

# GENERAL ORDERS



The Newsletter of the

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



May 12, 2022

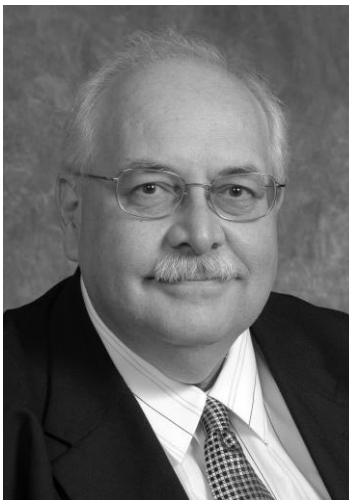
Dr. James Pula

## **THE ELEVENTH CORPS AT GETTYSBURG: A REAPPRAISAL**

*The men of the Eleventh Corps were good soldiers unworthy of the stigma that has haunted them to this day.*

It is very difficult to find historians who have written anything positive about the Eleventh Corps. Blamed for the Union disaster at Chancellorsville, branded as cowards who ran from the field at the first fire, generations of historians have competed to find just the right words of condemnation when describing the corps. Gettysburg was no different. Writers as prominent as Edwin Coddington, the “dean” of Gettysburg scholars, have portrayed the efforts of the Eleventh Corps as once again lacking. Reflecting on this negative image in the postwar years, Sgt. James H. Peabody of the 61st Ohio wrote that “The burning shame of that stigma has followed us nearly twenty-eight years, and will follow us on to the grave, and still on to the end of time.”

We welcome Dr. James Pula to our Round Table as our featured speaker for May. In his illustrated presentation, the author of *Under the Crescent Moon*, a two-volume history of the Eleventh Corps, will offer evidence that the corps contributed much more to the Union victory in July 1863 than is generally recognized.



James S. Pula is a Professor of History, Emeritus at Purdue University, Northwest and the editor-in-chief of Gettysburg Magazine. Dr. Pula is the author or editor of more than two dozen books, including *Under the Crescent Moon with the Eleventh Corps in the Civil War*, winner of the U.S. Army Historical Foundation Distinguished Writing Award; *The Civil War from Its Origins to Reconstruction*; *For Liberty and Justice: A Biography of Brig. Gen. Włodzimierz B. Krzyżanowski*; and *The Sigel Regiment: A History of the 26th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, 1862-1865*, winner of the Gambrinus Prize in History from the Milwaukee Country Historical Society.

Please join us in welcoming Dr. James Pula to our Round Table as our featured speaker.

### **General Orders No. 5-22**

**May 2022**

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### **May 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, May 9, 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 Herdegen  
*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 Jamrozny,  
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



Elmer Gertz spoke to the membership in May 1958 on “James Harrison Wilson.”

May 1963 had James V. Murfin speaking to the members on “Antietam.”

“Grant and the Capture of Forts Donelson and Henry” was the topic of Gerald Browne and Roger T. Zeimet’s presentation in May 1973.

At the May 1993 meeting William Garrett Piston spoke to those assembled on “James Longstreet and the writing of Southern History.”

William Beaudot was the featured speaker at the May 2003 meeting where he talked about “The 24th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry.”

“Robert E. Lee, Gettysburg and the Elements of Confederate Defeat” was the topic presented by our May 2013 speaker Ethan S. Rafuse.

At last year’s April meeting the Round Table welcomed Kevin Hampton who spoke to us on “Our Adopted Country is in Danger: The Service of Hans Heg and the Scandinavians of the 15th Wisconsin Infantry.”

## 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.*

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.

## 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, 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.

## 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.

## Grand Army Treasures

**Friday, May 27 Noon**

**Presenter: 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.



## THE MARCH OF THE SIXTH CORPS TO GETTYSBURG

by J. S. ANDERSON

### Part 2

At the end of Part I we read that the Sixth Corps was:

*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.*

The march continues:

So far as my memory serves me this was the only march of that character where the 6th Corps used music on the route. Occasionally when passing through a city, the bands would play, but I have no recollection that we ever used music to march by when simply on the route. Whoever was responsible for it, it was certainly a happy inspiration and helped the men wonderfully. We pushed on all night at a wonderful pace, and my recollection is that we rested but once, or at the most twice, during the whole night, and then simply by sitting by the roadside for a few moments.

In the early morning, we filed into some fields by the roadside and were ordered to make coffee, but the time allowed was so short that more than half of the men were unable to get coffee made and resumed the march without it. On and on we went, one weary mile following another and as the sun mounted upward, the heated rays came down with oppressive force.

About 11 o'clock we reached that part of the pike over which the troops in advance of us had passed with their artillery and trains, the day and night previous and the road was covered with dust three or four inches deep, which rose in great clouds and nearly stifled us. There was no music and no singing now, we were fast reaching the limit of human endurance. Men reeled and staggered along as if they were drunken. Ever and anon a rifle or musket would fall clattering on the stony pike, as the man who carried it collapsed and sank in a quivering heap in the midst of the roadway. He would be seized and dragged to the roadside, his musket laid beside him and his comrades would resume their places in rank and struggle on.

There was much to inspire the men in their dogged resolution to push on, for by this time we could hear the sullen roar of the artillery engaged in battle ahead of us, and we knew that the largest corps in the Army of the Potomac was sorely needed. Then, too, we had passed out of Maryland into Pennsylvania, and we were in the land of our friends. As we

marched past the farm houses we could see a starry flag hung out and the women in the porch would look at the exhausted, dust covered men, with pitying sympathetic eyes as the column struggled on. They stripped their houses of food and drink to pass it out to the weary and hungry men.

One incident that I shall never forget. At a large farm house stood near the pike with rare thoughtfulness the people had brought out a number of tubs and pails and placed them along the side of the road. An old man and a boy were busy drawing water from the well and a portly matron and two handsome girls were keeping the tubs and pails filled with cool sweet water. Their faces were flushed and they trembled with the exertion. I said to the lady, "Madam, that work is very hard on you." She said, "God bless you, I don't feel it. I have two boys somewhere among you and I would not want them or their friends to pass their mother's house without at least a cup of cold -water." I passed on, I trust she met her boys and that they lived to be a comfort to her in her old age. I do not think she and her girls ever realized how their acts, and the acts of others like them, nerved the men of the Army of the Potomac to stand in the breach at Gettysburg.

About one o'clock, or a little after, we came to what appeared to be the 'divide' where the land began to slope toward Gettysburg. The rumble of the cannonade became plainer, and faraway where the green of the trees met the skyline we could see the white puffs stand out in the blue sky, indicating where the shells were bursting above the trees, on the crest of the hills.

The sight acted on the men of the 6th Corps as the spur acts on the jaded horse. Every man quickened his step and we pushed on down the miles of descent yet to be covered before we could reach the battlefield. The country was spread out before us like a vast panorama, and as we came nearer we could see the army occupied a position almost in a semicircle with one flank resting on a small mountain, which we learned afterwards was Culp's Hill, and the other on a larger elevation which we later knew by the name of Little Round Top. We went on and on until it seemed as though the road would never end, or as if the hills receded from us as fast as we were able to approach them. At last we began to descend into what seemed to be a valley lying behind the circle of hills on which our army lay.

As we came nearer, our practiced ears could detect the continuous roll of musketry amid the pauses of the artillery, nearer yet and we could see a stream of wounded men coming down the slopes from the hills. We left the pike and struck across the fields towards Little Round Top which the rebels were trying to reach and which our comrades of the Third and Fifth corps were defending with strenuous courage and energy. We arrived on the field of Gettysburg at a critical moment. Sickles had been driven back, broken and in disorder, from the Peach Orchard. The rebels had pierced our lines and were struggling to maintain a hold upon Round Top.



The leading brigade of the 6th Corps marching column never halted but went right into action from the line of march. The Second Brigade turned to the right and strengthened the broken lines at once. The rebels saw the reinforcement and withdrew their attack. The men of the 6th Corps marched forty-two miles in nineteen hours to the help of their comrades and went directly into battle.

Wheaton's and Eustis's Brigades of the Third Division were in the lead and went into action between divisions of the 5th Corps. The 139 Pennsylvania Regiment of the former, losing twenty, and the 37th Massachusetts, of the latter, 47 men killed, wounded and missing. Bartlett's Brigade of the 1st Division went into action with them. Neill's brigade was sent to the right of the line and took part in the action there. Torbert's brigade of Jersey troops, was sent to the center, and went into line with the 1st Corps under General Newton. Torbert states that he arrived on the field of battle with but twenty-five men missing from his brigade and that these joined the ranks before morning.

The balance of the corps was held in reserve, and were moved to different points as appeared to be necessary and used in strengthening the line at various points of the line of battle, the larger part being placed the extreme left under the command of Major General Wright. The corps, although mostly held in reserve, was nearly all within line of fire and every division lost a few men, the entire loss of the corps being two hundred and twelve killed and wounded and thirty missing. After the battle the entire corps followed in pursuit of the enemy as far as Fairfield Pass but did not attack in force, although several times the rear guards came in touch and there was some lively skirmishing and a number of prisoners were taken.

I find no mention anywhere in any of the reports of Corps or Division commanders, of the fact, that immediately upon starting out on the march from Manchester at 9 o'clock in the evening previous, a mistake was made by which we were compelled to march some distance before reaching the Taneytown road, thus increasing the length of our march as near as I can estimate, a distance between three and four miles more. The reports of the different corps and division commanders estimate the length of the march made by the 6th Corps, as from thirty-two to thirty-six miles. It is possible that the mistake made by taking a wrong road at the beginning of the march was confined entirely to the 1st Division, as I find a statement that the 2nd Division in which was General Neill's brigade, did not start for Gettysburg until about one o'clock a.m.

My estimate is that we must have added to the direct distance between Manchester and Gettysburg, which I am informed is thirty-five miles, as follows, by error in taking the wrong road at the start one and one-half miles and back making three miles, and be marching two sides of a triangle on the Taneytown road and thence across to the Baltimore Pike at least four miles more, making the entire march forty-two miles instead of thirty-six as mentioned in the official reports.

Gen. Wright in his report on the Gettysburg Battle says: "Great credit is due to officers and men for the excellent spirit manifested by them all. The fatiguing and extraordinary march accomplished in reaching the Battle-field and it is the more creditable as they had already almost unprecedented marches, and were to some extent *ex rest*."

Report to Fifth Wisconsin Association 1904



## Buy a Shirt to Help Save a Piece of the Milwaukee

CWRT member Laura Rinaldi is selling **Save the Milwaukee Soldiers Home T-shirts highlighting the Chapel, with proceeds going directly to Milwaukee Preservation Alliance!** Grab a great looking shirt and help support efforts to preserve this endangered treasure today!

Shirts are American made 100% preshrunk cotton; available in sizes Small to 3X, and sell for \$10 plus \$5 for shipping (or can be picked up in Pewaukee, or at a future Civil War Round Table meeting for free). They are grey with navy blue print.

These shirts were recently rediscovered in a storage area from the old Reclaiming Our Heritage event that was held on the grounds of the Milwaukee VA Medical Center, National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers historic district. This Home was founded in 1867, one of the original Homes for our returning Civil War Soldiers.

To order, [fill out this form](#) or email Laura at [chapelshirts@gmail.com](mailto:chapelshirts@gmail.com) and specify the size and shipping address or a time to pick it up in Pewaukee. Further information on pickup location will be provided at time of order. Thank you.

For further information on Milwaukee Preservation Alliance: <http://www.milwaukeepreservationalliance.org/>

## 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. James Pula <i>The 11th Corps at Gettysburg: A Reappraisal</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
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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)

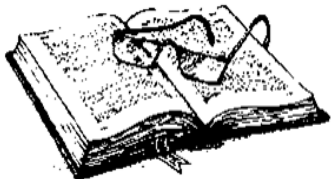
Grant will be creating a database with email reminders set to go out a week before the scheduled event. This is a purely optional choice on each member's part. If you have any questions please talk to Grant at a Round Table meeting or email him at the listed email address.

## Milwaukee Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for May 12, 2022

Mail your reservations by Monday, May 9 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)

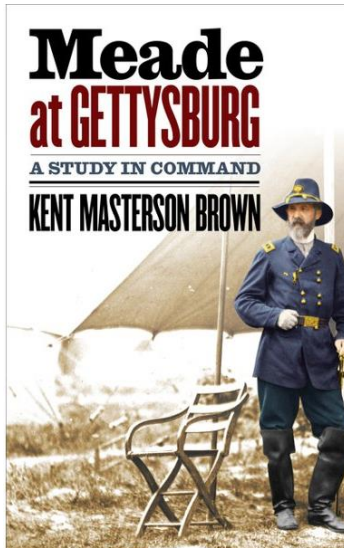
Enclosed is \$\_\_\_\_\_ (meal is \$30.00 per person) for \_\_\_\_\_ people for the  
May 12, 2022 meeting of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee.  
(Please make checks payable to the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.)



# BETWEEN THE COVERS

## Meade at Gettysburg: A Study in Command

Kent Masterson Brown



**Meade at Gettysburg: A Study in Command** by Kent Masterson Brown is an important contribution to understanding the consistently underrated general who commanded the Army of the Potomac during the battle of Gettysburg. It is a part of the Civil War America series.

General George Gordon Meade took command of the Army of the Potomac just a few days before the Battle of Gettysburg. During that time, he managed to rapidly concentrate his army, devise a brilliant defensive strategy (the “fishhook”), and defeat Lee decisively in a major battle, a unique accomplishment among Union generals. At the same time, he struggled with incomplete and often incorrect information and the regular directions and the instructions of the politicians in Washington. Brown’s outstanding research and narrative explain Meade’s accomplishment under duress. He also answers the question that some historians of the battle fail to mention. It is strictly a view from Meade’s headquarters and what he knew, suspected, and acted upon. You see his frustrations and his limitations, and you admire him all the more.

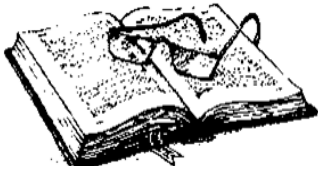
This book is an important addition to the Gettysburg literature and serves as an antidote to the anti-Meade sentiment that still seems to pervade even today. Brown makes it clear that Meade was dealt a difficult hand and had to constantly adapt through the time until Lee crossed the Potomac.

This is an excellent study of Meade at Gettysburg particularly the full understanding of Meade’s challenge of not only Lee and the ANV but the challenges of logistical and supply to move a large army. Many CW historians overlook the effect of supply for an army but Brown adds the reality that food for troops, fodder for animals, and munitions were critical to the army’s success. Meade’s grasping of these issues while capably mobilizing his army is well described including his battle tactics, particularly on the second day when he continually and timely moves troops to fill voids against Longstreet’s massive attack that nearly breaks through. Readers also get a much clearer appreciation for the herculean task of assembling the Union Army and the effect on the troops regarding the necessary rapid marching. Brown is approaching this battle from Meade’s perspective - what were his orders? What was his information? What factors shaped his planning decision-making? What was his plan for the campaign and what factors shaped and changed it? After reading about Hooker at Chancellorsville and Grant at Cold Harbor you better appreciate Meade for his ability. Placed as its head three days before the biggest battle on North America you come to appreciate the magnitude of the job before him. He has never truly received the appreciation he deserved and hopefully, future historians will use this book to take a second look at this skilled general.

Brown takes a nice, clear analytical approach to Meade in the Gettysburg campaign. In the process, he provides clarity to several Gettysburg debates such as Meade’s intent in sending Reynolds to Gettysburg and his plan for the Pipe Creek Line. A final, important discussion is Brown’s review of Meade’s decision-making in the pursuit of Lee following the battle. An important element of Brown’s book is his review of key factors that shaped the campaign and Meade’s decision making - the geography and topography of the area, supply status, condition of troops, efficiency of staff, intelligence, and the Army of the Potomac’s command structure.

My highest recommendation for those interested in a fuller understanding of Meade at Gettysburg. Pairing this fine book with “Searching for George Gordon Meade” by Tom Huntington and the fictional book, “Without Warning: The Saga of Gettysburg” by Terry C. Pierce, readers will come away with renewed respect for this most underrated and underappreciated general.

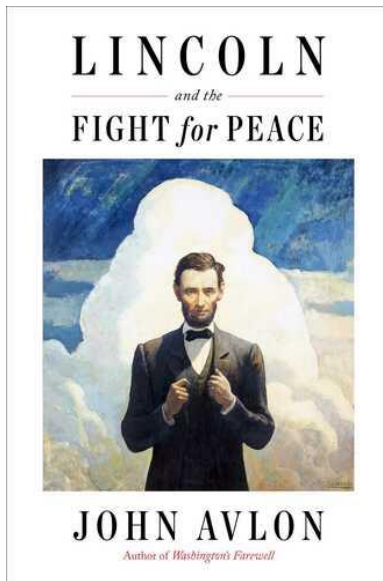
submitted by Robert Johnson



## BETWEEN THE COVERS

### Lincoln and the Fight for Peace

John Avlon



I just read this Simon & Schuster published book copyright 2022 that is well documented about Abraham Lincoln's thinking. There were many passages from Lincoln that I knew, but several that I did not. Mr. Avlon documents thoughtful insights into the mind of Lincoln and what Father Abraham was trying to accomplish. Avlon makes a point about the evolution of Lincoln's thinking on slavery and the impact this oppressive institution had not only on the blacks, but the whole country from the beginning of our founding fathers' constitutional compromise. He articulates Lincoln's objective to militarily beat the South as the only way to end an economy built on the backs of slaves. Then, after their unconditional surrender, Lincoln by grace and peace would bring the South by political reform, economic expansion with the resource wealth of the West, and also the use of Federal assistance to new land-owning black farmers back into the United States with a victorious North not as conquered people who would hold hatred forever, but as true equals.

The untimely assassination cut short the best person and greatest president, honest Abe, who had the heart and the understanding of what the deprived South needed to heal the wounds of a long-divided country. Lincoln said, "I have always found that mercy bears richer fruits than strict justice." At the end of the war Lincoln won the love of much of the population and could bring together what no one else

could. Avlon said "Lincoln was leading by example, living up to his belief that you destroy your enemies when you make them your friends." But that was not to be, as one can never win over everyone. Lincoln's 2nd Inaugural speech which put forth a more progressive position on the right for intelligent blacks and those who served in the Union army to vote was too much for John Wilkes Booth who desired justice, not peace for the white race.

Avlon is critical of Andrew Johnson, the vice president who Lincoln himself did not like and asserts his choice of this running mate was a Lincoln political judgement mistake. Johnson's racial hierarchy feelings allowed white supremacy and the "lost cause" myth to return just as before the war without acknowledging that the states' rights position was in error and slavery itself is what the war was all about. That thinking had to be replaced for the benefit of the whole country to prosper. We are still paying that price today. Avlon reflects on the failure after WWI where the armistice not a victory, ushered in the justice and punishment position that led to WWII since the hostility did not end by peaceful mercy. He proceeds to show that rebuilding the beaten people of WWII with mercy brought forth greater wealth for all. Avlon also claims the failure of the League of Nations and invasion of Iraq without a plan to win peace was not the Lincoln way.

Lincoln's vision is best summarized in the final paragraph of his 2nd Inaugural Address which in 24 words says it best for all democracy around the world. "With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan – to do all which may achieve and cherish a just, and lasting peace, among ourselves, and with all nations."

submitted by Doug Haag

**Mayhem at Manassas** *Civil War Time Travelers Tour* **October 22-28, 2022**

**Manassas I and II - Monocacy - Gettysburg - Flight 93 Memorial**

Join us with Garry Adelman, Doug Ullman, Jr. and the Talents of the MCWRT

**\$895.00** Includes coach transportation, hotels, historians and guides, and more.

**Contact Dave Wege at [wegs1862@gmail.com](mailto:wegs1862@gmail.com).**



## An Excursion to Columbia and Charleston, South Carolina and Savannah, Georgia. February 2022.

### *Wanderings*



Last month Terry and I along with another MCWRT member Laura Rinaldi and her husband John took a long overdue trip to the Southeastern Coast. COVID had cancelled the same trip in 2021, but this year it was on.

The American Battlefield Trust, an organization that purchases battle acreage and buildings from all American wars, was hosting its annual “Thank You Event” for their major donors, the Color Bearers. The destination was Columbia, South Carolina, and included a review of recently purchased Revolutionary War sites in South Carolina. That weekend was fantastic. We had great accommodations, food, drink, historic surroundings, speakers, and guides. The whole weekend was Class A.

This year’s event consisted of a Friday evening reception at the South Carolina State Museum, followed by two days of battlefield tours. The tours available were Old Camden and Hobkirk’s Hill, Eutaw Springs, Musgrove’s Mill, Blackstock’s and Congaree Creek.

The State Museum in Columbia is a must see. There is a Confederate relic room, but it was closed. We have to get back to Columbia to see that place! Columbia is a very nice city full of historic buildings and sites. It is a university town and lots of restaurants and bars surrounding the University, which is downtown. Seafood and Low Country cuisine is the mainstay there. We visited Woodrow Wilson’s boyhood home and a second antebellum mansion that was a favorite destination for Mary Chestnut. To be in a house that this woman frequented was a treat. We went to Old Camden for one of our day tours with the Trust. Camden and the State of South Carolina are creating a driving and walking tour of all the Revolutionary War sites in South Carolina. There were more Revolutionary War Battles fought in South Carolina than any other State. The City of Camden and the State of South Carolina have invested over \$40 million dollars to preserve the Battlefield and build a museum and other public buildings for seminars, conferences, workshops and special events. Well worth the visit and we look forward to going back again.

From Columbia we drove to Savannah, Georgia, about 2 hours by car. If you have not been yet—go! What a step back in time. There are 12 Parks or Squares, each covered in old growth Oak trees covered in Spanish Moss. Each Square has a theme and all of them are surrounded by ante-bellum homes and mansions, many built with money brought in by king cotton. We visited General Sherman’s Headquarters among other Civil War era Historic mansions. We even did a Ghost Tour! That was fun. Savannah is a protected City. They still use gas lights at night. To walk down those old streets, your way lighted by gas lit Victorian lamp posts and porch lights is an experience. There is a popular River Walk also, filled with restaurants, shops, and vendors. Savannah-- I would go back to in a minute. Lots of Civil War sites and Historic Markers in Savannah. Rev. War too. You can do any number of walking tours that includes Civil War related history along with Antebellum Home tours, food tours, bar tours, and boat rides. We walked 10 miles in three days! Visited a number of Civil War Forts that protected Savannah that are run by the State. Fort McAlister, where Sherman ended his march, was a great site to visit. Read your Civil War Savannah History before you go and plan your trip accordingly. Again, in Savannah the food and drinks were great. Catfish, collard greens, fried chicken, and the Seafood—Shrimp, crab, and catch of the day. I put on five pounds! Hotels are iffy so again plan ahead—our winters and early spring are a nice time to go. The locals warned us that the Summers are way too hot and humid to enjoy being outdoors. The locals usually leave in July, August, and September. They cannot stand it and they were born there! It was historic and beautiful to see. The ladies loved it.

Next stop was Charleston, South Carolina. We had booked a Hotel in the Old Charleston Historic District on King Street. Terry and I had been to Charleston a couple of times on Civil War tours and out to Fort Sumter for a visit. It’s a great place to see where it all began! While there the city was hosting an Outdoor Wildlife Event, spread out all around the city with hunting and fishing expos, dog training exhibitions, wild bird shows, etc., that was fun, but crowded. The whole weekend was crowded! Now that Carnival Cruise Line has a dock there, there are sometimes 2 or 3 thousand folks at a time visiting off those big ships. We visited the Old Market Square and took a walk on the Old Battery Park with Fort Sumter in the distance. Of course, we all visited Sumter with a ride on the Ferry. Sumter is always worth your time and effort. We also enjoyed a day at Patriots Point where we toured the aircraft carrier USS Yorktown and WWII destroyer USS Lafferty. Charleston was quite expensive compared to Savannah, especially restaurants. But you can still find inexpensive places to eat in and out of the city. Tybee Island is worth an afternoon with the Fort Moultrie, the old Lighthouse and beaches. Went to the Crab Shack of Charleston fame for dinner one day, but there are many more local Island places to have seafood and save a few bucks. Charleston and vicinity are full of Civil War sites, forts, and battlefields. Read before you go and make your plans.



*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!

## W. H. Wallace and Benjamin Prentiss at Shiloh

In this issue, let's examine, through the looking glass of time, the actions of Wallace and Prentiss at the Hornets' Nest at Shiloh. Is there a clear cut answer as to who really was the key defender at what has come to known as the Hornets' Nest? How has history treated the legacy of both men?

As Union forces under Ulysses S. Grant were building up at Pittsburg Landing, William Hervey Lamme Wallace was given command of Grant's 2nd Division, replacing injured General C. F. Smith.

On the morning of April 6th, Wallace's division was camped in the rear, near the Tennessee River and Pittsburg Landing. Wallace ordered his men to form in line and prepare for action. Sending one of his three brigades to support another Federal division, Wallace would advance with his two remaining divisions to a wooded location along a sunken road where a defensive line was being established. By 10 a.m. Wallace's brigades were on the right flank of the line and in position.

The Confederates would attack this Federal position time over time but the Union defense held. At around 4 p.m. the defense line would begin to collapse, the rebel forces were advancing and more pressure was being placed on the center of the Hornets' Nest. After fighting a delaying action for six hours with the rebels closing in, Wallace decided to pull back towards the river where another defensive line was forming.

As Wallace and his men were pulling back, a bullet hit Wallace in the head behind the left ear and exited out his left eye. Wallace immediately fell to the ground. His aide-de-camp, Lt. Cyrus Dickey (also Wallace's brother-in-law) believed that Wallace was dead and after unsuccessfully managing to carry him about a quarter of a mile Dickey and three of his men were forced to leave Wallace behind.

The following day, after the tide of battle turned in favor of the Union, Wallace was found severely wounded but still alive. He would be placed on a river transport and taken to Cherry Mansion, Grant's Savannah Headquarters. Although there was some hope for his recovery, Wallace succumbed and died on April 10, 1862.

What about Prentiss? On April 1, 1862, Prentiss joined Grant's Army of the Tennessee as the commander of the 6th Division. On April 6 he had planted his largely rookie soldiers along a section of the "sunken road." When Wallace, the primary defender of the Hornets' Nest for most of the day, was shot, Prentiss became the proverbial "Last General Standing." Earlier in the day, Grant's order to Prentiss was to hold his position "at all hazards." By 5:30 Prentiss felt he had no alternative left but to raise the white flag and surrender the approximately 2,250 soldiers left in his command. Prentiss was heard to say to the conquering Confederates, "Yell boys, you have a right to shout, for you have captured the bravest brigade in the U.S. Army." Prentiss was on the way to becoming known as the "Hero of Shiloh."

Prentiss received accolades for holding the Hornets' Nest long enough for Grant to put together a defensive line at Pittsburg Landing which would give the Union the victory on April 7.

In the past, historians have largely ignored Wallace's contribution to the defense of the Hornets' Nest. Many authors credit only Prentiss with the defense of the Nest. James McPherson never mentions Wallace in terms of the Hornets' Nest. Bruce Catton lauds Prentiss. In his book on Beauregard, T. Harry Williams recognizes Prentiss as the man who saved the Federal army at Shiloh. The fact that Wallace held a defensive position at Shiloh from 8:30 that morning until he was shot at 5 p.m. is largely ignored.

In his after-action report Prentiss gave Wallace full credit for his defensive actions. But, Prentiss then began to expand on what his role was at the Hornets' Nest. Prentiss would garner more and more notoriety as time passed. By the 1890s he would be looked at as the key defender of the Hornets' Nest.

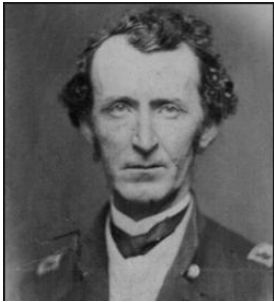
In 1933, the National Park Service took control of the Shiloh Battlefield. In the text in the park's visitor brochure, Prentiss is mentioned but Wallace and his actions are ignored. In the park's 1954 Shiloh film, the Hornets' Nest and Prentiss are focused on with other battle actions meriting little attention.

continued

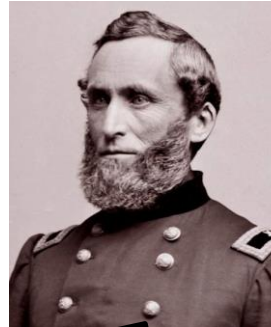
So, was there a definitive hero at Shiloh? If we are discussing Wallace and Prentiss we must acknowledge the contributions made by both men. Wallace and his men, for the better part of April 6th held their own at the Hornets' Nest until finally Wallace, leading a retreat to Pittsburg Landing was shot. At this time, Prentiss, by attrition, took over the command and held the line until he could see he had no alternative but to surrender and prevent the outright slaughter of his remaining men but he held the line long enough to allow Grant to patch together a defensive line at Pittsburg Landing which would help achieve victory the following day.

Both Wallace and Prentiss deserve recognition for their actions on April 6, 1862. In my view, they were both heroes.

W.H. L. Wallace died on April 10, 1862 at the age of 41 and is buried in the family cemetery in Ottawa, Illinois. Benjamin Prentiss died on February 8, 1901 at the age of 81. He is buried in Miriam Cemetery, Harrison County, Missouri.



William H. Wallace



Benjamin Prentiss

submitted by Donna Agnelly



**NOT** Color Bearer of the Month!

Color Bearer of the Month!

### *Wanderings: continued*

I would have all of you consider joining the Battlefield Trust. It is well worth it. \$1,000 per year gets you on the Color Bearer list for VIP seminars and meetings. Give what you can—the Trust does a stellar job run by really good people. The Color Bearer Meetings are again Class A and the folks you meet tops in their fields and all of them share the same interests. I could blaviate for hours with these great historians and park people. Terry was just selected by the Trust as “Color Bearer of the Month”. Why they picked her over me I’ll have to find out! Obviously, a mistake. Anyway, just head for South Carolina and eastern Georgia and enjoy it all.

submitted by Tom and Terry Arliskas.

**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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**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.

# COLONEL HANS HEG STATUE REDEDICATION

## MAY 29, 2022 WISCONSIN CAPITOL

A small initial steering committee, chaired by Camp #2 PCC Fred Campbell, has begun meeting to plan a series of events to commemorate the life of Col. Hans C. Heg and to celebrate the return of his statue to the grounds of the Wisconsin Capitol. The committee is working in consultation with the State Capitol and Executive Residence Board (SCERB), the organization of legislators and citizens with expertise in architecture and design, which has jurisdiction over all improvements on the Capitol grounds. Cori Curley is a marketing consultant and genealogist, and a descendant of Col. Heg. She is in touch with all of the living descendants of the Colonel. Kristin A. Risely, Ph.D., a Professor of Norwegian-American Literature and Culture has an academic interest in the 15th. Wisconsin ("the Scandinavian Regiment") and Col. Heg.

Rounding out the steering committee is Department of Wisconsin Commander John Decker. The committee's draft mission statement is "Honoring immigrant, abolitionist, and trailblazer Col. Hans Christian Heg by rededicating his statue to all those who have fought for freedom and equality". Memorial Day weekend 2022 is being considered for timing of the events, with the rededication ceremony itself planned for the afternoon of Sunday, May 29. For further information contact PCC Fred Campbell at: [campfred@chorus.net](mailto:campfred@chorus.net).

The original dedication of the Col. Hans C. Heg statue took place on Sunday afternoon, October 17, 1926 at 2:30 p.m. Preceding the singing of America, the sculptor, Mr. Paul Fjelde of New York, and the officers of The Norwegian Society of America were presented to the assemblage. They were: Hon. O.P.B. Jacobson, of St. Paul, President; Mr. A. M. Sundheim, of Minneapolis, Treasurer; and Mr. Waldemar Ager, of Eau Claire, Secretary. It was due largely to the zeal and untiring efforts of Mr. Ager that the memorial became a reality.

### NOTE:

Rodney A. Clendening of Beloit was arrested in connection with the substantial damage to Col. Heg's statue in June 2020. He has been charged with theft of property having a value between \$10,000 and \$100,000, which carries a fine of up to \$25,000, and/or a prison term of up to 10 years on conviction. Local Madison media have carried stories to the effect that Clendening allegedly is shown on a video in which he drives off after the statue's head was loaded into the trunk of his car. A jury trial has been set for April 12-14, 2022, with jury selection scheduled for April 11, 2022.

### In Memoriam

It is with sadness that we report the passing of Civil War round Table member Richard Gross. Richard passed away on March 24, 2022, at the age of 68 years after a yearlong battle with leukemia.

Rick was born in Toledo, Ohio, and is survived by his wife Cindy and three children, Sarah, John, and Alex, as well as other family members.

Rick had a passion for travel, art, photography, hiking, and bike riding. He was a dedicated Civil War reenactor and amateur historian. He was an active member of Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and Camp #4, Cushing's Battery. Rick joined our Round Table in 2007. If you look in the background of the movie *Gettysburg*, you will see Rick as an extra. Rick loved cheering for the Ohio State football team and the Green Bay Packers – he and his wife were Packer shareholders.

Rick's career was as a designer of plastic moldings and packaging; he is listed as the holder of over 50 patents. Starting with Seaquist Closures, he was a successful entrepreneur with Arrow Development and RA Gross Design until his retirement in October 2020.

Memorials can be made to the National Parks Foundation.

**And flights of angels guide him to his rest.**



## Horace Griffin Grave Wreath Laying Ceremony

Our Milwaukee Chapter DAR Board of Directors met last evening and discussed possible date/s for holding the Wreath Laying Ceremony at Horace Griffith's grave at Forest Home Cemetery.

We have chosen as Saturday, May 21, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. for the ceremony.

You will remember that the Milwaukee CWRT and the Milwaukee Chapter DAR shared the cost of the installation of the gravestone. We would like very much that representatives from the Milwaukee Civil War Roundtable would be able to participate. I remember Tom Arliskas and Mike Benton attending the visit to the grave site in November 2021. Bill Finke was also there with me.

I have attached a photo of the Horace Griffith gravestone. You may certainly share this photo.

Please inform CWRT President Bruce Klem and the other members of the CWRT Board of Directors, especially Tom and Mike. Bill and I will be attending.

Claudette Finke



The Milwaukee Civil War Round Table provided half the cost for this marker. It is certainly fitting that our organization, dedicated to telling the story and preserving the memory of those who served in the Civil War, is active and involved in ongoing efforts that achieve that aim.

### 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

### Round Table Member Civil War Museum

Bob Brown, a Milwaukee Civil War Round Table member, has opened a one-room Civil War museum in Delafield. The museum is free of charge.

Unlike other Civil War museums, this museum is not filled with muskets, uniforms, or soldiers' letters. Instead, you will see hand-painted wall and battle maps that tell the soldiers' stories.

Bob originally used the room as an office where he could read his books. After visiting a local arts festival he saw that one artist at the festival had a large collection of hand-drawn maps. Bob found a highly detailed map of Pickett's Charge and, using an overhead projector, decided to paint the map "onto my brick wall." This became the first step in transitioning the reading room into a map display room.

The museum officially opened in March. It is Brown's intent that each month will feature a new battle display and educational pieces. There will also be presentations by authors and history experts to encourage people to keep coming back for future visits. Bringing in small school groups is another idea Bob has, giving these group a lesson on the war.

## 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

(410 327-2847 [dbcpmilw@gmail.com](mailto:dbcpmilw@gmail.com))

You may also see Roam in person at the monthly meeting at the Book Raffle table.

