

GENERAL ORDERS



The Newsletter of the

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



October 7, 2021

David Dixon

The American Civil War A Radical, International Revolution

Willich remains somewhat of a question mark because after the war he did not publish his memoirs nor did he engage in major post war politics. Historian Charles Stewart attributes this to the fact that Willich was "thoroughly a Democrat and simply a soldier." In one sentence, there appears to be no better way to describe Willich.

historyengine.richmond.edu

Radical Warrior: August Willich's Journey from German Revolutionary to Union General (University of Tennessee Press 2020) is the biography of a Prussian army officer who renounced his nobility and joined in the failed European revolutions of 1848. He immigrated to America, edited a daily labor newspaper in Cincinnati, and became one of the most accomplished generals in the Union Army.

Our October Round Table speaker is David Dixon who will tell us how August Willich's story sheds new light on the contributions of 200,000 German-Americans who fought for the Union in the Civil War.

In an age of global social, economic, and political upheaval, transatlantic radicals helped affect America's second great revolution. For many recent immigrants, the nature and implications of that revolution turned not on Lincoln's conservative goal of maintaining the national Union, but on issues of social justice, including slavery, free labor, and popular self-government. The Civil War was not simply a war to end sectional divides, but to restore the soul of the nation, revive the hopes of democrats worldwide, and defend human rights.

David Dixon earned his M.A. in history from the University of Massachusetts in 2003. His first book, *The Lost Gettysburg Address*, told the unusual life story of Texas slaveholder Charles Anderson, whose speech followed Lincoln's at Gettysburg, but was never published. It turned up 140 years later in a cardboard box in Wyoming.

David has given nearly 100 talks to audiences across the country. He appeared on Civil War Talk Radio and other podcasts. He hosts B-List History, a website that features obscure characters and their compelling stories. You may download free pdf versions of his published articles on that website at www.daviddixon.com.

David's new book, published by the University of Tennessee Press, is the biography of German revolutionary and Union General August Willich. His work highlights the contributions of approximately 200,000 German-American immigrants to the Union effort in the Civil War. Transatlantic radicals like Willich viewed the war as part of a much larger, global revolution for social justice and republican government.

General Orders No. 10-21

October 2021

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October Meeting at a Glance

The Wisconsin Club

9th and Wisconsin Avenue

[Jackets required for the dining room.]

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

6:45 p.m. - Dinner

[\$30 by reservation, please]

Reservations are accepted until

Monday, October 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.

2021-2022 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.

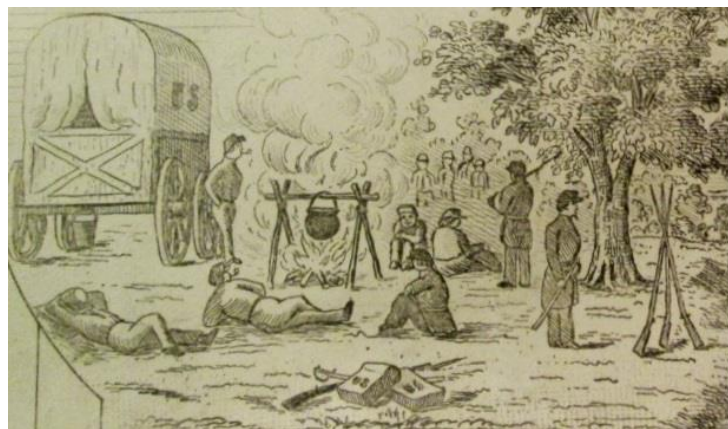
Special Dietary Needs

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!

At this time there are no special Covid restrictions at the Wisconsin Club, please check the milwaukeeecwrt.org website for any updates.



The Board of Directors would like to recognize Grant Johnson and Chris McLean for their fine efforts on short notice in ensuring that we were live on Facebook and recorded when Ken Walker (our usual videographer) was unable to be with us at the September meeting.



The Muster Roll: NEW MEMBERS

MUSTER ROLL - CONSOLIDATED LIST of all persons of Class II, subject to an military duty in the Wisconsin Militia, during the month of _____ 1907, under direction of _____					
NAME	RANK	REGIMENT	PLACE OF BIRTH	PREVIOUS MILITARY SERVICE	REMARKS
Dorothy Helmenstine					Has father's distinction of membership
Rachel Millar					Does not hold distinction of membership
Steve Pales					Has distinction of membership
Debra Wied					

MCWRT Annual Fund

The following members have made a generous commitment to the MCWRT by investing in that fund. This list reflects those donations made through September 11, 2021.

Major Contributor (\$500 and above)

Gerald Frangesch

Patron (\$200 - \$499)

Dawn & Van Harl, Gene & Jane Jamrozky, Steve Leopold, Dan Nettesheim

Associate (\$100 - \$199)

Donna Agnelly, Dale Bepalec, Mike Deeken, Gary & Judy Ertel, Doug Haag, Peter & Jean Jacobsohn, Bernard Jene, David Jordan, Robert Mann, Kathy McNally, Laura Rinaldi, Brad & Kathy Schotanus, Dennis Slater, Justin Tolomeo

Contributor (up to \$99)

George Affeldt, Tom & Terry Arliskas, Angela Bodven, John & Linda Connelly, Gordon Dammann, Paul Eilbes, Julian Gonzalez, Brian Gunn, Leon & Margaret Harris, Christopher Johnson, Jerome Kowalski, John Kuhnmuench, Jay Lauck, Rod Malinowski, Paul & Susan Miller, Herb Oechler, David Perez, Tom Pokrandt, Cal Schoonover, Sam Solberg, Dan Tanty, Gil Vraney, Paul Zehren

Speaker Enhancement Fund

George Affeldt, Donna Agnelly, Tom & Terry Arliskas, Jim Blake, Angela Bodven, Ellen DeMers, Thomas Doyle, Lori Duginski, Paul Eilbes, Gerald Frangesch, David Gapinski, Julian Gonzalez, Rick Gross, Brian Gunn, Doug Haag, Leon & Margaret Harris, Jim Heinz, Don Hilbig, Bernard Jene, Steve Leopold, Rod Malinowski, Kathy McNally, Jim & Monica Millane, Herb Oechler, Andy Oren, John & Susan Petty, Tom Pokrandt, Laura Rinaldi, Jack Rodencal, Bob & Carla Rodzaj, Dan Tanty, Justin Tolomeo, Rich Tonelli, Paul Zehren



Stanley Horn spoke to the members in October 1947 on the “Battle of Nashville.”

October 1962 brought Alan Nolan to our Round Table. Nolan spoke to the group on “Myth and Fact in Civil War History.”

“Margaret Mitchell and Gone with the Wind” was the topic of Allen P. Julian’s presentation in October 1972.

Richard W. Hatcher III talked about “General Lyons and the Battle of Wilson’s Creek” at the October 1982 meeting.

In October 1992 Lewis P. Mallow Jr. was our speaker talking about “Gettysburg: The Battle and the Speech.”

In October 2002 Harold Holzer visited our Round Table to speak to those assembled on “Politics, Dissent and Terrorism: Lincoln and Civil War New York.”

“Lincoln and Grant: The Westerners Who Won the War” was the topic presented by Edward H. Bonekemper III at the October 2012 meeting.

At last year’s October meeting, the Round Table welcomed back Rob Girardi who spoke on “Abraham Lincoln and the Common Soldier.”

Constitution Day Discussion Series Third Friday in October and November

Please check the museum website for articles and primary sources to facilitate conversations on topics led by Carthage College faculty; these will be available for download.

The Philosophy of Free Speech in the First Amendment Friday, October 15, Noon

Presented by: Dr. Paul Ulrich

This discussion will explore the First Amendment as a philosophic text that contains a vision of what it means to be human. It will take into account passages in the Federalist Papers and some speeches by Abraham Lincoln to show that these great political men thought deeply about the highest human faculty, reason.

Wartime Freedom: Lessons from the Civil War Friday, November 19, Noon

Presented by: Dr. Tom Powers

Participants will consider the extent to which a tension between liberty and security is built into the logic of the United States Constitution. The first most serious test of the question of how best to reconcile these two competing concerns occurred during the Civil War. President Lincoln took steps that are debated to this day and the best starting point for thinking about his position is to be found in a series of landmark Supreme Court decisions that followed. We will examine Lincoln’s actions, his defense of them, and the response from civil libertarians on the Supreme Court.

Kenosha Civil War Museum Second Friday Lecture Series

These free in-person programs are sponsored by the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table and Iron Brigade Association.

Perryville: Battle for Kentucky

Friday, October 8, 2021 – Noon

Presented by: Chris Kolakowski

In 1861 Abraham Lincoln said “I think to lose Kentucky is nearly the same as to lose the whole game.” Over ten weeks in the late summer and early fall of 1862, Confederate armies invaded the Bluegrass State in a campaign culminating in the Battle of Perryville on October 8. This talk will examine this critical campaign and battle and assess its place in the Civil War.

Essayons! The 1st Michigan Engineers

Friday, November 12, 2021, Noon

Presented by: Brian Conroy

As the Civil War began, the need for trained engineers to guide and build was extremely necessary throughout the military. The U.S. Corps of Engineers was too small to fulfill this role, and so volunteer engineering regiments began emerging, with the Wolverine state bringing forth three of these regiments. The 1st Michigan Engineers and Mechanics lasted throughout the war, building railroads, bridges, and other fortifications while serving throughout Tennessee and Kentucky, and traveling with General Sherman to Atlanta, Savannah, up through the Carolinas, and finishing their service in the Grand March in Washington, D.C.

I’ve Heard of Her

Once a month museum staff leads a discussion on remarkable women, exploring their lives and roles in history – the good, the bad, and the in-between.

Harriet Tubman

Thursday, October 21, 2021, Noon

Presented by: Samantha Machalik

Learn about what life was like for Harriet Tubman before she escaped enslavement, and what the most famous conductor of the Underground Railroad did after the Civil War.

Please visit the Museum website:

museums.kenosha.org/civilwar and click on the links to see past Zoom and YouTube presentations. (see p. 5)

A Reminder: Lance Herdegen will present a special Iron Brigade topic “Passing in Review” from 6:30-8:00 on ZOOM on October 12. Prior registration is required.

\$15 or \$10 for Friends of the Museum

THE CIVIL WAR MUSEUM
UPPER MIDDLE WEST EXPERIENCE



The 3d Wisconsin Infantry

This veteran Regiment's time was out on Wednesday last, and will probably be home in a few days. The boys should meet with a warm reception on their return, as no Regiment that has left the state has done more hard fighting than they have. They were at last accounts at the front, with Sherman. Let us give them a glorious welcome.

Oshkosh Courier, Jul. 02 1864

Reception of Co. E 2d Wisconsin

Company E of the Second Wisconsin Regiment returned Thursday evening, and such a welcome as they received, no one ever saw before, in this day. The boys said it was worth three years fighting to receive such a welcome. Long before the arrival of the coming train, the streets were filled with citizens, and people from the country. At 6:12 pm the procession was formed in front of Washington Hall composed of the Fire Department, the old veterans of Company E Home Guards, Mayor and Common Council, citizens &c., who marched to the Depot where the veterans of Company E were received and escorted to Arcade Hall amid the cheers of the crowd, the booming of cannon, ringing of bells, waving of flags and handkerchiefs. At the Arcade they were furnished with a supper, prepared by the ladies for the occasion, of all that heart could wish. Such a repast has seldom been spread upon any table, as graced this. After all had partaken, they adjourned to Washington Hall, where speeches, songs, greetings and bouquets reigned triumphant. The reception closed by a dance, which was kept up till a late hour.

Taken all in all, it was a reception that the boys must all have felt proud of. Owing to our limited space this week, we are unable to give as full description of the proceedings as we could wish, but next week we shall endeavor to give a full description of Company E's doings, from the day they left us, down to their return Thursday evening...

Oshkosh Courier Jul 02 1864

The Old Flag of the Third

The old flag of the Third Regiment, which has been borne with such distinguished gallantry on Eastern and Western battlefields and is torn with shell and riddled with many a bullet, has been deposited in the Quartermaster General's office for safe keeping with other sacred memorials of Wisconsin valor in this terrible struggle for free institutions. In returning the flag to the State, Colonel Hawley accompanied it with the following note to the Governor:

Madison, September 27, 1864

To His Excellency James T. Lewis:

Sir: I have the honor to send you for safe keeping by the State authorities the Colors of the Old Third Wisconsin Infantry Volunteers. I will also send you, in a few days, the names of those brave men belonging to the Color Guard who have fallen in their defense, and ask that their names be suitably engraved on the color staff. These colors have been born through the following battles and skirmishes:

Bolivar Heights, Buckton Bridge, Winchester, Cedar Mountain, Rappahannock Station, Antietam, Chancellorsville, Beverly Ford, Gettysburg, Resaca, Dallas, Pine Mountain, Kennesaw.

I have the honor to be

Your ob't servant, William Hawley

Col. 3d Wis. Vet. Inf'y Vols.

State Journal

Monday, Oct. 3, 1864

Madison, Wis

Correspondence of the Daily Gazette

Camp 2d Regiment, Wis. Vol.

Opposite Fredericksburg, Va. Aug. 9, 1862

On the morning of the 5th Inst. this Brigade consisting of the 6th, 2d and 7th Wis. Regiments and 19th Indiana Regiment with 1st New Hampshire Battery and 3d Indiana Cavalry started on an expedition with the intention of destroying the railroad near Hanover Junction. We started at 2 o'clock in the morning. The 6th Wis. Regiment and two companies of Indiana Cavalry and two pieces of 1st New Hampshire Battery took the road via Spotsylvania Court House, Col. Cutler commanding while the rest of the expedition took the road via Hamburg Post Office, General Gibbon commanding.

The weather was excessively hot. We reached Hamburg Post Office at 12 o'clock and were expecting to rest there till evening having marched seventeen miles. But before we had quite reached this place the booming of cannon was heard in the advance and in a moment after the Cavalry came in pell-mell closely pursued by cavalry of the enemy. Our Regiment had the advance. Guns were at once loaded, the artillery unlimbered and placed in position and their fire opened. They were 12 pounder Napoleon guns and made sonorous music. B and E companies were deployed as skirmishers to the right and left of the road and my company advanced in line down the road to support them. Thus we advanced slowly for half a mile when my company was also deployed as skirmishers forming the right of the line and the advance continued till finally we were halted in a corn field and stayed there for an hour or so. Here the heat was terrible as not a breath or air could be felt while the corn furnished no protection from the vertical rays of the sun.

continued

After staying in this corn till 3 or 4 o'clock we returned to the Post Office the enemy having fled. During the skirmish six of my men fell out from exhaustion and were sent to the rear. They were Corporal Andrew Douglas, Privates Herman J. Langhoff, Hugh Murray, George Bachelor, Charles W. Atherton and John J. Little. They were among the most hardy men of the regiment and of undoubted courage. We stayed at Hamburg Post Office that night and in the morning advanced slowly with skirmishers deployed some seven miles towards the railroad when the booming of cannon in our rear told us the enemy were engaging General Hatch, who with two regiments had come out to Hamburg to support us. We started back to his aid and pursued the enemy back to Massapanicha Creek, that day marching twenty one miles with the thermometer at near 100, shelling them with artillery and annoying them with cavalry as they retreated and killing some seven or ten of them. The enemy's forces were exclusively cavalry and artillery.

Gen. Hatch had, on the morning of the 6th, sent all the men who had given out in our command and which Gen. Gibbon had left at Hamburg back to Fredericksburg. But when they reached Massapanicha Creek the trains bringing us provisions and the wagons taking back the sick were attacked and all the sick of the three regiments under Gen. Givan were taken prisoners besides quite a number of wagons were captured. There must have been near 100 sick taken from the three regiments and among them six from my company whose names are above given.

On the morning of the 7th we started again on the march and crossed over on the Spotsylvania Court House Road marching some seven miles. Here we rested. Killed a fine lot of rebel fattened cattle and broiled the meat on sticks. In the evening Col. Cutler having come up we started back marching some seven miles and yesterday returned to camp. Col. Cutler's march had been unmolested. He reached the railroad (doing magnificent marching) tore it up and burned water tanks, &c., and then came deliberately back.

The enemy seemed to have learned of Col. Cutler's command and only fell upon us. He doubtless expected to bag us all. He had a brigade of cavalry and a battery of six pounders, while we had the first day three regiments of infantry, artillery, 12 pounders and some 500 cavalry.

The next day after Gen. Hatch came up we had two more regiments of infantry, so it was rather a bad undertaking to bag us, though both horses and men were so worn out that pursuit on our part was very difficult. We have only to regret the capture of our poor sick boys but console ourselves with the knowledge that the enemy have always in our front treated their prisoners with kindness and

humanity. A day or two of rest will recruit them up all right and in a week or two at furthest we hope they will be exchanged and with us again.

There is no occasion for their friends to have any apprehensions on their account. They are unhurt and will be back with us all right.

Yours truly,
Geo. B. Ely, Captain
Co. D 2d Wis. Vol.

**Thank you, Jim Johnson, as we embark upon the
2021-2022 campaign season of insightful and
delightful memories *From the Field* !**

YOUTUBE LECTURES

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLvOc_ZB2rAyxtp87iXTvPVkT1uAvzJWRj

The 29th Wisconsin at Vicksburg

Gettysburg Stories: Monuments and Iconic Locations

The Great Camel Experiment

Illinois Regiments at Gettysburg: July 1863

Medical Innovations of the Civil War

The Other Civil War in Mexico

The Petersburg Regiment in the Civil War: A History of the 12th Virginia Infantry From John Brown's Hanging to Appomattox, 1859-1865

Recovering the Voices of the Union's Midwest Irish

The Vicksburg Campaign: Grant's Masterpiece

The War That Made Beer Famous

Lincoln and the Presidential Campaign of 1860

Sir Butternut Comes to Madison

Among the Badgers: Rediscovering Sites Associated with Abraham and Mary Lincoln in Wisconsin

Such Anxious Hours: Wisconsin Women's Voices from the Civil War

FACEBOOK LECTURES

<https://www.facebook.com/CWMKenosha/>

Arming Ohio

Seceding the Secession

The Wounding of Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

Lincolnomics: Why Lincoln Still Rocks the Global Conversation on Progress

Scotland and the Civil War

Company K, 1st Michigan Sharpshooters

MILWAUKEE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE 2021-2022 SPEAKER SCHEDULE

September 9, 2021	Eric J. Wittenberg <i>"Seceding from Secession; The Creation of West Virginia"</i>
October 7, 2021	David Dixon <i>The American Civil War: A Radical, International Revolution</i>
November 11, 2021	Tom Clemens Nevins Freeman Award Winner <i>Joseph K. Mansfield</i>
December 9, 2021	Dennis Doyle (At the Country Club) <i>Illinois Regiments at Gettysburg</i>
January 13, 2022	TBA <i>To Be Determined</i>
February 10, 2022	TBA <i>To Be Determined</i>
March 10, 2022	Mark Laubacher <i>USS Red Rover: Hospital of Firsts</i>
April 7, 2022	Jeffrey Hunt <i>The Battles of Rappahannock Station and Kelly's Ford</i>
May 12, 2022	Dr. Thomas Carson <i>Lincoln as Moral Exemplar</i>
June 9, 2022	Lauren Szady <i>Topic to be Determined</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. 2021 – 2022 Board of Directors

Name	Office/Position	Term Expires
Donna Agnelly	Editor, General Orders	2022
Thomas Arliskas	Past President	2022
Terry Arliskas	Secretary	
Michael K. Benton	Past President	2023
Roman Blenski	Quartermaster	2022
Crain Bliwas	Member	2022
Paul A. Eilbes	Treasurer	2022
Van Harl	Past President	2023
Tom Hesse	First Vice President	2023
Grant Johnson	Membership/Webmaster Past President	2024
Bruce Klem	President	2024
Daniel Nettesheim	Second Vice President	2024
Frank Risler	Program Chair	2024
Tom Thompson	Member	2023
Justin Tolomeo	Member	2023
David Wege	Layout, General Orders	2024

www.milwaukeeecwrt.org

~ CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE NEWS EMAIL NOTIFICATIONS ~

Would you like to receive an email reminder before each meeting? How about an email telling you about a special or upcoming Civil War event in our area? If you are interested in receiving an email reminder/notification please send your email address to Grant Johnson at: grant.johnson@responsory.com

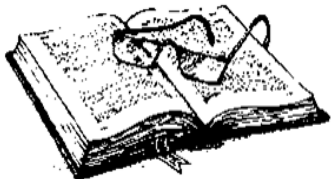
Grant will be creating a database with email reminders set to go out a week before the scheduled event. This is a purely optional choice on each member's part. If you have any questions please talk to Grant at a Round Table meeting or email him at the listed email address.

Milwaukee Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for October 7, 2021

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

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

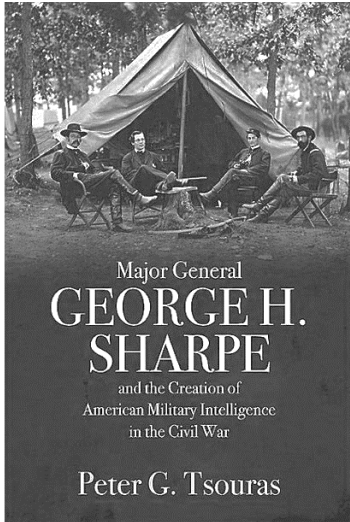
Enclosed is \$_____ (meal is \$30.00 per person) for _____ people for the
October 7, 2021 meeting of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee.
(Please make checks payable to the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.)



BETWEEN THE COVERS

Major General George H. Sharpe and the Creation of American Military Intelligence in the Civil War

Peter G. Tsouras



The author of this book, Peter G. Tsouras, is a historian and retired analyst of military intelligence for the Defense Intelligence agency. He is also a retired Lieutenant Colonel in the Army Reserve. He has written 30 books on military history. This book is 510 pages long including 16 appendices. It is a tremendous source on the intelligence arm of the Army of the Potomac.

The American Army had no intelligence apparatus at the start of the Civil War. Unlike today's US Army which has a staff position at every headquarters unit, no such position existed at the time of the Civil War. Usually the commander was the individual who handled those duties and made decisions as a result of information passed on to him from his subordinates and his own knowledge of the enemy. General McClellan utilized the services of Pinkerton but the strength numbers generated by his group were so unrealistic that they did not serve any purpose but to help paralyze McClellan from attacking. Or, perhaps it helped give him an excuse for not acting with more vigor against the Confederates.

Colonel Sharpe started out as commander of the 120th NY. He came to the attention of General Hooker when Sharpe successfully repositioned a mostly French speaking regiment on the battlefield. The commander did not speak French but Sharpe did. When Hooker took command he needed a translation of a book written in French on secret service. He remembered Sharpe and had him sent to his headquarters. Hooker was so impressed with Sharpe, he had members of his staff interview him and after that had him assigned as Assistant Provost Marshall. Colonel Sharpe's real mission was to establish an intelligence arm. General Hooker realized that timely, accurate intelligence on the enemy was key to battlefield success. When Sharpe was added to the staff the BMI (Bureau of Military Intelligence) was born.

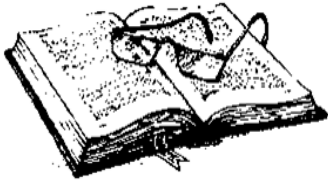
Sharpe was a remarkably skilled intelligence officer who provided Army of the Potomac commanders superior insight into the Confederates facing them, and when his reports were allowed their due influence on campaigns, Union performance improved notably. In a sense, Sharpe was an unsung hero, too long eclipsed by noisier, dashing – or controversial – general officers. (At Chancellorsville, for example, Sharpe got it amazingly right, but Hooker went his own way and got it wrong). Author Peter G. Tsouras, a veteran historian, gives this superb officer the treatment he deserves. Clearly the result of decades of research, this biography is not only revelatory but highly readable. It's common to describe books as "indispensable," but this one truly is essential for the libraries – and education – of all those with an interest in our (still all-too-relevant) Civil War, be they accomplished historians, hobbyists or simply interested readers.

Colonel Sharpe developed accurate Intelligence Preparation of the Battlefield (PB) reports that identified every brigade and its location in Lee's army, provided an accurate order-of-battle down to the regiment level and a complete analysis of the fords, roads, and railroads in the area of operations. Sharpe assembled a staff of 30-50 scouts who operated behind enemy lines as well as support personnel to run the military intelligence operation of the Army of the Potomac. He impressed Grant as well and Grant transferred Sharpe to his staff.

Sharpe had a highly successful career after the war serving in a number of civilian positions, becoming a powerful Republican politician in New York State and had close friendships with Presidents Grant and Arthur. He was also a champion for African-American civil rights. I found this to be an amazing story, one that highlights the beginnings of Military Intelligence. I recommend this book to any student of the Civil War and military intelligence.

submitted by Bruce Klem

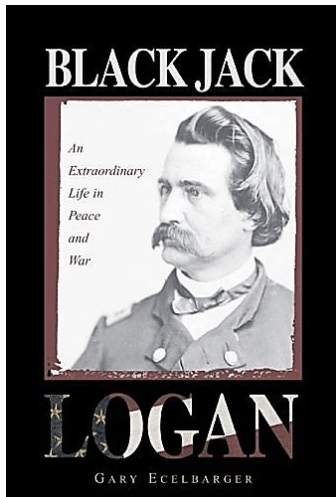
There are three to four seats open yet on the **Civil War Time Travelers** "Vicksburg is the Key" coach tour which includes Fort Donelson, Shiloh, Corinth, and Vicksburg. Departs October 23 and returns October 29. \$850 includes coach, hotel, admissions, and historians. For more information email wegs1862@gmail.com.



BETWEEN THE COVERS

Black Jack Logan

Gary Ecelbarger



My review is on a book I won at one of the Round Table book raffles; *Black Jack Logan* by Gary Ecelbarger, published in 2005 and coming in at 323 pages. In this book the author details the life of John Logan through his early political life, military actions, as well as his return to the political arena after the war. The author shows how Logan was transformed from an anti-abolitionist Democrat to a Lincoln supporting Republican.

Mr. Ecelbarger shows how Logan became a political force in the area of Illinois known as “Little Egypt” as he developed his law practice and rising to a political powerhouse in that region and a strong anti-abolitionist. He entered the political scene in 1859 with controversy, a Northern (Illinois) congressman so committed to enforcing the Fugitive Slave law that abolitionists dubbed him “Dirty Work” Logan.

The Civil War made him a star. But more than that, it was the epiphany that changed his political and social values. He changed his philosophy, changed political parties, and fought for the rights of African Americans and for women’s suffrage. He witnessed his first battle as a United States Congressman, but became so impassioned with the fury of the fight that he picked up a discarded rifle and battled alongside the foot soldiers.

Officially entering the war as a colonel, he served under such legends as Ulysses S. Grant and William Tecumseh Sherman, and his ostentatious nature and solid leadership on the battlefield earned him rapid promotions and dominant roles in the decisive campaigns of the war. He was badly wounded at Ft. Donelson and barely survived. When he returned to command he continued to shine in every action involved in and by 1865 he was a major general leading an army, and was considered the best volunteer soldier that the war produced.

Mr. Ecelbarger’s fine work has done something unique. With Logan physically present at the great events of his time, from Civil War battlefields to Abraham Lincoln’s private councils, to the post war, hard knuckle politics of Reconstruction, the author brings this pugnacious general to life, and in doing so enhances our own understanding of the time period from Southern Secession, to War, to Reconstruction and on into the Gilded Age.

He is seldom remembered today and few historians see fit to shine their light his way, but John Logan was a crucial player of that morally gray and turbulent time, the American nineteenth century. As a War Democrat during America’s Civil War, he was one of the few politically appointed generals to demonstrate combat effectiveness and his role in the 1864 Western campaign was pivotal. But more than that, his personal odyssey from tepid unionist to a practitioner of hard war, and from northern racist to a champion of black freedom, personified the Nation’s own transformation. His legacy was Memorial Day. He was a dominant player in the politics of the Gilded Age, a three-term senator who was as popular as he was partisan. He was the vice-presidential candidate in the losing race of 1884. The author maintains that had he not died unexpectedly at the age of sixty, he may likely have become president in 1888.

John Alexander Logan, known by his sobriquet Black Jack Logan, may be the most noteworthy nineteenth-century American to escape notice in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. I found Mr. Ecelbarger’s book to be an interesting read on how a man so committed to one philosophy could change completely to the opposite direction influenced by the seismic event, the Civil War. John Logan, the man responsible for the founding of Memorial Day, is a good read for any student of the Civil War, and will leave them with an understanding of the politics of the era before and after the war. If you should get to Atlanta and have the time to visit the new History Center, be sure to check out the Cyclorama of the Battle of Atlanta and find John Logan’s figure in the painting, rallying the troops.

submitted by **Bruce Klem**

DO YOU COLLECT CIVIL WAR BOOKS?

I recently bought a large collection of really good titles that I’m looking to move at quite reasonable prices. There are plenty of Wisconsin books plus good biographies, general histories, Union and Confederate unit histories and battle books. If interested e-mail me at aoren@att.net and I’ll send a list.

Andy Oren
40-year plus member



He Rode with the Lightning

William Starke Rosecrans had a problem. Confederate cavalry, most notably that of raider John Hunt Morgan, was literally riding circles around the infantry he had tasked to protect his supply trains. His solution was to beseech Major General Henry Halleck for a unit of mounted dragoons who could confront the rebels on an even footing. Ignored by Halleck, “Old Rosy” went over “Old Brain’s” head to Secretary of War Edwin Stanton. Rosecrans told Stanton,

It is of prime necessity, in every point of view, to master their cavalry. I propose to do this, first, by so arming our cavalry as to give it its maximum strength. Second, by having animals and saddles to mount infantry brigades for marches and enterprises

Out of Rosecrans’ problem and the solution that was created arose one of the more innovative Federal units of the Civil War. John T. Wilder’s **Lightning Brigade** fought rebel cavalry on more than equal terms and, with the firepower of their Spenser repeating rifles (paid for by innovative means), became more than a match for their Confederate counterparts. The story of the **Lightning Brigade** is for another time, however, as this article features the story of just one member of that elite troop.

There is a fascinating private museum located far from Civil War battlefields in Battle Lake, MN. The museum's founder fought with the 92nd IL and Wilder's "Lightning Brigade." Jay Johnson, who now runs the museum, is a direct descendant of James "Cap" Colehour. The Prospect House is a hidden gem among museums.

When the Civil War erupted in 1861 James Colehour was running a store with some cousins in Philadelphia. He returned to Mount Carroll, Illinois in August 1862 and enlisted for duty with Company I of the 92nd Illinois Volunteer Infantry on August 9 of that year. Together with his brother David, James mustered in for a three-year term of enlistment.

The muster roll description listed Colehour as five feet six inches tall and having a fair complexion., blue eyes, brown hair, and as twenty years of age. The brothers were officially entered into service on September 2 at Rockford, Illinois. On entering the ranks James received a bounty of \$25 plus a “premium” of \$2. On October 10, 1862 Colehour was promoted to 1st Corporal. The brothers contracted typhoid fever in March of 1863, with David dying from its effects at Nashville on March 17. A third brother, Charles, came down to Tennessee to retrieve David’s body, not knowing whether he would be required to also transport two brothers’ bodies home should James pass away, too. Oddly, it was Charles who died, having contracted the fever and dying on May 6, 1863. Yet another brother, Isaac, died on December 4, 1863. What misery their mother endured, having lost three sons in the span of nine months, and nearly losing James as well.

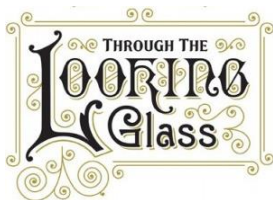
Upon his recovery from the effects of typhoid, James Colehour was transferred to the mounted infantry in the fall of 1863. In this service he received a bullet through the right shoulder at Chickamauga on September 19. James returned to his unit in January 1864 but was shot again at the Battle of Muscle Shoals, Alabama on January 25. This wound was taken in his left shoulder. After 40 days convalescent leave he rejoined his company and accompanied General William T. Sherman’s infamous “March to the Sea.” Colehour was discharged in Chicago on July 8, 1865, having seen the war and suffered its losses as much as any other who wore Union blue or Confederate grey.

After the war Colehour moved to Battle Lake, Minnesota at the advice of a doctor who told him to find quieter surroundings than Chicago offered. There he built and operated a lumber business until 1886. Colehour built several homes for himself and his extended family, who had joined him in Battle Lake. In 1887 James added to his own home with the intent of opening a summer hotel for visiting Chicago friends. This he called the “Prospect House.” During these years he dictated to his son his war-time experiences in a manuscript he called “Outline of Our Daddy’s Wanderings during the Early Sixties, or Three Years with Old Glory Amid Hardships, Joys, and Privations.”

Colehour was elected captain of a local shooting club and given the nickname “Cap,” which stuck with him for the rest of his days. Cap enjoyed hunting, fishing, and other outdoor activities. He took an interest in historical events, joined the Fergus Falls GAR, opened Indian mounds to tell their story, and had the first telephone and electric lights in the village. Near the end of his life Cap took to calling himself “Old Grizzly” and his home “Old Grizzly’s Den.” It was thought that Cap might have had a certain feisty attitude in his golden years! In December 1938 the old veteran took ill with flu. He suffered a stroke and, on Christmas Day 1938, rejoined former comrades in blue gone to the heavenly ranks before him. “Old Grizzly” had lived on this earth for 96 years 10 months and 27 days.

Today the Prospect House tells the story of a unique pioneer and entrepreneur through several floors of memorabilia, including incredible artifacts of Cap’s Civil War years. It is “an open door to history through which those who pass received a greater understanding and appreciation for an earlier and important time in the making of our nation.”

submitted by Dave Wege



Through the Looking Glass features are intended to tell the stories of common folks of the Civil War, whether they are civilians or military personnel. If you have access to the story of an ordinary citizen of this war-torn era and are willing to share it with our Round Table, please consider submitting it to Donna Agnelly, editor of our General Orders. Thank you!

Captain James F. Rowe

A Common Man Uncommonly Involved in Historical Firsts – Part II

In January 2020, you were introduced to Capt. James F. Rowe, and his 1862 sword that recently worked its way back to the family. Susan Anderson (Round Table member Laura Rinaldi's sister) got word that the sword was "on the market" and hastened to remedy that! Capt. Rowe is Susan's husband's great-great uncle. Antique dealer James Mountain had described the sword as having a "monumental history" attached to it.

But they only knew a part of that history! Here is what Susan has learned since the sword came into her possession. Susan and Laura had Capt. Rowe's sword and other memorabilia on display at the September meeting. They hope you looked at this wonderful piece of family history.

Part I of the story of Captain James F. Rowe was told in the September 2021 issue. As Paul Harvey would say – here is the rest of the story.



General Orders No. 147 August 2, 1862, gave regulations for the organization of the Ambulance Corps by command of Major General McClellan. Shortly after, in October 1862, 1st Lt. Rowe was detached to the Ambulance Corps as a Division Commander. In July 1863, he was the 2nd Division, 11th Corps Ambulance Commander at the Battle of Gettysburg. According to the "Official Records of the War of the Rebellion, Series I, Vol. XXVII, Part 1" – Dr. Jonathan Letterman's Report on the Union Army Medical Corps at Gettysburg details an interesting account of the number of lives saved in the field and those lost by the AC transporting wounded from the field. August 9, 1863, in the field, 1st Lt. Rowe was promoted to Captain of the Ambulance Corps and then November 1863, is Chief of Ambulance 11th Corps Army of the Potomac. In the General Orders specific instructions were given as to the character of the men chosen for this position. The Army did not want to repeat mistakes of the past. As the Army of the Potomac progressed in its campaigns and became the Army of the Cumberland, Captain Rowe continued as Chief Ambulance Officer with the XX Corps. From June 1864 to May 1865 he was on the staffs of Hooker, Slocum, Williams, and Mower. (5) At war's end in his record is a handwritten letter from Rowe to Bvt. Col. H. W. Perkins AAG 20th Army Corps dated June 12, 1865, asking "to be relieved from duty as Chief of Ambulance 20th Army Corps to enable me to join my regiment at Boston, Mass." His request was granted and he was mustered out with the 33rd Massachusetts in Washington DC, June 13, 1863.

After the guns of war are silenced, personal battles may emerge and wounds not outwardly visible can fester within, not recognized or treated at the time. So many veterans then, as today, turned to alcohol to escape. Such was the rumored case with Captain Rowe. He married a Southern woman and started a family. He went into a business venture with old army buddies, but for reasons not known, perhaps looking for better opportunities, or fleeing his personal demons, left everything in the East and pioneered West. Family stories passed down were feelings of shame, not knowing what had become of him, or if his wife did and hid the facts. Recent research, however, has uncovered what happened, a tragic incident as reported in *The Boston Globe* 1 May, 1891:

A Veteran of the Sixth Killed

James F. Rowe, formerly of Stoneham, and who was lieutenant in Company L, 6th Massachusetts and afterwards captain in the 33d Massachusetts Volunteers, was shot by John Golden at Billings, Mon., March 25, and died two days later. Golden is in jail awaiting trial. Rowe leaves a wife and son at Brunswick, Ga., where he was associated with John Hill and Hiram P. Marston of Stoneham in raising cotton and rice for several years. Rowe was wounded while with his company in the riot at Baltimore, April 19, 1861.

The *Ananconda News*, 25 May 1891, describes in detail the argument, Rowe not backing down in spite of facing the barrel of a gun, and finally being shot in the bowels. He died 2 days later. John Golden, an Englishman, was convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to 10 years in prison.

Ironically, a life that was saved from the killer mob and became early on a leader in the effort to save lives throughout the entire perilous war, sadly in the end was lost in his personal war. The described “old respectable soldier,” honored by his men and chosen by generals for their staffs is yet another life claimed by the aftermath of war but not reflected in regimental histories. He was buried in a pauper’s grave in Billings, Montana, marked with only his name as a “Civil War Soldier.” Currently, however, family plans are underway to give him a proper military gravestone and honor the memory of his service to his Country and fellow man. Perhaps now family stories will be shared with some understanding, forgiveness and even pride, and Captain Rowe can finally rest in peace. In this case indeed a family picture was “worth a thousand words” and much more, serving as an invitation to learn about its place in history. This photo should now be moved to the front hall!

**submitted by: Susan Mann Anderson (extended family member)
and sister of Round Table member Laura Rinaldi**

References:

- (1) Hall, Charles Winslow (1900). *Regiments and Armories of Massachusetts. An Historical Narration of the Massachusetts Volunteer Militia, With Portraits and Biographies of Officers, Past and Present etc. Vol 1. Boston: W.H. Potter & Co* OCLC559765857.
- (2) 6th Mass Vol Regiment Organized, massmoments.org project of masshumanities Primary source: Mayor’s statement
- (3) Ibid 6th Mass Vol Reg
- (4) Old 6th Regiment History 1866 pg 47 lists Lt. James F. Rowe, Co. L as among the 3 officers wounded that day. Pg. 135 3rd Lt. James F. Rowe, Stoneham; wounded in the head with a brick, April 19, 1861 Baltimore; Capt. Co. F, 33rd Mass 3 years; on staff of Hooker, Howard and Mower
- (5) Compiled Military Service Record Summary: NARA



A Headstone for Captain John M. Hoyt at Last

by Richard Heisler

This article is adapted from a piece found in *Emerging Civil War*.

Researching history always has a way of taking you down paths you were not anticipating. Acquiring headstones for unmarked Civil War graves was not something I had set out to do when I began Seattle’s Civil War Legacy. There are plenty of people who do that and do it well. I wasn’t particularly interested in it, to be honest. However, as the saying goes, expect the unexpected. Ironically, acquiring a headstone for a Seattle Civil War veteran is precisely what I soon found myself engaged in.

One afternoon in historic Mount Pleasant Cemetery on Queen Anne Hill in Seattle, I had a list of a couple dozen veterans’ resting places I wanted to visit and photograph. Among them was an officer of the Iron Brigade, a 7th Wisconsin veteran by the name of John Marshall Hoyt. His wartime image is a familiar one to many students of the Civil War and well known among Iron Brigade enthusiasts. That afternoon was occupied traversing the cemetery, finding and photographing the dozens of others on my list, but somehow I just couldn’t locate Captain Hoyt. He was listed on the findagrave.com website and other databases. He was an officer of the Iron Brigade, for crying out loud. Surely I was just missing it? I was puzzled. After a consultation with the cemetery staff and a look through their database, we confirmed his exact location in the cemetery. He was indeed there, buried beside his wife Mary. Map in hand, I walked back out to the location and it was apparent why I hadn’t been able to spot his grave marker...there wasn’t one.

“Impossible,” I thought. How could this twice wounded veteran Captain of the Iron Brigade, whose portrait is among the best known among the men of that brigade, be buried anonymously in a far corner of an old Seattle cemetery? I couldn’t help but imagine that Captain Hoyt must be the only officer of the Iron Brigade yet in an unmarked grave, save someone who fell on a battlefield. It all seemed quite unthinkable to me.

Earlier this year, the headstone for Captain John Marshall Hoyt, Company K, 7th Wisconsin Infantry, was installed. His grave site, beside his beloved wife Mary, sits on a hillside in a quiet corner of the historic cemetery. From there you can look over the vista to the east from Queen Anne Hill, over Lake Washington and beyond to the snow-capped Cascade Mountain range. In this serene, scenic location in the middle of the ever bustling, modern city of Seattle, Captain John Marshall Hoyt is now permanently recognized for his valorous Civil War service by a grateful city and nation.

**The Captain Hoyt article may be found in its entirety at
emergingcivilwar.com/2021/09/04/a-headstone-for-captain-john-m-hoyt-at-last/**

A NEW STATE ANSWERS THE CALL TO WAR

Part II

The raising of companies for what would become the 6th Wisconsin required more effort, given remote locations. At Prescott on the Mississippi River a new organization called itself the "Prescott Guards" and south along the river a former soldier who left a troubled marriage in Switzerland raised the "Buffalo County Rifles" of which 70 of the company were German. In one early drill, in frustration, he shouted at his new company: "Vell, now you looks shust like one damn herd of goose." Farther down the great river, another company became the "Prairie du Chien Volunteers" and quickly earned a reputation for chicken thievery. One company of Germans and another company of Irish were raised in Milwaukee. At Fond du Lac, a young lawyer left a courtroom, then closed his office to enlist.

It was the "Anderson Guards," named for Robert Anderson, the Union commander of Fort Sumter that brought in one of the regiment's most remembered volunteers. Recruiters for the Guards left Hillsboro in Bad Ax County "full officered and partly recruited, halted for a night at Ontario, adding 29 more to the muster roll and electing two new corporals. Another 25 were added at nearby Viroqua and two more sergeants were selected. All the while a "band of four pieces" tooted "Yankee Doodle" and "Hail Columbia" over and again, making "with the small flag in the lead wagon" one of the "most inspiring, enthusiastic, liberty loving processions ever witnessed in the county."

One of the men who heard the band music would become a regimental legend. The lad walked out on the field as the Guards neared the Mississippi River and asked to sign the roll. One of the officers questioned his age. "Twenty years," the boy answered. "Pete Markle, Coon Slough." The officer gave him a long look, and wrote on the roll, "Pete Markle, Coon, age 17."

He became famous as "Markle, the Straggler," and one of his company commanders left a description: "Pete was careless of his clothes and of his personal appearance. His pants were baggy and slouchy; his coat too large and ill fitting; usually a sleeve partly torn out and seams rent, a button missing in one place and a buttonhole torn out in another. In his tailoring he would sew the seams overlapped, with white thread, and his buttons carefully sewed on upside down. His shoes were seldom blackened, even for a review."

What Markle did possess was an independent spirit, unerring sense of direction, and an uncanny ability to sniff out food along a march. His comrades always felt safe when he was on a sentry post. But on the march, Markle would "quietly and mysteriously, unbidden and unknown, even in disobedience of orders," slip from ranks to "straggle" among nearby farms. He would always return with something "on his bayonet," a friend said, and was quick to share with his messmates. One remembered that Markle "had the instinct of a hunter, keen as a hound, and could trail the regiment as a dog trails his master." But the boy would just as mysteriously and unbidden appear to take his place in ranks when the shooting started."

In 1864, Markle reenlisted for three more years. His renown as a straggler had spread now through his brigade, his wanderings overlooked by officers who knew he would take his place in the ranks when lead started flying. But for all his courage and resourcefulness, Markle ironically was sensitive to the harsh army trousers. He often chafed badly, and sores developed on his legs.

In the horror of the Wilderness in May 1864, Pete Markle fought well, but did not answer the evening roll. Initially unconcerned, his company commander, Earl Rogers, became gripped with foreboding when Markle failed to appear the next day. He began a nightmarish search for the missing youth among the tents and buildings used as field hospitals. Amid the screams, groans and reek of putrefaction, Rogers moved along row after row of stretchers and pallets, calling out "Pete Markle of Coon Slough?" No answer. Finally, after several stops, there was a weak response, barely a whisper, "Aye, aye, sir."

He found the boy on a cot. Chafing had opened a sore on Markle's leg, infection developed, and the surgeons had amputated his leg at the hip. Roger shook the boy's hand "and saw death stamped on his pallid features." Markle died soon thereafter.

Rogers said later that he wished he could have stood by Markle's grave with uncovered head, and said, "Long live the memory of Pete Markle, of Coon Slough, a boy hero, an unpolished, straggling diamond, whom we hope is in that happy land where troubles cease."

In the final tally, Wisconsin would provide more than 91-thousand soldiers to the Union cause. About 11,000 would die while in uniform, most from illnesses. Slightly under 4,000 died from combat wounds. Camp Randall and Madison provided the staging point for most of them as they entered service, and it is fitting that the name Camp Randall is still prominent today – a name that rings down through the decades and reminds how the young state answered the call to preserve the Union.

submitted by Lance Herdegen

**A SPECIAL TWO-PART FROM THE FIELD EXTRA
WASHINGTON STAR
MARCH 16, 1913**

The story of the battle that you are about to read was found in a Washington Star by my wife Susan Johnson about 25 years ago. She and I had by that time visited the site to the west of the Bull Run battlefield and the article expressed our sadness that more did not tell the story on the site of that late afternoon battle. Susan read thru years of Star articles not knowing what she would find if anything. Later as we left the Wisconsin Historical Society building she said you have to look at something I found. As we drove back to Milwaukee from Madison we stopped for dinner about halfway at a truck stop as we did endless times and like a crazy people sat down with a mound of print outs- this was before the ease of the internet and things on line. Then we, over dinner, discussed the article below and of course had to retype it all - no good scanning of text at that time; then we would check each other's typing to find the normal errors.

Now that she is gone - laying with Civil War veterans that she knew so well and now knowing the real story - I wanted to credit her and all her efforts over the years.

And with us our son Jeremy around 11 at the time, and now a writer for newspaper and radio news director and Ripon Graduate and a Milwaukee Civil War member and knows a lot of history.

Jim Johnson

**Plan Monument of Site of Most Deadly and Dramatic Battle of the Civil War
Part I**

August 29, 1862, within forty miles of Washington occurred one of the most dramatic and deadly battles of the Civil War yet one almost unrecorded and unmarked by public park or monumental stone. Cross the Potomac and follow the Warrenton Pike out past Annandale and Fairfax, past Centerville and the Stone House, and just beyond the picturesque little hamlet of Groveton on a ridge to the right of the road is the prosaic ground of a battle as valorous, as deadly as any that history records. On that August day of the gloomy summer Gen. John Pope's Army of Virginia was moving eastward from Warrenton to Centerville in a vain endeavor to bag Stonewall Jackson. The blue-clad columns were tolling around the Warrenton Pike, the railway and all possible roads leading toward Centerville where Jackson was supposed to be and was not. That wily leader had disappeared in the woods about Bull Run and no one in the entire Union army knew where he and his 25,000 lean followers were concealed.

On the extreme left and rear of the Union army moving down the Warrenton Pike was King's Division of McDowell's Corps, four brigades, fifteen regiments, some 7,000 men in all. This division left Buckland Mills early but was delayed by Sigel's interminable wagon trains and again in the afternoon, near Gainesville, by Pope's orders. Now late in the evening, the head of the column, Hatch's brigade, was coming abreast of Groveton while in the rear, Patrick's brigade, was leaving Gainesville. Behind Hatch was Gibbon's brigade and behind Gibbon was Doubleday with three small regiments, mere battalions. The evening was calm and now beautiful, the men had had a good rest and coffee in the middle of the afternoon and now cheery with pipe and soldier talk, marched with easy swinging stride to cover the few miles that separated them from camp and supper. As the dying sun sunk behind the western mountains it shone on the long sinuous column of men and was reflected back by many a spear tipped flag and sloping rifle along the old Warrenton Road. The bands played and why not? No enemy was near; they had Pope's word for that.

A mile west of Groveton the road dips into a swale, some tributary of Young's Branch. All along the southern side of the pike are dense woods but on the northern side, the country is clear, rising to low rolling ridges, save one wood which borders the road in the swale; a wood some 500 yards long and extending as far up the slope to the north. This wood has received from Gen. Charles King the name of the Douglas Wood. Beyond it is a long ridge and well back of that, further north, other woods that extend all the way eastward to Sudley Ford. In the southern border of this long wood is an old railway grade, in places an embankment, in places a trench. A quarter mile up from the pike near the northwest corner of the wood is a house, the Douglas or Brawner house, the only landmark in the whole area. It is almost sundown. Hatch's advance has passed Groveton and is rising the ridge where the Confederate monument now stands. Behind it marches a brigade not heard of then but destined with that solemn hour to win immortal fame, the Iron Brigade of the West, commanded by Gen. John Gibbon. It was the one distinctive western brigade in the eastern armies made up of the 2d, 6th and 7th Wisconsin and the 19th Indiana, four regiments that were never separated from October 1861 until they were mustered out of service. The 2d had been through First Bull Run and swaggered a bit as veterans, in consequence. They rather patronized the others, put on veterans airs, swore by their own officers, O'Connor, Fairchild and Tom Allen but had little use for anyone else. The 6th, 7th and 19th had not had the 2d's opportunities but were sure that when the time came they could fight as well and stay as long. It was this that accounts in a large measure for the stirring feat of arms that followed. The 2d having talked so much could not be the first to fall back. The others would not budge while the 2d stayed.

The brigade was passing behind the Gibbon Wood which partly hid it from sight to the north, the 6th Wisconsin was just coming into view east of the wood and the 19th Indiana was yet west of it. Doubleday's little brigade was close behind but Patrick was well back towards Gainesville. At this hour of almost sleepy calm, when everyone was thinking of camp and rest beyond Bull Run, bang! bang! burst forth – an iron-shotted salute from a deep-mouthed battery on the wooded ridges to the north. And the enemy had the range so accurately that shells were exploding directly over the column, while others passed close with terrifying screech to burst in the woods beyond the pike. For an instant, the ranks paused as if uncertain what to do. Then sharp stern commands rang out, the rear was hurried forward to the shelter of the wood and all dropped behind a low bank that bordered the fence. What was this that so suddenly plunged the lovely pastoral landscape into rude war? Within that screen of wood that closed the northern horizon less than a mile away was Stonewall Jackson with his 25,000 veterans watching this jaunty division as a tiger watches its prey.

An aid galloped swiftly to the rear and with crack of whip and clatter of hoofs, six guns came bounding up the stony pike and wheeled into battery front. It is Gibbon's old battery B of the 4th Regulars and on that ridge above, eighteen barking guns provided an animated target. The young soldiers sprawling behind the bank and fence watch with eager eyes the sudden unfolding of this startling drama. "It's Stuart scouting" said Gibbon "just one of his horse batteries" and calling Col. O'Connor with the 2d to follow, marched straight into the wood with the Bull Run veterans at his heels while the 7th and the 19th looked enviously on and complained of their luck, little dreaming that instant opportunity for glory and death awaited them all. It was Gibbon's plan to steal within musket range of these impudent Confederate guns, overwhelm them with a volley, then, while men and horses were in confusion, to pounce on them and score the first capture for this fiery brigade. But as he emerged from the northern border of the wood, another surprise awaited him, half way across the grassy field a long line of gray skirmishers rose to their feet and their volley, not his, crashed the opening salute of the bloodiest battle yet fought in that war. "Companies A and B are skirmishers" was the command as the 2d swung to the right to meet this apparition and out danced the colonel at their heels, speeding buoyantly to his death. Fairchild has told how O'Connor waved some signal to him then stumbled and pitched headlong forward in the grass. Now rank after rank of gray-clad soldiers came pouring from out their leafy lair and as the sun dipped behind the western mountains, it glinted on many a red battalion field and blue St. Andrews cross as battalion after battalion and brigade after brigade of the divisions of Ewell and Taliaferro sprang forward to the attack. Gibbon in amazement saw the peril and darted back to bring up the remaining regiments. The Black Hats, left to their fate, recalled how they had told the 6th and the 7th what it meant to stand fire and if fifty brigades instead of five had burst upon them, there were men in those stubborn ranks who would never yield an inch. Down went the skirmishers while the lightning leaped from behind them, the 2d's challenge to Jackson's whole corps.

The whole corps was not confronting them but five of the fourteen brigades that made that wonderful campaign. There were Taliaferro's, the Stonewall and the Louisiana brigades of Jackson's old division, the brigades of Lawton and Trimble of Ewell's division; twenty-two regiments with the batteries of Wooding, Poague and Carpenter, besides two guns of the boy artilleryman, Pelham. Taliaferro's men came forward first a few of his or Ewell's regiments now numbered more than 250 men but they advanced in three and sometimes four lines with the colors foremost as though each battalion had formed "double column on the center." Never yet, save possibly at Malvern Hill, had these veterans been long denied and not for a second did they doubt their power to scatter and smash the regiment in their front. But to their amazement the Black Hats did not even fall back to the shelter of the friendly wood, but kept in their tracks as though bidding the men in gray come on and then began a fire more swift and surely fatal than any Jackson's men had yet encountered. And now the other regiments came hurrying forward in support; Indiana 19th on the left near the Douglas House, Wisconsin 7th moving coolly into alignment to the right, the 6th right-obliquing to their place on the flank, the incomparable adjutant Frank Haskell pointing the line. Now all were in full view of the coming gray host, and with a crash that awoke the twilight woods, the Iron Brigade opened savagely upon its foe, Ewell and Taliaferro who had thought to sweep the field were compelled to halt and open fire and that halt lost them a victory. Now ensued a combat worthy of the 10th Legion or the Grenadiers of the Old Guard. The opposing lines looked into one another's eyes at deadly range, less than a hundred yards. There was cover of woods in the rear of both but no one sought it. Out in the dying daylight they stood the volleys reddening the darkness that gradually settled over the scene. The stars came out and still they stood firing in one another's faces. They could not advance. They would not retreat.

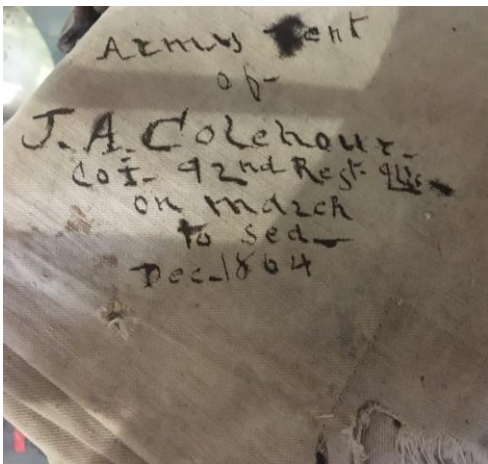
To be continued in the November General Orders

Photographs from the Prospect House and Civil War Museum



Above: Cap's uniform jacket displaying the two bullet holes from the wounds he received in action. Arrows were added by General Orders.

Left: The brothers Colehour - James, Charles, and David



Notation written on the shelter half carried by Cap during the "March to the Sea."



The Colehour's had a house fire. Mrs. C told her husband to run into the house to save valuables. He came out carrying the brogans he wore at the end of the war and the Spenser repeater he carried as a member in Wilder's Lightning Brigade.

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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 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.

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

