

GENERAL ORDERS



The Newsletter of the

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



February 10, 2022

Steven Acker

THE 36TH WISCONSIN INFANTRY: ALL IN A YEAR

The 36th Wisconsin Infantry was a volunteer infantry regiment that served in the Union Army. Their entire service was spent in II Corps, with the Army of the Potomac in the eastern theater of the war.

At our February meeting we welcome Steven Acker to our Round Table as our featured speaker.

Jerome Watrous, of the old 6th Wisconsin Infantry, said this about those units that formed in the later part of the war: *Do not forget the late comers.* The 36th Wisconsin Infantry is one of those later comer units. The history of the regiment begins at Camp Randall in March of 1864 where its first colonel tried to make “regulars” of them. After a train ride to Virginia, they joined the Cloverleaves of the Union 2nd Corps in its fighting at Bethesda Church, Cold Harbor, and throughout the Petersburg campaigns. Steve’s program will cover those battles as well as take a close look at the fabric of the regiment; from its leadership to the enlisted men, he will look at a unit that faced both internal and external conflict, fought better than many of the old regiments it was brigaded with, and in doing so earned a respectable reputation.



Steven Acker holds a B.S. (History and English) from Northern Michigan University and a M.Ed. from Viterbo University. His academic path has taken him through thirty-four years of teaching high school history and English. Steve’s personal passion path has taken him to Civil War battlefields, archives, and reenactments. From battlefield to camp, from campfire to trench, the gritty life of the Civil War soldier has always fascinated Steve. That field of study has translated into Round Table talks and into the writing of historical fiction. He

has one novel published, one at the publisher, and one almost finished – with a 36th Wisconsin focus. It is in this writing that his research on the life of the soldier brings characters to life, permeating every page with complete authenticity.

Please join us as we welcome Steve to our Round Table as our featured February speaker.

General Orders No. 2-22

February 2022

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February 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, February 7, 2022

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

THE CIVIL WAR
museum
UPPER MIDDLE WEST EXPERIENCE

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!

Support the Round Table with Amazon Smile

The Milwaukee Civil War Round Table is now a listed charity on Amazon Smile. One can now order online at Amazon and support the Round Table at the same time.

Search online for <https://www.smile.amazon.com>. If you already have an Amazon account, you may use your own login and password. When you are prompted to say what charity you are supporting, enter: Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.

Amazon Smile will contribute a portion of qualified orders to the Round Table. No additional cost is added to your order.

Join with us in observing

October 14-15, 2022
Kenosha Civil War Museum
[details to follow]



of superb historical programming at the
Milwaukee Civil War Round Table
Anniversary Celebration

Wisconsin Club Masking Rule



Following the latest rules of the City of Milwaukee, please wear a mask into the building and in all public areas. Mask up when you are not eating or drinking. A visit to the rest room will require you to put a mask on.

The Muster Roll: NEW MEMBERS

MCWRT Annual Fund

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

Major Contributor (\$500 and above)

Gerald Frangesch

Patron (\$200 - \$499)

Doug Haag, Dawn & Van Harl, Gene & Jane Jamrozy, Steve Leopold, Dan Nettesheim

Associate (\$100 - \$199)

Donna Agnelly, Michael Benton, Dale Bepalec, Dale Brasser, Mike Deeken, Gary & Judy Ertel, Bill & Claudette Finke, 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, George Geanon, Julian Gonzalez, Brian Gunn, Leon & Margaret Harris, Christopher Johnson, Jerome Kowalski, John Kuhnmuensch, Jay Lauck, Rod Malinowski, Paul & Susan Miller, Herb Oechler, David Perez, Tom Pokrandt, John Rodahl, Cal Schoonover, Sam Solberg, Dan Tanty, Bernard Van Dinter, Gil Vraney, Paul Zehren

Speaker Enhancement Fund

George Affeldt, Donna Agnelly, Tom & Terry Arliskas, Jim Blake, Roman Blenski, Dale Brasser, Angela Bodven, Robert Christie, 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, Tom Hesse, 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



R. Gerald McMurtry spoke to the membership in February 1958 on "Lincoln's Address at Gettysburg."

February 1963 had David C. Mearns speaking to the members on "Gettysburg Address: Mysteries of the Manuscript."

"Lincoln and His Children" was the topic of Warren A. Reeder's presentation in February 1973.

C. Robert Douglas talked about "General George H. Thomas: Time and History Will Do Me Justice" at the February 1983 meeting.

At the February 1993 meeting Brian Pohanka was our speaker talking about "Custer and the Little Big Horn."

"Grosvenor of Ohio: Saving Chickamauga from Horseshoe Ridge and Back" was the topic presented by Mary Abroe, Ph.D. at the February 2013 meeting.

At last year's February meeting the Round Table welcomed Doug Dammann who spoke on 'Benjamin Franklin White: Wisconsin's First Surgeon.'

52nd Annual Patriotic Luncheon

Hosted by C. K. Pier Badger Camp #1 and Auxiliary #4
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

February 5, 2022

12:30 p.m.

Guest Speaker: Max Daniels

Appearing as President Abraham Lincoln
Lincoln's Constitutional Conundrums

- Bid on premium silent auction items
- Choose from a multitude of prizes in our \$1 raffle
- Make new friends among more than 30 patriotic, hereditary, fraternal, historical and service organizations in attendance
- Luncheon buffet price \$25 per person
- Location: Alioto's Restaurant – 3041 N. Mayfair Rd. Wauwatosa, WI

Luncheon Buffet includes:

Tenderloin Tips with Noodles or Roast Turkey with Sage Dressing served with assorted relish tray, pasta salad, mixed vegetables, buttered new potatoes, Jell-O, tossed green salad, Italian bread, coffee, tea or milk, sheet cake for dessert.

For more information and to register call: 414-614-3690

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.

Friday, February 11

The Fatal Rush: The 29th USCI at The Crater, Petersburg

Noon; Free and Open to the Public

Dr. Laurie Schiller

Early in 1863, after the Emancipation Proclamation, and facing a decline in white enlistments and opposition to the newly instituted draft, the Federal government began recruiting African-Americans into the Union army. One way to encourage state governments to participate was to credit newly enlisted black soldiers to the state regardless of where they were recruited. One such regiment was the 29th USCI (U.S. Colored Infantry), which was the only one of 149 black infantry, artillery, and cavalry USCT regiments credited to the state of Illinois. One company, F, was actually credited to Wisconsin.

The 29th was sent to Washington to join the Army of the Potomac, which it did in June 1864. Assigned to the all-black 4th Division of Major General Ambrose Burnside's IX Corps, its first real battle action occurred in the attack into the Petersburg Crater, July 30th. We shall examine the role of the USCI troops, including how they were denied leading the attack they had been trained for, and then how they were thrown into the breach after the IX Corps' white troops failed to gain their objectives. The 29th suffered heavy casualties, as did its sister regiments (some 35% of the total loss of the IX Corps) and although they did all they could and fought well, they were thrown into an impossible situation and were blamed by many for the defeat that day. The 29th survived, though, and was on the field at Appomattox, now as part of the all-black 25th Corps, for Lee's surrender.



Please visit the Museum website:

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

More great Civil War programming may be found on page 10 of this issue. There is a lot happening, even in the cold Wisconsin winter!



Janesville Daily Gazette
Sep 27, 1862
From the Third Wisconsin

The following is taken from a letter written by a member of the 3d Wisconsin Infantry, from Camp near Sandy Hook, Md., dated 21st inst.

Our regiment suffered very severely in the battle on Wednesday, the 17th inst. It behaved with great steadiness and gallantry. We had about 340 men at most – our loss in killed and wounded was 203.

All the officers who were with the regiment at the battle, but four, were wounded, most of them severely; one has since died of his wounds.

The rebels are on the other side of the river.

The battle on Wednesday was a general engagement between their army, most of it, and ours. The rebels were badly whipped in all the three battles in Maryland.

Still Alive –

Col. Lyon says that the eagle belonging to the 8th regiment is still alive and in splendid condition. They keep a block fastened to him, which he picks up in his talons and flies about the country with, but always comes back to camp.

Janesville Daily Gazette
Sep 26, 1862

I have just been shown a piece of a shell weighing a quarter of a pound, which was cut out of the thigh of E. Fletcher, Company E, 6th Wisconsin. For twenty-four hours this murderous piece of iron was buried in the thigh of the wounded soldier. The surgeon reports that his patient is getting along finely. The shell to which this piece belonged exploded in the ranks of the 6th Wisconsin at the battle of the 17th, killed two and wounded nineteen. Capt. D. R. Noyes, of Company A, was struck in the right foot by a piece of the shell, and has since had his foot amputated.

The Western brigade, under Gen. Gibbons, has been badly cut up. There are not enough left out of the four regiments to make one full regiment of effective men. This "Iron Brigade" as Gen. McClellan dubbed them, has earned a glorious name by their indomitable courage and unparalleled power of endurance. Wisconsin and Indiana can well feel proud of their gallant sons, for they have performed noble service in this bloody and desperate war for the preservation of this Union.

Chicago Times Correspondence.

Janesville Daily Gazette
Sep 27, 1862
Meeting to Endorse the President's Proclamation!

The President's proclamation is received with enthusiasm in the loyal states.

The loyal people of Janesville, without distinction of party, who endorse the President's proclamation, declaring freedom to all slaves in the rebellious states, after the first of January, 1863 are requested to meet in mass conventions at the court room on Saturday evening, Sept. 27th at 7 o'clock, to endorse the same, and to assure the President of their approval and support.

Fellow-citizens, the noblest human act of ancient or modern times is before you for approval. It marks a new and important era in the history of our country and it rests with you to make it of force and effect. Come then and let us give it a welcome commensurate with its importance. Good speakers will be in attendance.

Many Citizens

Janesville Daily Gazette
October 1, 1862

Gen. Hooker who was wounded in the foot at the battle of Antietam is improving and will soon leave Washington and return to Northern New York where his family resides.

Another Tableaux Party

The ladies of this city are busily preparing another series of tableaux, charades, etc. to be exhibited at Dapping's Hall on Tuesday evening, Oct. 7. Use profits to be devoted to supplying the wants of our sick and wounded soldiers, through the medium of the Ladies' Hospital Relief Society.

The tableaux party given some four weeks since under the management of nearly the same committee who have charge of the one in contemplation, was decidedly a success; and the money realized furnished very timely aid to the society, which would soon have been obliged to suspend its benevolent work for lack of funds.

Such is the call for similar stores that this society has more applications for aid than it can supply. Again, the treasury is nearly empty. It is this need, together with the urgent desire expressed by many citizens, the former tableaux might be repeated, that has induced the ladies to decide on giving another similar entertainment next Tuesday evening. Refreshments will be provided, and no effort will be wanting to secure good music, and to make the affair most satisfactory.



continued

The Foreign Demand for American Breadstuffs – Practical Hints

Last winter and spring, the prospect was that after the harvest of 1862, the large foreign demand for our breadstuffs would nearly cease. It was certainly to be expected that after two short harvests, and with the extraordinary breadth of winter wheat sown in good condition last autumn, this year would witness an abundant supply in England and on the continent.

But the result is, (happily for us) quite otherwise. Every succeeding week's intelligence brings out this fact more clearly. As one certain indication, we may note that in London, wheat and flour are considerably higher than they were last year, and during the early summer of this year. It is now evident that owing to continuous rains all through the early summer, the wheat straw in Great Britain made a poor sickly growth. On this point we are positive from our own observation. Such straw could not yield large heads of plump grain. The best authorities, and reports from hundreds of careful observers in different parts of the kingdom, admit a yield quite below the average. In France, and in Central Europe, the wheat crop is not above the average rather below if anything. The condition of the wheat crop in Portugal, and probably in Spain, is sufficiently indicated by the fact that the Portuguese government has taken the unusual course of throwing open the ports of that country to the free importation of breadstuffs.

Official announcement of this was made to our government through the Portuguese minister, a few days since. In short, the whole tenor of our recent advices from the other side of the Atlantic, is that there will be a steady demand for all the breadstuffs we can spare from our crop of 1862.

From what we can gather, the breadth of wheat sown in our own country this fall is not large, owing mainly to the scarcity of labor. It becomes us to consume corn largely and save our wheat for market. It will be well, also for farmers to plan for a large surface of spring wheat, wherever it can be grown with advantage.

As much ground as possible should be broken up before the ground freezes. The action of frost upon new-plowed land is very useful, and the soil broken up now will be in condition for working earlier in spring

American Agriculturalist

Thank you, Jim Johnson, as we continue deeper into the 2022 campaign season with insightful and delightful memories *From the Field* !



“These are the times that try men’s souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country; but he that stands it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman.”

Revolutionary War writer Thomas Paine wrote these words in 1776 as aide-de-camp for General Nathanael Greene. He was attempting to put fire into the souls of Patriot soldiers who seemed to be sorely lacking in that commodity. The words he wrote then are true of soldiers in every war. They certainly applied to the valiant men in blue and gray.

YOUTUBE LECTURES

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

The 29th Wisconsin at Vicksburg

Gettysburg Stories: Monuments and Iconic Locations

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

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	Garry Adelman <i>Civil War Myths and Mistakes</i>
February 10, 2022	Steve Acker <i>36th Wisconsin Infantry: All in a Year</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

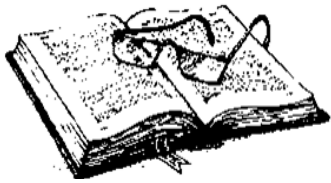
Grant will be creating a database with email reminders set to go out a week before the scheduled event. This is a purely optional choice on each member's part. If you have any questions please talk to Grant at a Round Table meeting or email him at the listed email address.

Milwaukee Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for February 10, 2022

Mail your reservations by Monday, February 7 to:
Paul Eilbes
1809 Washington Avenue
Cedarburg, WI 53012-9730

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

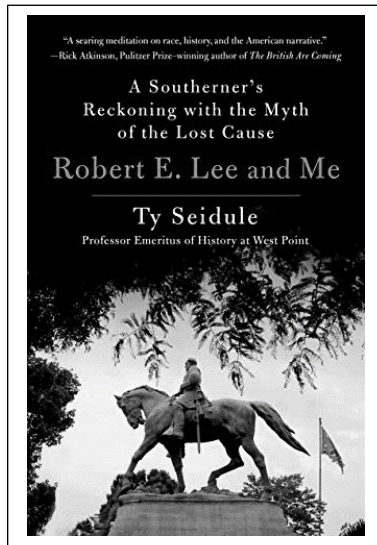
Enclosed is \$_____ (meal is \$30.00 per person) for _____ people for the
February 10, 2022 meeting of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee.
(Please make checks payable to the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.)



BETWEEN THE COVERS

Robert E. Lee and Me: A Southerner's Reckoning with the Myth of the Lost Cause

Ty Seidule



We're still fighting the Civil War some 150 year after the shooting stopped. The myths, lies and history of the Confederate legacy are continuing to receive new and relevant interpretations.

Ty Seidule, the author of this 2020 book is a white, retired brigadier general and professor of history at West Point. This is a unique blend of history and reflection, as he deconstructs the truth about the Confederacy, that preserving slavery was its main goal. From his background of growing up in Alexandria, Virginia, he believed Robert E. Lee was the greatest man that ever lived and that the Confederates were underdogs that lost the Civil War with honor.

However, the lie that the South was fighting to defend states' rights and not slavery is easily disproved by statements made by the Confederacy's own leaders at the time of their revolt. South Carolina led the charge to secession with its declaration on December 20, 1860, stating the reason it left the United States was the "increasing hostility on the part of the non-slave holding states to the institution of slavery." Mississippi seceded, arguing that "our position is thoroughly identified with the institution of slavery – the greatest material interest in the world." Alexander Stephens, Confederate vice president, stated [The

Confederacy's] foundations are laid, its cornerstone rests upon the great truth that the negro is not equal to the white man; that slavery – subordination to the superior race – is his natural and normal condition.

In an unusual mid-life rejection of his previous beliefs, as a soldier, scholar and southerner, Seidule now believes that American history demands a reckoning and states that the Civil War was all about slavery. He also states that Robert E. Lee was a traitor to his oath as an officer of the US Army. Ironically, he made these statements in a speech in front of Lee's tomb in Lee Chapel at the author's alma mater, Washington and Lee University. After making this statement, he stopped his speech and stepped back several steps to look at the statue of a recumbent Lee on his tomb and saw no cracks. He also checked the floor and the ceiling but there was no damage, despite downgrading Lee to mere man and a traitor at that.

For many of us, this book is a refreshing honest and thoughtful look at how the interpretation of events and individuals in the Civil War has evolved over the years. The author spends time telling of his background and life experiences giving an honest description of his values growing up and becoming a soldier and officer.

Seidule states that as a nation we have argued over the meaning of the Civil War since it started in 1861 and he predicts that we will still argue about it for generations to come. Slowly but surely the general view of the causes of the Civil War is becoming more accurate and the author hopes that the fallacy of the "Lost Cause" will not infect his grandchildren.

Also, we must not forget the impact of women on our lives and how they can change us for the better. Seidule tells of how he met his wife, Shari, who was an investment banker from New York. As they dated, he tried to interest her by telling her about himself, college and his career. As she listened to his stories, she quickly understood that not only was he southern, but aggressively southern. She's a good listener and has a willingness to speak her mind and she challenged his southernness based on being born in Alexandria, Virginia. This was their first argument and thus began the thought and learning process that changed his views on the Civil War. Later in their marriage, on her first visit to Lee Chapel, she said "Oh, my God, that awful Lee is the altar! Get me out of here!" (Happy note: they're still married and are grandparents.)

The table of contents listing the chapter titles is an excellent description of the author's history and thought process in completing this well written history.

Most of the reviews dedicated to this book are positive of this effort to give a thoughtful and well researched look at the myths of Robert E. Lee and of the Confederacy. Yet, there are those who call the book a "woke general's work as being little more than a polemic based on his opinion ..." Those were words from a review by two doctoral graduates of Washington and Lee University. As a retire history instructor, I feel this book was "spot on" and should be required reading for all thinking and fair-minded Americans.

submitted by John Helmenstine



Top Civil War Sites to Visit

The American Civil War was the most brutal conflict ever waged on American soil. Many aspects of that event remain sadly misunderstood and misinterpreted. Over 150 years later, this most devastating of conflicts continues to play a critical role in America's military, social, political, and human history. While taught to varying degrees in U.S. schools, a classroom may only present a rather sanitized version of what really occurred. Away from the classroom, nothing beats walking in the footsteps of heroes and seeing firsthand the scenes of struggle and sacrifice where an estimated 625,000 men lost their lives.

As stated so eloquently by the American Battlefield Trust, "America's battlefields and associated historic sites are living monuments — places of remembrance and reflection —and visitation is on the rise. These places are windows into our history, the lessons of which help us shed light upon the way forward. Walk in the footsteps of those who forged our country. Honor our heroes. Explore our past. Envision our future."

Are you a frequent visitor to Civil War battlefields? Do you have your favorites? Have you ever ranked battlefields based on a special set of criteria known only to you? Adapted for your reading pleasure (or displeasure) is a compilation of different websites' choices for battlefields to visit. The rankings are purely arbitrary. Agree or disagree, the list is interesting.

Discerning History, a company that produces educational curriculum for high school through adults, says the top Civil War sites are:

1. Gettysburg 2. Antietam 3. Vicksburg 4. Chattanooga 5. Petersburg
6. Charleston Harbor 7. Shiloh 8. Harpers Ferry 9. Chickamauga 10. Manassas

Attractions of Americans is a travel company that wants to be "the roadmap" for top attractions nationwide, boldly claiming its list contains, "the 10 most significant American Civil War sites preserved for current and future generations."

1. Fort Sumter 2. Gettysburg 3. Richmond 4. Vicksburg 5. Manassas
6. Andersonville 7. Chickamauga/Chattanooga 8. Appomattox 9. Antietam 10. Shiloh

CNN Travel lists the top ten as follows:

1. Gettysburg 2. Washington, DC 3. Antietam 4. Harpers Ferry 5. Richmond
6. Shiloh 7. Fredericksburg 8. Appomattox 9. Chickamauga 10. Andersonville

Fodor's Travel, which says it has "for 80 years been a trusted resource offering expert travel advice for every stage of a traveler's trip" produced this top ten list with no rankings:

Harpers Ferry Fort Sumter Manassas Shiloh Antietam
Fredericksburg Gettysburg Richmond Petersburg Appomattox

And, just for interest and giggle's sake, American Sky, a travel company from the United Kingdom, listed the top ten Civil War sites as follows:

1. Gettysburg 2. Vicksburg 3. Andersonville 4. Shiloh 5. Appomattox Courthouse
6. Antietam 7. Manassas 8. Fredericksburg 9. Fort Sumter 10. Palmetto Ranch

One wonders what criteria was used to create these lists. Importance to the war's outcome? Political implications? Ease and accessibility for the traveler? Were the list creators history enthusiasts or travel agents putting a tour package together?

More importantly, what is **your Top Ten List of Civil War Battlefields?** If you care to play along, pick up a form from the registration table. If you cannot make a meeting, email Dave for a form. Then, return that form to Dave Wege at a meeting, or email it to wegs1862@gmail.com. We want your criteria for the list you made. Please limit the criteria to no more than two, just to keep things simple.

Results will be tabulated and made available to you either in the **General Orders** or in a short PowerPoint presentation at a future meeting. All lists will remain anonymous. Will our lists be similar or wildly divergent? Won't it be interesting to compare thoughts?

The cut-off date for submissions is March 3, 2022.



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!

The Garfield Brothers

The family farm was nestled in what we now call the Kettle Moraine. Self-sufficient and comfortable, the home place witnessed a family grow and then spread out to nearby parcels of land. Son Major A. Garfield had a place of his own and a family, which included several children including a daughter, Lydia. Younger brother Ralph was still at home working for his father. Then came April 1861 and their world changed forever.

The brothers Garfield traveled way north to Eden, Wisconsin, a distance of about 15 miles, where on July 1 they enlisted into a new regiment, the 6th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry. As with many western regiments, the 6th was filled with family, friends, and neighbors, all answering the call to defend the old flag.

The brothers learned the evolutions of an infantry regiment at Camp Randall. As Wisconsin fed more troops into the cauldron of war, the 6th regiment, brigaded now with other western boys, made its way by rail to Washington City. There the training continued. Conditions in these training camps were harsh. Sadly, as with so many farm boys exposed to contagion in camp, young Ralph would never “see the elephant.” He died of disease at age 19 on November 29.

With the coming of 1862 Confederate fortunes in the East seemed to be on the ascent. Union commanders could not contain the maneuvers of the Army of Northern Virginia. Military minds in the northern capital installed generals one after another, but Robert E. Lee and his men were just unbeatable, or so it seemed. Enter John Pope. Hailed as a fighting general who had achieved success, albeit it small, in the West, here was a hero to take on the rebels in Virginia. Outspoken and arrogant, Pope had no doubts as to his ability, claiming:

“Let us understand each other. I have come to you from the West, where we have always seen the backs of our enemies; from an army whose business it has been to seek the adversary and to beat him when he was found; whose policy has been attack and not defense.”

It is certain that Lee had no use for the man. Lee labeled Pope a “miscreant” and said, “he must be suppressed.” By the orders of generals go the fates of their troops. And so, on August 28, 1862, a Union force marched along the Warrenton Turnpike seeking to make good on Pope’s boast to “bag the whole crowd.” These boys in blue were looking for the command of Stonewall Jackson, hoping to destroy him before James Longstreet could effect a movement in support of Lee’s separated army. We all know how that turned out.

Marching with the Federals on the turnpike was the 6th Wisconsin, part of General Rufus King’s division. When John Gibbon fed troops into the fight that developed in the dying daylight, the Calico Boys, as the 6th was called by the other western regiments, found themselves up against the famous Stonewall Brigade. At a distance of 50 yards, the 6th let loose with a volley that knocked rebels down in rows. But these rebels were hardened veterans, and traded volley for volley. As daylight fled and dusk fell, troops from both sides fired at muzzle flashes, neither side willing to retreat. The casualties were severe on both sides, but the fortitude of both lines of battle was incredible. This could be attested to by the rows of men lying dead and wounded on the fields, feet towards the enemy, where they had been cut down in the brutal exchange of musketry.

M.A. Garfield, wounded in the arm, severely. These words in the Fond du Lac Commonwealth Reporter tell the fate of the second of the Garfield brothers. The wound went bad, sepsis set in, and on September 3, 1862, Garfield succumbed to the wounds he received in combat at Gainesville.

There is a little cemetery in New Prospect, WI, just south of Dundee. It is easy to miss unless one knows it’s there. Among rank weeds and tall grasses, headstones and G.A.R. markers memorialize the Garfield brothers. Neither, however, lies beneath his marker. As an enlisted man from a poor farm family, Ralph’s body was buried somewhere in Washington. The family couldn’t pay to have it brought home. Brother Major Garfield sleeps until the judgment somewhere in an unmarked grave near the hospital where efforts made to save him probably included an amputation that did nothing to change the final outcome of his wounding.

The sad story of the brothers Garfield is but a small part of the overall pageant of the Civil War. However, it reminds us all that sacrifice and loss visited families on both sides of the Mason-Dixon Line. And, while many stories can be told, others remain unshared and unknown, lost in the dust of time. May we always remember men like them, learn from their service, and keep their history alive.

submitted by Dave Wege

Thursday, February 10
6:30-7:30pm \$20/\$15 FOM

**Behind the Scenes Tour of the Civil War Museum's Fiery Trial Gallery
with Curator Doug Dammann**

Join Civil War Museum Curator Doug Dammann for a Behind the Scenes Tour of the Civil War Museum's Fiery Trial Gallery. The tour will feature the history, stories and artifacts displayed in the gallery, but also focus on how the exhibit was constructed, reveal some hidden details in the artwork and photography, and showcase the behind the scenes work that went into constructing the exhibit and museum. Even if you've seen the museum before, you are sure to learn something new from this tour.

Young History Heroes Story Time
Third Saturdays – 11 am
Civil War Museum Resource Center

Each month elementary school age children can listen to a story about a special hero from history, followed by hands-on activities.

February 10

Celebrate President's Day and Lincoln's Birthday with the story, *Abe Lincoln: The Boy Who Loved Books* by Kathy Winters and Nancy Carpenter.

Saturday, February 12 "A Proud Competitor But a Humble Sportsman: The Athleticism of Abraham Lincoln"
1PM Free and Open to the Public
Dr. Jason Silverman

(Dr. Silverman will appear live via Zoom, but give the talk for an in-house audience)

"For such an awkward fellow, I am pretty sure-footed. It used to take a pretty dexterous man to throw me," recalled President Lincoln on the night of his reelection as President in 1864.

For Abraham Lincoln, athletics was not just a way of explaining his political situation. It was a way into politics, a way to engage in enjoyable pursuits, a way to compete and connect with his friends and neighbors. He was naturally competitive. Dennis Hanks, a relative who grew up with Lincoln in Indiana, recalled that Lincoln "was ambitious & determined & when he attempted to Excel by man or boy while whole soul & his Energies were bent on doing it."

Dr. Silverman's presentation will show that Lincoln enjoyed sports and games of all kinds. He enjoyed the camaraderie, the competition, and the escape from the pressure of his domestic, legal, and political everyday life. Relying on the accounts of those with whom he competed, a full picture of Lincoln the athlete emerges as he plays town ball (baseball), fives (handball), wrestling, marbles, quoits (horseshoes), billiards (pool), bowling, horseback riding, running, jumping, and such mental games as chess and checkers.

Jason H. Silverman is the Ellison Capers Palmer Jr Professor of History Emeritus at Winthrop University where he taught for over thirty-three years. Prior to that he taught at Yale University for four years. Author or editor of eleven books, several of which were nominated for national book awards, his recent works are *When America Welcomed Immigrants: The Short and Tortured History of Abraham Lincoln's Act to Encourage Immigration* (2020), and *Lincoln and the Immigrant* (2015, paperback 2020), a volume in the Concise Lincoln Library series published by Southern Illinois University Press. Dr. Silverman received his undergraduate degree at the University of Virginia and his graduate degrees at Colorado State University and the University of Kentucky. Among his teaching awards, he has received *Winthrop's Outstanding Junior Professor Award*, been named the *University's Distinguished Professor*, received the *Pi Kappa Phi Excellence in Teaching Award* three times and, in 1990, became the first person in Winthrop's history to be named *South Carolina Professor of the Year*.

Media Club
***The Unvanquished* (1938) by William Faulkner**
Tuesday, February 22 – 6:30 pm
In-person \$10/\$5 FOM
Instructor: Doug Dammann

The Unvanquished tells the story of the Sartoris family, who first appeared in the novel *Sartoris (or Flags in the Dust)*. This novel takes place before that story and is set during the Civil War. The book is told in seven episodes – sometimes immediately following one another, other times separated by months or years – spanning 1862 to 1873.

Kenosha Civil War Museum In-Person September tour.

The details for the 2022 Civil War Museum Campaign Tour are starting to come together. The 2022 tour will run from Sunday, September 25, to Wednesday, September 28, and be based out of Lexington, Kentucky. During the four-day tour we will visit the battlefields at Richmond and Perryville, the Old State Capitol and Kentucky Military Museum in Frankfort, the Camp Nelson National Monument, and the Mary Todd Home in Lexington. Chris Kolakowski of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum will act as our guide at many of the sites.

Doug is still putting the finishing touches on the hotel and restaurant choices, but is hoping to have the itinerary and pricing completed by the middle of January. At that time the final pricing and registration information will be made available.

Civil War Time Travelers, LLC In-Person October tour.

Please join us for a trip back into what many consider the seminal event in our nation's history as we travel to Manassas from October 22-28, 2022. Using the talents of speakers from our own Milwaukee Civil War Round Table, plus the skills of historians Garry Adelman and Douglas Ullman, Jr., we will explore the 1861 and 1862 fighting in the landscape that separated the nations' capitals. Wisconsin was well-represented in that fighting and will receive her due during the tour.

Besides Manassas, a trip to Monocacy, "the battle that saved Washington," is on the schedule. We also will explore some less visited Gettysburg sites with Garry, as we visit Benner's Hill, East Cavalry Field, and the renovated Culp's Hill. The Spangler Farm and the stories of other hospital/farms will be presented as well. Enroute home a stop at the Flight 93 Memorial will put an appropriate postmark on our travels.

Estimated cost of between \$875.00 and \$900.00 includes all hotels, coach transportation, historian remunerations, and any museum fees. A closing banquet and several lunches are also included.

Visit Civil War Time Travelers on Facebook or contact civilwartimetravelers62@gmail.com for more information or to ask any questions. Information will also be available at the Round Table registration table.

Why preserve Civil War hallowed ground? This thought certainly works for most of us.

This land ... is consecrated with the blood of Americans. Many are still buried here and known only to God. We owe these Americans the right to keep this battlefield preserved for history.

- Congressman Ted Poe of Texas

General Orders, the official publication of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.
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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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Yearly memberships available: Individual (\$50), family (\$60), non-resident (\$25), attending an educational institution (\$20).

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

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

MILWAUKEE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE QUARTERMASTER'S REGALIA

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

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

Contact Roman Blenski, Quartermaster

4601 W. Holt Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53219

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

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

