

GENERAL ORDERS



The Newsletter of the

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



May 12, 2016

Glenna Schroeder-Lein

“The Soldiers’ Home in Civil War America”

This conflict is one thing I’ve been waiting for. I’m well and strong and young – young enough to go to the front. If I can’t be a soldier, I’ll help soldiers.

Clara Barton

Caring for disabled and injured soldiers and soldiers returning home was a concern all through the American Civil War. Soldiers’ homes were established early on, starting out as hotels for men passing through town. As time passed, the establishments began taking in disabled servicemen. The Philadelphia soldiers’ homes started out offering refreshments to soldiers coming through their area. Women also helped to create disabled soldiers’ homes in Milwaukee, Chicago and Boston. The West Side Soldiers’ Aid Society assisted furloughed and discharged soldiers with meals, medical care, and temporary housing in rented buildings located in downtown Milwaukee. The Boston home closed in 1869, the Chicago home in 1877, and our Milwaukee soldiers’ home turned into a federal home.

During the Civil War the U.S. Sanitary Commission provided Union soldiers “temporary aid and protection – for soldiers in transit, mainly those that were discharged, disabled and furloughed.” By 1865 the Commission operated “18 soldiers’ homes, 11 lodges and 1 rest” in 15 states. The majority of these homes were closed at the end of the war.

Our May speaker, Glenna Schroeder-Lein, will discuss the purpose of the soldiers’ homes and rests and look at how they provided for the needs of soldiers in transit between the field and their homes or other locations. Her talk will look at the development and varying nature of some of these homes and how the civilians met their goals of soldier aid by providing food, lodging, and short-term medical care as the needs of soldiers coming through that location required.

Glenna R. Schroeder-Lein has a passionate interest in several Civil War topics, including an array of topics related to medicine. Glenna has recently retired as manuscripts librarian for the non-Lincoln manuscripts at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois. Her publications include *Lincoln and Medicine*, *The Encyclopedia of Civil War Medicine*, *Confederate Hospitals on the Move: Samuel H. Stout and the Army of Tennessee*, and *Andrew Johnson: A Biographical Companion* with Richard Zuczek.

General Orders No. 5-16

May 2016

IN THIS ISSUE

MCWRT News	page 2
Kenosha Museum	page 3
Coming Events	page 3
From the Field	pages 4-5
Between the Covers	page 5
Wanderings	page 6
Through the Looking Glass	page 7
The Volunteer Spirit	page 8
Even More Civil War News & Events!... ..	page 9
Round Table 2016-2017	page 10
Memorial Day Events	page 10
2015-2016 Board of Directors	page 11
Meeting Reservation Form	page 11
Quartermaster’s Regalia	page 12

May 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, May 9, 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

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

**Check page 10 for the 2016-2017
Milwaukee Civil War Round
Table speaker schedule.**

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.

New Book About Hood's 1864 Tennessee Campaign

New From Southern Illinois University Press

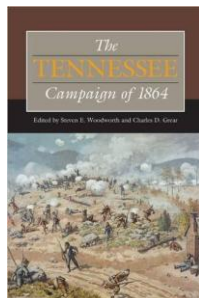
The Tennessee Campaign of 1864

edited by Steven E. Woodworth and Charles D. Grear

In the first-ever anthology on this campaign, historians and scholars take a look at the three-month operation, covering the battles of Allatoona, Spring Hill, and Franklin, as well as examining the destruction of Hood's army at Nashville.

Included in this new volume is the diary of Confederate major general Patrick R. Cleburne, which covers the first phase of the campaign.

T. Michael Parrish, Baylor University, writes in his review: *Thirteen of the best scholars in the field have produced the most complete and compelling coverage and analysis to date. Great commanders, soldiers in the ranks, and ordinary civilians – white and black alike – emerge starkly, illuminating the campaign's enormous desperation, mass carnage, and enduring tragedy.*



280 pages. \$34.50 Cloth, \$34.50 E-book.
Civil War Campaigns in the Heartland series
To order: www.siuupress.com

The Muster Roll: NEW MEMBERS

Ted Barnett & Colleen Sandt	
Ken & Lois Artlip	

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, Grant Johnson, 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 April 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. Newly elected members begin their duties immediately upon election.



In May 1954, Paul S. Brant talked to the Round Table on "The Battle in Missouri."

Harold M. Hyman was our Round Table speaker in May 1964 speaking on "Lincoln's Wartime Education."

"A Look at Lincoln" was the topic of Richard Blake's presentation to our Round Table in May 1974.

Daniel D. Nettesheim spoke to the Round Table in May 1984 about "The Battle of Fredericksburg: Face of Battle."

In May 1994, Robert K. Krick discussed "Lee's Regimental Command Structure."

Bruce Tap spoke to the Round Table in May 2004 on "The Committee on the Conduct of the War: Its Origins, Assumptions and Significance."

"Grant's Canal: The Union's Attempt to Bypass Vicksburg" was the subject of David Bastian's talk in May 2014.

At last year's meeting, Eric Leonard spoke to the Round Table on "Cartel, Code and Consequences at Andersonville."

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Civil War Surgeon Archibald S. Maxwell

Thursday, June 2, 2016, Noon

presenter: George C. Maxwell, Esq.

George C. Maxwell, Esq., great-great-grandson of Dr. Archibald S. Maxwell discusses the part that Dr. Maxwell played in two volunteer medical missions sent by the citizens of Davenport, Iowa to provide medical aid and assistance to wounded and sick soldiers following the Battles of Fort Donelson and Shiloh. He will discuss how the city's citizens organized to support the medical aid missions, what conditions Dr. Maxwell and others reported finding, and what Dr. Maxwell and others did to treat the wounded and sick soldiers.

The Fight at the Barricades

Saturday, June 11, 2016, 1 pm **presenter: Phil Spaugy**

As part of the "Salute to Freedom" weekend, Phil Spaugy will talk about the "Last Stand" of the Iron Brigade at Gettysburg.

A SALUTE TO FREEDOM

Saturday, June 11, 2016 – 10 am – 4 pm

Sunday, June 12, 2016 – 11 am – 3 pm

Celebrate some of the finest Civil War soldiers of the Midwest – the famous Iron Brigade. March, cook and drill with these men and find out what made them truly "giants in battle." **A free family event.**

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.

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.

The 19th Indiana Color Guard at Gettysburg

Friday, June 10, 2016, Noon **presenter: Phil Spaugy**

The 19th Indiana fought alongside the other four regiments of the Iron Brigade at the Battle of Gettysburg on July 1, 1863, losing 72 percent of those engaged. Mr. Spaugy's talk encompasses both the morning and afternoon phases of the action with an emphasis on telling the stories of the men of the 19th who carried the regimental colors on that fateful day.

Train Extravaganza Weekend

Saturday, May 21, 2016 – 10am – 5 pm

Sunday, May 22, 2016 – Noon – 4 pm

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 pm **presenter: Steve Rogstad**

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, and how his unceremonious and clandestine arrival in the nation's capital plagued his image during the nation's greatest crisis.

A Self-Made Man: The Political Life of Abraham Lincoln, 1809-1849

Wednesday, May 25, 2016, 7 pm

presenter: Sidney Blumenthal

Join author Sidney Blumenthal for a presentation and book signing about the first in a multi-volume history of Abraham Lincoln as a political genius—from his obscure beginnings to his presidency, assassination, and the overthrow of his dreams of Reconstruction. This first volume begins with Lincoln's painful childhood when he thought of himself as his father's slave and traces the emergence of the man we recognize as Abraham Lincoln.

Books for sale courtesy of Abraham Lincoln Book Shop



9TH ANNUAL GREAT LAKES CIVIL WAR FORUM

The Iron Brigade

Saturday, September 10, 2016, 9:30 am – 3:30 pm

\$60/\$50 Friends of the Museum

FROM THE FIELD

Near Vicksburg

May 28 1863

To Our Folks

I thought that since yesterday was my birthday that I might as well write to you. I now been right up to the fortifications in the rear of Vicksburg since last Tuesday the 19th and there has been a steady roar of cannon, night and day since that time. But I don't think that it will last much longer, for they are pretty well played out. I think they will try to break out through our lines at our weakest point before long. I was in the rifle pits this morning as our companies have to relieve one another. I will come on again tonight. It is nothing but fun as long as we do not make a charge. Our line is from eight to ten miles long and there is a steady firing the whole length of the line and the Gunboats keep it up on the river. I suppose Capt Bissel will be at Hartford before you get this. You mustn't care if I do not write a very long letter for I am sitting here without any shirt on for I have let a negro take mine to wash, and the sun is pretty warm, you may guess, but it is nothing after you get used to it. When a fellow can go through the bullets that I have, sunshine wont hurt him anyways. It seems that your celebration on taking Richmond did not amount to much but when you hear that Vicksburg is taken, you may drum for it has got to come, then I think that the 29th will have a rest for a while, but may be when we whip the Rebs out down here, we will be sent to Virginia, and then, on to Richmond.

How are all the young married people of Hartford? I send my regards to all them for you think they need it, from what I hear of them. I don't think they will be the happiest couple in the world, give me a soldiering. Our brigade is called the Iron Clads by the General, they do such good fighting.

Well I must stop, by the time you get this we will be in Vicksburg, I think.

Give my love to all.

Lloyd

Vicksburg, Mississippi

June 18th 1863

Cousin Abner

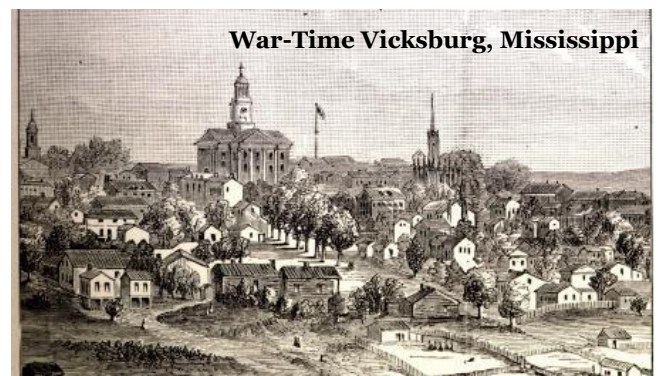
I now take my pen to reply to your letter which was duly received dated June 6th and was glad to hear from you once more. I should have written to you sooner but we have had so much duty to do and other things to attend to that I could not get much time to write until now. We are having a pretty easy time of it now but I don't know how long it will last. I suppose you have heard of the battles that we have fought and won and of our doings generally. I have been in two severe battles and come out of them both unhurt. We marched all night, fought all day at the battle of Port Gibson which was fought May 1st and we were victorious driving the enemy before us as we advanced.

The enemy was strongly posted on a hill and we were on another hill opposite them; but our batteries got into position and shelled them with fearful effect strewing the ground with dead and wounded. We were here ordered into battle and lost 74 in killed and wounded. I fired about 30 rounds at the enemy who were concealed in the canebrake and brush. I was so busy firing that I did not notice when our regt. was ordered away but kept on shooting till the 9th Indiana Regt. came up to drive the enemy from the brush when I went with them firing and charging up the Hill. We routed the enemy and then I was so tired that I did not do anything more so I went in search of my regt. which I found in the rear. Just before a man goes into battle he feels a sort of dread or secret anxiety but just as soon as he gets under fire this feeling is all gone and he goes to shooting at the enemy as though he were shooting ducks. He feels and knows no fear. He feels somewhat excited but his stead is firm and nerves steady. If a man falls dead beside him he don't mind about it but keeps on firing as though nothing had happened. At any rate these were my feelings when in the battle of champion hill which was bloody in the extreme. Our division numbered 5000 when we went into battle and we lost 1350 in about 4 hours in killed and wounded. If they draft at all they will draft to fill up the regts. already in the field and those who are drafted will have their choice of the rgts that they want to go in. At least I think so. It is a great sight to see so many thousands together as there is here. The cannon are roaring about all the time trying to knock down the rebel forts and earthworks. I think we shall take this place before any drafted men get along down here, at least I hope so, but it may take 2 or 3 months to take it. Their works are of the most formidable character and capable of resisting the most furious attack. I must now bid you good bye for want of room. I hope to live long enough to see you once more that this bloody war may soon come to a close is the wish and prayer of your

Affectionate cousin

W.H. Parks

I will try to keep up good courage. My courage has not failed me yet.



Army Letter
Headquarters 29th Wis Reg't,
Vicksburg, August 12, 1863

EDITOR GAZETTE: — Thinking perhaps a few words from this Regiment might be of interest to your many readers especially as Company E hails from Fox Lake and Randolph. I will just note down a few of the important items concerning our history for the last three months. Since leaving our old camping place at Helena, you are pretty well posted as to our movements, and probably know well what we have endeavored to do in our humble way for the Union cause — both in meeting the enemy in open battle, and holding places we have taken; and the western army's last crowning effort in taking the Gibraltar of the Mississippi, driving Johnsons forces from Jackson, &c, &c. We had a short rest at Vicksburg, until August 5th, when we were ordered to Natchez, about 150 miles down the river, arriving there in due time. After stopping there one day we were ordered back into the country, 18 miles to Kingston, where our division (Gen'l Hovey's) were engaged for several days looking after Cotton, concealed in the woods and other places by the rebels. —

We have found about 100,000 bales, and are now busy conveying it into Natchez. Probably this cotton business makes the rebels feel a little blue, but I assure you it was grand sport for us, being a little change of employment from what we had been accustomed for 3 or 4 months past. If Government gets

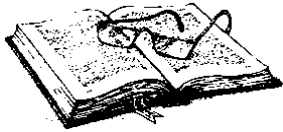
the full benefit of our Cotton confiscation we shall be content, but there may be some speculation among the officers as there was last winter at Helena. We hope for the best under every circumstance.

Peaches, Pears, Apples, and Melons are very plenty, which are well disposed of, I can assure you.

Now a little about Natchez. It is the finest place we have seen since coming to "Dixie." It contains the residences of a great many wealthy Planters, who own large Plantations in the interior, and have done all that wealth and influence could do in supporting this unholy rebellion. The citizens all remain here in the city and everything wears a peaceful appearance. Our troops are not allowed to destroy anything in the city so long as they remain civil and peaceable. Business is beginning to wear its usual aspect, although the stores have very slim stocks of goods on hand. Taking everything into consideration we have been favorably impressed with the way things are progressing in this city that has so long been under Jeff Davis' tyrannical sway. We shall probably leave here soon for Port Hudson — most of our division have already gone and we must follow — obeying orders; doing what we can for the cause of the Union.

Yours for New Orleans.

A Member of Co. E. 29th Reg



BETWEEN THE COVERS

The Maps of Gettysburg: An Atlas of the Gettysburg Campaign, June 3 –July 13, 1863 by Bradley M. Gottfried

This review covers a book I read simultaneously with one of the author's other books, *The Brigades of Gettysburg* (previously reviewed in the *General Orders*). In this book, Mr. Gottfried more or less parallels his book on the brigades. I found the book to be most helpful in reading and understanding his brigades book. I'm not sure the author intended the books to be companion volumes, but having both books at hand enhanced my insights into the troop movements and actions at Gettysburg. In spite of the volume of books written about Gettysburg, I'm not familiar with any that present this complex, three-day battle with this many detailed maps of the action. Mr. Gottfried has organized this book into a thirty map set; the sets vary from between two to twenty maps for a sum total of 144 color maps presented in great detail.

The maps in this book are both small and large scale. The opening sections cover the general theater of operations, hence the need for large scale maps which show the first stages of the campaign providing the reader with the route of march of Lee's army by individual Corps and smaller key units. The response of the Union army is also shown.

When there is combat, the small scale maps come into play. Mr. Gottfried breaks down the maps to show individual regiments and sometimes smaller troop elements as each battle may require. Along with each map is a detailed description of the action; descriptions include the units, personalities, movements and combat. Eye witness quotes enhance this volume and allow the reader to gain a feeling of the intensity of the combat and the confusion of battle.

The great detail provided by Gottfried in his maps became very helpful when I was reading *The Brigades of Gettysburg* and serves as an excellent source to have handy when doing other reading on the Gettysburg Campaign. It provides a visual of unit movements on the field of battle from the very first movement to Pennsylvania to the retreat back to Virginia.

If you are planning a trip to Gettysburg this book is a must to take along as an aid in navigating the battlefield. *The Maps of Gettysburg* is a worthwhile read and investment to any student of the Civil War — be they serious or casual. The book is helpful as a battlefield guide, research aid, and companion book when doing further Gettysburg reading. I suspect that the entire series on maps of Antietam, Bull Run, and Chickamauga would serve a similar purpose to this volume. I guess I'll have to explore the other books in this series to find out.

submitted by Bruce Klem



John Brown's Fort. The Cornfield, the Dunker Church, Bloody Lane, Burnside's Bridge. Culp's Hill, McPherson's Ridge, Oak Hill, Seminary and Cemetery Ridges, Cemetery Hill, Little Round Top, the Devil's Den, the Wheatfield, the Peach Orchard. **Hallowed Ground.**

Students from grades 5-8 and their chaperones traveled east to several sites that were made notable in America's bloodiest four years, the Civil War. After leaving Waucousta Lutheran Grade School in Campbellsport at 3:00 a.m. the group arrived in Gettysburg, both tired from the 13-hour drive and excited for the events to come.

On Monday, April 4 we hopped into our vans again and traveled to Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. We climbed to stand at Jefferson Rock, where Thomas Jefferson gave a pep talk to the Corps of Discovery, more familiarly known as the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Harpers Ferry was the site of John's Brown Raid in 1857. Brown tried to capture the United States Arsenal in town and use the weapons from the armory to arm slaves who would rise in rebellion against the slavocracy of the South. His plans failed miserably. The WLGS group heard John Brown's last words come alive in an impassioned reading by parent Ken Luedke. In 1862 the town again became important as a prelude to the Antietam Campaign. Harpers Ferry fell to superior generalship on the part of Confederate General Stonewall Jackson.

The next stop was in Sharpsburg, Maryland, where America's bloodiest single day in history occurred. Twenty-three thousand Americans in blue and grey became casualties in the rolling hills and woods there. We saw where the Iron Brigade, among the Union army's best fighters, slugged it out in the Cornfield with Texans, Georgians, and boys from Louisiana. After an excellent ranger talk we marched on. The infamous Sunken Road, which earned its nickname Bloody Lane in 1862, was traveled in the light rain that fell like a mother's tears for the carnage that sons endured. In that light rain we reflected on the cost of war and God's plan of salvation in a devotion about a Civil War soldier entitled, "This Fight Ain't Got No Rear." Burnside's Bridge was visited next, and then it was time to head to our hotel, the 1863 Inn of Gettysburg.

Upon our return to Gettysburg our day had not come to an end, but rather to a new phase. Fellow Civil War enthusiasts Nick and Carolyn Ivanoff and Gary and Kathy Rath graciously invited our entire group to the Ivanoff home for a pizza supper and medical discussion. Carolyn shared her vast knowledge of Civil War medicine with a truly interesting presentation, followed by Gary Rath's demonstration of a Civil War "amputation" performed live on student Eli Mumm. "It looks like Eli's dancing days are over," said Surgeon Rath. We offer sincere thanks for their impressive work.

The next three days were spent immersed in the Battle of Gettysburg. Teacher Dave Wege led the group through the first day's fight, which occurred on July 1, 1863. Discussions were held about the fine work done by the western troops of the Iron Brigade. Reenacted was the attack on a railroad cut held by southern veterans where, outnumbered but not outfought, the Wisconsin men captured the flag of the 2nd Mississippi and about 200 rebels. This scene was captured both by the video camera of Sam Smith, Educational Director of the Civil War Trust, and by a veteran driving by. His words paint a picture of one learning objective achieved in this experience. Veteran Charlie Bury and Gettysburg native wrote,

"I thought about this group of young people. They were NOT standing on our flag, they were flying it proudly! They were not denouncing our Country and its history, they were recreating it and learning by it! As tears swelled up in my eyes, I thought maybe, just maybe there are enough young people like this group out there, that appreciated what our Country, and our Flag truly stand for. Maybe, these kids WILL one day restore our Country back to its greatness and restore its values. I really wanted to stop, find out who they were and thank them for taking the time to learn about our Nation's sacrifices. But considering I looked like a lil girl who lost her favorite doll, I decided to drive on. Watching this small group, flying that flag gave me a glimmer of hope for our future. Guess the older I get the easier it is to think to much about things. Hope my man card is not in danger of being suspended."

Next, the story of the collapse of the 11th Corps was shared, along with the tragic tale of Amos Humiston, 146th New York Infantry, who died alone and unidentified with his children's picture in his hands. At the Seminary Ridge Museum our guide Peter Miele said of the kids' attentiveness and interest, "This is the kind of group we dream of having." That night the students gathered quietly in a single line, with the colors of the 6th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry flying proudly. After a moving reading by U.S. Army veteran Robert Rymarkiewicz, students read epitaphs and stories at the graves of soldiers of the 6th who fell on McPherson's Ridge and in the attack on the bloody Railroad Cut.

Historian Garry Adelman of the Civil War Trust and the Center for Civil War Photography enthralled the group with a tour of Gettysburg's action of July 2 and 3. His expertise made history come alive for both kids and adults. We visited the melancholy scene of famous Civil War photos and, using special glasses, saw 3-D images spring off a picture, along with all of their poignant reality. Garry was kind enough to say he was amazed by the group's questions, answers, and behavior during the entire six hours he spent with them. Our final day was spent at the incredible National Park Visitors Center.

The *Best Field Trip Ever* would not have been possible without a generous travel grant provided by the Civil War Trust, along with generous donations by several individuals. Sincere thanks to them, and to our students and chaperones, for an awesome and unforgettable educational experience. Thanks, Garry Adelman, for your unforgettable stories and your passion to share the story of the Gettysburg battlefield. Most of all we thank our Lord for safe travels, wonderful connections to learning, and "chance" meetings that may lead to lasting friendships. To God be all glory!



The Kenosha Civil War Museum has an incredible display focused on the Iron Brigade. With three Wisconsin Volunteer regiments at its core, this unit represented the only all-western brigade in the Army of the Potomac.

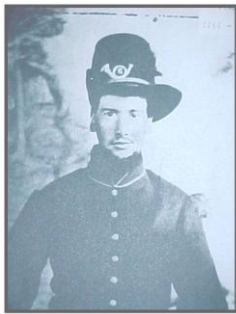
Company E, "Bragg's Rifles," was formed in the Fox River Valley. Named after its colonel, a Fond du Lac lawyer named Edward Bragg, the unit saw action at Brawner's Farm (Groveton), South Mountain, Antietam, and Gettysburg, among others. One member of the Calico Boys (Co. E) was Amos Lefler of the New Cassel (Campbellsport) area. Here is part of his story.

The twenty-six year old hired man must have looked up at the recruiting officer with some trepidation. Here he was, a Canadian citizen until 1856, signing on the line for service with the Wisconsin Volunteers. As he committed to service of the state, a captain named Edward Bragg witnessed his signature.

Amos Lefler was a dark-haired, good-looking man of twenty-six years. He made a living as a hired man, working for a large land-owner named James Odekirk. Just down the road was the farm of a family named Kuter. The Kuters, as it turned out, had a daughter named Frances, and Amos thought she was something special.

The lads who signed on with Captain Bragg were soon on their way to training in Madison. After that training was complete, Lefler and his mates were mustered into service of the United States as Company E of the Sixth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry. The Sixth was brigaded with three other western regiments, the 2nd and 7th from Wisconsin, and the 19th Indiana. Training continued in Washington City.

It was at Brawner's Farm during the opening moves at 2nd Manassas that Lefler first saw action. In a slugfest at dusk, the black-hatted brigade received its baptism of fire when a column of Federals was ambushed by troops under the command of the vaunted Stonewall Jackson. The western boys held their own, giving as good as they received, until ordered from the field. Lefler received a wound in the cheek and was ambulatory, but thirty-seven percent of the westerners were casualties that evening.



Lefler was not in action at Antietam. He was back in the ranks, however, on July 1st, 1863 at Gettysburg. When Colonel Rufus Dawes shouted, "Align on the colors!" and led the 6th toward the bloody railroad cut, Lefler was with Company E. As the inverted "V" of the Union attack slammed powerfully into Joe Davis's Mississippians and North Carolinians, Amos Lefler was knocked out of the ranks with a bullet to the face. This story is vividly recounted in The Bloody Railroad Cut at Gettysburg, "Amos Lefler of Eden was shot in the face and went down, spitting blood and teeth." An official record of his wounding is presented in this fashion:

He received a gunshot wound in the mouth, cutting away part of his lip, and slashing open his left cheek, tearing away a portion of his under jaw and carrying off eight teeth, some of them being the molars of his left side under jaw. The result of which is impediment of speech, difficulty eating and masticating his food, and much pain.

Listed as missing in action, Amos eventually found himself at either the Adams County Courthouse or the Gettysburg railroad station, both hospitals during and after the battle. With as serious a wound as he had suffered, Amos was still considered service-worthy. He transferred to Company B of the 22nd Regiment, Veterans Reserve Corps for the duration of his three-year enlistment, and was discharged from Federal service on the twentieth day of July, 1864.

Amos' dreadful wound at Gettysburg made his life a painful challenge. He himself recalled in his pension application:

That my occupation is that of a farmer and that I depend upon my labor for support. That in consequence of the wound in my face aforesaid my face is disfigured, my teeth are part of them gone, the proper mastication of any food is prevented, my health is impaired, and I suffer much pain about my ear and side of my face and head. My hearing is sometimes materially affected and particularly at and immediately prior to a storm. I suffer pain in my head as aforesaid and am thereby prevented from attending to my usual avocation [and] at such times I work with considerable difficulty and inconvenience.

After his service to his nation, Amos returned home to Fond du Lac County. He and the girl he left behind were united in marriage on May 7, 1865. The Leflers eventually bought land just down the road from Frances' family. They farmed those rolling hills until, like so many other veterans of the Civil War, a pull west to wide open spaces and more acres of land called to them. Amos and Frances raised five children and worked the soil near Exeter, Nebraska until Amos' death on August 21, 1911. Four of the Lefler's adult children were at his bedside when Amos was called home.

Is it any wonder they were known as the Iron Brigade?

THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT

With April, recognized as National Volunteer Month, just passed by, a reflective look at the volunteer spirit is in order. What exactly does it mean to be a volunteer? By what criteria do we define a “volunteer?”

We would all agree that we volunteer by our own volition without being obligated to do so by law, contract or in fulfillment of any job or academic requirement. We also enter into a volunteer state without expecting to be financially rewarded for our actions and time. Finally, volunteer activities, both directly or indirectly, benefit people outside of the immediate family and, in many cases, are in tangent with a specific cause. Volunteering also benefits the individual, giving one a sense of personal satisfaction and a feeling of community.

The American Civil War homefront is filled with inspirational stories of volunteers. It is not difficult to be inspired by the selflessness of these individuals – patriotic, caring and war-weary. One such individual is Anna Marie Ross – a name, I would guess, that is not familiar to many, if any, of you.

In May, 1861, the first of the men responding to Lincoln’s call were passing through Philadelphia on their way to Washington. These “3 Month Men” came to the southern part of the city where a train depot and harbor facilities were located. There were no military posts, hospitals, or supply depots at that time. The men were hungry and unsheltered, sitting on the sidewalks and sleeping on porches. Soon, homemakers were pouring coffee and feeding these men.

Anna recognized a need and, recruiting some friends, formed a committee. At about that same time, William Cooper and his partner H.W. Pearce, owners of a cooperage, decided to use the front room of their shop for the soldiers. Anna, striking a deal with the two men, opened a restaurant and hospital in the cooperage building. From this point on the cooperage ceased operating for the duration of the war; the two men never accepted a penny for the use of their shop.

Anna and her committee kept busy preparing food and drink for the soldiers while Cooper and Pearce took over the collection of much needed supplies. The cooperage now bore the distinguished name of “The Cooper Shop Volunteer Refreshment Saloon.”

On May 27, 1861, in a little over an hour, 780 men from the 8th New York Infantry were fed a full meal of meats, vegetables, bread, coffee, tea and dessert. What did that require? 400-500 pounds of meat, over 100 loaves of bread, bushels of vegetables, pounds of coffee and over 100 pies and cakes. Three days later, a total of 3,862 meals were prepared and served by Anna and company. In June, 14,532 men were fed. July and August had a combined total of 35,907 meals served.

The work Anna and her volunteers faced was exhausting. As fatigue set in and some of the original volunteers took time off to rest and recover, new volunteers were added to the roll.

Tireless Anna now saw a new need. Wounded men were now starting to come in from the Virginia Theatre and they were in need of medical help. Anna cleared the second floor of the cooperage and created a small hospital that opened in November of 1861 with 16 beds. There was no other military hospital in the city at that time. Anna became the principal nurse working around the clock with three other volunteers. The hospital outgrew its original 16 beds and an additional section of the second floor was opened to accommodate 11 more beds.

Anna was not done. She started things rolling for a Soldiers Home. Men were returning from the war disabled, destitute and physically and mentally sick. In February 1862, Anna formed yet another committee with their goal being the establishment of the Cooper Shop Soldiers Home. Anna traveled constantly, drumming up support for the new venture.

In September 1863, a property was deeded to the committee with the grand opening slated for December 23. Unfortunately, Anna would miss the dedication ceremony. Extensive travel and her long hours working at the hospital had taken its toll. Anna suffered a paralyzing stroke and died on the day the Soldiers Home was dedicated.

The Cooper Shop Saloon continued without Anna and would become known by the name the soldiers gave it – The National Restaurant. It would close its doors in December 1865 after feeding the final soldiers returning home. The Soldiers Home, in 1864, became The Soldiers Home of the City of Philadelphia. In 1866 it moved to the Old State Arsenal. It would also serve as a Vocational-Technical School teaching veterans to read, write and use basic math.

On June 15, 1889, after 25 years of service to veterans and their orphans, the Soldiers Home dissolved their corporation noting, “Mission Accomplished” and deeded their treasury, burial lots and memorials in trust to the “Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States.”

So, one may ask, what can one volunteer do? How can one volunteer make a difference? I think that Anna Marie Ross would answer that question: See the need and dive in. Anna did – voluntarily, with no thought of financial reward and for the benefit of the community.

submitted by Donna Agnelly

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

Registrations

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.

MORE CIVIL WAR NEWS

PAMPLIN HISTORICAL PARK

On March 22, 2016, Pamplin Historical Park announced the installation of a compelling exhibit that will remain on permanent display. The new exhibit is housed in the Park's Battlefield Center, and features the very pistol carried on April 2, 1865 by Captain Charles Gould of the 5th Vermont Infantry. Captain Gould is generally credited with being the first Union soldier over the earthworks during the historic attack.

The pistol was acquired this past winter as part of the permanent collection at Pamplin Historical Park. The exhibit opened Saturday, April 2 as part of the activities for the Park's annual Breakthrough Battle Anniversary. All exhibits and special anniversary activities were open to the public and included with Park admission.

Visitors can also see a new monument on the battlefield dedicated to the North Carolina soldiers who opposed the Vermonters on that pivotal day.

Designated as a National Historic Landmark, Pamplin Historical Park & The National Museum of the Civil War Soldier is a 424-acre Civil War campus located in Dinwiddie County, Virginia. The Park has four world-class museums and four antebellum homes. The Park is also the site of The Breakthrough Battlefield of April 2, 1865 and America's premier participatory experience, Civil War Adventure Camp.

For more information call 804-861-2408 or visit www.pamplinpark.org.

2016 CHAMBERSBURG CIVIL WAR SEMINARS & TOURS

Stonewall Jackson in the Valley

May 19-22

The weekend will include tours of Lexington, VA, and Jackson battle sites of 1862 in the Valley. Featuring the following speakers and guides: Ed Bearss, Dr. James "Bud" Robertson, Keven Walker, Jeff Wert, Jerry Holdsworth, and others.

Based in Harrisonburg, VA.

Gettysburg Day 3 & Beyond

July 27-31

With Ed Bearss, Jeff Wert, Carol Reardon, Eric Wittenberg, Wayne Motts, Steven French, and others. Tours of Gettysburg off the beaten path, East Cavalry Field, the Retreat, and more. Based in Chambersburg, PA.

Lincoln at Gettysburg

September 22-25

Featuring Joe Mieczkowski, John Schildt, David T. Dixon, Ed Steers, and others. Includes bus tour following Lincoln's path to giving the Gettysburg Address, sessions on the sixteenth president, and tour of Civil War sites in Harrisburg.

Based in Chambersburg, PA.

Further information can be found at: www.civilwarseminars.org

There is a special Civil War Round Table discount of 10% off when three or more members from the same Round Table register for a complete weekend package.

Questions can be directed to: **Lark Plessinger, Program Coordinator**
717-264-7101 ext, 206

~ CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE NEWS EMAIL NOTIFICATIONS ~

Would you like to receive an email reminder before each meeting? How about an email telling you about a special or upcoming Civil War event in our area? If you are interested in receiving an email reminder/notification please send your email address to Grant Johnson at: grant.johnson@responsory.com

Grant will be creating a database with email reminders set to go out a week before the scheduled event. This is a purely optional choice on each member's part. If you have any questions please talk to Grant at a Round Table meeting or email him at the listed email address.

It's Never Too Early to Plan for Next Year!

MILWAUKEE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE 2016-2017 SPEAKER SCHEDULE

September 8, 2016

Steve Quick
The CSS H.L. Hunley

October 13, 2016

Lance Herdeggen
Nevins-Freeman Award Winner

November 10, 2016

Dave Connon
Iowa Copperheads

December 8, 2016

Bjorn Skaptason
Ambrose Bierce at Shiloh

January 12, 2017

Richard Sommers
Lessons in Leadership in the Petersburg Campaign

February 9, 2017

TBD

March 9, 2017

Paul Kahan
Simon Cameron, Lincoln's First Secretary of War

April 13, 2017

Diane Smith
Command Conflict in the Overland Campaign

May 11, 2017

TBD

June 8, 2017

Donald Sender
Custer and the Little Big Horn Campaign

*Speakers remain subject to change. More
information will follow.*

milwaukeecwrt.org

Events: Memorial Day 2016

HEADSTONE DEDICATION AT FOREST HOME CEMETERY MEMORIAL DAY, MAY 30, 2016 – 10 A.M.

Company F, 29th Infantry United States Colored Troops (USCT) is a Civil War reenactment group that portrays the only all Black Unit from Milwaukee that fought in the Civil War.

On Memorial Day there will be a grave site ceremony for one of the actual members of the original Company F who is buried in Forest Home Cemetery. It came to the Unit's attention that Private William Reed not only lay in an unmarked grave for over a century, but was never afforded proper military honors due an American Serviceman. The group embarked on a campaign to get this original member of the unit, who they portray, recognized with a proper military headstone. The campaign was successful and the headstone will be dedicated with proper military honors on Memorial Day.

Pvt. Reed is buried in Section D, Block 4, Lot 9 just south of Cleveland Avenue. The program honoring this true American Hero is anticipated to be approximately 45-minutes in length.

WOOD NATIONAL CEMETERY MILWAUKEE MEMORIAL DAY, MAY 30, 2016

The annual Wreath Ceremony and Program at Wood National Cemetery will begin at 8:50 a.m. with a pre-ceremony vocal concert by Vintage Mix followed by a band concert by American Legion Band at 9:10 a.m.

The Wreath Ceremony will begin at 9:30 a.m.

151st ANNUAL MILWAUKEE MEMORIAL DAY PARADE Honoring U.S. Marine Corps Veterans May 30, 2016 2 p.m.

The parade begins at 4th & Wisconsin and heads East on Wisconsin Avenue to the War Memorial Center. A ceremony follows the parade at the War Memorial.



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

Name	Office/Position	Term Expires
Van Harl	President	2017
Grant Johnson	Acting First Vice-President/Past President	2018
Thomas Arliskas	Second Vice-President	2016
Paul A. Eilbes	Treasurer/Membership	2016
Terry Arliskas	Secretary	
Donna Agnelly	Editor, <i>General Orders</i>	2016
Mike Benton	Member	2017
Roman Blenski	Quartermaster	2016
Crain Bliwas	Member	2016
A. William Finke	Member	2017
James J. Heinz	Member	2017
Bruce Klem	Member	2018
Daniel Nettesheim	Member	2018
Frank Risler	Program Chair	2018
Tom Thompson	Member	2018
David Wege	Layout, <i>General Orders</i>	2017

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

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

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

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General Orders design & layout by Dave Wege.

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

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

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

Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for May 12, 2016

Mail your reservations by Monday, May 9, 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 May 12, 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
Hooded Sweatshirt in Northern Blue.....	\$35.00
Baseball Hat.....	\$10.00
Blue Brief Case.....	\$25.00
Blue Light-Weight Sweatshirt.....	\$30.00
Blue Izod Polo Shirt.....	\$40.00
Blue Dress Shirt.....	\$40.00
Blue Fleece-Lined Jacket.....	\$60.00
Iron Brigade Pin.....	\$5.00
CWRT Pin.....	\$5.00
Bugle Pin.....	\$5.00
Iron Brigade Medal.....	\$25.00
Red River Medal.....	\$25.00
CWRT 60 Year Medal.....	\$10.00

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.

