

GENERAL ORDERS



The Newsletter of the

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



September 8, 2016

David J. Eicher

Tales of the Civil War High Commands

Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power.
Abraham Lincoln

We are without machinery, without means and threatened by powerful opposition but I do not despond and will not shrink from the task imposed upon me.
Jefferson Davis
February 20, 1861

Students of the Civil War know the commanders and field armies well – Lincoln and Davis, Grant and Lee, Sherman and Jackson. But buried within stories of how Civil War command structures worked are a number of remarkable tales that shed light on how armies in the field functioned and how politicians often quarreled.

As we start a new season, our Round Table welcomes David Eicher as our featured speaker. David will take a close look at the Civil War command structures from both a military and political perspective. He will discuss both the command styles of Lincoln and Davis as well as those individuals commanding in the field.

I cannot trust a man to control others who cannot control himself. Robert E. Lee

The art of war is simple enough. Find out where your enemy is. Get at him as soon as you can. Strike him as hard as you can, and keep moving on. Ulysses S. Grant

David J. Eicher is a longstanding member of the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table. He has written eight books on the Civil War including *Dixie Betrayed* (Little, Brown), *The Longest Night* (Simon & Schuster), *Civil War High Command* (Stanford University Press), and *The Civil War Books* (University of Illinois Press).

Eicher was appointed by then Wisconsin Governor James Doyle to serve on the state's Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission in 2009.

In 2013, Eicher donated his Civil War library of more than 4,000 volumes, collected since 1982, to the Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library and Ulysses S. Grant Association at Mississippi State University.



The annual membership renewal form can be found in this issue. Please complete the form and return it as soon as possible. By renewing right away, using the postage-paid envelope, you will be saving the Round Table the cost of mailing reminder notices. The money we save can be used for the excellent programming provided by your Milwaukee Civil War Round Table! Thanks for being a member of the organization that has been called "the best kept secret in Wisconsin!"

General Orders No. 9-16

September 2016

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September 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, September 5, 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.

2016-2017 Speaker Schedule

Find the speaker schedule on page 5.

milwaukeecwrt.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.

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.

Wade House Civil War Weekend

This annual event brings the history of the American Civil War to life. Held the last weekend in September, Civil War Weekend is two action-filled days of battles, drills, medical care, period music and food, and general immersion into the period. Hundreds of re-enactors share their talents to depict different scenarios of the 1860s.

Programs are designed for both children and adults. Interact, explore, and engage presenters to broaden your understanding of the times.

The 26th annual Civil War Weekend will be held at the Wade House in Greenbush on September 24-25.

Adults \$14 **Students/Seniors** (65 & older) \$12
Children (5-17) \$7 (children under 5 are free)
Family (up to two adults and two or more children 5-17) \$38



The Muster Roll: NEW MEMBERS

MUSTER ROLL - CONSOLIDATED LIST of all persons of Class 11, subject to the military duty in the...									
NAME	RESIDENCE	PLACE OF BIRTH	DATE OF BIRTH	DATE OF DEATH	DATE OF BURIAL	DATE OF INTERMENT	DATE OF EXHUMATION	DATE OF REINTERMENT	REMARKS
Todd Michalek									
Nicole Wood									

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, 2015 through June, 2016.

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, Laura Rinaldi, John Rodahl, Chet Rohn, Jean Schwonek WE Energies Foundation (Gift Match) Dan Tanty, Gil Vraney, Fred Wendorf



Mound Battery – Fort Fisher
from the Official Records



In September 1956, Gilbert G. Govan talked to the Round Table on "The Campaign for Atlanta."

Jim Dan Hill was our Round Table speaker in September 1966, speaking on "The Dunning Interpretation of Reconstruction."

"Jeff Davis: His Flight and Capture" was the topic of John Patrick Hunter's presentation to the Round Table in September 1976.

Dick Martin spoke to the Round Table in September 1986, about "The Bohemians and the Specials: Civil War Reporters and Artists."

In September 1996, Stephen Wise discussed "The Battle of Charleston" at the Round Table meeting.

"The American Brutus, John Wilkes Booth" was the topic of Mike Kaufman's talk to the Round Table in September 2006.

At last year's September meeting, our Round Table speaker was Dale Phillips who spoke about "The Capture of New Orleans."

Other Kenosha Civil War Museum Events

The Evolution of Grant's Leadership

Wednesday, September 21 and 28, 2016, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Instructor: Dan Nettesheim

A unique aspect of Grant's leadership is that it evolved as he grew from organizing a company of volunteers in 1861 to Commanding General of all federal armies during the final year of the war. Using several generalship models, this study will examine the evolution and highlight the strengths and weaknesses as Grant progressed through the war.

\$20 Members/\$25 Non-Members

Patrick Cleburne – Hardee's Irish Wolfhound

Sunday, October 2, 2016, 1 p.m.

Presenter: David Wege

David Wege's program considers Confederate General Patrick Cleburne during the 1864 Tennessee Campaign that ultimately claimed his life at the Battle of Franklin. The program reviews Cleburne's record as a commander, the dynamics between Cleburne and General Hood, and the aftermath of the Battle of Franklin.

milwaukeeecwrt.org

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.

Slavery, Secession, and the Voyage of the *Lady Elgin* Friday, September 9, 2016, Noon

Presenter: Brian Kangas

The program focuses on Milwaukee on the eve of the election of 1860 highlighting the conflict between Wisconsin's Radical Republicans, led by Governor Alexander Randall and Irish Democrats in Milwaukee's Third Ward.

My Little Red Canoe

Friday, October 14, 2016, Noon

Presenter: Lia Nicine McCoo and Keryn Moriyah

Join these Civil War Song Bards for both music and back story of the compelling, beautiful, and whimsical songs which drew them into music of the Civil War era.

9th Annual Great Lakes Civil War Forum

Heroes Tried and True: The Iron Brigade

Saturday, September 10, 2016, Registration 8:30-9:30 a.m.

\$50 Members/\$60 Non-Members

Speakers Include:

Eric Mink: Molding a Legend: The Iron Brigade and the Summer 1862 Occupation of Fredericksburg, Va.

Tom Clemens: Black Hats Memories of Antietam

Lance Herdegen: Four Long Hours

James Hibbard: Iron Brigade Chaplain: The Story of Samuel and Catharine Eaton



Nashville and Middle Tennessee Civil War Sites

October 23-26, 2016

The Civil War Museum is sponsoring a motor coach tour of the principle Civil War sites of Nashville and Middle Tennessee. Expert guides will take the group to Fort Donelson, Stones River National Battlefield Park, Franklin, and Civil War sites within the city limits of Nashville.

Price includes all hotel accommodations, meals, motor coaches, guides and park fees.

To reserve a spot, call the Museum at 262-653-4141.





**Fourteenth Annual Meeting
Reunion Association of the 29th Wisconsin Regiment
Letters From Comrades**

Turin, Iowa, May 14, 1899

My Dear Comrade:

It is with regret that I cannot attend the reunion of the old 29th Regiment, as I should so like to meet once more with the old boys and other friends that will be in Milwaukee, but it seems that I cannot go at this time of the year with the crops not in yet and I live so far away that it would take more time than I could spare.

I have to report the death of Sergeant John Dingwall, at Onawa, some time ago.

Enclosed find fifty cents to help keep up the reunion association.

I hope you will have a good time and remember the boys that can't get there.

With best wishes to all, I am,

Your friend and comrade,
S.S. DORWALD

P.S.— Please send me the report and oblige.

De Pere, Wis., May 10, 1899

Mr. John Laflin:

Dear Comrade: Another year has passed and no doubt "taps" has been sounded for some of our comrades by the "Grand Commander in Chief," for we are no longer young – in regard to myself I must say, that providence has dealt kindly by me during the year past. I have a good home and good care and "Uncle Sam" provides me with enough to support me comfortably, although, as I stated to you in my last, I am laid on my bed all the time and have to be helped like a child; still I have much to be thankful for. I regret very much that I cannot meet with you at the "Reunion," but my heart will be with you and wish you all a God speed and many returns of the same to the old boys, and it is my earnest wish that God will bless all in our declining years. Good bye, and may "God be with you till you meet again."

From Comrade

WM. J. FITCH

Co. B, 29th Wis. Vol.

New London Wis., May 15, 1899

John W. Laflin, Esq.

Milwaukee, Wis.

Dear Comrade: When I read your circular letter of April 10th I felt sure that it would be possible for me once more to meet with the survivors of the 29th this year who were able to attend the gathering at Milwaukee.

I regret very much that business engagements will compel me to forego the pleasure which I anticipated at this reunion, but such is the case, and I must content myself with the hope that the gathering will be largely attended and that those who are there may enjoy the meeting of our comrades.

Tomorrow is the 36th anniversary of the warm reception which our regiment received from our friends, the enemy, at Champion Hill, Miss. Many of our comrades have answered the long roll since then, and those of us who remain are growing old and gray, but I trust are not losing our interest in the welfare of such as have been spared. I hope to be remembered to those who are with you upon this occasion, and especially to such as represent Co F. May health and prosperity attend one and all, and may they be permitted to enjoy many gatherings of the regiment.

Some of the members of the 29th will recall Brig. Gen. Lloyd Wheaton, who was Major of the 8th Ill. Vol. Inf., and was with us much of the time during the last year of our service. He is now Colonel of the 20th U.S. Inf., and Brig. Gen'l of Vols., doing must excellent service at Manila with Gen. McArthur. He was an excellent officer in the volunteer service when we knew him, and has added fresh laurels to his well earned reputation as a true soldier and patriot.

Since the last reunion of the 29th I have changed my residence from Colorado to New London, Wis., where I am now associated with Col. G.T. Thorn in the practice of law. I shall be very glad to renew my acquaintance with any of my comrades who may find time to write me.

Again wishing you a very pleasant reunion, I remain,

Very truly yours,

CHAS. A. HOLMES

Co. F

**Report of the Proceedings
14th Annual Reunion
TO OUR COMRADES**

Long embalmed in dusty silence,
Shrouded with the rust of years,
Dear old comrade, here I pledge you,
In a brimming cup of tears.
Vacant places, Vanished faces.
From the shadows speak to me:
Boyish lips now mute forever,
Hands estranged that I may never
Clasp save in eternity.
With your song have passed away
Boyhood's wealth of lusty treasure,
Sunny hours of careless pleasure;
And in my heart, grown old in sorrow,
Marches to a sadder measure:
You and I have had our day.

MILWAUKEE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE 2016-2017 SPEAKER SCHEDULE

September 8, 2016

David Eicher
Tales of the Civil War High Commands

October 13, 2016

Lance Herdegen - Nevins-Freeman Award Winner
"And the baby had red hair." Music of the Iron Brigade

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

Bob O'Neill
Stuart's Christmas Raid of 1862

March 9, 2017

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

April 20, 2017

Diane Smith
Command Conflict in the Overland Campaign

May 11, 2017

Reverend Robert Miller
Faith of the Fathers

June 8, 2017

Donald Sender
Untold Facts of the Custer Debacle

Speakers remain subject to change.

Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.

2016 – 2017 Board of Directors

Name	Office/Position	Term Expires
Donna Agnelly	Editor, General Orders	2019
Thomas Arliskas	First Vice President	2019
Terry Arliskas	Secretary	
Michael K. Benton	Second Vice President	2017
Roman Blenski	Quartermaster	2019
Crain Bliwas	Member	2019
Paul A. Eilbes	Treasurer/Membership	2019
A. William Finke	Member	2017
Van Harl	President	2017
James J. Heinz	Member	2017
Grant Johnson	Past President	2018
Bruce Klem	Member	2018
Daniel Nettesheim	Member	2018
Frank Risler	Program Chair	2018
Tom Thompson	Member	2017
David Wege	Layout, General Orders	2018

~ 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.

WOOD NATIONAL CEMETERY PROJECT

Wood National Cemetery in Milwaukee has an estimated 6,000 Civil War veterans, according to a year-long research project by an official of Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

The project, now in its concluding stages, was conducted by Tom Mueller, a long-time writer who has written four books about those who made the Ultimate Sacrifice. He is the Wisconsin graves registration officer for the Sons and served two years as commander of the C.K. Pier Badger Camp #1 of Milwaukee.

Until last fall, the graves database of the Sons had what seemed like a huge total of 2,100 listings for Wood, submitted by a wide variety of history fans over the years. Mueller began his project in September after coming across several more grave listings while doing work with soldiers from his home in Oak Creek, and he wondered how many others there could be.

Now he knows: He had raised the Wood total to nearly 6,000 as of late summer.

The Sons database is designed to help curious relatives get the basics about their ancestor and to assist researchers in many ways. See it at: <http://www.suvcwdb.org>.

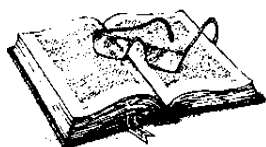
Mueller has examined each burial between the cemetery's start in 1871 up to 1943, using multiple databases. He believes the last Civil War burial there was for Pvt. Henry D. Vaughn, who died Feb. 18, 1941, at the age of 94 or 95. Vaughn was a private in Company E of the 12th Wisconsin Infantry and was wounded at Kennesaw, Ga., in the summer of 1864. He was from the Town of Dellona in Sauk County and was mustered in on January 15, 1864.

Mueller also checked Wood burials for 1942 and 1943 but found no further Civil War vets. Previous research by the Sons had found that the last death of such a veteran in Milwaukee County was in 1942 (that man is buried at Forest Home Cemetery).

Wood is by far the largest cemetery in Wisconsin for Civil War veterans, because one of the nation's first Soldiers Homes was opened in Milwaukee in 1867. Mueller says about 25 percent of the Civil War burials served in Wisconsin units; the next-largest are Illinois with 16 percent and New York with 15 percent.

Go to his author website for the continuing count – <http://warbooks.webs.com/> The site has a wide variety of other research from the Civil War and other wars.

submitted by Tom Mueller



BETWEEN THE COVERS

The Widow of the South

by Robert Hicks

The subject of this book review deals with a story based around the Battle of Franklin. *The Widow of the South* is a historical novel. The book was a Kenosha Civil War Museum Media Club selection and was chosen to help provide a background for the upcoming trip the museum is sponsoring this October. The trip will include visits to Stones River, Franklin, Fort Donelson and Nashville. The tour will explore each of these Civil War battle sites.

This is the story of a woman, Carrie McGavock, who is much troubled by the loss of three of her five children. Carrie's tremendous loss has pushed her into her own private world of grief in which she has pretty much shut out the rest of the world around her. She remains in her room in her plantation house Carnton. It is into this setting that the Civil War pays a most disturbing visit accompanied by all the horrors of war. The novel has a firm basis in the Battle of Franklin and the fact that Carnton becomes a rebel hospital after the battle. The heroine is a real person. After the battle, the soldiers who succumb to death at the hospital eventually become interred in a cemetery that Carrie sets up in the area of her family cemetery on the plantation. Ultimately, she expands the grounds to hold approximately 1,500 Confederate dead. The dead include those who died at Carnton as well as a large number from the battlefield itself.

The novel also ties in some other local residents and draws some parallels to other real life characters from the Franklin area. One of the main characters is a Southern soldier, Sergeant Zachariah Cashwell, who is wounded and ends up at the Carnton hospital. Cashwell develops a relationship with Carrie that continues long after the war. Carrie is snapped out of her funk by the commandeering of her house for use as a hospital by General Forrest; she is at first a reluctant nurse and gradually shifts into a higher gear to take charge of the hospital. A couple of Union soldiers play a role in this story but it is hard to say whether or not they are based on real persons.

Carrie eventually develops real feelings for the soldiers under her care; these intense feelings carry over to the remains of the dead who are buried on the battlefield itself. She leads the charge to protect the remains of those soldiers when the land owner decides he is going to replant and plow up the field that contains the graves of the dead. Carrie eventually wins over the land owner, Mr. Baylor, whose character seems to be based to some degree on the head of the Carter family. Another character, who calls himself Cotton Gin, seems to be based on Mr. Carter's son who dies in the battle on Carter land.

All in all I would recommend this book to anyone who has an interest in learning more about the Battle of Franklin. I know when my wife and I visited Franklin a few years ago, we heard about Carnton but chose not to make a visit there. After reading this book I know we will make sure to visit Carnton during our trip in October with the museum tour. The basic story line does follow what happened during the fight and the aftermath. I'm not sure Carrie McGavock was quite as she was portrayed in the book and I will have to explore that situation in a little more depth. I found this to be a relatively quick easy read if somewhat disjointed in the author's approach in dealing with the story flow and characters.

Personally, I think that Jeff Shaara does a better job with historical novels than Mr. Hicks does with this novel. I would give this, perhaps, a 3-star rating compared to 5 stars for Mr. Shaara.

submitted by Bruce Klem



Big guns were more than a match for the finest brick and mortar seacoast fortifications of the Civil War. The rifled cannon employed by the United States Navy devastated walls that just a few years earlier were considered the finest of defensive engineering marvels. To combat Union firepower, Confederate engineers turned to a simple solution. In order to protect valuable seaports, they built massive earthworks composed mainly of sand. These sand “Goliaths” absorbed the incoming shells with much less damage and were easily repaired by soldiers wielding shovels and wheelbarrows. Fort Fisher, built to protect the Confederacy’s most important remaining port for blockade runners, was one such fortress.

At the opening of the Civil War, the Confederate States took control of a neck of land that commanded the mouth of the Cape Fear River in North Carolina. There engineers used over five hundred free and enslaved African Americans, along with Confederate soldiers, to construct what became the largest and arguably the most important earthworks in the South. Invoking the name of the Biblical Philistine giant, the “Goliath of the Confederacy” was constructed to guard the port of Wilmington. Also known as the “Gibraltar of the Confederacy,” by 1865 Fort Fisher protected the last remaining overseas supply route for Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia. When Fort Fisher fell after a massive Federal assault on January 15, 1865, the fate of the Confederacy was sealed.

In spite of its strategic location, the neck of land near Wilmington was nothing more than a few weak batteries boasting less than two dozen guns. That all changed with the arrival of Colonel William Lamb in July of 1862. Lamb recognized the importance of Fort Fisher to not only the protection of Wilmington but also to the survival of the Confederacy. The fort was inspired by the Malakoff Tower on the Crimean Peninsula near Sevastopol, Russia. Fisher’s most prominent features were huge mounds of sand, forty-five and sixty feet in height, that dominated seaward approaches to the fort. The seaward facing side of the defenses consisted of a series of twelve-foot-high batteries holding 22 guns. The land face held 25 guns distributed among fifteen 32-foot-high mounds with interior rooms used as bombproofs. The land side of the fort was further protected by a nine-foot-high palisade fence.

Fort Fisher’s design and defenses were tested twice during the war. The first attempt was made in December 1864. After two days of futility, Union commanders determined that the fort could not be taken by assault and withdrew. A second attempt to reduce the fort was made in January 1865. A tremendous artillery bombardment pounded the defenders for two days. On January 15, more than 3,300 Federals attacked Fisher’s land face. With Rebel reinforcements available in nearby Wilmington, Fort Fisher was left to her fate. General Braxton Bragg was simply too confident of the invulnerability of his charge’s earthworks. After several hours of fierce hand-to-hand combat, Fort Fisher fell.

Much of Fort Fisher has been swallowed by the Atlantic Ocean. The walls that once defied Union ships are buried fifty to one hundred yards out in the salt water. However, visitors to the fort still have much to see and enjoy. The remains of the fort’s land face are still quite impressive. They still give one a very clear idea of what made this fortress such a tough nut for the Union to crack. A reconstruction of one of the fifteen land batteries contains a reproduction 32-pounder seacoast gun. A walk shaded by gnarled oaks takes the visitor past remaining earthworks and through a reconstructed palisade. Guided tours tell the story of Fort Fisher, the blockade runners she protected, and the men who garrisoned this important post.

If one wants to know the story of the fighting at Fort Fisher, Rod Gragg’s *Confederate Goliath* gives great details about the two fights for the fort and the unique personalities engaged there. For a broader picture of the campaign to take the South’s last important seaport, read Chris Fonvielle’s *Last Rays of Departing Hope: The Wilmington Campaign*. Both books are very readable and do justice to a forgotten saga of the Civil War.

submitted by Dave Wege

Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for September 8, 2016

Mail your reservations by Monday, September 5, 2016 to:

Paul Eilbes

1809 Washington Ave

Cedarburg, WI 53012-9730

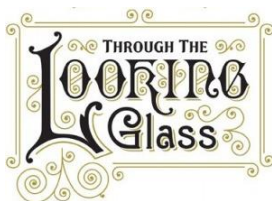
ALSO, call in reservations to: Paul Eilbes (262) 376-0568

peilbes@gmail.com

Enclosed is \$ _____ (meal price \$30.00 per person) for _____ reservations for September 8, 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 _____



Through the Looking Glass features are intended to tell the stories of common folks of the Civil War, whether they are civilians or military personnel. If you have access to the story of an ordinary Wisconsin citizen of this war-torn era, and are willing to share it with our Round Table, please consider submitting it to Donna Agnelly, editor of our General Orders. Thank you!

The Steinway Family and the New York Civil War Draft Riot

In 1863, as the Civil War continued, enlistments were down, and battlefield attrition continued to climb along with the loss of life from disease. On March 3, 1863 Congress passed the Enrollment Act; adult males were now subject to “the draft.” In July, news of Gettysburg was spreading across the country and many were starting to speak out against the draft and against the \$300 substitute clause allowing drafted men to hire another to take their place. In northern cities, particularly in communities with a high percentage of working class and immigrant population, people were starting to agitate against the war and against the draft.

In New York City, William Steinway and his brother, Charles, of the Steinway Piano family, were first-hand observers of the unrest and result of the riot. July 13 would see city officials drawing the first numbers for the draft lottery at the Ninth District Provost Marshal’s office. While the lottery was taking place, 500 plus New Yorkers were demonstrating – the demonstration would turn into an ugly, violent mob.

William Steinway would write in his dairy on this day:

Terrible excitement throughout the City, resistance to the draft. Rows of buildings on Third Avenue burning down...About 5 p.m. they appear before our factory. Charles (William’s brother) speaks to them and with the aid of Rev. Rather Mahon they draw off towards Yorkville where late in the eve many buildings are fired...

The riot would spread across the city, bars refusing to sell liquor were burned, police stations and the mayor’s home were attacked, African Americans were beaten and lynched and the Colored Orphan Asylum was destroyed.

On July 14, William noted that “*All business in the upper part of the City is suspended. Negroes chased everywhere & killed when caught.*”

The Steinways were a staunch Union family. Albert, William’s younger brother, was a lieutenant in the Fifth Regiment of the New York Infantry National Guard. Charles, another brother, was Paymaster of the Fifth Regiment. William feared that the protesters would target his family and business. The Steinway & Sons piano factory stood just one block away from Lexington Avenue – an area that saw many buildings set on fire during the riot.

Charles Steinway would meet with some of the rioters in his attempt to save the factory. He gave the ringleaders of the mob money and a check as a way of bribing them to leave the factory unharmed; between the money given and the added presence of Father Mahon, Steinway was successful in his effort to save the factory.

For the Steinway family, the five days in July, 1863 were a time of fear and stress. The family was in great fear that their support for the Union would bring death knocking at their door. The Fifth New York Volunteers, now in the city, had left their knapsacks in the basement of the Steinway store. William feared that this would be seen as a sign of support for the Union and would make them a target for the mob.

As the riot wound down, William would note, on July 19, “*City profoundly quiet.*” The family had survived the crisis intact and unharmed.

Charles Steinway would pass away from typhus on March 21, 1865 at his family home in Brunswick, Germany.

Albert Steinway mustered out of the Fifth Regiment on July 22, 1863. Later, in the war, he became a brigadier general on the staff of Governor John Hoffman. He continued to be active in the military after the war. At the time of his death on May 14, 1877, at the age of 36, he was the youngest member of his family’s firm and held several patents for piano inventions.

William Steinway oversaw the expansion and growth of Steinway & Sons. Later in life, he served on New York City’s Rapid Transit Commission, was its chairman for a while, and helped lay the blueprint for what would become the city subway system. William would pass away at the age of 61 from typhus. His diaries now reside in the Smithsonian Archives Center donated to the museum by his grandson, Henry Z. Steinway.

Steinway pianos, long noted for their excellence, are still being produced in New York and Hamburg.

Savas Beatie is the Recipient of Four Prestigious Book Awards for 2015

El Dorado Hills, California – June 27, 2016

Savas Beatie, the region's prominent independent book publisher has been notified that three of its titles and one of its book series are the recipients of prestigious awards.

Spies, Scouts, and Secrets in the Gettysburg Campaign: How the Critical Role of Intelligence Impacted the Outcome of Lee's Invasion of the North, June-July 1863, by Thomas J. Ryan, is the recipient of the Bachelder-Coddington Literary Award for the best book published on Gettysburg (awarded by the Robert E. Lee Civil War Round Table of Central New Jersey). Significantly, for the first time in the award's history, every finalist title was from a single publisher: Savas Beatie.

Fighting for General Lee: Confederate General Rufus Barringer and the North Carolina Cavalry Brigade, by Sheridan R. Barringer, is the recipient of the Douglas Southall Freeman History Award "for the best published book of high merit in the field of Southern history" (awarded by the Military Order of the Stars and Bars).

The Chickamauga Campaign – Glory or the Grave, by David A. Powell, is the recipient of the Richard Barksdale Harwell Book Award for the best Civil War book of the year (awarded by the Atlanta Civil War Round Table). Mr. Powell is the first author to win the award twice.

The Emerging Civil War Series, Chris Mackowski (series editor) and Kris White (series historian), is the recipient of the Army Historical Foundation's Lt. Gen. Richard G. Trefry Award, which honors books or a series of books that deserve special recognition for their contribution to the literature on the U.S. Army.

"I cannot tell you how pleased and humbled we all are by these awards," explained Managing Director Theodore P. Savas. "These authors all work hard, labor in solitude, and hope others will read and enjoy their work. This is confirmation of their individual excellence and dedication to scholarship."

About Savas Beatie: Savas Beatie is a leading independent military and general history publishing company with distribution worldwide. Read more about all of our books at www.SavasBeatie.com

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How Do We "Grow" the Civil War?

Tuesday, June 21, 2016

On June 21, 2016, Ted Savas, Savas Beatie publications, posted a new article on his blog. The blog is an off-shoot of 2 interviews he recently gave, one to a national magazine and the other a popular history blog. The article is reprinted here, in its entirety, with his permission.

As one of the great lyricists of all time wrote:

"He's not busy being born is busy dying"

-Bob Dylan, "It's Alright Ma (I'm Only Bleeding)"

I am hip-deep in this business, and see it from every angle and have for decades. It is obvious that the average age of conference attendees, readers, and so forth is getting older. At least some of this is our own fault.

My approach to life, regardless of the issue, is to try and find the route to success over a blockage, around it, through it, or under it. There is always a way.

And WE (all of us) hold the solution in our hands, sort of like Dorothy not knowing she has all this power, and only has to click her heels together. Let's all do it together.

How many of you reading this know folks younger than you? Answer: All of you.

How many of you have given some of the best prospects a book to read and strong encouragement to do so? The number of hands just fell to nearly zero.

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BOOKS

We created and published Mark Hughes' *Civil War Handbook* to make the study of the war easier and more accessible than beginning with a more expensive and difficult to understand and study like, say David Powell's 796-page battle studies on Chickamauga.

Hughes' *Civil War Handbook* is heavily illustrated, and the short sections and photos include detailed captions and various galleries, lists, charts, tables, etc. to explore many areas of the war (infantry, navy, the various theaters, civilians, hospitals, artillery, battles, etc.) Most of the war, in some fashion, is covered, albeit lightly, but it invites readers to wade shoe top-deep into the subject, discover what triggers a special interest, and then start digging from there. And boy has it been successful.

The books in the Emerging Civil War Series are more focused (Gettysburg, Fredericksburg, Wilderness etc.), inexpensively priced, jammed with photos and maps, well-written, and include a simple touring section at the back. Each is a PERFECT entry point for younger or less experienced readers of any age. They are a couple levels deeper than Hughes' handbook, but still very accessible, with enough meat and heft to satisfy even experienced readers of the Civil War (as we hear all the time).

Why are these titles important?

They grow the Civil War, which essentially is no longer taught in American schools. That, in and of itself is a crime, especially given all the crap they teach today instead. But I digress.

What do we do?

I strongly encourage you to give these titles as gifts to nephews, nieces, grand kids, neighbors, employees, their kids, etc. If you don't want to buy another copy, that's okay – read yours and pass it along and encourage someone else to get the virus.

If you want to buy in bulk to give as gifts, give us a call and we will work something out with you to make it as affordable as possible.

If you have a business, it is also likely a tax write-off.

This strategy works!

We have many new customers who began their journey with the *Civil War Handbook* or an ECW title picked up at a battlefield bookstore or received it as a gift. These new readers are now on our mailing list, and they are adding new titles to their library and visiting more battlefields.

Isn't that what we all want?

I always have several copies of Hughes' *Civil War Handbook* with me at home and office, and I hand them out like candy. I have even done that with Shaara's *Killer Angels* (a novel on Gettysburg) for some adults.

Do you? Can you? Will you?

Recently, my newly retired and very well educated step brother admitted he knew almost nothing about the Civil War, and that he wanted one book to get a feeling for "the whole thing." I recommended Shelby Foote's massive, but very readable *The Civil War, A Narrative* trilogy. Tom is now finishing vol. 2 – and LOVING IT. He found that he has a deep interest in the Western Theater, wants to visit Shiloh and Vicksburg. He also wants to know what to read next. Without my encouragement and suggestions, none of this would have happened. He is now HOOKED.

ROUND TABLES

I am at heart a marketing guy. It drives me nuts to watch RT's wring their collective hands about the age of their membership. When I ask what they are doing to bring in new members – all I usually hear is crickets.

No one is going to **FIND YOU** if you don't have a Black Box sending out signals that say "**COME JOIN US!**" You have to find them or make it a lot easier to find you.

Today, the best and easiest and most cost-effective way is to use Meetup. (www.meetup.com)

Get on there and get a Round Table page, make it exciting etc. Announce your meetings. People will find you and you will get new members.

It. Is. Easy.

Continued on page 11.

BE FUN: Now...are your meetings even remotely interesting? I have attended groups around the country, and some of them are so boring I would rather have my eyes scratched out by an irate cat than suffer through another 90 minutes of time I will never get back.

WHERE DO YOU MEET? Do you meet in a bright, cheery place with food and drink, or a dark dingy small room in the back of NoOneGoesHere Grill that smells like an old man's coat you found in an alley?

RAISE MONEY. Make sure you have raffles to raise money for a cause. Do something important to be important. (The San Jose Group I founded with Dave Woodbury in my living room has probably raised about \$10,000 over the years for battlefield preservation.)

WHO IS YOUR BOOK REVIEWER? Do you have a book reviewer on staff? What? No?! Why the heck not? That reviewer (credible, articulate, and knowledgeable – not an old person with a stained shirt who mumbles through his false teeth), should bring in 2-3 NEW titles each meeting, hold them up, and talk about each book for a minute or two, and then pass them around so others can see them. Touch and connection to the ongoing CW world is important.

GIVE BOOKS AWAY TO BRING YOUNGER PEOPLE IN: If you want to buy in bulk (Say 6 or more) to give as gifts, give us a call and we will work something out with you to make it as affordable as possible.

LIBRARY INSERTS: Go to local libraries and slip pieces of paper inside the popular Civil War books with your name, meeting times, and contact info! Don't ask permission. Just do it. We got several members that way.

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING TO DO: Stop using boring speakers as "placeholders" at your meetings because you can't find someone else. That is a lazy excuse and I don't like excuses. I like results. A boring speaker who reads his talk and cannot relate and engage an audience is the **fastest way** to drive new folks away.

Work hard to bring in good speakers! Share them and the costs with other RTs, hit the local colleges and ask history profs to come and speak.

PANEL DISCUSSIONS: When you have months you can't fill with a decent presenter, organize a panel discussion – but put your BEST folks on it and then pick a good topic. Show a clip of a movie (Glory, Gettysburg, etc.) and open that up to debate at another meeting. Have the attendees read a relatively short book and two months later make that the subject of the panel discussion.

As you can see, you don't have to do the same old, same old, every meeting because you always have.

Those who stand in the way of making an organization better are the kiss of death. I guarantee you folks in your RT will throw up roadblocks. **Ignore these naysayers.** I deal with it every day. I have dealt with them all my life (you can't play classical piano; you can't play in a rock band; you can't go to law school; you will never get published; you can't start a publishing company on the Civil War from California, etc.) Smile and push past and get it done. Work with the "get it done" folks.

If you are not growing, you are dying. But you are CHOOSING to die. I choose to live and thrive.

Be active, be encouraging, be creative, and PLAY A ROLE. Look at everyone you meet as a new Civil War reader and enthusiast.

GROW THE CIVIL WAR. Onward.

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

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

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

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

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

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

