special session to consider appointments and other business. In the evening, at a public reception, the President would shake hands with about six thousand people.

In Richmond, the Confederate Congress approved a revision of the design of the official Confederate national flag.

March 5, 1865 • Sherman's army was in and around Cheraw, South Carolina, and was preparing to enter North Carolina in the direction of Fayetteville.

President Lincoln asked Hugh McCulloch, Comptroller of the Currency, to be Secretary of the Treasury after William Fessenden resigned to return to the Maine Senate.

March 6, 1865 • Joseph E. Johnston assumes command of all troops in the Department of North Carolina in addition to his other duties. Johnston now led all Confederate troops in the Carolinas and south of Petersburg.

Most of the Federal troops cross the Pee Dee River and enter North Carolina.

March 7, 1865 • On the North Carolina coast it was decided that New Bern would be the best of several ports for use to resupply Sherman's army. General Jacob Cox was sent there with a large force to organize the town and expedite the rebuilding of the railroad towards Goldsborough.

March 8, 1865 • General Cox, commanding the buildup at New Bern, was attacked by elements of Braxton Bragg's Confederates. During the attack, some of the Federal troops broke, but the remainder held and fought off the Confederates.

March 9, 1865 • Vermont ratifies the Thirteenth Amendment. In Washington, Lincoln accepts the resignation of John P. Usher as Secretary of the Interior. Fighting continued between Bragg's Confederates and Cox's Federals near Kinston, North Carolina.

At Monroe's Crossroads, North Carolina, cavalry under Wade Hampton and Joe Wheeler attacked the unsuspecting Federals of Judson Kilpatrick. Kilpatrick, nearly captured in his bed, fled but then rallied his men, counterattacked and severely beat Hampton's forces. The affair would later be dubbed "the Battle of Kilpatrick's Pants" in reference to Kilpatrick allegedly fleeing without his trousers.

General Lee, in a letter to Secretary of War Breckinridge, indicated that the military condition of the Confederacy "is full of peril and requires prompt action." He would continue writing: "Unless the men and animals can be subsisted, the army cannot be kept together, and our present lines must be abandoned." Yet Lee still expressed some optimism noting that if the army could be maintained, "I do not regard the abandonment of our present position as necessarily fatal to our success."

March 10, 1865 • Sherman's army approached Fayetteville with rain and muddy roads making for very slow progress. At Kinston, North Carolina, Bragg is unable to dislodge Cox and breaks off the engagement going to Goldsborough to join Johnston's force.

March 11, 1865 • Sherman's army pulls up and around Fayetteville after some light skirmishing. The old Arsenal was occupied and would be destroyed. Sherman sent messengers to Wilmington to make contact with Schofield reporting his presence and to arrange for cooperation with the force coming in from the sea to form a two-pronged attack against Johnston.

In Virginia, Sheridan's cavalry were outside of Richmond at Goochland Court House, causing a scare in the Confederate capital.

March 12, 1865 • Sherman's army will remain in Fayetteville until March 14. They undertook the destruction of machinery, buildings, and property they deemed of use to the enemy, including the former U.S. Arsenal. Major George W. Nichols, Sherman's Headquarters would write:

Again we have made a capture of much greater importance than was at first supposed. The magnificent arsenal which our government built here contains millions of dollars worth of machinery and material...Here are stored vast amounts of well-seasoned woods, weapons in all stages of completion, thousands of muskets; in short, every description of machinery and tools requisite for the manufacture and repairs of material of war...We shall destroy it utterly...

March 13, 1865 • In Richmond, the Confederate Congress passed legislation to use Negro troops in the Southern army. Lee promptly acts and by the end of the month Negro troops are seen in Confederate uniform in Richmond.

Sheridan's cavalry, en route to Grant at Petersburg, skirmishes at Beaver Dam Station outside Richmond.

March 14, 1865 • Federal troops under General Cox occupy Kinston, North Carolina. At Fayetteville, Sherman's men carry out reconnaissance to the Black River and Silver Run Creek, North Carolina. In Virginia, Sheridan's cavalry skirmish at the South Anna Bridge as they continue their steady move towards Grant.

Lee tells President Davis: "The greatest calamity that can befall us is the destruction of our armies. If they can be maintained, we may recover from our reverses, but if lost we have no resources."

March 15, 1865 • Sheridan was at Hanover Court House heading towards the James River and a link up with Grant. Sherman, again on the move, was heading towards Goldsborough. Kilpatrick, in front of Slocum's left wing, skirmished with Johnston's rear guard units as the Union advance was made.

March 16, 1865 • Slocum, commanding Sherman's left wing, attacked Hardee's force four miles from Averasborough, North Carolina. Slocum turns Hardee's right flank and causes the Confederates to withdraw. In late afternoon Hardee learned that Slocum's men were on his left flank and, during the night, in the middle of a storm, Hardee withdrew moving towards Smithfield.

March 17, 1865 • At Mobile, Alabama, Major General E. R. S. Canby began moving his 32,000 men against the Mobile defenses. One force moved from Pensacola, the other from Mobile Point. Brigadier General R. L. Gibson had only 2800 Confederates to defend the city.

March 18, 1865 • Sherman's left wing, two corps under Slocum, are just south of Bentonville, North Carolina. Opposite Slocum was Lt. General Wade Hampton's cavalry, opposing Kilpatrick, whose cavalry was in front of Slocum. Sherman's right wing, commanded by Howard, was south and east of Bentonville. The Battle of Bentonville opened when Hampton's cavalry began a skirmish with the advanced Federal units near Benton's Cross Roads.

At Mobile, 1700 Federals left Dauphin Island and started up the west side of Mobile Bay acting as a diversion to draw off some of the Confederates in Mobile.

The Confederate Congress ended its last session. Many essential war measures were left unpassed. In the last days of the session its main business had been to argue with the President over whether he or Congress had delayed action and was responsible for some of the difficulties facing the Confederacy.

March 19, 1865 • Slocum's left wing runs into Johnston's prepared positions south of Bentonville. Slocum pressed his advance, but Johnston did not budge. Slocum entrenched, unsure of what he was facing. On the Confederate side there was a delay in attacking; when they finally attacked the progress was slow. The fighting, which included three separate assaults on the Federal line, lasted until dark when both sides pulled back and reinforced their positions. Sherman, arriving at Howard's right wing, thinking the fighting was less severe than it was, held Howard's troops in their positions. In the evening, couriers from Slocum's headquarters arrived with news of the battle and the current situation.

March 20, 1865 • In the early morning, the men of Howard's right wing moved toward Bentonville to join the fight against Johnston's Confederate force. A run in with Confederate cavalry would briefly delay them. By late afternoon, Sherman's entire army faced Johnston united in front and on both flanks of the Confederates.

George Stoneman, with about four thousand cavalry from Thomas's army in Tennessee, left Jonesborough, Tennessee, on a destruction mission in support of Sherman in the Carolinas.

General Canby's column from Pensacola departs for Mobile to add weight to the Federal assault.

March 21, 1865 • Sherman's troops kept up the pressure at Bentonville. Major General J. A. Mower's men moved from the far Union right around the Confederate left in the late afternoon threatening the Mill Creek Bridge on Johnston's retreat line. Heavy fighting took place with the Federal advance being checked. This was the last fighting in the Battle of Bentonville and the last major battle in North Carolina. Johnston withdrew after getting reports that Schofield had taken Goldsborough.

At Mobile, Canby waited for the arrival of Federal troops from Pensacola.

March 22, 1865 • Another offensive began with 13,500 Union cavalry under Major General James Harrison Wilson moving from the Tennessee River toward Selma, Alabama. The raid was in concert with the Federal attack on Mobile to the south of Selma.

At Bentonville, skirmishers reported that Johnston's fortifications were abandoned. After some reconnaissance, Sherman ordered Slocum's left wing towards Goldsborough with the right wing to follow the next day. The roads were bad making troop movement slow.

March 23, 1865 • Sherman joins Schofield and Terry at Goldsborough. The combined armies totaled more than 100,000 and dominated the military situation on the area. Sherman, now linked to his supply line to the sea, would re clothe and rest his army before continuing his drive.

Major George W. Nichols, Sherman's Headquarters, Goldsborough wrote:

General Schofield is in Goldsboro'. Our army will at once be moved into position in the vicinity of this place to refit for the next campaign; not only to be re clothed, but to gain the repose it needs. Mind, as well as body, requires rest after the fatigues of rapid campaigns like these. These ragged, bareheaded, shoeless, brave, jolly fellows of Sherman's legions, too, want covering for their naked limbs.

In North Carolina, Johnston placed his army across the paths to Raleigh and Weldon, both routes Sherman was expected to take.

March 24, 1865 • In the lines at Petersburg, Confederates under John B. Gordon prepare for an attack the following day at Fort Stedman. The attack would have President Lincoln as an observer. The President had arrived at City Point aboard the *River Queen*.

In North Carolina, Sherman's troops continued to be refitted. At Mobile, Canby was advancing his positions for the assaults on the various forts defending the city while Wilson's cavalry continued towards Selma, north of Mobile.

March 25, 1865 • Admiral Porter, at Grant's request, sent gunboats up the Appomattox River to the pontoon bridges to guard against an expected attack by Lee.

At 4 a. m. General Gordon sent his troops against Fort Stedman overwhelming it, surprising the garrison and the line for nearly a mile. The Confederates swarmed over the defenses with some select units headed for City Point. The attack, lacking enough weight, faltered, giving the Federals time to regroup and drive the Confederates back to their own lines but the rebels still held the fort. At 7:30 a.m. the Union sent a division against Ft. Stedman and the Confederates were routed back to their own lines. The Union line was whole again.

Grant and Lincoln were conferring at City Point. Lincoln took the railroad to the Petersburg lines, where he walked over the battlefield at Fort Stedman.

March 26, 1865 • Sheridan's cavalry cross the James River heading towards Grant's position at Petersburg providing Grant with 15,000 aggressive cavalry led by an aggressive commander. Lincoln was on hand to see the cavalry cross the river. Sheridan conferred with Grant on further movements; Lincoln watched the troops review. Lee was preparing to evacuate Petersburg and move west, hoping to join Johnston.

March 27, 1865 • At City Point aboard the *River Queen*, President Lincoln conferred with Grant, Sherman, and Admiral Porter. Sherman had come up from Goldsborough for the meeting. The first day of talks centered on the account of Sherman's campaign.

March 28, 1865 • Grant, Sherman, and Porter, continued their conversations with President Lincoln on the *River Queen* off City Point. The generals detailed their plans indicating that one more major campaign was needed.

Lee wrote to his daughter: "General Grant is evidently preparing for something and is marshalling and preparing his troops for some movement, which is not yet disclosed..."

March 29, 1865 • Lincoln remained at City Point with Grant, awaiting developments. Sherman returned to North Carolina to begin his drive on Raleigh.

At Petersburg, the Appomattox Campaign began with the Northern Army of the Potomac and the Army of the James, numbering about 125,000 on the move against Lee at Petersburg and Richmond. Lee, trying to defend more than 30 miles of entrenchments, was running out of men.

March 30, 1865 • Amid pouring rain, Sheridan was getting his troops, cavalry and infantry, organized for the push on the Confederate right flank. The rain delayed the advance. Lee's lines were getting weaker as he concentrated his forces southwest of Petersburg to protect the South Side Railroad.

In Alabama, Wilson's cavalry skirmished with Forrest's troops at Montevallo. In Mobile, the assault on Spanish Fort continued.

March 31, 1865 • The month would end with Sheridan putting into motion his cavalry and infantry toward Dinwiddie Court House, on the Confederate right flank. The Confederates initially drove Sheridan back, but not for long. At night, Pickett realized that Warren's Fifth Corps and Sheridan's mix of cavalry and infantry was too strong for him and he withdrew to Five Forks. In Alabama, Wilson's cavalry destroyed iron furnaces and collieries at Montevallo and skirmished with Forrest's troops at Six Mile Creek. Union troops were in the towns around Mobile drawing the noose tighter around the forts.

AND SO IT CONTINUES ...

THE SILENT LANGUAGE OF GRIEF

There is a sacredness in tears. They are not the mark of weakness, but of power. They speak more eloquently than ten thousand tongues. They are the messengers of overwhelming grief, of deep contrition, and of unspeakable love.

Washington Irving

Recently, while scrolling through posts on Facebook, I read a very interesting bit of history on lachrymatories, or tear catchers. Posted on The American Civil War site by founder Tom Meagher I found the post of historical interest and am pleased to be able to share Tom's research with you.

The lachrymatory was a custom found among women of higher social status and was popular well before the Civil War, dating back to the 1720s. A woman, upon the death of her husband or child, would gather her female relatives and close female friends together for the purpose of holding a memorial service. The service, ideally, would take place before the sun set on the day of death. In many cases, particularly during the war, the service would take place after the widow was informed of her husband's death.

A female relative or close friend would present the bereaved with a lachrymatory, which would be used to catch tears wept during the memorial service. Some of the tear catchers were designed to be sealed shut with paraffin and then emptied on the grave a year later. Other vessels were designed with a cap that allowed the tears to evaporate – when all the tears were evaporated and the vessel was empty, the time of mourning would be at an end.

During the Civil War, it is told that some soldiers would leave their wives or beloved with a tear catcher bottle in hopes that the bottle would be filled when the soldier returned – a symbol of their wife's devotion. As we know, many of these men never did return home. There is also historical reference indicating that tears were saved in lachrymatories as a way of remembering loved ones and in some instances, were then passed along to future generations.

The American Civil War on Facebook currently has about 7,500 followers with postings by many individuals. You can find it under that title or, look for Thomas Meagher The American Civil War.



**From the Twenty-Ninth Regiment
Correspondence of the State Journal
Camp Twenty-Ninth Wis. Vols.**

Fort Gaines, Ala.

March 14, 1865

Messrs. Editors: We are encamped on a sandy island near Fort Gaines, but we are going to move in a few days. If the weather permits. We have turned over everything that is not needed on a campaign. We now belong to the 13th Corps. This Corps we have been in for the space of three years, with the exception of four months, during which time we have been in the reserve Corps of the Trans-Mississippi Department. The 16th Corps is arriving here every day, commanded by A. J. Smith. It is a large Corps, and all veterans.

Our Corps is commanded by Gen. Granger, a competent officer and a gentleman. Two rebel lieutenants came to his headquarters, and gave him a description of the works at Mobile. The next morning a fleet of thirteen iron-clads moved at four o'clock and arrived at Dog river bar about seven o'clock, and commenced bombarding a water-battery of nine guns. They kept up a steady firing the greater part of the day, but just at night they fell back to hold a council. They soon conjectured a plan, which was to take two transports, put some soldiers aboard of them, with some cotton bales for protection, and sail up before the fort and draw their fire – which took well. In the meantime a force landed (under cover of the night) below the fort, and came up just as the rebels fired at the transports, and took them by surprise, not losing a man. They then returned safe with their fleet, leaving enough men and boats to hold the place. You may expect to hear brilliant news from the Twenty-ninth in a few days.

M. J. E.

Somewhere in Ala.

March 28th/65

Dear Mother

As I am now laying in camp, I thought I would write you a few lines. I don't know when I can get a chance to send it, but I will have it reddey to send when I do have a chance. I received your letter about a week ago; it found me well.

I have seen the boyes once since they left Fort Morgan. We are now two days march from Fish River on Sunday. Our boyes are fighting like thunder today. They skirmished all day yeasterday. We had one man killed in

our Regiment. His name was Joel Martin; he belonged to Co. C. He was the only man hit that I know of. I have not seen the Regiment but heard it from a man that had seen it. The Rebs has got a Fort here that we want to take and I think we will take it before night. Some of the boyes have gone out today to put up a telegraph around the fort. I Think by that we have got them on all sides. I am having very easy times on this trip; I dont have to carry a thing – only my canteen. it is the first time I ever had such good luck on a march.

I got them stamps you sent me all right. I received a letter from Clymour Taylor; he sayes he was a going to Michigan this Spring. Dock Emerson is driving team in the Telegraph Corps with me. I believe I wont write enymore just now; I will wait and see how the fight comes out before I finish.

Well, I guess I will finish this for the mail is going out at four O'clock.

They still keep pecking away at the Rebs. It is another Vicksburg scrape. We have to seage them out. Our gun boats come up the river last night. It is on Kensaw Bayou; that is all I can tell you about it.

I have been putting up telegraph today; we run it from General Canby Headquarters to General Smiths and from there to General Grangers.

Since I have commenced writing this I have heard that there was a man shot in the arm out of Co. E. George Mc and Ed Allen is all right yet. We have had no men hit in our Co. yet.

I dont know how long we shall have to stay, but I guess not a grait while for it is my opinion that the Johnnies will be glad to give up in a short time, and if they dont get out of there between this and tomorrow night, they cant get out at all. There is nine or ten thousand of them there and they have got good works. To tell the truth, it is a pretty hard place to take, but we might as well fight them here as anywhere else.

I cant think of anything else to write this time, and I am in a hurry. Please excuse poor spelling and writing. Write as soon as you get this and tell me all the news you can think of. No more this time.

Henry Welsh
Co I 29th Regt Wis Vol

**Letters to Prisoners of War
Correspondence of the State Journal
Headquarters, 19th Wis. Vol.
Near Richmond, Va. Feb. 12**

Messrs. Editors. –

In consequence of the many letters forwarded to this regiment for men of this command now prisoners of war, I send you the following instructions for publication in your paper, for the benefit of "Whom it may concern" Enclosed a letter containing 10 cents in a war (for payment of rebel postage) envelope unsealed directed to the person you wish to send to giving the number of Regiment, Prisoner of War, and the place where the prisoner is confined (Richmond, Va., or else where as the case may be) via flag of truce.

Enclose the whole in another envelope seal and direct it (postage paid) to Col. John E. Mansfield U.S. Commessoner of Exchange, Fort Monroe, Va. This will ensure a degree of certainty of such letters reaching their proper descunation.

Where letters are merely directed to A, B Co. A, 19th Wis. Vols. Prisoner of War, Richmond, Va. via Flag of Truce they are invariably sent to the regiment, and hence fail to reach the person for whom they are intended. Thus many of our poor fellow soldiers are deprived of that which would be a source of much happiness to them during the tedious hours of their confinement: viz letters for loved ones at home.

Very Respectfully,
S.K. Vaughan
Maj. Comd'g 19th Wis. Vols.

Appleton Motor March 2, 1865

Fortunately the mass of the Northern people are not as easily intimidated by the bluster and brag of gassy traitors as is the editor of the World.

It is true that their present sanguine hopes of an early peace through the overthrow of the rebellion may not be realized. Unforeseen disasters may occur but they will be met as heretofore with firm and steady resolution and no pusillanimous cry will go up from the great loyal heart of the North for a cessation of hostilities so long as a rebel army threatens the peace and order of the Republic.

On Thursday evening last our citizens made a demonstration of rejoicing over the fall of Charleston. Our six pounder was made to speak in thunder tones the great joy felt at that important result. And we have constant cause for rejoicing. Wilmington has since surrendered, and Sherman is marching on through the Carolinas conquering and to conquer. We expected to be able to announce the fate of Richmond this week. The news has not come yet, but is sure to soon. Mobile also, is expected to fall; but the Rebels have determined to hold that place. We'll see if they do.

Washington, March 29

The Richmond Enquirer of the 27th inst. contains a special dispatch dated Petersburg, March 25th, which says: "Gen. Bushrod Johnson stormed the enemy's breastworks on our left this morning, and drove the enemy one mile, capturing his works and 500 prisoners, including Gen. McLaughlin and other officers. The fight was terrific, and the loss on both sides was heavy. Brig. Gen. Terry was badly wounded during the engagement. The enemy massed his artillery heavily in the neighborhood of the captured fort and was thus enabled to pour such an enfilading upon our ranks as to cause our troops to fall back to their original position. The Yankee Maj. Gen. Warren is supposed to be killed. "

Wisconsin State Journal March 30, 1865

The North Carolina Campaign
Philadelphia, March 29

A special to the Bulletin from Washington says: "W. C. Cooke, editor of the Wilmington, N.C. Herald who has just reached here says there has been no additional fighting in Sherman's or Schofield's army. The troops of both armies are being supplied with provisions and clothing. Now that it has passed it is not improper to say that several days ago Generals Grant and Sherman had an interview lasting several hours. The time and place should not be named."

Wisconsin State Journal March 30, 1865

A BRAVE SOLDIER - A correspondent relates the following incident of heroic bravery.

In the recent battle near Petersburg: A poor wounded lieutenant of the 57th Massachusetts died as only patriot soldiers die. His regiment was on picket, and met the first onset of the rebel wave. Rallying his men by Voice and example, he seized the colors when the color sergeant fell and himself struck with death the next instant, handed them to a brother officer, said "Take care of the flag" and died.

Wisconsin State Journal March 30, 1865

The Rebel Attack on Grant's Lines

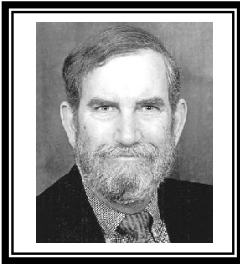
The following from the N. Y. Herald's 9th Corps correspondent, gives the best account in few words, of anything we have seen of the rebel attack on Grant's lines in front of Fort Stedman, on the 26th, and the manner in which it was repulsed. The correspondent says:

Without arousing suspicion, the rebel troops got safely out of the line of works thrown up for the protection of their skirmishers. At a given signal

they bounded over these rapidly, and, cutting gaps in their “cheval de frize,” pressed on with a yell towards our line. The portion of the Union line attacked was occupied by the troops of the 9th army corps. The attack, being totally unexpected and made in overwhelming force, caused our skirmish line to give way before the reserve could support it. ... So rapidly was this accomplished that the officer in command of the fort, Maj. Randall, together with Gen. McLaughlin and a number of men were taken prisoners.

Immediately succeeding the attack, Gen. McLaughlin, who had command of the line just to the left of where it was forced, hurried into Fort Stedman, and was giving orders and cheering the men up to the last minute before he was captured. On gaining Fort Stedman the enemy extended their lines of battle from the fort along the hill over to their line of breastworks and behind the latter. At the same time the guns of Fort Stedman were turned upon battery No. 10, and our men were hastily driven out...

During this attack a telling fire was poured in from Fort McGilvery, and reinforcements were now brought up from Gen. Hartrauft’s command. The 3d division, 9th corps, having been formed for action, Gen. Hartrauft received orders to move and recapture the lost ground.... The charge by our infantry was admirably executed, and the firing from the batteries was remarkably precise. The rebels could not remain under the heavy fire from our guns, and when at last they commenced to fall back, our infantry flanked the fort and cut off a large body of rebel troops, who, including many officers, fell into our hands...



Dr. Thomas Adrian Wheat passed away on February 2, 2015. Dr. Wheat graduated from the University of Tennessee Medical School and served 27 years in the United States Army as a surgeon, including nine months in a battlefield hospital during the First Gulf War. Dr. Wheat had a keen interest in the Civil War. He combined his knowledge of medicine and his interest in the Civil War becoming one of the top authorities in the nation on Civil War medicine. He volunteered thousands of hours to the cause of the study of Civil War medicine. He was a founding member of the National Museum of Civil War Medicine and served on its Board of Directors. He was also a founding member of the Society of Civil War Surgeons and vice

president of its Board of Directors. Dr. Wheat willingly and graciously shared his knowledge of Civil War medicine with hundreds of groups. He worked with every National Park Service Civil War battlefield site in the United States in interpreting the war to the visitors as well as helping to train the staff. A glimpse into his wit, charm and expertise can be seen in his Banner Lecture on Civil War medicine, which is available on the Virginia Historical Society’s website.

And flights of angels guide thee to thy rest.



BETWEEN THE COVERS

A Little Short of Boats

The Civil War Battles of Ball’s Bluff & Edwards Ferry, October 21-22, 1861

By: James A. Morgan, III

This book focused on one of the first battles of the Civil War that occurred after the Battle of Bull Run. However, it was a battle that wrecked the career of a prominent Union General, killed the officer in charge, Colonel Edward Baker, a U.S. Senator and close personal friend of Abraham Lincoln, and rocked the Northern populace already reeling from Bull Run.

I had read a few articles on the Battle of Ball’s Bluff, but had never done any sort of study into the battle and knew it turned into a Union disaster. I saw this book in the *Monitor* magazine and decided to order and read it. The edition I read was revised from the one originally published in 2004. This edition was rewritten in 2011 as a result of new sources becoming available.

As in most battles, there is usually a plan developed and passed down to subordinate units to be executed. In this case, the operation at Ball’s Bluff was based on incorrect information developed by faulty reconnaissance. Briefly, the plan was to cross the Potomac with a small party and determine the strength of Confederate forces near Leesburg; a force was also sent across at Edwards Ferry. Both operations were a result of a directive passed down from General McClellan to General Stone who had responsibility for the area.

The directive called for a demonstration to perhaps enable the Union forces to push the Confederates out of the area. The operation went bad from the beginning. The recon party crossed over the river to Harrison's Island and then to Ball's Bluff using a small skiff to make the journey. The skiff held about 20 men. The recon party was 30 men with orders to get as close to Leesburg as possible and determine Confederate strength and bring back a prisoner or two. In the moonlight the party thought they saw a small Confederate camp near the edge of the bluff. The party did not get close enough to take any prisoners but reported the encampment when they returned. As things turned out the "encampment" was nothing more than a grove of maple trees which, in the moonlight from a distance, looked like the tents of an encampment.

The stage was now set for this ill-fated mission to be handed out to Union forces under the command of Col. Baker. As the book title indicates, one of the major problems with this operation was the fact that it was conducted without having enough boats on hand to get the troops across to Ball's Bluff in large numbers. The attempt was made with only a couple of small skiffs holding no more than 20 men. There were other operational failures but minimal troop movement to and from the area of operation turned into the major tragic limiting factor.

One other important result of this battle was the formation in Congress of the Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War. This committee ended up pushing the political agenda of the "Radical Republicans" and remained a thorn in Lincoln's side for the rest of the war.

I found this to be an interesting study on this battle and it has sparked an interest in visiting the battlefield. There is a guide in the book and the author has been a volunteer guide for the park. I recommend this book for all students on the study of the war. I found it to be interesting, informative and a short study on this battle.

submitted by Bruce Klem

Fierce Patriot: The Tangled Lives of William Tecumseh Sherman by Robert L. O'Connell

William Tecumseh Sherman may be the most vilified American in the eyes of many Southerners. But like any historical or contemporary personality, there are many sides to the man. *Fierce Patriot* presents Sherman as much more than the one dimensional villain who pillaged the South. Author O'Connell vividly describes Sherman's personality, family life and accomplishments both in and out of the military.

Sherman came from two families of importance in American history. His grandfather, Roger Sherman, signed both the Declaration of Independence and the US Constitution. His lawyer father, Charles Sherman, who was educated at Dartmouth, died in 1829 leaving his family in dire straits. The ten children, ranging in age from young adults to infants, were sent to live to friends and relatives. William (age 9) and John (later a US Senator) were taken in by Thomas Ewing who was a successful businessman and influential politician, who later became his father-in-law.

Sherman graduated from West Point in 1840 in the middle of the class in academics and conformity to the rules. While there, he averaged about 150 demerit points a year for lacking neatness in dress and strict conformity to the rules. This was about 50 demerits from expulsion level. His classmates were men who would become legendary leaders on both sides in the Civil War, such as Buell, Grant, Longstreet, Thomas, etc...

His life experiences from 1840 to 1860 were not the kind that would lead one to believe that he would be a successful general. He saw little action in the Seminole War in Florida in the 1840s. He was stuck in California during the Mexican-American War, while many of his classmates made a name for themselves. However, he did have a hand in creating the "Great Gold Rush of '49" by his report to President Polk detailing the finding of gold. Lacking the combat experience necessary for promotion, Sherman went into the private sector. During the 1850s, he gained valuable supervisory experience while in the banking field. When the Civil War began, he had just established the Louisiana Military Academy. This academy after the war grew into Louisiana State University.

This three part book starts with Part I: The Military Strategist, detailing his uncanny grasp of terrain, brilliant sense of timing and his mastery of logistics. In Part II: The General and His Army", we see how he created an agile and improvisational fighting force. Lastly, in Part III: The Man and His Families" we get an insight into his turbulent family relations, warts, sins and all. This is an exceptional book about an exceptional man who played a pivotal part in the war that first divided and in the end, united America. Sherman's role in the uniting of America was more than just winning the war. He also played an important part in the taming of the Wild West and building our railroads.

submitted by John Helmenstine



Great Lakes Home Front Seminar

Exploring the Civilian Experience during the Civil War Era

April 11, 2015

\$60/\$50 FOM

Cost includes lunch Register on-line or by calling 262-653-4140.

| | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. | Registration | |
| 9:30 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. | Welcome | Freedom Hall |
| 9:45 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. | Patricia Lynch | Freedom Hall |

Ruffled Eagle Feathers: Old Abe and the "War" Between the Milwaukee and Chicago Homefronts

In May 1865 the La Crosse Democrat printed: "We are not much in favor of advising all the children in Wisconsin to send money to Chicago for photographs of the eagle which belongs to a Wisconsin Regiment. That eagle is a Wisconsin bird." Old Abe, mascot of the 8th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, was just a symbol for tensions emerging from competing interests of Milwaukee and Chicago as the Civil War drew to a close. This talk focuses on the work of the Lady Managers of the Wisconsin Soldiers' Home as they shaped Wisconsin's post-war care of disabled veterans.

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| 11 a.m. - noon | Dr. Michelle Kuhl | Freedom Hall |
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Rooting for Confederate Victory and Defeat: Southern Women, Black and White

Southern women had different goals during the Civil War era based on their race, economic status, and level of security. This talk will explore the various ways women encouraged men to join the military, spied on confederates for the union, and begged their men in uniform to abandon the cause and come home. To what extent were women a factor in the drop in Confederate morale?

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| Noon - 1:15 p.m. | Lunch | Seminar Room |
| 1:15 p.m. - 2:15 p.m. | Dr. Michael McBride | Freedom Hall |

Saving Private Borghardt: Are You Comfortable with the Remains of a Civil War Veteran Used as a Scientific Project?

A recent discovery of a forgotten pauper cemetery at the Milwaukee County Medical Center has profound and far-reaching ramifications. One man who rested in the pauper cemetery was Herman Borghardt, a Civil War veteran. His remains have been added to a collection of human remains now held by the UWMilwaukee School of Anthropology.

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| 2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. | Dr. Brett Barker | Freedom Hall |
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The 'Fire in the Rear': Midwestern Copperheads and a Society at War

In January 1863, Abraham Lincoln confided to Senator Charles Sumner that he feared "the fire in the rear"—referring to his northern critics—more than the military setbacks. Professor Brett Barker will explore the backgrounds, motivations, actions, and impact Midwestern Copperheads had on the northern war effort.

**MILWAUKEE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
QUARTERMASTER'S REGALIA**

What better way to show off your pride in our organization! All items are made of first-rate, quality materials, modestly embroidered with the Round Table/Iron Brigade log, along with your name or initials.

| ITEM | COST |
|---|-------------|
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| Baseball Hat..... | \$10.00 |
| Blue Brief Case..... | \$25.00 |
| Blue Light-Weight Sweatshirt..... | \$30.00 |
| Blue Izod Polo Shirt..... | \$40.00 |
| Blue Dress Shirt..... | \$40.00 |
| Blue Fleece-Lined Jacket..... | \$60.00 |
| Iron Brigade Pin..... | \$5.00 |
| CWRT Pin..... | \$5.00 |
| Bugle Pin..... | \$5.00 |
| Iron Brigade Medal..... | \$25.00 |
| Red River Medal..... | \$25.00 |
| CWRT 60 Year Medal..... | \$10.00 |

Contact Roman Blenski, Quartermaster
4601 W. Holt Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53219
(414) 327-2847, dbcpmilw@execpc.com

You may also see Roman in person at the Monthly Meeting at the Book Raffle table.

