

# GENERAL ORDERS



The Newsletter of the

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



September 10, 2015

Dale Phillips

## “The Capture of New Orleans”

From the moment the Civil War began the principle objectives of the Union war effort, as part of the Anaconda Plan, were to blockade southern ports of entry and capture the Mississippi River Valley. Both these elements come into play when we look at the Union approach to the city of New Orleans. A great deal of attention has always been given to the Union advance and the Confederate defense of the upper Mississippi Valley. Only a small amount of attention has been given to the story of what took place at the mouth of the river and in the lower delta.

Our September speaker, Dale Phillips, will look at the April 1862 capture of New Orleans, the largest city in the Confederacy, and its implications to the Confederate cause. The battle itself, and the running past Forts Jackson and St. Philip by the fleet of David Farragut, will be the cornerstone of Dale’s presentation.

Dale will examine the Confederate attempts to defend the city despite a lack of support from the government in Richmond. He will examine, in detail, the Confederate attempt to defend the lower river. This will include the little known effort to construct a River Defense Fleet anchored by, what would have been the most powerful ironclads the Confederacy would ever try to construct, the powerful CSS *Louisiana* and *Mississippi*.

Our speaker is a native of New Jersey. He earned his BA degree in American History from York College of Pennsylvania in 1978. Dale began working for the National Park Service as a seasonal interpreter at Gettysburg in 1976. His permanent career began as a law enforcement ranger for the Army Corps of Engineers at Lake Shelbyville, Illinois. He then rejoined the National Park Service as an interpretive ranger at Fort Sumter, Charleston, South Carolina. Dale’s first supervisory position was as a park ranger/historian at Chickamauga/Chattanooga National Military Park.

Dale was named superintendent of the George Rogers Clark National Historical Park in 1998. During his 12 years in Vincennes he oversaw the multi-million dollar restoration of the Clark Memorial and the successful expansion of the Spirit of Vincennes Rendezvous to an annual event drawing 30,000 visitors from all over the world.

Our speaker’s present position is that of superintendent of the Lincoln Home National Historic Site in Springfield, Illinois.

Dale has written numerous articles on U.S. military history for various publications. He also works as a guide/lecturer for the Delta Queen Steamboat Company, Civil War Roundtables, and other history touring organizations. His area of expertise is from the colonial period (French and Indian War) through the American Civil War.

**General Orders No. 9-15  
September 2015**

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## 2015-2016 Speaker Schedule

**September 10, 2015 – Dale Phillips**  
“The Capture of New Orleans”

**October 8, 2015 – Dennis Frye**  
Nevins-Freeman Award  
“John Brown: The Spark That Ignited the War”

**November 12, 2015 – Philip Leigh**  
“Trading with the Enemy”

**December 10, 2015 – Dave Keller**  
Camp Douglas

**January 7, 2016 – David Moore**  
William S. Rosecrans

**February 11, 2016 – Don Doyle**  
“The Cause of All Nations”

**March 10, 2016 – Bruce Kraig**  
“Why the Civil War Made Our Modern Food”

**April 7, 2016 – Greg Biggs**  
“Nashville: Siren’s Song of the Confederacy”

**May 12, 2016 – Glenna Schroeder-Lein**  
“The Soldiers’ Home in Civil War America”

**June 9, 2016 – Dale Phillips**  
“Ben Butler and the Federal Occupation of New Orleans”





In September 1953, George E. Turner talked to the Round Table on “Victory Rode the Rails.”

Bruce Catton was our Round Table speaker in September 1963 speaking on “The Lesson from Bull Run II.”

“The Battle of Poplar Spring Church” was the topic of Richard J. Sommers’ presentation to the Round Table in September 1973.

Walter H. Herbert spoke to the Round Table in September 1983 about “ ‘Fighting Joe’ Hooker.”

In September 1993 our featured speaker was William A. Young, Jr. speaking on “Confederate Tells of Pickett’s Charge.”

“Lee and Appomattox” was the topic of Noah Andre Trudeau’s presentation at the September 2003 Round Table meeting.

At last year’s September meeting we welcomed Frank P. Varney who spoke on “General Grant and the Rewriting of History.”

## **COMING ATTRACTIONS**

### **September 5-6, 2015**

“Gone For a Soldier: Civil War Camp and Soldier Experience” at Old World Wisconsin

### **September 6, 2015**

“Gone For a Soldier Dinner: Coming Home”  
Old World Wisconsin

Complete your Civil War experience with a special theatrical dinner at the Clausing Barn.

### **September 8, 2015, 7 p.m.**

Waukesha Civil War Round Table  
Citizens Bank of Mukwonago Waukesha Branch  
Bruce Kindig: “Courage and Devotion”

### **September 14, 2015, 7 p.m.**

Manitowoc Civil War Round Table  
Manitowoc Historical Society Heritage Center  
Tom & Terry Arliskas: “Civil War Jewelry/Fort Sumter 1861”

### **September 15, 2015, 7 p.m.**

Prairieville Irregulars Civil War Round Table  
Citizens Bank of Mukwonago Waukesha Branch  
Brendon Baillod: “The Lady Elgin & Its Role in Wisconsin Civil War Politics”

## **Kenosha Civil War Museum**

### **Second Friday Lunchbox Series**

#### **The Lincoln Family Post-Assassination**

**Friday, September 11, 2015, Noon**

**Presented by Steve Rogstad**

After the assassination of their beloved father and husband, how did the remaining members of the family move on from the tragedy? Steve Rogstad takes a look at the family post April 15, 1865.

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

### **8th Annual Great Lakes Civil War Forum**

#### **“Melt, Melt Away Ye Armies”**

**September 12, 2015**

**Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.**

**\$60 Non-members/\$50 Members – includes catered lunch. Register by calling: 262-653-4140**

**See page 11 of this issue!**

### **The Civil War Amendments**

**Wednesdays, October 7 & 21, 2015, Noon**

Two discussion sessions, based on historical documents from the Civil War, Reconstruction and the Supreme Court decisions will enable participants to discover the extent to which the Reconstruction Amendments – Thirteenth, Fourteenth and Fifteenth – have contributed to freedom and liberty in the United States.

*For more information call: 262-653-4141*

## **COMING ATTRACTIONS**

### **September 24-27, 2015**

“Lincoln” Chambersburg Civil War Seminar & Tour  
Join Ed Bearss, Bob Allen, Dr. Edward Steers, and others with bus tours of Gettysburg, The John Wilkes Booth Escape tour, and sessions by leading Lincoln historians. Based in Chambersburg, PA.  
For questions call: 717-264-7101 ext. 206

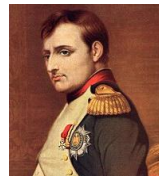
### **September 26-27, 2015**

24th Annual Civil War Weekend at the Wade House  
9-5 Saturday/ 9-4 Sunday  
Adults - \$14, Children (5-17) - \$7, Students/Senior Citizens (65 and older) \$12, Families - \$38  
This annual event brings the history of the American Civil War to life. Two action-filled days of battle re-enactments, plus a Civil War School Day on Friday, September 25, features not only combat scenarios, but also military drills, period music and food, medical scenarios, and more – all brought to you by living historians and the Wade House staff.



## ~Waterloo 2015 ~

### A Comparison with Civil War Living History in America by Tom Arliskas



In June, Terry and I, along with Bill Osborne and wife Rebecca Anderson and a group of other friends, attended the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo outside of Brussels, Belgium. It turned out to be a “trip of a lifetime!” We spent three days on the original Battlefield, two during the re-enactment and one more with a Licensed Battlefield guide. I did not know what to expect from the European Living History folks or the Belgian Government. The Government sponsored the festivities associated with the anniversary with the co-operation of the Napoleonic Living Historian Society. I call them “Living Historians”, and not re-enactors, for that is what they call themselves. They live, camp, drill and dress as closely as research and money will allow. There is no difference between the Civil War Living Historian (“the authentics”), or the Napoleonic Europeans when it comes to playing the part of a period soldier. Yes, the uniforms were different, but the spirit and enthusiasm are the same. We were told only 7,000 soldiers would be allowed to participate in the bicentennial event. One had to go through a strict vetting process, and many did not make the cut. You also had to belong to an established Regiment or the Napoleonic Society. Individuals, if they wanted to participate, had to join one of these Regiments. For civilians, only one civilian was allowed for every 50 soldiers. There were few women and children in the camps. Quite a change from the Civil War re-enactments we have in the States.



The uniforms were unique and different. Anyone who has studied the Napoleonic Wars knows the color and pomp of that period in history. Volumes of books have been written describing the uniforms of the different Regiments and branches of the Armies. Artillery, Cavalry, Light Infantry, Imperial Guards, Grenadiers, Rifleman, English, French, Dutch, Belgian, Prussian -- they were all there in their military splendor. Walking the camps we were able to talk with many of the soldiers. Just about everyone speaks English in Europe. We met folks from Germany, Belgium, England, Canada, Russia, Holland, New Zealand, Australia, and of course Americans! One fellow and his group came all the way from Virginia. Said he would never have missed the 200<sup>th</sup> Waterloo!

There were foreign news crews from all over the World. We were interviewed by Chinese television, Finnish, and French TV although I did not see any American News outlets. Was it politics, or simply no interest in history? The biggest difference between Europeans and Americans is that the Europeans know their history and are proud of it. Only 100,000 tickets for each day were available, and the event was completely sold out! 25,000 reserved seat tickets were available for the Battle re-enactment at €100 each and they were sold out too! You rode on a bus or walked from camp to camp or to the Museums on site, including a fabulous brand new Museum that opened on June 18<sup>th</sup>, the actual anniversary of the Battle. I figured we walked at least 4 to 5 miles each day we were there. Water was scarce - I asked for water and was told: “We drink beer here, not water”. There were beer tents at each camp and along the avenues and it was cheap. Belgian beer -- well I can’t tell you how good it was! The beer served was “Waterloo Beer”, an old 500-year old recipe brought back just for the Anniversary. It was called the “Beer of Bravery!” The story was the Dutch-Belgian troops were encamped in the town of Waterloo as a reserve. They found the old brew house and being soldiers, spent most of the day of June 15<sup>th</sup> drinking Waterloo beer. Late in the day, a call came from Wellington to join the Battle. So 14,000 drunken Dutch-Belgian troops, their military ardor at its peak— staggered into the French flank and help drive them from the field! Waterloo Beer! The Beer of Bravery! It was awesome—

The actual Battlefield of Waterloo is small, just 2.5 miles in length compared to places like Gettysburg, 15 square miles. It was fought on just one day June 18, 1815, although two preliminary battles, Ligny and Quartre Bras, were fought on June 16<sup>th</sup>, both French victories. Napoleon, Blücher, and Wellington were actively campaigning for position and a lethal end to their opponents. The Commanders: French - Emperor Napoleon; Anglo-Allied - Arthur Wellesley, Duke of Wellington; Prussian - Field Marshal Gebhard von Blücher. The Forces: French – 73,000 troops, 252 guns; Coalition – 118,000 (68,000 Anglo-Allied and 50,000 Prussian) troops, 156 guns. The Casualties: French – 41,000; Coalition – 24,000 (17,000 Anglo-Allied and 7,000 Prussian). At Gettysburg, the Battle was fought for three days. The Union Army had 93,000 men and the Confederates 72,000. Union casualties were 23,055 and the Confederates were 23, 251. It is impossible to give an exact number of killed at Waterloo, but our Guide told us that their best researched figure is the French lost 25,000 men killed and wounded with another 9000 captured, and the Allies lost about 23,000 men. They really went at each other.

As I walked the fields of Waterloo, in conversation with our friends, I stated how much Waterloo was like Gettysburg. Gettysburg had Little Round Top and Culp's Hill. Little Round protected the far left flank of the Union line on the second day as did Culp's Hill protect their right. Wellington had Hougoumont farm on his right flank and La Hay Sainte Farm on his left. Each was important to his main position. Hougoumont held out all day against the French. La Hay Sainte fell late in the afternoon after a terrific struggle. Pickett's charge on the third day of Gettysburg mimicked the attack of Napoleon's Old Guard at Waterloo. Once committed to battle, the Old Guard of Napoleon (his finest troops) were turned back by Wellington's Army with high casualties. So it was at Gettysburg with much of Pickett's Division left dead on the field.

The actual Battle Reenactment of Waterloo looked and sounded just like the reenacted Battles of Gettysburg we have witnessed over the years – only the uniforms and tactics were different. We were so far away we could not see much with all the smoke. But we were able to view both Armies pass right in front of us as they filed in, just a yards away! It was incredible to see all 7,000 men and horses just yards from where we were sitting pass in full battle gear and flags flying, singing as they moved down the hill to a re-created Hougoumont Farm.

Many more experiences we all had at Waterloo 200. I wish I could share them all but that would take a book. I never thought in my life that one day I would be standing on the Battlefield of Waterloo and at the biggest reenactment ever held in Belgium! I wish all of you could have been there with us. It was awesome.



**Janesville Daily Gazette**  
**July 29, 1861**

### **Second Wisconsin Regiment**

The Milwaukee Wisconsin of Saturday afternoon had a long report from its correspondent "Outsider" of the defeat at Bull's Run and the condition of the Wisconsin 2d regiment after the battle. According to his report the regiment was actively and honorably engaged in the conflict, until the flight commenced. The first letter of "Outsider" dated the 22d. We make such extracts from this and subsequent ones as we have room for:

All accounts agree that the Wisconsin men stood up to the battle well, fought as we had a right to expect they would, and never flinched while ordered to advance or remain stationary, but they must have been panic stricken after the retreat had commenced, as the officers, Capt. Colwell, Col. Peck and Col. Coon were in this city before 9 o'clock this morning. Capt. Bouck, Strong and McKee are also said to be in this city, and so, must have got here in the forenoon, as none have been permitted to cross the river since noon, civilians or others, except to convey prisoners or transmit intelligence.

Why our officers are in Washington instead of staying across the river and looking after the battle is proof to me that it was with them 'devil take the hindmost' and the subscriber has done some in the way of leasing 'over the left' I am sorry to say. During the morning soldiers came crowding across the river, all of whom said they had been in the fight. I questioned hundreds and got as many versions. I asked Capt. Colwell, who breakfasted

with me, and who, with Lieut. Hatch, came into the city on horseback, having, as they say, caught secession horses, where our men were? Did not know! He stayed in the night until he was the senior officer and then left. Hatch was wounded in one arm and leg slightly but sufficiently to disable him for the present, and Capt. Colwell says he came here to deliver him to his parents, who reside here.

Soon after saw Col. Peck who had got here via Alexandria; he knew nothing of the whereabouts of his men. Hunted around for others; met Hanchett who was terribly excited, and about 11 o'clock found Major McDonald. 'What the devil are you doing here,' was my salutation, for not having found a soldier of our regiment, I had got past having any sort of respect for the officers who were here and abandoned their men.

The major handed me a paper, saying, 'there is why I am here.' I append a copy: "July 22, 1861." Pass Major McDonald with our sick men. WM. R. BREWSTER, Major 28th regiment.

My next question was: Where are our boys?

Four hundred of them are just across from Georgetown, at Fort Corcoran, where all are ordered, was the reply. The major got something to eat and went back across the river to camp. Henry Totten, who has been waiting with me for three days past for Gov. Randall to visit the men, could not restrain himself, but went with Major McDonald at the risk of being arrested as a spy, using a pass of one representative, and passing himself off as that gentleman.

This afternoon about 6 o'clock McDonald was again sent over with wounded prisoners. I attempted to get across the river this forenoon and again this afternoon. Senator Doolittle applied in person for a pass and was refused. Gov. Randall arrived here this evening, and will go over in the morning, and I will accompany him, when I shall be able to give further particulars. All day I looked for soldiers of our Wisconsin regiment, but could find none. Hundreds I questioned, saw them in the fight and said they were badly cut up. On my way down town at 7 o'clock I saw, I thought, two men I recognized, and taking hold of the arm of one, asked him if he was not from Wisconsin. 'Yes' he replied with animation. 'I belong to the second regiment, and want to find it.' when did you come here? I asked. 'I have just crossed the Long Bridge,' was replied, and I learned subsequently that there being no accommodations across the river for the multitude of soldiers that gathered there, those who came to the Long Bridge were permitted to cross, as the rain soaked everything. On further inquiry I found that they all had been nearly two days without food. I took them down to my hotel where Major McDonald was going before recrossing, and gave them their supper. McDonald as well as the men, were completely fagged out, and while waiting for supper, and during conversation, fell asleep in their chairs, do the best they could.

Clough, the commissary, says he brought Peck into this city, and that he was completely prostrated by exhaustion, &c, &c, and this is the excuse offered for all the officers. Let others make comments. I can only say d—n.

All the men I have talked with condemn the conduct of Gen. Tyler. That the battle was lost through the want of generalship is very clear. At three o'clock the battle was believed to be won, and our whole troops were drawn up in line. Gen. McDowell passed along with the colors, find was cheered by the army, and all rejoiced over a victory... Our troops were taken by surprise; they had been on their feet from one o'clock in the morning without food, and for several hours without water, in an oppressively hot day, and had fought for eight hours, marching some four miles in double quick time, which is very exhausting... Our Wisconsin regiment was one of the latest to leave the ground but when they did leave, they made good time. They fired the last volley that was fired and then broke like quarter horses. All the captains are in camp or here except Langworthy and Ely...

Yesterday Rufus King was made Brigadier General, and now I trust some attention will be paid to Wisconsin. Of the thousands of soldiers lounging about this city, there cannot at any time be found five from the Wisconsin regiment. Of the drunken men found lying on every square, we have not, as far as heard from, furnished one. The honor of pulling down and setting fire to houses, has never been claimed or accorded to Wisconsin soldiers; and to the height of bravery and gallantry, shooting and bayoneting poor fallen women in brothels, they have never reached, and they do not deserve to be noticed in the aristocratic and exclusive papers of Washington.

But they were in the fight at Bull's Run. Their muster roll on the 23d, two days after the battle, shows a loss in killed, wounded and missing of 153, a majority of whom are killed and wounded, they were the last regiment engaged in the fight to quit the field. Men of the Connecticut, Maine and New York regiments, with whom I have talked, say they were as brave men as ever fought. Gen. Sherman says so, and it is so. I know very well soldiers ought not to have their superior officers disparaged; they should have their confidence, and without it they cannot fight well. But it is no use to be mealy-mouthed in this case. Our regiment will not fight under those Generals.

I blamed the Captains of our Regiment, and the Commandant still more, for coming to Washington on Monday. I thought, and still think, they should have stayed with their men; but, knowing as I now do, the feelings of the men, and the feeling of the captains themselves, not only our regiment, but of scores of others engaged in the fight, brave men and patriots, who hardly dared to remain in camp for fear of expressing their feelings before their men. It goes far to excuse them and, besides, all the good they could do them was their presence, but that is worth a deal at such a time. The appointment of Gen. King gives great satisfaction to our men in camp. I will say no more of our Wisconsin regiment and the fight here in general terms, but wait patiently the report of General Sherman.

While in camp yesterday one of Captain Langworthy's men came in, and the boys gathered around making inquiries where he had been hit. He said he had been taken prisoner and ordered out to dig a grave, by a man with a gun. While digging, Mr. Secessionist fell asleep, whereupon our boy took the gun from his hand, bayoneted him and made tracks. I did not learn his name. Langworthy said he would get it for me, but it was forgotten.

What is Civil War material culture? It is the study of all things used in the field or Headquarters by both Armies from 1861 to 1865. Everything from cannons to combs can be put under the label “material culture.” My specialty is clothing and the uniforms used by both Armies. The general public knows the North wore blue and the South wore gray. Well, there is a lot more to it than just the “Blue and the Gray.” In the first months of the Civil War you could find a lot of Confederate units in blue and Northern units in gray. The wearing of gray clothing by the Federals was forbidden by September of 1861, under the direct orders of General McClellan himself. He was aware that many Union soldiers were getting shot or taken prisoner by their own men. That gray was the regulation color adopted by the Confederate Army in June of 1861.

The different companies of the first nine Regiments in Wisconsin were provided by the State or local aid societies with gray uniforms. Blue cloth by May of 1861 was difficult or impossible to find at the local mercantile or factories. Many contemporary newspapers carried letters from the front by the local boys. Often they mentioned what kind of uniforms they were getting as they arrived in camp or left for the field. Uniforms turned civilians into soldiers, and they were proud of them. The following letter was found in the WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL of Madison dated May 2nd, 1861. It described the arrival of the first Companies of the 2nd Wisconsin Infantry at Camp Randall – and some of their early Company uniforms!

### **Camp Randall**

#### **Arrival of the First Companies of the Second Regiment**

The work of adapting the State Fair Grounds for the purpose of a Camp, has progressed most rapidly and to a good degree of completeness already. The fences about the trotting course and horse and cattle rings have been removed. The large shed for “operative machinery” has been enlarged by running a shed all around it and furnished with tables and benches. A kitchen has been erected adjoining it. The sheds on the east side and south of the entrance, are converted into barracks by boarding them up and furnishing them with a door, flooring and with two tiers of double berths, leaving a wide alley at the side. The berths are filled with hay, covered with coarse sheets, and supplied, through the kindness of the ladies, with blankets and comfortables. They have wholesome, and for a camp, a comfortable look.

The first two companies of the Second Regiment arrived last evening a little after six o’clock, viz: The La Crosse Light Guard, Captain Colwell, and the Portage Light Guard, Captain Mansfield. There was so much uncertainty about the time of their arrival that no crowd at the depot welcomed them. It was intended to land them at the camp, but the three cars which they filled were at the end of a long freight train, and by the time it was fairly stopped, at the call of the drum the soldiers were hurrying out of the cars and forming on the platform. Though a return for a ride was proposed, the offer was declined, and a march preferred.

The La Crosse Light Guard who were the first to enter the camp, were shown their quarters and relieved themselves of their accoutrements. Through some mistake, after forming, they started up town.

Meantime, the Portage Company, after standing at rest for a little time just within the entrance, marched down to look after the commissary department, and stacked their arms near the supper table. Just before all things were ready the La Crosse Company came charging down from the entrance in fine style on a full run, finding that “some one had blundered” and determined not to be late to supper.

When all were marched in and ordered to fall to, the way Mac’s rations disappeared was a caution since neither Company had had anything of consequence to eat since morning. “Soldier’s face” seemed to be satisfactory and both that and the quarters were generally pronounced much better than were expected. You could not get any to admit that they were tired of soldiering, and the boys were full of fun.

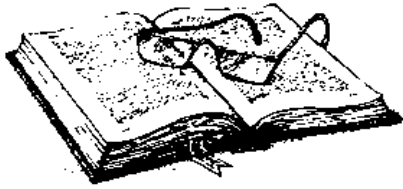
Both Companies seemed to be made of good material, comprising some very strong and hardy looking fellows. Only about half were uniformed or armed. They drilled and marched well.

The La Crosse Light Guard have gray coats and pants, striped and trimmed with black, with a dark blue cap. They bore a white silk flag, with blue fringe and inscribed on an oval ground in the centre: “presented by the ladies of La Crosse, July 4th, 1860, to the La Crosse Light Guards.” Leaving La Crosse about the middle of the night, after the evening had been spent in drilling, speech making and leave-taking, they got no sleep, and were pretty well tired out on arrival. However, after they were dismissed to their quarters, several of them found their way up town, and we noticed them fraternizing with the people, and getting various knickknacks.

The Portage Light Guards wore grey coats and caps, with dark pants, all trimmed with red. They had a superb national flag of silk, presented to them by the ladies of Portage, the evening before their departure. After supper, they marched up town, stacked their arms in Atwood’s Hall, where three cheers were given for them, and found quarters for the night at the Capital House...

The National Guards have reported full, and tender service; also, the La Crosse Artillery Company, Capt. Foster, the Bay City Guards of Green Bay, the Scott Grays of Racine, the Oconomowoc Guards, and the Appleton Company.

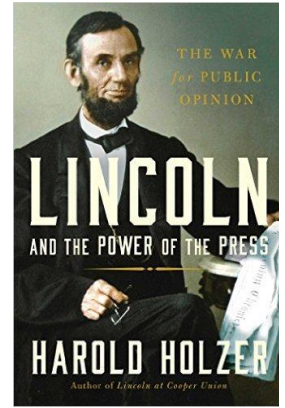
The Governor has ordered 800 yards of all wool Cashmeres, and 700 yards of Satinet of F. A. Wheeler & Sons, Woolen Manufacturers, at Janesville.



# BETWEEN THE COVERS

## Lincoln and the Power of the Press

by Harold Holzer



This was a volume I picked up when Mr. Holzer came to the Kenosha Civil War Museum on October 30, 2014 to discuss his newest book. The museum is a good place to hear quality speakers and pick up some of the latest works on the Civil War.

Before the age of the press secretary each President was his own spokesman. President Lincoln was no exception and, in fact, was often a shrewd manipulator of journalists. In this book, Holzer puts together a comprehensive work that illustrates how the press worked in the political climate of the 1860s. He shares how the press was utilized during the Civil War as a vital means of political communications before the advent of electronic media.

Mr. Holzer's work shows the development of the party press that began as early as Washington's time as president. Gradually over time newspapers influenced political thought processes. To speed government news to the scattered population leading politicians and journalists hatched the idea, sometime around 1800, of one particular Washington based newspaper as an efficient political "organ". This would change with a new party taking over the White House after an election.

This scenario played out throughout the nation. In towns across the U.S. if one paper was targeted to local Democrats, another paper took up the Whig philosophy. By the time of Lincoln and Douglas, newspaper publishers "were routinely and overtly participating in grassroots politics and vice versa."

Journalists became part of the well-oiled, political operations that disseminated opinion laced government and campaign news and organized the party apparatus to pull voters to the polls on Election Day. A British writer observed, "a political party end is always in view." Mr. Holzer brings to the reader the saga of how closely the newspapers helped candidates run for office and how the editors brazenly took up sides and used their influence to help their candidates rise to the top of power. Of course, the aid the candidate received from individual editors would lead to payback to these editors in the form of some sort of patronage or government office for them or their associates.

Holzer manages to pull three stories together in this work. He shows the political development of Lincoln, the growth of the American press into a key political player and how, during the crucial moment in American history, the two converged to redefine the presidency and what the role would be for the modern press. Holzer's work shows Lincoln's skill in using the press to advance his own career, the Union cause and freedom. He shows the role of journalism in this story and how three key editors played a role: James Gordon Bennett, Horace Greeley and Henry Jarvis Raymond.

Lincoln and the Power of the Press is a great story about Lincoln and the shaping of public opinion.

*submitted by Bruce Klem*

### **Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for September 10, 2015**

**Mail your reservations by Monday, September 7, 2015 to:**

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

**Paul Eilbes  
1809 Washington Ave  
Cedarburg, WI 53012-9730**

**Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_ (meal price \$25.00 per person) for \_\_\_\_ reservations for September 10, 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 \_\_\_\_\_**



## Wanderings



Winding roads and hidden lanes abound in Mosby's Confederacy. An intimate knowledge of their twists and turns is one of the very things that made John S. Mosby such a terror to his foes. Imagine your own fear as, after yet another lightning quick raid on your trains, you see silhouetted against the sky the figure of a lone Confederate horseman, spectral and foreboding, with no idea of the forces that might lie in wait at his command.

John Singleton Mosby was a partisan warrior in the style of Francis Marion or the Chiricahua Apache Cochise. While usually at the head a small band of fighting men, partisans often tied down many times their number. The resources the Union used to try to stop him could well have been used elsewhere against the Army of Northern Virginia. While perhaps not as flashy as J.E.B. Stuart or as notorious as Nathan Bedford Forrest, no one had the same mystique as the "Grey Ghost."

Mosby was an unlikely hero. Born in 1833 in Powhatan County, Virginia, he was not well as a child, being small and seemingly frail. Bullied at school, he learned to fight back at an early age, developing extreme self-confidence and a lack of fear that would serve him well during the war. His fearlessness and refusal to be bullied at times created a predicament for Mosby. He was arrested and expelled from the University of Virginia after an altercation with a fellow student led him to pull a pistol and shoot his adversary in the neck. Sentenced to a year in jail and a \$500 fine, Mosby was released early for reasons of health. During his stint behind bars, the young Mosby befriended the prosecuting attorney William Robertson. The lawyer allowed Mosby to study the law from his own library, a practice he continued after his release from jail. John Mosby was admitted to the bar in 1854. In 1857, after establishing a law practice of his own in Howardsville, Mosby married Pauline Clarke, with whom he would eventually have three children.



Mosby's early adventures in the Civil War included fighting at First Manassas as a private in the "Virginia Volunteers." Promoted to lieutenant in 1862, Mosby was tasked with gathering military intelligence as one of J.E.B. Stuart's scouts. Captured by Union cavalry during his scouting, he was imprisoned in the Old Capital Prison before being paroled. After his release, Mosby was placed in command of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Virginia Cavalry and promoted to major. This unit became the core of "Mosby's Rangers," which began to conduct lightning raids on Union supply lines. The fame of this unit grew with its successes, and the Rangers seeming ability to appear and disappear at will served to befuddle their enemy and add to their legend.

As the war dragged on into 1864, with General Phil Sheridan ordered to render the Shenandoah Valley useless to the Confederate war aims, any lingering romantic notions of war exited quickly. War in Virginia had become desperate, and acts of retribution were committed by both sides. In one particular instance, Mosby ordered several prisoners executed following the drawing of lots as revenge for similar actions by Sheridan.

Mosby's Rangers continued fighting after the surrender at Appomattox. In fact, Mosby and his band never did formally quit the fight. They simply disbanded and went home, prompting the Union to put a large price on his head and forcing him into hiding. It wasn't until U.S. Grant intervened on his behalf that Mosby could finally go home himself. Grant and Mosby actually became friends after the war, with the "Grey Ghost" becoming a Republican. This seeming betrayal of the South led to death threats, and Mosby was forced to leave the land he had defended so well. Mosby died in 1916 at the age of 82.

Of his wartime service for the Confederacy, Mosby wrote, ***"It is a classical maxim that it is sweet and becoming to die for one's country; but whoever has seen the horrors of a battlefield feels that it is far sweeter to live for it."***

Today "Mosby's Confederacy" can be explored following several driving tours. One tour, sponsored by the Mosby Heritage Area Association out of Middleburg, VA, is especially good. It's available online and can be downloaded. These tours, five in total, take one on back roads to out-of-the-way locations. Be prepared to get lost! Getting lost in 1863-64, however, is not such a bad thing. Travelers can see the spot where the fatal coin toss led to the execution of Union troopers. The house from which John Mosby climbed from a second floor window and hid in a tree to escape capture still stands. A quick lunch at the Red Fox Inn and Tavern, amid the ambiance of a surviving Civil War structure, allows a beverage ordered across a bar which served as an operating table for one of Stuart's men. And, if a traveler squints the eyes and lets the imagination loose, one can even see a single horseman silhouetted against a Virginia sky, and know that the "Grey Ghost" still rides.

submitted by Dave Wege

## Carnifex Ferry, West Virginia

Carnifex Ferry State Park, 1194 Carnifex Ferry Rd., Summersville, WV is located approximately 8 miles below the Army Corp of Engineers Summersville Dam on the Gauley River. The drive to reach the park is taken through some very beautiful, but perhaps a bit remote, parts of West Virginia. It is worth the drive. The battle is fairly easy to understand because of the limited number of troops involved.

The Battle of Carnifex Ferry fought on September 10, 1861 was a Confederate tactical victory but a strategic loss. Brigadier General John Buchanan Floyd's 2,000 man Confederate Army of the Kanawha engaged BG William Starke Rosecrans' 7,000 man Army of Western Virginia. Floyd's Confederates would inflict 130 casualties to include 15 dead and 12 mortally wounded to Rosecrans' Federals, while Floyd's army had only some 20 wounded, none of the serious. However, Floyd, from an entrenched position, fought only a portion of Rosecrans' army. After realizing he was outnumbered and his position untenable, Floyd withdrew under cover of darkness after the first day of battle.

In addition to Floyd and Rosecrans, a number of notable Civil War veterans took part in this battle. Col. William Haines Lytle of the 10th Ohio recovered from a wound at Carnifex only to be seriously wounded at Perryville, recover and be mortally wounded at Chickamauga. Maj. Rutherford Birchard Hayes would become colonel of the 23rd Ohio and after serving three terms as governor of Ohio he would be elected 19th President of the United States in 1896. Also a member of the 23rd Ohio, Pvt. William McKinley was a brevet major by the end of the Civil War and was elected 25th President of the United States.

Col. John McCausland of the 36th Virginia escaped from Fort Donelson with Floyd and became a Brigadier General after the death of Brigadier General Albert Gallatin Jenkins. McCausland gained notoriety for the burning of Chambersburg, PA, fought gallantly at Petersburg and Five Forks and refused to surrender at Appomattox. He spent his post war years in Europe and Mexico finally returning to the Kanawha Valley in West Virginia and died in 1927 an "unreconstructed rebel." Col. Henry Heth of the 45th Virginia became a Brigadier General in 1862 and fought in West Virginia, Kentucky and opened the Battle of Gettysburg.

The Battle of Carnifex Ferry represented the failure of a Confederate drive to regain control of the Kanawha Valley. As a result, the movement for West Virginia statehood proceeded without serious threat from the Confederates.

Carnifex Ferry State Park has some well kept hiking trails with easy to moderate difficulty, no longer than two miles in length. The trails do provide some overlooks of the Gauley River. Gauley River National Recreation Area is adjacent to the park. The New River Gorge National River is within 30 miles of the park. New River Gorge is full of Appalachian coal mining history. *September Blood: The Battle of Carnifex Ferry* by Terry Lowry is a good account of the battle.



submitted by Dave Gapinski

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

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**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.

## 2015 Great Lakes Civil War Forum

### *“Melt, Melt Away Ye Armies”*

September 12, 2015

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.

The first speaker begins at 9:30 a.m.

\$60 Non-members/\$50 Members – includes catered lunch

Register by calling: 262-653-4140

#### ***Casualties of War - D. Scott Hartwig***

Hartwig’s program will examine the impact of a single battle – Gettysburg – on the lives of soldiers who became casualties and their families.

#### ***No Such Army Since the Days of Julius Caesar: Sherman’s Carolinas Campaign - Eric J. Wittenberg***

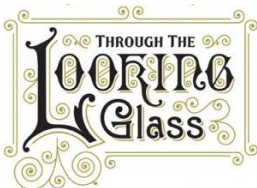
The program is an overview of General William T. Sherman’s 1865 Carolinas Campaign, from the capture of Savannah, Georgia, to the Confederate surrender at Bennett Place in North Carolina.

#### ***The Lincoln Funeral Train - Mr. Daniel Carroll Toomey***

Toomey will cover the planning and vast amount of logistical resources committed to this event in American history. He will take you on board the Lincoln funeral train as it passes through the major cities in the North to witness firsthand the epic demonstrations of grief that awaited its arrival.

#### ***“All Was Not the Same As Before”: Civil War Homecomings in Wisconsin - Dr. James Marten***

Dr. Marten will explore the ways in which individuals and organizations dealt with the incredible range of effects of the war on veterans and their families.



In the April 2015 issue of General Orders our editor Donna Agnelly previewed a new feature of the newsletter. **“Through the Looking Glass”** will take a look at citizens and soldiers of the American Civil War who weren’t among the well-known names of the times. The first person we investigated was Hazen S. Pingree, a Civil War veteran who was listed among the five best mayors in the history of Detroit.

Next month we will take a look at some primary documents left behind in the form of letters written by a soldier of Company E of the 6<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry. Gottlieb Torke was not one of the “Boys of ‘61,” those patriotic volunteers who signed up after President Lincoln called for 300,000 troops to put down the rebellion. Torke and brothers Gottfried and William were drafted into the Union army in 1864 as replacements for the 6<sup>th</sup>. After training at Camp Randall, the brothers took part in the Siege of Petersburg and the Battle of Hatcher’s Run.

Gottlieb’s letters to his wife Elizabeth reveal typical emotions and concerns of the day. He was as concerned with the welfare of his wife and children back home in Cascade, Wisconsin as he was with his personal safety. The daily life and simple tasks of the common soldier are conveyed through his words, along with the homesickness felt by soldiers on both sides. Torke was wounded at Hatcher’s Run by cannon fire, . . . but then, that’s the rest of the story.

Special thanks to Bill Breitzman of Campbellsport for providing us with Gottlieb Torke’s story.

**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.

| <b>ITEM</b>                             | <b>COST</b> |
|---|-------------|
| Hooded Sweatshirt in Northern Blue..... | \$35.00     |
| 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     |

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

