

GENERAL ORDERS



The Newsletter of the

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



April 7, 2016

Greg Biggs

“Nashville: Siren’s Song of the Confederacy”

Siren’s Song: *Something that is very appealing and makes you want to go somewhere or do something but that may have bad results.* Merriam-Webster Dictionary

The fall of Fort Donelson on February 16, 1862 would set off a chain of events ending with the capture of Nashville. Going forward, Nashville would be the focus of five different Confederate attempts to bring the city back into the Confederate fold. Much like the sirens in Greek mythology, retaking Nashville lured the Confederacy to a final, ultimate defeat.

Our March speaker, Greg Biggs, will discuss the five Confederate attempts to retake Nashville. In December, 1864, the Confederate Army of Tennessee laid a final siege to the massive Union fortifications and garrison of Nashville. In a two day fight, that army was all but destroyed. Their arrival at the city’s door was the culmination of Confederate strategy that began when the city was captured by Union forces in February, 1862. Nashville, thereafter, became the “Siren’s Song” for Confederate strategy in the west, luring Confederate offensives no less than five times from 1862 through 1864. In the end, Nashville would remain in Union hands and would be the Union’s major supply depot for all the western campaigns.

In his program, our speaker will detail the city’s importance, each of the five attempts to retake the city, the key players, and the execution and results of each attempt.

Gregg Biggs, born in Elmhurst, IL, has been a student of military history for over 45 years. His interest covers the ancient Greeks to today’s military affairs with concentrations on the Napoleonic era, the Civil War, World War II, military logistics and tank operations. He began speaking to Civil War groups in 1990 and has done so for conferences and Civil War Round Tables around the country. Greg also leads tours of the Fort Donelson Campaign; Atlanta Campaign; Tullahoma Campaign and the early Western Rivers Campaign (Paducah, Cairo, and Columbus/Belmont) for CWRTs, history groups and the U.S. Army.

Greg has been published in Blue & Gray magazine, North-South Trader, Citizen’s Companion, the Civil War Trust magazine, the Battle of Franklin magazine, Civil War News and several Tennessee publications. He was also lead historian for the Fort Defiance Interpretive Center in Clarksville, TN. A recognized authority on Civil War flags, Greg has consulted with museums, auction houses and private collectors across the country and has been published on that topic in several publications – from books to magazine articles. He has presented lectures on flags to the National Civil War Museum, Museum of the Confederacy, the Texas Civil War Museum and a national flag conference as well as Round Tables.

Greg lives in Clarksville, TN and is president of the Clarksville CWRT and program chair for the Bowling Green, KY and Nashville Round Tables. He is married to Karel Lea Biggs, a Middle School teacher. Greg and Karel have four cats all named for Civil War cavalry officers.

General Orders No. 4-16

April 2016

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April 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, April 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

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”

**Tennessee State Capital
1862**



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.

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!

Iron Brigade Flags on Display

If you attend our upcoming meetings, you may notice that something is different. Our usual array of flags (the reproduction Tiffany Iron Brigade flag, the 35-star U.S. flag and Battery B, 4th U.S. artillery guidon) will not be present. The flags have been loaned to the Kenosha Civil War Museum for their new exhibit, "Faces of the Iron Brigade: A Social Network of Soldiers." The exhibit will be on display at the museum until November 1, 2016. Go visit our flags at the Civil War Museum!

A Little Extra for the Iron Brigade & the Civil War Museum

As part of the "Faces of the Iron Brigade" exhibit taking place at the Kenosha Civil War Museum, there will be an exhibit reception and program on April 23, 2016. The program will include actor Stacy Hicks portraying Mickey Sullivan ("Mickey of Company K"), as well as other events related to the Iron Brigade exhibit. The Kenosha Museum approached the Civil War Round Table about sponsoring this event, and the Board of Directors thought it logical to do so as we are the custodian of the Iron Brigade Association, founded by the veterans. On March 12, our Round Table president Van Harl presented a check to the Museum in the amount of \$500.00. This donation was received with sincere appreciation.

milwaukeeecwrt.org

Your prayers and well-wishes are requested on behalf of Susan Johnson, wife of Round Table member Jim Johnson, as she undergoes important medical treatment. Thank you.

The Muster Roll: NEW MEMBERS

1. Complete all names subject to the military law by the age of twenty and thirty days prior to the date of the meeting. 2. Complete all names subject to the military law by the age of twenty and thirty days prior to the date of the meeting. 3. Complete all names subject to the military law by the age of twenty and thirty days prior to the date of the meeting.

MEMBER ROLL—CONSOLIDATED LIST of all persons of Class II, subject to the military law in the _____ State of _____, residing during the month of _____, 1906, under direction of _____, President, War Department.

| MEMBER'S NAME | AGE | RESIDENCE | DATE OF BIRTH | DATE OF DEATH | DATE OF ENTRY | DATE OF EXIT | DATE OF REENTRY | DATE OF REENTRY |
|------------------|-----|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Connelley, David | 35 | Chicago, Ill. | 1870 | 1906 | 1906 | 1906 | 1906 | 1906 |
| Connelley, David | 35 | Chicago, Ill. | 1870 | 1906 | 1906 | 1906 | 1906 | 1906 |
| Connelley, David | 35 | Chicago, Ill. | 1870 | 1906 | 1906 | 1906 | 1906 | 1906 |
| Connelley, David | 35 | Chicago, Ill. | 1870 | 1906 | 1906 | 1906 | 1906 | 1906 |
| Connelley, David | 35 | Chicago, Ill. | 1870 | 1906 | 1906 | 1906 | 1906 | 1906 |
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| Connelley, David | 35 | Chicago, Ill. | 1870 | 1906 | 1906 | 1906 | 1906 | 1906 |
| Connelley, David | 35 | Chicago, Ill. | 1870 | 1906 | 1906 | 1906 | 1906 | 1906 |
| Connelley, David | 35 | Chicago, Ill. | 1870 | 1906 | 1906 | 1906 | 1906 | 1906 |
| Connelley, David | 35 | Chicago, Ill. | 1870 | 1906 | 1906 | 1906 | 1906 | 1906 |

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, 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, 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, Tim and Nicole Hirthe, 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) Dan Tanty, Gil Vraney, Fred Wendorf

ELECTION: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As announced at the March Round Table meeting and in accordance with the Articles of Incorporation, the nominating committee of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee recommends the following slate of nominees for the upcoming election of members to the Board of Directors for a three-year term ending in May, 2019:

Donna Agnelly Tom Arliskas Roman Blenski
Crain Bliwas Paul Eilbes

The election will take place at the May 12, 2016 Round Table meeting.



John Dickinson was our Round Table speaker in April 1964 speaking on “John Logan, Politician and General.”

“The Battle of Nashville” was the topic of Gordon Whitney’s presentation to the Round Table in April 1974.

Dr. Richard M. McMurtry spoke to the Round Table in April 1984 about “John Bell Hood and the War for Southern Independence.”

In April 1994, Major Kenneth F. McKenzie USMC discussed the “Combined Union Attack on Charleston.”

Jim Ogden talked to the Round Table in April 2004 on “Inflict All the Damage You Can.”

In April 2014, Scott Bowden talked to the Round Table on “Last Chance for Victory: Robert E. Lee and the Gettysburg Campaign.”

At last year’s April meeting, Professor Michael Burlingame spoke to our group on “The Assassination of President Lincoln.”

COMING ATTRACTIONS

April 11, 2016

Manitowoc Civil War Round Table, 7 p.m.

**New Location: Time Out Bar and Grill
1027 North Rapids Rd., Manitowoc**

April 12, 2016

Waukesha Civil War Round Table, 7 p.m.

Citizens Bank of Mukwonago Waukesha Branch
David Meyers: Military Railroads During the Civil War

April 19, 2016

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

Citizens Bank of Mukwonago Waukesha Branch
Dan Nettesheim: Alonzo Cushing & the Class of June ’61
at West Point & Gettysburg

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.

Newspapers Report the Civil War

Friday, April 8, 2016, Noon

Presenter: Phil Angelo

America’s media has always been defined and changed by the nation’s wars. It was the Civil War, in every sense, that marked the awakening of newspapers. The war created Sunday newspapers, published for the first time to meet the demand for news. The war created press associations like the Associated Press as smaller newspapers pooled resources to get news. It created the “lead,” the method of putting the most important information first in the story, as reporters worked fast against the possibility of the telegraph being cut. Mr. Angelo, a career newspaper reporter and editor, will discuss the ways newspapers reported the Civil War and the ways the Civil War changed reporting.

Third Man on the Monument: The Life of Howard Cushing Friday, May 13, 2016, Noon

Presenter: James Heinz

Howard Cushing has always been overshadowed by his more famous brothers William and Alonzo. Born in Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, Howard had a distinguished Civil War career. He stayed in the Army after the war, only to be killed in an ambush by Geronimo. Learn how Howard and Alonzo served in the same unit and are connected to a Milwaukee high school and why Howard inspired “Star Wars” and much of modern science fiction.

Saturday, April 9, 2016, 1 p.m.

Greg Biggs covers General William T. Sherman’s campaign to take the southern stronghold of Atlanta, Georgia.

First Ladies Tea

Saturday, May 7, 2016, 1 p.m.

Join historical interpreters Laura Keyes and Leslie Goddard as they bring Mary Todd Lincoln and Jacqueline Kennedy to life in an imagined meeting at the Smithsonian Museum’s First Ladies exhibition. Mrs. Lincoln and Mrs. Kennedy reminisce about living in the White House, negotiating the role of First Lady and the challenges they endured after their husbands’ deaths.

\$35/\$25 Friends of the Museum

Train Extravaganza Weekend

Saturday, May 21, 2016, 10a.m.-5p.m. and Sunday, May 22, Noon – 4 p.m.

Civil War Museum and Kenosha Public Museum

All makes of model trains will be on display throughout the Museums.

Sponsored by Kenosha Garden Railroad Society

Lincoln’s Unorthodox Inaugural Train Journey

Saturday, May 21, 2016, 1 p.m. Presenter: Steve Rogstad

A 1,900 mile train trip was arranged to take President-Elect Abraham Lincoln from Springfield, Illinois, to Washington over a two-week period. Some historians have called the trip “Lincoln’s journey to greatness;” others refer to it as “thirteen desperate days.” This lecture focuses on this unusual train journey, analyzes speeches Lincoln gave to audiences along the way, the assassination attempt that almost claimed his life in Baltimore, and how his unceremonious and clandestine arrival in the nation’s capital plagued his image during the nation’s greatest crisis.





Head Quarters 29th Regt. Wis. Inf. Vols.
Millikens Bend, La., April 15, 1863
Lieut. Col. John A. Rawlins
Chief of Staff & c.

Sir:

I herewith inform you of the conduct of Captain Hezekiah Dunham Co. "E" of my Regiment.

On or about the 3rd day of January last while the regiment was stationed at Friars Point Miss., this Captain took a part of his company in the night time, and embarked on board the steamer Evansville, and sailed with them down the river without my knowledge or consent; upon his return I inquired of him about the transaction, and he making no satisfactory explanation of his conduct, nor claiming that he had acted in pursuance of any orders. I placed him under arrest; the same day however I learned that he acted in obedience to orders from Brig. Genl Gorman then commanding Dist. Eastern Arkansas, through a Provost Marshall that he had appointed at Friars Point.

Upon hearing these facts I immediately released the Captain from arrest; I had not taken his sword, but when notified that he was discharged from arrest, he brought his sword to my quarters, threw it down, and with much profanity declared he would never touch it again, that he would never command his company again. He remained at Friars Point, stopping with a citizen and neglecting to do duty, until the 9th of January when the regiment embarked on transports and accompanied an expedition up White river; upon the return of the expedition to Helena, the Captain (who had followed us) refused to leave the boat. Since that time, which was about the 23rd day of January, the Captain has not been with the Regt.

He went immediately to his home in Wisconsin and has been there ever since; he has never had any leave of absence – before leaving the boat he pretended to be sick, and tried to get permission from our Surgeon to go to St. Louis, but when told he could not have leave, said he would go without.

While on the expedition up White River a number of his company deserted; I have evidence which is conclusive to my mind that he advised them to do so, and assisted them in making their escape; I do have evidence of a like character that he is a traitor to our government, and talked treason before some of his men. I might refer to many more delinquencies and bad conduct of his, if I deemed it necessary – accompanying this I send statements of his lieutenants and affidavits of his men.

I recommend that he be dismissed from the service in disgrace and without pay.

Respectfully (sgd)
Chas R. Gill
Col. Cmdg. the Regt.

Camp at Helena Ark.

March 2nd 1863

To all at Home:

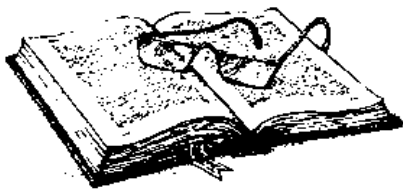
Two weeks ago I wrote home and promised that I would not let as long time pass again without writing more than once but it has been impossible for the past two weeks for me to write home so I will make the best of the present and give an account of myself. One week ago last Saturday (the 21st of Feb) we were ordered to report at Helena when we were ordered on board the steamer "Chusems" to report to Gen. Washburn at Yazoo Pass. While lying at Helena I fell into the river up to my arms. Wasn't it fun? It was very cold that morning that I went ashore for water to make some coffee. I was standing on the banks of the river and it commenced to give way and in less time that I have been writing this I was in the river. I was mad! Last Sunday we started for the "pass." The pass is about 6 miles below Helena. Our men blew up the levee and then there was nothing to prevent the water from the Miss. plowing through a natural channel into the Cold water. We encamped five miles below Moon Lane and about twenty miles from Helena, on Get. Alcott's plantation. The plantation is one of the prettiest I ever seen. The house was surrounded by evergreen trees, with some Magnolia and China. I am going to enclose some of the China tree seeds in another envelope, together with some kinds of bean we had to cover an Arbor. The stalk I got the bean from was an inch through and covered the whole arbor. The china tree I heard Gen. Alcorn say grew South a foot in diameter in five years and he pointed some in his yard and said that it was just four years old which was a foot through. You will find some small seeds which are the seeds of a nice kind of cotton they are buying here. When you write tell me whether you receive them or not. They are all put up by my side now, ready to mail. The pass when the fleet has gone down is full of trees, nearly as thick as they are in our sugar bush. It looks almost impossible for boats to pass through but they do. I hope they will succeed but if they do not I am afraid they will do hard times before they get back. The Guerillas can fall into after us and blockade the river so that it will be impossible for the boats to get back. But that's speculating, hope we will fight our way through at Vicksburg and then all's well.

Wm and I received a letter from home last night, written by Father and Mary. It is nothing to say it was very thankfully received. Mary asked me if Austin Wiley had joined the Regt. yet. Yes, he came here nearly two weeks ago and received that paper and those socks. I can't thank you for them. They were just what I needed and that is all I can say.

Wm. and I are well, perfectly well. I have not been excused from drill since I came South on account of sickness and I hope I may give as good an account of myself at the end of three years. There are only two men seriously sick in our company now, they are John Strain of Neosho and Sam Tobbitt of Iron Ridge. No don't sell the place at any price. Wm. and I hope will be home sometime and I want to go find you on the old place when it will seem like home to me. I used to have some ambition for something, I hardly know what, now the only ambition I have, the only goal I want to reach is home. Then after this I'll be content and I think that three or six months camp life would effectively cure Sam of some of his grim ideas. I don't want to go home till this war ends as I want it to and then I want to go and more than that we are going to make it end in less than one year just as we want it to. And then I want to come North and kill one half of the Democrats then just to show how the soldier appreciate their efforts to compromise a peace, bought at the price of eternal dishonor of the North. Isn't it a shame? We are encamped now at Helena or a half mile from there. Not as pleasant as our former camp although a very good one. Orange sits by my side hurrying me to have me get supper so I shall have to bring this poor letter to a close promising to write in less than a week provided nothing happens to prevent. Lay the blame on O.C. for the poor writing. Plant some of those beans in from the Piazza, Mary.

Write soon every one.

Yours affectionately,
John J. Barney



BETWEEN THE COVERS

Grant Moves South

by Bruce Catton

I finally decided to pick up copies of Bruce Catton's award winning books, *Grant Moves South* and *Grant Takes Command*. Having read and enjoyed some of Catton's other works, I felt it was time to see how he approached Grant and his actions in the war.

In the last few years a number of books have been written on Grant with a resurgence in the opinions presented. Most, I think, have been on the side of Grant's unrecognized skill in conducting operations during the war. Some have brought up flaws in his character and poor relationships with his subordinates. Based on new analysis and new information, Grant's stature has risen from a less than skilled strategist to a general who set the tone of the Union victory. Since Catton was known to have been one of the first modern historians to have done an honest appraisal of Grant, I dove into his work.

I found Catton's style to be easy to read and follow; he held your interest with the way he told his story. Catton follows Grant's development as a Civil War leader through his early battles at Belmont, Forts Henry and Donelson and Shiloh. His approach is to provide a headquarters view and give the reader an understanding of what was happening and why. Catton gives the reader an opportunity to draw conclusions on how Grant's leadership developed and grew without needing to become immersed in a lot of details of individual actions.

Catton's ability to put in key notes, direct quotes and letters helps to show Grant's interactions with key players in the war and how his skills were honed and results achieved. The results, in turn, work in turning opinions to a better appreciation of the skills Grant brought to the Union which aided in his rise to Commander of all the Union armies.

Catton paints a careful, progressive picture of how Grant's character developed in his dealings with superiors, subordinates, civilians, and other Army and Navy commanders and manages to weave together a cohesive strategy in each theater he operated in to coordinate a victory in each of his campaigns.

I highly recommend this book to anyone who has an interest in Grant and the Civil War. I found it to be a very interesting and readable book that holds your interest. The book provides a basis for understanding how Grant developed as a leader and gives a firm basis for comparison in judging how some of the newest books on Grant compare and contrast Grant as a commander. I also think it is a good study in overall command relationships as well as providing insight into how personalities and friendships can play a large part in military operations. It also explains why some commanders can be successful in implementing strategy and others not so much.

I have just started the second part of Catton's work, *Grant Takes Command*, and look forward to reviewing it "Between the Covers."

submitted by Bruce Klem

Civil War Museum, Kenosha, WI
Celebration Dinner: Faces of the Iron Brigade
Saturday, April 23 5:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Join the Civil War Museum for an evening celebrating the opening of our new temporary exhibit *Faces of the Iron Brigade--A Social Network of Soldiers*. The event begins with a reception and behind the scenes look at the exhibit with museum staff. Following the reception, a dinner will be held after which author Lance Herdegen will set the stage for a recreation of part of the Iron Brigade Association Reunion at Lancaster, Wisconsin, in 1884. To top off the evening, a special performance of the Civil War Museum's theater program, *James P. Sullivan--Mickey of Company K*, will be held in the Fiery Trial exhibit.

5-6 pm – Reception with drinks on the 2nd floor. Informal discussions will take place in the “Faces of the Iron Brigade” exhibit.

6-7 pm – Dinner in Freedom Hall catered by Culinary Infusion. During dinner some well-placed reenactors will propose toasts and make a few rousing statements about the fine boys of the Iron Brigade. This is based on a real dinner that the members of the Iron Brigade hosted during the war.

7-8 pm – “Mickey Sullivan” Civil War Museum Theatre Performance in “The Fiery Trial.” Chairs will be set up in the 1860s town and the performance will take place on the porch as his stage.

Menu:

Honey and Garlic French Breast of Chicken
 Red Skin on Mashed Potatoes
 Green Beans with Tarragon and Shallots
 Dinner Rolls and Butter
 Beer, wine, soda and dessert provided by Museum

All inclusive price (reception, dinner and program):
 \$45/\$40 Friends of the Museum

JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE CIVIL WAR SYMPOSIUM
April 30, 2016 “Legacy, Social Change, and Remembrance”

Joliet Jr College, 1215 Houboldt Ave, Joliet, 60431
 Registration 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. Program begins at 10:00 a.m.

Don Doyle: The Cause of All Nations: International Impact of Civil War

Robert Girardi: Illinois in the Civil War

Doug Hurt: Agriculture, Food Production and the Civil War

Theodore “Ted” J. Karamanski: Chicago during the Civil War

Nicholas Sambaluk: Revolution and Use of Technology during the Civil War

Registration by April 1 - \$20 per person. After April 1, \$40 per person
 For further information email
 Professor Dennis Doyle:
ddoyle@jjc.edu

CIVIL WAR MUSEUM
NASHVILLE/MIDDLE TENNESSEE TOUR
OCTOBER 23-26, 2016

Early Bird Registration – Prior to April 3, 2016

Museum Member:

\$625 per person double occupancy

\$805 per person single occupancy

Non-Member:

\$670 per person double occupancy

\$850 per person single occupancy

Registrations AFTER April 3, 2016

Museum Member:

\$670 per person double occupancy

\$850 per person single occupancy

Non-Member:

\$715 per person double occupancy

\$895 per person single occupancy

Tour Cost Includes: Hotel room for Sunday, Monday and Tuesday nights; all lunches and dinners; all motor coach services; Tour Guides; park admission fees; evening programs. All breakfasts are on-your-own (hotel offers a complimentary breakfast)

Tour Base Hotel: Holiday Inn Express, 1111 Airport Center Dr., Nashville, TN 37214

Transportation from home to base hotel is the responsibility of the tour attendee. Flights should be arranged through Nashville International Airport.

Reservations for the trip can be made by mail, in person at the Kenosha Public Museum, or by phone at 262-653-4140 with a credit card.

For complete details please contact the museum.



In Camp near Savannah

Dec 22nd 1864

Dear Parents,

I have again started myself to pen a few lines to you. Knowing that you are anxious to hear from me.

I wrote a few days ago to you but I was in a hurry and did not say much. I have just came in from picket- and feel rather dull having been up all night. I was rather cool last night- but generally it has been very comfortable weather since we have been down here. Savannah is ours the rebs left- night before last. They left a number of [illegible] cannon small arms & pontoon bridge and the like

I suppose our brigade will be ordered there every day. The rebs find old Sherman too much for them they dread him as much as the British did Marion and I do not wonder at it- he has been driving them all summer. I will answer your questions now. In the first place you complain of not getting letters from me regular I am sure that it is not my fault. I write as often as once a week when there is a chance to send a letter. You have been buying some rails I think it is a good thing. You got them cheap enough. Cheaper than you could make them your self.

You say old Abe is in for four years more I am glad of it. Our Regt gave Mac 7 votes out of 350 that is very well for Abe.

Those bread and milk chaps that were so afraid of the draft have got home safe. Their troubles must be over for them. The snow came very early this year you say and before you was ready for it. If you lived down in their country you would not be troubled with snow. But after all would rather live up north.

I am sorry you did not get the house fixed as it should be for it is a poor concern for winter as it is I am very sorry that it happened so that I did not have a chance to send my money home. I was away from the Regt when it was paid I was to Atlanta on detail and when I got my money I had no time to send it. I got it about an hour before the last train was to go out then the R.R. was destroyed and in a day or two we was on the road to Savannah. Now do not blame me for not sending you money. & tell mother not to fret about that money that I loaned out. It trouble me a great deal to know that any such thing should trouble her. It spoils my peace here to know that I am the cause of any such trouble. I would not have loaned a cent of my money to any one if I could have sent it home to you. So for my sake keep your mind easy. & before long I will show you that it is all right. I will write to my cousin as you wish me to as soon as I get time. I am glad that your turnips turned out so well they will help your cattle through the winter.

I am glad that the city of Savannah is taken although our Regt was only 2 days on the front line. Then we was sent to this place between the canal and the Ogeechee river to keep communication open our Regt. Loss in this place was 2 killed. The rebs shelled us in the time that we was on the line but did little damage. Coonrod is tough but ragged & [illegible] soldiering agrees with him very well. Hatch is getting tough he did not stand it very well to start with but is gaining on it-, as for myself I am as tough as any body need be for all I have to do. The first chance I have to get my picture taken I will have it done and send to you. I also to send my over coat home for it is of little use to me except at night & morning. But if we have to start out again there will be no chance to do it.

I hope you are getting along fast with your work and be ready for the spring work. It would do me good to be there to help you. But I think you have done exceedingly well this last summer with out me. The old soldiers began to think about going home in something less than 8 months & if things goes on as they have been doing for the past year I might possibly go home with them.

I enclose \$12 in this which I hope you will get all right and I will save a little in every letter as long as I have it. I have 90 dollars of the 100 to day that I loaned to the friend. I have nothing more to say this time

hoping you are well from your Son James Livingston

Ps I put 12 dollars in this & his wife will pay the rest to you. Write soon and forget the trouble I made you is my wish You will soon here from me again.

In Camp near Savannah, Ga

Dec 27th 1864

Dear Parents,

I have plenty of time just now & thought to improve it by forming a few lines to you because I know that a letter don't come [illegible] to you. I am still in the Paine Camp & not much to say except our drill and a little fatigue duty. I am in good health and a little work wont hurt me although I am so lazy that I hate to do but as little as I can possibly help That is natural to a soldier I have no news of any importance to tell you- it is dull times here. Christmas is past I hope you had a better dinner than I did but I have no reason to complain I had plenty of of such as is war I hope I will not have any worse while I am in the service. It was just one year yesterday since I enlisted I suppose you remember it as well as me. One year has gone around and I cannot see where it has gone. It seems that the shortest year in my life. The people down this way don't know what winter is we have some frosty nights But not as cold but what we can sleep warm under 2 blankets. I don't think I told you anything about our march to this place in the letters I wrote before this. We had a very easy march and had plenty to eat of what the country afforded plenty of potatoes & fresh pork flour & corn meal & we drew ½ rations from U.S. and had plenty to eat all the time. I wished a good many times that I could send you a mess of sweet potatoes We (the 17th Corp) struck the R.R. at Gordon and from that place we followed the R.R. near it- all the res of the way tearing it & burning it (Sherman's March through Georgia)- every depot we came to was set on fire and many a cotton gin was burned. Sherman is a noted raider he goes in whole hog or none. He is the man to put down this war. I believe where his next move will be I cannot tell but- before a great while he will start for some point. He will keep the stove rolling now since he has got it started, but for want of Space I must give no more of it

From Your Son James Livingston

7 Ps Enclosed you will find 20 dollars which I hope you will receive all strait. That makes \$77 I sent you besides letting Hatch have \$3.

Here we skip ahead to one of Livingstone's last letters. In it he speaks of the troops' reaction about Robert E. Lee and his Army of Northern Virginia's surrender to Ulysses S. Grant. He also speaks sadly about the death of President Lincoln.

Careful readers will note the change from Livingston to Livingstone (with an "e"). This change of spelling occurred sometime in the late 1870s, for reasons unknown to the family!

In Camp near Raleigh N.C.

April 19, 1865

Dear Parents,

I having some spare moments . . . I would improve them in writing a few lines to you. I am but 48 miles farther off here then I was at Goldsboro . . but it took 5 days to march here having taken a round about route.

We got mail yesterday for the first time- time since we have been here we received the intelligence that Grant had followed up Lee and forced him to surrender. We gave three rousing cheers for him that made the woods ring. We started out in the morning of the 15th and had not gone far when we was turned back and was told that Johnston had surrendered. Then there was a general yell made by the troops and came back to the camp. Since we have been in camp it has been rumored that Johnston had not surrendered but everything looked all right to me. I think is- is [illegible] but a private knows very little about such things. I think this [illegible] will not- see any more fighting I hope that peace will be declared and let us home before long. Day before yesterday the news reached us that Abraham Lincoln was assassinated and killed some are inclined to disbelieve it but the majority believe it- and it has cast a gloom over the goodness that we have heard lately. It has caused a bitter feeling among the soldiers toward the South. It was a cruel act and will be long remembered. I hope that the one who done it- will be caught and will get what he deserves. The people in Raleigh appear to be more loyal than most of the people South. As soon as our troops entered the town there was guards now placed around the town to keep everything strait- it seems to me quite a business place they [illegible]. A daily paper called the Progress we have it in camp every day. And it has a great many nice buildings. But none of the cities that I have seen south are not to be compared with cities north. We are having very nice weather and everything looks like Spring the trees are leafing out like they do in north in the month of May. I cannot think of anymore to write that would be of any interest to you so I will quit. I am in good health and hope you are the same.

I am your Son
James Livingstone



**Biographical History of Clark and Jackson Counties Wisconsin
Lewis Publishing Company, Chicago, 1891.**

The subject of this sketch was reared and educated principally at Chicago, and when but twelve years of age was employed as errand boy by T. B. Carter & Co., wholesale and retail dry-goods merchants. In 1857, he came with his father to Jackson County, Wisconsin, where he remained until December 26, 1863. In that year he enlisted at Roaring Creek in the late war as a private, serving in Company F, Twenty fifth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, Fourth Division of the Sixteenth Army Corps. He participated in the battles of Resaca, Dallas, Chattahoochee, Atlanta and Bentonville, North Carolina. He was in all the battles of the regiment, and in 1864 they were 110 days under fire. They were marched through Petersburg into Washington, where they were in the grand review. July 16, 1865, he received his discharge at Louisville, Kentucky.

In the winter of 1865 Mr. Livingstone attended school at Galesville University, and then went home, where he worked on the farm with his father. In 1868 he went to Chicago, where he attended a business college, and in 1869 went to work in the shops of the Illinois Central Railroad, remaining there but a short time. He next returned to his home in Irving, where he now resides. Politically he is a Republican, taking an active part in political matters, and is well informed on all the leading issues of the day. He was Justice of the Peace seven years, and is now serving his third term as Town Clerk, and November 4, 1890, was elected County Clerk of Jackson County by 368 majority. Mr. Livingstone was married October 10, 1878, to Isabella McAdams, who was born in Allegany County, Maryland, April 10, 1857, the daughter of Gilbert and Jean (Thompson) McAdams, both natives of Scotland. They came to this county in 1847, locating in Maryland, and in the spring of 1861 they came to Jackson County, Wisconsin, where they now reside, Mr. and Mrs. Livingstone have had five children, namely: Grace A., Mary E., Margaret E., Bessie, and one who died in infancy.

From James Livingstone's obituary in the Black River Falls newspaper

The passing of Mr. Livingstone takes from our county another of those strong active soldiers of the Civil War whose battles for their land not only saved the nation, but whose vigorous patriotism impelled it to its greatness. Only in future generations will those men receive the credit that is their due, simply because the greatness of their influence is impossible of measurement in their time. They were fighting men in war – and no less fighting men for right and principle after the war. Strenuous in their convictions, espousing right because of right, they never surrendered in any cause in which they enlisted.

Mr. Livingstone was a Republican who had an intense belief in his party and in his country. He was active in town and county councils for many years. Loyal to his party and his nation, he was equally so as a friend.

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

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

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

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Yearly memberships available: Individual (\$40), family (\$50), non-resident (\$25), attending an educational institution (\$20).

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

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

Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for April 7, 2016

Mail your reservations by Monday, April 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 April 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.

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

