

# GENERAL ORDERS



The Newsletter of the

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



April 20, 2017

Diane Monroe Smith

## COMMAND CONFLICT in the OVERLAND COMMAND

*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

Our April speaker, Diane Monroe Smith, follows the men of the 5th Corps and the Army of the Potomac through the Wilderness, Spotsylvania and Cold Harbor, with the army condemned to moving blindly through enemy territory without the benefit of cavalry scouting or screening.

In her presentation to our members, Smith will offer a preliminary introduction that describes the research and books that led up to her most recent book and the subject of her talk, *Command Conflict in the Overland Campaign*. The presentation will begin with a consideration of U.S. Grant's command style and patterns of behavior, which were so amply displayed by Grant well before he came east as Lt. General.

*Command Conflicts* focuses primarily on the 5th Corps, Army of the Potomac, during the Overland Campaign and the often tumultuous interaction of Generals Grant, Meade, Sheridan, Warren, and the corps and cavalry commanders of the AoP. Political influences, within the army and without, are examined. Smith considers what happened to a number of the prominent Federal participants in the Overland Campaign during the last year of the war and after. Many of those who lied and cheated their way to the top became government leaders and the authors of policy for years to come.

The 100th anniversary of the battles of the Civil War laid the foundation of Smith's love of history, but it wasn't until 1993, when her 14-year-old son appeared as an extra in the movie Gettysburg, that Smith jumped into the world of Civil War research and writing with both feet. As a volunteer guide at the Joshua Chamberlain Museum in Brunswick, Maine, she obtained access to hundreds of the Chamberlain letters that inspired her to write her first book, *Fanny and Joshua: The Enigmatic Lives of Frances Caroline Adams and Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain* (1999, 2013).

While pursuing additional Chamberlain primary source material, Smith discovered a previously unpublished first person manuscript by Chamberlain that described in detail his and his brigade's role in the Battle of Petersburg. The resulting book is *Chamberlain at Petersburg: The Charge at Fort Hell* (2004).

Diane Smith is the wife of Civil War author, Ned Smith, mother of two sons, and grandmother to three grandsons. Both Smith and her husband have made presentations to Civil War Round Tables and historical societies all over the United States.

Smith will have a limited number of all three of her books at the meeting for purchase and signing.

## General Orders No. 4-17

April 2017

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### April 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, April 17, 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.



## Mark Your Calendar

**Annual Great Lakes Civil War Forum**

**Saturday, September 16, 2017**

# 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)**

## ELECTION: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As announced at the March Round Table meeting and in accordance with the Articles of Incorporation, the nominating committee of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee recommends the following slate of nominees for the upcoming election of members to the Board of Directors for a three-year term ending in May, 2020.

- Michael K. Benton
- A. William Finke
- Van Harl
- James J. Heinz
- Tom Thompson

The election will take place at the May 11, 2017  
Milwaukee Civil War Round Table meeting.

## The Muster Roll: NEW MEMBERS

| NAME                  | RESIDENCE | PLACE OF BIRTH | DATE OF BIRTH | DATE OF DEATH | DATE OF BURIAL | DATE OF CREMATION | DATE OF INTERMENT |
|-----------------------|-----------|----------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Nick Arnold           |           |                |               |               |                |                   |                   |
| Jeryl Anthony         |           |                |               |               |                |                   |                   |
| Anne and Shaw Bridges |           |                |               |               |                |                   |                   |
| Michael Del Fava      |           |                |               |               |                |                   |                   |

## 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

## Fundraising for First World War Memorial

*They shall not grow old as we who are left grow old; Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning, We will remember them.*

America is finally building a magnificent memorial in our nation's capital to honor those who served the nation in the First World War. A beautiful design has been selected, but its \$49-million-dollar cost has not yet been met and a major fundraising effort is being mounted. Those of us who remember their sacrifice and want it never to be forgotten must step up now. Donations can be made online using a credit card or PayPal.

Contributions are tax deductible, and will be matched dollar-for-dollar by the Pritzker Military Museum & Library of Chicago, doubling your contributions; donations can be made in memory of an individual or group and can be specified for the new memorial or for general use during the Centennial Commemorations.

To make a contribution go to:

<https://www.worldwar1centennial.org/index.php/honor/national-wwi-memorial/memorial-fundraising.html>



"Tramping Over Civil War Battlefields" was the subject of Otto Eisenschiml's talk to the Round Table in April 1947.

Fred G. Benton Jr. was our Round Table speaker in April 1967 speaking on "Port Hudson."

"Whither the Generals: Military Leaders After the Civil War" was the topic of Eldon E. Billings' presentation to the Round Table in April 1977.

Michael B. Chesson spoke to the Round Table in April 1987 about "Richmond Virginia Bread Riots: April 2, 1863."

In April 1997 David Eicher discussed "A New Look at the Civil War in Books."

Robert Krick spoke to the membership in April 2007 on "Brother Against Brother."

At last year's April meeting Greg Biggs spoke to those in attendance about "Nashville: Siren's Song of the Confederacy."

## Other Kenosha Civil War Museum Events

### 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/)

### "Civil War Nurse Clara Barton"

**Saturday, May 13, 2017 1-3 PM**

You are invited to join us for a tea and first-person presentation by Leslie Goddard as Clara Barton. Clara earned fame as the first woman to serve as a nurse on the front lines of the battlefield during the Civil War and the founder of the American Red Cross in 1881. The program, set in 1864, explores how she became a nurse and the medical conditions of the American Civil War. Be sure to visit the exhibit "From Civil War to Great War" at the museum.

**\$25 Friends of Museum/\$35 non-members ADULTS**

**\$15 Friends of Museum/\$20 non-members KIDS 10-17**

## 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.

### Chickamauga, Barren Victory?

**Friday, April 7, 2017 Noon Presented by Dave Powell**  
Chickamauga was the second-bloodiest battle of the Civil War. As the guns fell silent on the night of September 20, it first appeared that the Federal Army of the Cumberland had been badly defeated. As the month ended and the City of Chattanooga remained in Union hands, however, the Rebel triumph appeared less certain. In later years, veterans of both armies would claim Chickamauga as a victory. So who did win the battle of Chickamauga, and what did that success mean going forward?

### Slavery, Secession, and the Voyage of the *Lady Elgin*

**Friday, May 12, 2017 Noon Presented by Brian Kangas**  
Mr. Kangas' 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.

### Emerging From the Exhibit:

#### Theatrical Tours of the Fiery Trial

**Friday, April 28, 2017 6-9 pm Tours at 6:30, 7:00, 7:30**

Travel back in time and meet the people behind the stories. For one night only, our Fiery Trial comes to life with the people of the Civil War. Travel through the exhibit, encountering tales of escaping to freedom on the Underground Railroad, rallying for Abraham Lincoln, or settling out West to find adventure. Tickets include exhibit tour, theatre performances, as well as food and drink offerings from Kenosha's own Twisted Cuisine.

**Adults Only Age 21+ \$25 Friends/\$35 non-members**

### Bleeding Kansas

**Sunday, May 7, 2017 1 – 3 pm Presented by Tom Arliskas**

The Repeal of the Missouri Compromise of 1820 and the passing of the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854, was the legislative hope of President Franklin Pierce. Among its goals was the opening of the west for a new railroad along with homesteads and farm lands for the American people. The tool of "Popular Sovereignty" was created to allow the people to decide whether or not to allow slavery for new states created by the Act. Instead, the Kansas-Nebraska Act led to the deaths of over 50 people and desolation. It was also responsible for the emergence of the Republican Party and the election of Abraham Lincoln, which led to the American Civil War. The legacy of the Border Ruffians, Missouri Guerillas, Kansas Jayhawks and Red Legs all had their beginnings in the Kansas-Missouri Border Wars of 1854 to 1861.

The class covers the historical events of 1854 to 1861 using contemporary sources hidden away for over 156 years. The clothing, uniforms, equipment, flags, firearms of the different Companies and Militias will also be covered.

**\$20 Friends of the Museum/\$25 non-members**



**Letter from the Second Regiment  
Correspondence of the Sentinel  
Camp, Near Fairfax Seminary  
Thursday, April 3, 1862**

You see we are still in the same camp. All sorts of rumors as to our destination and when we move are going the rounds. There are no more indications of our leaving at present than there were ten days ago and many begin to express doubts of King's Division "shipping" at all.

We are encamped about two miles from the Fairfax Seminary and four from Alexandria on one of the highest of the numerous hills that overlook Washington from the south...The camp of three divisions are before us, in each of those camps are hundreds of lights, glittering fires, the shouting and hum of thousands of voices, rumbling of wagons and the red glare of those thousands of camp fires makes one think he is standing on the outskirts of some vast city.

On the 25th of March there was a review of the first Corps by Maj. General McDowell. I was not present at this review but understand that General McClellan, Lord Lyons, and Mr. Russell of the London Times were present...

I have learned some particulars in regard to our advance on Manassas. Gen. Carney's brigade of N.Y. troops was on the advance and took possession of Fairfax Court House after a skirmish. While the skirmish was going on, Gen. Carney rode up to a Lieutenant in command of a squad of Lincoln cavalry and said "Lieutenant, can you place confidence in your men?" The lieutenant answered that he could. "Well" said the General, pointing to a knot of about one hundred and fifty rebels, "disperse them." The Lieutenant told his men that he would shoot the first man who showed the "white feather." They charged right into them, hewing right and left, wounding several and killing three or four and taking thirteen prisoners. One of the killed secesh was completely decapitated. The Lieutenant was the only man killed of the cavalry. Gen. Carney is an old one armed veteran of the Mexican War, a thorough soldier and good general.

I was in conversation the other night with a corporal of the color guard of a regiment of our brigade who gave me an account of an interview he had with Mrs. Lincoln. The corporal was in town and determined to call upon the President for the purpose of finding out, as he expressed it, "Whether Old Abe was a common man or not." I suppose he meant whether a "live President" was like any other man.

I cannot give you a detailed account of his reception and exit; it would occupy too much time; but suffice it the corporal was cordially received by the President, took a glass of wine with him in the famous East Room and became so familiar as to call him "Old Abe", Old Rail Splitter &c. He was introduced to Mrs. Lincoln and after a conversation with Mr. and Mrs. L. of about two hours, came away fully satisfied that the President was a common man...I believe from what I have heard this afternoon, we shall leave here this week. Our brigade is on drill but has remained "at home." Our company has not changed its letter - only number.

Direct as before, Company A  
A.L.

**From the Second Wis. Regiment  
On Road Run Near Manassas Junction Virginia  
April 8, 1862**

Dear *Tribune*: Some time has passed since I made my last scribble for the *Tribune* and now at leisure, let me indict a short letter noting events of a three week's campaign spent amid difficulties on the shores of the Potomac and in the recesses of seceshendom. On the 15th of March we left Fairfax Court House for Alexandria under the impression that we were to go on board of ships down the Potomac. Arriving at Alexandria after a fatiguing march thro' the rain, drenched and considerably "worse for wear" we encamped for the night. Here we found the 5th Wisconsin. Paid a short visit to Col. Cobb, who by the way, looks hearty and well. Saw Dr. Wilber who looks fat and hearty, besides numerous other old friends...At noon pm, the 16th, we were ordered to return to the old camp which we reached at nightfall...On the 19th we were ordered to Alexandria. At 2 o'clock, P.M. we started and arrived on Seminary Hill about 4 miles east of Alexandria where we encamped until the 4th of April when we were ordered to Warrington Station...

On the 4th inst. we marched to Annandale, a distance of ten miles from Alexandria, where we camped till the morning of the 5th when we marched to Blackburn's Ford and there camped for the night. The next morning we resumed the line of march passing through Manassas Junction and crossing Milford Creek about eight miles from the Junction where we are at present encamped. Here we remain until further orders...



Manassas Junction is pretty well destroyed. The rebels seem to have delighted in burning and destroying all that was possible...Carpenters and Blacksmiths are going in on repairing and the loose rubbish is to be gathered up. In a few weeks it will be quite a town. It is destined to be a large one. A great many contraband are here and are employed on repairing the railroad, and in arranging Quartermaster Stores. So much for Yankee enterprise. At the crossing of Milford Creek we found a family of the colored population who appeared quite happy over the arrival of the Union forces. Also an Irish family was here quite delighted over the advance of our army to find all families to be Union if only for the protection of their property but it is seldom we meet with the head of the family as his best hope is to keep in the advance of us. ..

Dinner is just announced and the boys are piling into the pork and beans and the mutton and chicken is fast disappearing. The mail is about to leave for Washington therefore I must close hoping the next time to chronicle at least a skirmish if not a battle with secesh. Bidding a kind adieu to friends and asking a kind remembrance for a short missive, I am yours.

L.B.

**From the Second Wisconsin Reg.  
Camp 2d Regiment Wis. Vol.  
Plymouth, Va.,  
April 24th, 1862**

Dear *Tribune*:- I had written a short letter for you when stationed at Catlett on the Orange and Alexandria railroad but being suddenly required to pack up and vamoose the ranch I withheld it and shall now replace it...Let me present a few passages from the diary which I imagine will serve to give you an idea of our experience as soldiers...

April 7th- Camped on Mitford Creek. Rains, snows and hails; anticipate a dreary time. Ordered to move camp ten miles distance in a pine thicket.

April 8th – slept on the ground, while it rained and snowed. Shelter tents leak badly. Awoke refreshed but to look out upon a gloomy prospect – the ground covered with snow and it is raining quite hard. A good deal of

complaining among the soldiers – many wet and chilly, but few sick. It continues to snow, rain and hail all day.

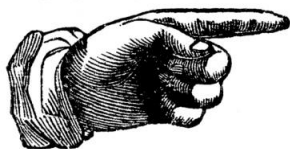
April 12th – Ordered to move. Detailed to guard the Orange and Alexander Railroad, between Bristol and Catlett Station, a distance of seven miles...

April 18th – Heavy cannonading in direction of Warrington, the day warm and pleasant. No morning drill – a wonder! News comes in that Gen. Auger is shelling rebel cavalry, reported wounding of Gen. Kirkpatrick. Harris Cavalry have a muss with Secesh. Eight men killed on Union side. Secesh run with the Cavalry and a Brooklyn regiment in Hot pursuit. Bridge across Rappahannock at Plymouth burnt by rebels. Surrender of Fredericksburg to Gen. Auger by the Mayor.

April 23rd – Strike tents and march to Falmouth on the Rappahannock river, where we found Auger's and Kirkpatrick's Brigades and the Harris Cavalry...Falmouth is a small town of about two thousand inhabitants. Fredericksburg is directly opposite and the main landing for the boats that ply between it and the mouth of the Rappahannock. A majority of the citizens of both places are strong Secessionists. Fredericksburg is a town of about five thousand inhabitants and was surrendered to Gen. Auger on Friday last though with some reluctance on the part of many of its citizens over whom the Mayor said he had no control...The inhabitants of this place are loud in their expressions in favor of Jeff Davis. The women in particular are terrible if not ridiculous. For the first time in my life I have stood before a woman that I feared and hated but I trust I may be relieved from hearing any more of the kind give vent to their feelings...We move tomorrow morning at half past eight o'clock. The health of the 2nd regiment is good considering what they have passed through within the last three weeks. Company I has one in the hospital. The company is in good condition, well and happy, with plenty to eat, drink and wear. The drum beats for "Lights out" therefore I draw my scribble to an end, bidding you all a happy good night.

L.B.

**Please Notice This**



## **WANT TO HELP US GROW YOUR MILWAUKEE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE IN A FUN and UNIQUE WAY?**

**How about donating money to provide our guests (future members) with a free dinner? Consider purchasing one (\$30) or five (\$150) or ten (\$300) or more dinners. This is an outstanding way for our guests to get to know you and more about the Round Table. See any board member for more details.**

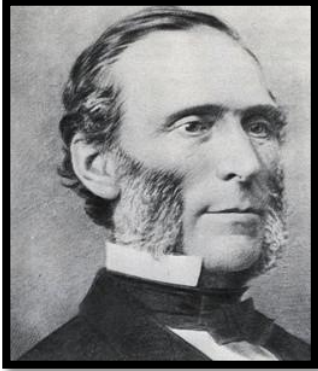


*Through the Looking Glass* features are intended to tell the stories of common folks of the Civil War, whether they are civilians or military personnel. If you have access to the story of an ordinary citizen of this war-torn era, and are willing to share it with our Round Table, please consider submitting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

## Austin Blair: War Governor of Michigan

*He was one of Michigan's most influential people.*

Kevin Brownlow



Austin Blair was born in 1818 in Caroline, Tompkins County, New York. He lived there until he was 17 working the family farm with his father. His studies began at Cazenovia Seminary, continued at Hamilton College and concluded at Union College where he graduated in 1839.

After graduation he studied law with the firm of Sweet & Davis, Owego, New York; he was admitted to practice in 1841. He moved to Jackson, Michigan in 1841, set up residence in Eaton Rapids and was elected clerk of Eaton County in 1842. At the end of his term he moved back to Jackson and was chosen representative of the legislature in 1845. In 1848, Blair refused to continue his affiliation with the Whig party because they would not endorse any anti-slavery sentiment. He joined the Free-soil movement.

The birth of the Republican Party at Jackson by a coalition of Whig and Free-soil members was fully supported by Blair who acted as a member of the Committee on Platform.

In 1852 he was elected Prosecuting Attorney of Jackson County; two years later he was chosen State Senator. In 1860 he was a delegate to the National Convention that nominated Abraham Lincoln. 1860 also found Blair securing the Republican gubernatorial nomination which he went on to win in the general election by popular vote. He was reelected to a second term in 1862.

Civil War issues would dominate his administration. In his first inaugural address in 1861, he recommended that the state offer its entire military resources to Lincoln for maintaining the supremacy of the U.S. Constitution. Within days of the start of the war, Blair called for ten companies of volunteers. The legislature would retroactively authorize Blair's actions, authorize a war loan of \$1,000,000 and pass the Soldier's Relief Law, which required counties to provide relief to the families of soldiers. Troops were organized and equipped with funds raised through private donations from Detroit bankers and businessmen.

By mid-May, the first regiment of Michigan soldiers under Colonel O.B. Wilcox left for combat. The second regiment, under Colonel Israel B. Richardson, followed soon after. While Blair was raising the third and fourth regiment he received notice from the U.S. Secretary of War limiting Michigan to four regiments. Blair would disregard this notice and would establish the fifth, sixth and seventh regiments which would all be deployed by mid-September. Blair would continue to supply troops to the Union throughout the war. One unit, the 102nd United States Colored Troops (originally the First Michigan Colored Regiment), had more than 1,400 men serve in the regiment during its 19 months in the field; ten percent of the men would die while in service.

On July 15, 1862, a war rally was held in Detroit to raise enthusiasm and troops for new regiments. Southern sympathizers spread word that the rally was for the purpose of creating a draft. A mob formed but was broken up by the county sheriff. The City of Detroit, in an effort to offset the disgrace of the mob occurrence, implored Governor Blair to allow the raising of an extra regiment above and beyond the state's quota. Blair relented and called for another regiment of infantry to be raised – the 24th Regiment of Michigan Volunteer Infantry was mustered in on August 15, 1862.

Blair personally helped to raise around \$100,000 to organize and equip the initial muster of Michigan troops. When he left office in 1864, he was almost destitute, having expended much of his personal wealth in support of the war effort.

A monument to Austin Blair was dedicated on October 12, 1898 and was placed in front of the State Capitol building in Lansing. The inscription reads:

*Austin Blair, War Governor of Michigan, 1861, 1862, 1863, 1864.*

He gave the best years of his life to Michigan and his fame is inseparably linked with the glorious achievements of her citizen soldiers.



Erected by the people of Michigan under joint resolution of the Legislature. Approved May 8th, 1895. "The true glory of the Republic must consist not only in the beneficence and freedom of our institutions. But also in our ability and courage to defend and protect them." Message to the Legislature 1863

"All the blood and carnage of this terrible War, all the heart-rending casualties of battle and the sad bereavements occasioned by them, have the same cause – Slavery. The greatest, vilest criminal of the world; it must perish." Message 1863

"Again and for the last time I commend the Michigan troops to your continued care and support. They have never failed in their duty to the country or to the State. Upon every battle field of the war their shouts have been heard and their sturdy blows have been delivered for the Union and Victory. It is my sole regret at quitting office that I part with them." Last message Jan. 4th, 1865.

Austin Blair passed away on August 6, 1894, and was buried at the Mount Evergreen Cemetery in Jackson, Michigan.

**submitted by Donna Agnelly**  
**A proud Detroit and fellow Michigander**

## HOME FRONT SEMINAR

**Saturday, April 29, 2017**

**Registration: 8:30 – 9:30 AM**

**Programs Begin at 9:30 AM**

**\$40 Friends of the Museum/\$50 non-members – includes catered lunch**

The Home Front Seminar highlights topics and talks pertaining to the social history aspects of the Civil War Period.

### **Program Speakers:**

#### ***Curiosities, Popular Entertainment, and Sectional Identity at the Northwestern Sanitary Fairs***

Presented By: Dr. Jennifer Bridge

During the war, sanitary fairs raised funds for sick and wounded soldiers while entertaining visitors. The fairs inspired the Union public's will to persevere against the Confederacy by channeling local and regional community feeling into a celebration of northern nationalism.

#### ***The Underground Railroad in the Upper Middle West***

Presented by: Galin Berrier

There is a great deal of myth and legend in what we think we know about the workings of the Underground Railroad in the years before the Civil War. This talk will use incidents from Illinois, Iowa, Michigan and Wisconsin to illustrate the thesis that "the controversy over fugitive slaves became, next to the issue of slavery in the territories, the spark that inflamed sectional conflict into the civil war."

#### ***Mackinac Island's Influence on the Civil War***

Presented by: Brian Jaeschke

Mackinac Island is known for its tourism, but it has a rich military history. This presentation will look at the military post of Fort Mackinac and the officers who served at the fort prior to the Civil War. It will discuss the three political prisoners, sent north by Tennessee Governor Andrew Johnson, kept in the fort and the company of men formed to provide guards. Sergeant William Marshall, longest serving soldier at the fort, will be introduced as the caretaker of the post and his family's influence on the Straits of Mackinac.

#### ***Rooster Cogburn, Jesse James and Bloody Bill: Historic Fiction and Fictional History***

Presented by: Bjorn Skaptason

When author Charles Portis imagined the seedy bounty hunter Rooster Cogburn for his great novel "True Grit" he had ample historical material to draw upon. This program will explore the intersection between history and fiction in "True Grit" as its characters remember the Civil War.

**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 April 20, 2017**

Mail your reservations by Monday, April 17, 2017, to:

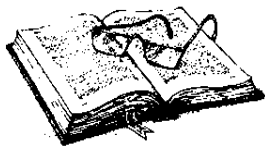
Paul Eilbes  
1809 Washington Ave  
Cedarburg, WI 53012-9730

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 April 20, 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 \_\_\_\_\_

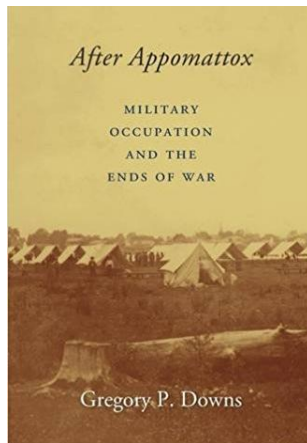




# BETWEEN THE COVERS

## AFTER APPOMATTOX: MILITARY OCCUPATION AND THE ENDS OF WAR

by Gregory P. Downs



It was a common understanding by many during that time that the Civil War ended with the surrender of Lee's Army on April 8, 1865. Or so the average citizen of the time believed as well as most of the participants. Even today, many Americans believe that the war ended on that date. Actually, the road to peace was still a long way off and turned out to be a rocky one. Gregory P. Downs describes this situation in his latest book, *After Appomattox: Military Occupation and the Ends of War*. Professor Downs argues that the war didn't end but merely entered the second phase, which didn't end until 1871. Even then, Reconstruction was still a struggle.

I picked up this book at last year's annual Civil War Institute seminar at Gettysburg College. Of course, this wasn't the only book I added to my library from the seminar.

In his book, Professor Downs attempts to show how the Union attempted to move to a peace mode and reunite the Southern states back into the United States. He points out that, as the US Army closed in on Lee's forces, Lee sought a way to end "not just the fighting but the entire conflict." Grant replied that he did not have the authority to offer peace, thus setting the stage for Reconstruction.

Downs distinguishes between battle time, post-surrender wartime and peacetime. He points out that by defining the years after Appomattox as a continuation of wartime allows the reader to understand war powers as the participants did using the definition they advanced. The War Powers Act gave the national government the necessary authority to suppress the rebellion, consolidate forces and fashion effective civil rights.

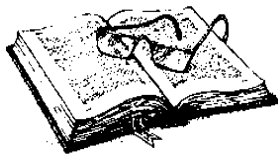
The only means to see this task to some sort of conclusion was the Union Army. Utilizing military occupation under war powers, the military had lawful authority to override state laws, displace judges and sheriffs, arrest outlaws, proclaim emancipation, oblige planters to provide contracts, transfer freed people's legal cases to military courts and to try violent Southerners in front of military commissions. It placed the former Southern states under martial law. The military gave the national government an arm to help ensure that the nearly 3 million people still enslaved received their freedom.

Professor Downs shows all the ups and downs of the Reconstruction period. The in-fighting between Congress and President Johnson, the questions of martial law and the Army of Occupation, recalcitrant Southerners, black emancipation and a host of other issues in the process called Reconstruction. I found it gave me a better understanding of the issues that led to the impeachment of President Johnson and a new understanding of the many issues that developed and had to be solved to reunite this nation after the Civil War. I think, in this work, Professor Downs shows that the national government did not have any sort of organized plan in how emancipation was going to be formalized and implemented in the nation and what steps would be needed to bring the Southern states back into the Union without the peculiar institution of slavery. I think this is an issue that we as a nation still have not totally embraced and is causing many problems today in human relations.



I found this book to be very insightful in explaining the whole process of establishing the peace and completing emancipation after the shooting stopped. I would recommend this book to anyone who wants to gain knowledge about Reconstruction and develop an understanding of the issue of nation building in today's vernacular.

submitted by Bruce Klem



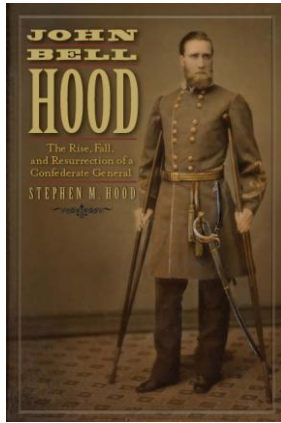
# BETWEEN THE COVERS

## JOHN BELL HOOD: THE RISE, FALL, AND RESURRECTION OF A CONFEDERATE GENERAL

by Stephen M. Hood

John Bell Hood – is there a name in Civil War circles more certain to generate hisses, boos, and generally negative reactions than this battered Confederate? After all, he was a drug-addicted fool who sent his troops into a meat grinder at Franklin in 1864! Didn't he take vengeance against several of his general officers and their men when the "best move of his career as a soldier" was destined to come to naught at Spring Hill, Tennessee just prior to the debacle at Franklin. Recall his scheming against Joseph E. Johnston to take command of the Army of Tennessee, and the overall disgust and fear with which his ascension to that command was greeted by anyone with half a brain!

That, at least, is the John Bell Hood we thought we knew. Recent scholarship by multiple authors, however, has painted a picture of a good man's reputation besmirched by former Confederates with an agenda of their own. These ne'er-do-wells, determined to raise Robert E. Lee to the level of an Olympian, and all Virginians to heroes, chose to attack the reputations of several former Confederates whose origins were not rooted in the sacred soil of Virginia. Based on the recently found papers of General Hood himself, this book takes a fresh look at the Confederate icon.



Stephen M. Hood, author of this grand defense of Hood's reputation, is a descendant of the general. Some would say that makes his scholarship suspect, as he certainly must approach the subject with a built-in bias. At times, that is probably true. What I found most interesting, however, was that the author wrestled with several firmly held prejudices against General Hood, and debunked them thoroughly and to my complete satisfaction.

As an example, take the charge that John Bell Hood was addicted to laudanum and that that addiction led in part to his rash decisions in 1864. As it turns out, no author before 1940 ever made such a charge against General Hood. It wasn't until Percy G. Hamlin's *Old Bald Head: Portrait of a Soldier* that the accusation was ever made. Hamlin himself simply stated his opinion that veterans who suffered injuries like Hood's must certainly have needed to dull the pain with opiates. From there, authors ran with the belief that Civil War physicians generally over-prescribed addictive pain killers, and the false charges against Hood became further imbedded into historical culture.

Stephen M. Hood takes some potshots at several authors who have come to be considered "experts" on his ancestor. He claims, and defends his claim with facts and primary documentation, that multiple authors just restated the suppositions of earlier writers without ever doing their own research. This led several of them to swallow the myths of Hood's incompetence hook, line, and ramrod. Some prominent names and their accepted opinions come up for careful dissection under Stephen Hood's literary scalpel.

Everyone has read of Hood's supposed penchant for costly frontal assaults. Stephen Hood reminds the reader that J.B. Hood's military mentors were Robert E. Lee and Thomas J. Jackson, both of whom were known to launch a massive assault or two in their careers. Comparing three of Lee's fights (Malvern Hill, Antietam, and Gettysburg) with three of Hood's fights (Atlanta, Franklin, Nashville) as to total casualties, it is Lee who comes across as the commander who ordered more costly attacks! Lee's casualties for the three fights mentioned above were about 37,600. Hood's were 17,750. Lee has been called "audacity personified" and lauded for his daring. Would any Civil War enthusiast ever claim that Hood's 1864 Tennessee Campaign was any less audacious than Lee's Maryland Campaign of 1862 or the Gettysburg Campaign of 1863? Yet Hood is criticized for his boldness when Lee is not.

Finally, if we judge history with that superior 20/20 vision called hindsight, we can always second guess the decisions made during the horrific battles of the war. What we must demand from authors in order to do this speculation should be accurate, bias-free retelling of the historical record. Opinion stated as opinion is perfectly fine. Insights based upon new research must be welcomed. It is such new material that forms the basis of Stephen Hood's arguments.

Give **John Bell Hood: Rise, Fall, and Resurrection of a Confederate General** consideration if you would like taking another look to review the career and reputation of this staunch Confederate lion. It's a good read!

submitted by Dave Wege



The Civil War Trust is hosting its annual Teachers Institute in Memphis, Tennessee in July 2017. At that time, several hundred teachers from all over the nation will gather to immerse themselves in several days of Civil War studies. Workshops specific to teaching about social, military, and personal aspects of the conflict will be conducted by experts in the field such as historians or National Park rangers, or classroom teachers with expertise and experience of their own. Highlights of the Institute will also include speakers Garry Adelman, Robert Hicks, General Parker Hills, and Timothy B. Smith, and Kris White.

Several scholarships, donations from CWT benefactors, are provided for first time attendees. Teachers are responsible for their own travel and lodging expenses, but the rest of the Institute is entirely free. This includes tours of Shiloh National Military Park, and the expert lectures and guided walks by rangers.

The Civil War Trust is the most successful battlefield preservation organization in the country. As you can see, however, it also has an educational mission. By training, inspiring, and providing resources for today's teachers, it also is active in encouraging future generations of Civil War scholars. Donations to the Civil War Trust, therefore, are a sound investment in the future of not only battlefield preservation, but also of future enthusiasts who will not let the struggles and the lessons of the long, bloody conflict be forgotten.

Look for a full length article describing the 2017 Civil War Trust Teacher Institute in a future *Wanderings*. For further information, contact MCWRT member Dave Wege, or go to the Civil War Trust website and check under the Education tab.

### ***Milwaukee VA 150th Anniversary Event***

***Saturday, June 3, 2017***



In May of 1867, the National Soldiers Home in Milwaukee opened its doors for the first time, providing care and housing for soldiers who were returning to the area after the Civil War. The Soldiers Home is known today as the Zablocki VA Medical Center.

In the spirit of Reclaiming our Heritage that was held on the VA Milwaukee grounds from 2002 through 2012, we will be celebrating this milestone of continuous quality veteran care.

This multi-era military history event will be open to the public from 9 a.m. through 5 p.m. Event updates and schedules will be posted on the VA's Facebook page.

**We would like to invite reenactors from any period of American military history to participate in this celebration, including those who portray the Grand Army of the Republic, which had a Post on the grounds for many years. Please contact Laura Rinaldi at: [laura150th@gmail.com](mailto:laura150th@gmail.com) or call: 414-460-6554.**

Hope to see you all there, whether as a visitor or as part of our camps and displays.

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

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

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

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***General Orders*** design & layout by Dave Wege.

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

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

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

## MILWAUKEE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE QUARTERMASTER'S REGALIA

What better way to show off your pride in our organization! All items are made of first-rate, quality materials, modestly embroidered with the Round Table/Iron Brigade log, along with your name or initials.

| ITEM                                    | COST    |
|---|---------|
| Hooded Sweatshirt in Northern Blue..... | \$35.00 |
| Baseball Hat.....                       | \$10.00 |
| Blue Brief Case.....                    | \$25.00 |
| Blue Light-Weight Sweatshirt.....       | \$30.00 |
| Blue Izod Polo Shirt.....               | \$40.00 |
| Blue Dress Shirt.....                   | \$40.00 |
| Blue Fleece-Lined Jacket.....           | \$60.00 |
| Iron Brigade Pin.....                   | \$5.00  |
| CWRT Pin.....                           | \$5.00  |
| Bugle Pin.....                          | \$5.00  |
| Iron Brigade Medal.....                 | \$25.00 |
| Red River Medal.....                    | \$25.00 |
| CWRT 60 Year Medal.....                 | \$10.00 |

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

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

