

GENERAL ORDERS



The Newsletter of the

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



December 10, 2015

Dave Keller

"Camp Douglas"

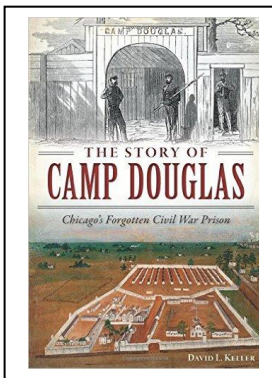
Opened in 1861, Camp Douglas was a Union training and reception facility for over 40,000 Union soldiers in Chicago. Camp Douglas became a prison camp, housing over 30,000 Confederate prisoners, from 1862 until it was demolished in 1865. Containing over 200 buildings, Camp Douglas was the most significant Civil War facility in Northern Illinois. Rumors of crowded, unhealthy conditions bringing death and disease were widely written about in the southern press. The camp would soon earn the nickname..."Eighty Acres of Hell."

Camp Douglas was named in honor of Stephen A. Douglas, who passed away in Chicago in June 1861. Following his death, the government took control of his property and constructed a training camp and a prisoner-of-war camp that was named in his honor. In the early months of the war the camp trained thousands of Union troops under the command of General Joseph H. Tucker.

The camp would become a place of misery for its prisoners. The first prisoners arrived in February 1862, after the Battle of Fort Dickson. Soon, overcrowding, starvation and scurvy would take hold in the camp. The death toll for the camp has been estimated at 6,129 men, slightly less than one-third of the prison population.

Our December speaker, David Keller, will discuss Camp Douglas and the current restoration project. Keller's presentation will include information on conditions and loss of life at the camp, current status of the camp's site, and work done by the Camp Douglas Restoration Foundation to provide a lasting remembrance of Camp Douglas.

David Keller is a long-time resident of Chicago and is an amateur historian. Keller's professional life included various executive positions at Chicago area commercial banks. Retired since 2002, he devotes much of his time to volunteer activities including the Lincoln Park Zoo and the Chicago History Museum.



David's interest in Camp Douglas comes from his interest in the Civil War, Civil War Prison Camps and 19th century Chicago history. The founder of the Foundation, he is in demand as a speaker on the Civil War and Camp Douglas and has written two books, *The Story of Camp Douglas*, *Chicago's Forgotten Civil War Prison* and *Robert Anderson Bagby, Civil War Diary (Annotated) 1863-1865*.

General Orders No. 12-15

December 2015

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December Meeting at a Glance Country Club of the Wisconsin Club 6200 WEST GOOD HOPE ROAD

[Jackets required for the dining room.]

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

6:45 p.m. - Dinner

[\$30 by reservation, please]

Reservations are accepted until

Monday, December 7, 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.

2015-2016 Speaker Schedule

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"

milwaukeeecwrt.org

Civil War Round Table News

When Reservations are Cancelled

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

Your Cooperation is Appreciated

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

Postal Service Changes

Please be aware that due to changes in the sorting and routing procedures of the U.S. Postal Service, mail is taking as much as **three business days** for local deliveries. If you are mailing in your reservations for dinner, you may want to send them a day or two earlier than you have in the past. As an option, call or e-mail me that you have put your reservation in the mail, so I can look for it.

Special Dietary Needs

We have quite a number of regular members who have opted for special entrees as options to the regular dinner being served. The Wisconsin Club and the Round Table will make every effort to meet any special dietary needs you may have. As a courtesy, **please give a reminder when making your reservations**, so we don't forget to serve you what you're expecting!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Milwaukee Civil War Round Table Board of Directors is listed in this issue of your General Orders. Feel free to speak to any of them about suggestions for and/or concerns about the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table.

From Your Treasurer

The September *General Orders* included your dues renewal notice along with a postage paid envelope. Our membership year runs from July 1 to June 30, and all memberships come due at that time. If you have not already done so, now is the time to renew. By returning dues promptly, you save the Round Table the cost of sending out further reminders. Thank you for being a member of your Round Table.

CHANGE IN DINNER PRICE

Due to an increase in costs, please be aware that the price of dinner will be increasing to **\$30.00 per person. This change was effective as of our meeting on October 8th.** Thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation.

Paul Eilbes
Treasurer

The Muster Roll: NEW MEMBERS

NUMBER	NAME	RESIDENCE	PLACE OF BIRTH (State, Territory, or Foreign Country)	POWER MILITARY SERVICE	REMARKS
1	William H.
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MCWRT Annual Fund

The following members have made a generous commitment to the MCWRT by investing in that fund. This list reflects those donations made from July 1 through November 13, 2015.

Major Contributor (\$500 and above)

Patron (\$200 - \$499)

Crain Bliwas, Stephen Leopold, Robert Parrish

Associate (\$100 - \$199)

Paul Eilbes, Bill Finke, Randall Garczynski,
Van & Dawn Harl, David L. Jordan, Jim & Ann
Reeve, David & Helga Sartori, Dennis Slater,
Paul Sotirin, Wisconsin Civil War Sesquicentennial
Commission

Contributor (up to \$99)

George Affeldt, T. James Blake, John & Linda Connelly, Tom Corcoran, Dr. Gordon Dammann, Michael Deeken, Bob Dude, Lori Duginski, Gary and Judith Ertel, Ted Fetting, Richard Gross, Richard Heaps, Dr. Erwin Huston, Eugene and Jane Jamroz, Christopher E. Johnson, Dr. Robert Karczewski, Allan Kasprzak, Ardis Kelling, Jerome Kowalski, Jay Lauck, Fredric Madsen, Jerry & Donna Martynski, Rodney W. Malinowski, M.D., Kenneth & Mary Ellen Nelson, Herbert Oechler, Tom Olsen, John Rodahl, Chet Rohn, Jean Schwonek WE Energies Foundation (Gift Match) Dan Tanty, Gil Vraney, Fred Wendorf





In December 1953, J. P. Renald talked to the Round Table on "Capt. Wirz and Andersonville Prison."

Avery Craven was our Round Table speaker in December 1963 speaking on "Why the Southern States Seceded."

"Lincoln and the Theatre" was the topic of Stanley H. Swift's presentation to the Round Table in December 1973.

Myron (Mike) Cohn spoke to the Round Table in December 1983 about "The Signal Corps and the Military Telegraph in the Civil War."

In December 1993 Patricia Higgins talked to the Round Table on "Life and War in the Want Ads."

At last year's December meeting we welcomed Jim Ogden who spoke on "The Fight at Reed's Bridge: A Chickamauga Story Enlarged by Preservation."

COMING ATTRACTIONS

December 8, 2015

Waukesha Civil War Round Table, 7 p.m.

Citizens Bank of Mukwonago Waukesha Branch
Speaker: Lance Herdegen

December 14, 2015

Manitowoc Civil War Round Table, 7 p.m.

Manitowoc Historical Society Heritage Center

December 15, 2015

Prairieville Irregulars Civil War Round Table, 7 p.m.

Citizens Bank of Mukwonago Waukesha Branch
Lance Herdegen: Brawner's Farm

Every two years the State of Wisconsin publishes the Wisconsin Blue Book, which is a collection of information about Wisconsin. The current 2015-2016 edition includes a 70 page history of Wisconsin in the Civil War. It can be read and downloaded online at this address:

http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/misc/lrb/blue_book/2015_2016/300_feature.pdf



REMINDER!

**Our December MCWRT Meeting is at the
Country Club of the Wisconsin Club
6200 WEST GOOD HOPE ROAD**

Kenosha Civil War Museum

Victorian Christmas

Saturday, December 5, 2015 – 11 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

A free event sponsored by the Friends of the Museums

A day of programs, exhibits, music, crafts, and dance to explore how soldiers and civilians celebrated the Christmas holiday during the Civil War period.

Second Friday Lunchbox Series

Commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War the series is a free program sponsored by the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table and the Iron Brigade Association.

The Sultana Disaster: What Caused It?

Friday, December 11, 2015, Noon

Presented by Gene Salecker.

The Mississippi steamboat *Sultana* was carrying home over 2,200 recently released Union prisoners of war when her boilers exploded in the early morning hours of April 27, 1865. More than 1,800 people lost their lives – more than on the *Titanic*. What caused the explosion? Was it greed, incompetence, poor design, old boilers, or even sabotage?



December 5-6 & 12-13

10 am-5 pm

adults \$11; children \$5.50 (5-17)

students and senior citizens \$9.25 (65 and over)

family \$30 (2 adults and 2 or more dependent children 5-17)



December 5-6 & 12-13

10 am-5 pm

adults \$10; children \$7 (5-12) children 4 and under free.

Discounted Admission available with Old World Holiday Breakfast Combo ticket advance reservation.

Advance reservations **not required** for An Old World Christmas.



**To His Excellency Gov. Edward Salomon
Headquarters, 29th Regt. Wis. Vol.
Camp at Helena Ark March 30th 1863**

Governor:

Your letter of the 23rd inst. is just rec. I also recd in due time your former letter upon the same subject, viz relating to the case of Bryant Coughlin, Co. "A".

I have to beg your pardon for not answering it but I forgot that you wished me to write you about the matter. I inquired into the matter immediately upon the receipt of your first letter. I found that the old man was not as old as he had been represented – that he had not been so sick as to require medical treatment – that he had never the less been greatly favored by his captain by having been always excused from doing picket duty and all other service that would expose him to hardship or much fatigue.

I however had him examined not only by our surgeon but by the Medical Director of the Division (who has to approve of discharge papers), to ascertain if he could be discharged and the Director said he could not approve his papers – so he has to stay. You are right in saying that it is no help to the service to keep men who are unfit for duty and there is no man more anxious than myself to send all such men home – but the Medical Director of our Division will not let a man be discharged until he sees he's going to die – we have already had four or five discharged that died before they got home.

Governor, it is a sad tale to tell but eighty of the men that we mustered into the service on the 27th of September last are now in their graves!! Oh, the vengeance of God must forever rest upon those men at the north who have prolonged this war by sympathy with the rebel cause – who for the past two years, while they have been fighting the south with the little finger of their left hand have used the remainder of their strength in trying to conquer the Chicago platform – who have been saying that new guaranties for slavery was the sine quo non to peace – and that too, after we had decided to fight rather than give any further guaranties of the kind!!

You have dealt with those fellows as they deserve whenever they have come in your way and future generations will praise your patriotic deeds; and whatever may be the result of this war that historian is not and never will be born who can or will write with any sort of charity of those men in the free states who by word or deed gave aid or comfort to this slaveholders rebellion.

I feel a good deal encouraged of late: I have strong hopes that the next three months work will annihilate the rebel army – it can be done – the only danger that it wont be, is that there may yet be too many traitors in command. The health of my regiment is better now than it has been for some months. The men are cheerful, hopeful and ready for a fight.

I am with much respect

Your obedient servant

Chas. R. Gill

From 1860 to 1861 Gill served in the Wisconsin State Senate as a Democrat. During the American Civil War, Gill served in the Union Army as a colonel, in the 29th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Regiment. Gill would later be elected Attorney General of Wisconsin as a Republican and hold the position from 1866 to 1870.

Helena Ark March 31st

Dear Sister

I received your welcome letter of the 25th about an hour ago so I think I am most equal to you as to answering letters is concerned. I also received your letters which you wrote during your visit at Grandpas. I thank Grandpa & mother and the rest of the folks up home for this good intention in trying to send me some more good things although they were unable to get them to me. Yet they were for the things I should have liked. Mother wished me to state in my next what things I would like to have sent providing she had another opportunity to send. The following would come acceptable Potatoes Cheese Onions Pickles a Piece of dried beef smoked ham if it would not spoil in coming if it was warm weather. Paper and envelopes but I would not advise sending them in letters as the papers is doubled so that it is difficult to write upon. Please send me a few postage stamps in your next. Cakes and such are good but I had rather had something else. Butter I suppose would not keep to get here if it was weather. I do not know but the things i have mentioned are too bulky and would cost too much to send. Provision is very high here now especially vegetables Butter is .40 per lb, Cabbage .50 per head, Potatoes \$3 per Bru, Eggs .35 per Doz etc. etc. I have plenty of stockings at present. Seeing you liked my description of Helena so well I will describe it again and send you some more flowers. Helena does not look now as it did when I wrote you before. It is overflowed with water to the depth of one or two feet. The levy not having been repaired this season as usual but the water is receding at present. The principles streets are fixed with boards and plank along the sidewalk so that people can pass from one store or house to another.

The weather here yesterday was very cold and blustering with some snow flying. It seemed very much like Old Wisconsin in the fall of the year. It is warm today but not very warm weather yet.

You say Mother tells you to ask me if I lost much flesh. I suppose I look rather thin now but I am gaining again and will soon be as fleshy as before. I suppose I am about the same height I was before but I don't know as I have not measured since I enlisted. Rod is not in the hospital or has he been at all. He is healthy enough excepting his Rhumatism which I do not get over as long as he is in the army. I am glad that Grandma likes her dutch girl so well. Tell Grandma that she must learn her as fast as possible for I intend to marry her when I go home if she is as smart as you make her out to be. I shall have to have Clint sent away from there if he takes a shine to her so you must keep me posted as to affairs up to Grandpas. But enough of this nonsense. I should like to go to school with you first rate but I can not this season. Give my love to Ella and Mother and the rest of the folks. Well this sheet is full so Good Bye for this time.

From your affectionate Brother Ab Sawin

*Albert Sawin – Private Company F 29th Wisconsin –
died of disease June 10th, 1863*



THE REST OF THE STORY

Our story starts at 8:20 p.m. on April 14, 1865 when the Lincoln carriage arrived at the home of New York Senator Ira Harris. The Lincolns were on their way to Ford's Theatre and stopped to pick up their guests, Major Henry Rathbone and his future wife, Clara Harris. Maj. Rathbone, eyewitness to the Lincoln assassination, grappled with John Wilkes Booth before being stabbed in the inside of his left arm near his armpit by the assassin. The blade pierced Rathbone's bicep grazing the bone close to two major blood vessels. Rathbone would physically recover from his wounds but he would never again be the same.

What happened to Rathbone would read like a Shakespearean tragedy.

Henry was never a robust man. During the war he would suffer a fever that would stay with him for two months that summer of 1862. The winter of 1863-64 would find him sick again suffering from a malaria-like illness. He would return to the Army against doctor's advice and would fall sick again late in 1864. Once again he would return to the Army despite doctor's advice that he take an easier job. Dr. Henry D. Paine would write to him, "I felt satisfied that these repeated attacks of a wasting and debilitating disease were likely to permanently injure your constitution." Henry would finally heed his doctor's advice.

After the assassination, although he physically recovered from his wounds, Henry's mind was never the same. He became distracted and moody. He and Clara eventually married in 1867 but he was never the man she knew before

that fateful day. The couple would move into a 22-room home in Washington and would have three children; their eldest son, Harry, was born on Lincoln's birthday in 1870.

Yet, Henry would continue to be plagued by medical problems. In both 1869 and 1870 he was treated for attacks of neuralgia of the head and face and in the region of the heart. He suffered palpitations and at times, had difficulty breathing. In December 1870, Henry would retire from the Army.

The next few years would find Henry's behavior becoming more volatile. He had a constant fear that Clara was going to leave him and take the children. Life was becoming more difficult for Clara as Henry became more estranged from her.

In 1883, hoping for a fresh start, the family moved to Germany. By December of that year the couple were firmly situated in an apartment in Hanover. But Henry became even more despondent with his behavior becoming more erratic. He became pale and lost weight. He had hallucinations. He was so fearful of Clara leaving him that he would not allow her to be alone.

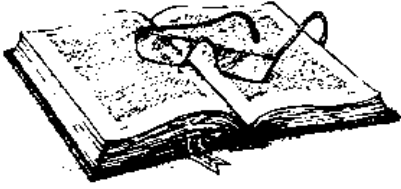
On Christmas Eve, according to most accounts, Henry either entered or tried to enter his children's room. Clara, fearing he would harm them, was able to get Henry back into their master bedroom where Henry proceeded to shoot Clara several times with a revolver and stab her in the chest with a knife which he then turned on himself. Clara was mortally wounded; Henry would recover from his wounds – again.

German authorities did not prosecute Henry realizing that he was mentally ill. Instead, Henry was sent to the Provincial Insane Asylum where he would remain for the rest of his life.

In 1891, Prussian physician A. Rosenbach, examined Henry at the asylum. He found a thin, graying 53-year-old man. The doctor would note that Henry appeared polite and earnest. Henry was suffering from continual hallucinations. He said he was being persecuted and tortured. He said there was something in the wall that was pouring "injurious vapors" into his head which gave him headaches. He said he could hear people moving suspiciously in the corridor outside of his suite. The doctor noted that Henry would not discuss either Clara or the Lincoln assassination.

Henry would pass away in 1911. The records are unclear as to what caused Henry's death. Present day psychiatrists and physicians say his symptoms suggest that Henry could have been suffering from schizophrenia or post-traumatic stress disorder. One headline after his death read: "Old Soldier Had Become Mentally Deranged."

Henry would be buried next to his wife. Years later, the cemetery would declare their graves abandoned and would make the plot available for reuse. It is unknown what happened to their remains. Henry and Clara would fade into history – forgotten witnesses to the assassination who met their own tragic ends.



BETWEEN THE COVERS

Antietam, The Soldiers' Battle The Gleam of Bayonets

by John Michael Priest

by James Murfin

This review will cover two books – both dealing with the battle of Antietam. The Civil War Museum's Media Club chose one book, *Antietam, The Soldiers' Battle* in part because of the Museum's sponsored tour of Antietam, South Mountain and Harpers Ferry this past October. The media club met to discuss the book at the end of September. Unlike some of the other books on Antietam, Priest's book focuses on the battle from the private soldier's viewpoint. His work was based on individual soldier's perspectives of combat at their level. He developed his story entirely from soldiers' accounts in their letters and diaries. The comments were from men on both sides generally at the rank of captain and below. There is rarely a comment that mentions Lee or McClellan in this work.

I found as I got into the book that, in order to have the battlefield overview, I might need a broader explanation of the events in order to better understand where the soldiers were in Priest's book. Although Priest's book had plenty of maps they were somewhat cut down from a larger map and in some cases, they were hard to orient. To better understand the battle flow and have a larger battlefield picture, I also began to read James Murfin's book, *The Gleam of Bayonets*. While his book covered the entire Maryland Campaign, it seemed like a logical choice as a companion book to read. Since my wife and I were going on the Museum tour, I also thought it would be a good way to refresh my knowledge on the campaign. By reading both books I figured I'd be well armed for the tour.

Murfin's book was just the book I needed for the more strategic focus of the campaign. I suspect another good book for the campaign could be *The Maps of Antietam*, by Bradley Gottfried, but I don't have that book. Priest's book definitely helped me to see and in a sense, feel, the common soldier's world in the major battle of the war. Priest also only focused on the Antietam battle and not the others in the campaign.

The descriptions provided by Priest's writings helped shine a light on the very confused nature of the combat on this battlefield. If the soldiers saw this much confusion one had to wonder how the commanders kept things together in directing their troops. That's where Murfin's book provides some clarity while also showing that the commanders were just as confused and disorganized as the troops were.

Priest's book was one of the few I've read that was based solely on the viewpoint from the private soldier and I found this to be a very interesting approach. It will give the reader an unvarnished look at how combat really was in the Civil War.

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Murfin's book focuses on the general Maryland Campaign and the Battle of Antietam. It compares and contrasts the generalships of Lee and McClellan. I had previously read Sears book, *Landscape Turned Red* and I think that either book is a good companion book to read along with Priest's book.

One issue I had with Priest's book was his maps. It seems he used one large scale map and then used different parts of his map to show where the units were that each soldier was talking about. The problem was that, in some cases it was hard to orient the part of the map he was using to describe the soldier's viewpoint. Since he took the particular portion from the larger map, the key terrain features – East Woods, West Woods etc. may not have been shown on that particular section. Perhaps having a book like *Maps of Antietam* would have been a better choice to orient the reader. The other advantage to orientation is to visit the battlefield – this I did with the tour, so I then had a clearer picture on where the combat occurred.

I would highly recommend both of these books to anyone interested in the Battle of Antietam. I found them easy reads, reading Murfin's book first until I got to the Antietam battle and then alternating between a chapter from Murfin and the corresponding chapters in Priest's book to see how the soldiers dealt with each section of the battle from the Cornfield to Burnside's Bridge.

As a follow-up I am now reading *To Antietam Creek, The Maryland Campaign of September 1862* by D. Scott Hartwig.

submitted by Bruce Klem



This past May we took a trip down South. I almost said vacation but now that we are retired we're already on vacation, so I'm calling this a trip. We decided to head down to Mobile, Alabama to visit some of the Civil War sites in that area and see other items of interest in the greater Mobile area. It wasn't that we did not do any prior research on the area. My wife, Bonnie, is very thorough in trip planning, so we had a solid idea of what we wanted to see.

Neither of us had been to Mobile before, although I drove by it many years ago headed towards New Orleans from Albany, Georgia, so it would be all new territory. We spent one night just south of Nashville at the end of our first day, completing the rest of our journey in about 7-8 hours. We stayed on the east side of Mobile Bay in Daphne, Alabama.

One of the areas to explore is the Battleship Alabama Park, located on the western side of Mobile Bay on the city outskirts. The ship is a South Dakota class ship commissioned in 1942, retired from service in 1962 and turned into a memorial in 1964. It was placed on the National Historic Registry in 1984. If you are interested in this type of history it is easy to spend the day on the ship, taking the self-guided tour of the entire ship. There is also a submarine USS *Drum* as well as 25 military aircraft and military vehicles.

The next day we journeyed over to Pensacola to check out Ft. Perkins, the other site that was part of the Civil War. The fort is in good shape and we spent a good part of the day exploring. The drive to get to the fort takes you through the Gulf Shore Islands Park. Great white beaches! The rest of the day was at the Naval Aviation Museum. If you like aircraft and naval history this is the place to see. We also managed to visit the Historic Lighthouse not far from the museum. Both the museum and lighthouse are on the Naval Air Station along with Ft. Barrancas, which was part of the original defenses for the Naval Base in Pensacola. The defenses were similar to those of Charleston in that a number of forts were built prior to the Civil War for the defense of the Navy base. The fort was originally built by the Spanish. Union forces retreated to Ft. Pickens, which was easier to defend. Ft. Pickens was never taken by the Confederates.

Day three found us exploring Ft. Morgan, the site of the Battle of Mobile Bay. Ft. Morgan is a state run site. The fort is in decent shape but has some issues with moisture leaking into the masonry causing problems; this is a problem that existed when the fort was originally built. There is a nice museum at the site and plenty of other fortifications that were built prior to WWI for coast defense. Our plan was to go over to Ft. Gaines on the ferry but the heat of the day got the better of us and we finished the day exploring Gulf Shores.

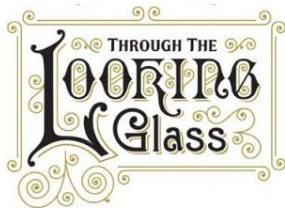
Our fourth day was a trip to Bellingrath Gardens and Home on the west side of the Bay. It was an old fish camp that Mr. Bellingrath turned into gardens and a retreat. Mr. Bellingrath became the first Coca Cola bottling distributor in the southeast and as a result, became very wealthy. Mrs. Bellingrath had gardeners lay out the gardens and had the house constructed like an Italian villa. The couple travelled to Europe often and fell in love with the Italian styling. The site is about 62 acres and is well worth a visit.

We also did a bit of driving around the old downtown area of Mobile and the city had a flavor of New Orleans in the architecture. Many of the porches and balconies had New Orleans like ironwork. It looks like there is some rehabbing going on but Mobile seems to have some of the same issues other major cities have in keeping viable shops in the downtown area. It is worth the visit and exploring.

The final part of our trip was the drive home with an intermediate stop and stay in Atlanta. We spent two days in Atlanta on this trip, having spent a week there a few years back. On this visit we went to the Zoo and then stopped into the Cyclorama. It was a good thing we were checking out the Cyclorama over Memorial Day weekend. On June 1 of this year it was closed and will not reopen until sometime in 2017. The painting is being moved to the Atlanta History Center and the new building for it has not been built yet. Apparently they want to expand the venue in order to have dinners and group events but because the building is a National Historic Site, it cannot be modified. The result was to find a new home.

It was a great trip for us. We explored an area we hadn't seen before and visited some great places. It turned into a Civil War exploration trip, revisiting the Battle of Mobile Bay and Ft. Pickens. We had a good time, ate some great seafood and saw some interesting sites.

submitted by Bruce Klem



HUGH C. PERKINS Co. I, 7th Regiment Wisconsin Infantry

Hugh C. Perkins was born in Wisconsin on July 27, 1844. Both Hugh and his father, Daniel, served in the Civil War. Daniel served in Co. B, 25th Wisconsin Infantry. Hugh was a private in Co. I, 7th Regiment Wisconsin Infantry.

Hugh participated in several battles: Gaines' Mill, Second Battle of Bull Run, South Mountain, Fredericksburg and Gettysburg after which he was captured and spent one month in prison before being exchanged. He was then in the Second Battle of Fredericksburg and was wounded in the Battle of the Wilderness. He was present at Appomattox Court House and saw both Generals Grant and Lee at the surrender of Lee's army. Hugh would write his friend, Herbert Frisbie, that: "I have got to be a very poor hand to write letters."

Hugh died on April 4, 1930 in St. Cloud, Florida.



The following unedited, undated and unaddressed letter describes Hugh's Civil War experience. The original letter is owned by our Round Table member, Peter Jacobsohn, and is published here with his permission.

I was born in Milwaukee Wis. July 27th 1843. When quite young we moved to the Indian land and the Indian children of the Chipawas were my playmates. After the Indians left the whites settled the country. I attended school until early in 1861. Not being able to get the consent of our parents, my chum and I ran away and walked 15 miles to Berlin Wis. and enlisted in Co. I, 7th Wis. Inf. On the way to Berlin Vosberg my chum said, We go away boys, and we will come back men. After one night in Berlin, we took the train for Madison the Capital of the State and in a few days were on our way to Washington (In the mean time my father came after me with mother's orders not to come back without me and not being able to overtake me enlisted Capt. Lew. Druries 3rd Wis light Artillery and after being discharged enlisted in the 35th Wis. Inf and went to Texas and came home in August 1866 serving over five years)

Vosberg and I arrived in Washington after marching through Baltimore with loaded guns and fixed bayonets the next day after getting to Washington doing our blue clothes, and being paid a ten dollar goldpiece and three silver dollars (I sent the goldpiece to mother and allotted her ten dollars a month which she rec'd during my four years service) Vosberg and I went to the White house and saw and talked to the President. Jep told him we had come from Wisconsin to help whip the Rebels. Lincoln said he hoped the war would soon be ended so we could go home. We camped that winter at Arlington Heights drilled and had dress parade where the Cemetery is now in stormy weather drilled in the Manual of Arms in the Arlington house the Sixth, Seventh and Second Wis, nineteenth Indy and twenty fourth Mich were brigaded together. We were drilled by McClellan. McDowell and Gibbons fought at Gainesville, Bullrun, South Mountain, Antietam, Fredericksburg IS and second Fithugh crossing mine run Chancellorsville Rapahanac Station Gettysburg (where I was taken prisoner was in Libby and Bell Island one month I was wounded in the battle of the Wilderness, was in Douglas hospital in Washington then I saw and shook hands with Lincoln.

Joined my regt at Petersburg Va saw Lincoln at Bellplane landing for the last time was with my regt in the battles of White Oak Church, five forks and Appomatox. Saw Lee and Grant together at the surrender Our Brigade Recd the name of Iron Brigade at South Mountain M.D. We lost more men killed and wounded than any brigade in the Civil War. Statistics in Washington Show that since my discharge I have been a teacher and Indian trader in Wis. and Neb. have organized and been commander of two post of Sons of Union Vets...



**Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.
2015-2016 Officers and Board of Directors**

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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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Contact Paul Eilbes for information: (262) 376-0568.

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

Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for December 10, 2015

Mail your reservations by Monday, December 7, 2015 to:

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

peilbes@gmail.com

Paul Eilbes

1809 Washington Ave

Cedarburg, WI 53012-9730

Enclosed is \$ ____ (meal price \$30.00 per person) for ____ reservations for December 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 _____

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.

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You may also see Roman in person at the
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