

GENERAL ORDERS



The Newsletter of the

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



November 8, 2018

Paul Kahan

THE PRESIDENCY OF U.S. GRANT

Preserving the Civil War's Legacy

Mistakes have been made, as all can see and I admit, but it seems to me oftener in the selections made of the assistants appointed to aid in carrying out the various duties of administering the Government...It is impossible, where so many trusts are to be allotted, that the right parties should be chosen in every instance...But I leave comparisons to history, claiming only that I have acted in every instance from a conscientious desire to do what was right, constitutional, within the law, and for the very best interests of the whole people. Failures have been errors of judgment, not of intent.

Ulysses S. Grant,
Eighth and Final Annual
Message to Congress
December 5, 1876

There was more to Grant's Presidency than the scandals. Grant faced the Panic of 1873, the severest economic depression in U.S. history, defeated the powerful Senator Charles Sumner on the annexation of Cuba, avoided war with Spain and laid the groundwork for the special relationship between Great Britain and the United States. Yet, Grant's efforts were often undercut by his own decisions and by the contradictory demands of the various constituencies that made up the Republican Party.

At our November meeting, our featured speaker, historian Paul Kahan, will explore Ulysses S. Grant's Presidency. Kahan will focus on the unique political, economic, and cultural forces unleashed by the Civil War and how Grant addressed these issues during his tumultuous two terms as chief executive. A timely reassessment, *The Presidency of Ulysses S. Grant*, sheds new light on the business of politics in the decade after the Civil War and portrays an energetic and even progressive executive whose legacy has been overshadowed by both his wartime service and his administration's many scandals.



Dr. Paul Kahan earned a Ph.D. in U.S. history from Temple University. Prior to that, Dr. Kahan earned an M.A. in Modern American History & Literature from Drew University and B.A.s in History and English (with minors in Medieval/Renaissance studies and music) from Alfred University.

Dr. Kahan has published several books, among them are *Eastern State Penitentiary: A History*, *Amiable Scoundrel: Simon Cameron, Lincoln's Scandalous Secretary of War*, *The Presidency of Ulysses S. Grant: Preserving the Civil War's Legacy* and *The Bank War: Andrew Jackson, Nicholas Biddle, and the Fight for American Finance*.

General Orders No. 11-18

November 2018

IN THIS ISSUE

MCWRT News	page 2
From the Archives	page 3
Area Events	page 3
From the Field	pages 4-5
Round Table Speakers 2017-2018.....	page 6
2018-2019 Board of Directors	page 6
Meeting Reservation Form	page 6
Between the Covers.....	pages 7-8
Civil War Snippets	pages 9
American Battlefield Trust map	page 9
Wanderings	page 10
Through the Looking Glass	page 11
Quartermaster's Regalia	page 12

November 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, November 5, 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.

www.milwaukeeecwrt.org

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 Table and Chair Coming in November for Veterans' Day!

A round table accompanies the vacant chair, representing a service member listed as MIA/POW. The table is round to show that our concern is never ending. The Bible represents faith in a higher Power and a pledge to our country, founded as one nation under God. The black napkin stands for the emptiness these warriors have left in the hearts of their families and friends. The single red rose reminds us of their families and loved ones, while the red ribbon signifies love of country, which inspired them to answer the nation's call. The yellow candle with its yellow ribbon stands for the everlasting hope for a joyous reunion with those not yet accounted for. The slices of lemon – a reminder of their bitter fate. Salt represents the tears of their families. The wine glass, turned upside down, is a reminder that our comrades cannot be with us to drink a toast or join in the joy of the evening.

A Model 1858 Hardee hat is included in the display at our Milwaukee Civil War Round Table to remind us that missing service members is not just a modern issue. American soldiers have failed to return home after every conflict in which this nation has fought, and they have remained missing in action since the Revolutionary War. Sadly, to continue to be a strong and free country there will be more MIA / POWs. Time is not on the side of the MIA—let us always remember them.

The Muster Roll: NEW MEMBERS

NAME	RESIDENCE	DATE OF BIRTH	DATE OF DEATH	DATE OF BURIAL
Kerry Calba				
Tom Callen				
John Petty				
Rebecca Rahn				
Jack Rodencal				

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 September 2018 through October 2018.

Major Contributor (\$500 and above)

Patron (\$200 - \$499)

Gene & Jane Jamrozky, Grant Johnson, Steve Leopold, Robert Parrish

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At the November 1948 meeting “The Escape of Gen. John H. Morgan” was the subject of Robert B. Browne’s presentation to the membership.

At the November 1958 meeting Steven Ambrose gave a talk on “Halleck.”

Don Russell was the speaker at the November 1968 meeting speaking on “Custer’s First Charge.”

Brooks Davis talked about “The Mississippi Marine Brigade” at the November 1978 meeting.

The featured speaker at the November 1988 meeting was Gordon Whitney speaking to the assembled members on “Sherman’s Lieutenants.”

“Federal Cavalry in the Peninsula Campaign of 1862” was the subject of Bob O’Neill’s talk in November 1998.

Members attending the November 2008 meeting listened to Richard W. Hatcher III talk about “The History of Fort Sumter.”

At last year’s meeting Tom Clemens spoke to the group on “Special Order 191 and the Maryland Campaign.”

PUBLIC Education: Civil War Trivia and Bingo

Monday, November 12, 2018 6:30-8 pm

Instructor: Doug Dammann

\$15/\$10 Friends of the Museum

Test your Civil War knowledge of the Civil War with trivia and bingo.

Join the museum at PUBLIC Craft Brewing Company located at 716 58th Street, Kenosha, for fun adult “field trips” and lively discussions of science, history, and technology. The cost gets you started with your choice of one of their fine craft brews.

Meet the Author

Looking for Lincoln in Wisconsin

Saturday, November 17, 2018 1pm-2pm

Author and Lincoln historian Steven Rogstad discusses his new book: *Looking for Lincoln in Wisconsin*.

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.

Written on the Battlefield: Veterans Preserve

Their Civil War, 1861-1900

Friday, November 9, 2018 Noon

Presented by: Dr. Mary Abroe

Members of the Civil War generation were the first battlefield preservationists. By the early twentieth century old soldiers and their allies had created a core group of monument-dotted landscapes that commemorated the courage and military skill of American fighting men, both Yankee and Confederate. Reflecting contemporary nationalism and the period’s culture of reconciliation, preservation of the 1890s reconstructed the stories of great battles on the ground where they happened rather than recalling the reasons for the conflict: with the passage of time, remembrance for many had come to focus on the war itself rather than its racial or political issues. What the first parks tell us about the Civil War’s meaning to its participants is an enduring legacy of the founding decade.

Intro to Nineteenth Century Blackpowder Firearms

Saturday, November 3, 2018 1pm-3pm

\$25/\$20 Friends of the Museum

Presented by: David Stavlo

David Stavlo, owner of Lodgewood Manufacturing Ltd., will discuss Civil War small arms usage and production with a 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.

Veterans Day Commemorative Celebration

Saturday, November 10, 2018 11am-3pm

Join the Civil War Museum and the Navy Club 40 for a program, concert, and reception to honor veterans. All are welcome.

Schedule:

12 pm Navy Club Program

1 pm Veterans Reception

2 pm Patriotic Concert by the Navy Band Brass Ambassadors



The Milwaukee Civil War Round Table has been called “the best-kept secret in southern Wisconsin.” Let’s try to change that. Please consider bringing a guest to our monthly meetings!



Our Washington Correspondence
Washington, Nov. 18, 1861

The success of the expedition to South Carolina has occasioned much rejoicing among loyal citizens and created an eagerness among our troops to march southward. The general expectation, however, is that no immediate movement by land will be made here, farther than a gradual pushing forward of the federal lines as the rebels shall withdraw to strengthen their southern defenses. No general engagement with the rebels in Virginia can be brought about save by attacking the enemy in their entrenchments which are known to be formidable both at Manassas and Centreville, and aggressive movements will, for the present, be confined to the coast and the western divisions of the army. Still no preparations are yet being made for winter quarters for the army on the other side of the Potomac, which favors the idea that it is not decided to retain it in this vicinity for any length of time. In most of the camps stoves have been introduced in the officers quarters and the soldiers have erected temporary fireplaces of brick to make them comfortable during the cold storms and chilling winds which assail them. Winter quarters are being provided for the regiments on this side of the river.

The army is kept in the best possible condition for immediate and effective service by daily brigade and battalion drills and weekly reviews by divisions by the commanding General. The soldiers and officers are now becoming so accustomed to the habits and dangers of military life as almost entirely to have thrown off that nervous sensibility and keep apprehension so profile of disaster in camp and among reconnoitering parties in the earlier part of the campaign and the business of war – its hardships and blood and carnage – are now contemplated with a steadfastness of nerve and coolness of mind in remarkable contrast with that manifested at the outset when quaking sentinels found an enemy in every bush and reconnoitering parties would meet in deadly conflict without determining whether they were friends or foes. Coupled with this, however, there is also an increasing wantonness of character and recklessness of life among the soldiery that ill accords with habits of civil life and which bodes no good to society when the soldier shall have returned from the war.

Many a young man who returns unscathed by rebel bullets and unmarked by disease will find his moral sensibilities blunted and his heart calloused by the habits and associations of the “tented field.”

A few hours ride over the territory now occupied by the belligerent forces exhibits the realities of war as none can appreciate them from a distance. The desolate and despoiled farm houses, fenceless farms, broken hedges and barren fields stand out in melancholy contrast with the naturally beautiful face of the country while glistening bayonets, threatening cannon and whitened tents occupy every eminence and hill side and martial airs and clanging sabers of galloping horsemen continually remind you of military array. It is interesting to behold the grand displays of the marshaled hosts which are continually occurring under the direction of the commanding General. It is seldom in the history of a civilian that he is permitted to see twenty or thirty thousand armed men, marching in all the panoply of war with attending horsemen and well-appointed batteries of artillery. But it is painful to reflect that in this enlightened age and country these things should be rendered necessary to secure the blessings of freedom and put down the aggressions of slavery.

The Wisconsin regiments are now in fine condition and make a most creditable appearance having all save a portion of the 7th received their blue uniforms. There has been some sickness and several deaths since my last but as a general thing our men stand it better than those from other states either from the better regulations of their officers or from their better adaptation to the service. Still there are weekly discharges of disabled and weakened soldiers and many deaths by disease. Last week three died from the 7th, and one from the 6th. One of the former died from small pox and two from typhoid fever. The wife of Sergeant Williams, of Company I, 7th Regiment (from Waushara County, I believe) died in camp of typhoid fever on Sunday morning the 10th inst. She was sick but eight days. The camp of the soldier is no place for a woman either to live or to die in. Patriotism and love of her kindred may induce a woman to surrender the comforts and quiet of home for the privations and hardships of the camp; but it is no place for her and in nine cases out of ten she will be more an inconvenience than an advantage either as a nurse or a “laundress”.

Lt. Col. Sweet of the 6th has been confined to his quarters for some days with premonitions of typhoid fever but he is now better and it is hoped he will soon be out again.

Col. Cutler is as the boys say “tough as a billed owl” and never disabled either by hardship or misfortune he has been acting Brigadier General for a few days past in the absence of Gen. King who has been to New York. Dr. Chapman, Brigade Surgeon, has been sick for some time but has still continued the discharge of his arduous duties until to-day when he has yielded to necessity and the recommendation of his friends and obtained a leave of absence to recruit. He leaves for home to-morrow and bears with him the good wishes of the entire Brigade.

Col. Vandor has not yet resigned but does not pretend to command his Regiment or even visit them. It is the unanimous wish of the officers of the Regiment that Lieut. Col. Robinson should have command. He is a most efficient and popular officer. The Regiment has sustained a great present loss in the disability of Adjutant Cook who is still confined to his quarters from the fracture of his ankle and who will be unable for weeks to come to mount his horse.

A Laugh Over.-

The Second Regiment had considerable of a laugh this morning over a report which they heard had reached Wisconsin, in the shape that we had been attacked in Baltimore, and that what were not killed were taken prisoners. It is very easy to believe it, but such a one as this is too humbuggery to believe. Tell your good folks that we of the Second Regiment don't believe a word of it, nor do we want you to. It isn't our style to be taken prisoners, especially by a mob.

Milwaukee Sentinel, Nov. 15, 1861

From the Second Regiment Thanksgiving Day in Camp

Since I have occupied so much space with the affairs of the regiments I will confine myself to that subject alone and speak of the Fifth as I found it occupying one of the outposts of the Army of the Potomac in Virginia.

Through the efforts of Major Larabee, whose aspirations looked forward to the command of a Brigade, the Regiment was detached from the Brigade of Gen. King to which it was the almost unanimous wish of the officers and men to continue attached and put into Gen. Hancock's Brigade and not separated from its comrades from Wisconsin. Its present position is an honorable, a laborious and a dangerous one but this forms no part of the objections to the detachment from its Wisconsin

associates. It was both natural and reasonable that the men should prefer to remain with the Brigade from their own State and fight under and side by side with their acquaintances...

Private Green of Company I and Corporal Davis of Company F, died in the camp of the Fifth on Friday and Saturday last of remittent fever. Private Garfield of Company E and another private whose name was not given me were buried from the Sixth last week. There seems to be a singularly fatal tendency of the diseases of the camps. A kind of remittent fever ending with typhoid is prevalent and finishes its course very speedily and fatally.

Lieut. Col. Sweet has recovered from his attack and is again reported for duty. Major Bragg and Adjutant Haskell both endure the exposures of camp life finely and the regiment now has a full staff on duty.

Col. Berdan's regiment of sharpshooters is now full and is encamped just out of the city. It is pronounced the best regiment of men yet received into the service here. Gov. Randall, accompanied by Major Larabee, visited them on Saturday when they were reviewed and exhibited the greatest proficiency in their new avocation. To the honor of our state, it should be stated that here, as elsewhere, our Wisconsin men bear the palm for appearance, discipline and character. Col. Berdan remarked to Governor Randall that the Wisconsin company was by far the best in his fine regiment; and stated that since their enlistment not a man of them had been drunk or in the guard house; a compliment that few companies in the service can claim and one that can only be appreciated by those who have witnessed the tendency among the soldiers in all the camps to throw off restraint and occasionally "have a time"...

R.

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

"Private Green of Company I and Corporal Davis of Company F, died in the camp of the Fifth on Friday and Saturday last of remittent fever. Private Garfield of Company E and another private whose name was not given me were buried from the Sixth last week."

Private Ralph Garfield of Company E of the Sixth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry enlisted on July 1. He was truly one of the "Boys of 61." As related in the ***From the Field*** feature, second page, he died of disease in camp. Ralph D. Garfield was a 19-year-old farm boy from near Long Lake in what is now the Kettle Moraine State Forest - Northern Unit. The remittent fever claimed many, many young lives before these formerly healthy souls ever heard a shot fired in anger.

Garfield signed the muster roll with his older brother, M.A. Garfield. M.A. Garfield succumbed to the effects of wounds suffered at the Battle of Gainesville (Second Manassas). The Fond du Lac Commonwealth Reporter recorded it this way in the list of casualties from the fight: M.A. Garfield, arm, severe. He died of sepsis in early September of 1862.

And so, a Wisconsin farm family lost two sons in service to the Union. How many other families, North and South, had similar tales they could share? What incredible nuggets of information are found in the pages of the ***General Orders***!

Dave Wege

MILWAUKEE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE 2018-2019 SPEAKER SCHEDULE

September 13, 2018	Tim B. Smith <i>Difficult and Broken Ground: The Terrain Factor at Shiloh</i>
October 11, 2018	Ted Karamanski <i>The Civil War as an Indian War</i>
November 8, 2018	Paul Kahan <i>The Presidency of U.S. Grant: Preserving Civil War Legacy</i>
December 13, 2018	David Hirsch & Dan Van Hafen <i>Abraham Lincoln and the Structure of Reason</i>
January 10, 2019	Bjorn Skaptason <i>Shiloh in the Footsteps of Henry Morton Stanley</i>
February 7, 2019	Rob Girardi <i>Gouverneur K. Warren</i>
March 7, 2019	Horace Mewborn <i>Elijah V. White</i>
April 11, 2019	Brad Gottfried <i>Maps of Fredericksburg</i>
May 9, 2019	John Horn <i>The Petersburg Regiment in the Civil War: A History of the 12th Virginia Infantry from John Brown's Hanging to Appomattox 1859-1865</i>
June 13, 2019	Greg Biggs <i>The Question was One of Supplies: The Logistics for William T. Sherman's Atlanta Campaign</i>

Speakers/topics remain subject to change.

Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.

2018 – 2019 Board of Directors

<u>Name</u>	<u>Office/Position</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
Donna Agnelly	Editor, General Orders	2019
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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

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 November 8, 2018

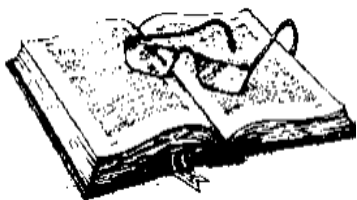
Mail your reservations by Monday, November 5 to:

Paul Eilbes
1809 Washington Avenue
Cedarburg, WI 53012-9730

Call or email reservations to:

(262) 376-0568
peilbes@gmail.com

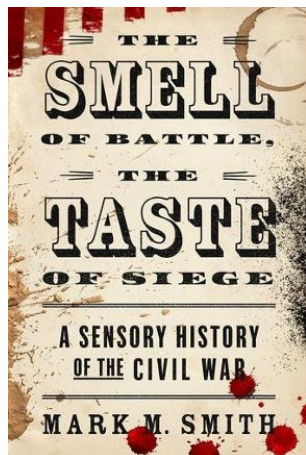
Enclosed is \$_____ (meal is \$30.00 per person) for _____ people for the
November 8, 2018 meeting of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee.
(Please make checks payable to the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.)



BETWEEN THE COVERS

THE SMELL OF BATTLE, THE TASTE OF SIEGE A SENSORY HISTORY OF THE CIVIL WAR

by Mark M. Smith



This review is on the Civil War Museum's Media Club selection for November 2017. The story that the author weaves in this tale explores how the senses may have experienced the results of combat during the Civil War. Smith takes into account how each sense found the combat actions; he also looks at various situations the soldiers and civilians felt, heard and saw during the war. It was a little bit of a different type of book for the Media Club but it is the type of book that forces the reader to take in the war from a different angle.

This really short work, only 145 pages, is divided into 5 chapters and an epilogue. The book reads fast. In the first chapter we find that our discussion is focused on what happened on the battlefield via our sense of sound. I thought about other books I've read and how those authors painted pictures of what was happening on a particular battlefield as factual. In Professor Smith's book he endeavors to put the reader in a position of being there and imagining what sounds were telling you. For instance, regarding slavery, Smith points out that slaveholders disliked raucous noise, which could be an indicator of riots, something that struck fear into their beings – a slave revolt! Order was the key component of keeping the “peculiar institution” in line and under control. He points out that in

Charleston, “at 9 o'clock a bell sounds after which no Negro can venture out without written permission, a violation that would lead to penalty for the owner and the lash for the slave”. Overall, quiet was enforced because dangerous activity often occurred in the evening darkness.

The first chapter is used to point out this different view of the war and the events leading up to it by showing how sound had influenced the actions of people, both North and South. I thought this was an interesting approach to describing how things were in the 1850s and 60s.

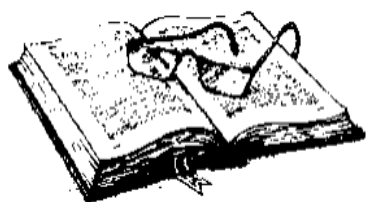
The second chapter continues Smith's approach in viewing how the senses were impacted by the war. “Eyeing First Bull Run” lets the reader know what sense is the focus in that chapter. He talks about how “military men were taught ‘seeing is believing’” so they needed to trust their eyes in discerning what was happening on the battlefield. He points out how this factor can sometimes deceive us into thinking that we may be seeing something else. For example, confusion on uniforms can lead you into thinking the approaching troops are friendly and not, in reality, the enemy.

Chapter 3 deals with the sense of smell. Various examples are given to show the reader how smell affected how civilians and soldiers experienced the war. It is obvious that after many of these large scale battles the amount of casualties – men and animals – left a variety of impressions on the nearby populace and the armies which may have still occupied the battlefield. The effect has been covered in many writings on the war but not to the extent Mr. Smith does in this book.

The final chapters lean toward the sense of feeling and combine most, if not all, of the senses in dealing with a couple of different situations. One situation that is addressed is the overall effect on the population of Vicksburg during the siege of the city during May-July 1863. Another is the overall effect on the men who manned the Hunley as it made its final run against the Union blockade. It is difficult to imagine how each man felt as he worked the equipment to propel the Hunley against the Union blockade. Smell, claustrophobia, heat and others would have had some effect on those men. The question becomes: How would we deal with it?

While the topics covered in this book were not new, it was one of the first times the senses have been dealt with exclusively in one book. I think the Media Club found this an interesting approach to a Civil War topic and I found it to be a book I was glad I read. I recommend this book to anyone with an interest in the Civil War as a change of pace book and a different way of looking at the topic. A nice book to add to your Civil War library.

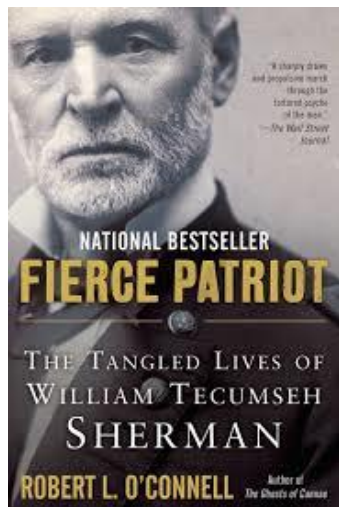
submitted by Bruce Klem



BETWEEN THE COVERS

FIERCE PATRIOT: THE TANGLED LIVES OF WILLIAM TECUMSEH SHERMAN

by Robert O. Connell



There are many biographies of General Sherman, but O'Connell's is the first that takes the interesting approach of trisecting his life into three major areas and then developing each area separately over his entire lifetime. He begins by exploring Sherman the strategist, perhaps the central strength of his generalship. But instead of confining the development to the Civil War, the author looks at his thought process as a child, cadet, young officer, and American patriot driven by Manifest Destiny. Sherman's brilliant Civil War strategy within this context takes on a broader perspective and underscores his powerful ability to incorporate the "bigger picture".

The second area explores Uncle Billy and the special bond Sherman develops with his soldiers. Again, it begins with the younger Sherman early in his career commanding small units and interacting with his men as well as other officers. The interactions and leadership have some successes and some failures which become opportunities for learning and alternate approaches. By the end of the war the bonds he forges are indestructible.

The final area is the relationship of Sherman and his family from early life until his death. Special attention is paid to his stepsister/wife Ellen and his mentor/step father/competitor. After the death of his father early in his life, Sherman is raised by the Ewing family with much stronger economic assets and political connections. His new family's emphasis on education and building a foundation better prepares him for the future and provides an extensive network. When he and his foster sister evolve from friendship to a romantic relationship and ultimately marriage, the relationships within the family become even more complex and fascinating. The author also evaluates his relationship with prominent officers and politicians.

On the whole, the book is a solid contribution to evaluating William T. Sherman, who he was and why.

submitted by Dan Nettesheim

*War is cruelty. There is no use trying to reform it. The crueller it is, the sooner it will be over.
There is many a boy here today who looks on war as all glory, but, boys, it is all hell.*

William Tecumseh Sherman

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 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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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.

CIVIL WAR SNIPPETS



Private Morris E. Rockwell

As reported in the *Kenosha News*, the South Bristol Cemetery grave of Pvt. Morris E. Rockwell, born in November 1848, is now marked with a specially made star signifying his status as the “Last Living Veteran Buried in This County.” Rockwell died at the age of 91 in October 1940.

The designation by the Wind Lake Chapter of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War is part of a national project aimed at commemorating graves of the last known buried Union veterans in each county in every state.

Richmond Museum of the Confederacy Closes Its Doors

As reported in the September 26, 2018 edition of the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, the Museum of the Confederacy closed its doors on Sunday, September 30, 2018, and will be moving to Historic Tredagar. The new facility at Tredagar is still under construction.

Over the next few months, thousands of items from the Museum’s collection will be packed and moved to the new \$25 million American Civil War Museum which is slated to open in Spring 2019. The move is a result of a merger of the Museum of the Confederacy and the American Civil War Center at Tredagar in 2013 which created the new American Civil War Museum.

The goal of the new museum is to tell a broader narrative of the Civil War experience from all sides: Union and Confederate, soldiers and civilians, women and children, enslaved and free African-Americans.

Historical Marker Dedicated

C.K. Pier Badger Camp #1 of Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War dedicated a historical marker at Calvary Cemetery in Milwaukee, with the help of Archbishop Jerome Listeki. The event on July 1, the 155th anniversary of the start of Gettysburg, included a roll call of four men buried at Calvary who were wounded or captured in the battle.

It is the third historical marker that Camp #1 has erected in the past few years. The marker tells the public that about 300 Civil War veterans are buried in the Roman Catholic cemetery, including two Medal of Honor recipients.

Tom Mueller, Former Commander,
C.K. Pier Badger Camp #1, Milwaukee
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
And Graves Registration Officer,
Department of Wisconsin

A Fresh Look at the Peninsula Campaign



When McClellan began the Peninsula Campaign in March of 1862, the Union hoped and the Confederacy feared that a successful Union attack on Richmond could end the war. The campaign would have some dramatic moments but the end of the war was not one of them. It took McClellan’s army nearly three months to get close to the capital; it took Lee’s army seven days to drive the Union forces back.

The American Battlefield Trust’s newest animated map allows you to follow the twists and turns of McClellan’s amphibious movements, Joe Johnston’s Fabian tactics and Lee’s aggressive offensive. The video tells the story of the Peninsula Campaign with digital motion graphics, live-action footage, original photographs, illustrations and detailed animated battle maps. From the first engagement of ironclads at Hampton Roads to Magruder’s deception at Yorktown, from Williamsburg to Seven Pines – it’s all there – technological innovations, maneuvers, bad luck, and good and bad decisions.

Although the Peninsula Campaign did not end the war it did end up changing the course of it. To view the Animated Map go to: www.battlefields.org/learn/maps/thepeninsulacampaign

To the Banks of the Greasy Grass

Wanderings



After many years of too much talk and too little action, a group of friends and I made a trip to the Little Big Horn Battlefield. We finally decided that we must make this long awaited “bucket list” trip a reality. We started the planning process in September of 2018 and were very fortunate to have renowned American Civil War historian Eric Wittenberg join our party. Acting upon Eric’s recommendation, we retained the services of noted Gettysburg Licensed Battlefield guide and author Jim Hessler as our guide. It was decided that 15 attendees would be the optimum number for this four-day tour, and in very short time our trip roster filled up with a fine group of people who shared a great interest in the western Indian campaigns.

(It should be noted that our “headquarters” for this trip was the Boothill Inn, located in Billings, Montana (<http://boothillinn.com/>). I can’t stress enough how impressed we were with this hotel and its staff. I most highly recommend this hotel to anyone staying in the Billings area!)

While space prohibits me from going into all of the details of our tour, let me share with you some of the highlights:

Day One -Fort Phil Kearny, Fetterman Massacre site, and the Rosebud Battlefield. We were amazed at the wide open spaces and very rough terrain at all of these locations. The Fetterman site is a very, barren, tragic place. It is not hard at all to imagine the terror of that December day in 1866. The Rosebud Battlefield is vast in size, so should you visit, make sure you bring some good maps of this important fight. And, by all means, take the 2.5 mile round-trip hike to the top of Crook’s Hill to better understand this important engagement. This hike will challenge those who are not in at least average physical condition. Good boots are a must and lastly keep your eyes and ears peeled for rattlesnakes!

Day Two – We followed the route of the Custer column from the junction of the Rosebud and Yellowstone Rivers. We traveled more than 40 miles on dusty Montana dirt roads, much of the time traveling through the Northern Cheyenne Tribal reservation. By far, the highlight of this day and perhaps the entire trip was gaining access to Deer Medicine Rocks. This sacred Sioux Indian site is where Sitting Bull carved his vision of Custer’s defeat into Deer Medicine Rock. Nearby is the location of the large Indian camp where, several weeks before the fight, a ceremonial sun dance was held. During the march down up the Rosebud, the abandoned camp was found by the Custer scouts. It was here that that Custer’s personal guidon fell rearward to the ground, not once but twice! Many of Custer’s men felt this was a bad omen, and perhaps given the events of the following days they were correct!

Day Three – We followed Custer’s advance from the Crows’ Nest, past both the Morass and Lone Teepee sites. From there we moved on to the site of Reno’s Valley and Hill Fights. During this portion of the tour we took the opportunity to scale Sharpshooters Ridge and Weir Point. While the hike to the top of these hills can be a bit strenuous, the views from both of these locations will add much to your understanding and personal conjecture of how the last phase of the battle played out.

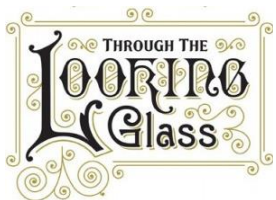
Day Four – This day was spent entirely on following the movements of Custer’s five companies from the time he led them away from Reno, and then north along the bluffs along the eastern banks of the Little Big Horn. We hiked to the top of the Nye-Cartwright Ridge and our guide was able to get us permission from the owners of the Medicine Tail Ford site for us to visit there also. Then it was on to Calhoun Hill and the location where Myles Keough and many of his troopers fell. From there we hiked down to the Deep Ravine site and then finally Last Stand Hill.

This was my first visit to the Little Big Horn Battlefield, and like many of you I have had a fascination with this battle since my youth. After hiking the terrain and experiencing the “infernal distances,” I realized that my perception of the fight was correct; Custer and his five companies of men were doomed from the time he divided his command for the second time and sent Reno across the Little Big Horn, while he and his ill-fated command galloped north into legend and infamy.

In closing this brief travelogue of sorts, I would be remiss if I didn’t mention that one of the first photographers of the Little Big Horn battlefield was Stanley Morrow, who made his images in 1879. Morrow, who hailed from Lancaster, Wisconsin enlisted in the 2nd Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry in 1861 as a drummer and served with that unit until mustering out in 1864. He then served in the Veterans Reserve Corps until 1865.

If you wish to further explore this and other Indian Wars battlefield sites, let me recommend the new tour company, Expert Historical Tours. <http://www.eht.expert/>. I do know that Expert Historical Tours plans on doing this sort of Little Big Horn campaign tour in 2019, and that Jim Hessler will be the guide. I can certainly see this becoming an annual event on their tour schedule. I can’t speak highly enough of the quality of Jim’s historical professionalism and the outstanding quality of his tour. You will not be disappointed.

Should any of you have any questions on this trip and the places visited, please feel free to contact me at philspaagy@gmail.com. I will be more than happy to share my insights and thoughts with you.



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!

Ira S. Pettit: A Son of New York

Ira S. Pettit was a 20-year-old farmer's son living in Wilson, NY when the Civil War broke out in 1861. Ira started a diary in 1862 that recorded everyday farm life in Niagara County in the mid-19th century. He wrote of "bucking wood," "choreing" and "buchering." The weather, then as now, was a noteworthy event as were attending lectures and concerts, and reading.

On May 12, 1862 Ira turned 21. Big news was added on May 23 when he exuberantly wrote, "I'VE CONCLUDED TO ENLIST!" He traveled to Lockport in preparation for his eventual departure, finding it an exciting place for a young man. "Lockport life is a bully life," he wrote in his diary, decades before Theodore Roosevelt used the phrase. After traveling to Canandaigua for a month of training, he spent six months at Fort Independence in Boston, Massachusetts. (Unlike many young men in the area, Ira chose to join the regular Army rather than a locally raised regiment). Pettit's regiment headed to Virginia to join the Army of the Potomac in January 1863. He first fought at Chancellorsville and later at Gettysburg. Of his time at Gettysburg, Pettit wrote on July 3, 1863, "The fight renewed early and the cannonading terrible all day! much heavier than Chancellorsville ... The enemy have gone away. Our regiment lost more than any other engagement."

After Gettysburg, the Army of the Potomac pursued Lee's Army of Northern Virginia south through that state and Maryland, engaging in skirmishes along the way. From December 1863 to April 1864, the 11th Regiment, Fifth Corps encamped at various locations in Virginia and Ira spent most of his time on guard duty. In late April, the Army of the Potomac began moving toward central Virginia and eventually met Lee's Army at what became known as the Battle of the Wilderness. A second battle took place about a week later at Spotsylvania Court House. It was during this encounter, on May 12, 1864, Ira's 23rd birthday, that he sustained an unspecified head wound. After convalescing for a couple of weeks, he rejoined his own regiment on June 2. Later that day, after reading several letters from home that were waiting for him, Ira and 12 other soldiers were surprised by Confederates and taken prisoner. They were first transported to Richmond and by June 15 were at Camp Sumter in Andersonville, Georgia. In a letter to his father Ira wrote:

Dear Father:--

I am now a prisoner of war. I returned to my regiment on the 2nd of June. The command was in line of battle on the Mechanicsville pike. I received a letter from Lucina with her photograph; one from cousin Clarissa, and one from Harvey Pease. I had not been back four hours scarcely, before the enemy turned our right, and twelve of our company besides myself were captured. We were in Richmond until the 8th and arrived here on the 15th by rail. It is very hot, but we have a shelter which affords protection from storms and from heat a shade. We get plenty to eat and I have been in good health and spirits until after the fourth of July; since I have had the diarrhoea which makes me very weak. I can get around and hope soon to recover. About 10 of the 2nd Mounted Rifles are here. We now belong to the 57-one detachment instead of the 79-one. One in other words detachment 57. First mess. I wrote a letter to Mother from here on the 21st of June.

Ira. S. Pettit

Respectfully from your boy.

The next contact the senior Mr. Pettit received from Georgia was short, terrible, and to the point.

Mr. Pettit

Sir – You undoubtedly have been waiting for a long time to hear from your Son Ira. It is my painful duty to inform you of his death. He died at Andersonville Ga., on the 18th of October. On the 28th of Sept. I left the prison for Savannah Ira not being able to accompany us. On the 8th of Nov. I heard of his death from a young man by the name of Phelps belonging to the 11th Pa. Cav. This man also had possession of your Son's Diary and various other articles. About the last of August your son told me it was his wish in case he should die, I should take charge of his Diary and send it home, but me not being with him at the time of his death it was impossible for me to do so.

Your Son never despaired and was willing to lay down his life for his country if necessary, which declaration he often made.



submitted by Dave Wege

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Contact Roman Blenski, Quartermaster

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

