

GENERAL ORDERS



The Newsletter of the

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



May 10, 2018

Joseph Rose

Grant Under Fire

An Exposé of Generalship & Character in the American Civil War

My failures have been errors in judgment, not of intent.

Ulysses S. Grant

Was Ulysses S. Grant a brilliant and unparalleled general who won the American Civil War, a magnanimous and incorruptible man, and an honest and accurate chronicler of history? Or was he remarkably untruthful, careless, persistent, indolent, aggressive, unjust, biased, impetuous and lucky?

Our May speaker, Joseph A. Rose, proposes that, while Grant possessed many positive attributes and achieved valuable objectives, his reputation as a military mastermind with a virtuous character is hopelessly exaggerated. At our May meeting, Mr. Rose will address his view of Grant as a general as well as his moral character.

Joseph Rose was raised and educated in New York State, with a Bachelor of Arts in Geography from the State University of New York at Albany (now the University at Albany) and a Master of Science degree in Industrial and Labor Relations from a joint program of Cornell University and Baruch College. He spent twelve years researching and writing *Grant Under Fire*. Through a comprehensive analysis of manuscript materials, published primary sources, and contemporary newspapers, he challenges General Grant's outstanding reputation as an officer and a gentleman.

Rose grew up reading the World Book Encyclopedia, his father's collection of military works (especially the *West Point Atlas of American Wars*), and other non-fiction. That began a life-long love of history and geography. During a career in healthcare management, he took a year-long cross-country trip, with visits to battlefields of the Revolutionary and Civil Wars. Afterward, debates on the internet convinced him how history, especially in Ulysses S. Grant's case, could be terribly miswritten. When supporters of Grant advanced unfounded arguments, such as that Grant was not tactically surprised at Shiloh or that he ordered the Army of the Cumberland to ascend Missionary Ridge at Chattanooga, Mr. Rose scoured the New York Public Library and elsewhere for primary source information concerning the various battles. Rose's research confirmed to him that Grant, particularly in his *Personal Memoirs*, and the numerous defenders of his generalship and his character have disfigured the historical record again and again.

Mr. Rose suggests that, prior to his presentation to our Round Table in May members may want to read the first (ten-page) introductory chapter of his book online at:

<http://www.grantunderfire.com/introduction-to-grant-under-fire/>

General Orders No. 5-18

May 2018

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May Meeting at a Glance The Wisconsin Club 9th and Wisconsin Avenue

[Jackets required for the dining room.]

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

6:45 p.m. - Dinner

[\$30 by reservation, please]

Reservations are accepted until
Monday, 7, 2018

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.

2017-2018 Speaker Schedule

Find the speaker schedule on page 6.

BOOK PICK-UP REMINDER.

We are still holding paid copies of David Dixon's *The Lost Gettysburg Address: Charles Anderson's Civil War Odyssey* for the following individuals:

Doug Haug Bob Corby Will Hochschild

If you are listed above and cannot make the meetings, please let us know who you authorize to pick up the book for you. Contact Paul Eilbes at peilbes@gmail.com or Donna Agnelly at donnaagnelly@gmail.com.

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!

ELECTION: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As announced at the March and April Round Table meetings 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 2021.

- Grant Johnson
- Bruce Klem
- Daniel Nettesheim
- Frank Risler
- David Wege

Nominating Committee: Donna, Agnelly,
Michael Benton, Paul Eilbes

The election will take place at the May 10, 2018
Milwaukee Civil War Round Table meeting.

DON'T FORGET!

When you come to the Round Table meeting remember to stop by our Quartermaster's table and get some raffle tickets for the monthly book raffle. You can't win if you don't play!

The Muster Roll: NEW MEMBERS

NAME	RANK	COMPANY	REGIMENT	DATE OF ENTRY
Michael Kuntz	Private	1st Regt. Wis. Inf.	61st Regt. Wis. Inf.	1861
Stephen Watts	Private	1st Regt. Wis. Inf.	61st Regt. Wis. Inf.	1861

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, 2017 through February 8, 2018.

Major Contributor (\$500 and above)

Patron (\$200 - \$499)

Eugene & Jane Jamroz, Steven Leopold,
Robert Parrish

Associate (\$100 - \$199)

Michael Benton, Crain Bliwas, Bob Dude, Bill Finke,
Douglas Haag, Dr. Peter & Jean Jacobsohn,
David Jordan, Bruce Klem, Jerry & Donna Martynski,
James & Ann Reeve, Laura Rinaldi,
David & Helga Sartori, Dennis Slater, Paul Sotirin,
Gil Vraney

Contributor (up to \$99)

George Affeldt, Jeryl Anthony, John Beatty,
T. James Blake, Dale Brasser, John & Linda Connelly,
Tom Corcoran, Dr. Gordon E. Dammann,
Michael Deeken, John Durr, Thomas Eddington,
Paul Eilbes, Gary & Judy Ertel, Van & Dawn Harl,
Leon & Margaret Harris, Dr. Erwin Huston,
Christopher Johnson, Allan Kasprzak, Ardis Kelling,
John Kuhnmuensch, Jay Lauck, Dr. Rodney Malinowski,
John (Jack) McHugh, Edward Newman, Herb Oechler,
Tom Pokrandt, John Rodahl, Diana Smurawa,
Dan Tanty, Michael Uihlein, Bernard VanDinter

milwaukeecwrt.org

Searching for more information about the CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF MILWAUKEE?

Check out our revamped MCWRT website at milwaukeecwrt.org.

Find us on Facebook. Current and upcoming events are posted there for our members or for others interested in what our group has to offer! Check it out, and tell an interested friend about us.



At the May 1948 meeting “Belle Boyd” was the subject of J.L. Ferree’s presentation to the membership.

At the May 1958 meeting, Elmer Gertz gave a talk on “James Harrison Wilson.”

Jack Filipiak was our Round Table speaker in May 1968 speaking on “General Rufus King.”

“The Battle of Shiloh” was the subject of James Lee McDonough’s talk at the May 1978 meeting.

Dr. Gerald A. Linderman presented “Embattled Courage” at the May 1988 meeting.

At the May 2008 meeting, Vernon Burton spoke to those assembled on “The Age of Lincoln.”

At last year’s May meeting, Reverend Robert Miller gave his presentation on “For God, Church and Country. The Catholic Civil War Chaplains.”

91st ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE AT CALVARY CEMETERY

C.K. Pier Badger Camp One and Auxiliary of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War is sponsoring its 91st annual Memorial Service at Cavalry Cemetery located at 5503 W. Bluemound Road, Milwaukee on Monday, May 28, 2018. In case of inclement weather, the service will be held inside St. Vincent Pallotti church at 5502 W. Bluemound Road directly across from the cemetery gatehouse.

The outdoor service will be conducted by Most. Rev. Jeffrey Haines, auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. The patriotic portion of the service will occur immediately following the religious service. It will include an address by President Abraham Lincoln (Mr. Nic Bur), a cannon salute by Cushing’s Battery, rifle salutes by the Camp honor guard and American Legion Milwaukee Police Post 415. Music will be provided by the famous First Brigade Band playing original Civil War era instruments.

For further information contact: Rev. Dean Collins at 262-782-0535 or dcollins@wi.rr.com

WOOD NATIONAL CEMETERY MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

The public is invited to the annual Wood National Cemetery Memorial Day program. The program, including the presentation of wreaths, will take place on Monday, May 28, 2018 at the northwest corner of the VA Medical Center grounds. A pre-ceremony concert by the American Legion band begins at 9:10 a.m. The ceremony begins at 9:30 a.m.

Kenosha Civil War Museum Second Friday Lecture Series

The series is a free program sponsored by the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table and Iron Brigade Association.

The Interesting Story of Surgeon Jacob Ebersole, 19th Indiana

Friday, May 11, 2018 – Noon

Presented by: Doug Dammann

Surgeon Jacob Ebersole joined the 19th Indiana in April of 1862, just in time to take care of the Iron Brigade wounded from the battles of Gainesville, South Mountain, and Antietam. In his talk, Mr. Dammann will highlight the career of one of the finest surgeons in the brigade.

What is a Zouave?

Friday, June 8, 2018 – Noon

Presented by: Terry R. Dyer

Where did they come from and how was it and by whom did their name, uniforms, and tactics of drill come to America, and especially to the city of Rockford, Illinois? Ten days after the Civil War broke out, the Zouaves of Rockford left for Springfield, making them the first military contingent to be mobilized in the State of Illinois.

Meet the Author: Ron Larson

Wisconsin and the Civil War

Friday, May 25, 2018 – Noon

Drawing on unpublished letters, photos, and new research, Kenosha author Ron Larson tells Wisconsin’s Civil War story, from the famous exploits of the Iron Brigade to the heretofore largely unknown contributions of the Badger state’s women, African-Americans, and American Indians.

New Leadership Perspectives on Western Campaigns

Thursday, May 3, 2018 – 6:30-8:30 pm

Instructor: Dick Zimmermann

Assess the leadership and judge the command effectiveness of the Union and Confederate armies during the Fort Donelson and Stones River Campaigns. To do this, Mr. Zimmermann will use several clarifying questions including: Did the political leadership of each nation support the commanding general? Did the commanding general have the support of his subordinates? Was the general active on the battlefield? Using these questions as tools, students will be better able to judge the effectiveness of the overall command of the Union and Confederate armies during these campaigns.

\$25/\$20 Friends of the Museum





From the Camp – A Card

The undersigned respectfully represents to the public as follows:

That he has been detailed by an eminently respectable number of eminently respectable soldiers now quartered in Camp Randall to vindicate their unsoldierly action in “groating” the Hon. Commissary and making other similar demonstrations of dissatisfaction yesterday morning – before and since! The fact of the matter is simply this, most of the soldiers here quartered never were like Ben Battle of whom Homer writes “—soldiers bold, and used to war’s alarms!” On the contrary, we come from the pantries of our respective wives and mothers.

In good sooth, we all knew we must come to soldier’s rations. We are ready for it, we are reasonably patriotic amateur soldiers all, spoiling for a fight with the rebels. But in the outset, we swear that we believe that the people of Wisconsin, from the several regions whence we come, don’t believe in subjecting us to the style of rations and quarters we have received part of the time since our advent. We are ready to “come to Limerick” when ‘tis necessary – eat foul meat, fouler bread or any other rations known in the history of the Mexican or Revolutionary War but in this land of plenty, when whole potatoes are selling at the low price, two shillings a bushel and beef more “damnation” cheap, we humbly appealed for Murphy’s that are not half rotten and the other half as watery as though they had soaked eleven years in the Dead Sea.

Our beef is goodish – we munch it with relish; and if we stand in four inches depth of mud while we gobbled it, we don’t consider anybody except the Clerk and the Weather responsible for what can’t be avoided or foreseen.

Our only complaint is that we’ve slept wet, consequently got awful colds and had rations which, though they may be all this provision-laden State can afford, have been in a bad rain storm, soaked in water too long to be palatable even for hungry soldiers. And even now we will not complain if the patriotic citizens of Madison will not charge us with being better rowdies than soldiers. “That’s what we don’t like” as Ira Woodlee said. If there is a man among us who would not, under the circumstances, have been with us, had he been of us, he will present himself to 4 Corporals.

Barracks, Saturday morning, May 4

Thank you, Jim Johnson, for these fascinating memories for our From the Field features!

Camp Randall, May 5th 1861

Editor: Journal and Courier:

The last seen of us by our friends who accompanied us to Shopiere, we were moving off in double quick time to the tune of Yankee Doodle. At Janesville we were met by Capt. Ely’s company and a large crowd of citizens. We arrived at Madison about 4 o’clock, and were marched directly to Camp Randall (the old state fair grounds), were welcomed by the La Crosse Light Guards and the Portage City Guards. Our quarters are the old cattle pens, boarded up, doors fitted, and floor laid a double row of double berths extending the whole length beds filled with hay. All very comfortable. After supper the boys unpacked, fixed up their beds, made a fire, lit their pipes, and imagined themselves happy. As we must do something to display our patriotism and as no enemy could be found to fight with we each and every one of us contributed to the support of the U.S. Government to the amount of one postage stamp! We have a decidedly literary company, some one writing letters constantly and many keeping journals. I suppose our mothers and sisters would like to know how we fare in the eating line. Our dining hall is a large building filled with tables and benches. The table furniture consists of tin plates, platters, cups, with knives and forks. Our regular fare is beef steak!! Baker’s bread and coffee, oil and sugar. At dinner we have baked beans, corned beef, and potatoes. The beef has to be eaten three or four times before it disappears. The potatoes are very poor. As it has rained every day since we came and the roof leaks, all the provisions are very much diluted. We would not complain but as the state pays for our board at the rate of 21 shillings a week, we do not think a better fare might be furnished.

Sunday passed off quietly. There was some sort of preaching by one of the La Crosse Company, but the boys staid quietly in their quarters, read their Testaments, looked at the pictures of their absent loved ones, and tried to keep comfortable. The rain came down in torrents right through the roof but as we were all damp together no one could complain. Our La Crosse friends are a fine looking company of men – just a little wild!

There are eight companies on the ground: The La Crosse Light Guard, Portage City Light Guard, Beloit Cadet Rifles, Belle City Rifles, Racine, Fox Lake Company, Oshkosh, Randall Guards of Madison, and a Grant Co. company. The expectation is that we shall march somewhere in about eight days, but no one knows definitely.

Col. Coon is very popular. He is a perfect gentleman. Shanghai Chandler is here, a corporal in the Portage Company. Of course there is fun where he is.

You must excuse the meagerness and dullness of this letter as all writing is done under peculiarly trying circumstances.

A Volunteer

Editor Journal and Courier –

Life is somewhat strange here in camp. All is bustle and activity. Our quarters are being arranged for convenience and use. Now while I write the noise and jar of the hammer and saw, mingled with music from drum and fife is sounding in my ears. The smoke of the camp-fire and the motley throng of uniformed soldiers surrounding it are before me and all seems “merry as a marriage ball.” You are probably aware that we are at camp in the fair grounds about one and half miles from the center of the city of Madison. The camp ground is enclosed by a high fence and is large enough though rather uneven in surface. The companies’ barracks are constructed of boards along the east and south sides of the ground.

You may be assured that our first night in camp will not be forgotten by the company. Our “big corporal” bellowed like a Thracian bull and all the smaller corporals and privates generally set up such bellowings, blattings, barkings, crowings, &c. as never before were heard by the animal creation outside of Noah’s ark.

The second day of our military life served to try our patience and to make real the amount of sacrifice we are supposed to make. The rain poured down and the roof of our shanties did not shed the dampness of heaven from our heads. But boys only laughed at such hardships and told long stories of other times. Our “big corporal” with his squad “stood guard” Saturday night for the first time. A detailed account of their merry adventures, if written, would prove an interesting chapter. But time is so valuable at present that I cannot write much in detail. You may wish to know how we live – what we get to eat &c. I will say that we have plenty of meat, potatoes, beans, bread, and coffee, with an occasional soup. Our eating apartment is in a building formerly used for fair purposes. During two days of rain streams of water ran through the roof to the great detriment of provisions. Coffee set upon the table, weak enough, became even more diluted.

Taking our quarters as a whole, we are well provided for and ask for nothing better excepting perhaps dry places in wet weather. The Colonel and other regimental officers are exceedingly affable and pleasant men and work for the comfort and convenience of the regiment.

We all try to be satisfied though an occasional grumble will now and then escape us. When the weather becomes fair and nature smiles we will do so. Even a pleasant fire drives scowls away.

When we get more settled, I will post you further in our movements and expectations.

Beloit

Savas Beatie

Three Finalists for the 2017 Army Historical Foundation Distinguished Writing Award

On March 2, 2018, Savas Beatie, award-winning independent company specializing in military and general history titles, announced that three of their titles are finalists for the 2017 Army Historical Foundation Distinguished Writing Award.

The three titles are:

Battle Above the Clouds: Lifting the Siege of Chattanooga and the Battle of Lookout Mountain, October 16-November 24, 1863 by David A. Powell

Richmond Shall Not Be Given Up: The Seven Days’ Battles, June 25-July 1, 1862 by Doug Crenshaw

Under the Crescent Moon with the XI Corps in the Civil War. Volume 1: From the Defenses of Washington to Chancellorsville, 1862-1863 by James S. Pula

The Army Historical Foundation is dedicated to preserving the history and heritage of the American Soldier. The AHF Distinguished Writing Award program was established in 1997 to recognize authors who make a significant contribution to the literature on U.S. Army history.

“We are always pleased and humbled when award organizations, especially one as prestigious as The Army Historical Foundation Distinguished Writing Award, think highly of our titles and authors,” explained Managing Director Theodore P. Savas. “These authors work hard and hope others will read and enjoy what they have produced. This recognition is confirmation of their individual excellence and dedication to scholarship.”

MILWAUKEE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

2017-2018 SPEAKER SCHEDULE

September 7, 2017

Ed Bonekemper

False Remembrance of the Civil War:

The Myth of the Lost Cause

October 12, 2017

Dave Powell

Chickamauga

November 9, 2017

Tom Clemens

Special Order 191 and the Maryland Campaign

December 7, 2017

David Dixon

Lost Gettysburg Address

January 11, 2018

Bruce Allardice

Battle of Ezra Church

February 8, 2018

Larry Hewitt

Confederate General Richard Anderson

March 8, 2018

Robert D. Jenkins

Peachtree Creek

April 12, 2018

John Marszalek

Grant Memoirs

Nevins-Freeman Award Winner

May 10, 2018

Joseph Rose

Grant Under Fire

June 7, 2018

Dennis Rasbach

Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain at Petersburg

Speakers/topics remain subject to change.

Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.

2017 – 2018 Board of Directors

Name	Office/Position	Term Expires
Donna Agnelly	Editor, General Orders	2019
Thomas Arliskas	President	2019
Terry Arliskas	Secretary	
Michael K. Benton	Second Vice President	2020
Roman Blenski	Quartermaster	2019
Crain Bliwas	Member	2019
Paul A. Eilbes	Treasurer/Membership	2019
A. William Finke	Member	2020
Van Harl	Past President	2020
James J. Heinz	Member	2020
Grant Johnson	Past President	2018
Bruce Klem	First Vice President	2018
Daniel Nettesheim	Member	2018
Frank Risler	Program Chair	2018
Tom Thompson	Member	2020
David Wege	Layout, General Orders	2018

~ CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE NEWS EMAIL NOTIFICATIONS ~

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

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

Milwaukee Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for May 10, 2018

Mail your reservations by Monday, May 7 to:

Paul Eilbes

1809 Washington Avenue

Cedarburg, WI 53012-9730

Call or email reservations to:

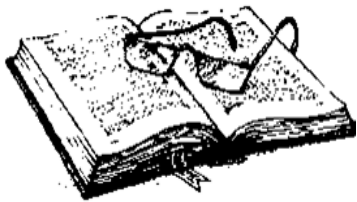
(262) 376-0568

peilbes@gmail.com

Enclosed is \$_____ (meal is \$30.00 per person) for _____ people for the

May 10, 2018 meeting of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee.

(Please make checks payable to the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.)

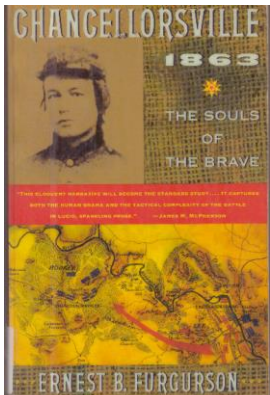


BETWEEN THE COVERS

Chancellorsville 1863

The Souls of the Brave

Ernest B. Furgurson



I purchased this book prior to the Kenosha Civil War Museum's October 2017 trip to Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville and Spotsylvania. The book was one that was on the recommended reading list before going on the trip. While not a new book, published in 1992, it is one of the better books on this battle – one which presents information in a clear concise manner. Furgurson has a journalist's knack for clear, compelling storytelling and does an excellent job in putting together a captivating account of the Battle of Chancellorsville.

The author begins with an introduction explaining how the Union forces are in the position in which they find themselves. He summarizes the fall of Ambrose Burnside and introduces General Joe Hooker and his qualifications as he takes over the demoralized Union Army. Furgurson details how General Hooker slowly makes key

improvements in the organization and methods of the army that help put the soldiers' morale back on the upswing, developing a cockiness that they finally had a leader who can lead the army to victory over the Rebels and General Lee. Some of Hooker's changes led to improvement in rations, unit Corps badges and the creation of a cavalry arm by putting all the cavalry units into one Corps under the command of General George Stoneman; these were three of the key changes among all the improvements he instituted that helped put the Union Army back into fighting condition.

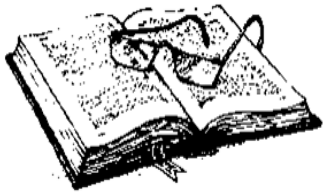
The author describes how General Hooker came up with a sound plan and got his forces to follow the plan; it put General Lee and Confederate forces in a bad position. It's been written that, once first contact is made any plan goes out the window and it seems that this was the case with Hooker's plan. Hooker put the main Union force in the Confederate rear but once his units met with minimal resistance Hooker lost his nerve. He halted the advance and dug in to await an attack. Hooker's plan really depended on him retaining the initiative for the Union to win and crush the Confederates. Apparently, Hooker's fighting spirit was only in play in lower command positions, and as an Army commander he couldn't function. Furgurson asserts that Hooker's penchant for the bottle is at least partly responsible for his hesitancy to follow through on the success of his opening gambit, and his reluctance to deploy his forces on hand to full effect.

Furgurson points to how the Confederates, with the tactical brilliance of Lee and Jackson, enabled the Confederacy to repeatedly carry the day despite the formidable advantages in manpower, resources and battlefield position held by the Union forces. Lee's brazen decision, on three separate occasions, to divide his army in the face of superior Union forces – flouting all conventional military doctrine – leads to what Furgurson calls Lee's "supreme moment." But in the Chancellorsville triumph are planted the seeds of the South's debacle at Gettysburg, the battle that just two months hence, would turn the tide of the war. The Chancellorsville conflict, according to Furgurson, would deprive Lee of his most audacious, like-minded battlefield commander, and lead to an excess of hubris...the belief that Lee's troops "if properly led" were invincible.

Hooker still had opportunities to reclaim the initiative. His wounding and extremely poor communications with his diversion force, led by General Sedgwick, prevented this from happening. After all, Hooker still had two Corps that really didn't do much fighting and those Corps commanders were recommending attack. Hooker's only answer was to retreat.

I found this book a very interesting read. It was hard to put down and was a perfect book to read prior to our visit to the Chancellorsville battlefield. It really helped to understand the flow of battle as we toured the battlefield and as our guide described the action as we visited the various sections of the field. I recommend it to anyone who has an interest in learning about the battle of Chancellorsville.

submitted by Bruce Klem



BETWEEN THE COVERS

Chancellorsville's Forgotten Front

The Battles of Second Fredericksburg and Salem Church May 3, 1863

by Chris Mackowski and Kristopher White

My review is on the second book I took on the Kenosha Civil War Museum's October 2017 trip to Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville and Spotsylvania. As was the case in the tour, the guides really didn't cover much about this area of the battlefield. One reviewer, noted historian Donald Franz, said about this book on the battles: "Too often historians have treated these battles as mere footnotes to the greater Chancellorsville campaign." I think this part of the battle was a critical portion of Hooker's plan and the authors do a good job of covering the fight. Chris Mackowski and Kristopher White both work for the Park Service at Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville and Spotsylvania sites.

The authors show how General Hooker's plan called for Sedgwick's Corps to be an integral part of Hooker's overall plan. Hooker had three main components of the plan to dislodge and defeat Lee and the Confederate forces. The first part was a deep cavalry thrust behind the Fredericksburg position with the purpose of cutting the Confederate line of communications and supply line. They were also to destroy the railroad line that led to Richmond, thus isolating the battlefield and the Confederate army from additional support, reinforcements and supply. The second part of the plan called for Sedgwick's VI Corps to hold Lee's attention on the Fredericksburg position and prevent forces to move from there to attack Hooker's main force. Finally, the third component was Hooker's main strike force, which was to cross the Rappahannock and then the Rapidan, get into the Wilderness and advance to Chancellorsville. Then the Union forces would advance on Lee's flank and attack and destroy Lee's forces.

Hooker was planning on Lee to retreat toward Richmond but blocked by the cavalry raiding forces, Sedgwick crossing at Fredericksburg and Hooker's main forces charging out of the Wilderness, victory was a certainty. The war would then be over. Except for one thing Hooker didn't count on – instead of retreating to a more secure position Lee decided to attack. The attack led to a sudden change of heart by Hooker and has always presented a mystery that never really has been adequately explained other than Hooker saying that he lost faith in Joe Hooker. Regardless of the reason, it really set the stage for Hooker's defeat but there were many opportunities to still pull this fight out of the fire and win.

The authors cover the problems faced by Sedgwick and the VI Corps as they attempted to carry out instructions from Hooker. However, in spite of telegraphic communication between Hooker's main force and Sedgwick in front of Fredericksburg, the messages either didn't get through or got there so late that timeliness of action was completely lost. As a result, any real hope of Sedgwick's forces providing assistance to Hooker as he had his troops hunker down, was lost. Lee was thus enabled to shift forces once again to deal with the threat presented by Sedgwick's Corps.

So after initial success Sedgwick's troops had to deal with a Confederate force that eventually reach equality with and then surpassed the VI Corps. Sedgwick was thus forced to halt his advance and then to dig in and retreat toward Banks Ford. The poor communication between the two forces ended any chance of one force helping the other. In my opinion, it does seem entirely unrealistic of Hooker to have expected Sedgwick's troops to relieve his situation in and around Chancellorsville. It seems to me that once he knew Sedgwick had carried Marye's Heights it became incumbent on Hooker to initiate a breakout operation himself. It was obvious to most of his commanders that they still had the forces at hand to attack.

The authors point out in numerous detail the lost opportunities of the Union forces and how this battle gave Lee the ability to put an end to any Union attempt to destroy the Confederate force. This was definitely a case of one force being able to operate on interior lines and thus shift meager forces back and forth to defeat a much larger foe. It helped that the Union commander lost his nerve for whatever reason but that fact along with poor communications ended up sinking his grand operation.

I found this to be a great book to read as an adjunct to any book on the Battle of Chancellorsville. They do a good job of covering the second fight at Marye's Heights where the Union carried that position and the Battle of Salem Church. It is a good addition to your Civil War library and helps to put this battle into perspective.



HIKING GETTYSBURG'S WESTERN FRONT WITH GARRY ADELMAN AND TIM SMITH

The dynamic duo of Garry Adelman and Tim Smith are leading a tour of sites seldom viewed by most visitors. All concern the first days' fighting at Gettysburg. From the quarry near Willoughby's Run, to the Thompson house (now preserved as Lee's Headquarters), to the fighting south of Herbst Woods, and into town itself, these places will be fairly new to my eyes. I have visited Gettysburg nearly 30 times, but have never walked these historic places.

It will be a long drive on a three-day weekend, but once there we will stay with friends, make some new ones, learn some history, and create some outstanding new memories while hiking Gettysburg's hallowed ground.

Dave Wege



Look for a write-up in June's *Wanderings*.

Rethinking Ulysses S. Grant by Dave Wege

I write this as I am wrapping my head around Ron Chernow's *Grant*. Half-way through this massive volume (1104 pages) I find myself rethinking the character of a man who hasn't won my kindest regards. Grant "the Butcher" was always on the front burner of my brain in any past associations I have had with literature related to the man. His shoddy dealings with a personal favorite of mine, George Henry Thomas, have always rankled; my sense of honor and fairness cried "foul!" The Grant I knew was too flawed, too partial to his disciple William T. Sherman.

Chernow paints a picture of a Grant I never cared to understand. Deeply flawed, haunted by powerful influences which included a domineering father, he seemed to me to be simply - overrated. His life-long struggles with strong drink receive their share of coverage. However, it's Grant's perseverance in the face of it all that shines through in this book. I found Grant to be likeable, his humanity remarkable, and that surprised me.

That's the lesson in this little article. As new primary sources come to light, our understandings must change, too, or they are prejudices rather than opinions. Isn't that one of the many exciting aspects of Civil War scholarship? Isn't it also a reason we are members of a Civil War Round Table? Our 2017-2018 season has had several speakers address the enigma that is Grant. Their opinions have varied. Some elevate him to myth and legend, others relegate him to the ash heap of history. And we, the members of the MCWRT, are able to hear their views, weigh them against our own prior knowledge, and form new understandings. What a truly blessed group we are!

We have one meeting left and the 2017-2018 season wraps up. We have enjoyed great speakers and fine fellowship, all while broadening our historical horizons. This is great stuff.

Civil War Trust National Teacher Institute



The annual National Teacher Institute brings together educators from all over the world. This four-day event includes workshops, lectures, and tours from some of the leading experts in the history and education fields. Educators will be immersed in a friendly, fun, and engaging learning environment, where they will be able to network with other educators while learning new and innovative teaching methods. This year's Institute will be held in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. Many teachers attend this conference every year, as it is one of the premiere history conferences in the United States. The event is free, but a refundable deposit is required. That deposit will be returned or may be turned in at the end of the conference as a donation to the Civil War Trust.

For more information: teacherinstitute@civilwar.org



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!

John F. Prosser - 14th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry

Daily Entries for Monday, January 2, 1865 through January 11, 1865

We was rear guard today of the whole base. Arrived in camp at nine p.m. about two miles from the river at Clifton, Tennessee. My, dem roads was very muddy. It rained a little in the night.

We received our blanks for musket rods. (Turned over my ordnance store to camp to garrison equipage.) Wrote a letter to Captain Mansfield, one to my friend. We remained in camp all day, it is warm and pleasant.

Done some writing today, such as making our Discriptive Rolls. Went on pickett, my line was in the woods. It was a very pleasant place, near a small brook, with fence near the woods.

Done some writing today, to a friend. I was relieved from pickett, it has been warm and pleasant with prospect of rain. One of the boys killed a beef, we roasted it on a stick. It was very good cooked before the fire.

Was to work at making out my Muster Rolls. It was very cold with snow at night. We are anxious to get some mail and papers, for we have not received any since we left Nashville, Tennessee December 15, 1864.

I finished my rolls this morning. It is warmer today than it has been for several days. Some of the men went aforaging yesterday, some of them did not return.

We received orders to march to the landing at twelve a.m. but did not until eight o'clock at night. Our brigade embarked that night. Our regiment was on the steamer *Huntsman*. The fleet started at twelve that night.

We passed Savannah, Tennessee about ten a.m. Came in sight of Pittsberg landings. They sent a gun boat ahead to reconitor. Returned and reported no enemy in sight. We passed the landing all safe. The boat in our rear was fired into by a few Rebs. Our regiment returned the fire.

We landed at east port some time in the night. There is no town here, only three old buildings. It is level land for three hundred yards. Back from the river at that distance there is a high bluff. The Rebs was there fortifying a few shells from the gun boat. Set off on a double quick, we disembarked and remained there that night.

Our regiment went out half a mile and went into camp on a hill. All hands went into building on our log huts. We made us busy as a set of beavers all day. We were short of axes, consequently our progress was slow.

Daily Entries for March 27, 1865 through March 31, 1865

We marched this morning at six. Skirmishing in our advance we are in line of battle. There is heavy cannon fire and skirmishing. We had one man of our regiment wounded. It has rained all afternoon. We are with-in a mile of their works.

Firing commenced this morning. The shells are flying over us. There has been heavy fighting to day. We have been building works to protect us from shells which lie rather near, for comfort and safety. We received mail, but not any for me.

I went down to the right this morning where our men are building a fort for heavy guns. I climbed a tree and had a fair view of their fort and gun boats and the city of Mobile. Our adjutant was slightly wounded with a shell.

Our heavy guns opened on their gun boat today. They made them get out of range. Co. H is on the Skirmish line today. I wrote a letter to my mother. There has been heavy firing today.

submitted on behalf of Wayne Rimmel
descendant of John F. Prosser

John Prosser was mustered in for three years and nine months. His writing contains both the mundane events of camp life and a remarkably sanguine view of service under fire. He kept a diary every day during his enlistment. Copies of only two of his diaries remain, residing at the Marathon County Historical Society in Wausau. These were typed out by descendants of Prosser, who carefully tried to decipher 19th Century script in an attempt to faithfully capture the style and flavor of the day. Two diaries have gone missing, assumed to have been lost, along with Prosser's uniform, sword, and other personal belongings. Let that serve as a cautionary tale! Preserve these precious artifacts as you come upon them.

On June 13, 1865 Prosser wrote, "I was mustered out of the U.S. service this morning. The regiment was paid off today." And so ended his recording of his enlistment, though he continued the diary until the pages of the booklet ran out.

Civil War Media Club

Lincoln's Boys by Joshua Zeitz

Wednesday, May 23, 2018 – 7-8:30 pm

Instructor: Doug Dammann

Lincoln's official secretaries, John Hay and John Nicolay, enjoyed more access, witnessed more history, and knew Lincoln better than anyone outside of the President's immediate family. Hay and Nicolay were widely considered the gatekeepers of the Lincoln Legacy. Drawing heavily on Hay's and Nicolay's letters, diaries, and memoirs, *Lincoln's Boys* is part political drama and part coming-of-age tale – a fascinating story of friendship, politics, war, and the contest over history and remembrance. Media Club attendees are encouraged to read the selection before the meeting and come prepared to share their thoughts.

\$10/\$5 Friends of the Museum

Women in History Tea: Meet Louisa May Alcott

Saturday, May 12, 2018 – 1 pm

Join Louisa May Alcott, portrayed by actress Debra Ann Miller, for tea Mother's Day weekend as part of a celebration of the 150th anniversary of *Little Women*. Poet and author, abolitionist and nurse, patriot and suffragist, Alcott was so much more than the author of *Little Women*. In this 45-minute performance, the audience meets with Alcott at the height of her health and success. This theatrical presentation is written using excerpts from her letters and journals, allowing Alcott to speak in her own words.

Refreshments are included.

\$35/\$25 Friends of the Museum adults 17 and older.

\$20/\$15 Friends of the Museum children (accompanied by a paid adult) 10-16 years of age

The Great Lakes Civil War Forum

Conquer or Perish – The Shiloh Campaign

Saturday, September 15, 2018

Registration 8:30 – 9:30 am. Programs begin at 9:30 am

\$60/\$50 Friends of the Museum – fee includes all programs, museum admission and catered lunch.

To register call the museum at 262-653-4140

Speakers:

Tim Smith – *Anatomy of an Icon: The Hornet's Nest*

Larry Daniel – *Shiloh – What Did it all Mean*

Bjorn Skaptason – *Wisconsin and Shiloh*

Tom Arliskas – *Shiloh – A Soldier's Battle*

For more information and to register for a class or event please call: 262-653-4141

or visit the website at: www.TheCivilWarMuseum.org

Now at the ANTARAMIAN GALLERY

For Honor and Family: Three Families in the Civil War

CELEBRATE!

The Civil War Museum's 10th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday, June 23, 2018

Details in the June *General Orders*

IRON BRIGADE PLAQUE

A plaque commemorating the Iron Brigade, one of the Civil War's most famous fighting units known to Confederate foes as "those damned black hats," is going up at a veterans' memorial north of Madison, Wisconsin.

The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) is erecting the plaque at a veterans' memorial just north of Sauk City, Wisconsin. The Iron Brigade was composed of the 2nd, 6th and 7th Wisconsin infantry regiments and infantry regiments from Indiana and Michigan – the 19th Indiana and 24th Michigan. The only all-Western brigade in the Eastern Union armies, the brigade's soldiers wore the distinctive high-crowned black Hardee hat rather than the more typical blue forage cap. By the end of the Civil War, the Iron Brigade led all Union army brigades in soldiers killed in the war and won grudging respect from Rebel adversaries as Western men who could fight.

The brigade won eternal fame and its nickname at the battles of Antietam and South Mountain when its soldiers "stood like iron" in the face of fierce Rebel attacks.

The nearly 90-pound Iron Brigade plaque, cast in bronze, will be erected at the veterans' memorial by Camp #15 of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Based in Wind Lake, Wisconsin, Camp #15's members largely hail from the western Racine County area. The Sons of Union Veterans are descendants of Union Army soldiers and the organization is dedicated to preserving the graves, monuments and memories of those Union soldiers.



**SUVCW Commander Camp #15
Bob Koenecke
with the Iron Brigade plaque
photo by Brian McManus**

Camp #15 commander Bob Koenecke was the driving force in designing the plaque, finding a manufacturer and locating a spot to erect the memorial.

"This plaque is a fitting tribute to the men of those five regiments who sacrificed so much to preserve the freedoms and liberties we enjoy as Americans today," said Koenecke.

Funding for the \$2,328.00 plaque was helped by a \$1,878.00 grant from the national SUVCW and a \$500.00 donation from the Wisconsin SUVCW. Brian McManus, senior vice commander for the Wisconsin Department, helped secure funding from the national SUVCW.

Camp #15 is erecting the 20 x 28-inch plaque at a veterans' memorial along U.S. Highway 12, officially designated as the Iron Brigade Highway. The veterans' memorial already boasts a Vietnam-era Huey helicopter, a T-33 Air Force fighter jet, and an Army Model 60 tank.

**submitted by David D. Daley
Camp #15 SUVCW**

The Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee 2018-2019 Speaker List

It looks like another great year of programming is ahead for next season's Milwaukee Civil War Round Table!

Tim Smith

September 13, 2018

Ted Karamanski

October 11, 2018

Ethan Rafuse

November 8, 2018

David Hirsch & Dan Van Hafen

December 13, 2018

Bjorn Skaptason

January 10, 2019



Rob Girardi

February 7, 2019

Horace Mewborn

March 7, 2019

Bradley Gottfried

April 11, 2019

John Horn

May 9, 2019

Greg Biggs

June 13, 2019



In Memoriam

It is with sadness that we report that Round Table member, Jerry Martynski, passed away on March 22, 2018. Jerry was born in Milwaukee, the son of Casimir and Salomea Martynski. Jerry proudly served his country in the United States Marine Corps in Vietnam and as a ceremonial guard in Washington DC where he served in the honor guard for President John F. Kennedy's funeral. He worked for 30 years at Seaquist Closures in Mukwonago, retiring as a manager. He later became a history and social studies teacher at Pius XI High School retiring in 2014. He continued as a volunteer at Pius XI after his retirement. Jerry remained interested in history and was an avid collector and painter of military miniatures. Jerry and his wife Donna have been Round Table members since 2006.

And flights of angels guide him to his rest

Underground Railroad Refuge Discovered in Pennsylvania

As reported by Meagan Flynn on March 22, 2018 in the *Washington Post*, Philadelphia preservationists believe they have discovered where the William and Letitia Still House stands. Still, the son of freed slaves, was one of Philadelphia's most prominent abolitionists and a leader in the Underground Railroad.

The Philadelphia Historical Commission unanimously voted to designate the 19th century rowhouse where Still lived as a site on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. The designation protects the home from demolition or serious alteration. It becomes the second marker in Philadelphia recognizing Still's work with the Underground Railroad.

The house is three stories with a tan-colored brick façade and a drab, windowless roughcast brick on its side – the first of three rowhouses on a narrow street. The house, according to records, was last remodeled in 1920 when the house's red bricks were replaced with the tan-colored bricks. The front marble steps appear to be original.

The house was located through an 1851 newspaper ad placed by Still's wife, Letitia, who was a dressmaker. The advertisement Letitia placed lists the exact address for interested customers.

CIVIL WAR NUGGET

The Spring 2018 issue of *Civil War Monitor* posted some interesting statistics on the Anatomy of a Civil War Buff. Here's a few of the top answers:

- 27.6% had their interest in the Civil War sparked by a book
- 6.7% on a scale of 1 to 10 - do you consider yourself a Civil War expert
- 45.7% had no ancestor who fought in the Civil War
- 87.6% of Civil War buffs are men
- 54.2% have attended a Civil War battle reenactment as a spectator
- 56.7% feel that Confederate monuments in public spaces should remain standing and not taken down
- 44.8% became interested in the Civil War before they reached the age of 20

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

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

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

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General Orders design & layout by Dave Wege.

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

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

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

MILWAUKEE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE QUARTERMASTER'S REGALIA

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

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

Contact Roman Blenski, Quartermaster

4601 W. Holt Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53219

(414) 327-2847, dbcpmilw@execpc.com

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

