

# GENERAL ORDERS



The Newsletter of the

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



**January 7, 2021**

**Christopher L. Kolakowski**

## **The Battle of Stones River**

*Your country owes you an immense debt. God grant that you may quadruple the obligation.*

Salmon P. Chase to Rosecrans after Stones River

According to The American Battlefield Trust, the casualty percentage at the Battle of Stones River was second only to the Battle of Gettysburg in all of the major engagements of the Civil War. Throughout five days of battle, the most intense being December 31 and January 2, the National Park Service claims that nearly 24,000 men on both sides became casualties out of 81,000 engaged – a 29% casualty rate. Gettysburg had a casualty rate of 31%. Chickamauga, Shiloh, and Antietam had casualty rates of 29%, 26%, and 18%, respectively. The staggering losses at Stones River compelled both armies to spend months trying to regain their strength and come to terms with the causes of the winter bloodshed.

On January 1, 1862, Braxton Bragg did not renew the Confederate attack at Stones River which allowed Rosecrans to strengthen his position and receive reinforcements. Ultimately, Bragg withdrew Stones River and retreated to Tullahoma, Tennessee realizing he could not win another fight against Rosecrans's reinforced army. The battle, although a tactical draw would become a strategic Union victory.

Our January speaker, Christopher Kolakowski, Director of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum, will discuss the battle, its context, and its importance. Abraham Lincoln called the Federal victory at Stones River one "that had it been a defeat instead, the nation could have scarcely lived over."

Christopher Kolakowski was born and raised in Fredericksburg, Virginia. He received his BA in History and Mass Communications from Emory & Henry College, and his MA in Public History from the State University of New York at Albany.

Chris has spent his career interpreting and preserving American military history with the National Park Service, New York State government, the Rensselaer County (NY) Historical Society, the Civil War Preservation Trust, Kentucky State Parks, and the U.S. Army. He has written and spoken on various aspects of military history from 1775 to the present. He has published two books with the History Press: *The Civil War at Perryville: Battling For the Bluegrass* and *The Stones River and Tullahoma Campaign: This Army Does Not Retreat*. In September 2016 the U. S. Army published his volume on the 1862 Virginia Campaigns as part of its sesquicentennial series on the Civil War. He is a contributor to the Emerging Civil War Blog, and his study of the 1941-42 Philippine Campaign titled *Last Stand on Bataan* was released in late February 2016. He is currently working on a book about the 1944 India-Burma battles.

## **General Orders No. 1-21**

**January 2020**

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## **January Meeting at a Glance The Wisconsin Club**

**9<sup>th</sup> and Wisconsin Avenue**

**[Jackets required for the dining room.]**

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

6:45 p.m. - Dinner

**[\$30 by reservation, please]**

Reservations are accepted until

Monday, January 4, 2021

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.**

## **2020-2021 Speaker Schedule**

**Find the speaker schedule on page 6.**



After serving as MacArthur Memorial Director from September 16, 2013 to December 6, 2019, Chris of The Wisconsin Veterans Museum on January 6, 2020.

# 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!

## STARTING TIME FOR DINNER

Please be aware that our dinner will be served at **6:45 p.m. sharp** in order to have our members heading home at a reasonable hour. We understand that any number of events could cause a late arrival. Should that happen, please check in at the Registration Table or locate Paul Eilbes or Donna Agnelly; every effort will be made to get you promptly seated. Thank you for your understanding.

## MASKS REQUIRED!

A mask is required when you come to the meeting per both the City of Milwaukee mask ordinance and state mandate. The ordinance allows you to remove the mask while seated at the table. If you are not drinking in the bar area you should have your mask on while conversing.

**Please respect our speaker and fellow members by silencing your cell phones during the speaker's presentation.**



Confederate Snowball Fight – Dalton, GA March 1864

## The Muster Roll: NEW MEMBERS

BIBLE II—CONSOLIDATED LIST of all persons of Class II, subject to its military law in the State of Wisconsin, residing in the County of Milwaukee, and who have been mustered during the month of March, 1901, under Article IV, Section 10, of the Constitution of the State of Wisconsin.			
RESIDENT	NAME	RESIDENCE	REMARKS
	Bob and Carla Rodza		

## 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 October 2020.

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

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

Gerald Frangesch, Van & Dawn Harl, Eugene & Jane Jamrozy, Stephen Leopold

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

Tom & Terry Arliskas, Roger Bohn, Michael Deeken, Gary & Judy Ertel, A. William & Claudette Finke, Douglas Haag, Peter & Jean Jacobsohn, Bernard Jene, David Jordan, Bruce Klem, Kathy McNally, Jim & Ann Reeve, Laura Rinaldi, Dennis Slater, Bernard VanDinter, Gil Vraney

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

John Abbott, George Affeldt, Carl Backus, Dale Bspalec, Jim Blake, Crain Bliwas, Angela Bodven, John & Linda Connelly, Gordon E. Dammann, Bill De Lind, Tom Doyle, Lori Duginski, Paul Eilbes, George Geanon, Julian Gonzalez, Brian Gunn, Leon & Margaret Harris, Jim Heinz, Christopher Johnson, Rich & Barb Kallan, Ardis & John Kelling, Jay Lauck, Steve Magnusen, Jim & Monica Millane, Bob & Mary Lou Parrish, Tom Pokrandt, John Rodahl, David & Helga Sartori, Sam Solberg, Dan Tanty, Justin Tolomeo, Paul Zehren

## Speaker Enhancement Fund

John Abbott, George Affeldt, Donna Agnelly, Dale Bspalec, Jim Blake, Roman Blenski, Angela Bodven, Roger Bohn, Ellen DeMers, Tom Doyle, Lori Duginski, Paul Eilbes, David Gapinski, Julian Gonzalez, Douglas Haag, Tom Hesse, Jim Heinz, Eugene & Jane Jamrozy, Bernard Jene, Rich & Barb Kallan, Allan Kasprzak, Bruce Klem, Jay Lauck, Stephen Leopold, Kathy McNally, Jim & Monica Millane, Paul & Susan Miller, Herb Oechler, David Perez, John & Susan Petty, Laura Rinaldi, Brad & Kathy Schotanus, Diana Smurawa, Dan Tanty

[milwaukeeecwrt.org](http://milwaukeeecwrt.org)



In January 1947 M. F. Cockrell spoke to the Round Table on the “Battle of Corinth.”

In January 1952 Elmer Gertz spoke to those assembled on “Charles A. Dana: The Eyes of the Government at the Front.”

Grady McWhiney was the speaker at the January 1962 meeting speaking on “Braxton Bragg.”

“Grant and Vicksburg” was the topic of Miner Coburn’s talk in January 1972.

At the January 1982 meeting William C. Davis was our speaker talking on “The Orphan Brigade: The Kentucky Confederates Who Couldn’t Go Home.”

Karen Osborne and Dr. Virginia Crane were out joint speakers at the January 1992 meeting presenting on “A Woman’s War: Two Perspectives – North and South.”

In January 2012 Parker Hills spoke to those assembled on “Chickamauga.”

At last year’s meeting “From Unwanted to Indispensable: The Real Nurses of the Civil War” was the topic presented by our speaker, Pam. D. Toler, PhD.

## At the Museum

**For the safety of all visitors and staff, the following changes and policies are in place until further notice at the museum:**

- Temporary Hours: 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Closed Saturday & Sunday
- A mask or other PPE is REQUIRED and must cover your mouth and nose
- Visitors are asked to sign in with your name and contact information
- Please practice social distancing at all time, staying 6 feet apart
- Visitors who feel ill or have a fever higher than 100.4 are asked to visit at a later date
- The museum is operating at 25% of building capacity, and there may be a wait to get in
- Some interactive exhibits and elements including the Resource Center are temporarily closed

**If you wish to sign up for one of the workshops and are having trouble accessing the museum’s website, you can register with a credit card by calling the museum between 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday at 262-653-4140.**

## 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.

### WATCH ON FACEBOOK

- The Great Camel Experiment  
presented by: David Noe
- The Wounding of Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.  
presented by: Dr. Gordon Dammann
- Seceding the Secession presented by: Eric Wittenberg
- Recovering the Voices of the Union’s Midwest Irish  
presented by: Damian Shiels
- Gettysburg Stories: Monuments and Iconic Locations  
presented by: Steve Acker
- New Philadelphia presented by: Gerald McWorter and Kate Williams-McWorter
- Arming Ohio presented by: Phil Spaugy
- Medical Innovations of the Civil War  
presented by: Trevor Steinbach
- The Vicksburg Campaign: Grant’s Masterpiece  
presented by: Dan Nettesheim
- The 29th Wisconsin at Vicksburg  
presented by: Tom Arliskas

### WATCH ON YOU TUBE

- The War That Made Beer Famous  
presented by: Lance Herdegen
- Illinois Regiments at Gettysburg: July 1863  
presented by: Dennis Doyle
- I’ve Heard of Her: Belle Boyd  
presented by: Jenn Edginton & Samantha Machalik

### Coming – New Virtual Class:

**From Enslavers to Civil Rights Advocate:  
The Political Evolution of Ulysses S. Grant  
Thursday, December 3, 2020 7 – 8:30 p.m.  
\$15/\$10 Friends of the Museum  
Instructor: Nick Sacco, NPS**

Ulysses S. Grant was a slave holding farmer who voted for Democrat James Buchanan for the presidency in 1856. Twelve years later Grant himself was elected to the presidency as a Republican committed to securing the right to vote for African Americans. Park Ranger Nick Sacco will examine Ulysses S. Grant’s political evolution, how the war shaped his views towards race and slavery, and why he came to believe the Republican Party was the only party that could successfully promote sectional reconciliation during the Reconstruction Era. Mr. Sacco will also provide additional resources for teachers who want to teach their students about Grant and the Civil War era. A Zoom link will be emailed the day of the program.

**To register please visit the museum website, go to Events, locate the class and click: Register Here.**





**Thank you, Jim Johnson, as we continue this season of insightful and delightful memories in our *From the Field* features!**

#### **Wisconsin Daily Journal**

**January 16, 1862**

Personal. We had the pleasure of a call this morning from Capt. H. Bertram of the 8d regiment of Wisconsin Volunteers. He will be remembered as the gallant and brave officer who led our noble soldiers in the Bolivar fight, near Harper's Ferry. He visits this State on a short furlough, and will be received with much delight by his friends.

Tom Thumb tonight – The first entertainment of Tom Thumb, the smallest man in the world, is given at the City Hall this evening at 7½ o'clock. The "Little General" always draws a crowd.

The Eight Wisconsin Regiment has been ordered to Cairo, to join the expedition southward.

#### **Madison Wisconsin Daily State Journal**

**January 09, 1862**

##### **A French View**

France cannot join England in a War on the United States.

(Translated from a leading article in the "Opinion Nationale of Paris) Can we picture ourselves France going in gaiety of heart to help England destroy the only navy in the World which can be a counterpoise to the naval superiority of England? It would be a monstrous folly, a betrayal of the traditional policy of France. Louis Philippe who is accused justly of weakness, would never have done such a thing.

But, they tell us, this is not our position. True, it is not yet our position; but we are going that way. If the tendencies pointed out to us are true, we are placing ourselves on the declivity. May we not slip to the bottom!

Such a policy would little resemble, we must say, the wise course held by the Emperor, when, after the taking of Sebastopol, satisfied with having rendered justice for the threats which Russia caused to weigh upon the East, he concluded a peace, and refused to give his hand to England, impatient to burn at Cronstade what remained of the Russian navy.

This remembrance ought to reassure us, and does not permit us to believe that a sovereign so enlightened, so intelligent of the great interests of France, will let himself be drawn into a policy full of shoals, and where the best that we can hope would be to avoid false steps which might easily prove fatal.

Besides, why dissemble our inmost thought? Why conceal the depths of our heart? France has but one enemy in the world, and that enemy is England. I am wrong it is the English aristocracy, which, for twenty-five years, has subsidized Europe against us. It is she who twice led the coalition under the walls of Paris. It is she who sent Napoleon to die at St. Helena. It is she who from 1815 to 1848 has borne with all her weight on France. It is Lord Palmerston, today still Prime Minister of England, who in 1840, made the head of Louis Philippe bow to the earth, and the color rush to the brow of every Frenchman.

It is the English aristocracy, which jealous of our success in the Crimea, has not ceased to raise up everywhere obstacles to our policy in Italy, in Syria, on the Danube, at Constantinople. And they wish that we today should come to aid them in ruining the American navy! But this would be madness! Must we remember, then, that these English vessels which today are bound to America, and to which they ask that we should join ours, that it is against us that they have been constructed? These volunteers, raised and drilled at great expense, these fortifications thrown up everywhere on the coasts of England, it is not against America, it is against France that they are prepared.

If England is so well prepared today it is owing to her distrust and instinctive hatred of France. In the love of peace and in humanity we do not ask that we should profit by the embarrassments of England to assail her, but for God's sake do not let them ask us to aid them against our natural enemies. All France would rise in indignation at the very thought.

#### **Madison Wisconsin Daily**

**January 21, 1862**

Two soldiers belonging to the 16th Regiment, having taken possession of a turkey that did not belong to them, were caught and put in jail. Afterwards a number of members of the regiment collected about the jail and compelled their surrender, upon the condition that they should appear before the police court this morning. The condition was complied with this morning.

PS – Since writing the above, we have received a more correct account of the affair. The prisoners were not delivered upon the demand of the soldiers, but Major Reynolds, who happened to be in town, hearing that there was some difficulty at the jail, went there, sent them away, and subsequently obtained the release of the offenders, upon guaranteeing that they would be produced before the Police Justice, this morning; and they did so appear, but no one appeared to prosecute them.

**Janesville Daily Gazette**  
**January 11, 1862**  
**Correspondence of the Daily Gazette**  
**From the Fifth Regiment**  
**On Grand Guard near Lewisville, Va.**  
**December 18, 1861**

The mails are so uncertain here that we are for days without any mail matter.

Often the mail for us is sent to some other regiment, the 2d or 6th Wisconsin, and theirs sent to us. Letters due here in three days after leaving home, are as many weeks on the road. The large amount of mail sent, both to and from the army, will account for some of this delay. The 5th is about an average regiment on letter writing, and it is perfectly safe to say that we send away every day one bushel of letters, besides papers and pictures. Gen. Hancock complains of the largeness of the mail, and says it will require a four-horse load to draw it to and from the city.

The regiment buys on an average, every day except Sunday, three hundred copies of the National Republican, fifty-seven of the Herald, twenty-five of the Tribune, one hundred of the Times, seventy of Forney's Press, forty of the Philadelphia Enquirer, besides large numbers of the Star, Ledger, the Illustrated papers, and other light literature. Every Sunday we buy about five copies of the Sunday Morning Chronicle, a paper printed every Sunday morning in Washington.

As the Republican takes very radical ground about freeing the slaves of the rebels, and endorses Col. Cochrane, Gen. J. H. Lane, Judge Trumbull, Secretary Cameron, Gen. Fremont and others of the same strip, you will at once see how we feel on that subject, when I tell you that nearly every reader of it endorses these same men. The government has done no one thing which created more dissatisfaction among the men in the army, than when it removed Gen. Fremont, refused to recognize Gen. Lane, and appointed Gen. Hunter in command in Kansas. As far as my knowledge extends, the army were (that is the privates) better pleased with the unmodified report of Secretary Cameron than with the modified one...

As a matter of course, you will lean back in your chair and ask what the Fifth has done? Well, were I to answer just as I felt about it, I should say, "Nothing but lie around in the dirt," but as you will require a more general answer, I will give you an idea of what we have done: We crossed the Chain bridge on the evening of the 3d of September, took up a position near there, and labored there, cutting timber, digging in trenches, and going on picket until we had so securely fortified the approach to that bridge that there was no danger of an attack there.

Then we began to go on foraging expeditions, and to gather forage, took a few rebels; and then came here. Since we have been here, we have fortified our position, drilled, gone out foraging and skirmishing, stood on guard, built winter quarters and prayed fervently for a fight...

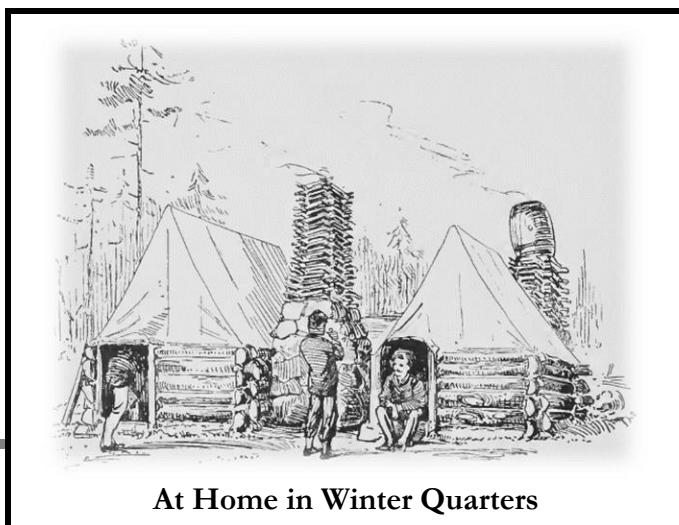
The 6th Maine and 5th Wisconsin have done an enormous amount of chopping, and were the remainder of the army to do as much there would not be a tree large enough for a whip stock in all Dixie. We have worked right along, night and day, rain and shine, and week in and week out, but we are told that on the 4th of next month we will be relieved and some other troops sent here. We hope that may be so, for we are quite worn down. The lying out of our tents night after night in the line of battle and on grand guard, in the rain and mud, has reduced us very much and has filled the hospital with the sick and the grave yard near here with the dead.

We have not had a man shot in battle yet or taken prisoner, but disease has thinned our ranks.

The country around here looks desolate, indeed; perhaps "Old Virginia never tires" but I think she shows fatigue very much now. This has been one of the most wealthy, as well as one of the most beautiful portions of eastern Virginia, but the farms look deserted now.

The fences are gone, the crops removed or burned, the beautiful groves cut down, the houses pillaged of everything valuable, the inhabitants gone, and no one moving but armed men. We have been ordered to not burn rail and fences, but I notice that there has been a large quantity of dry cord wood burned in our tents, in our stoves and fire places. Gen. Hancock says it is a wonder where we obtain so many second hand windows and doors to put in our shanties. We tell him that we "selled eggs and buyed" them. We have fixed up our tents by building log basements so that we can live in them all winter unless the tents leak. The timber we have used in building would have been worth thousands of dollars in time of peace, the few pieces of groves left now look like the last rose of summer stepped in.

The few inhabitants who live here are the most woe-begone, God forsaken people I ever saw.



## MILWAUKEE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE 2020-2021 SPEAKER SCHEDULE

September 10, 2020	Ted Savas
<i>Lost and Found: The Archaeology of the Battle of Payne's Farm</i>	
October 8, 2020	Rob Girardi
<i>Lincoln and the Common Soldier</i>	
November 12, 2020	John R. Scales
<i>The Battle and Campaign of General Nathan Bedford Forrest</i>	
December 10, 2020	Steven K. Rogstad
<i>Stories from Among the Badgers</i>	
January 7, 2021	Christopher L. Kolakowski
<i>Stones River</i>	
February 11, 2021	Leslie Goddard
<i>Presenting Clara Barton</i>	
March 11, 2021	TBA
<i>Topic to Be Determined</i>	
April 8, 2021	Ron Kirkwood
<i>Too Much for Human Endurance</i>	
May 13, 2021	Michael Hardy
<i>General Lee's Immortals</i>	
June 10, 2021	A. Wilson Greene
<i>Re-assessing Grant and Lee in the Overland Campaign</i>	

**Speakers/topics remain subject to change, especially due to the fluid Covid situation.  
We appreciate your understanding!**



## Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc. 2020 – 2021 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	First Vice President	2023
Roman Blenski	Quartermaster	2022
Crain Bliwas	Member	2022
Paul A. Eilbes	Treasurer	2022
Van Harl	Past President	2023
Tom Hesse	Second Vice President	2023
Grant Johnson	Membership/Webmaster	2021
	Past President	
Bruce Klem	President	2021
Daniel Nettesheim	Member	2021
Frank Risler	Program Chair	2021
Tom Thompson	Member	2023
Justin Tolomeo	Member	2023
David Wege	Layout, General Orders	2021

**[milwaukeecivilwar.org](http://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](mailto:grant.johnson@responsory.com)

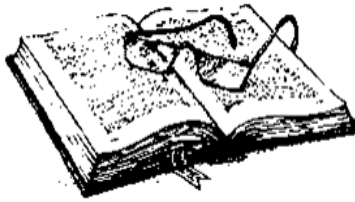
Grant will be creating a database with email reminders set to go out a week before the scheduled event. This is a purely optional choice on each member's part. If you have any questions please talk to Grant at a Round Table meeting or email him at the listed email address.

## Milwaukee Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for January 7, 2021

Mail your reservations by Monday, January 4 to:  
Paul Eilbes  
1809 Washington Avenue  
Cedarburg, WI 53012-9730

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

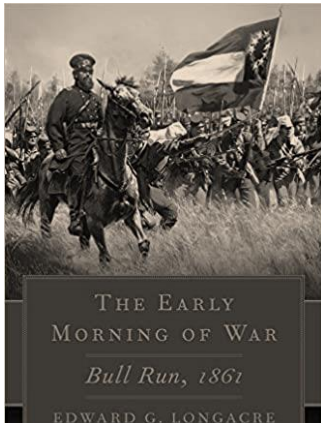
Enclosed is \$\_\_\_\_\_ (meal is \$30.00 per person) for \_\_\_\_\_ people for the  
January 7, 2021 meeting of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee.  
(Please make checks payable to the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.)



# BETWEEN THE COVERS

## The Early Morning of War: Bull Run, 1861

Edward Longacre



This review is on the First Battle of Bull Run. I bought this book a while ago at the Civil War Museum's discounted book section. I thought it would be good to read before my wife and I made the Civil War Museum trip to Manassas Battlefield. Additionally, I had the opportunity to pick up another book on First Bull Run that just came out at the Manassas Visitor's Center during the tour. This book, which I will include in this review, is *The Maps of First Bull Run* by Bradley M. Gottfried. It is part of his series of books on Civil War battles; this book also includes maps for the Battle of Ball's Bluff.

In his book, Mr. Longacre takes us through the military, political, public, and individual perspectives leading up to, emerging during, and following First Bull Run. He details episodes skimmed over in other works; for example, the problem-ridden, haphazard rail transport of Johnston's force usually depicted as seamless. He fully

explains Beauregard's plans and intentions as originally developed, quickly unraveled, then adapted by circumstance and happenstance. Myths surrounding the battle are examined; for example, the role of civilian spectators is clarified by revealing some delicious details (Congressmen who arrived armed as though to fight) and debunking other widely-held beliefs (the audience did not in fact impede the federal retreat).

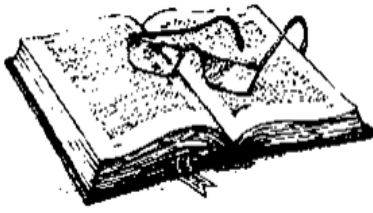
He shows McDowell as a favorable commander with appreciation for the complex and impossible position he was placed in. Riding about the battlefield in a carriage, with his odd choice of millinery, he jubilantly proclaims victory at two separate points during the long fight. Ironically, given his advantage in artillery, his final undoing comes through misuse of the long arm, advancing it ahead of infantry support too close to the enemy onto Henry Hill (where Rickett's guns shelled the eponymous house killing elderly Judith). Finally, as the strange fight on Chinn Ridge unfolded, the Union effort folded. Mr. Longacre shows how General Patterson's force in the Valley failed in his mission to hold Johnston's army in place in the Valley and prevent him from moving to reinforce Beauregard at Bull Run. This was probably the biggest failure in the Union battle plan and I believe ultimately led to McDowell's defeat. As it turned out it was the arrival of Johnston's army that ended up turning the tide at First Bull Run.

However, having said that, another key factor in the Union defeat was in the early stages. The haphazard attacks by the Union Army generally accomplished the wearing out of units as commanders launched piecemeal single regimental attacks which enabled the Confederate brigades to decimate one regiment after another allowing the Confederates to hold Henry House Hill. McDowell also made a huge mistake by advancing two batteries to Henry House Hill without any infantry support. These two batteries ended up being overrun by the Confederates and then McDowell spent time having his brigade commanders launching futile attacks to reclaim them. In my opinion, if these batteries had moved up with proper support the battle still could have been won by the Union.

I hadn't read a book that focused on First Bull Run in a long time and as it turned out, having finished the book prior to our tour really made a difference in enjoying the guided tour and helped bring the battlefield to light. I think Mr. Longacre did an excellent job in bringing out all the factors that impacted the final result in this first major battle of the Civil War. He exposed the command weaknesses on both sides and how they had an effect on the fight. He also dealt with the political factors pushing on both sides to bring on the battle and how the commanders handled this outside influence. I highly recommend this book to anyone who wants to understand what happened and why at the First Battle of Bull Run.

The other book that I felt was great to have during our tour was the Gottfried book I picked up at the Visitor's Center. Mr. Longacre's book had a nice number of maps, but the map book greatly enhanced the number of maps and provided much more detail as the battle unfolded. I have found that the books I have purchased in the Maps series of books definitely help the reader understand how the battle unfolded and makes a great guide to touring a battlefield either by yourself or with a guide. I believe that any student of the Civil War would want these map books in order to have a clear picture of the ebb and flow of each battle.

submitted by Bruce Klem

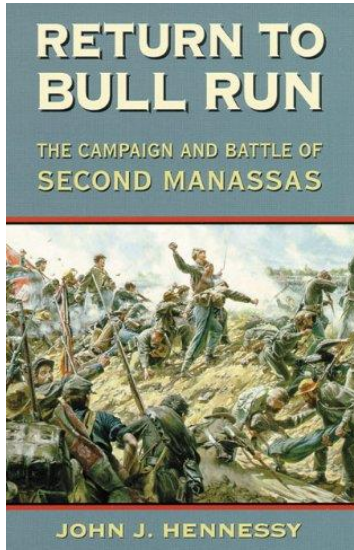


## BETWEEN THE COVERS

### Return to Bull Run

#### The Campaign and Battle of Second Manassas

John H. Hennessey



This was a book I picked up on the October 2019 Kenosha Civil War Museum's battlefield trip to First and Second Manassas. The book comes in at 472 pages and contains a complete order of battle information for both sides. Our tour group spent two and a half days on the battlefield eliciting a comment from the gal working in the gift shop to note on our last day that as a group we put a big hit on gift shop supplies – particularly books!

There are a lot of books out that deal with specific Civil War battles but few can match Hennessey's book for its scholarship and fine writing. Of Lee's battles in the early Civil War, Second Bull Run likely gets the least amount of attention. Sandwiched between the Peninsula Campaign and Antietam it is simply overlooked. However, I think it set the stage for the invasion of Maryland. Hennessey in this book shows not only why the battle may be one of Lee's finest but also how the battle severely hurt Lee's campaign into Maryland.

One of the things I like about this book is Hennessey tackles some of the big myths surround the battle with solid research. He does a great job from going from the big picture with discussing the overall strategy down to the tactical with interesting stories of the experiences of individual soldiers.

Hennessey really impressed me with his writing skills. I wish every Civil War author had his talent for keeping the narrative going without getting bogged down once they get into the battle itself. Too often authors get so stuck in describing the X's and O's of the regimental movements that they forget the men involved but Hennessey keeps the story flowing nicely all the way through.

He spends plenty of time exploring how Pope was really out of touch with what was happening on the battlefield – blowing key elements of his military system but not using his cavalry for information gathering, not concentrating on keeping Jackson's forces isolated from the rest of the Confederate forces and worst of all, thinking the Confederates were retreating when they were massing for a devastating attack, which broke Pope's army.

“With more careful use of terrain, specifically the Bull Run Mountain passes, Pope possessed both the means and opportunity to menace both Longstreet and Jackson. But Pope never quite understood the fruits that might be gained by moving against Longstreet at Thoroughfare Gap, he never grasped the idea that by delaying Longstreet he would buy additional time to strike at an isolated Jackson.” The facts Mr. Hennessey presented clearly show Pope was his own worst enemy and best ally for Lee. He consistently misread the Confederate maneuvers to support his own plan for “bagging Jackson” and never really gave any thought to the Confederates doing something else that might deviate from his preconceived battle plan.

On the Confederate side, Hennessey points out that this was the first major campaign under General Lee and it highlighted his tactical skills. On the downside, Lee came to believe in the strength of the Confederate soldier and their ability to do outstanding work on the campaign. As a result, given the tough fighting against Pope the Army of Northern Virginia was badly worn from this fight and not as strong as Lee thought to carry out the important Maryland Campaign shortly after. The end result was failure to achieve objectives of that campaign.

I thought this was a great book and serves well any student of the Civil War on this important battle. There are not a lot of books on this fight and Mr. Hennessey does a fine job in laying out the entire campaign. I think it also helped that I had just done a guided tour of the battlefield area as part of the museum trip. I highly recommend this book to anyone who wants more information on this Civil War campaign. I don't think you will be disappointed.

submitted by Bruce Klem





## When Civil War Memory Intersects the Present

Isn't it true that there are some places that speak to you on a very personal level? One would hesitate to say these places are haunted by memory, but events of the past seem to collide with the present in one locale more than they do in another. Such a place is found on Highway 243 running southwest out of Columbia, Tennessee.

It has been my privilege to visit St. John's church several times. The Civil War Time Travelers stopped by in October 2018. My classroom traveled there in 2019 on a field trip christened "On to Tennessee." Sharing what I felt when I stood at St. John's with the Time Travelers and my students was extremely important. History's legacy needs to be shared, and places that evoke memory should be visited when opportunity arises.

Hood's 1864 Tennessee Campaign had an auspicious beginning. With the eyes of the nation fixed on William T. Sherman's next move after the fall of Atlanta, Hood had gotten permission from Jefferson Davis to drive north. Doing so would possibly divert men and supplies from Sherman's Georgia juggernaut. Also, a resounding martial blow struck in Tennessee on the eve of the 1864 election might eject Lincoln from the White House, paving the way for McClellan and the Peace Democrats to offer the Confederacy an olive branch and independence. Finally, Nashville, could conceivably fall back into Confederate hands with a campaign to return all of Tennessee to rebel control.

Federal forces under the command of General John Schofield were keeping an eye on Hood's Army of Tennessee. Under orders from George H. Thomas to hold Columbia, Schofield was in an unenviable position. He was outnumbered, but the Columbia Pike was an escape route to sanctuary under the guns of Nashville. On November 28, Thomas ordered Schofield to withdraw from Columbia, link with A.J. Smith, who Thomas believed was coming from Missouri, and confront Hood at Franklin. When the gray-clad veterans of Hood's army converged on Schofield in Columbia, they executed a diversion to hold his attention, while sending Forrest across the Duck River to get behind and cut off his avenue of retreat.

Schofield sent his 800-wagon supply train ahead of him north toward Franklin. In the meantime, Union cavalry under James Wilson sent multiple warnings to Schofield of rebels in the rear. Those messages were not acted upon until dawn of November 29, when Schofield finally understood the ruse played on him by the enemy.

What followed was a race to the safety of Franklin for the men in blue. However, the race would be a near thing, for Forrest and rebel infantry was converging on Spring Hill further north. If that escape route was cut, the Army of Tennessee could overwhelm the Federals. The series of events that resulted is one of the great mysteries of the war. Confederate command failure at Spring Hill allowed Schofield to escape a trap that was never sprung. The Federals headed north with Rebs nipping at the heels of the rear guard all the way down the pike. Disaster followed at Franklin as the Army of Tennessee spent its lifeblood in five bloody hours of combat.

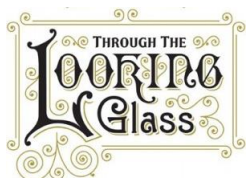


St. John's Church sits on the east side of present-day Highway 243. It is a beautiful brick building with an impressive history. The Mt. Pleasant area was home to the Polk family. Bishop-General Leonidas Polk and his family were instrumental in building the structure and running the church. As Confederates filed past St. John's on their way to a destiny at Franklin, the brigade of Patrick Cleburne was among them. Cleburne himself saw the church and, perhaps reminded of similar churches back home in Ireland, prophetically remarked, "One would almost wish to die so one could be buried here."

Behind St. John's is the traditional churchyard burial ground where Generals Cleburne, Hiram Granbury, and Otho Strahl were temporarily buried. Years later their remains were removed and re-buried in other states, but their gravesites at St. John's have never again been used. Lucius Polk, one of Cleburne's subordinates, rests there still.

Several years ago, I was on a tour comparing the relative merits of George Henry Thomas versus Patrick Cleburne. Our tour brought us to St. John's. As we stood listening in hushed awe to the magic of Thomas Cartwright describing Cleburne and his men, a friend asked, "Where was Cleburne buried when he was briefly laid to rest here?" Cartwright lined up a few stones, did some mental calculations and said, "Well, sir, right where you are standing." Standing behind him, I saw the hair literally stand on the back of my buddy's neck. My friend's name – Robert A. Clayborn. The name is spelled differently, but his lineage is Cleburne.

Yes, some places we visit certainly are haunted by memory.



*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!

## Mary Boykin Chestnut

*I do not allow myself vain regrets or sad foreboding. This Southern Confederacy must be supported now by calm determination and cool brains. We have risked all, and we must play our best, for the stake is life or death.*

So begins the most notable Southern woman's diary of the Civil War.



Mary Boykin Chestnut was a prolific chronicler of the Confederacy moving in both high Government circles as well as southern society. Her diary entries are one of the most significant available in understanding the Confederacy. Her diary entries show how social class and status remained a defining part of the Confederate nation even after the war destroyed their world of wealth and privilege.

Mary Chestnut was born on March 31, 1823, into Plantation society. Her father, Stephen Decatur Miller served as a U.S. Representative 1817-1819, was elected 52nd governor of South Carolina in 1828-1830 and afterwards served as a U.S. Senator 1831-1833.

Mary met her future husband, James Chestnut, Jr. in 1836 when she was thirteen-years-old. The couple would marry 4 years later on April 23, 1840. James became an established lawyer and politician serving as a senator from South Carolina until the state seceded from the Union in December 1860. Once the Civil War started, James became an aide to President Jefferson Davis and was commissioned a brigadier general in the Confederate Army. Mary and James would reside at Chestnut Cottage in Columbia during the war.

Mary loved to entertain and was at her best in both Washington DC and Richmond. She suffered from bouts of depression and would self-medicate with opium. The Chestnuts had a wide circle of friends and acquaintances in the South's upper society and in the Confederate government.

In February 1861, she would record how she felt about the secession crisis writing: *My father was a South Carolina Nullifier so I was of necessity a rebel born...I remember feeling a nervous dread and horror of this break with so great a power as U.S.A. but was ready and willing.*

Mary was quite hot-tempered and her diary entries were often candid, caustic and sarcastic; her entries showed how the role of women evolved during this time. When she arrived in Richmond Mary offered her services as a nurse to the Richmond Hospital Association; this was important as nursing in the South was previously regarded as suitable only for lower-class men. Now, 19th century Southern women, particularly elite women, tended to sick, wounded and maimed men in their ever-evolving role.

Mary would express her frustration with the war in her diary. She was angry that she was unable to serve in the army because of her gender. In August 1861 she wrote: *I think these times make all women feel their humiliation in the affairs of the world. With me it is on the field – glory, honour, praise and power. Women can only stay at home and every paper reminds us that women are to be violated – ravished and all manner of humiliation. How are the daughters of Eve punished.*

As an intelligent and educated woman, she chafed at her status in Southern society – subordinate to men. Yet, because of the war, women in the South were forced to manage farms and plantations, work in government bureaus, become nurses and labor in Confederate factories. Social class continued to play a prominent role on which women could work in what capacities – only literate women could work in a government bureau and were required to take tests in grammar, spelling and basic math. Illiterate and poor women were left to do the dangerous jobs in munitions factories or sewing uniforms at home or in the Quartermaster Bureau.

Mary's life as one of the social elite would come to an abrupt end when James's mother passed away and he returned to South Carolina with Mary; their path home would put them in the track of William Tecumseh Sherman in his swing north after his March to the Sea. Mary now became another victim of the war and a refugee. She would end up in Lincolnton, North Carolina, and found exile not to her liking writing: *The next day came here brokenhearted and in exile. Such a place! No carpet – a horrid feather bed – soiled sheets – and a pine table – for this I pay \$30 a day.* Mary was also forced to work for perhaps the first time in her life and commented: *Well this day I have worked! I made my own tea – boiled my own eggs – and washed up my own tea things.*

When the Chestnuts finally reached home, they found their home ransacked and badly damaged by the Union Army; worse yet, James's father had invested his entire fortune in worthless Confederate bonds leaving them penniless. The now penniless Mary went into business with her former enslaved servant, Molly, and with a rescued cow and some chickens, she would sell butter and eggs to her neighbors supported her family on \$140 a year.

Mary's poverty would plunge her more deeply into depression. In 1866 she wrote to a friend: *There are nights here with the moonlight cold and ghastly and the whippoorwills and screech owls alone disturbing the silence when I could tear out my hair and cry aloud for all that is past and gone.*

Mary would spend most of the 1880s revising her wartime diaries as well as taking care of her mother and husband. In February 1885, James and Mary's mother passed away. According to James's father's will, the use of the plantations ended when James died and they passed on to a male Chestnut heir; this left Mary without income for her support. She would also discover that James left behind many debts related to the estate which he had not cleared.

Mary would pass away in 1886 at her home, Sarsfield, in Camden, South Carolina. She is buried next to her husband in Knights Hill Cemetery, South Carolina.

When Mary began her diary in 1861 little did she know how the power of the North and the Union would shatter her world and would chronicle the demise of the planter class society that went to war to preserve their privileged life.

**submitted by Donna Agnelly**

### **In Memoriam**

It is with sadness that we note the passing of Susan Johnson on December 4, 2020. Susan was the wife of longtime Round Table member Jim Johnson. Jim generously provides the material for From the Field in our newsletter on a monthly basis.

Susan graduated from Shorewood High School in 1961; she then attended the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She married Jim on June 4, 1966 at St. John's Cathedral in Milwaukee. Jim and Susan celebrated their 54th wedding anniversary in 2020. The couple moved to Iron River, Michigan in 2010.

In her spare time, Susan enjoyed researching her genealogy and playing the guitar. She was fluent in modern French and old Middle French. She enjoyed sailing and lived on a sailboat for a time in St. Petersburg, Florida. Susan was also a historian specializing in 12th century English/French history and American Civil War history.

Susan Was a 25-year volunteer for the genealogy exhibit at Milwaukee Irish Fest. She was also co-webmaster of the Second Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry website.

Susan is survived by her husband, James (Jim), son, Jeremy and sister, Nancy Raine along with extended family and friends.



***And Flights of Angels Guide Her to Her Rest***

# ITEMS OF NOTE

## UPCOMING FROM UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA PRESS

The North Carolina Press has some good books currently available and more coming out in 2021. If you order from them mention that you are a Round Table member- significant discounts and free shipping could be available to you.

### Currently Available:

- A Republic in the Ranks: Loyalty and Dissent in the Army of the Potomac by: Zachery A. Fry
- An Environmental History of the Civil War by: Judith Browning & Timothy Silver
- Fighting For Atlanta: Tactics, Terrain and Trenches in the Civil War by: Earl J. Hess
- The Battle of Peach Tree Creek: Hood's First Efforts to Save Atlanta by: Earl J. Hess
- Embattled Freedom: Journeys Through the Civil War's Slave Refugee Camps by: Amy Murrell Taylor
- Storming Vicksburg: Grant, Pemberton and the Battles of May 19-22, 1863 by: Earl J. Hess

### Coming in 2021:

- Braxton Bragg: The Most Hated Man of the Confederacy by: Earl J. Hess
- Lincoln and the Politics of Slavery: The Other Thirteenth Amendment and the Struggle to Save the Union by: Daniel W. Crofts
- Meade at Gettysburg: A Study in Command by: Kent Masterson Brown, Esq.
- Radical Sacrifice: The Rise and Ruin of Fitz John Porter by: William Marvel

## Virginia Military Institute Removes Stonewall Jackson Statue



*It is an understatement to say the relocation of the statue has evoked strong opinions on both sides of the issue. The history of VMI over the past 181 years is well documented. Stonewall Jackson's ties to Lexington and the Institute as an instructor are part of that history. As a general during the American Civil War who prosecuted many successful engagements in the Shenandoah Valley, his story will continue to be told at this new location.*

*VMI does not define itself by this statue and that is why this move is appropriate. We are defined by our unique system of education and the quality and character of the graduates the Institute produces. Our graduates embody the values of honor, respect, civility, self-discipline, and professionalism. This is how we will continue to be defined.*

Official press release by VMI Interim Superintendent Maj. Gen. Cedric T. Wins addressing location change

The statue was removed on December 7, 2020, and will be relocated to the New Market battlefield site in the shadow of Massanutten Mountain.

The statue was created by Moses Ezekiel, a VMI graduate. The statue was placed and dedicated in 1912, with Mary Anna Jackson, the general's widow, a guest of honor at the dedication.

*"I hope you will be an artist as it seems to me you are cut out for one. But whatever you do, try to prove to the world that if we did not succeed in our struggle, we are worthy of success. And do earn a reputation in whatever profession you undertake."*

possibly apocryphal remark made to  
Moses Ezekiel by Robert E. Lee



## Colonel Hans Christian Heg Restoration is Underway



As reported in the December 10, 2020, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, restoration of the damaged Madison, Wisconsin, Heg statue are underway. The statue was yanked from its pedestal and thrown into Lake Monona. The left leg of the statue was snapped off and the head went missing and was not recovered.

On December 9, 2020, George Gikas and his Detroit-based sculptural restoration crew (Venus Bronze Works) were in the Town of Norway, Wisconsin to begin righting this terrible wrong. The Heg Statue in Madison was one of three identical ones designed by Norwegian-American sculptor Paul Fjelde – one is in Norway, one in the Town of Norway at Heg Memorial Park and the third was in Madison, where it stood in front of the Capitol for over 90 years.

The restoration crew coated the Heg statue in Heg Memorial Park with a rubber substance in order to attain a mold that would pick up the fine details. On top of this mold was another plaster mold, to hold it all in place.

The new mold will be taken back to their base of operation in Detroit where they will cast the head in bronze and reattach it to the rest of the damaged statue.

Since the 1990s, Gikas has helped maintain both the Forward and Heg statues and is working on restoring both of them. The National Endowment for the Humanities provided a \$30,000 grant to help repair both statues. The state has applied for a second federal grant of \$30,000.

If everything goes according to plan, the restoration will be completed in the spring with the intention of having the statues back in place by the summer.

***Scandinavians! Let us understand the situation, our duty and our responsibility. Shall the future ask, where were the Scandinavians when the Fatherland was saved?***

***Hans Christian Heg – September 1861***

***[F]riends who called to see him, wept like children. Everybody who knew him loved him. He was not only a noble patriot, but a true Christian and died peacefully and calmly, fully persuaded of a glorious immortality thro' Jesus....***

***15<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin surgeon Stephen O. Himoe***

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Send submission to **Donna Agnelly, Editor**, 420 Racine St. Unit 110, Waterford, WI 53185. You may also email her at [donnaagnelly@gmail.com](mailto:donnaagnelly@gmail.com) with "Civil War Round Table" in the subject line of your message. All submissions must be received by the Editor no later than the 10th of the month prior to the next issue. The Editor reserves the right to select articles and to edit submissions for style and length.

All address changes or problems receiving your *General Orders* should be directed through Membership Chairman Paul Eilbes.

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

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

## 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.

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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

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

