

# GENERAL ORDERS



The Newsletter of the

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



**October 11, 2018**

**Ted Karamanski**

## The Civil War as an Indian War

*The topic explores the formative role of Indian-American warfare on the origins and conduct of the Union Army's "hard war" strategy in the Civil War.*

For much of U.S. history, the story of native people has been written by historians and anthropologists relying on the often-biased accounts of European-American observers. The interaction between the U.S. government and the Native American population is often overlooked by historians and overshadowed by events that occurred between the principal forces of the Union and Confederacy.

The term "hard war" was coined in 1995 by historian Mark Grimsley to describe Union General William Tecumseh Sherman's approach to ending the Civil War. "Hard War" came to mean inflicting war's realities on the civilian population by destroying property and foodstuffs. It was exactly this type of warfare that was waged against Native Americans during and after the Civil War. In many ways it was true psychological warfare, a wearing away at an enemies' will to resist.

It is well known that Indians fought in the Civil War and that several Indian wars occurred at the same time as crisis of the union, but that is not the focus of this talk. "The Civil War as an Indian War" will be an illustrated lecture exploring how the experience of American Settler Colonialism shaped the American way of war in general and the Civil War in particular. Understanding the tactics of settler-Indian conflicts helps explain the origins of the "hard war" program instituted to defeat the Confederacy.



Theodore J. Karamanski, PhD is Professor of History and Director of the Public History Program at Loyola University Chicago. He has served broadly as an historical consultant to the National Park Service, in federal court on issues of American Indian treaty rights, for historic preservation, and in the media for BBC, National Geographic, The History Channel, and the Travel Channel. He is the author of ten books and numerous articles about

the Midwest region including *Rally 'Round the Flag: Chicago and the Civil War* and *Civil War Chicago*. He was a founding board member of NCPH and is Past-President of the National Council on Public History. In 2018 he was the recipient of the Frederick Jackson Turner Award for Lifetime Achievement by the Midwest History Association.

## General Orders No. 10-18

**October 2018**

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### October Meeting at a Glance

**The Wisconsin Club**

**9<sup>th</sup> 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, October 8, 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.

### 2018-2019 Speaker Schedule

Find the speaker schedule on page 6.

## Don't forget!

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

# 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!

## The Vacant Chair



*Coming in November for Veterans' Day!*

## The Muster Roll: NEW MEMBERS

MUSTER ROLL									
NAME	AGE	RESIDENCE	DATE OF BIRTH	DATE OF DEATH	DATE OF BURIAL	DATE OF CREMATION	DATE OF INTERMENT	DATE OF EXHUMATION	DATE OF REINTERMENT
Kerry Calba									
Tom Callen									

## 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 June 15, 2018.

### Major Contributor (\$500 and above)

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

Eugene & Jane Jamrozy, Grant Johnson, Steven Leopold, Robert Parrish

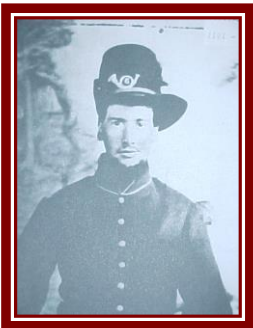
#### Associate (\$100 - \$199)

Crain Bliwas, Douglas Haag, Van & Dawn Harl, Dr. Peter & Jean Jacobsohn, Bernard Jene, Kathy McNally, James & Ann Reeve

#### Contributor (up to \$99)

Dale Bespalec, T. James Blake, Anne & Shaw Bridges, John & Linda Connelly, Mike Deeken, Lori Duginski, John Durr, Tom Eddington, Paul Eilbes, Gary & Judy Ertl, Gerald Frangesch, Jim Heiz, Alan Kasprzak, Ardis Kelling, John Kuhnmuensch, Jay Lauck, Rod Malinowski, Tom Pokrandt, John Rodahl, Chet Rohn, Dan Tanty

## SILENT AUCTION



Larry Lefler of Fremont, Nebraska passed away on June 23, 2018. Larry was a descendant of Amos Lefler, Co. E, Sixth Wis. Vols. who was seriously wounded and listed as MIA following the heroic charge on Gettysburg's Railroad Cut on July 1, 1863. Larry had quite a collection of Civil War books and magazines, and he wanted them to get into the hands of those who would truly appreciate them. A group of these books will be available via silent auction at our October meeting. Proceeds will be divided between the MCWRT and the Seminary Ridge Museum. Please bid accordingly. Some books will have a minimum bid. Looks for these books by the cases of name badges.

**Auction items will include titles by Alan Nolan, Alan Gaff, and James I. Robertson. September's silent auction garnered \$190.00. Thanks for bidding!**



At the October 1948 meeting "Cumberland Gap in the Civil War" was the subject of Robert L. Kincaid's presentation to the membership.

At the October 1958 meeting Ralph Newman gave a talk on "Resurgence of Interest in the Civil War."

Frank Klement was the speaker at the October 1968 meeting speaking on "First Bull Run."

Ralph Newman talked about "General Lee: Was He Really That Good?" at the October 1978 meeting.

The featured speaker at the October 1988 meeting was Marshall Krolick speaking to the members assembled on "Captain to Brigadier: The Promotion of Custer, Merritt and Farnsworth."

"Tales of Civilians and the Battle of Antietam" was the subject of Kathleen Ernst's talk in October 1998.

Members attending the October 2008 meeting listened to Gloria Swift talk about "Ford's Theatre Secrets Revealed! Museum Objects Tell All!"

At last year's October meeting Dave Powell spoke to the group on "Who Won the Battle of Chickamauga?"

### Round Table Donates to the Kenosha Civil War Museum

At the 11th Annual Great Lakes Civil War Forum held on September 15, 2018, Round Table Treasurer, Paul Eilbes, presented museum curator, Doug Dammann, with a check from our Round Table in the amount of \$1000. Our Round Table continues to support and partner with the Civil War Museum. The annual donation will be used for programming of the Second Friday Lecture Series which our Round Table and Iron Brigade Association sponsors.



Milwaukee Round Table members in attendance at the Forum, which focused on Shiloh this year, represented nearly 25% of those attending.

These Civil War Forums are well worth the time and effort that may be involved in attending for the day! Consider joining in next Fall.

## 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.

### He Was Called Billy Yank

**Friday, October 12, 2018 Noon**

**Presented by: Lance Herdegen**

The Union soldier was called by many names during the American Civil War, but is remembered today as "Billy Yank." In the first days of the conflict, he was a volunteer who enlisted for patriotic reasons to protect the Union. Later he was perhaps drafted, or accepted a bounty to enlist. In the final result, he not only saved the Union, but ended slavery. This is a look at how he lived while in uniform, what he looked like, and what he faced when he returned home.

### Archaeology Day – Camp Douglas

**Saturday, October 20, 2018 1 pm**

**Free and open to the public**

**Presented by: David Keller and Michael Gregory**

The Camp Douglas Restoration Foundation conducted its first Camp Douglas excavation in June 2012. The southern side of the camp was discovered by Dr. Scott Demel and students from Loyola Chicago and Northern Michigan University. Further investigation by Dr. Michael Gregory of DePaul University were done in 2013-2017, uncovering Civil War artifacts. At this presentation, Dr. Gregory and David Keller will give the latest information on the work being done at Camp Douglas and how the team is hopeful the site will be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

### Civil War Dentistry

**Saturday, October 20, 2018 6:30-8 pm**

**\$20/\$15 Friends of the Museum**

**Presenter: Dr. Gordon Dammann**

When the topic of Civil War Medicine is discussed, one aspect of the soldier's health is for the most part forgotten – his oral health. In the Union Army, out of 255,188 recruits examined, a total of 5,230 were excused because of poor teeth or related oral structure. Surgeon General Hammond US Army relates "unhealthy oral structures interfere with proper mastication of food which affects his whole digestive process." This workshop will describe treatment of dental disease of the Civil War Soldier.



**More Kenosha Museum events on page 11.**



**Ft. Tillinghast, October 6th, 1861**

**Editors: Advocate** – As you see by the above heading, “The wandering 2d” have changed their place of abode and are now encamped just outside the gates of Ft. Tillinghast on the grounds recently occupied by the 35th Regt. N.Y. Volunteers. The camp grounds are beautifully laid out. The Company streets are as level as a parlor floor and free from stumps, stubs, &c., showing that those who had once occupied it, had spent days of hard labor in putting it in its present condition. Poor boys! How we “pitied” them as we took possession of the treasures left behind which consisted of boards for our bunks, roughly made tables, chairs &c. – Well, we can say to them as others have said to us when we were on the advance, “Go on, bully Boys, we hope soon to follow you.”

Our new Captain Ruby is the pride of the company; a warm hearted gentleman and a perfect soldier, both qualities combined in one render him all we could wish or desire.

In the ranks he is very strict and the company maintains its good state of discipline while out of them, he is a boy amongst us, sharing all our sports and pastimes with as much zeal as the greatest boy in the company. A better man could not have been appointed outside of the Company. Lieut. Parsons who has been in ill health for some time, I am happy to say, is improving; the balance of the company enjoy their usual good health and a gayer, light-hearted company full and running over with fun and frolic would be hard to find and having perfect confidence in their leaders they are ready at any moment to march to the battlefield and rest assured when once there they will do their part with credit to themselves and State.

We hear with feelings of pleasure that Racine intends sending still another company to the field. Good for Racine and we hope that the young men left behind will rally promptly around the old flag and should we ever meet the new company, we hope to see in their ranks many of our old friends and school-mates.

The boys no longer look like beggars with well-ventilated suits of clothing but present a very neat tidy and soldier-like appearance. Their new uniforms consists of a handsome blue frock coat, pants of the same, a high felt hat, blue cord and black plume; now if we only had good rifles instead of sheet-iron muskets, we should be fitted out. Our company was with Smith’s Division the other day when the advance to Falls Church was made: no items of interest occurred. I send you per Thos. Lyons, a rifle cannon ball, picked up by

one of our boys on the grounds when the late skirmish near Lewisville occurred. It was not taken from a Rebel battery nor is it stained with blood but was “dropped” by some stray Secesh. It will make a pretty play thing for the children, accept it and oblige.

Your Obt. Servant.

**Head Quarters, 2d Reg., Wis. Vol.**  
***Ft. Tillinghast, Oct. 10, 1861***

**Eds.: Advocate** – In the life of a soldier on active duty there are many changes. When I last wrote to you I guess it was from Camp Advance, Chain Bridge, since then we rejoined King’s Brigade and went over the other side – stayed there three days and then came where we are now. I really have nothing much to say and am only writing to keep open communications. You inflicted a very severe punishment by not sending the Advocate this week, I suppose it was because I have not been a very good correspondent of late but it is very difficult to find anything to write about.

Yesterday we had our Brigade reviewed by Gen. McDowell; we were marched to the field about 10:25 AM and drawn up in line of battle, the 6th Wisconsin and 10th Indiana and behind them the 2d and 7th Wisconsin.

Gen. McDowell first reviewed us in line of battle, in rear upon order; then the columns were formed and we were marched in review, passed the Staff and returned to our post where our arms were inspected by the Aides and our clothes by the General. To us such things are of little interest, we would rather be going to a fight; we do not want any unnecessary parade but I suppose it is necessary. We would rather be anywhere but in King’s Brigade; we want a fighting man and then we would add another laurel to the wreath that we have already dearly won and we would show the secessionists that our defeat at Bull Run and the loss of our grave comrades has inspired us with fresh vigor; they may whip the 2d but to make them believe it is the hardest work. We fear we shall have to remain here on the reserve though there are many who would prefer to see us behind the batteries they command.

Since we have been back from Bull Run, we have been called the “Ragged Second” a title of which we were rather proud. Regiments that came fresh to Washington were fitted out entirely and we were passed over and not only that, we were pushed ahead in work on picket duty. When we went to Chain Bridge we heard that Gen. Smith had been told that we were demoralized but when we passed his headquarters on our departure how said he would rather see all the rest of the regiments go than us. Our pickets were never driven in and we never raised a false alarm, (nor shot a cow, thinking it a cavalry man, as did the 5th) but the General thought we had one great weakness, which was foraging beyond our lines.



The following is an incident – One of his aides was sent out to reconnoiter and when he returned the General asked what he saw, he replied that he had been as far past the outpost as he dared and in looking ahead he saw some soldiers about 1.5 miles farther; “That will do” said the General, “I know they must be the 2d Wisconsin” the aide replied they were. And to our minds and mouths there was no doubt of it; for the next day secession geese and chickens played a conspicuous part in our rations.

Well to return to my story last week, we got our new uniforms – blue frock coats, blue pants and the regulation hat, feather, &c. and I can assure you that the 2d was a pretty good looking regiment and one of which Wisconsin may be justly proud and for the “Ruby Tigers,” of course, I can say but little as modesty demands silence, but if ever they appeared to advantage it was then. The night before, the Captain expressed a wish that every man should make the best appearance he could and everyone seemed to do his best. Gen. McDowell remarked to King that it was a very good company. Capt. Ruby has served in the ranks and the boys all like him first rate; I don’t mind saying I took a day in sight-seeing. It was the first time I had been over a mile from camp since our arrival in Washington and it really did me good to have a day to myself in which I could go and come as I pleased. It took some smooth talking to obtain a pass; but I was amply rewarded for my pain in the long walk I took during the day. I had been on guard the day before and got only an hour’s sleep during the night so I was not in first rate trim for a ramble but for fear I might not get another chance, I concluded to improve the opportunity offered me.

Leaving our encampment on the outskirts of the grand and beautiful forest that covers Arlington Heights, I took a road leading directly to the valley of the Potomac. The morning mist had not yet cleared away and it was impossible to see any great distance through it but it was not thick enough to obscure the sun, and his bright rays falling upon the countless dew drops that hung upon the trees made the old forest sparkle.

Arlington Heights is one of the loveliest places in Virginia and probably in America and is the only place I have seen on this side of the Potomac on the line of our fortifications that has escaped to any considerable extent the ravages of war. This is the only forest that has been spared, all other, no matter how beautiful, have been cut down and this has suffered much though it still stands in its glorious majesty. In the center of the forest and on the highest point of elevation covered by it is situated the Arlington House – at present the headquarters of Major General McDowell and Brigadier General King.

After proceeding about a mile and a half I emerged from the forest and descended to the level plain or bottom that

here extends along the river and turning abruptly to the right set out on a rapid walk for Alexandria, for it was yet too foggy to obtain any distant views and I could improve the cool of the day by increasing my step and see all that could be seen on my return. At Fort Albany there are two roads leading to Alexandria and as I could take but one I turned to the left leaving the right hand road for my return. From that place to Alexandria, a distance of about six miles, my road led me alternately over bluffs and through valleys and deep ravines; and to the right and left on every commanding position I could see the gaping mouths of cannon from forts and earth works there erected.

The stumps and fallen trees that cover the hill-sides alone are sufficient to obstruct the march of an army while the positions of the forts are so well chosen and so strong within themselves that a hundred men can defend any one of them against twenty times their number. This line of fortifications extends from Chain Bridge to Alexandria, a distance probable of 12 or 15 miles and I am sure that fifty thousand men can now hold Washington against two hundred thousand. There are but few encampments now along this line of forts; only troops enough to defend them in case of an attack remain as a reserve force while the greater part of the army of the Potomac has advanced some distance into the enemy’s country. Gen. McClellan seems inclined to hold every foot of ground he gets possession of and he is abundantly able to do it therefore he is ready to advance.

I arrived in Alexandria about 10 o’clock. A.O.M. and as I had but little business to do, I spent a few hours in rambling through the streets of the dirty city where the brave Ellsworth met his death. I was not favorable impressed with appearance of this Southern city it being – New Orleans excepted – the filthiest I have seen in North or South. It is situated in a very fine place and might be one of the fairest cities in America if the inhabitants had a little more energy, but as it now is its only redeeming qualification is the beautiful trees that line its streets.

On my return I took a somewhat different route and gathered a few chestnuts and persimmons though they are very scarce in these parts. I did not strike my old track until I reach Fort Albany, from which place I obtained a very good view of the surrounding country, the Potomac and Washington. My regiment and brigade were drilling on the plain and looked well from the point from which I beheld them.

When I arrived at camp I was tired enough and sleepy enough but I had had a very good time.

R.K.B.

**Jim Johnson, sincere thanks for these intriguing memories for our “From the Field” features!**

## MILWAUKEE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE 2018-2019 SPEAKER SCHEDULE

**September 13, 2018** **Tim B. Smith**  
*Difficult and Broken Ground:  
The Terrain Factor at Shiloh*

**October 11, 2018** **Ted Karamanski**  
*The Civil War as an Indian War*

**November 8, 2018** **Paul Kahan**  
*The Presidency of U.S. Grant:  
Preserving Civil War Legacy*

**December 13, 2018**  
**David Hirsch & Dan Van Hafen**  
*Abraham Lincoln and the Structure of Reason*

**January 10, 2019** **Bjorn Skaptason**  
*Shiloh in the Footsteps of Henry Morton Stanley*

**February 7, 2019** **Rob Girardi**  
*Gouverneur K. Warren*

**March 7, 2019** **Horace Mewborn**  
*Elijah V. White*

**April 11, 2019** **Brad Gottfried**  
*Maps of Fredericksburg*

**May 9, 2019** **John Horn**  
*The Petersburg Regiment in the Civil War:  
A History of the 12th Virginia Infantry from  
John Brown's Hanging to Appomattox 1859-1865*

**June 13, 2019** **Greg Biggs**  
*The Question was One of Supplies: The Logistics  
for William T. Sherman's Atlanta Campaign*

**Speakers/topics remain subject to change.**

## Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.

### 2018 – 2019 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	2021
Bruce Klem	First Vice President	2021
Daniel Nettesheim	Member	2021
Frank Risler	Program Chair	2021
Tom Thompson	Member	2020
David Wege	Layout, General Orders	2021

### ~ 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)

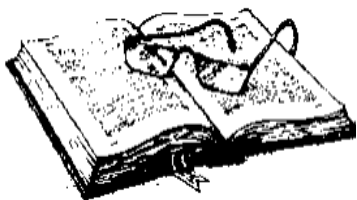
Grant will be creating a database with email reminders set to go out a week before the scheduled event. This is a purely optional choice on each member's part. If you have any questions please talk to Grant at a Round Table meeting or email him at the listed email address.

## Milwaukee Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for October 11, 2018

Mail your reservations by Monday, October 8 to:  
Paul Eilbes  
1809 Washington Avenue  
Cedarburg, WI 53012-9730

Call or email reservations to:  
(262) 376-0568  
[peilbes@gmail.com](mailto:peilbes@gmail.com)

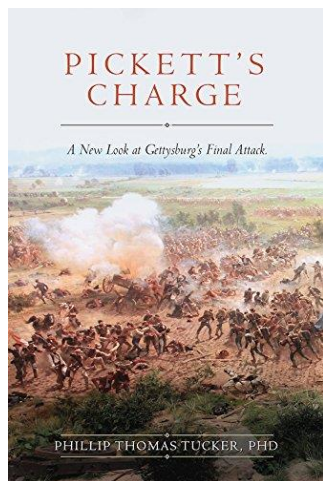
Enclosed is \$\_\_\_\_\_ (meal is \$30.00 per person) for \_\_\_\_\_ people for the  
October 11, 2018 meeting of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee.  
(Please make checks payable to the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.)



## BETWEEN THE COVERS

### Pickett's Charge: A New Look at Gettysburg's Final Attack

Phillip Thomas Tucker



Tucker takes a unique look at one of the more controversial assaults of the war and he does so from several perspectives. On a large scale basis he considers the assault in the context of the Confederacy's dire situation in July 1863 and his analysis of Lee's limited options with any chance of winning the war. Within the campaign itself he reviews Lee's success of the first two days of battle and how close he came to victory and the resulting impact on the Federal army and its position on the third day. This situation leads directly to the Napoleonic influence on Lee and his belief that a properly orchestrated combined arms (artillery, infantry and cavalry) assault on the 3rd will result in decisive victory.

After extensive consideration of the plan, Tucker turns his attention to the execution of the bombardment and assaults. Here he focuses on Lee's command style of not interfering with subordinates once he issues his orders; Lee's command structure and individual commanders; confusion in the plan; failure of subordinates to coordinate with each other; artillery shortcomings; key decisions by Federal artillery and infantry commanders; and other factors weakening and undermining the execution of Lee's plan.

I found the book stimulating and well researched covering overviews and grassroots details well. He looks closely at individuals and smaller units, the impacts of the first 2 days fighting as well as decisions like Richmond's to retain two of Pickett's 5 brigades for defense of the capital and faulty artillery fuses from the new North Carolina arsenal after the Richmond facility blew up. I did find some redundancies in the author's description of the infantry assault and was disappointed at how little time he spent on Stuart's cavalry assault after citing it as a major reason for the failure of Lee's plan.

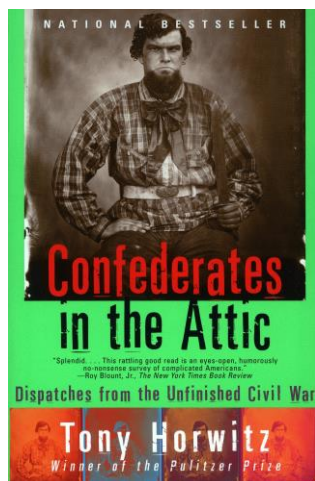
Overall, this book is a solid contribution and a must read for anyone seeking to understand "Pickett's Charge"; how the plan evolved, whether it had a chance of success, why it failed and the reasons for the outcome.

submitted by Dan Nettesheim



## Confederates in the Attic: Dispatches from the Unfinished Civil War

Tony Horwitz



This book is a fascinating look at the other side in the continuation of our American Civil War. Yes, there are still people fighting over the outcome of that conflict. Despite that it has been 150+ years since the shooting stopped, a war of words and viewpoints continues reflecting a Southern obsession with these events.

Author and retired foreign correspondent, Tony Horwitz brings alive old and new battlefields, where the past and present collide, often in explosive ways. Americans' interest in the Civil War is often fueled by our ancestors being part of the history. The author's interest springs from his grandfather, who as a new immigrant in 1882, purchased an enormous book full of Civil War sketches. He continually read, reread and shared this book with friends and family until his death at age 102. Next, the author's father read aloud to his son every night from a ten volume Photographic History of the Civil War.

After a career as an overseas correspondent, Horwitz bought a home in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia and woke up one morning to a reenactment practically in his back yard. Add in the influence of his ancestors, it seems natural that he would then spend more than two years traveling through Civil War sites and history to write this book.

continued on the next page

Horwitz visited places and interviewed hundreds of people across the 15 states of the Confederacy. Men and women of both races shared their viewpoints of the Civil War with him. He participated with authentic clothes and equipment in reenactments of battles and enjoyed the camaraderie, enlightenment and discomfort of camping overnight like real soldiers in all kinds of weather. He set out to discover the commonality of our nation's Civil War interest, instead he found a variety of reasons for this interest, but no one overriding single factor. He did find what has come to be known as the "Lost Cause of the Confederacy". The "Lost Cause" refers to a mindset that the Confederacy was a heroic moment, even though it was defeated. But this mindset also downplays the role of slavery as the factor causing the Civil War.

During Horwitz's odyssey of travel and interviews, he ran into the issue of reconciling the romantic fantasy of the Civil War, with the ugly reality of a war with 1,000,000 casualties and the tremendous property loss. He discovered both indifference and passion about our common history on both sides of the racial divide. Horwitz states that "the past poisoned the present and the present has poisoned our remembrance of things in the past."

To have an authentic Civil War experience, Horwitz needed to learn the proper vocabulary. The participants of these reenactments do not like to be called "reenactors" but preferred the labels "Living Historian" or "Historical Interpreter". The term "hardcore" is used to describe those who wanted authenticity in this Confederate soldier experience. Being called a "farb" was the worst insult in the vocabulary of a "hardcore" participant. To Civil War enthusiasts, "spooning" has a unique explanation for sleeping arrangements during a wet/cold bivouac. Soldiers would lie down on their side wrapped in their coat or blanket wedged tightly together on the ground to conserve body heat. When someone yelled "spoon right" all would roll to the right and later all would roll left on hearing "spoon left". The "anchor guys" on the end of the line were always half cold/half warm.

During his research the author spent a week long "power tour" of places and events with Robert Lee Hodges, a self-described "hardcore" reenactor. As a participant Horwitz wore the same uniform all week, marched and slept in the elements to get a taste of how it was. With the help of Hodges, the author experienced the ecstatic pilgrimage dubbed the "Civil Wargasm". However, instead of riding horses or marching, they made this trip in an automobile, so they could cover more ground and see more places. Going on this high-speed pilgrimage from Gettysburg to the Shenandoah Valley and dozens of battlefields in-between was quite an experience.

Horwitz gives an outsider's view of the contradictory place called "The South" and its relationship with the past. However, he is open to the different views that he encounters and is not condescending to the characters he meets. He seems at times to be uncomfortable between the two views of the Civil War, yet he remains honest and humorous. This book is an excellent read and well worth the time to finish it.

submitted by John F. Helmenstine

## American Battlefield Trust - Support the Field Trip Fund



In the last school year, the Trust sent 9,395 students from 28 different field trips to battlefields and related sites.

Although that was the most students ever sponsored in 1 year, applications for another 76 trips were turned down due to lack of funds.

A field trip may be the only way some students will experience a battlefield. The History Channel has promised to match all Field Trip Fund donations up to \$25,000.

If you would like to donate and perhaps, instill an interest in the Civil War that may going forward bring new, young members in to ours and other Round Tables go to: [www.battlefields.org](http://www.battlefields.org) Click on: Take Action Support Class Field Trips.

Milwaukee Civil War Round Table member Dave Wege used this fund in April 2016 to take his classroom to Antietam and Gettysburg. He was also able to secure a grant for April 2019 to take his classroom to Chickamauga/Chattanooga/Franklin. Walking the ground where battles were fought made all the difference for his students' establishing a real connection to the Civil War!



## Wanderings



The *Wanderings* feature should return next month! We hope to have an article from either of the two group tours to Tennessee/Georgia. So, if you are traveling to Tennessee and Georgia with either the Kenosha Museum or the Civil War Time Travelers, please consider submitting a tale of your adventures. These stories of the travels of fellow MCWRT members can do a lot to encourage others to also visit the Hallowed Ground of our Civil War heritage lands.

### From the Files of Peter Jacobsohn

GENERAL ORDERS

No. 44

WAR DEPARTMENT

Adjutant General's Office,  
Washington, April 9, 1867

The following Act of Congress is published for the information and government of all concerned:

[Public – No. 4.]

AN ACT to clothe the maimed and destitute soldiers.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled.* That the Secretary of War be, and is hereby, authorized and required to furnish one complete suit of clothing to each invalid soldier who is an inmate of any regularly constituted "Soldiers' Home" in the United States, out of the stock on hand in the Quartermaster's Department.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That such clothing shall be delivered to the managers of such institutions upon their requisition therefore, accompanied with such certificates as to number and condition as the Secretary of War may prescribe.

Approved, March 22, 1867.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR:

E. D. TOWNSEND,  
*Assistant Adjutant General*

OFFICIAL:

*General Orders*, the official publication of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.  
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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.

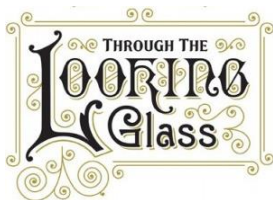
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**Contact Paul Eilbes for information: (262) 376-0568.**

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.



*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!

## Haunting Letters of Hiram T. Holt

Hiram Talbert Holt of Alabama entered the fray like so many others. He went off to war to serve Cause and Country. A former teacher, he enlisted as a private in the Suggsville Greys. Holt left behind his wife Carrie and a one-year-old daughter, Alma. The 38<sup>th</sup> Alabama saw service at Forts Morgan and Gaines near Mobile. The duty as a fortress garrison wasn't strenuous, though it was boring, uncomfortable at times, and usually uneventful. When word started filtering in of combat deaths of close friends and relatives, however, Holt found himself unable to cope with despair and thoughts of his own mortality.

In early 1862 Holt was transferred to Fort Pillow. There he endured eighteen consecutive nights of bombardment. It was during this time that he rose to the rank of first sergeant. When Fort Pillow was evacuated, Holt returned to Mobile and the 38<sup>th</sup> Regiment. The regiment was then assigned to the Confederate Army of Tennessee in 1863. Prior to the Battle of Chickamauga a second daughter was born to the Holts, but he never set eyes on her, as she died a few months later. Service with the Army of Tennessee was hard. He claimed to have "as much to eat in a whole week as he could eat even in one day." He went for two months without changing his clothes, a revolting development for a man like him. Family back in Alabama tried to remedy this problem, as they spun and wove for Hiram and other family members in Confederate service.

After a furlough in December 1862, Holt found himself marooned in the army. He never got another furlough. This was the time when his second daughter was born. Holt wanted to come home so badly that his wife and family scraped together money to legally hire a substitute. After payment, that man was bought off to substitute for another soldier. It was concurrent with the time that the substitute would have been taking his place that Holt was killed in a skirmish near Dalton, Georgia. Carrie Holt's brother John Dewitt and future brother-in-law Joseph Fendley witnessed his death. According to family lore, Carrie was extremely bitter about the circumstances surrounding her husband's death. However, after the war when the substitute became gravely ill, Carrie remembered the tenets of Christian charity and forgave him upon his request that she do so. Here is a snippet of one of Hiram Talbert Holt's letters home.

*Yesterday I wrote a letter to Pa & Ma. Today, indeed, now I have just sealed on[e] to Emily, poor girl! Carrie, I am so torn to pieces with double sorrow that it seems like it will kill me. John reported dying, & Jim dead! Carrie, I have written a long letter to Emily to console her the best I could. I would like very much for you & Pa Dewitt to go up and console her. Your sympathies & feelings are so much finer than mine, your manner not so blunt. Tell her that though it is our nature to mourn for the dear departed, that it is not withstand[ing] wrong. The Great God of Heaven saw fit to transplant him from this world of sin & sorrow to a nobler, a better sphere of existence, where there are no mad wars of passions, turmoils, & wars, where all is peace, where Heaven is forever jubilant with happy song of released ones from this terrestrial sphere. Teach her to view him no longer as the wounded, bleeding, dying soldier of the Chickahominy, with the smoke of battle his shroud, and a pool of blood his winding sheet. No, teach her to view him full of life, light, and love. God take pity on the poor suffering girl! How her heart bleeds with woe. Carrie, I think how I would feel this morning were you no more. It nearly kills me. The tear[s] will unbidden start & melt me as a child. Yes, Carrie, hasten in your love to give her what comfort you can, you may soon need it yourself. I feel very strange of late, I know not why. It may all be superstition, but somehow I feel a presentiment that I shall be killed the next or first battle I get into.*

Holt fought in the Tullahoma Campaign and at Chickamauga and Chattanooga. Then, before the Atlanta Campaign a year later, a minie ball took his life. He was one of two killed in a brief skirmish. In writing home, the chaplain of the 38<sup>th</sup> Alabama wrote he was "a true and excellent soldier, as good a one as can be found in the brigade." It must have been small comfort. Ironically, Hiram Holt had written a letter to Carrie upon his enlistment in 1861. In it he encouraged her to marry the best man she could find upon news of his own death. Carrie lived until 1939, dying at the age of 97. She never did remarry. This and other information are recorded in the 138 letters possessed by the Holt's granddaughter, Alma Dewitt, of Fulton, Alabama.

Wiley Sword wrote a series called The War Letters in *Blue and Grey* magazine in 2002 that highlighted the thoughts of Holt and other common soldiers. They are well-worth the read if you can find a copy.

submitted by Dave Wege

## Was Lincoln's Celebrated Stovepipe Hat Really His?

As reported in the *New York Times* September 23, 2018 issue, F.B.I. and experts reports cast doubt on whether that famous stovepipe hat was really Lincoln's.

The hat had been presented as a Lincoln artifact at his presidential library and museum in Springfield, Illinois, although previously undisclosed reports had questioned its provenance. The Presidential Library and Museum is now involved in a public relations effort to save their expansive collection of Lincoln artifacts.

A private nonprofit that owns the \$25 million collection which includes the hat, is deep in debt and is considering selling some of the artifacts. The hat along with other items, including Lincoln's bloodstained gloves from the night of his assassination are, according to the group's chief executive, moving "ever closer to the auction block." The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Foundation paid \$6.5 million for the hat in 2007 as part of a larger purchase of Lincoln artifacts.

The foundation commissioned studies by the F.B.I. and independent historians to determine whether the hat belonged to Lincoln. The reports concluded that the evidence of Lincoln's ownership was uncertain. A first report by two outside museum authorities in 2013, found the documentation associated with the hat was "insufficient to claim" that it had belonged to the president. Lincoln supposedly gave the hat to a farmer from southern Illinois, William Waller.

In 2015, the foundation arranged for the F.B.I. to take DNA samples from the hat, to see if it matched Lincoln's DNA. According to the 2017 F.B.I reports, the analysis was inconclusive. The only DNA found appeared to be from someone who had handled the hat in modern times. The report did offer some evidence in favor of the hat's connection to Lincoln – it was his size and has a stretched band, which is in keeping with Lincoln's habit of storing papers there.

Mr. Lowe, the museum's director, said that the hat will not be on display until the staff looks deeper into documentation of its provenance.

Frank J. Williams, prominent collector of Lincoln artifacts and a former chief justice of Rhode Island's Supreme Court, indicates that since Lincoln is so revered, the public deserves full transparency about his possessions. Justice Williams fears that this controversy could raise questions about the authenticity of other Civil War-era relics.

"When you get questions like this, you really worry," said Williams. "You get suspicious and concerned about the other treasures."

## Kenosha Civil War Museum Events

### Chattanooga

**Saturday, October 6, 2018, 1-3 pm**

**\$25/\$20 Friends of the Museum**

**Presenter: Dave Powell**

For nearly two years, the Confederate city of Chattanooga was a crucial objective for the Union armies. Chattanooga was a transportation hub, with rail lines linking the Deep South and Mississippi Valley to the Confederate capitol in Richmond as well as the only water-level access through the southern end of the Appalachian Mountains. Any Union effort to reach the Confederacy's interior had to come through Chattanooga.

In 1862, an early Union effort to capture the city was headed off by the Confederate General Braxton Bragg's invasion of Kentucky. In the fall of 1863, Federal General William S. Rosecrans launched a second campaign which captured the Gateway City on September 9 but at a frightful cost. Bragg and Rosecrans met in bloody battle at Chickamauga. Rosecrans was defeated but held onto Chattanooga.

The Chattanooga Campaign continued through the fall of 1863. Bragg besieged the defeated Federals, only to have the tables turned on him by Union commander Ulysses S. Grant. Grant's armies finally crushed Bragg's force on November 25, 1863. Chattanooga remained in Union hands for the rest of the war becoming a vast base and headquarters for the campaigns of 1864.

This workshop will explore the importance of Chattanooga, and outline the lengthy struggles waged for control of this crucial city.

### Intro to Nineteenth Century Blackpowder Firearms

**Saturday, November 3, 2018 1-3 pm**

**\$25/\$20 Friends of the Museum**

**Presenter: David Stavlo**

David Stavlo, owner of Lodgewood Manufacturing Ltd., will discuss Civil War small arms usage and production with particular focus on the evolution of arms throughout the war, as well as differences between quality and design in arms built in the North vs. the South. The workshop will include a display of original pieces for the audience to view up close.

**For the complete *New York Times* article visit:**

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/09/23/us/abraham-lincoln-museum-hat-controversy.html>

## MILWAUKEE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE QUARTERMASTER'S REGALIA

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

