

GENERAL ORDERS



The Newsletter of the

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



September 12, 2019

Janet Croon

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

LeRoy Wiley Gresham was born in 1847 to an affluent and prominent slaveholding family in Macon, Georgia. As a young child he suffered a horrific leg and back injury that left him an invalid. Educated, inquisitive, perceptive, and exceptionally witty, the 12-year-old began keeping a journal in 1860 – just before secession and Civil War tore the country and his world apart. He continued to write even as his health deteriorated until both the war and his life ended in 1865.

The precocious youngster who read Shakespeare and Dickens, loved math, and played chess took in the world from his bed and inside a small wagon pulled around town by a slave his own age. Thirsting for news, Leroy immersed himself in newspapers, letters, books, and adult conversation, following the course of the war closely as he recorded its impact on his family, his community, and the new Southern Confederacy. LeRoy's older brother Thomas served with Lee's army in Virginia, as did many uncles and neighbors. The wealthy slaveholding family had a deep stake in its outcome.

Little escaped LeRoy's pen. His journals brim with both practical and philosophical observations on everything from the course of the war, politics, and family matters, to Macon's social activities, food, weather, and his beloved pets. The young scribe often voiced concern about "Houston", the family's plantation outside town. He recorded his interactions and relationships with "servants" and "valets" Howard, Eaveline, "Mammy Dinah" and others as he pondered the fate of human bondage and his family's fortunes.

LeRoy's declining health is a consistent thread coursing through his fascinating journals. "I feel more discouraged [and] less hopeful about getting well than I ever did before," he wrote on March 17, 1863. "I am weaker and more helpless than I ever was." Morphine and other "remedies" eased his suffering. Bedsores developed; nagging coughs often consumed him. Alternating between bouts of euphoria and despondency, he would often write, "Saw off my leg."

Edited and annotated with meticulous care by Janet Croon, *A Son of Georgia: The Civil War Journals of LeRoy Wiley Gresham, 1860 -1865* captures the spirit and the character of a young privileged white teenager witnessing the demise of his world even as his own body is slowly failing him. Just as Anne Frank has come down to us as the adolescent voice of World War II, LeRoy Gresham will now be remembered as a young voice of the Civil War South.

Our September speaker, Janet E. Croon holds a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science, Modern European History, and Russian Language and Area Studies from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (1983), and a Master's Degree in International Studies from the University of Dayton (1985). She has been teaching International Baccalaureate History for nearly two decades and developed a deep interest in the Civil War by living in northern Virginia. This is her first book and is the winner of the 2018 Douglas Southall Freeman Award. Savas Beatie, the publisher of *The War Outside My Window*, is a leading military and general history publishing company.

General Orders No. 9-19

September 2019

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September 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, September 9, 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.

2019-2020 Speaker Schedule

Find the speaker schedule on page 6.

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!

Civil War Battlefields Lose Ground as Tourist Draws

This headline drew many people's attention in May of 2019. The author claimed that our Civil War battlefields drew fewer visitors last year than in any other year in recent memory. The fault, in the author's opinion, relates directly to the use of Confederate imagery and history in the telling of the story.

The story highlights one of the main purposes of the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table. The whole Civil War story must be told, warts and all. There are heroes and villains in every age of history. Telling the complete story is necessary so that the next generation can evaluate the past and learn its lessons.



Our *Wanderings* page is designed to provide space for you to tell of your own visits to our historical sites. Please relate the stories of your adventures, and even of your misadventures, as we strive together to keep history alive.

In this photo from a school field trip, Riley tells the great story of George Cuppet, the man who interred hundreds of Confederate dead at Carnton's historic McGavock Cemetery in Franklin, Tennessee. Read more on page 9 in this month's *Wanderings* article.

The Muster Roll: NEW MEMBERS

MCWRT Annual Fund

The following members have made a generous commitment to the MCWRT by investing in that fund. This list reflects those donations made from July 1, 2017 through June, 2018.

Major Contributor (\$500 and above)

Patron (\$200 - \$499)

Eugene & Jane Jamroz, Steven Leopold, Robert Parrish

Associate (\$100 - \$199)

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

Contributor (up to \$99)

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

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!



In September 1949 Marvin H. Creager spoke to those assembled on “General George Thomas.”

“100 Years Ago” was the topic presented by Avery Craven in September 1959.

Richard M. Mudd was the speaker at the September 1969 meeting speaking on “Lincoln’s Assassination and After.”

At the September 1979 meeting William Mallory spoke to the Round Table members on “Action North of the James River, September 29 – 30, 1864.”

The featured speaker at the September 1989 meeting was Joseph Brown Sr. who talked about “Political Memorabilia of the Campaigns of 1860 and 1864.”

At last year’s September meeting Timothy B. Smith spoke to the group on “Difficult and Broken Ground: The Terrain Factor at Shiloh.”

Friday, September 27 - Noon

Free and Open to the public

Whoever Saw a Dead Cavalryman: The Origins, Growing Pains and Eventual Maturation of Union Cavalry During the Civil War.

Presented by: Richard Zimmermann

This program is the story of how five mounted regiments of American light cavalry, suited for pre-1860 frontier warfare, evolved into a potent force that changed the course of the war with their Southern opponents by the spring of 1865.

NOW AT THE KENOSHA CIVIL WAR MUSEUM ANTARAMIAN GALLERY

First Regiment Wisconsin Cavalry

MCWRT member Bruce Klem will speak about the 1st Regiment at the museum on Saturday, November 16 at 1:00 pm.

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, September 13, 2019 – Noon

Free and open to the public

U.S. Grant’s Corinth and Iuka Campaigns

Presented by: Dan Nettesheim

This presentation will focus on Grant’s strategic concepts and planning for the Iuka and Corinth campaigns. These campaigns, while relatively obscure, are key to the development of Grant’s generalship as they are his first after Halleck’s promotion and transfer to Washington. They also reflect Grant’s relationship with General William Rosecrans, another major Western commander.

**I’VE HEARD OF HER - THIRD THURSDAY
OF EVERY MONTH**

Fitzgerald or Seminar Room

Facilitators: Jenn Edginton & Samantha Machalik

Would you go to a séance with Mary Todd Lincoln? Would you hang out in Frida Kahlo’s garden? What else was Rosa Parks doing besides riding a bus? Join the staff of the Civil War Museum in discussing women from history. Once a month, museum staff will lead a discussion on a remarkable woman to explore their lives and roles in history – the good, the bad and the in-between. Lunch is not provided, but participants are encouraged to bring their own. This program is in conjunction with the 100th anniversary of Women’s Suffrage.

Thursday, September 19, 2019 – Noon

Free and open to the public

Ida B. Wells

Born into slavery during the Civil War, Wells became a journalist, activist, and researcher. Join the discussion on how race and gender did not stop her from becoming a powerful and influential woman.

Tuesday, September 17

Afternoon at the Movies: The Red Badge of Courage

Noon – Free and Open to the public

Come to the museum and see a free showing of this 1951 movie starring Audie Murphy. The movie is an adaptation of Stephen Crane’s novel of the same name about a Civil War Union soldier who struggles to find the courage to fight in the heat of battle.





River Falls, The Democrat Journal

November 12, 1860

Lincoln Elected!

THERE IS A NORTH!

Twelve years ago last September, Daniel Webster while addressing his fellow citizens in his own beloved Marshfield, half sorrowfully said:

"We talk of the North. There has for a long time been no North. I think the North Star has at last been discovered; I think there will be a North; but up to the recent session of Congress, there has been no North, no geographical section of country in which there has been found a strong, conscientious, and united opposition to slavery. No such North has existed."

Thank God! The sarcastic truth of that assertion has lost its sting – its shame is wiped away – its prophecy has found a glorious fulfillment. The North Star is discovered – the Northern Lights gleam with a brilliancy unknown before – at last there has been found a strong consolation and united opposition to Slavery.

Abraham Lincoln is elected President – elected, not to war upon the south – not to violate any constitutional right – not to enter upon a crusade against the institution of Slavery – but to give emphatic assertion to the fact that this Nation as a Nation regards Slavery as false in theory, unjust in practice and pernicious in its results. He is elected to administer this Government according to the principles of the Fathers of the Republic – to make Freedom the National watchword and if Slavery must live, let it live only where protected by local laws which the Federal government cannot control.

THERE IS A NORTH! The people have said it. Breaking party ties – scorning political bribes – condemning idle threats they have been true to the glorious memories and public examples of the past – true to the spirit of the age we live in – true to their country and themselves.

Other great interests have been at stake – Free Homesteads and protection to American industry, but the life giving fiber of the campaign has been a "strong conscientious and united opposition to Slavery."

THERE IS A NORTH! From the sources of the Saco and Merrimac comes the sound as it rises from every valley and is echoed from every hill-top of New England; it rolls from Manhattan to the sources of the Hudson, and sweeping westward, it is joined by a triumphant shout from the Alleghenies, and coming up the Lakes and over the Prairies,

it is met by cries of victory from the Wabash and the Illinois from the Wisconsin and the Mississippi, all shouting "There is a North."

THERE IS A NORTH! The firm, earnest MAN of Illinois, sitting in his quiet parlor at Springfield, with "The Little Woman at Home," knows it; and through him our Land and the world shall know that the North Star is discovered, and shines brightly on the path of the Republic, giving promise of a better day.

THE NEW ADMINISTRATION

Weekly Patriot

March 9, 1861

Mr. Lincoln thus far seems to have started off with the idea that we have a Government worth preserving, and so long as he gives us hope of deliverance from the evils that beset by adhering to the policy chalked out he will have brave hearts to sustain him. He tells us that the Supreme Court was actually created with some power and for some purpose and that its decisions are the Supreme law of the land and as such all good citizens are bound to yield obedience to it. This has been the main bone of contention, at least so far as Wisconsin is concerned between the Democrats and the Republicans. The Democrats have contended that the decisions of the highest judicial tribunals – whether in themselves morally right or wrong, are binding on the states and individuals.

The Republicans on the contrary, have taught us, that there was a "higher law" than that expounded by the Supreme Court and if that Court erred, (they, the Republicans, being the judges of that fact) it was the right and duty of individuals and states to resist its mandates and to determine the mode and measure of redress. A doctrine more fatal to all Governments than this should not well be conceived of and yet it has been the great bone of contention between the two parties in this State; and the battle between Sloan and Dixon was fought expressly on that issue and the doctrine of state Supremacy and resistance to federal authority was endorsed by every man who voted for Sloan – in most cases we presume with a mental reservation but with a hearty good will be a large minority of our opponents. Indeed resistance to federal Usurpation (resisting the decisions of the Federal Courts) has been a leading and principal rallying cry of the Wisconsin Republicans, ever since the Dred Scott decision was made and the most happy sign of returning reason and allegiance to Federal authority and consequent good fellowship with our Sister State is the inaugural of President Lincoln who has thus early put his official condemnation of a dogma that could not have failed to eventually destroy the Government even if secession had never been attempted at the South.

Mr. Lincoln uses the following very explicit language: I do not forget the position assumed by some that constitutional objections are to be decided by the Supreme Court nor do I deny that such decisions must be binding in every case on the parties to suit and to the objects of that suit while they are entitled to a very high respect and consideration in all parallel cases by all other departments of the government and while it is obviously possible that such decisions may be erroneous in any given case still the evil effect of following it being limited to that particular case with the chance that it may be over-ruled, and never become a precedent for other dares can better be born than could the evils of a different practice.

PROGRESS OF THE 7th REGIMENT TO CHICAGO - ITS RECEPTION THERE **Special Report for the *State Journal*** **September 1861**

The boys of the 7th Regiment seemed to rejoice exceedingly when fairly under way after so many little delays which prolonged the time of starting so long after the appointed time.

A considerable number of people were collected at McFarland to see the train pass, but there was no time to exchange greetings.

The first stop was made at Stoughton, where almost the entire population appeared to have come out to bid their boys goodbye. Such handshaking and varied adieus, and parting admonitions, gave evidence that those who went forth left warm and loving hearts behind them.

Tears there were, not alone on the cheeks of wives and mothers and sisters, but in the eyes of strong and brave men who were leaving that which was most dear, and from which nothing but their country's call could have separated them and some who had bid farewell to their friends elsewhere showed that these scenes had brought that parting afresh to their minds. Several bouquets were bestowed on the boys and two or three fair girls passed along the side of the car shaking hands with their "brothers all" and occasionally some bold soldier boy with a spice of fun or tenderness in his heart would bring the face near enough to imprint a chaste salute in memory perhaps of a sister elsewhere...

At Janesville there was a great crowd to welcome the boys with something more substantial than huzzahs and waving of handkerchiefs, though these were not lacking. The two trains were drawn up alongside of each other and pails of coffee and buckets of sandwiches, pies, cakes and apples were distributed. There was something for all and the rear car, as your reporter can say was most liberally supplied. A good deal of curiosity was manifested to inspect the muskets and a few were disposed to complain that the sentinels so strictly guarded the doors of the cars. The Janesville people did themselves great credit by the warmth of their reception.

There came on board here a member of Capt. Ely's company of the 2d Regiment who had been at home on account of a wounded arm, but was returning to active duty, one of the gayest of the gay. Indeed there was life enough in all the members of the 2d who were going on...

The long march past the Galena depot...gave the boys a good opportunity to see the principal part of the city and the sidewalks, through our almost the entire line of march, were thronged with people who evinced their appreciation of the fine appearance made by the regiment so far as it could be discerned by the gas light and the rising moon by the warmest expressions of commendation by huzzahs and clapping of hands.

It tended to make a Wisconsin man feel a little proud to hear his State so praised and the admirable manner in which she equipped her soldiers...

The regiment was placed aboard first class cars in three divisions, and hot coffee and their rations were distributed to them. The sick were well provided for in a special car and from the fatigues of the march or other reasons their number was increased to 9...

It seems as if the railroad men ought to acquire sufficient experience soon to secure the transferring of men and equipment from one train to the other with a little more expedition and system than has yet been attained. At the rate of 135 miles in 12 hours it takes rather too long to transport troops for this time.

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

Travel Opportunities

Travel to Manassas, Virginia October 20-23 with the **Kenosha Civil War Museum's** annual Civil War trip. The expert guides on the tour include NPS Ranger Hank Elliot and Historian Scott Patchan. See the museum website at museum.kenosha.org for details!

Travel to the Shenandoah Valley with the **Civil War Time Travelers, LLC** from October 19-25. Enjoy several NPS Rangers and Historian Tim Smith at Third Winchester. Check our MCWRT registration table for information or email wegs1862@gmail.com.

MILWAUKEE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE 2019-2020 SPEAKER SCHEDULE

September 12, 2019	Janet Croon
<i>The War Outside My Window: The Civil War Diary of LeRoy Wiley Gresham</i>	
October 10, 2019	Jim Lighthizer
<i>Battlefield Preservation</i>	
November 7, 2019	Ethan Rafuse
<i>The Valley Campaign</i>	
December 12, 2019	Dan Weinburg
<i>Country Club of the Wisconsin Club Abraham Lincoln Book Shop Artifacts</i>	
January 9, 2020	Pamela Toler
<i>Heroines of Mercy Street: Nurses in the Civil War</i>	
February 13, 2020	Connie Lanum
<i>Wilson Creek Battlefield</i>	
March 12, 2020	David Sutherland
<i>VMI Civil War Legacy</i>	
April 16, 2020	Michael Schaffer
<i>Memory of Self and Comrades: Thomas W. Colley</i>	
May 7, 2020	A. Wilson Greene
<i>Petersburg Campaign</i>	
June 11, 2020	Brian Steele Wills
<i>George Henry Thomas</i>	



Speakers/topics remain subject to change.

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	Past President	2020
Roman Blenski	Quartermaster	2022
Crain Bliwas	Member	2022
Paul A. Eilbes	Treasurer	2022
A. William Finke	Member	2020
Van Harl	Past President	2020
James J. Heinz	Member	2020
Grant Johnson	Membership/Webmaster	2021
	Past President	
Bruce Klem	First Vice President	2021
Daniel Nettesheim	Member	2021
Frank Risler	Program Chair	2021
Tom Thompson	Member	2020
David Wege	Layout, General Orders	2021

milwaukeecivilwar.org

~ 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

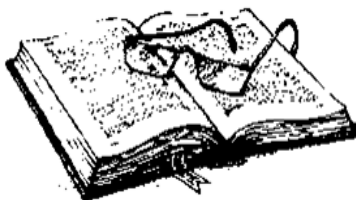
Grant will be creating a database with email reminders set to go out a week before the scheduled event. This is a purely optional choice on each member's part. If you have any questions please talk to Grant at a Round Table meeting or email him at the listed email address.

Milwaukee Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for September 12, 2019

Mail your reservations by Monday, September 9 to:
Paul Eilbes
1809 Washington Avenue
Cedarburg, WI 53012-9730

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

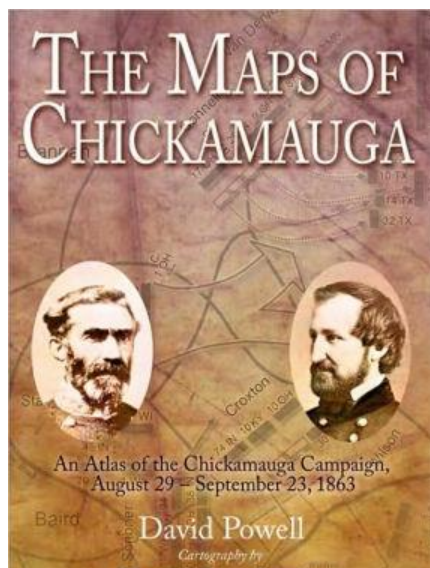
Enclosed is \$_____ (meal is \$30.00 per person) for _____ people for the
September 12, 2019 meeting of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee.
(Please make checks payable to the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.)



BETWEEN THE COVERS

The Maps of Chickamauga

David A. Powell



The Maps of Chickamauga was a book that I read simultaneously while reading Mr. Powell's 3-volume work on the Chickamauga Campaign. This is the second book of maps I've read in conjunction with a book on a specific battle. The first map book I read was *The Maps of Gettysburg: An Atlas of the Gettysburg Campaign, June 3 - July 13, 1863* by our April 2019 speaker, Bradley M. Gottfried; I found that a book such as this gives the reader of any battle real insight into troop movements on the battlefield. When reading a book on a specific battle, maps are usually not plentiful and the reader may be left to his own imagination as to how each battle sequence unfolded. Unless you had been to the battlefield it may be tough to get much out of the text-only portion of the battle with many troop movement descriptions.

I found that this book helps to bridge the gap of understanding the flow of units across the battlefield of Chickamauga. The battle was spread over a wide area and both commanders struggled to gain control over the flow of action. If you're looking for a very good source describing and illustrating the Chickamauga Battle, including the preceding Tullahoma Campaign and the retreat of the Union Army back to Chattanooga and its investment by the Confederates after the battle - this

is it. *The Maps of Chickamauga* provides extensive, large colored maps in chronological order that include the date and time of day, and each map is accompanied by supporting text on the opposite page. As a bonus, the order of battle is provided as well as casualties (using the best available information) - "killed, wounded and missing - down to the regimental level for both sides. The organization of material, the size of the text, and the fonts used are excellent.

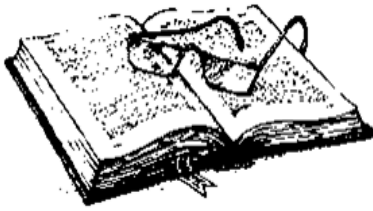
This book was an excellent item to have along on my recent tour of the battlefield. Once the tour group got to the battlefield having this book along really helped pull together my reading of Mr. Powell's books on the campaign and enabled me to see, in my mind's eye, how the units moved across the battlefield over the 3-day battle. Being on the actual terrain that I had read about helped me see how the terrain played an important factor in determining how the units reacted to the trying situations that combat put them into. This was especially true in Brock and Viniard fields where Union and Confederate regiments and brigades went back and forth losing and gaining control of various parts of each field. Understanding the situation on Horseshoe Ridge was also made easier in examining the terrain and comparing the maps showing unit movements, attacks and counterattacks over this key piece of real estate.

I definitely recommend this book to anyone with interest in this battle and campaign especially if you are looking to better understand this action. It is an easy, fast read. Actually, if you do not want to read any of the popular works on the details of this campaign, reading the maps book is a good way to get a grip on the campaign in a short period of time. I enjoyed the depth provided by the campaign series Mr. Powell wrote on this battle and found that this book was a fine companion to that series.

submitted by Bruce Klem



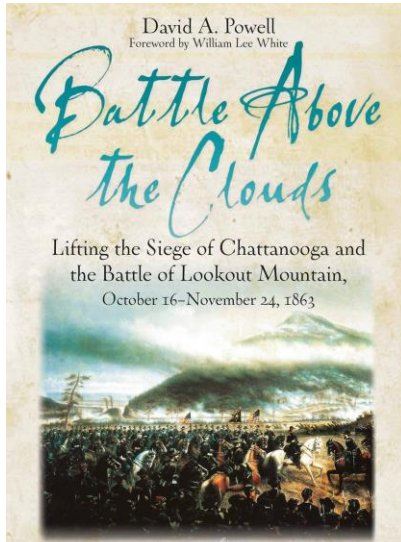
The annual membership renewal form can be found in this issue. Please complete the form and return it as soon as possible. By renewing right away, using the postage paid envelope, you will be saving the Round Table the cost of mailing reminder notices. The money we save can be used for the excellent programming provided by your Milwaukee Civil War Round Table! Thank you for choosing to be a member of this fine organization! Please note that, in order to continue the quality programming for our organization, your Board of Directors recently voted to raise dues for the first time in eight years.



BETWEEN THE COVERS

Battle Above the Clouds: Lifting the Siege of Chattanooga and the Battle of Lookout Mountain

David A. Powell



Another book I read in conjunction with the Civil War Museum's October 2018 trip was *Battle Above the Clouds*. This is a short but interesting book in the Emerging Civil War series published by Savas Beatie.

In this book Mr. Powell covers the change of command drama in the opening prologue. He develops the story of the meeting between Grant and Stanton and the famous choice of one or two sets of orders concerning the senior commander, General Rosecrans. Powell goes on to discuss the meeting between Grant and Rosecrans and the "changing of the guard". The author goes into much detail on how the Army of the Cumberland, while holed up in Chattanooga, had many plans laid on by Rosecrans as to how he was looking to vastly improve the pitiful supply situation of the Army. He develops this story to include various claims made by others that they were responsible for developing and implementing these plans.

It was most unfortunate for Rosecrans that, from the evidence, the basics were already in place and time to build the necessary steamboats for transport and the reinforcements needed to reclaim Lookout Valley were not on hand in order for

Rosecrans to implement his plans before Grant arrived. The result was that the lack of supply situation was one more nail in the coffin for Rosecrans being replaced. As the situation developed, reinforcements were being sent from the Army of the Potomac in the form of the XI and XII Corps, that force commanded by General Joe Hooker.

It had become too late for Rosecrans. Grant and Rosecrans met at Stevenson and Rosecrans was relieved. As Mr. Powell points out, the Union forces made the most of Hooker's arrival by retaking the critical Lookout Valley and went on to recapture Brown's Ferry and fought the Confederates at Wauhatchie. The end result was the reopening of a more direct supply line back to Stevenson. Mr. Powell describes the situation on the Confederate side as well. Their command structure was in complete turmoil with Bragg fighting with many of his chief subordinates which is shown to disrupt the Confederate effort.

In this book Powell covers Hooker's fight on Lookout Mountain, the fighting on Orchard Knob and the fighting around Cravens House. I found the description succinct which enables a reader to follow the action easily and get a good understanding of the action and the end results. This work sets the stage for the finale that occurred when the Union forces finally take Missionary Ridge and push the Confederates out of the area, finally securing Chattanooga for the Union once and for all.

Another thing I like about this book is the fact that there are two excellent driving tours in the book as well as appendices that cover the Cracker line, history of paintings on the battle and Civil War tourism in this area.

All in all, I liked this book because it provided a short, concise read on this portion of the fighting around Chattanooga. For anyone who wants to get a basic understanding of this fight and the nuts and bolts of the battle this is a good book to read. I also like the fact that the driving tours are really a good way to view the terrain. The driving tours do the area justice and would be of great advantage to anyone touring the battle areas without a guide. It would be a great addition to any reader's bookshelf and I think speaks well to further reading on books in the Emerging Civil War series. They seem to be written in a style that, while covering the important facts of the action, inspires the reader to further explore other works on any battle described in the series.

submitted by Bruce Klem

"On to Tennessee" 2019

Wanderings



Twelve hours spent in a Ford Transit van with adolescent boys. Another van filled with girls of the same age. They chose to ride separately to preserve sanity; their own and their chaperones. As it turns out, those vehicles hurtling down the road were actually time capsules. The group was traveling to Tennessee and Northern Georgia to visit Chickamauga and Chattanooga in 1863, and Spring Hill and Franklin in 1864.

Fourteen students from Waucousta Lutheran Grade School in Campbellsport and eleven adults went forward into the past to "walk where heroes trod." Through donations, hard work, and a grant from the American Battlefield Trust's Field Trip Fund, another Civil War journey created memories and established connections that we hoped would create life-long interest America's seminal event.

There is absolutely nothing better to establish connections to the past than visiting historical sites in the present. Hearing names of people and places from our nation's storied past in class is important, but being there; that's especially powerful.

3:00 in the *morning*? Kids and adults alike thought they heard wrong. "Yup, 3:00 a.m. Be at school or be left behind. The troops are moving out bright and early on Memorial Day to beat the traffic through Chicago." We left five minutes early with all present and accounted for.

Each student on this trip had been assigned a topic, some personality of the 1860s on whom they had to do research and write a brief report. Said report was to be delivered on a site directly related to the person's story.

Hans Heg, William Lytle, John Wilder, and Benjamin Helm at Chickamauga; Braxton Bragg, Arthur MacArthur, and James Andrews at Chattanooga; Emerson Opdyke, Arthur MacArthur (again), Tod Carter, Hiram Granbury, and John Adams at Franklin; Carrie McGavock and George Cuppet at Carnton Plantation. These real people with heart-tugging stories might serve to connect a student to a personality of the past.

Day 1 of touring took us to Chickamauga. After watching the park's superb orientation film, we enjoyed NPS ranger Will Wilson sharing his take on what motivated a soldier of the time period. Dressed in Confederate uniform at the Brotherton Farm, Wilson spoke with passion for an hour. Whether it was duty, honor, or the fellow next to him in the ranks, men in blue and gray shouldered their muskets and stepped off into history. Then it was off to traipse deep into the woods to visit the Helm and Lytle death sites, two places I had never been in my many trips to Chickamauga. We paid our respects at the Hans Heg mortuary monument and climbed the Wilder Tower. Moses, who reported on Hans Heg, even had some pointers given to him by some guy named Tom Arliskas, creating yet another kind of connection.

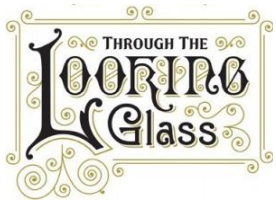
On Day 2 we toured Chattanooga with A. Wilson Greene. Will did an extraordinary job leading us through the action and events at Brown's Ferry, Lookout Point, Orchard Knob, and the Sherman and Bragg Reservations. Patrick Cleburne received his due, and an aptly titled "The Unlovable Curmudgeon: Braxton Bragg" left folks with an understanding of the disfunction of Confederate high command in the Army of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

Day 3 was a "traveling day with a purpose." The travel part was obvious, we needed to get to Franklin to continue our tour. The purpose was unveiled as we stopped at St. John's Church in Ashwood to see where Hiram Granbury and Patrick Cleburne were briefly laid to rest following the carnage at Franklin. At Rippavilla, the time travelers were exposed to the fiasco at Spring Hill, more disfunction in Confederate command. Due to the heat (it was in the high 80s and low 90s), some chose not to hike the Spring Hill battlefield, but an intrepid fourteen made the walk. It was worth the climb.

Our final day touring in Tennessee was spent at the Carter House and at Carnton, with more reports at significant sites. The scarred buildings told their own stories and, yes, the kids and adults stuck their fingers in the bullet holes. They will remember the feeling of the damage caused by a lead bullet, a tactile sense of the destructive power of battle. Our guide at both places was Sarah Falck of the Battle of Franklin Trust, a graduate of Kettle Moraine Lutheran High. The poor girl is losing her Wisconsin accent, but that didn't affect her interesting explanations of what the Carter House and Carnton are all about. A last stop in the Confederate cemetery overseen by Carrie McGavock wrapped up our history for the trip. That evening the kids delighted their chaperones with a play purporting to tell "the true story of what happened at Chickamauga and Chattanooga."

The travel over, students and adults alike were left with memories and, hopefully, a desire to learn more as opportunity presents. Perhaps we will see some of these time travelers at our Milwaukee Civil War Round Table! Connections work that way, don't they? And hearing Janet Croon speak about a book one purchased at Franklin is not to be missed. Having a chance to hear Will Greene again may also draw some into the fold. It's all about connections to the past.

submitted by Dave Wege



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!

In Search of Captain Taggart

*Captain Taggart took the field
With his men as hard as steel
And we drove the bloody rebels to the sea
Before the guns were stilled
There were many hundreds killed
There's many an Irish girl sad tonight*

*When the smoke had cleared
It was just as we had feared
Captain Taggart lay wounded on the ground
With his head upon my knee
There he met eternity
I proudly closed his eyes and then I cried*



As I was driving to work one day I was listening to David Kincaid sing this fine song on one of his CDs dedicated to Irish music during the Civil War. And that is how I started my hunt to find out more about Captain Taggart. Little did I know where my journey would take me.

I discovered that the song was originally written by Carl Funk and was titled "Free and Green." Kincaid would do minor work to the vocal melody and arrange the song structure and harmonies. The song's protagonist was originally called "Captain Farrell." Kincaid loved the song but thought the captain's name should be changed. Funk, responding to Kincaid, had just seen a moving van with the name "Taggart" on the side of the van and wondered if the name was Irish. Kincaid looked into it, discovered the name was indeed Irish and that it worked beautifully with the song.

So...to my dismay Captain Taggart turned out to be just a name in a song. Or, was there more to this story?

Never one to give up the ghost, I continued to search and discovered an article by David Kincaid talking about the song and Captain Taggart. Eureka! There **WAS** a Captain Samuel Taggart. I contacted David Kincaid and asked if I could share this story in our newsletter and he gave me a big thumbs up. The story is amazing!

In March 1988, Kincaid would march for the first time with **Company I, 116th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry** (Irish Brigade) through the streets of Pittsburgh, his ancestral home, listening to wild cheers from the crowd. Kincaid remembered the song he and Funk had written eight years previously and he sent a copy to Co. I's commander, Captain Michael Kraus.

Kraus listened to the song and sent Kincaid this reply: "There is something about the lyric that you couldn't possibly have known when you wrote it." Kraus then revealed the story of Captain Samuel Taggart whose story and connection to the song left Kincaid astounded.

Yes. There really was a Samuel Taggart.

Samuel Taggart was born in Pittsburgh on May 10, 1841. Early on, Samuel decided to make the clergy (Protestant and Presbyterian) his calling in life. He received a good education and graduated from Westminster College in New Wilmington, Pennsylvania in 1862.

After graduating he enlisted in Company H, 123rd Pennsylvania Volunteers, a nine-month regiment. He fought in the battles of Antietam, Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville, and mustered out in May 1863.

He then entered the United Presbyterian Theological Seminary and while a student there in the winter of 1863-64, he put down his books and organized a company of infantry. The unit was assigned as **Company I, 116th Pennsylvania Volunteers**, serving with the Irish Brigade, with Taggart commanding.

Taggart's regimental commander, Col. St. Clair A. Mulholland, had only glowing praise for Taggart and his service in the 116th. Of Taggart's courage Mulholland wrote: "Captains Nowlen, Megraw and Taggart were everywhere on the line, keeping the men together and showing the greatest valor."

On August 25, 1864, at Ream's Station, Virginia, Captain Samuel Taggart was slain in battle. Upon learning that the regiment's acting commander, Captain Garrett Nowlen had fallen, Taggart, now in command, calmly strode to the spot where Nowlen had been shot. His men shouted, "Hurry Captain; they may kill you too." As Taggart reached the heavily exposed position, he too was cut down, shot through the body.

His men carried him to the rear and laid him beside Nowlen. He would live only a few more minutes, “the smile never leaving his face for a moment, and his pure spirit ascended to heaven, bright with the light of battle and radiant with the light of a stainless life.”

Captain Samuel Taggart is buried in Pittsburgh’s Allegheny Cemetery with many other Civil War veterans. In Col. Mulholland’s words, “the ground where he rests is a sacred spot.”

Kincaid wrote after learning the story of the real Captain Taggart:

The shock of learning of the coincidence surrounding this song and the real Captain Taggart, is something from which we (Kincaid and Funk) have never fully recovered. First, that the uncommon, almost randomly chosen name turned out to have been a real person of the same name and rank, and in the Irish Brigade. Second, that he was beloved by his men in real life as was his fictional counterpart, and died in the same manner as described in the song. Last, that eight years later I would unknowingly join the reenactment company portraying Taggart’s men, and finally learn of these bizarre coincidences.

The chorus of “Free and Green” says:

*Its whiskey in the mornin’, whiskey in the night
Another Irish soldier-lad, has fought his final fight
We’ll toast him till we’re drunk Boys and down the candlelight
Tell them Captain Taggart is comin’ home tonight.*

And, as Paul Harvey would say, “that is the rest of the story.” Rest well Captain Taggart.

Thank you to David Kincaid for allowing me to share this story with the Round Table members.

submitted by: Donna Agnelly

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

WADE HOUSE – CIVIL WAR WEEKEND 2019

W7965 State Highway 23 Greenbush, WI 53026

September 28 - 9am – 5pm

September 29 - 9am – 4 pm



Relive history at the 29th Annual Wade House Civil War Weekend on September 28-29, 2019 at the Wade House Historical Site in Greenbush, Wisconsin. This annual special event brings the history of the American Civil War to life. Held the last weekend in September, Wade House Civil War Weekend is two action-filled days of battle re-enactments, military drills, medical care situations, period music and food, demonstrations, and more. The weekend spectacle involves more than 500 re-enactors and each year features a different historic scenario crucial to the outcome of the war. Each year a different historic scenario crucial to the outcome of the war is featured.

Wade House Civil War Weekend offers programs and activities for children and adults alike. Interact, explore and engage your entire family in the experience.

Experience the 1860s clash of arms and watch Union and Confederate troops set up camp, conduct drills and offer a variety of demonstrations. In addition to the programs listed below, you’ll also have the opportunity to participate in special hands-on activities and attend presentations on civilian issues, women’s issues, medical field hospitals, and Civil War era music.

In a scene reminiscent of the summer of 1861, watch with other spectators as hundreds of soldiers — cavalry, infantry and artillery — struggle across the field in a conflict depicted with startling accuracy and passion. In between the action, visitors can access the battlefield for an up-close look at the men, horses and equipment. Union and Confederate Armies skirmish at 11 am daily followed by a high-intensity, full-scale battle at 2 pm.

Schedule of Events

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Gates Open

11:00 a.m. Daily Skirmish

2:00 p.m. Daily Battle Reenactment

Admission

\$15.00 Adult

\$13.00 Seniors (65+) & Students with ID

\$8.00 Children (5-17) Children under 5 Free

The Great Lakes Civil War Forum

The Battle Will Go by the Name of Gettysburg

Saturday, September 14

Registration 8:30 a.m. Program begins 9:30 a.m.

\$60/\$50 Friends of the Museum – Lunch included

Speakers:

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

Wisconsin Veterans Museum

Talking Spirits Cemetery Tours XXI

Forest Hill Cemetery Madison, WI

Sunday, October 6, 2019 - Noon-4 pm Rain Date: October 13, 2019

Online registration opens September 5th (registration ends October 4th)

General Admission: \$10

On this 90-minute tour, local actors share Civil War stories through portrayals of Wisconsin soldiers and citizens buried at Forest Hill Cemetery. Sunday tours leave every 20 minutes. Purchasing tickets online allows you to book a preferred time slot.

This year’s theme ***Service Beyond the War*** will feature four vignettes highlighting the contributions made to Madison by some of its most prominent members during the community’s antebellum period.

2019 Cast of Characters

Napoleon Bonaparte Van Slyke: Assistant Quarter Master General of Wisconsin during the Civil War, Van Slyke went on to become an influential member of the community through his involvement in the Wisconsin Historical Society, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and the Wisconsin State Bankers Association.

Benjamin Butts: As a runaway slave, Bennie Butts became attached to the 5th Wisconsin Battery during the Civil War and followed the unit back to Wisconsin after the war ended. He moved to Madison, where he became a barber on Capitol Square to many Governors, as well as a messenger at the Wisconsin Historical Society and a prominent member of Madison. His son, Leo, was the first African-American to play football for the University of Wisconsin.

William F. Vilas: Vilas served as a regent of the University of Wisconsin-Madison from 1880 to 1885 and 1898 to 1905. He also served as a member of the Wisconsin State Assembly in 1885, until he was appointed the Postmaster General between 1885 and 1888, and as Secretary of the Interior from 1888 to 1889, both under President Grover Cleveland.

Cordelia Harvey: Wife of the late Governor Louis Harvey, she not only advocated for the care of Wisconsin soldiers during the Civil War but also created a home in Madison to care for those orphaned by the ravages of the conflict.



IN MEMORIAM

Pulitzer Prize winning journalist and historian, Tony Horwitz, died unexpectedly on May 27, 2019 at the age of 60. Horwitz was on a book tour for his latest book *Spying on the South: An Odyssey Across the American Divide* published on May 14, 2019. The author collapsed while walking near his brother's home in Washington, D.C. suffering cardiac arrest.

Well known to the Civil War community, Horwitz is the author of *Confederates in the Attic* (1998) and *Midnight Rising: John Brown and the Raid That Sparked the Civil War* (2011).

In *Spying on the South* Horwitz follows in the footsteps of Frederick Law Olmstead who trekked across the South in the mid-19th century. Olmstead would become a famed landscape architect whose achievements include the creation of Central Park; he would head the Sanitary Commission during the Civil War. Maureen Corrigan critic for *Fresh Air* in her review of the book would indicate that "it is every bit as enlightening and alive with detail, absurdity and colorful characters" as its predecessor.

Tony Horwitz is survived by his wife, author Geraldine Brooks and their two sons.

~ *And flights of angels guide him to his rest* ~

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 to Donors: Donna Agnelly, Van Harl, Grant Johnson,
Tom and Terry Arliskas, Mike Benton, and
The Civil War Time Travelers, LLC**

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

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

MILWAUKEE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE QUARTERMASTER'S REGALIA

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

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

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

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

