

GENERAL ORDERS



The Newsletter of the

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



June 13, 2019

Greg Biggs

THE QUESTION WAS ONE OF SUPPLIES

THE LOGISTICS FOR WILLIAM T. SHERMAN'S ATLANTA CAMPAIGN

The Atlanta campaign would have been an impossibility without these railroads; and only then, because we had the men and means to defend them.

William Tecumseh Sherman

No army in history moved without a secure line of supplies especially if it moved into enemy territory. If an army got cut off from its supplies then calamity usually followed often ending in defeat and/or destruction.

When William T. Sherman set his sights on Atlanta he prepared for the supplying of his army in a manner that surpassed every other Civil War general. Our June speaker, Greg Biggs, will be talking to our Round Table on the logistics of this campaign.

Rebuilding railroads and confiscating locomotives and cars to haul supplies, Sherman set a daily goal for shipments to his forward base in Chattanooga. Ruthless in making sure that only supplies got on the cars, Sherman also had to worry about protecting the line of rails that ran back to Louisville, Kentucky from Confederate raiders. Building on a system begun by William S. Rosecrans, Sherman's engineers built forts and blockhouses and prepared pre-fabricated trestles for replacing those brought down by Confederate raiders. While his preparations were masterful and thorough, they were not without some flaws. In his program, Biggs will examine the nuts and bolts of these logistics and cover the errors that were also made. In the end, his supply line performed as expected and Atlanta was captured. This set the stage for two more campaigns that Sherman would undertake before the war ended in April 1865 as well as logistics for more modern wars.

The son of a WWII U.S. Army Air Corps/U.S. Air Force officer, Greg Biggs is a Chicago area native who has lived in many U.S. states in addition to Peru over his lifetime. He attended college at the University of Tampa in Florida and Stephen F. Austin State University in Texas. He has been a student of military history for 55 years with interests starting with the ancient Greeks and going through military affairs of today.

Within this he specializes in the Revolutionary War, Frederick the Great, the Napoleonic era, and the Civil War. He is also a student of tanks and armor doctrine as well as World War II in all theaters. Greg lectures on the Revolutionary War, Civil War and World War II across the country to roundtables, museums, historical societies and conferences. He was also lead historian on the Civil War Fort Defiance Interpretive Center project in Clarksville, Tennessee.

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June 2019

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June Meeting at a Glance The Wisconsin Club 900 W. 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, June 10, 2019

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.

www.milwaukeeecwrt.org

Civil War Round Table News

When Reservations are Cancelled

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

Your Cooperation is Appreciated

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

Special Dietary Needs

We have quite a number of regular members who have opted for special entrees as options to the regular dinner being served. The Wisconsin Club and the Round Table will make every effort to meet any special dietary needs you may have. As a courtesy, **please give a reminder when making your reservations**, so we don't forget to serve you what you're expecting!

Where and How is Dale Brasser?

The Manitowoc Round Table reported that Dale, past President of the Milwaukee Round Table, is living in Madison at his condo near his children. Dale has been experiencing some health issues and the Manitowoc Round Table reports that Dale is doing well at the present time.

If you would like to communicate with Dale mail can be sent to him at:

Dale Brasser
3025 Nessling St.
Madison, WI 53719



The Muster Roll: NEW MEMBERS

NAME	RESIDENCE	PLACE OF BIRTH	DATE OF BIRTH	DATE OF DEATH	DATE OF BURIAL
William DeLind	Belmont	Belmont			
Stephen Schuch	Belmont	Belmont			
Stephen Schuch	Belmont	Belmont			
John Langdon	Belmont	Belmont			
John Langdon	Belmont	Belmont			

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 through December 12, 2018.

Major Contributor (\$500 and above)

Patron (\$200 - \$499)

Roger Bohn, Gene and Jane Jamrozky, Grant Johnson, Steve Leopold, Robert Parrish

Associate (\$100 - \$199)

Michael Benton, Crain Bliwas, Bill Finke, Doug Haag, Van and Dawn Harl, Dr. Peter and Jean Jacobsohn, Bernard Jene, Grant Johnson, David Jordan, Bruce Klem, Kathy McNally, Jim and Ann Reeve, Laura Rinaldi, Dennis Slater

Contributor (up to \$99)

George Affeldt, John Beatty, Dale Bepalec, T. James Blake, Anne and Shaw Bridges, John and Linda Connelly, Dr. Gordon E. Dammann, Mike Deeken, Lori Duginski, John Durr, Tom Eddington, Paul Eilbes, Gary & Judy Ertel, Gerald Frangesch, George and Alison Geanon, Jim Heinz, Alan Kasprzak, Ardis Kelling, Jerome Kowalski, John Kuhnmuensch, Jay Lauck, Frederic Madsen, Rod Malinowski, Herbert Oechler, Tom Pokrandt, John Rodahl, Chet Rohn, David and Helga Sartori, Diana Smurawa, Dan Tanty, Michael Uihlein, Bernard Van Dinter, Gilbert Vraney

NEW SPEAKER ENHANCEMENT FUND

As they say, the only thing certain in life is change. As your board of directors continues to strive to bring you the best of the best speakers available, and as we need to rely more and more on doing things as our own Milwaukee CWRT, we are kindly asking for generous donations to our Speaker Enhancement Fund.

Your generosity will allow us to seek out and book the best speakers available, many exclusive to our own Milwaukee CWRT.

As the cost to travel increases and shared expenses with other groups decreases, we want to plan ahead and march forward to our own drum.

Thank You Donors: Van Harl and Grant Johnson



From the Archives

In June 1949 Otto Eisenschiml spoke to those assembled on "The Story of Shiloh."

"Mosby's Rangers" was the topic presented by V.C. (Pat) Jones in June 1959.

T. Harry Williams was the speaker at the June 1969 meeting speaking on "A Yank at Oxford or Teaching the Civil War to the English."

At the June 1979 meeting Richard N. Current spoke to the Round Table members on "Lincoln Presidents."

The featured speaker at the June 1999 meeting was Dr. Thomas Sweeney who talked about "Fighting Tom Sweeney."

At last year's June meeting Dr. Dennis A. Rasbach spoke to the group on "Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain at Petersburg."

Editor's Note:

It's hard to believe but, once again, June is here and we are wrapping up another Round Table season. As I always do, I would like to thank the membership and the board for the privilege of editing our *General Orders*. The newsletter, as it should be, is a collaborative effort made possible by your contributions, my love for doing it, and a very trusty band of helpers. A very special and sincere thank you to my newsletter partner, Dave Wege, who takes the material I send him and makes it fit in the layout while providing additional material and suggestions to help make our newsletter first rate. Dave, I couldn't do it without you. Thank you to Jim Johnson, up in the UP, for the material for From the Field. Bruce Klem, our resident bookworm for your constant supply of book reviews. Peter Jacobsohn for sharing your collection with the membership. Everyone else who has submitted articles for inclusion in the newsletter or who has brought potential material to my attention – so very appreciated. Dave and I will now take our mini-break before starting on the September issue. Remember: I am always looking for Wanderings articles – I know there are CW travelers out there. Have you read a book that really resonated with you? Know of a good story for our Through the Looking Glass? Read something you think would be of interest to the membership? Please consider sharing. Thank you everyone!

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.

Friday, June 14, 2019

Noon

Alabama's Cahaba Prison

Presented by: Gene Salecker

This presentation centers on the history of Alabama's Cahaba Prison, an institution that housed Union prisoners inside an old cotton warehouse built beside the Alabama River. Mr. Salecker will show that Cahaba was one of the better run Confederate prisons with the lowest death rate among southern prisons. That is not to say it was not without its problems. In early 1865, the river rose and flooded the entire compound, forcing the prisoners to either stand waist-deep in the water for a few days or scramble onto the few logs and such that the Confederates floated into the prison. He will also tell of an unsuccessful attempt of a full-scale breakout that was foiled at the last minute.

THE GREAT LAKES CIVIL WAR FORUM THIS BATTLE WILL GO BY THE NAME OF GETTYSBURG

Saturday, September 14, 2019

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.

Program begins at 9:30 a.m.

Lunch Included. \$60/\$50 Friends of the Museum

Register by calling: 262-653-4141

Speakers:

- **Dr. Peter Carmichael**
The Fate of a Confederate Deserter after Gettysburg
- **Mr. Steve Acker**
The Fight for the Sherfy Farm
- **Dr. James Pula**
The "Other" July 2: The Defense of Culp's and Cemetery Hills
- **Mr. Keith Rocco**
Gettysburg Through the Eyes of the Painter

AT THE ANTARAMIAN GALLERY CIVIL WAR MUSEUM SECOND FLOOR OBJECT LESSONS: TRUE STORIES OF CIVIL WAR ARTIFACTS

January 19 – June 2, 2019

Visit the Gallery while you are at the museum and uncover the unique stories of 20 of the Museum's artifacts.



CAMP RANDALL JUNE 1861

Military Matters – Wisconsin compared with other states:

The great labor of the country during the present season is the organization of the militia, for the purposes of the war and in the unorganized condition of affairs, and the great want of attention for military matters for many years past has rendered this labor difficult and embarrassing, the Governors of the different states have found themselves burdened with labors and responsibilities heretofore unknown; and in the general ignorance of the people as to the amount of time it requires to prepare regiments for service, many have been loud and severe in their censure upon the ruling powers in the different states because regiments have not been produced more rapidly and the wants of the men supplied more liberally. A little knowledge of this subject would be the means we apprehend of silencing most of this grumbling.

For something over two weeks past, we have been traveling through the Northern States pretty extensively, having visited the States of Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire; and having heard considerable complaint with regard to the management of the military movements of our own State, previous to leaving home we have devoted considerable time in visiting the encampments in the States above mentioned, with a view to a comparison of their management with those of Wisconsin.

The result of this examination and comparison, is very favorable to our home management in the larger states, more men have been raised and the arrangements are more extended but in none do we find the comforts of the men more thoroughly provided for than in our State; and in no encampment have we seen men, who in physical proportions, approach those composing the regiments of this State; nor are we surpassed in the general discipline and drill of the soldiers. Wisconsin soldiers will rank high with the fellows from any of the States, and we shall be mistaken, if at the close of the war, it will not be a matter of pride to have been a soldier from the Badger State.

Not only do our men and our management compare favorably with those of other States, but there is really less fault finding among our people than among those of any State we have visited. That the governors of all the States have done the best they could under the circumstances we have no doubt; that all have labored under serious

embarrassments is equally clear; that the same patriotic zeal has actuated each one there is no reason to doubt and that the labors attending the preparation of men for service is vastly greater than was anticipated in the beginning they will all testify but not withstanding all these difficulties they have been overcome and the country is now in a good condition for the protection of its honor and its flag. Probably no country ever accomplished as much in so short a period of time in the way of preparations for war, as has been accomplished in the loyal States of this Union in the last two months. A people that can rally from their farms, their work shops, their places of business of all kinds with alacrity that our people have done on this occasion can never be conquered.

With such people the country is safe.

We are convinced that the people of our State have abundant reason to be satisfied with our governor and his management in these trying times. While he has made no pretension to military skill he has evinced a promptness of action and a decision of character that would render him conspicuous as a military commander with a brief practice.

We are peculiarly fortunate in having a man of nerve and ability at the helm to carry the State through this great struggle. Our governor, as well as our soldiers compares most favorably with those of other States.

We return from our tour of observation prouder than ever of Wisconsin. Her lands look better than ever; her people look more healthy and happy; her soldiers more patriotic and bold; in line everything presents a vigor compared with the older States as youth is compared with old age.

God Bless Wisconsin Forever.

**Head Quarters, Milwaukee Zouaves
Milwaukee, June 25, 1861**

Editor Journal and Courier:

In accordance with your request, I will have you a few notes of the whereabouts of the Beloit boys who are enrolled in the Milwaukee Zouaves. We are all well though we have seen some service and been exposed to the mad fury of a mob.

The real cause of the mob was the dishonest manner in which the banks have undertaken to fool and cheat the commons. That they have been guilty of gross falsehood as evident to who have given heed to their actions. They have deliberately broken their promise to receive at par the notes of certain banks but this is no excuse for violating the security of private property and the lives of innocent people.

The riot was a preponderated plan chiefly originating among the Germans of the 2d, 6th and 9th wards.

Thank you, Jim Johnson, from our readers, for the time and talent you put into sharing these fascinating memories for our *From the Field* features!

The city Mayor was informed of the intended assault several days before it took place but he neglected to make any preparation to repulse those engaged in it. Yesterday morning as we were packing our knapsacks and preparing to go to "Camp Randall" the news first came to us that a mob was breaking into several of the banks of the city destroying the property and endangering the lives of innocent citizens. Soon the Mayor appeared and desired us to march forth to restore "Law and Order" at home. After our order from Gov. Randall we prepared our muskets with powder and ball and under that command of our gallant captain we marched at double quick time to the scene of action.

With three hearty Zouaves we rushed up the street and charged bayonets upon the crowd. This, with the aid of the fire companies was sufficient to repel the mob and enable the police to arrest many of the ring leaders.

During the whole action the Zouaves acted the part of brave soldiers and all showed that they had grit of the right sort to encounter rebels and traitors. Not a man flinched or wavered, but all were determined to conquer or die in the attempt. It is enough to say that we have succeeded with the aid we received from others in restoring order for the present. The daily papers will give you the full account and in better style than I can after twenty-four hours of active service either in repelling the mob or in keeping guard at various points. The whole city is now filled with soldiers fully armed and ready for any attack.

There are reports of their determination to rescue the fifty-two prisoners, now confined in the lock up. I think with the forces we have in the city, no one will dare lift a finger to rescue them. When we took the cannon of the rioters then was the time for them to have acted a brave part yet if they had begun it we should have cut them down by hundreds. The people of Milwaukee showed their gratitude immediately by feeding us with all kinds of substantials as well as sweetmeats &c.

This kind treatment has well paid us for all our trouble and exposure. They seem to feel proud of their Zouaves. I hope we may always prove ourselves worthy of the praise we have received in this our first exposure to danger. It may be needless to say that the Beloit boys were on hand and acted well their part, after such a puff as you have them in your last issue.

I do not know when we shall go to Madison, probably soon. All letters and papers should be addressed to the person care of Captain Hibbard, Milwaukee Zouaves, Madison, Wis.

Hoping that we may be as successful in all future battles we are only anxious to get where we may be of use in putting down traitors and rebels. All our boys are safe except a few slight bruises. All has been accomplished without bloodshed.

In haste

The above letter was received last week but not in season for publication. Ed.

A NEW USE FOR BOTTLE CAPS

As reported on the American Battlefield Trust's Facebook page and by the Emerging Civil War (ECW), the ECW's editor-in-chief, Chris Mackowski, met the 2016 Trust's Teacher of the Year, Phil Caskey, at the 2018 Trust's Teacher Institute. Caskey has found a unique way of using discarded bottle caps. In 2018, Caskey spread 24,000 bottle caps out on his classroom floor as a way of representing each life lost in the battle of Antietam.

Caskey, a high school history teacher in Morgantown, West Virginia, is three years into collecting enough bottle caps to represent every life lost in the Civil War. He currently has about 400,000 and is looking for some assistance; he needs approximately 320,000 more to complete this collection.

The project is conducted by Caskey and his students. As Caskey said: *I'm looking to quantify and give a visual representation of what the actual toll of the American Civil War was. Numbers are just numbers...I wanted to be able to quantify the loss.*

The bottle caps Caskey currently has on hand have come from members of the community, students, parents and anyone else who wants to donate them. He notes that he has been receiving the bottle caps from all over the country as his project has gained more attention.

Caskey and his students only accept plastic bottle caps; all caps are counted by hand. Caskey estimates that he will reach his goal of 720,000 caps in two years. He plans to create a visual display of some sort when the collection is complete but has yet to determine what that end result will be.

If you would like to send bottle caps to this remarkable teacher he is accepting water bottle caps, soda bottle caps, milk jug caps, and almond milk jug caps. He is trying to avoid anything larger than those as being too large. Bring your bottle caps to a Round Table meeting. A collection container will be available at the registration table in May and June. We will send a Milwaukee Round Table shipment to Mr. Caskey.

YOUR BOOK REVIEWS MATTER

When Steve Magnusen sent me the wonderful L. A. Kent letters he thanked me for posting a review of his book. He noted that many people emailed him with positive comments, but most do not take the time to post their comments, which are helpful in generating new readers.

Have you read a book you really liked and want to get the word out? I'm sure we all have. Take the time to go on Amazon or Goodreads and post a review. How important are these reviews to the authors and the publishing companies. Here's, in summary, what Ted Savas, Savas Beatie LLC has to say:

Your Reviews Matter—and Help Keep Civil War Publishing Alive

We love reading about the Civil War.

We save our hard-earned money and buy the books on the subject(s) we love. Sometimes we check them out from libraries. Other times, we borrow them from friends or family members.

However, the vast majority of book readers never leave public reviews of the titles they read. Not on blogs, not on Facebook, and not on Amazon. Not in newsletters, or in magazines, not in newspapers, broadsheets, or emails. And most readers don't think twice about not doing so.

It's understandable. Most people are busy, and/or they don't think they write well enough to leave a public review. Many folks admit the idea doesn't often cross their mind, or don't believe a review is really all that important or could possibly make any difference.

They could not be more wrong.

It matters—in more ways that you can imagine

Here are a few reasons why you should pen a review, however brief or long, however general or detailed.

- ✓ First, authors need your feedback.
- ✓ Second, publishers (at least those who care) need your feedback. It is important to let us know what you like, and what you didn't like.
- ✓ Third, other potential readers rely upon and need your honest opinion. Marketing blurbs and jacket copy are important sales tools, but interested readers are more influenced by YOUR opinion.
- ✓ Fourth, most book readers don't take into consideration that booksellers and wholesalers follow reviews carefully.
- ✓ Fifth, Amazon – the uncomfortable elephant in the room today – uses reviews and page hits to determine which books are popular, how many to stock and how to match them with other similar interests. Many people check Amazon first to see how a book has been reviewed (I know many of you are nodding your head, right?) How many of us have glanced at a star rating and thought, “Only a two-star average with 10 reviews? I'll pass.” Or, “Wow, this has 22 reviews and a 4.5-star rating average. I will get a copy.”

Your reviews matter.

I can hear some of you shouting, “But Ted, I am not a good writer!” I hear this almost daily. Here is a dirty secret: It doesn't matter.

Just write what you liked (or didn't like) about a book. Post it on Amazon, on Facebook, online somewhere, or maybe in a series of tweets...

Reviews help keep authors writing, publishers publishing, and readers reading. Your participation with reviews is critically important and likely much more so than you realized.

Help shape YOUR reading future. Your opinion matters.

*Ted's complete article can be found in the December 2017 issue of the General Orders at milwaukeeecwrt.org
Or: visit savasbeatie.blogspot.com/2017/10/your-reviews-matterand-help-keep-civil.html*

Wanderings: Educational Travel Opportunities

CIVIL WAR MUSEUM 2019 MANASSAS TOUR

Sunday, October 20, to Wednesday, October 23, 2019
Reservations can be made by mail, in person or by phone at 262-653-4140 with a credit card.

For a complete itinerary and details visit:

<https://museums.kenosha.org/civilwar/events>

Go to the bottom of the events page and click on the link provided for the tour itinerary.

CIVIL WAR TIME TRAVELERS 2019 TOUR

Showdown in the Shenandoah is the October 2019 tour. Cross Keys, Port Republic, New Market, Winchester, and Cedar Creek will be our historical highlights. We will also visit the Perryville Battlefield in Kentucky on our way south to the Valley! For information contact Dave Wege at wegs1862@gmail.com. You can also visit the group's Facebook page: Civil War Time Travelers, LLC.

FROM THE FILES OF PETER JACOB SOHN

June 26, 1861
New York Daily Tribune

THE NATION'S WAR-CRY.

Forward to Richmond! Forward to Richmond!

The Rebel Congress must not be allowed to meet there on the 20th of July!

BY THAT DATE THE PLACE MUST BE HELD BY THE NATIONAL ARMY.

CONCESSION ... COMPROMISE

Davis and his fellow-traitors ask to be let alone. So did Cain when the fratricidal brand was put to his brow; so did Catiline when about to fall by the swords of the Roman legions; so did Guy Fawkes when dragged from his hiding place and put to the confessional; so did Benedict Arnold when driven into exile by the indignant scorn of his betrayed country; and so has it been with murderers, incendiaries and traitors in all ages when the arm of retribution was raised to smite them for their crime. Butler gave the reason for this universal sentiment of felons in a couplet which has lived two hundred years:

*"No rogue e'er felt the halter draw,
With good opinion of the law."*

General Orders
No. 19

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, February 22, 1862.

The following Order has been received from the War Department:

It is ordered that there shall be inscribed upon the colors or guidons of all regiments and batteries in the service of the United States the names of the battles in which they have borne a meritorious part. These names will also be placed on the Army Register at the head of the list of the officers of each regiment.

It is expected that troops so distinguished will regard their colors as representing the honor of their corps – to be lost only with their lives; and that those not yet entitled to such a distinction will not rest satisfied until they have won it by their discipline and courage.

The General Commanding the Army will, under the instructions of this Department, take the necessary steps to carry out this order.

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL MCCLELLAN:

L. THOMAS,
Adjutant General:

OFFICIAL:

Assistant Adjutant General

Our June Speaker (continued)

Greg is also a recognized authority of Civil War flags. He has been published on the topic numerous times and has consulted with museums, auction houses and private collectors over the years. He is a text editor and essayist for the authoritative Flags of the Confederacy website (www.confederate-flags.org).

An experienced tour guide, Greg has led many Civil War battlefield tours for civilians and staff rides for the U.S. Army and the Israeli Air Force including the Fort Donelson Campaign, Civil War Clarksville and Guerrilla War, the Tullahoma Campaign, Chickamauga and Chattanooga, the Atlanta Campaign and Where the River Campaigns Began – Cairo, IL to Columbus, KY.

Greg lives in Clarksville, Tennessee, with his schoolteacher wife Karel and their four cats (named for Civil War cavalry officers). He is president of the Clarksville CWRT and program chair of the Nashville CWRT and has been involved in the CWRT movement since 1987 while living in California. Greg met his wife at the Long Beach CWRT!

Greg's Civil War articles have been published in *Blue and Gray Magazine*, *Citizen's Companion*, *Civil War News*, *Civil War Regiments Journal*, Civil War Trust's *Hallowed Ground*, Battle of Franklin Trust's *Battlefield Dispatch* and several Sons of Confederate Veterans publications as well as a chapter in a recent book on the Tullahoma Campaign and a forthcoming article in *Civil War Times*. He has also done research for several noted Civil War authors and their book projects.

Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.

2019 – 2020 Board of Directors

Name	Office/Position	Term Expires
Donna Agnelly	Editor, General Orders	2022
Thomas Arliskas	President	2022
Terry Arliskas	Secretary	
Michael K. Benton	Second Vice President	2020
Roman Blenski	Quartermaster	2022
Crain Bliwas	Member	2022
Paul A. Eilbes	Treasurer/Membership	2022
A. William Finke	Member	2020
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Grant Johnson	Past President	2021
Bruce Klem	First Vice President	2021
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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

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 June 13, 2019

Mail your reservations by Monday, June 10 to:

Paul Eilbes

1809 Washington Avenue

Cedarburg, WI 53012-9730

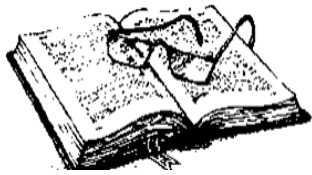
Call or email reservations to:

(262) 376-0568

peilbes@gmail.com

Enclosed is \$_____ (meal is \$30.00 per person) for _____ people for the
June 13, 2019 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 CHICKAMAUGA CAMPAIGN: Glory or the Grave: The Breakthrough, the Union Collapse and the Defense of Horseshoe Ridge - September 20, 1863

by David A. Powell

As promised - the second book on the Chickamauga campaign by David Powell. The title alone is a mouthful. The book weighs in at 708 pages. This is the second book on the battle. Besides his 3-volume set on the campaign, you can also count *The Maps of Chickamauga*, *Battle Above the Clouds* and *Failure in the Saddle* as additional books on Chickamauga. My effort was to focus on the entire series so I was set for the Kenosha Civil War Museum tour this past October.

Mr. Powell devotes this book to the key third day of the fighting and provides a great body of information on this important battle. A mountain of detail and first-person accounts draw the reader into the action as it occurred hour-by-hour on different parts of the battlefield. Powell pulls information from both sides in order to give the reader an idea of what was happening on both sides at any given time. It helps put the reader into the battle as a Union commander reacts to what is happening in front of him, paralleling what his Confederate counterpart is doing on the battlefield. The resulting story line is one that I think is a fast paced, interesting read on this complex fight in the North Georgia terrain.

The author concentrates on the three blunders that highlight the battle results: The Confederate failure of a dawn attack, the Union decision to pull a division out of the battle line prior to Longstreet's attack, and the Confederate failure to pursue the beaten Union Army. As he dissects these blunders, Powell takes the opportunity to examine some of the lesser errors made during the course of the battle by both sides. In each case, I felt that Mr. Powell's analysis helps to show the reader the confusion each of the commanders felt in dealing with the action happening around his position. Powell adds comments from individuals that enables the reader to picture the scene as the soldiers reacted to the Confederate attacks, trying to make sense out of the action. His descriptions provide the smoke and confusion of the battle as troops from both sides move in different directions, meet head on, and deal with seeing friends and officers go down around them.

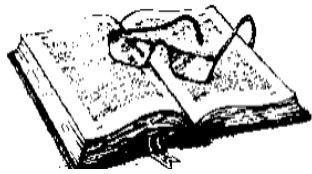
The descriptions are given for both sides to show how the Union men react and the corresponding actions of the Confederate soldiers. It is a steady flow back and forth which paints this battle picture for the reader. Along with these descriptions Mr. Powell includes key maps from his book *Maps of Chickamauga*. These maps greatly improve the reader's ability to understand how the fighting was going. I used the maps to enhance the picture of the fighting as well. The map book provided more detail for each fight and movement going on in the battle.

Another factor that is presented in this series is that Mr. Powell provides plenty of detail to show the interactions up and down each side's chain of command. Clearly there were plenty of problems with the inner workings on the Confederate side, particularly with the Corps and Wing commanders and the reactions and directions given from General Bragg. Powell provides detail on how the individual personalities of various subordinates tended to clash with the Army of Tennessee commander, General Bragg, and resulted in failure of desired results being carried out by subordinates.

The author also points out the confusion Union General Rosecrans created leading up to the fatal move of pulling Woods' division out of line by taking units from other Corps and sending them up to General Thomas, thus passing command channels and breaking up Corps associations. As these units were sent to Thomas they no longer were with familiar units and command became somewhat muddled. This lack of familiarity impacted unit morale and performance. Mr. Powell shows the mass confusion that occurred when the Confederate attack hit the spot vacated by Wood's division and succeeded in making a huge breakthrough. At once, survival of the Union Army of the Cumberland was put in jeopardy.

The last part of this book covers the intense fighting retreat the Union forces made across the battlefield and the struggle for the final rallying point on Horseshoe Ridge. Also covered are the efforts of the forces under the command of General Thomas to hold off the Confederate forces and his efforts to salvage something of a draw in the Battle of Chickamauga.

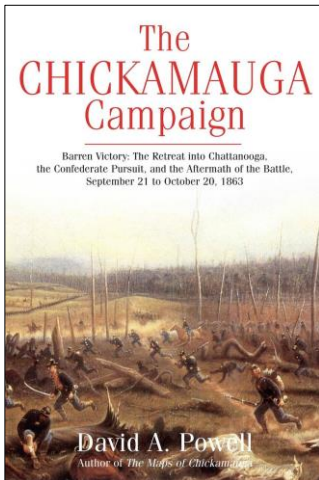
I highly recommend this book to anyone who wants to gain a complete understanding of the Battle of Chickamauga that begins with the stage setting of the Confederate breakthrough and the Union efforts to recover. Mr. Powell provides an excellent description of the action and brings the battle to life for the reader with a variety of first-hand accounts woven into the story. Another interesting part this book brings to light is that in spite of being routed and fighting almost on a continuous basis, most of the broken Union units managed to pull together survivors and reconstitute some unit integrity and were able to effectively reenter the fight with a ferociousness that enabled the Union to hold on to Horseshoe Ridge for a long period of time. The Army of the Cumberland could still put up a tremendous fight even after a major breakthrough.



BETWEEN THE COVERS

THE CHICKAMAUGA CAMPAIGN: Barren Victory: The Retreat into Chattanooga, the Confederate Pursuit and the Aftermath of the Battle, September 21 to October 20, 1863

by David A. Powell



A long title, but this is the shortest book in Powell's 3-book series and serves as a good wrap up to a very detailed and exhaustive study on the battle of Chickamauga.

In this third volume of the battle Mr. Powell details the options that now faced the Confederate commander, General Bragg. The Union forces were in disarray and had retreated back into the Chattanooga defense line. All Bragg needed to do now was to advance and continue the attack and either finish the destruction of the Army of the Cumberland and recapture Chattanooga or both. Was it that simple? Mr. Powell points out that, while Longstreet proposed a flanking movement to cut off the Army of the Cumberland, it was a tactic that the supply system of the Army of Tennessee could not support due to a severe lack of wagons. The Confederate forces could barely support themselves let alone a deep flanking maneuver.

Another factor impacting the choice of action was that the Confederate forces had been heavily disorganized by the losses they incurred in the battle; the army was also losing units that had been added for this battle. It was now time for Bragg to order these added-on forces back to where they came from, which reduced his army further.

At the same time, the Army of the Cumberland was struggling to get its forces resupplied and reinforced before the Confederates struck in their effort to retake Chattanooga. Rosecrans had to position his forces to defend Missionary Ridge, Lookout Mountain as well as the city of Chattanooga and secure his supply line situation. On the political front, forces beyond Rosecrans control were working against him. Powell points out how information from Secretary Dana, who had been with the army, had provided some damaging information to Stanton. Some of this information on the battle was not necessarily accurate but nonetheless had an impact on Stanton and Lincoln. The fact the Union army had been defeated and retreated in itself was bad enough for General Rosecrans retaining command or for that matter any general; the other details did much to sink Rosecrans's chances of remaining in command.

The author shows how Stanton met with Grant to decide who would command the Army of the Cumberland moving forward. Mr. Powell shows that Stanton, while moving to relieve Rosecrans, had two sets of orders and left it up to Grant to decide if Rosecrans would stay. Grant had some adverse feelings on Rosecrans and I suspect that, plus Stanton's strong opinions, resulted in the command change.

Powell points out that Rosecrans had been working on a number of things to improve his supply situation which later came to fruition and these were used by Grant and Thomas to restore the smooth flow of supplies. It was perhaps to Rosecrans fault that these plans could not be implemented prior to Grant's arrival that ended up destroying his chances to retain command. Powell shows how the two Corps from the Army of the Potomac were sent to reinforce the Army of the Cumberland. He also covers the various relationships between Rosecrans and Dana as well as Confederate General Wheeler's cavalry attack on the last Union cavalry brigade retreating from Georgia in two of the appendices. Additionally included appendices are Orders of Battle of both sides and losses of both sides as well as other information Mr. Powell gathered in his research on the campaign.

I found this book to be a necessity in providing the final wrap up to this campaign if you have invested in reading the first two volumes. This book provides an excellent source of detail on this campaign and should be added to your library along with the first two volumes.

submitted by Bruce Klem

Thanks go out to **Bruce Klem** for the many great book reviews he provides throughout the year. Bruce, your work inspires people to pick up a great book and do some reading!

SHILOH NATIONAL MILITARY PARK EXPANSION

Washington

On February 12, 2019, United States Senators Lamar Alexander (R – Tenn.) and Marsha Blackburn (R – Tenn.) announced that the Senate had passed legislation to expand the Shiloh National Military Park. The senators said that the expansion will help attract more visitors to Tennessee, boost the local economy and protect the site for future generations.

“Learning from the past helps us become better Americans in the future, and preserving and protecting these sites will allow future generations to learn their history by walking these fields,” said Alexander.

Senator Blackburn also noted, “Expanding Shiloh National Military Park and giving these sites the resources for their upkeep is a crucial part of maintaining Tennessee’s military history.”

The Shiloh National Military Park Boundary Adjustment and Parker’s Crossroads Battlefield Designation Act would designate battlefields at Davis Bridge and Fallen Timbers in Tennessee, and Russell House in Tennessee and Mississippi, as part of the Shiloh National Military Park. The legislation also designates Parker’s Crossroads as an affiliated area of the National Park System.

On February 27, 2019, the U.S. House of Representatives followed the Senate and voted for the Park’s expansion.

On March 13, 2019, President Trump signed the law that will officially expand Shiloh National Battlefield Park.



DR. RICHARD J. SOMMERS

CIVIL WAR HISTORIAN

August 11, 1942 – May 14, 2019

Author, historian, archivist and one of the leading deans of the Civil War, Richard “Dick” Sommers, passed away on May 14th. He was born and raised in south-suburban Chicagoland and earned his B.A. from Carleton College and his Ph.D. from Rice University. Dr. Sommers devoted his 44-year professional career to military history in the U.S. Army Military History Institute/U.S Army Heritage and Education Center/U.S. Army War College at Carlisle Barracks.

He pursued his personal scholarship through his own books, articles, and presentations on military history, especially on the Civil War. His *Richmond Redeemed: The Siege at Petersburg* (originally published in 1981) remains a classic which inspired a whole genre in that field. The expanded 150th anniversary of the book, like the 1981 edition, conveys an epic narrative of crucial military operations in early 1864 and earned the Army Historical Foundation’s Distinguished Writing Award as the best book of 2014. His most recent book, *Challenges of Command in the Civil War* was published in 2018. Dr. Sommers addressed Civil War Round Tables and the Civil War Trust from Boston to Austin, from Atlanta to Seattle, and was especially active in his home Harrisburg Civil War Round Table, where he served since 1971, including 32 years as Program Chairman.

In his remembrance of Dr. Sommers, Wayne Motts, CEO of the National Civil War Museum, noted that he first met Dr. Sommers 30 years ago as a new licensed guide who took his archival internship at Shippensburg University under Dr. Sommers’s direction in the archives of the U.S. Army Military History Institute now the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center. Mott noted: *I think I can safely say there has not been a significant publication in the field in the last four decades which in some way Dick did not contribute or assist. He was an outstanding teacher, mentor and friend.*

Dr. Sommers is survived by his wife Marilyn Tracy Sommers.

And flights of angels guide him to his rest.

ADOPT AN ARTIFACT: NAPOLEON CANNON

The Woodman Museum in Dover, New Hampshire is looking for help. A bronze 1863 cannon and limber on its original wood carriage was donated to the museum by the Dover GAR Charles Sawyer Post 17 upon its closure in 1930. The Museum stresses the importance of preserving this unique artifact.

The cannon was forged in 1863 by Henry N Hooper & Co. of Boston, Massachusetts and was one of four acquired by the New Hampshire National Guard after the conclusion of the Civil War. The original limber and carriage were manufactured by the Woodman Brothers of New York. Research is currently under way to determine which state's light artillery unit used this particular cannon. It is thought that only 10 examples of this type of cannon with the attached original carriage, limber and ammunition box still survive today.

Once the cannon, carriage, limber and ammunition box are disassembled and moved to the off-site work location, the restoration work will begin. This work consists of:

- Removing the iron fittings
- Stripping off the old paint
- Repairing the wood
- Repairing the iron fittings
- Soaking the wood for preservation
- Painting the wood a historically accurate color
- Replacing iron fittings
- Adding implements as desired or as the budget supports
- Take back to the Woodman for reassembly

If you would like to donate please visit: <https://www.gofundme.com/adopt-an-artifact-napoleon-cannon>



William T. Sherman recognized the importance and vulnerability of railroad corridors. In September 1862 Sherman ordered an expedition to “destroy” the town of Randolph, Tennessee, because guerrillas had fired on Union steamships from the banks of the Mississippi River. In 1864 he adopted similarly hard measures to protect the railroads during his Atlanta Campaign. His service in the area twenty years before made him particularly effective at this as he left Atlanta and embarked on his March to the Sea.

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.



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!

*Lewis A. Kent, originally from Blacksburg, Virginia, was a student at Beloit College when the Civil War erupted. He remained loyal to the Union and in June 1861 enlisted in the Beloit Star Rifles, becoming Company G, **Sixth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry**. Sergeant Kent served in numerous battles and was wounded at Petersburg, June 18, 1864. **Lt. Col. Rufus Dawes** promoted him direct to Captain a month later.*

Kent survived the war, married and moved west to work for the U.S. Treasury Dept. in San Francisco. In September 1899 he received a letter from Rufus's oldest son, Charles Gates Dawes, informing Kent of the death of Charles' father, Rufus Dawes. Charles, at age 32, was then the youngest ever U.S. Comptroller of the Currency. (Later in life he will receive the DSC for WWI service under General Pershing, will be U.S. Budget Bureau Director, form several corporations and banks, win the Nobel Peace Prize, and serve as U.S. Vice President and Ambassador to Great Britain!)

Kent replied to Charles and Mary Gates Dawes, Rufus's widow, as follows, in part:

My Dear Friend (Charles),

Your letter of today plunged me into profound sorrow...It seems as though a dear family tie has been severed. There is something so deep in the friendships formed between men who for years have faced death together...only those who have experienced them can imagine the peculiar heart wrenching significance.

I have seen your father so many, many times in positions when it tried the souls of the bravest men and never saw him quail or flinch. I have seen him bearing the flag of the regiment in more than one desperate fight till some of us would force it from his hands. I have seen him in the heat of summer and the rain and snow of winter, on the march and in camp, always and everywhere a true soldier and gentleman. I have seen him blush like a girl when anyone would mention his battle gallantry. He never swore, drank, or used coarse language when most of those around him were proficient in these traits. The magnetism of his personality you well know, and I tell you that none of us who speak of him in measured terms of compliment are guilty of flattery.

To Mary, Kent related that her husband was...

Alert and efficient in every startling emergency, doing the right thing on the spur of the moment, watchful for the safety of his men while seemingly oblivious of his own danger. His heroic presence, clear ringing voice and erect figure inspired his men – one and all – to do their whole duty, and I unhesitatingly affirm that to him more than to any other commander the Sixth Wisconsin Regiment was indebted for its honorable battle record. He was born a leader of men, and we of the rank and file appreciated him as such. He was the manliest man of a manly regiment. His personal character...was a shining example...When occasion required, he was the stern officer and wise counsellor. Camp life and army surroundings never tainted his gentlemanly instincts...He was a noble man and his hopeful words in the darkest days of the rebellion as to the successful outcome of the war yet linger in my memory...I marveled at his constancy to duty and the superb physique which no hardship nor exposure could bend, and the constant good humor that ever characterized him.

Pardon this long letter for I could not make it shorter.

L.A. Kent

Submitted by Steve Magnusen

A note from Steve Magnusen, author of *To My Best Girl: Courage, Honor and Love in the Civil War: The Inspiring Life Stories of Rufus Dawes and Mary Gates*.

A too young 61 year-old Rufus Dawes passed away on August 1, 1899 – this year thus being the 120th anniversary of his death. He suffered in his last few years from severe paralysis, requiring constant assistance and confining him to a tricycle chair. Yet, as his wife Mary noted, he always kept his “brave, cheerful spirit.”

Lewis A. Kent’s letters to Mary and to oldest son, Charles Gates Dawes, express in eloquent prose his utmost respect for his former battle comrade and commander. I discovered the two letters from family descendant Peggy and Rich Dempsey’s private collection several months after my book was published. With the Dempsey’s permission, I have used excerpts of Kent’s letters as a closing statement when giving presentations about the Rufus and Mary story, and they agree that it should be more widely circulated.

What stronger endorsement of a commanding officer, and what better definition of integrity and military leadership, could anyone compose today?

Our thanks to Steve Magnusen for this wonderful, emotionally powerful share.

The Grand Review: A Celebration of the Civil War 11th Anniversary

Saturday, June 8, 2019

10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Free and Open to the Public



Come celebrate the eleventh anniversary of the Civil War Museum with a day of music, demonstrations, Civil War-themed activities, and hands-on family fun. Also, there will be free admission to the Civil War Museum's Fiery Trial gallery.

Scheduled events include:

11a-12p Folk Songs of the 2nd and 26th Wisconsin performed by the German Men's Chorus.

12-1p Eagle and Friends Presented by the Schlitz Audubon. With awesome power, spectacular strength, a huge wingspan, and massive talons, the Bald Eagle is the very essence of a raptor and headlines this program. See this beautiful live specimen accompanied by hawks, owls, and falcons from the Schlitz Audubon.

1-2p *My Little Red Canoe*. *My Little Red Canoe* is Keryn Moriyah & Lia McCoo; two accomplished singers, musicians and presenters who celebrate the voices of women and people of color in the melodies of the Civil War era, with harmonies, sometimes rolling and deep; sometimes light and soaring; as wide as a river and powerful enough to lift a room full of human spirit. Sing Along~ Come join the band! Tap your feet to the dance; or float on down the river, to yesterday. Come, take a trip with *My Little Red Canoe*.

2-3p *Haversacks, Hardtack, and Unserviceable Mules* presented by Author Nancy McEntee

In April 1861, Private Webster Colburn enlisted in the Union infantry for three months. Five years later, with a few more stripes and thousands of miles behind him, Major Webster Colburn, a Union Quartermaster mustered out of the Army in June 1866. Please join the museum for author Nancy McEntee's program on her book *Haversacks, Hardtack, and Unserviceable Mules* to hear the true story of one man's private war to survive a year in the infantry and artillery, and four more years in the demanding job of a quartermaster.

3:30-4:30p The Kenosha Pops. The Kenosha Pops play traditional military, patriotic, and big band favorites during this festive indoor concert.

The Milwaukee Civil War Round Table will provide another excellent series of speakers and topics in 2019-2020. Check out the schedule for next year!

REMEMBER TO MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

NEW ROUND TABLE SEASON STARTS SEPTEMBER 12, 2019

Plan on attending, enjoying fellowship and a good meal at a great location. Welcome and listen to our featured speaker Janet Croon talk about *The War Outside My Window: The Civil War Diary of LeRoy Wiley Gresham*.

Milwaukee Civil War Round Table 2019-2020 Speaker Schedule

September 12, 2019 Janet Croon

*The War Outside My Window:
The Civil War Diary of LeRoy Wiley Gresham*

October 10, 2019 Jim Lighthizer

Battlefield Preservation

November 7, 2019 Ethan Rafuse

The Valley Campaign

December 12, 2019 Dan Weinburg

Abraham Lincoln Book Shop Artifacts

January 9, 2020 Pamela Toler

Heroines of Mercy Street: Nurses in the Civil War

February 13, 2020 Connie Lanum

Wilson Creek Battlefield

March 12, 2020 David Sutherland

VMI Civil War Legacy

April 16, 2020 Michael Schaffer

Memory of Self and Comrades: Thomas W. Colley

May 7, 2020 A. Wilson Greene

Petersburg Campaign

June 11, 2020 Brian Steele Wills

George Henry Thomas

The speaker schedule is subject to change.

milwaukeecivilwar.org



CIVIL WAR SNIPPETS

- At the outbreak of hostilities, the Medical Bureau of the U.S. War Department was made up of 114 officers and one hospital with 40 beds.
- Depreciation of Confederate currency, combined with soaring inflation, soon raised the cost of hiring a substitute in the South to \$1500 and later to \$5000. After that peak was reached, the Secretary of War called for the repeal of the substitute system
- During the years of conflict, it cost approximately \$2.50 to alter an old-fashioned musket and convert it into a percussion-type weapon.
- Theodore Lincoln was among the ranks of the 6th Maine at the Siege of Yorktown in 1862. Coincidentally, he was the great grandson of Benjamin Lincoln, who received the sword of Lord Cornwallis when the British surrendered Yorktown in 1781.

NEW BOOKS FROM SAVAS BEATIE

New Releases:

Meade and Lee at Bristoe Station:

The Problems of Command and Strategy after Gettysburg, from Brandy Station to the Buckland Races, August 1 to October 31, 1863

By: Jeffrey Wm Hunt

Union Command Failure in the Shenandoah:

Major General Franz Sigel and the War in the Valley of Virginia, May 1864

By: David A. Powell

The Most Desperate Acts of Gallantry:

George A. Custer in the Civil War

By: Daniel T. Davis

Attack at Daylight and Whip Them:

The Battle of Shiloh, April 6 – 7, 1862

By: Gregory A. Mertz

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

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

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

