

GENERAL ORDERS



The Newsletter of the

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



January 7, 2016

Dave Moore

“William S. Rosecrans”



*Old Rosy is our man,
Old Rosy is our man,
He'll show his deeds where'er he leads,
Old Rosy is our man.*

William Rosecrans was raised by parents who instilled in him self confidence and a religious sense of right and wrong. The positive influence of his parents would serve him well in his life.

At West Point he would graduate fifth in his class and be remembered as being “good at everything; his studies, his military duties, and his deportment.” It appeared that Rosecrans was destined to achieve things – things that included his command of the Federal forces at Stones River resulting in a victory that President Lincoln would say “the nation could scarcely have lived over.”

Rosecrans’ religious sense of right and wrong would often cause him to speak his mind regardless of any political risk it might entail. Rosecrans’ criticism of McClellan during the Battle of Rich Mountain would result in McClellan passing Rosecrans over when it was time to promote his officers.

The animosity between Grant and Rosecrans is well known and documented. Grant would relieve Rosecrans of his command after the Union defeat at Chickamauga.

Our January speaker, David Moore, will discuss what Rosecrans did in the Civil War and will attempt to explain why relatively few know much about him today. That Rosecrans is widely ignored today doesn’t, in Moore’s opinion, mean that he should be ignored. In his presentation, Moore will look at Rosecrans, his contributions, the controversies and the role of politics in the Civil War.

David Moore has been a history guide on the east coast for over 35 years. He specializes in the mid-Atlantic area close to his home base of Washington DC. Moore stumbled on the Rosecrans story unexpectedly while he was searching for the grave of Mary Surratt in Washington’s Mt. Olivet cemetery.

Moore has spent more than 20 years researching General Rosecrans’ military career. His book *William S. Rosecrans and the Union Victory: A Civil War Biography* was published in March 2014.

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January 2016

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January Meeting at a Glance

Wisconsin Club

9th and Wisconsin Avenue

[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, January 4, 2016

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

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.

HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Our thoughts and prayers are with Mike Benton of our Board of Directors. He has stepped down from his position as First-Vice President due to health issues. Assuming the remainder of his term is Grant A. Johnson. Thanks, Grant!

The Muster Roll: NEW MEMBERS

NUMBER	NAME	AGE	RESIDENCE	PLACE OF BIRTH	ATTESTS ALLIANCE MEMBERSHIP	REMARKS
1	William L. Smith	50	St. Louis, Mo.	St. Louis, Mo.		
2	John A. Smith	45	St. Louis, Mo.	St. Louis, Mo.		
3	John A. Smith	45	St. Louis, Mo.	St. Louis, Mo.		
4	John A. Smith	45	St. Louis, Mo.	St. Louis, Mo.		
5	John A. Smith	45	St. Louis, Mo.	St. Louis, Mo.		
6	John A. Smith	45	St. Louis, Mo.	St. Louis, Mo.		
7	John A. Smith	45	St. Louis, Mo.	St. Louis, Mo.		
8	John A. Smith	45	St. Louis, Mo.	St. Louis, Mo.		
9	John A. Smith	45	St. Louis, Mo.	St. Louis, Mo.		
10	John A. Smith	45	St. Louis, Mo.	St. Louis, Mo.		

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, Guy Crane, Grant Johnson,
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, James Wiensch
Wisconsin Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission

Contributor (up to \$99)

George Affeldt, T. James Blake, John & Linda
Connolly, 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 Jamrozy,
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), St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church Senior
Club, Dan Tanty, Bernard Van Dinter,
Gil Vraney, Fred Wendorf

"Whilst I remember anything, that about the end of last year and the beginning of this, you gave us a hard-earned victory, which, had there been a defeat instead, the nation could scarcely have lived over."

Lincoln to Rosecrans - November 1863
referring to his victory at Stones River



In January 1954, Max H. Herriot talked to the Round Table on “Stonewall Jackson’s Valley Campaign.”

John Y. Simon was our Round Table speaker in January 1964 speaking on “Elihu B. Washburne and U.S. Grant.”

“Rufus King: Civil War Minister” was the topic of Jack Filipiak’s presentation to the Round Table in January 1974.

Walter N. Trenerry spoke to the Round Table in January 1984 about “John Pope: His Political Problems and His Pratfall at Second Bull Run.”

In January 1994 Harold Holzer and Mark E. Neely Jr. discussed “Art and the Civil War” at the Round Table meeting.

At last year’s January meeting Round Table member Jim Heinz filled in for scheduled speaker Father Robert J. Miller who was grounded in Chicago due to inclement weather.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

January 11, 2016

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

January 12, 2016

Waukesha Civil War Round Table, 7 p.m.
Citizens Bank of Mukwonago Waukesha Branch
General George Thomas after the War

January 19, 2016

Prairieville Irregulars Civil War Round Table, 7 p.m.
Citizens Bank of Mukwonago Waukesha Branch
Members discuss their Civil War ancestors

Civil War Media Club: *A Brotherhood of Valor* Tuesday, March 15, 2016, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Author Jeffrey Wert presents a narrative about two of the most famous infantry commands of the Civil War – the Stonewall Brigade and the Iron Brigade which confronted each other at Bull Run, Fredericksburg, Antietam, Chancellorsville and Gettysburg.

Start reading now and make plans to join the Media Club for their discussion of this book. The discussion is moderated by Museum curator Doug Dammann.
\$5 Friends of the Museum/\$10 non-members

Kenosha Civil War Museum

Second Friday Lunchbox Series

The series is a free program sponsored by the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table and Iron Brigade Association.

Confederate Christian Warrior –

Fr. James Sheeran of the 14th Louisiana

Friday, February 12, 2016, Noon

Presented by Father Robert Miller.

Based on an original unedited diary, Fr. Miller discusses the military experiences of Father James Sheeran, an Irish immigrant priest who served as one of only a handful of Catholic chaplains with the Confederate Army.

Special Preview Screening of the New MPTV Series

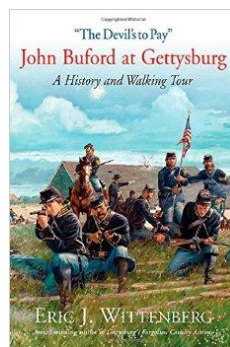
Mercy Street

Wednesday, January 13, 2016, 7 p.m.

Set in Virginia in spring 1862, *Mercy Street* follows the lives of two volunteer nurses on opposite sides of the conflict. The two collide at Mansion House, a luxury hotel that has been taken over and transformed into a Union Army hospital in Alexandria, Virginia. Join the Museum for a free special preview screening.

RSVP by January 12, 2016 at mptvrsvp@matc.edu or call Debra at 414-297-7514. Visit www.mptv.org for full event details.

Gettysburg CWRT 2015 Book Award



Congratulations to Eric J. Wittenberg, the 2015 Gettysburg Civil War Round Table Book Award Winner. Wittenberg won for his fine book, *The Devil's to Pay: John Buford at Gettysburg. A History and Walking Tour* published by Savas Beatie.

The Devil's to Pay is the first book-length study devoted entirely to the critical delaying actions waged

by Buford, his dismounted troopers, and his horse artillerists on the morning of July 1, 1863. The book was selected by the Gettysburg Round Table for being well researched, well written, and for bringing new knowledge and understanding to its subject.

Consider adding this excellent book to your library. You can order it from Savas Beatie by calling 916-941-6896, emailing at sales@savasbeatie.com or online at www.savasbeatie.com.



Madison Wisconsin State Journal January 2, 1861

The telegraph, in consequence of the interruption east of Milwaukee, fails to bring the whole of the afternoon report. Some dispatches relating to secession matters and a synopsis of the portion of the message of Gov. Curtis of Pennsylvania, in relation to national affairs will be found under our telegraphic head. There is nothing on the subject of Gen. Scott's rumored appointment.

**Madison Wisconsin State Journal January 2, 1861
The Pittsburgh Guns**

The work of shipping the guns from Pittsburgh to the South was commenced on Friday. They are to be sent by the steamer Silver Wave. No opposition was made to their shipment. The excuse that these guns are intended for Texas is a mere ruse. There are no forts there ready to receive them.

**Madison Wisconsin State Journal January 2, 1861
An Improvable Rumor**

There was a rumor in the city all day yesterday that Gen. Scott had been appointed Secretary of War – Everybody credulous enough to believe it, felt good over the news. But such an appointment would be so totally at variance with the whole policy of the administration that we should put no faith in it even if we should see it “confirmed” by the dispatch to the New York Herald. Gen. Scott is a Union man. Mr. Buchanan and his cabinet have been all along playing into the hands of the foes of the Union.

Members of his cabinet have been on a special mission to those Southern States where a spirit of loyalty still pervades the masses, in order to sow the seeds of disunion sentiment. The arms and munitions of the federal government have been transported from the Northern States with all possible alacrity since the election, and placed where they can be at any time seized by the secessionists and employed against the Union. In filling the vacancy in the Cabinet, when Gen. Cass resigned, Mr. Buchanan selected a dissension man.

Is it probable that he would now appoint as Secretary of War, Gen. Scott, not only to be a Union man, but in favor of employing the power of the Government in putting down treason?

We do not believe it! By the Chicago papers of yesterday morning, we saw a telegraph dispatch that such a report had been circulated at Washington but was not credited. The Chicago Tribune in its money article also states that private dispatches from Washington confirm the truth of the report, but we have no faith in it. It is too good to be

true. Mr. Buchanan never did a good thing when there was an opportunity of pursuing a shuffling, halfway policy. Gen. Scott is too positive a man to go into his Cabinet. He would apply the heroic treatment to the maladies of the country, while Mr. Buchanan is all for infinitesimal doses, and the homeopathic system of curing like with like, doubtless thinking to obviate a great deal of treason in South Carolina by a little treason in the executive department. We have no hope of seeing the departments of the Federal Government under the control of such men as Gen. Scott, until we have a Republican President.

**Madison Wisconsin State Journal January 30, 1861
President's Buchanan's Special Message**

Washington, January 23, 9 p.m.

The following is the message the President submitted to Congress today.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States:

I deem it my duty to submit to Congress a series of resolutions adopted by the Legislature of Virginia on the 19th inst. Having in view the pacific settlement of the existing questions which now threaten the Union. They were delivered to me on Thursday, the 24th inst. by ex-President Tyler, who has left his dignified and honored retirement in the hope that he may render service to his country in this its hour of peril. These resolutions, it will be perceived, extended an invitation to all such States, whether slave holding or non-slaveholder as are willing to unite with Virginia in an early effort to adjust the present unhappy controversies in the spirit which the Constitution was originally framed and consistent with its principles so as to afford to the people of the slave holding States adequate guarantees for the security of their rights to appoint commissioners to meet on the 4th day of February next, in the city of Washington; similar commissions to be appointed by Virginia to consider, and if practicable, agree upon some suitable adjustment. I confess I hail this movement on the part of Virginia with great satisfaction.

From the past history of this ancient and renowned Commonwealth, we have the fullest assurance that what she has undertaken, she will accomplish, if it can be done by able, enlightened and persevering efforts. It is gratifying to know that other patriotic States have appointed Commissioners to meet those of Virginia in council. When assembled, they will constitute a body entitled, in an eminent degree, to the confidence of the Country.

The General Assembly of Virginia has also resolved that Ex-President Tyler is hereby appointed, by the concurrent vote of each branch of the General Assembly, a Commissioner to the President of the U.S.

I trust that the modification of Virginia may be the destined means, under the providence of God, of accomplishing this inestimable benefit.

Glorious as are the memories of her past history such an achievement both in relation to her own fame and the welfare of the whole country would surpass them all.

(Signed) James Buchanan
Washington City, Jan. 28, 1861

Madison Wisconsin State Journal January 30, 1861
What Should be done to-morrow?

To-morrow we suppose our legislature will act upon the communication from Virginia.

The appeal from our sister State seems to be in earnest with good intent and respectable in bearing. It appears to be deliberate in meeting in a business-like consultation, with little of political circles and in a friendly manner to agree if possible upon some manner of adjusting the differences. Discarding all political hobbies and party animosity and if need be, sacrificing much upon both sides to attain an object so patriotic.

Is Wisconsin willing to make one effort at reconciliation when the request comes with her authorities so beseechingly from the "Old Dominion?"

Will it not be better to accede to this proposal of trying to settle than to reject it and possibly feel afterwards that it might have been the saving one?

The part of Virginia in this effort is an advisable one and let us meet it half way other than reject all conferences. Politicization in Washington seems inadequate to the task. The faith and hopes of their constituents have become exhausted and the people now ask another set of negotiations.

Should our legislators regard the proposition in the same spirit it is offered? They will do no less than to express their willingness to send Commissioners and such Commission should be selected from among the conservative men of the several parties relieving the act from all partisan objections.

Will Wisconsin deliberate and take this course and await the result before incurring the expense of putting ourselves on a war footing. That possibly may be and we trust will be unnecessary. Let magnanimity be shown and whatever the result may prove, Wisconsin can then truly claim to have tried to preserve our Confederacy. Will she do it?

This Civil War letter was written by Lloyd Hiram Colby (1846-1922), the son of Nathan Colby (1805-1891) and Hannah Terrill (1803-1864). He was born in Stewartstown, Coos County, New Hampshire. He appeared in the census in 1860 in West Point, Columbia County, Wisconsin. Lloyd enlisted as a private in Co. B of the 6th Wisconsin Infantry in May, 1861; he re-enlisted as a corporal in February 1864 and was wounded at Cold Harbor. He was mustered out of the service on 24 May 1865.

West Point, Columbia County, Wisconsin
January 28th, 1861 [1862]

Friend cousin,

I received your letter today and was very glad to hear from you after so long a time. I am well and am going to school everyday. I can't write much about the school this time.

I was very glad to hear that there was a few patriotic boys in that part of the North that had courage to go and fight for their country. Why did you not write when and what regiment they were in? I suppose they are not at Port Royal in the New Hampshire Regiment. Well, in this state there has gone 10 regiments 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7 Regiments is at and around Washington. The first and 10th is in the state where Abraham Lincoln was brought up. The 8, 9, 11, 12 & 13 is in Missouri and 6 batteries of artillery. They started from the state January 20th for to go and join Lane in Kansas, two to go to Baltimore, and there is one more that has not gone yet. These batteries has 6 guns each. There has a good many gone from here.

There are two companies gone from this town and Lodi, the town joining this town. There is now 5 regiments of infantry in the state that is not gone yet. These regiments has 1,000 men in each.

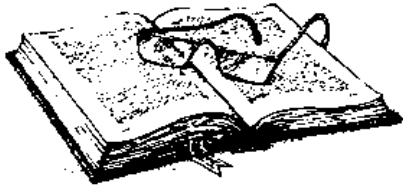
There is a great deal of talk of England helping the South but Uncle Sam can whip the world.

I think I shall enlist as quick as school is out in the spring. I just got a letter from one of the boys in the army. He says that he wishes he was to home to go to school with his schoolmates this winter. He should enjoy it much better than to be out on picket duty. There are not half as many people in this neighborhood as there was before the war commenced. They have all enlisted and are fighting for a good cause and I hope the stars and stripes will float over the vile South yet.

This is all I think of to write. I hope this will get to you without delay. You must excuse me for all the mistakes and bad spelling. You write as quick as you get this and let us know all the news.

Yours truly, —Lloyd H. Colby

Colby Letter submitted by Peter Jacobsohn



BETWEEN THE COVERS

To Antietam Creek

by D. Scott Hartwig

I read that there was a new book coming out this year on the Maryland Campaign, D. Scott Hartwig's *To Antietam Creek*. My wife and I had signed up to visit the Antietam battlefield on a tour sponsored by the Kenosha Civil War Museum, so this book seemed to be one I should read. I was already in the process of reading two different books on Antietam (reviewed in the December *General Orders*) and wasn't sure if I should start another. After hearing Mr. Hartwig speak at the museum in September and looking at the book, I decided to buy it and, if nothing else, read it at a later date. The book is a long one at 650 pages – not counting appendices.

I started the book in September – a couple of weeks before we left on the tour. The tour itself was on the Maryland Campaign with stops at South Mountain, Harpers Ferry and Antietam. As it turned out, it was the right book to read for this tour. I suspect that as the tour progressed, more stimulation was provided by being on the battlefields. Additionally, my interest was fueled by being able to follow along later and read about the battles described in the book.

Mr. Hartwig has produced an excellent book on this campaign. He lays out the groundwork of the rationale for Lee's proposal for action, as well as providing a detailed comparison of each commander's approach to planning and executing the plans that would bring their armies to battle.

Hartwig has been pretty fair in dealing with both Lee and McClellan and presents the details of each commander's actions in an evenhanded manner. He enables readers to draw their own conclusions and judgments on the appropriateness of the commanders' actions and how each dealt with the risks involved. The detail provided in this book helps the reader understand the actions taken by the commanders at various levels and ties those actions together to explain how the entire campaign unfolded, leading up to the actual Battle of Antietam. Hartwig indicated to me that he was working on the second part of the story in his next book, scheduled to be out in 2017.

I found the author's style made for easy, interesting reading and while, I was perhaps a bit psyched on the topic due to the tour, I think most will find this to be an excellent book on the subject. It has been well researched using sources not typically cited in other works. Hartwig manages to blend first person accounts and primary accounts into a smoothly flowing story. He has presented the information in a chronological sequence that helps the reader make sense of the events and how each action resulted in a reaction by the opposition. He also points to the fact that, in spite of the difficulties that had occurred before Antietam, Lee was still planning to continue the campaign. He was not looking to retreat back to Virginia.

One area which could have been improved upon is a few more maps with more detail but overall, anyone with interest in the campaign will find this book a great addition to their Civil War library.

submitted by Bruce Klem

❧ Emerging Civil War Series ❧

In November 2012 Savas Beatie announced the debut of the Emerging Civil War Series with the first two titles co-authored by Chris Mackowski and Kristopher White. Chris Mackowski would write of the new series:

The Civil War is America's great story. What makes it so vital, though, is that it's not just the story of us as a nation, it's the story of us as individuals – real people with real hopes and fears and dreams and flaws. Telling those very human stories in the context of that vital national story sits at the heart of this series.

The series continues to add titles to its fine list of offerings. Following is an interview by Savas Beatie (SB) with Chris Mackowski and Kristopher White, authors of the first book in the series, *Simply Murder: The Battle of Fredericksburg, December 13, 1862*.

SB: *Why did you decide to write your book on this particular topic?*

KW: The Battle of Fredericksburg is a greatly misunderstood battle. We learned this by working at Fredericksburg together as Ranger/Historians. Most visitors focus on the Battle for Marye's Heights, while also focusing their attention on the faults and failures of Union General Ambrose Burnside. We were really drawn to the compelling story of the campaign. The story of the battle and campaign is how Burnside had the cards stacked against him from day one. He took over leadership of the Union Army of the Potomac from a popular general and close friend, George McClellan. He was tasked with engaging in a winter campaign with a strict January 1, 1863, deadline for victory. Burnside was not a great general, but he was not as bad as he has been made out to be. Unfortunately, everything that could go wrong for the Federals did. Therefore, we really wanted to tell the story of a misunderstood battle and campaign in a fair and balanced way.

CM: Visitors to the battlefield come with so many preconceived misconceptions, particularly about Burnside, as Kris mentioned. The chance to invite visitors – and now readers – to rethink what they know about the battle is a nice treat.

Folks who do know something about the battle typically know Sunken Road, Stone Wall, and Marye's Heights. It's a dramatic story that has shown up a bit in Civil War-related pop culture, but there is SO much more to the battle than that. In fact, the fighting in front of Stone Wall was really a sideshow that took on a horrible life of its own. The main event was supposed to take place at the south end of the field, at what's now known as the Slaughter Pen Farm. Fortunately, our friend and mentor Frank O'Reilly shed a lot of light on that story, and recent preservation efforts by the Civil War Trust have done a lot to bring further attention to that sector of the battlefield.

We hope our book gives due justice to that fuller story of the battle.

SB: *What makes your book unique from other books on the same topic?*

CM: There are really only a couple of good books on the Battle of Fredericksburg. Frank O'Reilly's *The Fredericksburg Campaign* is a stunningly detailed, micro-tactical study, and George Rabie's *Fredericksburg! Fredericksburg!* situates the military action within a complex, sweeping context. Both books are for serious students of the war, though. We hope our book will serve as a good way to hook readers' interest about the battle and then lead them to something more in-depth like Frank's or George's book. There's also a nifty collection of newspaper stories called *War So Terrible* by our friend Don Pfanz.

KW: Our book gives the reader the entire story of the battle in a condensed version. We have worked the book to be a guidebook that can be used on the field, while at the same time, those not reading on the field can sit at home, read, and follow along with the story and see the sites with the vast array of pictures included in the work. A reader that has little knowledge of the battle will be able to pick up this work and understand the battle and its effect on the war. Those seasoned buffs will be able to pick up the book and take away a better understanding of the campaign, while also learning some interesting facts not found in other works on the same topic.

SB: *What most interested you about writing on this topic?*

CM: I've spent a lot of time on a lot of battlefields, and I've told stories about those battlefields to thousands of visitors. Fewer battlefields give me greater satisfaction, though, than walking Sunken Road and hearing the crunch of gravel under my boots. The story there always feels so real and present. I know it sounds cliché, but I still literally get shivers imagining what it must've taken for those Union soldiers to stand shoulder to shoulder and charge that position. You hear so much about the élan of Southern soldiers, but THAT is guts.

SB: *What kind of "invaluable" information is included in the book?*

CM: As with all the books that will be included in the Emerging Civil War Series, we hope to offer a fresh perspective on the story. People malign Burnside, for instance. He was brilliantly mediocre, but he's not really the dolt history has made him out to be (at least not for anything he did at Fredericksburg). At the south end of the field, Stonewall Jackson performed less than brilliantly, but history has generally given him a free pass and shifted blame for the Federal breakthrough to his subordinate, A.P. Hill – even though Jackson and Lee both approved Hill's troop dispositions. We spend a lot of time looking at how and why these stories and others have been cemented in memory, and we invite readers to challenge those assumptions.

SB: *Can you tell me about Burnside's Folly?*

CM: If you don't really know the story, it's easy to look at the Battle of Fredericksburg and dismiss Ambrose Burnside as a fool. After all, who would be foolish enough to send thousands of men uphill over hundreds of yards of open ground against a fortified position -

KW: Robert E. Lee at Gettysburg.

CM: Exactly! And that's why those Federal soldiers who repulsed Pickett's Charge yelled, "Fredericksburg! Fredericksburg!" Pickett's Charge was Fredericksburg in reverse.

KW: Lee does it and gets immortalized. Burnside does it and gets called an idiot.

CM: See, it's so convenient for people to write off Burnside like that. But think about it critically for a moment: A man does not get chosen for command of the largest army on the planet if he's a dolt. So let's assume then, for a minute, that Burnside is at least competent if not brilliant. If you accept that, then you have to start asking some interesting questions about what he was doing and why he was doing it.

KW: Burnside had success along the North Carolina coast earlier in the year, so he'd certainly proven himself in battle.

CM: He was no rock star, but he was no rock head either.

KW: You have to understand the larger context of the war, too. With the final Emancipation Proclamation coming out at the first of the year, Burnside was operating in a highly politicized environment. Washington, not Burnside, was really driving the entire campaign. As a result of that, it was like Burnside was set up for failure from the beginning.

The ground in front of the Stone Wall tells a story that seems so obvious, so people just accept it, but that's hardly the full story. You have to ask some questions.

SB: *How did you both conduct your research?*

CM: Kris does all the heavy lifting when it comes to research. That man can pull so many needles from any haystack, it's amazing. (If you want to see some heavy lifting with research, wait until people see our upcoming micro-tactical study on Second Fredericksburg and Salem Church, *Chancellorsville's Forgotten Front*, due from Savas Beatie in the spring of 2013). As the storyteller, I take all that great research Kris does and craft it into a catchy, easy-to-read narrative.

SB: *What are some features of Simply Murder that you think readers will really enjoy?*

KW: Readers will be able to use a specially designed driving tour of the high points of the battle. The work also includes numerous pictures – modern and historic – of the city, park, and battlefield. Civil War photography buffs will find some seldom-seen wartime photos and many rarely seen post war photos of the area. We also went out of our way to include the story of the civilians caught in the crossfire of war. Readers at home or on the field can use the book to explore the Pre-Revolutionary City of Fredericksburg.

CM: I had a tremendously good time tromping around the battlefield taking pictures! We have a lot of original photography in the book, so people who can't come to the battlefield will still get a good idea of what a visitor might see.

SB: *Thank you both for your time, we appreciate it.*

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Website: www.savasbeatie.com. Email: sales@savasbeatie.com



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

In the last issue of our *General Orders* a letter from Hugh C. Perkins was included describing Hugh's Civil War experience. Here now, is the rest of Hugh's story.

The township in Clark County, Wisconsin, now known as Sherwood, was originally named after Hugh Perkins and his father, Daniel, who were early settlers of that area. One version as to why the name of the township was changed can be found in Robert McBride's 1919 *History of Clark County*.

In this version we find that, in 1884, Hugh was involved in an altercation with Isaac Meddaugh, a resident of the town, at a sawmill belonging to Hugh. The incident would end with the death of Meddaugh. Hugh was arrested and charged with murder. In November 1884, while confined in the county jail, Hugh escaped.

In October 1888, Hugh was re-captured at Windsor, Ontario, across the Detroit River from Detroit, Michigan. He was tried in June 1889, and was convicted of manslaughter in the first degree. The verdict was set aside by presiding Judge Newman and Hugh would be tried again in December of that year. The jury would find him guilty of manslaughter in the second degree. In an appeal to the supreme court the conviction was reversed, a new trial was ordered, but no further action was taken on the case.

In this version, the citizens of Perkins did not want the town named after a convicted murderer and the name Sherwood Forest was proposed by Gov. C.C. Washburn. The name was later shortened to Sherwood.

In an alternate version, town citizens in 1876 requested the name change. The name Sherwood Forest was presented in 1876 and accepted by the town board.

In a final version, citizens in 1900 requested that the name be shortened to Sherwood, presented a petition to that effect to the county board and the name change was granted.

Hugh C. Perkins never served time for his crime. He made his move to Osceola County, Florida where his past was unknown. Hugh is buried at the GAR Cemetery at Mt. Peace Cemetery. His grave information lists:

Perkins Hugh C 27 Jul 1844 27 Apr 1930 Co I 7th WI Inf

James Campbell wrote to the local Clark County paper:
St. Cloud, Fla. April 28, 1930

Gentlemen: —

This is to let you know that Comrade Hugh C. Perkins died Sunday morning April 27, after a lingering illness. (The last issue of the GO erroneously listed his death date as April 4.) Some of your readers who knew him may be interested in this item of news. He was once a member of Chas. G. Bacon Post of your city and was quite an active member of the Post here up to the time of his last sickness.

Very truly yours, James Campbell

**Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.
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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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Yearly memberships available: Individual (\$40), family (\$50), non-resident (\$25), attending an educational institution (\$20).

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

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

Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for January 7, 2016

Mail your reservations by Monday, January 4, 2016 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 \$30.00 per person) for ____ reservations for January 7, 2016, 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.

ITEM	COST
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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
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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.

