

# GENERAL ORDERS



The Newsletter of the

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



March 9, 2017

Paul Kahan, Ph.D.

## **Simon Cameron: Lincoln's First Secretary of War**

*An honest politician is one who, when he is bought, will stay bought.*

*A man who makes no enemies is never a positive force.*

**Simon Cameron**

From abject poverty to undisputed political boss of Pennsylvania, Lincoln's secretary of war, senator, chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and a founder of the Republican Party, Simon Cameron (1799–1889) was one of the nineteenth century's most prominent political figures. In his wake, however, he left a series of questionable political and business dealings and, at the age of eighty, even a sex scandal.

The political changes of the early nineteenth century enabled Cameron not only to improve his status but also to exert real political authority. The changes caused by the Civil War, in turn, allowed him to consolidate his political authority into a successful, well-oiled political machine. A key figure in designing and implementing the Union's military strategy during the war's crucial first year, he played an essential role in pushing President Lincoln to permit the enlistment of African Americans into the U.S. Army, a position that eventually led to his resignation.

Cameron has been called the "greatest of wire pullers" and "corrupt as a dunghill" by his contemporaries and a "crafty manipulator with few scruples" by some historians. Our March speaker, Paul Kahan, will provide us with an overview of Cameron's life and career giving us insight into this controversial and complex man.

Dr. Kahan earned a Ph.D. in U.S. History from Temple University where he worked with William W. Cutler, III. Prior to that, Dr. Kahan earned an M.A. in Modern American History and Literature from Drew University and a B.A. in History and English (with minors in Medieval/Renaissance Studies and Music) from Alfred University.

In 2008, Dr. Kahan published his first book, *Eastern State Penitentiary: A History*. His most recent book, *Amiable Scoundrel: Simon Cameron, Lincoln's Scandalous Secretary of War*, brushes away more than a century of myth and misunderstanding to give us the most nuanced picture of this complicated and important architect of the Union War effort.



Dr. Kahan will be bringing copies of *Amiable Scoundrel* and his previous book, *The Bank War* with him to our meeting. He will accept cash or checks as payment if you wish to purchase either or both of the books.

Find out more about Dr. Kahan and his work by visiting his website, [www.paulkahan.com](http://www.paulkahan.com)

## **General Orders No. 3-17**

**March 2017**

### **IN THIS ISSUE**

MCWRT News .....	page 2
Kenosha Museum .....	page 3
Civil War Trust News .....	page 3
From the Field .....	pages 4-5
From Peter Jacobsohn .....	page 5
Through the Looking Glass .....	page 6
Round Table Speakers 2016-2017.....	page 7
2016-2017 Board of Directors .....	page 7
Meeting Reservation Form .....	page 7
Between the Covers .....	page 8
Wanderings .....	pages 9-10
In Memoriam by Eric J. Wittenberg....	page 11
Lincoln Group Award .....	page 11
Quartermaster's Regalia .....	page 12

### **March Meeting at a Glance**

**[Jackets required for the dining room.]**

**Wisconsin Club**

**9<sup>th</sup> and Wisconsin Avenue**

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

6:45 p.m. - Dinner

**[\$30 by reservation, please]**

Reservations are accepted until

Monday, March 6, 2017

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 7.

### **Coming Next Month:**

**April 20, 2017**

**Diane Smith**

### **COMMAND CONFLICT IN THE OVERLAND CAMPAIGN**

**[milwaukeeecwrt.org](http://milwaukeeecwrt.org)**

# Civil War Round Table News

## When Reservations are Cancelled

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

**Your Cooperation is Appreciated**

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

## 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!

**[milwaukeeecwrt.org](http://milwaukeeecwrt.org)**



**The newest exhibit at the Kenosha Civil War Museum is now open! “From Civil War to Great War” promises to be another big hit for history buffs.**



Wishing a Happy Birthday to Ireland's own Patrick Ronayne Cleburne, born on **St. Patrick's Day** 1828. A truer Irishman never lived.

The statue in the photo is taken from a roadside park in Ringgold, Georgia, the site of Old Pat's heroic rear guard action after the retreat from Missionary Ridge in 1863. Here Cleburne earned the thanks of the Confederate Congress.

## *The Muster Roll:* NEW MEMBERS

REPORTER'S	RACE	ORIENTATION	PLACE OF BIRTH	EDUCATION	PROFESSION	RELIGION
1. <u>James H. Thompson</u>	White	Protestant	Illinois	High School	Farmer	Methodist
2. <u>James H. Thompson</u>	White	Protestant	Illinois	High School	Farmer	Methodist
3. <u>James H. Thompson</u>	White	Protestant	Illinois	High School	Farmer	Methodist
4. <u>James H. Thompson</u>	White	Protestant	Illinois	High School	Farmer	Methodist
5. <u>James H. Thompson</u>	White	Protestant	Illinois	High School	Farmer	Methodist
6. <u>James H. Thompson</u>	White	Protestant	Illinois	High School	Farmer	Methodist
7. <u>James H. Thompson</u>	White	Protestant	Illinois	High School	Farmer	Methodist
8. <u>James H. Thompson</u>	White	Protestant	Illinois	High School	Farmer	Methodist
9. <u>James H. Thompson</u>	White	Protestant	Illinois	High School	Farmer	Methodist
10. <u>James H. Thompson</u>	White	Protestant	Illinois	High School	Farmer	Methodist

## 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, 2016 through December 10, 2016.

*Major Contributor (\$500 and above)*

*Patron (\$200 - \$499)*

Crain Bliwas, Eugene & Jane Jamrozy,  
Stephen Leopold, Robert Parrish

*Associate (\$100 - \$199)*

Tom Corcoran, Robert Dude, Paul Eilbes, Bill Finke,  
Randall Garczynski, Van & Dawn Harl, Dr. Peter &  
Jean Jacobsohn, David Jordan, Jerome Kowalski,  
Dr. Ray Pahle, Jim & Ann Reeve, Laura Rinaldi,  
Dennis Slater, Paul Sotirin, Gil Vraney,  
Bernard VanDinter

*Contributor (up to \$99)*

Darwin Adams, George Affeldt, T. James Blake, Jim Bolek, John & Linda Connelly, Dr. Gordon Dammann, Michael Deeken, Tom Doyle, Lori Duginski, John Durr, Gary & Judith Ertel, Ted Fetting, Doug Haag, Dr. Erwin Huston, Allan Kasprzak, Jerome Kowalski, Christopher E. Johnson, Ardis Kelling, Jay Lauck, Fredric Madsen, Jerry & Donna Martynski, Robin Martin, Kathleen McNally, James Melchior, Herb Oechler, John Rodahl, Chet Rohn, Dan Tanty, Fred Wendorf

# SPARK!

Did you know that the Civil War Museum hosts a monthly program for people living with early to mid stages of memory loss and their care partners?

Participants are engaged in lively conversations, storytelling, interactive exhibit experiences, object handling and other multi-sensory activities. Past programs have included: Caring for Civil War Soldiers, Animals in the Civil War, and A Soldier's Kit.

**The March 17, 2017 program is: Comparing Soldiers of WWI and Civil War. The program is at 2 p.m.**



In March 1957, Allen Oakey talked to the membership on “The Battle of the Crater.”

Col. Harold B. Simpson was our Round Table speaker in March 1967, speaking on “Hood’s Texas Brigade.”

“Lincoln and Reconstruction” was the topic of Mark E. Neely Jr.’s presentation to the Round Table in March 1977.

Howard McManus spoke to the Round Table in March 1987 about “Cloyd’s Mountain, Dublin, Virginia 1864.”

In March 1997, Dale K. Phillips discussed “Major General Benjamin Butler and New Orleans.”

At last year’s March meeting Bruce Kraig spoke to the members on “Why the Civil War Made Our Modern Food.”

## Civil War Trust Leads Effort to Preserve Battlefield Land in 2016

(Washington, D.C.) – The Civil War Trust, America’s premier battlefield preservation organization, has announced the conclusion of another year of historic land conservation. Through the generosity of individual donors, coupled with strategic partnerships with government officials and nonprofit groups across the country, the Trust protected 2,373 acres of battlefield land in 11 states during 2016. The Trust had over 2,000 additional acres under contract at year end. To date, the Trust has preserved close to 45,000 acres of battlefield land.

In addition to its land acquisition successes, the Trust promoted greater appreciation and understanding of America’s defining conflicts through its innovative educational programs and digital offerings. In 2016, the Trust website received more than 25 million page views, and added numerous battle summaries, videos and animated maps to its collection of online resources. The new Your State video series allowed viewers to learn more about each state’s involvement in the Civil War through historical narratives and engaging multimedia. And the Trust’s In4 series of short educational videos added more than two dozen new topics in 2016.

Three thousand students and teachers benefited from the Trust’s Field Trip Fund, which raised more than \$30,000 in 2016 to assist teachers in planning and paying for student trips to historic sites. Four thousand students dove into a Traveling Trunk containing Civil War artifacts, books and music. The Generations program, a project to help young people engage with history, brought families to attack and defend Little Round Top at Gettysburg, walk in the footsteps of a Wilderness soldier in Virginia, and discover life on the home front at Antietam.

## 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.

### The Luck of the Merrimack

Friday, March 10, 2017, Noon

Presented by David Noe

It’s a well-known fact that sailors believed in either a lucky or unlucky ship. The *USS Merrimack* and later as the *CSS Virginia*, had plenty of luck, both good and bad. Twice in her relatively short life bad luck resulted in her sinking at the hands of her own crew. See how both good and bad luck played an important part in the ship’s life and how more or less of either could have changed history as we know it.

### The Civil War Expo & Nineteenth Century Makers Day

Saturday, March 11, 2017, 11 am – 3 pm

Watch demonstrations and buy goods from metal smiths, beekeepers, and other modern makers influenced by trades and crafts of the past. Visit with living history, heritage groups, and Civil War Round Tables from around the Midwest who present samples of their programming and have informational tables set up throughout the Museum.

## Other Kenosha Civil War Museum Events

### Civil War Media Club

The Gettysburg Address: A Graphic Adaptation

Tuesday, March 14, 2017, 7-8:30 pm

Instructor Doug Dammann

Jonathan Hennessey and Aaron McConnell’s book is a full-color, illustrated look at Abraham Lincoln’s most famous speech, the bloody battle of the Civil War that prompted it, and how they led to a defining point in the history of America.

\$5 Friends of the Museum/\$10 Non-members

## Civil War Museum Campaign Tour 2017

October 22 – 25, 2017

- Fredericksburg
- Chancellorsville
- The Wilderness
- Spotsylvania

Early Bird registration prior to April 7, 2017:

Museum members -	\$630 per person double occupancy
	\$795 per person single occupancy
Non-members -	\$675 per person double occupancy
	\$840 per person single occupancy

Full details can be found at:

[www.kenosha.org/wp-civilwar/events/](http://www.kenosha.org/wp-civilwar/events/)



**From the Second Wis. Regiment  
Camp Tillinghast, Virginia**

**March 5th, 1862**

Editors: Tribune:-

On the morning of the 22nd, Washington's Birthday, the Second were notified that their presence was wanted at Gen. McDowell's Head Quarters to hear Washington's Farewell Address and fire a salute of ten rounds of blank cartridge. As usual, the Second turned out en masse, prepared to do their might in paying respect to the Father of this country. The drill was splendid and eclipsed all other regiments in the brigade. Captain Hathaway read the Farewell Address – cheer upon cheer rent the air at the conclusion and the brave troops evince the true spirit of the noble chieftain.

On the 25th we were again ordered to appear at headquarters to drill in Brigade. On this day too we made a grand appearance and won laurels. A number of regular officers and men were present and quite a congregation of ladies. At the conclusion of the drill, and at the request of Gen. King, the Second remained and had a dress parade. Adjutant Dean formed the battalion and the troops being ordered to be played – (the regiment stands at parade rest, every eye to the born, hands in proper place, not one moving, every officer and man actually appearing more like statues than mortals) – the band passed up and down the front of the battalion dispensing sweet music to an admiring assembly. Lieut. Col. Fairchild then put the regiment through the manual of arms and the efficiency they displayed in this particular is worthy of the men. At the hands of an unbiased public they have more than once been the recipients of applause as the enclosed slips will show:

The Wisconsin Brigade- On Wednesday afternoon Gen. King's Wisconsin brigade was told to be in readiness for an advance; earnestness followed the announcement among the troops. The brave boys considered it quite a notice to quit playing soldier and enter upon the dash and earnestness of real campaigning and they were jubilant there at. As the order was read, cheer after cheer was given; and our reporter says that he never saw exhibited so strong a desire to be let loose upon "secesh" as on this occasion. The Second Regiment was peculiarly alive in the desire and they have good reason. This is one of the oldest regiments in the field having entered Washington and crossed into Virginia early last June and to an active part in the battles of Centerville and Bull Run, in the former losing three, in the latter about 160 men killed, wounded and prisoners. Col. Edgar O'Connor and Lt. Col. Fairchild are regular army officers and the regiment they command, in drill and discipline, approaches as near the army regulations as any volunteer corps in service and has received many compliments from our best officers. We shall expect to hear a good report from the Wisconsin brigade and particularly from Col. O'Connor's Second Regiment when the advance takes place.-



**From the Wisconsin Second Regiment  
In The Woods, Near Fairfax Court House, Va.  
Friday, March 14, 1862**

Dear Tribune:

You will undoubtedly find it difficult to make out this scribble, as I am minus both ink and pen; but I trust you will bear with me, considering my back is leaned against a pile of rubbish known only to those who are used to camp life, or a soldier in defense of his country, while one lower arm is thrown across the other in the shape of an X and the ATTACHEZ thrown in an angle of forty-five degrees, while it rests there confidently, holding up the material open which I write – upon the whole ludicrous in the extreme.

Undoubtedly you have been apprized of the advance of the Army of the Potomac, ere this, and have become well posted on its advent into the recesses of Dixie. So far it has been met with no impediments, and it is likely to march well on to Richmond until it meets with the "chivalry". We left Camp Tillinghast at four o'clock on Monday morning last, knowing not our destination. By day-light we had neared the old picket line. From all directions there came a perfect mass of infantry. It seemed as if the Northern Army was here EN MASSE. By eleven o'clock we had arrived at Fairfax Court House, where we found a New Jersey Regiment. We marched through this deserted place (once so thriving a village) our band playing "Hail Columbia" to the grove just in sight of Germantown, now entirely in ruins, where we are present encamped, and will remain tomorrow, when we shall advance to Manassas.

Twelve thousand troops had passed thro' Fairfax in the morning, and quartered at Centerville, which was deserted by the rebels the day previous. One battalion had gone on to Manassas, which place they found in ruins and burning. The rebels had retreated on the Warrington road, and from all accounts gathered from the contrabands constantly arriving, it is inferred that Secesh are badly "done up", being poorly clad and illy prepared to meet our foes, and are short of ammunition &c. Their artillery is poor, but little on hand. Their means of transportation are slim indeed; for their destroying of their scanty commissary stores at Manassas proves their inability to move their needful articles.

The fortifications around Fairfax are nothing but rude log entrenchments with a single front. It is proven that the rebel forces never exceeded sixty thousand at Centerville and Manassas, and at the time of their evacuation of these two places probably not more than thirty thousand, if that number.



**Col. Edgar O'Connor**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Wis. Vol. Inf.

Centerville is very well fortified, though it would never stand the heavy siege guns of our army. The bridges between Centerville and Manassas were either blown up or burnt, but are now being rapidly rebuilt by a large force of Union laborers. Numerous relics, such as old swords, broken muskets, rusty bowie knives, musket and cannon balls, from the battle field at Bull Run and Manassas, were brought on by our troops. Many of our boys have visited Centerville, each bring away with him some relic of that famous place, where, in July past, our troops made good the old adage, "He that fights and runs away lives to fight another day."

On Tuesday evening Gen. McClellan and staff visited Manassas, and returned the next morning. The General's quarters are at Fairfax. Rebels are being brought in every day, many of them taken on the other side of Manassas. Our Cavalry are continually scouring the country, and the Fairfax jail presents the fruits of their labors in the shape of over one hundred and fifty prisoners.

Considering that all the Union forces are in motion, you may expect but that for a few weeks will elapse ere the end of the rebellion will be heralded forth to the North – God grant that the Army of the Potomac may meet with no reverses.

On Sunday last we buried Private Richard Chappel, formerly of Dodgeville, on Arlington Heights, near the burial place of the Curtis family. Our boys are all well and happy. They are well-clothed and fed, and prepared to do their might for the Union and the Constitution.

Our Captain is with us, having recovered from his sickness. In short, the Miner's Guards are a determined set of fellows, with just enough Cornish with them to make them grind their teeth and "go in on their nerve" as representatives of Old Iowa and you will hear a good report of every one of them.

I close, hoping in my next to record the defeat of the rebels, and that I may date it at Richmond, the capital of the so-called Southern Confederacy, which to-day is tottering and about ready to fall with a crash, as slowly but surely the Union Army closes around.

Adieu, JUDGE

## FROM THE COLLECTION OF PETER JACOB SOHN

Washington, DC  
April 20th 1865  
Carver U.S. Genl Hospital

Dear Sister –

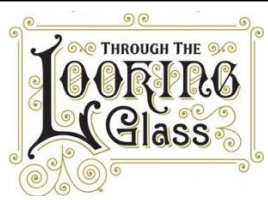
I hope this will find you all in good health as it leaves me at present. I want you to write me often for I will be home soon and then you can rest easy on that score. Dear Clem you have all heard of the Death of President Lincoln. I will not say much about it at present. But when I come home I will tell you all about it for I was at the Theatre when it happened and saw the assassination and nearly everything else which happened on that eventful night (the 15th of April). I will only say here I never want to see such another night.

Yesterday (the 19th) the funeral Ceremonies took place in Washington and it was sad and magnificently grand in every respect the best attended and I believe the largest funeral ever held in this country. The rebels in killing him lost their best friend. Abraham Lincoln's policy was mercy. Andrew Johnson's is justice and the northern traitors must take care and guard their speech and actions henceforth. A Democratic northern copperhead said (on the Avenue in this city) that Lincoln caused many better men than he to be killed and it was no more than Right that he should be shot.

I saw a soldier shoot the traitor down dead on the spot and the People said it was right, and so do I. It is right let us have no more treason from the north nor south, east or west. But since we have conquered armed Rebellion we must for our future safety have no compromise with unarmed treason at home. One God. One Country. One People. Here, now and forever. Union and loyalty. Justice and Retribution. The day of mercy is past. Every loyal man is an avenger and his children after him.

Write soon and my love to my little girl and my respects to you and your husband.

Your affectionate brother. "Bill"



*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 citizen of this war-torn era, and are willing to share it with our Round Table, please kindly consider submitting it to Donna Agnelly, editor of our General Orders. Thank you!

### FIRST KNOWN AMPUTATION OF THE CIVIL WAR?

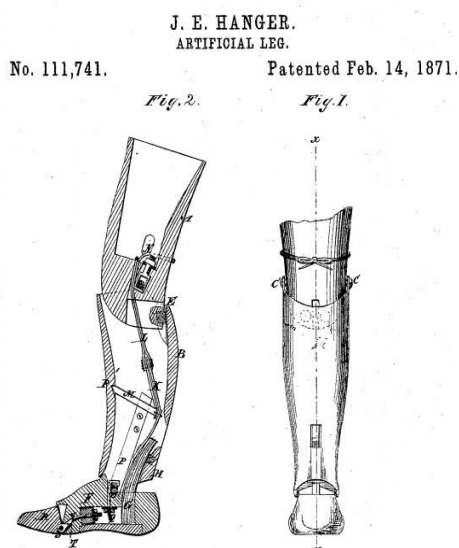
On June 1, 1861 18-year-old James Edward Hanger left his studies at Washington College to join his fellow patriots, including brothers and cousins, in the Confederate Churchill Cavalry. At daybreak on June 3 during the Battle of Philippi, the Union Army deployed its artillery on top of a hill overlooking the rebels and fired into the town. Confederate soldiers were sheltering in tents and barns. On sentry duty at the time, Hanger sought refuge in one such barn. There a 6-pound cannonball tore through his leg, mangling it beyond hope of repair. James Edward Hanger had been in the service of his nation for a total of two days.

With only a bit of skin keeping his lower leg attached, Hanger crawled to a corner of the barn to hide...and promptly passed out. He awakened to find that Union soldiers had him held down on a table, and he was writhing in pain. Unable to save the leg, Union surgeons began cutting through Hanger's skin, muscle, and bone a few inches above his knee. The surgeon then cauterized the wound with a hot iron. The excruciating amputation saved Hanger's life, but what miserable kind of life would that be?

Private Hanger spent the next two months as a prisoner of war in a Union hospital. "I cannot look back upon those days in the hospital without a shudder," he later said. "In the twinkling of an eye, life's fondest hopes seemed dead. I was the prey of despair. What could the world hold for a maimed, crippled man?"

Upon being exchanged, Hanger returned to his parents' home, and promptly disappeared into his bedroom, asking to be left alone. His parents were concerned that with a dismal future before him, Edward had been overcome with melancholy. Daily existence in 1861 often demanded physical labor and many amputees, unable to work most professions, ended up begging on the streets. Soon strange noises emanated from Edward's room daily, but the Hangers respected his wish for privacy.

Three months later Edward left that room. Gone were the crutches with which he had climbed the stairs to his room. Gone was the "Yankee leg," a simple pegleg he wore home from prison camp. In its place was an articulated prosthetic, the first of its kind. Hanger made his contraption out of oak barrel staves—the narrow strips of wood that form the sides of a barrel—which were more flexible than a solid piece of hardwood. Then he'd added hinged joints at the ankle and the knee. Hanger even carved himself a wooden foot so he could wear two shoes again. Best of all: the artificial limb weighed only about five pounds. At this moment in history, the world of amputees of all kinds had just become brighter.



While Hanger had had the unfortunate and dubious distinction of being the Civil War's first known amputee, he was far from the last. By the time the conflict ended in 1865, tens of thousands of other soldiers had suffered similar fates. Sensing both need and opportunity, Hanger decided to open his own prosthetics business, and two years later he patented his first "Hanger Leg." In 1864, thanks to Hanger's superior design, the Association for the Relief of Maimed Soldiers chose his company to supply prosthetics for wounded men. He was awarded a grant of \$20,000 and got to work. By war's end, thousands of amputee soldiers were benefitting from Hanger prosthetics.

Hanger married in 1873, fathered eight children, and eventually moved his business to Washington, D.C. His business continued to grow, supplying limbs for wounded veterans in two world wars. Today, Hanger Orthopedic Group, Inc. is a billion-dollar corporation that employs nearly 5,000 people and fits about a million people with new limbs every year.

Years later, Hanger was asked whether he ever remembered feeling bitter because of the turn his life had taken in April 1861. His response was telling.

***"Today I am thankful for what seemed then to me nothing but a blunder of fate, but which was to prove instead a great opportunity."***

submitted by Dave Wege

**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](mailto: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.

**Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for March 9, 2017**

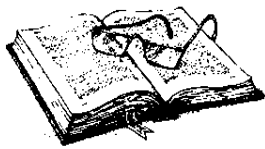
Mail your reservations by Monday, March 6, 2017, to:

Paul Eilbes  
1809 Washington Ave  
Cedarburg, WI 53012-9730

ALSO, call in reservations to: Paul Eilbes (262) 376-0568  
[peilbes@gmail.com](mailto:peilbes@gmail.com)

Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_ (meal price \$30.00 per person) for \_\_\_\_ reservations for the March 9, 2017, meeting of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee. (Make checks payable to the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.)

Name of Member \_\_\_\_\_

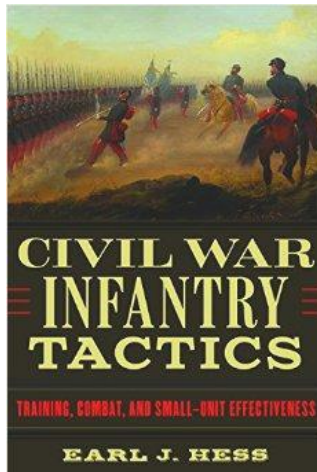


# **BETWEEN THE COVERS**

## **CIVIL WAR INFANTRY TACTICS:**

### **Training, Combat and Small-Unit Effectiveness**

by Earl Hess



In an effort to gain a better understanding of Civil War battle tactics and maneuver, I recently purchased *Civil War Infantry Tactics* by Earl J. Hess. Perhaps not the most exciting, fast paced read for the average Civil War student, I found this to be informative, well organized and delivered in an easy, understandable style. Dr. Hess's approach in this book challenges some of the modern thought that the introduction of the rifle musket made the shoulder-to-shoulder linear formation tactic obsolete.

Hess contends that the long range ability of the rifle musket was never utilized during the war because neither side trained to take advantage of the range or showed a desire to make it a focus of any training. He points out that both sides did not spend any extensive time training in long range rifle fire. The muskets were set for the range of 300 yards when manufactured and most, if not all, soldiers never bothered changing the sight adjustments unless they were sharpshooters. The typical range firing was done at short ranges, 100 yards, and done mostly to insure the troops knew how to load and fire.

Another fallacy or limitation to the use of the rifled musket was that, with the thick amount of woods and brush that many of the battlefields contained, it was difficult for the average soldier to see the enemy at extended ranges thus making the advantage of long range firing not practical.

The book covers the infantry tactics used in the Civil War within the context of the rifle musket and what effect it had on military operations. Dr. Hess begins the book by showing how and why the standard military tactics were developed in Europe and became the foundation of Western military history. He shows how this basis formed US military tactical movements on the battlefield in the United States Pre-Civil War. While many historians assume the American Civil War was an exceptional experience in world military history, Dr. Hess maintains that it was part of the international military development.

The author effectively points out the basic maneuvers and formations used and trained to by the officers of the Civil War. There were three basic books on tactics that officers looked to for advice in training: Hardee's, Scott's or Casey's. Hardee's manual tended to be more popular and more readily available among Southerners than Scott's book.

A large part of the book is devoted to the use of the formations that Civil War officers used in fighting a variety of engagements during the conflict. Dr. Hess writes about both sides in combat operations. He covers skirmishing, forward movements of both small and large units and how the officers moving troops dealt with getting formations around and through a variety of obstacles while quite possibly being under fire. There are a lot of terms to come to grip with, whether line or column, what type of column is best, how to conduct a passage of lines, changing direction, flank movements, oblique maneuvers and other factors that weighed on commanders.

There was much training to be done in getting large formations used to maneuvering on the battlefield and the only way to get to a point where large formations could be directed by the commander to an objective required much training time in company drill, regimental drill and division drill. The only way to develop the skill required to conduct these maneuvers is by constant drill. Dr. Hess points out that properly trained units performed well on the battlefield, while less trained did not fare so well.

This subject is perhaps a bit dry to the typical Civil War reader and I suspect few are ready to dive into a work on tactics let alone Civil War tactics. I thought this was a good book that explained the tactics of the time and how they were utilized in the conflict. I felt this was a good addition to my Civil War library but it is perhaps not for everyone. If you want to get a good understanding of tactical operations on the Civil War battlefield, this is the book for you. If not, you may want to pick up a different book.

submitted by Bruce Klem





This past October my wife and I signed up for the second tour sponsored by the Kenosha Civil War Museum. The target for this year's tour was Middle Tennessee; the tour focused on Forts Henry and Donelson, Stones River, Franklin and the Battle of Nashville. Weather, as it turned out, was excellent -mid 70s for the most part and no rain. We were looking forward to this trip as we had only been to the Stones River and Franklin sites quite some time ago and did not have tour guides at that time. We have come to appreciate having tour guides on trips to battlefields, especially those sites that have been built up. It is one thing to go to a battlefield like Gettysburg, where the majority of the battlefield is under control of the National Park Service, and quite something else where the battlefield may have been swallowed up by development. When you go to sites that have been developed it is hard to follow the battle flow without a good guide, and I think we had two excellent guides on both the first museum tour and this one.

The tour began on Sunday, October 23rd, and was the travel day from Kenosha to meet up at the Holiday Inn Express in Nashville, near the airport. We chose to leave Saturday and drive part way. We stopped in Mt. Vernon, Illinois, and then got up early Sunday and made the rest of the drive. There are a couple of different routes to take to get to Nashville and we chose going down I-57 instead of I-65. The highway has been almost completely redone so I suspect anyone going that way next year will find a road that has minimal construction. Also, there seems to be less traffic on this route than on I-65.

In the evening we had dinner at a nearby restaurant, Ellendale's, and had a presentation on the Battle of Stones River by Park Ranger Jim Lewis to help kick off the tour. Both the dinner and the presentation were excellent and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The next morning the tour began in earnest. We boarded the bus at 7:30 and headed to the Fort Donelson National Battlefield. Along the way we stopped and picked up our guide, Mr. Greg Biggs. Greg had given a presentation at the Kenosha Civil War Museum at the 2014 September symposium, so he was a familiar face to many of us on the tour. Greg gave us some great handouts of the sites we were going to see that day and they were very helpful in following the flow of the battles at both Ft. Henry and Ft. Donelson. We stopped at the Park Service Visitor Center to check out their video on the event as well as to take advantage of picking up books and assorted souvenirs of our trip. No visit to any site would be complete without a stop at the visitor center gift shop. After all, who doesn't need to pick up another book?

After the video we got back on the bus and proceeded to the Ft. Henry site. We got a chance to see some of the proposed sites for the fort before going to the actual area. I say area because the main fort is now underwater - perhaps a couple of hundred feet from the shore due to the TVA work in the area. However, there are some earthworks still visible left from the outer works and you can get a sense of what the location of the fort would mean to control of the river approaches to the South and why it was an important defensive work. I was told that on one of Ed Bearrs tours he offered to lead the group to the underwater fort if they had brought their scuba gear.

We proceeded to Ft. Donelson, where we had a picnic lunch on the battlefield before Greg led us through the site. Greg explained the battle for us at a variety of points in the fort complex. We had some good handouts that he used in conjunction with the explanations; we had maps to orient ourselves on the battle. At the river battery complex one could see how this position clearly dominated the water approach to the fort and made it easy to see why and how the Federal fleet took such a pounding and were not successful in blasting the Confederate gun positions and were forced to withdraw with damaged vessels.

Another feature of the tour was that walking the ground gave us the chance to see the terrain the Confederates were defending; this helps to understand the problem the Union troops faced in charging up and down the gullies to assault the Rebel positions. In reading about the battle the terrain characteristics are not readily understood and unless you have a map with elevations you can quickly lose sight of that fact. The other item that you may not visualize is that, since this battle was fought in February, there was some snow on the ground and it was cold unlike most Civil War battles, which were fought in warmer weather. On the way to dinner in Clarksville, we touched on another site where the 13th Wisconsin was involved. It was a small skirmish called the Battle of Riggins Hill. The Federal force under Colonel William Lowe ran into a force of about 700 Kentucky cavalry and local armed townsmen. The site is on US route 79. It was a brief fight, which resulted in the Confederates retreating, thus enabling Lowe to occupy Clarksville and reopen a river supply line.

The next day our trip examined the Stones River battlefield and Franklin. Our tour guide for this day and the next was Mr. Ross Massey. My wife and I had been to both sites a few years ago but, in the case of Stones River, we only visited the National Battlefield site property and when we went to Franklin the Pizza Hut acquisition was still in the discussion stages. Mr. Massey took us to many areas that were part of the Stones River battle; those areas currently are built up. We found this very interesting in that the total scope of the fighting was made known.

Even if we had maps it would have been difficult to determine where the rest of the battlefield lay. It is a real advantage to have a local guide who has studied the battle over many years and is from the area. The visitor center at the park has changed since we were there years ago and it is fairly new. It has a nice little museum and believe it or not a gift shop! I managed to pick up a couple of books at the center. We had lunch at City Café, a local place in Murfreesboro, which had some great food.

In Franklin we visited the Carter house complex and had a chance to walk around the newly reclaimed area where the Carter Cotton Gin stood, one of the main points of the Battle of Franklin. There are some other areas that are in the process of being reclaimed, which should greatly improve the overall view of the battlefield. We also had a chance to stop at the Carnton Plantation and visit the Confederate Cemetery there. As it was late in the day, we did not have time to go into the Carnton House itself. Dinner was in Brentwood at a local BBQ place.

The last day of the tour was a visit to a variety of sites that are still available in Nashville. These sites were part of the last fight of the Army of Tennessee under General Hood scattered in and around Nashville. We started out at Fort Negley, which the city has begun to reclaim and try to restore, in part so this tremendous facility is not lost to time. It is now recognized as a city park and is being rehabbed to some degree. The fort was designed and built by Union forces after Nashville was captured in 1862. We visited a couple of other sites in Nashville that were Confederate earthworks and battery positions. Obviously, much of the battlefield has been built up with either housing or businesses and lost to time. However, Shy's Hill is still a recognized site but, due to time, we did not have the opportunity to get out of the bus and climb it. We finished up the day's activities stopping at Traveller's Rest where Hood had his headquarters. The home is well maintained and is available for touring. It was the 1799 home and plantation of Judge John Overton. Again, this was a tour of a battlefield; without a local guide it would have been very difficult to view the few sites that were left of the battle.

My wife and I had a great time and thoroughly enjoyed the tour. This was the second tour run by the museum and a third is in the works. I'm sure we will be signing up for that one as soon as it is set. Using local guides makes all the difference in the world to viewing the battlefields and often times seeing places that you might miss visiting on your own. Listed below are some of the books that were recommended for reading prior to the trip that may be of interest.

- *Where the South Lost the Civil War: An Analysis of the Fort Henry-Fort Donelson Campaign* by Kendall Gott
- *Forts Henry & Donelson: The Key to the Confederate Heartland* by Benjamin Franklin Cooling
- *Men of Fire: Grant, Forrest and the Campaign That Decided the Civil War* by Jack Hurst
- *Battle of Stones River* by Larry J. Daniel
- *Embrace an Angry Wind* by Wiley Sword
- *Five Tragic Hours* by James Lee McDonough
- *Nashville: The Western Confederacy's Final Gamble* by James Lee McDonough

submitted by Bruce Klem

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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.**

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## In Memory of Mary Tyler Moore

by Eric J. Wittenberg

Posted on January 25, 2017

Most people remember Mary Tyler Moore as one of Hollywood's great funny ladies, and for good reason: Laura Petrie, and more recently, Mary Richards, left an indelible mark on American society. Moore's death today at age 80 is a real loss.

What many don't know is that Mary Tyler Moore had deep ties to the Civil War community.

Her great-grandfather was Lt. Col. Lewis Tilghman Moore of the 4th Virginia Infantry, part of the legendary Stonewall Brigade. Col. Moore helped to lead the regiment during its many famous engagements from Henry House Hill at the First Battle of Bull Run to the end of the war in 1865. During the winter and spring of 1862, Jackson established his headquarters in Moore's home in Winchester. That house is today the Stonewall Jackson Headquarters Museum; Mary Tyler Moore was a generous donor to help pay for its restoration. Her great grandfather's house's connection to the Civil War remained important to her for the rest of her life.

She was also the great-great-great granddaughter of Conrad Shindler, who lived in Shepherdstown in what is today West Virginia. In approximately 1795, Conrad Shindler built a sturdy brick home on the main street in downtown Shepherdstown that still stands. In the 1990s, Shepherd University, which is roughly a block away from the Shindler house, undertook a major project to create a massive database of Civil War soldiers. That project needed a home, and when the Shindler house came available in 1995, Mary Tyler Moore purchased the house and then donated it to the University. The Shindler house today is called the George Tyler Moore Center for the Study of the Civil War, named for Mary Tyler Moore's father.

Finally, while she is rightfully best remembered for her comic genius, Mary Tyler Moore also played another famous Mary, Mary Todd Lincoln, in 1988 opposite Sam Waterston's portrayal of the 16th President of the United States in a rare dramatic turn. Her performance won acclaim in playing the tragic former first lady of the United States.

While we should all mourn the loss of a brilliant Hollywood star today, it's also important to remember that the Civil War community has also lost one of its greatest and most generous benefactors, and her loss will be keenly felt as a result.

## 2016 Lincoln Group of New York Award of Achievement

Press Release from Savas Beatie LLC

El Dorado Hills, CA: February 1, 2017 – Historian and author Noah Andre Trudeau has recently been selected to receive the prestigious 2016 Award of Achievement from the Lincoln Group of New York for his new book *Lincoln's Greatest Journey: Sixteen Days that Changed a Presidency, March 24 – April 8, 1865*. The award committee's vote was unanimous, according to the Lincoln Group's president Steven R. Koppelman.

"The Award is presented annually to the individual or organization that has done the most to encourage the study and appreciation of Abraham Lincoln," explained Koppelman. "In making this award, The Lincoln Group of New York recognizes *Lincoln's Greatest Journey* as a superb work of research, expertly written, which details an aspect of the Lincoln presidency that has been little studied and a much needed in-depth work." He went on to state that prior award winners include Doris Kearns Goodwin, Eric Foner, Harold Holzer, and screenwriter Tony Kushner.

"It is a wonderful and humbling honor to receive this prestigious Award of Achievement for *Lincoln's Greatest Journey*," said Trudeau. "It is a special feeling to read the list of past winners along with the memorable books they wrote and to realize my effort is now counted among them. My thanks to the members of the Lincoln Group of New York for making this selection."

"This is a special study, with keen insights and deep research, so having Noah Andre Trudeau win such a prestigious award is very gratifying," explained Managing Director Theodore P. Savas. "Noah has been working, studying this phase of Lincoln's unique life for a long while and in many ways, and I am especially pleased his work has been recognized in this manner."

Savas Beatie LLC is a leading military and general history publishing company with distribution worldwide. Read more about *Lincoln's Greatest Journey*, and all of their books at: [tinyurl.com/zslfghw](http://tinyurl.com/zslfghw)

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4601 W. Holt Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53219  
(414) 327-2847, [dbcpmilw@execpc.com](mailto:dbcpmilw@execpc.com)

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

