

GENERAL ORDERS

The Newsletter of the

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



MAY 2020 ROUND TABLE MEETING CANCELLED

May 7, 2020

A. Wilson Greene

GRANT'S SECOND PETERSBURG OFFENSIVE JUNE 22 - JULY 1, 1864

With the recent events surrounding COVID-19, the board of the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table has cancelled the scheduled May meeting. The Wisconsin Club, where our meetings are held, has also announced that they are closed until further notice.

Any further updates or announcements will be posted on our website: <http://www.milwaukeeecwrt.org/>

If you have any questions please feel free to contact us at: cwrtmilwaukee@gmail.com. or please call 262-376-0568 (Paul Eilbes) or 262-652-6256 (Bruce Klem).

As a reminder, we do leave attendance at our meetings up to you to make your own best judgment. Our priority is always the health and safety of each of our members.

During this time please follow the World Health Organization guidelines:

- Wash your hands often
- Cough into your elbow
- Don't touch your face
- Maintain social distance – stay 6 feet apart
- Feel sick? Stay home



The Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee was established in 1947 and is the second oldest of the more than 300 Civil War Round Tables in the United States and abroad. Current membership is approximately 300. The Civil War Round Table welcomes members from all walks of life and age group. The Round Table admits members of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all its rights, privileges, programs and activities.

General Orders No. 5-20

May 2020

IN THIS ISSUE

MCWRT News page 2
 From the Archivespage 3
 Area Events page 3
 From the Field pages 4-5
 Between the Covers page 6-7
 Round Table Speakers 2019-2020..... page 8
 2019-2020 Board of Directors page 8
 Meeting Reservation Form page 8
 In Memoriam page 9
 More Learning Opportunities page 10
 Wanderings page 11
 Through the Looking Glass page 12
 2020 Travel Opportunities page 13
 Quartermaster's Regalia page 14

May Meeting at a Glance The Wisconsin Club

900 W. Wisconsin Avenue

[Jackpot raffle for the dinner 6 p.m.]

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

6:50 p.m. - Dinner

[\$30 by reservation, please]

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.

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!

ELECTION: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As announced at the March Round Table meeting and in accordance with the Articles of Incorporation, the nominating committee of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee recommends the following slate of nominees for the upcoming election of members to the Board of Directors for a three-year term ending in May 2023.

- Michael K. Benton
- Van Harl
- Tom Hesse
- Tom Thompson
- Justin Tolomeo

The election will take place at the June 11 Milwaukee Civil War Round Table meeting.

Dear Friends,

Gov. Evers extended his coronavirus quarantine to May 26, 2020, the day after Memorial Day. **Hence, Gov. Evers has CANCELLED our 93rd annual 2020 Memorial Day ceremonies in Calvary Cemetery.**

Our 2021 Memorial Day outdoor Mass and patriotic ceremony has been rescheduled and will be on Monday, May 31, 2021 at 10:00am in Calvary Cemetery, 5503 W. Bluemound Rd. Archbishop ListECKI will be our principal concelebrant.

Rev. Mr. Dean Collins
Chaplain, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

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, 2019 through March 12, 2020.

Patron (\$200 - \$499)

Eugene & Jane Jamroz, Daniel Nettlesheim

Associate (\$100 - \$199)

Dale Brassler, Bill & Claudette Finke, Gerald Frangesch, Doug Haag, William & Carol Hughes, Peter & Jean Jacobsohn, Bernard Jene, David Jordan, Stephen Leopold, Kathy McNally, Bob & Mary Lou Parrish, Randle Pollard, James & Ann Reeve, David & Helga Sartori, Dennis Slater, Jr.

Contributor (up to \$99)

George Affeldt, Dale Bespalec, T. James Blake, Robert Christie, John & Linda Connelly, Cynthia Cooper, Gordon Dammann, Michael Deeken, Lori Duginski, John Durr, Paul Eilbes, Gary & Judy Ertel, George Geanon, Julian Gonzalez, Jr., Leon & Margaret Harris, Christopher & Mary Beth Johnson, Jerome Kowalski, Jay Lauck, Fredric Madsen, Rod Malinowski, Robin Martin, Carol Maudie & Gerald Witherspoon, Jim & Monica Millane, Ed Newman, Herb Oechler, Thomas Olsen, Tom Pokrandt, John Rodahl, Dr. James Rydlewicz, Sam Solber, Dan Tanty, Richard Tonelli, Michael Uihlein, Bernard VanDinter

Speaker Enhancement Fund

George Affeldt, Donna Agnelly, Jeryl Anthony, Tom & Terry Arliskas, Mike Benton, Dale Bespalec, T James Blake, Angela Bodven, Dale Brassler, Civil War Time Travelers, Tim Crawford, Ellen DeMers, Bob Dude, Lori Duginski, John Durr, Paul Eilbes, Gary & Judy Ertel, Julian Gonzalez, Jr., Rick Gross, Doug Haag, Dan & Carol Hughes, Van & Dawn Harl, Leon & Margaret Harris, Jim Heinz, Gene & Jane Jamroz, Bernard Jene, Grant Johnson, Allan Kasprzak, Bruce Klem, John Kuhnmuensch, Jr., Stephen Leopold, Robin Martin, Kathy McNally, Jim & Monica Millane, Thomas Olsen, Bob & Mary Lou Parrish, David Perez, Tom Pokrandt, Jack Rodencal, Dr. James Rydlewicz, David & Helga Sartori, Diana Smurawa, Dan Tanty



“The Civil War: A Lesson for All of Us” was the topic presented by Dewey Short in May 1960.

Frederick Williams was the speaker at the May 1970 meeting speaking on “Chancellorsville.”

At the May 1980 meeting John Patrick Hunter spoke to the membership on “Civil War Spies in Hoopskirts.”

The May 1990 meeting brought Dan Woolpert to town to speak to the group on “The Short Exciting Life of the Eb Brass Band.”

Bob Zeller visited the Round Table in May 2000 speaking on “The Civil War in Depth.”

“The Strange, Difficult Triumph of Southern Secession” was the topic of William W. Freehling’s presentation at the May 2010 meeting.

At last year’s meeting John Horn spoke to those assembled on “The Petersburg Regiment in the Civil War: A History of the 12th Virginia Infantry from John Brown’s Hanging to Appomattox 1859-1865.”

Direct from Doug Dammann at the Museum:

Even though we are temporarily closed to the public, the Civil War Museum's 2nd Friday Lecture Series will carry on.

At Noon this Friday, April 17, the Civil War Museum's Facebook page will broadcast author John Horn's lecture *The Petersburg Regiment in the Civil War: A History of the 12th Virginia Infantry from John Brown's Hanging to Appomattox, 1859-1865*.

The Museum's website has a link to the Facebook page where you can view the program:

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

We thank John for allowing us to digitally broadcast his work.

Keep an eye out for additional digital offerings in the near future on topics such as *Medical Innovations of the Civil War*, *Illinois Regiments at Gettysburg* and *The War That Made Beer Famous*.

We wish you all the best and hope to see you all back at the museum soon.

Sincerely,
Doug Dammann

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.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation, please check with the museum to see if a listed event or workshop is being held.

Certain events are also available to watch live on Facebook at their scheduled, listed time. Please visit the museum website to find out how to access them.

Illinois Regiments at Gettysburg: July 1863

Friday, May 8, 2020 - Noon – 1 p.m.

Presented by: Dennis Doyle

Illinois contributed three regiments to the combat operations during the Summer, 1863 Gettysburg Campaign: The 8th and 12th Illinois Cavalry Regiments, and the 82nd Illinois Infantry Regiment. This program will show how the three Illinois Regiments provided many over-looked but essential military roles during the Gettysburg Campaign. From the firing of the first shot of the battle, to establishing the first hospital at the Gettysburg Train Depot, to one of the first occurrences of house-to-house combat during the Civil War, Illinois soldiers played a critical role in the battle.

Friday, May 10, 2019

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

History on Tap: Craft Beer Tasting at the Civil War Museum

\$35/\$25 Friends of the Museum

Celebrate Kenosha’s Craft Beer Week by sampling beers from across the Midwest in the main exhibit of the Civil War Museum. These beers were selected not only for their great taste, but also because they fit into the themes of the museum gallery. Your ticket includes eight 4 oz. tastings of our choice and snacks. Have a great time sampling in the exhibition, but be careful, you might just learn something too.

I’ve Heard of Her – Margaret Mead

May 21, 2020 Noon

At the time of her death, Margaret Mead was the most famous anthropologist in the world. Learn how her work in Oceania revolutionized the field, about her strong opinions on domestic issues, and how all of this affected her relationships with others. How do her findings and methods hold up almost 100 years later?





LETTER FROM THE 7TH REGIMENT

Camp near Fredericksburg, Va.

May 1st, 1862

Messrs Editors.- Although I have been silent a long time, yet the Wisconsin 7th is still alive and ready for any little brush the secesh may see fit to give us. Since May last we have passed over considerable very fine country in Va. and it shows the marks of the great destroyer, war. From the time we left Camp Arlington near Washington until we passed Manassas several miles, all was desolation; deserted houses and the remains of many which had been burned to the ground; farms stripped of every vestige of fences, cattle, poultry and crops; all had suffered from the presence of the army.

At Centerville were a few houses, vastly deserted barracks, and ruins of barracks that had been burned by the rebels previous to their flight.

On every hand were fortifications and rifle pits; in fact all the way to Manassas Junction they were thrown up here and there on commanding positions. At this latter place were a few fortified positions commanding the rail-road. Almost every house was burned beside military stores.

From here to the Rappahannock River the country has not suffered so severely although wherever any opportunity offered to burn bridges or throw obstructions in our route, it had been done.

At Aquia Creek, the terminus of the Richmond and Potomac R.R., the track had been torn up and the iron hauled on the road to Edly's Station, twelve miles beyond Fredericksburg. So I am informed by a contraband who has been working on the road between there and Richmond.

The bridges over Brook's Potomac creeks on this road have both been burned but the road will again be in running order in a few days. Our division can then receive their supplies by railroad and boat to the Rappahannock, while at present, teams are obliged to bring everything twelve or fifteen miles over a poor road.

When the advance of this division came into Falmouth three weeks ago, the enemy fired a volley or two of musketry from a concealed breastwork on the north road at the entrance to the town and then fled precipitately across the river, burning three splendid bridges, the only means of crossing here, to prevent the pursuit of our troops. The bridges were all tarred, had shavings piled on them ready to fire at a moment's notice.

The 7th encamped in Falmouth about a week, when they moved to Potomac Creek, to guard railroad and telegraph

for a few days, being relieved by some Pennsylvania troops. We were ordered to march again to the river and we are now encamped three miles below Falmouth and two miles from Fredericksburg under marching orders; how soon we shall cross the river, I cannot tell. Yesterday Harris Light Cavalry crossed over the pontoon bridge, but a reconnaissance and coming upon the enemy's pickets drove them in. Gaining the desired information they returned to camp. There is no doubt a large force of the enemy at or near Gunney's Station, between here and Richmond, but they will probably fall back as the force at Yorktown retreats.

Last evening at dress parade, a dispatch to headquarters was read announcing the capture at Williamsburg of 1,300 prisoners after a hard fought battle. Late news from the south is very encouraging, and the boys are anxious to participate in the glorious achievements which are occurring so near – only forty miles distant. No doubt ere this reaches you we shall be on our road to Richmond. The rebel sympathizers here have been very confident of a great victory at Yorktown and last week one of them said to me, in answer to my inquiry whether he thought the rebels would be successful in the coming contest, that as sure as the sun above us they would and if they could not whip us here they never could. Last night meeting the same person, I reminded him of his remark of the week previous; he now thinks this is only a strategic movement! If so I think they are quite common with their strategic movements of late.

We have this week all in the regiment received new regulation hats. They are tall and rather heavy but much better in the sun and rain than our caps. Our muster rolls have been made out and we soon expect our pay.

Gen. Gibbon now has command of this brigade in place of Gen. King, promoted to command Gen. McDowell's old division. Lieut. Col. Robinson is promoted to Col. of the 7th and Major Hamilton as Lieut. Colonel and Capt. Bill of Co. A., Major of the same. Quite a number of changes have also occurred in the company officers. We have as capable a corps of officers as the best brigade in the field; give us the opportunity and we will endeavor not to disgrace the name of Wisconsin.

Those most sickly and the disabled in the regiment have been discharged and the health of the rest is good at present but a few being in the hospital. About 100 men have been detached temporarily to repair the bridges on the railroad.

The weather for the past few days has been fine and we begin to believe that Spring has at last commenced. The grass is green, the trees considerably leaved out, and many fruit trees are in blossom.

T.H.R.S.

From the 7th Regiment

**FROM THE 7TH REGIMENT
Headquarters 7th Regiment
Gibbon's Brigade, King's Division
Fredericksburg. May 4th, 1862**

All quiet in the department of the Rappahannock, but it looks like the lull which precedes the storm. The enemy is strongly picketed in front of us, a few miles across the river.

Patrick's Brigade and Harris Light Cavalry occupy the city of Fredericksburg. Our artillery is posted on the heights commanding the city and could reduce it to ashes in just fifteen minutes. Movements of troops this way have occurred which augurs an advance. And Angur's Brigade will lead in company with Patrick's and Gibbon's (ours). We have veterans from glorious fields with us – but it may be contraband to tell particulars.

The rebels persist in shooting at our pickets; thereby making apparent their bad skill as marksmen. One of Co. H's boys being on an outpost a few miles down the river, punished a squad of them one day last week. They had fired from the south side of the stream at our guards, but did not hit anyone, when Co. H's man fired bringing one of them down. He tried to walk off but after falling down a second time, was lugged off by his comrades.

The Seventh has dwindled down in its force a great deal lately. Company F is doing guard and fatigue duty in the city. Co. H has just been detailed for some such purpose. Details from companies are out for miles as safe guards and pickets. Last night a portion of Co. G came in from Potomac Creek, where they had been bridge building. The bridges over that stream and over the Rappahannock have been completed; the cars run into Fredericksburg at all hours day and night. Our troops run the city now – the large foundry run by Union soldiers is busy making all sorts of material for our use. We have built three bridges over the river since our arrival to wit: a railroad, a pontoon, and a bridge made of canal boats anchored lengthways, now up stream – all planked over so that any team can cross. There is also material enough on hand fitted up to build bridges across every stream on our road to Richmond – a distance of sixty-five miles – to which place all are eager to march and take the consequences, whatever they may be. But no doubt our Generals have some wise reasons for halting here.

The western brigade has had a new General. He is very strict – too much West Point and white gloves to suit the boys at first sight. He seems to take to the Seventh. He has been a Captain of artillery and is a fighting man of the regular U.S.A. stamp. His name is John Gibbons. Col. Cutler has resumed his old command of the Sixth Wis Regt. The Sixth says they are glad he is back with his regiment again. So are we.

Yesterday what remained this side of the river of King's division was reviewed by President Lincoln. He looks pale; no wonder. He travels so much. At Norfolk one day; here the next; the third at Williamsburg. In Fredericksburg the citizens, men and women, turned out en masse to see him. They kept their sentiments to themselves, however, and improved on their ordinary behavior.

In a field near our camp on Potomac Creek, I found a roughhewn gray stone with the following inscription. The old fashioned style of the letters worn by the storms of two centuries and half rendered a literal copy impossible. But here it is dated back to the source of our present woe when cupidity first imparted the evils which we harvest:

*HERE LIES INTERNED
THE BODY OF EDMOND
HELDER. PRACTITIONER IN
PHYSICK AND CHYRURCERY
BORN IN BEDFORDSHIRE,
OBIT MARCH 17, 1618
SATATIS SUA, 76*

I saw the lot enclosing the remains of Mary Washington. By the side was an unfinished marble monument, defaced by cuts, or case spots and bullet marks; the rebels having used it as a target. It is neglected and needs repairing very much.

The traitors who were so vile as to desecrate the tomb of Washington's mother furnished more proof of their character of civilization besides showing their consistency. It is quite in keeping with organized bands of murderers who, too cowardly to wear a soldier's uniform, murder from pure cruelty when no military need calls for it.

It would astonish anyone to notice the number of contrabands which flock to this army. Every day the roads leading to our camps are lined with fresh arrivals.

“And still they come...”

The rebel ladies of Fredericksburg are not so sulky as they were on our arrival, and they treat the Federal uniform with more courtesy. They walk by silently now and do not study our insults. At first we were –

*“Monsters of such hideous miens that to be hated need but to be seen;
But see too oft, familiar with our face They first endure, then pity –
then embrace.”*

Which I predict they will do, taking the oath of allegiance and one incentive will be jealousy of their cream colored sisters, who persist in talking to the pretty Zouave Hessians of the Brooklyn 14th regiment.

Two men of Company B – Orrin B. Cromwell and Samuel Dustin died of typhoid fever since we came to this camp. Cromwell came to Camp Randall with the Waupaca Union Rifles, but changed to the 7th. Mr. Dustin was from Sun Prairie, Dane County. Private William Steely of Co. I has been discharged – all the rest here are well.

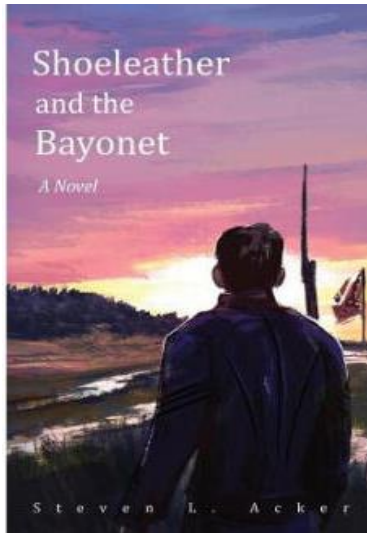
Yours, truly,
W.D.W.



Between the Covers

SHOELEATHER AND THE BAYONET

by Steve Acker



Shoeleather and the Bayonet is a book I read for the May 22, 2019 meeting of the Kenosha Civil War Museum's Media Club. It was written by a local author, a reenactor, high school teacher and frequent presenter at the Kenosha Civil War Museum, Steven L. Acker. At the meeting we had the opportunity to discuss the book with the author who gave us some interesting insights on how he set about writing the book, his first, and how he put in a variety of things from his personal experiences as well as tying in tidbits of history into the story.

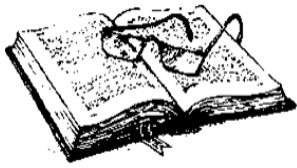
The story is a gritty one about a young man who enlists in the 7th Mississippi. His motives are to get away from his situation and not support of the Southern Cause. Mr. Acker develops the character, Clay Miller, and his friend, Hiram Stringer, through this story of the Civil War. Acker shows how these men grow over their time together in the unit through the crucible of combat with the Confederate Army of Tennessee under the leadership of General Braxton Bragg. The 7th Mississippi was an actual unit with the Army of Tennessee and participated in most of the battles it fought.

Mr. Acker deals with character development through the highs and lows of a unit in combat and the terror that it involves as well as the hum drum routine of camp life, on the march and just surviving on short or no rations, poor equipment and limited clothing. It was a very easy read, with many details of the time period. Mr. Acker manages to put in a lot of Civil War detail in his descriptions of battlefields to meeting up with known Civil War people like Ambrose Bierce which helps to put this story into proper perspective when talking about battles such as Shiloh, Stones River and others. You feel as though you could be looking through a time piece and stepping into that gritty world of the Civil War. We had the luxury of having Steve at our Media Club meeting when we were discussing this book and he pointed out that in the situations where he had real characters interact with the story ones, the real character was involved in the battle or area that Steve placed him in, so it was entirely possible the story characters could have met the real character.

In this story the main character, Clay Miller, begins his service as a timid lad who is trying to find himself. Gradually, over time and through the hardships of being wounded at Shiloh and fighting in the other main battles of the Army of Tennessee, Clay moves from being a private through the ranks to finally being the company commander of his company. Along the way he grows to become at first a de facto leader in his company, a man who knows the ropes and how to survive in the most trying of times in this army, to become first corporal, first sergeant and finally company commander. His character also grows in his ability to deal with people who are over him in a variety of situations, culminating to a standoff with the regiment's commander which he wins much to the appreciation and acknowledgement of the men of his company.

When we first picked this book for the media read I had some reservations as to whether I'd find this interesting and a worthwhile read. Much to my surprise I found this a very enjoyable, fast read. It definitely is a different one from the books we typically read for the club but I think it is a good one for anyone with an interest in the Civil War, historical novels or just looking for something to pick up and find both interesting and a quick read. For a first-time writer, Mr. Acker ties a lot into this book. I am interested in getting his next book, which he says he is working on.

submitted by Bruce Klem



Between the Covers

FIGHTING FOR THE CONFEDERACY

by Gary W. Gallagher

My review on this occasion is on a book of personal recollections by General Edward Porter Alexander; the book was edited by Gary Gallagher. I chose this book because I hadn't read it before and it was on the recommended reading list for the Civil War Institute's 2019 conference at Gettysburg College, which I was going to attend. I was fortunate to purchase a used copy of this book at the Kenosha Civil War Museum. The book was published in 1989.

I thought this was an interesting read in that it appears to hold a lot of unvarnished personal opinions and observations by Alexander from his service with the Confederate Army. It also contained information on the operation of the Confederate Army and inner workings of the various support systems of the Confederacy as was seen from an end user. These memoirs were never published, and were "lost" until discovered and then published in 1989. Alexander wrote much of it while away on business in South America, and lonely enough that he had time to sit and write. He wrote for his children, who had been nagging him to capture his memories in writing, and he never intended for his personal memoirs to be published. He didn't have a lot of reference material with him, so he drew upon his memory and strongest personal recollections, and felt free to express lots of personal opinions, which make the book a pleasure to read and illuminate the history wonderfully. He had the presence of mind to include sketch maps of battles and positioning which made understanding a whole lot easier. This is perhaps one of my pet peeves when reading about battles and troop movements - few or no maps included for the reader to follow the narrative.

The act of writing his personal story drew him in. He had been carrying his "assessment" of the different battles in his mind for years (this was 1894), and wanted to focus on the military "chess game" that was being played by the generals on both sides. So after he finished his personal memoirs for his family, he started again and rewrote his memoirs in a more formal, "detached," and analytic manner, this time with the intention of publishing them. This is how the second book, *Military Memoirs of a Confederate*, came about, and also why the first set of memoirs were never published. They sat in a pile of their family's papers, most subsequent archivists assuming that they were early drafts of the second book, until it was finally realized that they were an entirely separate and earlier personal work.

One thing I found interesting and continue to do so when reading bios of Confederate leaders is that to a man, no one has expressed any hesitancy to have slaves and really seem to gloss over the fact of owning other human beings, despite being "Christians." It seems it is their right to avoid routine tasks and expect slaves to handle the routine. Only after the war has been lost do they express any observations that the right thing to do was end slavery.

Alexander points out a number of military axioms in his writings, two that he acknowledged published by Halleck, one being to conduct operations against fractions of your enemy's forces with the entirety of your forces and the second was if possible, act against your enemy's communications without endangering your own. He also points out, in his opinion, that the Confederacy had at least three opportunities to win the war if they acted properly. The first was right after First Bull Run. Alexander felt that a concerted effort to follow up on the Union Army could have resulted in the capture of Washington enabling the Confederacy to declare victory. The second was during the Battle of Glendale in that, had the operation been carried out effectively, the Confederate forces, by turning the Union left, would have cut off the Army of the Potomac from their new supply base and been isolated and destroyed leading to Union surrender. The third, Alexander maintains, was right after the Battle of Cold Harbor. He states that many factors were pushing the Union war effort to the brink of collapse and had it not been for Grant's brilliant maneuvers immediately after the battle and the fact the Confederates lost Grant for a couple of days, the Union war effort was able to continue. I thought this was very interesting as to how a major player in the Confederate Army viewed the events of the war.

I highly recommend this book to any student of the Civil War. I found it to be well written and to me, it flowed very well and was a fast read in spite of its length. Alexander gives a unique view of the Confederate side of the war and some of the main players on their side. It is an excellent book that provides the reader with the "rest of the story" in an unbiased way.

submitted by Bruce Klem

**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
Country Club of the Wisconsin Club
Abraham Lincoln Book Shop Artifacts
- January 9, 2020 Pamela Toler
Heroines of Mercy Street: Nurses in the Civil War
- February 13, 2020 Connie Langum
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



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	Second Vice-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, Past President Webmaster	2021
Bruce Klem	President	2021
Daniel Nettesheim	First Vice President	2021
Frank Rislér	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 May 7, 2020

Mail your reservations by Monday, May 4 to:

Paul Eilbes
1809 Washington Avenue
Cedarburg, WI 53011-9127

Call or email reservations to:

(262) 376-0568
peilbes@gmail.com

Meeting Cancelled

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

May 7, 2020 meeting of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee.

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

IN MEMORIAM

We sadly report the passing of both Henry and Elaine Ottmann who were members of the Round Table since 1997.

Henry “Hank” John Ottmann, age 76, passed away peacefully but unexpectedly on October 11, 2019, in his sleep at home. He was the beloved husband of Elaine Ottmann for 40 years, and the father of four children and wonderful grandfather of 4 grandchildren.

He worked for IBM for over 50 years. He was a member of St. Bruno’s Church in Dousman. He was a volunteer firefighter with the New Berlin Fire Department for many years. Hank loved to volunteer at church, play Sheepshead, and watch the Green Bay Packers. Hank was all about his family and spending time with them. He rarely if ever missed an event that his children or grandchildren were participating in.

Elaine Ottmann, a past board member of the Round Table, passed away on March 17, 2020 at home after a long history of painful health challenges. Elaine was the mother of six children, one step-daughter, 15 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren. Elaine and Hank were married for 40 years.

Elaine spent 15 years as a nurse at Northview Home and Hospital in Waukesha taking care of mentally challenged and hospice patients. She was also a volunteer firefighter and EMT for the city of New Berlin in her late 30s and 40s. She spent the rest of her working years as an in-home hospice nurse where she visited, supported and loved her patients.

Darby Kirkland Upham, daughter of our late Past President and Commander of the Iron Brigade Association, William H. Upham, Jr. passed away on March 29, 2020 at the age of 69. Darby is survived by her sister Monie Elizabeth Upham. A gathering to celebrate her life will be held later this summer.

And flights of angels guide them to their rest



A BLOG & THE CARD

Two Civil War Community Partners

Please be aware of upcoming YouTube Live presentations by John V. Quarstein on behalf of the Mariner's Museum. John asked that we share the accompanying blog post link. You will want to use it as a companion piece.

<https://blog.marinersmuseum.org/2020/04/gosport-navy-yard-before-the-storm/>



THE CALLING CARD

The monthly e-newsletter of the Society for Women and the Civil War.

<http://www.swcw.org>

FROM OUR FRIENDS AT SAVAS BEATIE

New Spring Offerings!

- **Seceding From Secession**
The Civil War, Politics and the Creation of West Virginia
Eric J. Wittenberg, Edmund A. Sargus, Jr., and Penny L. Barrick
June 2020
- **America’s Buried History**
Landmines in the Civil War
Kenneth R. Rutherford
May 2020

**More Spring arrivals from
SAVAS BEATIE**

- **Tullahoma**
The Forgotten Campaign that Changed the Course of the Civil War
David A Powell and Eric J. Wittenberg
May 2020
- **Germantown**
A Military History of the Battle for Philadelphia, October 4, 1777
Michael C. Harris
June 2020
- **Defending the Arteries of Rebellion**
Confederate Naval Operations in the Mississippi River Valley, 1861-1865
Neil P. Chatelain
May 2020
- **The War Outside My Window (Young Readers Edition)**
The Civil War Diary of LeRoy Wiley Gresham, 1860 -1865
Edited by: Janet Elizabeth Croon and Kimberly Conrad
April 2020

COMING IN SEPTEMBER!

THE GREAT LAKES CIVIL WAR FORUM: COMMAND DECISIONS

Saturday, September 12, 2020 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Registration: 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Program Begins at 9:30 a.m.

Catered Lunch Included Friends of the Museum \$55/ Non-Members \$65

The theme of the 2020 Great Lakes Civil War Forum is Command Decisions. This year, four renowned Civil War historians will consider the decisions made by Union and Confederate military leaders at several of the most important campaigns of the Civil War – Antietam, Gettysburg, Chickamauga and Petersburg.

Featured Speakers:

- Dennis Frye – Antietam Shadows – Did McClellan out-think Lee?
- Wayne Motts – “Sir I Have No Division:” Command Decisions and Pickett’s Charge at Gettysburg
- Dave Powell – Negley at Horseshoe Ridge
- Will Greene – Grant, Lee, Butler and Beauregard at Petersburg: June 12 – 18, 1864

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 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.

Wanderings



While we all make our way through this unsettling time, our wanderings need to become the proverbial horse of a different color. We can choose to wander our way through a book we've been wanting to read. We can listen to a book – rent one through your local library system or, if you have Audible there are some good bargains out there. We can utilize the internet and do some virtual wandering. Here are a few suggestions to help you wander along your way:

- Savas Beatie has two new digital additions out there for your enjoyment:
Shiloh and the Western Campaign of 1862 (terrific)
The Generals of Shiloh (equally terrific)
- How about an audio?
Attack at Daylight and Whip Them: The Battle of Shiloh April 6-7, 1862 is the newest Emerging Civil War title available on audio.
- Two new books available from Savas Beatie (mine are already ordered!):
America's Buried History: Landmines in the Civil War by Kenneth R. Rutherford
Hellmira: The Union's Most Infamous Civil War Prison Camp – Elmira, NY by Derek Maxfield

Now here's some REALLY exciting stuff from the **American Battlefield Trust!**

Jon Mitchell, GIS Specialist for American Battlefield Trust, has put together a collection of eleven trails on battlefields where you have helped to save land. The list includes places like First Day at Chancellorsville, the Breakthrough at Petersburg, the Lee's Headquarters Battlefield trail at Gettysburg and the Slaughter Pen Farm at Fredericksburg. Each tour offers a satellite path of the trail and markers to denote places of interest.

Explore these places now, or at any time throughout the year. While these trails offer wayside signs and historic markers, the Battlefield Trust recommends that you search their website to peruse related articles, maps, videos, virtual tours, and apps that will provide useful context.

So, even though you are in a stay-at-home situation, you can check these trails out virtually and perhaps, plan your next in-person trip when we are back to "normal."

Interested? Go to: <https://www.battlefields.org/visit/virtual-tours>

And... more exciting stuff from the American Battlefield Trust!

The Trust is now offering Civil War crash courses online. The courses vary in time from 15 minutes, 1 hour, 1 day, 1 weekend and 1 week.

Interested? Go to: <https://www.battlefields.org/lear.civil-war-crash-courses>

And if you have a few dollars to spare, how about making a donation to the Trust?

Happy Wanderings!

submitted by Donna Agnelly



Publisher of Historical Titles of Distinction
Independent ... scholarly...
and a bit old fashioned.

"WHAT GOES AROUND....We have been helping our smaller vendors who owe us money by still shipping books so they can sell and survive.

They need to keep the lights on, too."

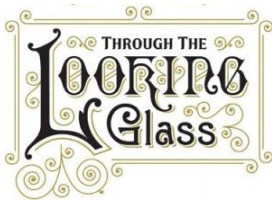
While Ted Savas was speaking with friend and author Dave Powell, he suggested Ted do something he had been hesitant to do: put together an ad similar to what you see to the right. Ted finally relented and emailed it his customers. The heartfelt support, posting and sharing within the community, and kind words were as inspiring as they are humbling.

WHY DO WE SHARE SO MUCH FROM SAVAS BEATIE?

Very simply, it is to help keep this independent publisher alive and well.

You may order direct from:
www.savasbeatie.com

Right now there is free shipping.
Use code FREESHIP.



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 our February **General Orders**, we featured a Looking Glass article from Sarah Flora, a descendant of a family from the Shenandoah Valley. She shared with us some family history from 1864 events there. The story now continues.

Life certainly changed for the Shaver family after the Battle of Piedmont, fought on June 5, 1864. Family history says,

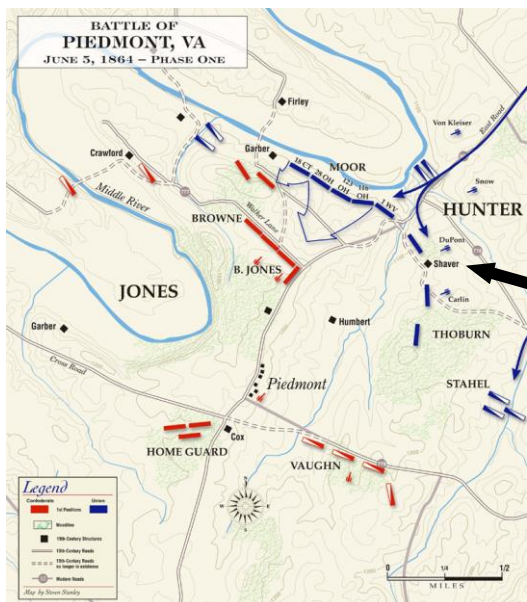
That evening, the family heard screams from someone next to a gun, which had been disabled, in the Orchard to the northeast of the Shaver house. Katherine Shaver sent my grandmother, Mary Emma, who was 14 at the time, to see about him. His leg had been partly blown off. She went to the neighbor's barn and found two doctors cutting off arms and legs. They said they would send some men to move him to the barn as soon as they had time. We don't know if the young man lived or died.

The fields were strewn with guns, broken equipment, and bodies. The Yankees gathered up some bodies and they were buried at Middle River Church. Wounded soldiers who were being cared for by local people were buried in the local cemeteries when they died.

Milton Shaver helped his father, Cornelius, gather up the broken guns and other equipment from the field. They had a full wagon when they finished and they dumped it into the swamp. The corn in the flat field to the south of the Shaver house was nearly knee high and bullets cut the corn like bail. Monday morning they burnt about 1500 guns on two piles. A man was buried on Wednesday up in the woods on top of the hill by Milton Shaver. Four of them buried a horse in Cranford's Stable, to the south of Shaver house, and one in the yard. There were 60 to 70 wounded men in Middle River Church, the New Hope Schoolhouse, and some in Piedmont. Milton Shaver could not forget the suffering soldiers.

Mary Emma Shaver, 14-year-old daughter of Cornelius and Katherine Hockman Shaver, rode to New Hope several days after the battle. She heard a noise in the woods, which scared her, and in a few minutes a bog came out of the woods with a man's leg in its mouth. Such were the kinds of things the people had to see and live with during this time.

Time has erased the battle. Little remains of the battleground. A marker marks the spot where General Jones had his headquarters and another at the New Hope church gives information. A few of the houses still stand, not many have the descendants of the original families who witnessed the battle. The memories are few and no longer clear. Cannon fire took out the chicken coop which stood to the south and east of the current drive. It is believed that at least twelve of the chickens were killed.



What Valley families, and all civilians who witnessed Civil War combat and its aftermath, had to endure boggles the mind. So much of what they recorded seems so clinical. Emma Shaver reported, for example, that the two doctors in the neighbor's barn "threw arms and legs into a feeding room in a pile." What? There is also that last line of the family's memory. A cannon shell took out the family coop and killed perhaps a dozen chickens. What a mundane way to describe a circumstance that must certainly have changed the family's life, if not just their Sunday dinners.

It is with humble thanks that we receive stories like this, passed down from memory and carefully transcribed into diaries. Where would our understandings of events of the time remain without such treasures?

Please note: The Shaver House is located on this map just below the name of General David Hunter. Yes, the family was truly in the thick of it all at the Battle of Piedmont!

The Milwaukee Civil War Round Table has been called "the best-kept secret in southern Wisconsin." Please consider bringing a guest to our monthly meetings or share ideas to help us grow!

Travel Opportunities

Going stir crazy with “lockdowns” and quarantines? Planning ahead for 2020 when many restrictions will (hopefully) be lifted? Below please find some grist for your planning mill!

The Civil War Museum 2020 Corinth/Shiloh



TOUR DATES Sunday, October 18 – Wednesday, October 21, 2020

COST OF THE TOUR Museum Members: \$735 per person double occupancy
Museum Members: \$960 per person single occupancy Non-Members: \$785 per person double occupancy Non-Members: \$1,010 per person single occupancy

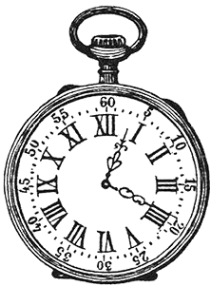
TOUR COST INCLUDES Hotel stay for Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday nights; all breakfasts, lunches and dinners; all motor coach services, tour guides, admissions, evening programs. A cash-bar is available Monday and Tuesday dinners.

TOUR BASE HOTEL Pickwick Landing State Park 116 State Park Rd, Counce, TN 38326

TRANSPORTATION Attendees are responsible for their own transportation from their homes to the base hotel. Flights can be arranged through Memphis International Airport.

MAKING RESERVATIONS Reservations for the trip can be made by mail, in person, or by phone at 262-653-4140 with a credit card.

Civil War Time Travelers 2020 Fort Donelson/Shiloh/Corinth/Vicksburg



TOUR DATES Sunday, October 24 – Friday, October 30, 2020

COST OF THE TOUR \$825.00 per person double occupancy.

TOUR COST INCLUDES All hotels, luxury coach transportation from Wisconsin with pick-ups in Campbellsport, Menomonee Falls, and Milwaukee. Historians, several meals, and entrance fees are included.

MAKING RESERVATIONS Check the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table registration table or email wegs1862@gmail.com.

Traveling where heroes trod!

*“My Best Friend is a person who gives me a book
I have not read...”*

Abraham Lincoln



**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.

