

# GENERAL ORDERS



The Newsletter of the

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



April 7, 2022

Jeff William Hunt

## MEADE AND LEE AT RAPPAHANNOCK STATION

Contrary to popular belief, the Eastern Theater during the late summer and fall of 1863 was anything but inconsequential. In September 1863 the post-Gettysburg stalemate between Lee and Meade dissolved as each transferred parts of their armies to the battlegrounds around Chattanooga. Lee's early October offensive drove Meade backwards 46 miles toward Washington but came to grief at Bristoe Station in a bloody clash with Meade's rearguard. Unable to supply his troops so far north, Lee pulled back to Culpeper County, destroying the Orange & Alexandria railroad as he withdrew to slow the Union pursuit.

Our April speaker, Jeffrey Hunt, will be talking to us about the meeting of Meade and Lee at Rappahannock Station: The Army of the Potomac's First Post-Gettysburg Offensive.

As the Army of the Potomac inched forward, Lee undertook a bold strategy to hold the Rappahannock line and lure Meade into a deadly trap. Pressured by Washington to fight but denied strategic flexibility, Meade launched a risky offensive to force his way over the river and bring on a decisive battle. That effort saw the Federals win a handy victory at Kelly's Ford and a stunning triumph at Rappahannock Station – where they destroyed two entire Confederate brigades. Newly coveted evidence shatters many of the myths surrounding Rappahannock Station, making it possible to reveal how the fight unfolded, the real reason for Confederate defeat, how close Lee came to winning, and why Meade failed to exploit his victory despite gaining, however briefly, the upper hand in his deadly duel with Lee.

Jeffrey William Hunt is the Director of the Texas Military Forces Museum at Camp Mabry in Austin, Texas, which is the official museum of the Texas National Guard and is an Adjunct Professor of History at Austin Community College, where he has taught since 1988. Prior to taking the post at the Texas Military Forces Museum in 2007, he was the Curator of Collections and Director of the Living History Program at the Admiral Nimitz National Museum of the Pacific War in Fredericksburg, Texas for 11 years. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Government and a Master's Degree in History, both from the University of Texas at Austin.

Mr. Hunt is the author of three books in the post-Gettysburg series: *Meade and Lee After Gettysburg: The Forgotten Final Stage of the Gettysburg Campaign: From Falling Waters to Culpeper Court House* (Savas Beatie 2017), *Meade and Lee at Bristoe Station: The Problems of Command and Strategy After Gettysburg: From Brandy Station to the Buckland Races, August 1 to October 31, 1863* (Savas Beatie 2019), and *Meade and Lee at Rappahannock Station: The Army of the Potomac's First Post-Gettysburg Offensive: From Kelly's Ford to the Rapidan, October 21 to November 21, 1863* (Savas Beatie 2021). The final book in his post-Gettysburg series, *Meade and Lee at Mine Run* will be published by Savas Beatie in 2022.

## General Orders No. 4-22

April 2022

### IN THIS ISSUE

MCWRT News .....	page 2
From the Archives .....	page 3
Area Events .....	page 3
From the Field .....	page 4
March of the 6 <sup>th</sup> Corps .....	page 5
In Memoriam .....	page 6
Membership Recruitment Incentive .....	page 6
Round Table Speakers 2021-2022 .....	page 7
2021-2022 Board of Directors .....	page 7
Meeting Reservation Form .....	page 7
Between the Covers.....	pages 8-9
Wanderings .....	page 10
Through the Looking Glass .....	page 11
More Kenosha Programs .....	pages 12
Miscellaneous Items .....	page 12
Battlefield Trust News .....	page 13
Quartermaster's Regalia .....	page 14

### April Meeting at a Glance The Wisconsin Club 9<sup>th</sup> and Wisconsin Avenue

[Jackets required for the dining room.]

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

6:45 p.m. - Dinner

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

Reservations are accepted until

Monday, April 4, 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 7.

**[www.milwaukeeecwrt.org](http://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!

Join with us in observing



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

October 14-15, 2022  
at the Kenosha Civil War Museum

## 75th ANNIVERSARY SPEAKERS

- Dr. Brian Matthew Jordan  
*A Deadly Game of Bo-Peep: The Iron Brigade at South Mountain, September 14, 1862*
- Scott D. Hartwig  
*Whoever Stood in Front of the Corn Field at Antietam Needs No Praise: The Black Hat Brigade at Antietam*
- Phil Spaugy  
*Boys, We Must Hold Our Colors on This Line or Lie Here Under Them*
- Lance Herdeggen  
*Camp Fire Memories of the Iron Brigade*

### *The Muster Roll:* NEW MEMBERS

[illegible]

## 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 Bespalec, Dale  
Brasser, Mike Deeken, Gary & Judy Ertel, Bill &  
Claudette Finke, Peter & Jean Jacobsohn, Bernard Jene,  
David Jordan, Robert Mann, Kathy McNally, James &  
Ann Reeve, 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



Bell I. Wiley spoke to the membership in April 1958 on "Recent and Current Writings on the Civil War."

April 1963 had Robert W. Waitt Sr. speaking to the members on "The Kinsey Report on the Civil War."

"The First Shot and Fort Sumter" was the topic of Erik Lunde's presentation in April 1973.

Robert L. Hatchey talked about "The Illegal Lincoln: A Nation of Men and Not of Laws" at the April 1983 meeting.

At the April 1993 meeting Mary M. Abroe was our speaker talking about "Battlefield Commemoration and Preservation: The Reason Why – 1863 – 1890."

Kenneth Noe was the featured speaker at the April 2003 meeting where he talked about "The Battle of Perryville."

"There is No Fail Here: Abraham Lincoln at Gettysburg" was the topic of John J. Fitzpatrick, Jr.'s presentation at the April 2013 meeting.

At last year's April meeting the Round Table welcomed the esteemed Ronald D. Kirkwood who spoke on "'Too Much for Human Endurance.'"

**Friday, May 27 Noon**

**Grand Army Treasures**

**Presenter: Mr. Steve Michaels**

The Grand Army of the Republic's last member passed in 1956. Since then, millions of that Order's artifacts are being rediscovered, offering a glimpse into the granddaddy of all Veterans organizations. The program will take a look at the width and breadth of GAR memorabilia.

Steve Michaels took an interest in his Civil War ancestry and found that twelve of his ancestors had fought in Ohio regiments. This led him to collecting Civil War and GAR artifacts and joining the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. He served as commander at the local and state levels before being elected Commander-in-Chief. For 22 years Steve has organized Milwaukee's annual Patriotic Luncheon, honoring Presidents Washington, Lincoln and McKinley. He is also a regular participant in the annual Memorial Day Tribute at Milwaukee's Historic Calvary Cemetery and has developed a guidebook of Civil War personalities buried there.

**SPARK**

*This monthly program is for individuals living with early to mid-stage memory loss and their care partners. Participants are engaged in lively conversations, storytelling and other multi-sensory activities.*

## 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, April 9 Noon**

**The Question Settled by "That Night at Fort Wagner"**

**Presenters: Dr. James R. Jewell, Professor of History, North Idaho College, Coeur d' Alene, ID**

**Dr. Eugene Van Sickle, Professor of History, University of North Georgia, Dahlonega, GA**  
**Both presenters will appear live via Zoom for an in-person audience. A question-and-answer period will follow the presentation.**

The fame of the 54th Massachusetts Infantry's heroic efforts at Fort Wagner on July 18, 1863 are well known to many. Yet, few accounts of the regiment's deeds have been published, an oddity given the significance of what these men did during the American Civil War. Using the unpublished memoir of Captain John W. M. Appleton, the presentation explores the origins and importance of the 54th Massachusetts Infantry and its enduring historical importance.

Drs. Van Sickle and Jewell are currently editing a book of John Appleton's memoir about his service in the 54th Massachusetts.

**Friday, May 13 Noon**

**Michigan Civil War Sites and Stories**

**Presenter: Mr. Dave Ingall**

Though no Civil War battles were fought in Michigan, there are countless sites to see and visit, and fascinating stories connected to that time period. This program will cover interesting people, markers, monuments, museum exhibits, period buildings, forts, and cemeteries contained in the Wolverine State. Story topics include: the Underground Railroad and abolitionists, common soldiers and famous generals, Medal of Honor recipients, the "Boy General", Confederate connections, distinguished women, famous drummer boys, important natural resources, tracking down John Wilkes Booth and Jeff Davis, and the last African-American soldier.

**SPARK**

**Please register by calling 262-653-4432 or by going to: [spark@kenosha.org](mailto:spark@kenosha.org)**

**Friday, May 20 2 pm – 3:30 pm**

**Location: Civil War Museum**

**Animal Mascots of the Civil War**

Animals played an important role in keeping the spirits of the soldiers up while they were in the army. Learn about some of these famous mascots who served in Union regiments.



## Circle of Honor at Shiloh

by: Susan Johnson

In late 1861, William Dawes came to recruit men out of west-central Wisconsin to serve their country. He began in Strong's Prairie, Adams County, to gather men that would eventually be Company E, Sixteenth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry. Adams and adjoining Waushara County yielded many of the volunteers, men of varied ages and backgrounds that would be joined in brotherhood on the Shiloh battlefield and beyond.

Coloma in Waushara County sent Philo Perry and Joseph Holcomb among others. Strong's Prairie was home to Lewis Knight and the town which John Willis signed out of. Henry Thomas came from Hancock in Waushara County. Who were they?

John P. Willis was first out of Strong's Prairie though he lived in Friendship, WI. He enlisted September 23, 1861 and was Company E's Color Sergeant by the time Shiloh rolled around. He had been born in Vermont 26 years earlier and in a letter describing the progress of the battle for a newspaper said "when our friend John Willis, the great manly Color Sergeant of the Regiment fell, Lieutenant Niles took the Colors and thus saved them from being captured, for which valued service he received the thanks of the Regiment."

Joe Holcomb enlisted on November 11th, 1861 and became 4th Sergeant. Before the war, he had been a blacksmith and his wife, Sara Ann, was a teacher. There were four daughters at home ranging in age from 9 to 19. Joe was 42.

The youngest, Private Lewis E. Knight, was seventeen or eighteen, depending on the version he put forth, joined November 28, 1861. Born in Maine, he'd been living with his parents, Ezra and Rachel, also from Maine, in Friendship, WI and had been working as a lumberman. He had a younger brother who died in the 1850's and his only other sibling was a younger sister who'd been born in Wisconsin. Lewis stood 5'9" tall. He had grey eyes, black hair and a dark complexion.

On December the 19th, Henry L. Thomas, 37, joined the Company from Hancock, Waushara County. He was a doctor from Wales, UK, and his wife, Mary, was from England. He enlisted as a private leaving, along with Mary, two young boys, William, 3, and Charles, 2. After the war, Mary lived with a neighbor for a while and, later, with his son Charles, until she died.

Private Erwin Rider, was born in Farmington, Ohio, and enlisted saying he lived in Coloma, WI, the home of his parents, William and Martha and younger siblings. He was 21

and had been out of the house since 1860 – living in Alto, Wisconsin as a farm laborer. By the time of his enlistment he was a carpenter and married. He was tall for the service, 6'1/4" and had grey eyes, brown hair and of fair complexion. By 1870, the rest of his family had moved to Newton, Iowa.

Philo Perry born in New York was 22 and enlisted March 6 of 1862. Before enlisting he was a wheelwright. He has black hair, black eyes and a dark complexion with a height of 5'6". He was living with his 61-year-old father, a traveling minister sometimes known as "the World Preacher," his mother and his brothers and sisters – the youngest named John Brown Perry.

On April 6, 1862, the men from Company E were color bearers for the Regiment, the honor having fallen on them for the day – normally this would have gone to four to seven assigned corporals. In the same letter to local newspapers it was written "Captain Dawes was sick and Lieutenant White was officer of the Guard and half of them were either killed or wounded." In the heat of the battle all these men described above carried the colors and all were killed.

In the National Cemetery at Pittsburg Landing, they are all remembered in the Circle of Honor overlooking the river – the only men placed there and originally, placed surrounding the cemetery's National Flag.

*Stories from my family that will not find themselves in a book. William Rickaby wrapped himself in the flag of Co. A as the boat left Manitowoc, so he wore the old Company A flag at the beginning and at the end.*

William H. Rickaby, one of the few surviving members of Co. A, 5th Wisconsin – the first company sent from Manitowoc in response to President Lincoln's call in the 60's, was buried today at Valders, following his death on Tuesday.

Judge James S. Anderson and Frank Stern, comrades of Mr. Rickaby in Co. A, attended the funeral. Colors of old Company A, which he served under, draped the casket today in compliance with one of the last wishes of Mr. Rickaby who, when he realized that death was near, asked that Judge Anderson be requested to bring the flag to lay on the coffin during the funeral ceremonies. Mr. Rickaby, who was a pioneer resident of Valders was one of five brothers, all of whom enlisted in the Civil War.

At the Battle of Spotsylvania, after all the officers of Company A had been wounded or killed, Mr. Rickaby, then a sergeant of the company, took command of the troops and continued the battle.

Mr. Rickaby was 85 years of age at his death. There are but four survivors of Company A still living in Manitowoc County.

Manitowoc Daily Herald, March 9, 1917

# THE MARCH OF THE SIXTH CORPS TO GETTYSBURG.

by J. S. ANDERSON.

## Part 1

If you should place your left hand with the fingers extended, on a map of the state of Pennsylvania, drawn upon a scale of six miles to an inch, with the second finger pointing Northwesterly to the village of Gettysburg and about two inches from it, you would have a good idea of the situation of the several corps of the Army of the Potomac on the last day of June, 1863, by letting each finger nail represent an army corps, the index finger representing the 1st and 11th Corps together with two corps near the knuckles of the middle fingers, while the thumb would represent the 6th Corps away off to the right near Manchester, Md., ready to make a forced march to Baltimore, in case the rebels should make a sudden dash towards that city as it was rumored they intended doing. We, of the 6th Corps, had been marching steadily to the North every day since we broke camp near Acquia Creek, Va., nearly two weeks before.

We had a hard march of twenty miles on the 30th of June starting at 4 a.m. and had camped on both sides of the Baltimore Pike about 2 p.m. Rested the balance of that day and all that night. There was a sort of understanding that Stuart's Cavalry were raiding somewhere in that section and our business was to guard the right flank of the army and be ready to go to the relief of Washington, Baltimore, Harrisburg or even Philadelphia, all of these cities are supposed to be in danger from a sudden dash of the enemy.

All day on July 1st, we lay under temporary shelters, the hot sun casting its rays upon us as we lay on our blankets, in the improvised shade, blessing the good fortune that afforded us the chance for rest after the many days of continuous marching.

The day passed on in this way and just after sunset, when we had disposed of our coffee and hard tack and were sitting around enjoying the cool of the evening twilight, some of us saw a mounted officer come galloping down the pike from the West. His horse was covered with dust and foam, its flanks bloody from continued spurring. He drew rein as he neared us and shouted, "Where is Corps Headquarters?" "Over there," we answered and pointed to a little knoll about forty rods distant where he could see the Headquarters flag, waving in the twilight. He struck spurs to his horse and dashed in that direction, leaped from the saddle and rushed into the tent.

In a moment more, all was hurry and confusion, the bugles sounded the assembly, and orderlies and staff officers were rushing in all directions to the headquarters of the several brigades, whose bugles again sounded the call, and officers rushed out shouting to the men "pack up, pack up and fall in". In an incredibly short space of time the men were in line, knapsacks and accoutrements on, ready for the march. Of course we were curious to know what all this meant. It was always a mystery to me, how news traveled through the ranks of an army.

In a few minutes we learned that a battle had begun at a place called Gettysburg. That General Reynolds, who commanded the 1st Corps, had been killed. That the Wisconsin regiments had been in action and been badly cut up. That Colonel Fairchild had been badly wounded, Colonel Stevenson killed and that many of the men from our state had been killed and wounded. That our forces there had been fighting against odds, and were compelled to give ground. That we were to join the rest of the army at Gettysburg, where a great battle was to be fought, and where we would be needed. "Gettysburg. Where is Gettysburg?" "Thirty-two miles away." "Thirty-five miles away," was the answer, for the divisions were scattered over more than two miles of ground.

Our first division soon took up the line of march and plodded on for about half an hour when the word came from the rear, "Halt!" Somebody had blundered and we were on the wrong road and had gone two or three miles out of the way. We had taken on four or five extra miles to the thirty-two or thirty-five we were expected to travel before we reached the battlefield. "Countermarch by file left," and back we went over the fields and finally we filed on to the pike we were supposed to take and, began swinging along toward Gettysburg to help our comrades.

It seems however, that General Sedgwick on hearing of the battle, issued orders to Taneytown where was Army Headquarters, and it was upon the Taneytown road, we marched until well on towards morning, a line of direction widely from the point of our ultimate destination. General Wright says "during the night and sometime after crossing the Baltimore and Gettysburg Pike other orders were received changing the destination of the corps and directing the marches to Gettysburg."



We had thus lost valuable time and added several miles to the distance we must necessarily travel. The head of the column was turned to make a cross-cut to reach the Baltimore and Gettysburg Pike again. According to the statement of Captain T. W. Hyde of the 7th Maine, (afterwards Brigadier General) then serving on the staff of General Sedgwick, this occurred about three o'clock in the morning and we had been marching since nine o'clock the night before. Captain Hyde was at Taneytown which was Army Headquarters and was instructed by General Meade with orders directing corps on Gettysburg. His statement is that he met the corps on Taneytown Road about 3 o'clock in the morning, and that the corps had made a "a cross-cut of a few miles to the Baltimore Pike," Those "few miles" made many added weary foot-steps, before the night fell.

The night was cool, the road smooth and clear and we marched silently and swiftly along. Suddenly from away towards the head of the column was heard the strains of a band, breaking through the stillness of the night. The men caught the cadence of the music and fell into the marching step. The band was playing the "Old John Brown" Battle Hymn, and as they reached the chorus, first a score of voices, joined the words to the music, then a hundred, then a thousand, and soon ten thousand voices rolled out the battle song

"Glory, Glory Hallelujah  
His soul is marching on"

All night long we marched in this way. The bands of music alternating with the shrill fifes and rattling drums, then for a time we plodded on in silence with the mechanical route step. Then the music of the band would throw us marching step, and "tramp, tramp, tramp, the boys went marching" until the grey dawn of July 2d, found us far on the way.

### **To Be Continued in the May issue**

#### **MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT INCENTIVE ONGOING**

Membership Chairman Grant Johnson has generously offered his hospitality to encourage recruiting new members!

The Round Table member with the most new recruits this season will be treated to dinner with Grant!

The current leaders are:

Paul Eilbes – 3     Peter & Jean Jacobsohn – 2     several members are tied at 1

This is the chance to talk to friends and associates. We welcome anyone with an interest in learning more about the American Civil War.

The season ends June 30th, so there is not much time left.



#### **ROBERT HICKS - A WARRIOR PASSES**

As reported by the Carnton History Museum:

Like so many others, we are saddened by the passing of Robert Hicks. To know Robert was to know someone larger than life. His passion for Carnton, the Battle of Franklin, our shared American history, fine literature, and good food were well known. His ability to tell stories was a natural gift. His love for Jake, the World's Greatest Dog, showed a side of Robert many people never saw.

Robert did many things. He served in various capacities not only at Carnton, but at Carter House, and led the way when Franklin's Charge and The Battle of Franklin Trust were created. he wrote books, published music, and traveled the world.

Robert Hicks leaves behind something in which his spirit will live indefinitely. He was a true friend to those whose voices were stilled many years ago. He was a poet for them and helped to resurrect their stories. He leaves behind something tangible, something real, something vibrant. The battlefield at Franklin, and the historic sites he helped to protect, are his legacy.

People not yet born will visit Franklin decades from now never knowing Robert, but they will be inspired by his work and his passion.

## 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 <b>Nevins Freeman Award Winner</b> <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	Steven 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</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](http://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](mailto:grant.johnson@responsory.com)

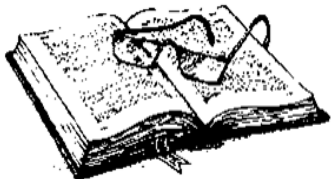
Grant will be creating a database with email reminders set to go out a week before the scheduled event. This is a purely optional choice on each member's part. If you have any questions please talk to Grant at a Round Table meeting or email him at the listed email address.

## Milwaukee Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for April 7, 2022

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

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

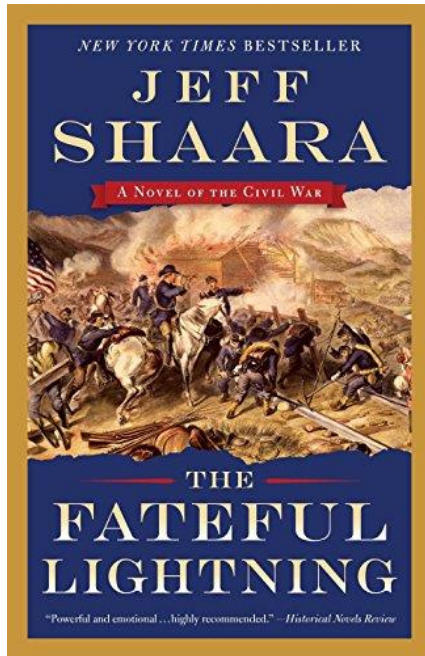
Enclosed is \$\_\_\_\_\_ (meal is \$30.00 per person) for \_\_\_\_\_ people for the  
April 7, 2022 meeting of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee.  
(Please make checks payable to the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.)



## BETWEEN THE COVERS

### The Fateful Lightning

Jeff Shaara



My review this time is on a book I purchased at the Kenosha Civil War Museum in June 2015. My wife and I were attending a book presentation by the author Jeff Shaara. This book was the final installment in the Civil War series beginning with *A Blaze of Glory*, continuing with *A Chain of Thunder* and *The Smoke at Dawn*. The final book, *The Fateful Lightning* is 615 pages long and was published in 2015.

The author tells the story of the final eight months of the war, which is focused on Sherman's March to the Sea. Like his previous works, in this novel Mr. Shaara provides the details of his story through the eyes of various commanders in their tents making plans for the operation. He provides the voice for commanders on both sides, as well as the ordinary foot soldiers, lower ranking captains and lieutenants and tosses in civilians impacted by the Union and Confederate armies fighting each other across Georgia and the Carolinas.

As the reader looks over the shoulder of some of the key participants in this fight, readers gain insight into Sherman's plan to make Georgia howl as he directs his armies to the sea and beyond. On the flip side, the reader can obtain an idea of how the defenders are trying to anticipate Sherman's moves and defend against them and can imagine the conflict that existed between Generals Hardee, Beauregard, Wheeler and Johnston.

The place-by-place historical events and dates paint background for the story and create realistic, meaningful perspective for the reader. Sherman's views, reactions,

attitudes and motivations in widely varied settings bring a well-rounded view of this general – many times unsure about reaction to his moves, but almost always confident of his own military instincts. The book includes battle maps which give the reader an idea of where the various wings were moving and where a certain action occurred. These detailed action sequences and historical tidbits, like letters to home, and actual names of ancillary characters and their part along the way add meaning to the tale. I think Mr. Shaara's style definitely puts life into the work and helps the non-historian get an idea of military thinking and how various decisions are made in the heat of battle.

Jeff Shaara's historical research is thorough and impeccable, but he is not, and does not profess to be, an academic historian. While this novel, along with his many other American history novels (many dealing with the Civil War), are "fiction", he has done exhaustive research on the historical events and he has researched his historical characters so completely that the words they utter in the novel have the ring of truth and authenticity. His portrayal of General William Tecumseh Sherman, the brilliant but taciturn Union leader, is spot on. If you are interested in American history, and enjoy being entertained and enlightened at the same time, this is a very readable and enjoyable novel.

I would recommend this to anyone who has a passing interest in history or would like to get an idea on the March to the Sea. I thought this was a very interesting spin on the story. It is a fast read and those interested in historical novels should be of interest too. While I haven't read the other books in the series I intend to go back and read them. I will follow this read up with a historical work on the March by Noah Trudeau and draw a comparison between the two.

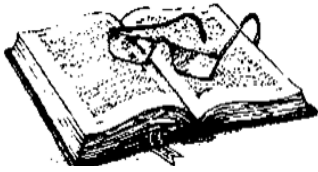
submitted by Bruce Klem

## ELECTION: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As announced at the March Round Table meeting and in accordance with the Articles of Incorporation, the nominating committee of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee recommends the following slate of nominees for the upcoming election of members to the Board of Directors for a three-year term ending in May 2025. The election will take place at the May 12, 2022 Milwaukee Civil War Round Table meeting.

Donna Agnelly ~ Thomas Arliskas ~ Roman Blenski ~ Paul Eilbes ~ John Petty

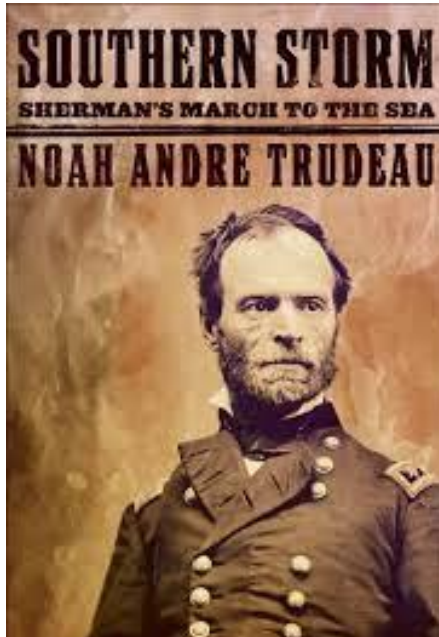




## BETWEEN THE COVERS

### Southern Storm: Sherman's March to the Sea

Noah Andre Trudeau



This is a book I picked up at the Civil War Institute's Summer Symposium in their used book sale. The author was giving a presentation at the symposium on one of his latest books and having read some of his previous works decided to pick this one up as it was a topic I had not read much about previously. I read this book after reading Jeff Shaara's *Fateful Lightning* and felt this would be an interesting comparison.

This aptly named book chronicles the destructive 60-mile wide, 300-mile-long march of Sherman's Army from Atlanta to Savannah during late November and early December 1864, and the attempts by local, state, and Confederate patchwork forces to stop them. Also covered: the investment of Savannah, the attack on nearby Fort McAllister to open a supply line with the Union Navy, Confederate efforts to defend and then escape the city, and the Union takeover of the city.

The author shows, in his introduction of Sherman, how his battlefield successes and increasing national prominence gave him the confidence to analyze the problem and provided the authority to act on his conclusions. Almost every military action Sherman took after 1862 would be justified in reference to the rules of war – "Sherman's rules of war." By tenets of his faith, the South had forfeited any consideration for a gentle application of those rules. But Mr. Trudeau shows that in the application Sherman used a number of refining corollaries. His general orders

however, instruct soldiers not to enter private homes or threaten civilians, and to discriminate when taking food, horses, mules, etc. and destroying privately-owned resources e.g. cotton, between the rich "who are usually hostile," and the poor and industrious, who are usually "neutral and friendly."

Trudeau shows how the other side responded to this coming storm by including Jefferson Davis' trip into the region just prior to Sherman's move and how he attempted to coordinate with the area commanders to develop a battle plan that would hamper any movement into the Deep South and pull out a victory. Unfortunately for the Southern leadership, the plan and the temperament and leadership qualities of those commanders were to prove incapable to handle Sherman's tactical and strategic maneuvers.

Sherman kept Southern leaders guessing and they did not know where he was heading when he left the Gate City of Atlanta. Macon? Augusta? Savannah? The Southern command structure was confounded by Sherman's tactical maneuvers. In an unusual and effective format Mr. Trudeau looks in detail at each day of the march through the eyes of soldiers on both sides, civilians, African Americans and government and military officials. This gives us a new perspective on the march. These accounts run the gamut from the humorous to the tragic. Trudeau also does well portraying the thoughts, fears and hopes of the thousands of African American slaves liberated by the Yankees.

I enjoyed this book in that Mr. Trudeau provided maps to each day of the March that made the descriptions of the day's actions easy to follow. It was especially informative to me having lived in Georgia for 5 years and traveling throughout the southern part of the state extensively for work and service in the Georgia Army National Guard. I thought that Trudeau's style is easy to read and understand and to me, gave an excellent picture of Sherman's military ability in accomplishing his mission, keeping an enemy off balance and doing it with minimal casualties. I think this book is a must for anyone with interest in the Civil War.

submitted by Bruce Klem

## A Survey of Sites?

### *Wanderings*



Survey results are slowly trickling in for the Top Ten Civil War Sites Survey. When I say slowly, I am saying that freezing maple syrup on a cold winter would move faster than the results are coming in. That being said, we have one more month to reply. At this point, however, Gettysburg is the clear number one favorite with three votes. Antietam ranks highly, as does Shiloh. Unusual answers have included Old World Wisconsin and Ford's Theater. Old World made the cut as a place to immerse oneself in the past, surrounded by timeless treasure and costumed reenactors in character. Ford's Theater made the list as a location that had a tremendous effect on the meaning and memory of the Civil War.

As a teacher of four decades experience, I know for a fact that my directions are clear and concise. However, several surveys came back with questions about how to do and where to do. Teachers must be patient, so after gritting my teeth and grumbling about "those darned kids," I tried explaining the survey in a little different way. I hope that explanation suffices.

Dave Wege

## Top Ten Civil War Sites

based on the following criteria:  
(please select no more than two criteria)

importance to the overall outcome of the war  
involvement of a favorite regiment or brigade  
scenic beauty/pristine landscape  
located in the theater of war I enjoy studying  
other: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list your top sites with #1 being best choice.

- 1 - \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 - \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 - \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 - \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 - \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 - \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 - \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 - \_\_\_\_\_
- 9 - \_\_\_\_\_
- 10 - \_\_\_\_\_





*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 PETER GUTTMAN

The last issue of the Civil War Round Table newsletter (January, 2022) featured the story of George Chaloupka in the *Through the Looking Glass* segment. The story was very interesting which prompts me to submit the brief story of my great, great grandfather, Capt. Peter Guttman also of the WI 26th companies D & B.

Peter Guttman had recently emigrated from Trier Germany when he mustered in with the WI 26th in Milwaukee in August of 1862, listing his previous experience as a “professional soldier.” The 26th would train at Camp Randall in Madison to become part of the 11th Corps, 3rd Div. under the leadership of German immigrant General Franz Sigel. Such regiments were often referred to as “the German regiments” due to the large number of recent German immigrants that populated the ranks.

The first major battle the 26th engaged in was at Chancellorsville. Union forces under the command of Gen. Hooker, became entangled and outmaneuvered against Confederate forces of Generals Lee and Jackson who strategized a humiliating defeat against Union troops. In the course of the Confederate attack, the WI 26th had been placed in an advanced, exposed position resulting in their being surrounded and outnumbered by Confederate charges. Total annihilation or capture was eluded only after the WI 26th fiercely fought to retreat from the overwhelming number of Confederates. Of all the regiments that fought at Chancellorsville, the WI 26th suffered the highest casualties. A journalist observer published a narrative of the battle, describing the WI 26th as cowardly fleeing from the face of the enemy. A false narrative that would overshadow the 26th for the remainder of the war and years after.

Still reeling from the heavy casualties suffered at Chancellorsville and a plaguing reputation of cowardice, the WI 26th would months later be sent into the Gettysburg engagement. Newly promoted 1st Sgt. Guttman with the WI 26th would be amongst the infamous regiments under the command of Gen. Schurz that marched north through the town to engage Jubal Early’s Confederates in an area now referred to as “Barlow Knoll.” Overwhelmed by Confederate numbers and artillery, the WI 26th again took heavy casualties, forcing the Union soldiers to retreat back through the town. Sgt. Guttman would not be in the retreat as he would fall wounded in the field with gunshot injuries to the left side of his head and left foot. The wound to his head was described to have been inflicted with a smooth bore pistol which fractured his skull and incapacitated him. The spot on which Sgt. Guttman fell would be held by Confederate troops until General Lee retreated from the battlefield in the latter part of July 3rd. Only then could Sgt. Guttman be evacuated to a field hospital set up at the George Spangler Farm outside of Gettysburg for only limited treatment that could be administered. Sgt. Guttman would subsequently be transferred to army hospitals to convalesce for six months before rejoining his regiment and partaking in Sherman’s March to the Sea.

During the “March to the Sea” the WI 26th would be involved with a multitude of engagements resulting in high casualties to the regiment, the most severe occurring during the Battle of Peachtree Creek. Peachtree Creek would unfold as a vicious contest for the WI 26th that included hand-to-hand fighting after ammunition for the Union and Confederate soldiers ran out. One such engagement is estimated to have lasted over 20 minutes and believed to have been the longest such type of fighting of the Civil War. Ammunition wasn’t the only thing in short supply. With Sherman’s army being cut off from supply lines, many of the men of the 26th were described as “ragtag and shoeless” but still fought as the army proceeded to Savannah and Atlanta. By this time, high casualties amongst the officers as well as the lower ranking soldiers would find Sgt. Guttman being promoted to 1st Lieutenant.

While serving most of his Civil War duties in companies C and D with the 26th, Peter Guttman would be promoted to Captain of Company B on April 20, 1865. Following the Grand March in Washington in July of 1865, Capt. Guttman was mustered out, only to reenlist months later, retaining his rank of Captain. Capt. Guttman would go on to serve a full military career in Washington before retiring to the National Soldiers Home in Milwaukee around 1889. Capt. Guttman died on May 9, 1901 and was laid to rest in Wood National Cemetery in Milwaukee. Having lost his wife in 1879, he was survived by three children who continued to reside in the Grafton area.

Note: The State Historical Society of Wisconsin certifies that records in the state archives show that Peter Guttman enlisted into military service on the 19th day of August 1862, by Charles A. Vocke at Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, for the term of three years, and was mustered into the military service of the United States on the 17th day of September 1862, by Captain R. E. Beecher in the field.

Captain Guttman's place of residence is listed as Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, his place of birth as Prussia.

The records further show that said soldier when enlisted was 28 years of age, single, had gray eyes, brown hair, fair complexion, was 5 feet 7 inches in height, and by occupation a soldier.

submitted by Paul Miller great, great grandson of Peter Guttman

## More Programming from the Kenosha Civil War Museum

### CIVIL WAR MUSEUM WORKSHOPS

**Tuesday, April 19 6:30 p.m.**

**Sacred Scars, Shadowed Ground: Imagination and History**

**Presenter: A virtual tour conducted live with Photographer Larry Stuart**

**\$20/\$10 Friends of the Museum**

Using his collection of photographs, Larry will talk about how his photo exhibit came about, "listening" to the ground, and how art and imagination can help us experience history.

The workshop is a visual narrative of Larry's walks on the battlefields of Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania County. Today, the battlefields are beautiful, tranquil examples of central Virginia countryside, but we know that they hold stories of sadness, horror, bravery, courage, sacrifice, rage, fear and relief.

*Sacred Scars, Shadowed Ground* contains 25 framed, archival photo prints, with labels written by the chief interpreter of the national park at Fredericksburg. It is on loan from graphic artist and photographer Larry Stuart, formerly of Waukesha, WI, now Kalamazoo, MI.

### MEDIA CLUB

**Mr. Lincoln's Navy by Dennis Ringle**

**Wednesday, May 4 6:30 pm – 8 pm**

**\$10/\$5 Friends of the Museum - Register by May 3**

**Instructor: Doug Dammann**

Every aspect of the common sailor's life in the Union Navy – recruiting, clothing, training, shipboard routine, entertainment, wages, diet, health, and combat experience – is addressed in this study, the first to examine the subject in rich detail. Attendees are encouraged to read the book before the meeting and come prepared to discuss the topics.

## Please consider joining us for "Mayhem at Manassas."

The **Civil War Time Travelers, LLC** will spend several days at Manassas exploring Bull Run I, Brawner Farm (Gainesville), Bull Run II, and Monocacy in late October 2022. With NPS Rangers, recognized historians, and the talents of our own group we will again travel where heroes trod. Deluxe coach, several meals, entrance fees, speaker fees, and all hotels are included in the cost of this trip, estimated to be in the \$875-\$900 range.

**And there's more!** On the road back to Wisconsin we will stop in Gettysburg to explore "women of Gettysburg," "obscure Gettysburg," and "the farms and hospitals of Gettysburg." A visit to the Flight 93 Memorial is also planned.

Douglas Ullman, Jr. will lead us through Second Manassas. Doug is an associate of the American Battlefield Trust and recently came off the professional stage where he appeared in a production called *Bright Star*. He has appeared on many Trust videos and online presentations.

The incomparable Garry Adelman will lead us through "Obscure Gettysburg," a look at places less visited on the battlefield. This will include Benner's Hill, East Cavalry Field, and an on-site overview of the rehabilitation done at Culp's Hill. Seeing that work through the eyes of a historian and licensed battlefield guide will provide insights of the importance of rehabilitation for battlefield interpretation!

**On October 22-28, 2022, we will again be *Traveling Where Heroes Trod*.**



# 2021 BANNER YEAR FOR AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST

Announced on January 6, 2022



AMERICAN  
BATTLEFIELD  
TRUST ★ ★ ★

Dedicated to connecting Americans with their history on the ground where it was forged through battlefield preservation and education, the American Battlefield Trust held true to its mission in 2021. The jam-packed year even yielded a landmark moment in the organization's 37-year history, cresting 54,000 acres saved across 150 battlefield sites.

*Even as so much around us was in flux last year, the Trust's work to save the landscapes where ordinary Americans struggled, sacrificed and persevered remained constant and reliable, said Trust President David Duncan. We prevailed at legendary locations like Gettysburg and Vicksburg, and at less-famous, but no less-critical, sites to move toward a more complex understanding of our nation's story from the Revolution through the Civil War – and how those events still resonate today. Moreover, we engaged teachers and students worldwide with a wealth of new and updated resources and programs.*

The Trust team embarked on five ambitious video swings – across Antietam, Manassas, Gettysburg, and Petersburg, as well as numerous North Carolina, Tennessee and Mississippi battlefields – through which an impressive 129 videos were produced.

The organization went even further than video ventures. One engaging tool was Virginia's "Road to Freedom" tour, a physical map and digital app undertaken alongside Civil War Trails, Inc., that highlights nearly 100 spots across the Commonwealth that speak to the under-told Civil War-era Black experience. The two organizations also worked together to place new interpretive signs on the New Market Heights Battlefield, where 14 Black soldiers received the Medal of Honor, and Revolutionary War Brandywine Battlefield. Beyond physical interpretation, the Trust gathered its members on battlefields across six states for 27 "Twilight Tours" – to take advantage of warm summer nights while embracing stories from knowledgeable historians.

The Trust has continued to keep students and teachers top of mind. In 2021, the Trust offered two iterations of their Virtual Teacher Institute (in summer and fall), providing a free path for some 800 educators – across three continents – to professionally develop via world class tools, brilliant experts and speakers, and their fellow colleagues. More than nine million students have visited [battlefields.org](https://battlefields.org) in the quest to learn more about our nation's formative conflicts, including significant time spent viewing the Trust's new animated video series *How We Became America: The Untold Story*, created in partnership with the Driving Force Institute for Public Engagement and produced by Makematic. Students interested in the progress-driven organization continues to grow through the *Youth Leadership Team*.

The American Battlefield Trust is dedicated to preserving America's hallowed battlegrounds and educating the public about what happened there and why it matters today. The nonprofit, nonpartisan organization has protected more than 54,000 acres associated with the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, and Civil War. Learn more at [www.battlefields.org](https://www.battlefields.org)

**General Orders**, the official publication of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.  
is produced September through June and upon request of the Board of Directors.

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

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

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**General Orders** design & layout by Dave Wege.

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](mailto:dbcpmilw@execpc.com)

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

