

GENERAL ORDERS



The Newsletter of the

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



JUNE 9, 2022

David Wege

FOUR CALICO BOYS OF COMPANY E

I recollect that many of the lads went off to fight that war with some notion they had to get there before it was all over. It was like they was missing out on the great event of their times, and they wanted to get their hands on a piece of it.

That observation brings to mind four young men from Fond du Lac County. They were from little towns with place names like Eden and Waucousta. Families had come to wild Wisconsin not too many years before for a new start, a handful of good, black earth, and for the riches in natural resources that were abundant. One can imagine those four boys making their way up to Fond du Lac together to sign the muster roll, talking about the great deeds they would do for Cause and Country.

The common soldier of the Civil War has long been a fascination for our speaker. The tales the boys had to tell. The honor of their service. The sacrifices they made. These are the stories of every generation which served country out of patriotic duty. Over 600,000 never came home from the Civil War. They lie in far-off fields, under a stone that reads "Unknown," or in local and national cemeteries throughout the land.



Our June speaker, Dave Wege, is a member of the Board of Directors of the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table. A recipient of the Abroe-Carter Award for Teaching Excellence from the American Battlefield Trust, Dave is a 42-year classroom veteran, and sees a career sunset on the near horizon. His students have made the trip to Antietam, Harpers Ferry, and Gettysburg twice. The kids also have been to Chickamauga, Chattanooga, and Franklin, with a new tour to those places in the 2022-2023 school year. Every student (and many of their parents) has said that the school field trips have led to a clearer understanding of the conflict. Together,

Dave and Kay Wege lead the tour group, Civil War Time Travelers, which travels to walk the ground over which the common soldier marched, camped, and fought. This tour group is planning its next trip to Manassas and more in the fall of 2022.

Quite simply for Wege, to be able to share a love and respect for true history, specifically the Civil War Era, is a dream come true.

General Orders No. 6-22

June 2022

IN THIS ISSUE

MCWRT News	page 2
From the Archives	page 3
Area Events	page 3
From the Field	page 4
MCWRT 75 th Anniversary	pages 5-6
Round Table Congress	page 7
Civil War Time Travelers	page 7
Round Table Speakers 2021-2022	page 8
2021-2022 Board of Directors	page 8
Meeting Reservation Form	page 8
Between the Covers.....	pages 9-10
Wanderings Invitation	page 11
Ed Bearrs Memorial Event	page 11
Through the Looking Glass	page 12
Civil War Museum of Delafield	page 13
Quartermaster's Regalia	page 14

June Meeting at a Glance The Wisconsin Club 9th and Wisconsin Avenue

[Jackets required for the dining room.]

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

6:45 p.m. - Dinner

[\$30 by reservation, please]

Reservations are accepted until

Monday, June 6, 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



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

SEE PAGE 5-6 FOR DETAILS!

The Muster Roll: NEW MEMBERS

NAME	RESIDENCE	PLACE OF BIRTH	MEMBER SINCE
Susan Anderson			
Roger Wilson			

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

In Memory of Robert Parrish \$500

Patron (\$200 - \$499)

Doug Haag, Dawn & Van Harl, Gene & Jane Jamroz, 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, Robert Christie, John & Linda Connelly, Gordon Dammann, Paul Eilbes, George Geanon, Julian Gonzalez, Brian Gunn, Leon & Margaret Harris, Christopher Johnson, Jerome Kowalski, John Kuhnmuensch, Jay Lauck, Fred Madsen, 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



Rucker Agee spoke to the membership in June 1958 on “The Streight-Forrest Campaign.”

June 1963 had T. Harry Williams speaking to the members on “The Civil War Regiment and its Commander.”

“Ladies Night at Pabst Blue Ribbon Hall” was the theme of the 1st Brigade Band at the June 1973 meeting.

At the June 1993 meeting Frances H. Kennedy spoke to those assembled on “The Dollars and Sense of Battlefield Preservation.”

“Corinth 1862: Siege, Battle, Occupation” was the topic presented by our June 2013 speaker Timothy B. Smith, Ph.D.

At last year’s June meeting we welcomed the esteemed A. Wilson Greene to our Round Table to speak on “We Have Done All That is Possible and Must be Resigned: The 1st Petersburg Offensive.” A. Wilson Greene was presented with the Iron Brigade Award at the meeting. The award was originally scheduled for the May 2020 meeting but due to Covid that meeting was cancelled.

BOARD OF DIRECTOR ELECTION

At the May 12, 2022 meeting the following members were elected to the Board of Directors for three-year terms. The terms will end in May 2025.

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

Buckeyes at Gettysburg

Wednesday, June 29 6:30 p.m.

\$25/\$10 Friends of the Museum

Presenter: Dan Masters

This is a virtual workshop hosted via Zoom. Registrants will receive a Zoom invite the day of the workshop.

Ohio’s contingent of soldiers in the Army of the Potomac at Gettysburg consisted of 13 regiments, four artillery batteries, and two companies of cavalry but what they lacked in numbers they made up for in presence by fighting in some of the most dramatic events of the battle. From the fighting on Barlow’s Knoll on July 1st, to Culp’s Hill and Little Round Top on July 2nd, to repelling Pickett’s Charge on the afternoon of July 3rd, Ohioans made a hefty contribution to this crucial Union victory that helped turn the tide of the war.

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.

All the programs are held for an in-person audience at the museum. Lectures are recorded and posted to the museum’s YouTube channel.

Friday, June 10 Noon

Brother Joseph Dutton: Badger Soldier, Sinner, Saint

Presenter: Mr. Pete Skelly

Brother Joseph Dutton, was born Ira Dutton in Storrs, Vermont, and grew up in Janesville. He served for the duration of the Civil War in the 13th Wisconsin rising from Quartermaster Sergeant to Lieutenant and District Quartermaster. He spent two decades after the war in his “lost years”. Then went to Molokai Island Hawaii and spent 44 years ministering to the leper colony.

Mr. Skelly is the founding and only president of the Rock County Civil War Round Table, is the current President of the Lincoln Fellowship of Wisconsin, appointed by the Governor to the State of Wisconsin Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission where he served as Chairman of the Markers and Memorials Committee.

Civil War Technology Living History Day

Saturday, June 25 10 – 4 pm

Free and open to the public

The Civil War saw large advances in the application of science and technology in regards to weaponry and equipment.

Join members of the Battery A, Chicago Light Artillery and the 1st Michigan Engineers as they present outdoor living history demonstrations showing some of the technology and equipment used by artillery and engineering soldiers who fought in the Civil War. Battery A, Chicago Light Artillery will do cannon firing demonstrations during the day at 10:00, 11:00, Noon, 2:00 and 3:00. The First Michigan Engineers will perform musket firing and drill demonstrations at 10:30, 11:30, 12:30, 2:30 and 3:30.

RG Radio Productions Presentation

The Red Badge of Courage

Saturday, June 25 1 pm

Free and open to the public

RG Productions is proud to present Stephen Crane’s great Civil War novel: *The Red Badge of Courage* on Saturday, June 25 at the Civil War Museum. The story highlights the courage and bravery of a young Civil War enlistee, Henry Fleming, who flees from the field of battle yet ultimately returns to be the standard-bearer who carries the flag. The many battle scenes the group will re-enact include LIVE SOUND EFFECTS both on stage and outdoors with the Chicago Light Artillery and the Michigan Engineers.



Part I

Janesville Weekly Gazette

Mar 11 1864

Col. Harrison C. Hobart of the 21st Wisconsin

The great occasion of the present session took place last night when Col. Harrison C. Hobart, of the 21st Wisconsin recently escaped from the Libby Prison at Richmond, was honored with a public reception by a joint convention of the two houses, and delivered an able and interesting address. The meeting was attended by the largest audience that ever assembled in Madison and the address was listened to, throughout, with the deepest and most absorbing interest. Col. Hobart, it will be recollected, has formerly been a prominent democratic politician in this state, was Speaker of the Assembly during the session of 1859, and was the opponent of Governor Randall during his last race for the Governorship. He was a hearty endorser of the Ryan Address at the time it was issued, and just how far he is now a supporter or a subscriber to its pernicious theories, the reader can conclude from extracts of his speech which I subjoin taken from the report made of it by the State Journal. After thanking the legislature for the honor conferred upon him he gave a graphic description of the Battle of Chickamauga and the manner in which he was taken prisoner.

After the Battle

Col. H, as he was taken to the rear, saw the rebel dead, and learned that they had suffered terribly, and that their troops were broken and scattered. Yet they had succeeded in defeating us. The conduct of Gen. Thomas and his troops that day deserved the high commendations bestowed on them but it was his impression that it was not Gen. Thomas alone that saved our army. It was Gen. Thomas and sundown together.

Col. Hobart and his companions were that night taken ten miles to the rear, without food. The prisoners had no clothes except those worn when they were captured. In the morning about 2,000 of the prisoners were gathered together of whom several hundred were officers. The next day they were marched twenty-five miles to Tunnel Hill. There they were given a little raw Indian meal and very little meat. From thence they were taken to cattle cars, via Atlanta to Richmond in passing through Georgia, the Carolinas and Virginia, he kept his eyes open. The country was one wide scene of desolation far greater than he suspected. The farms were uncultivated. Where men were engaged in labor, it was in connection with military operations of the country. All other business was suspended. The whole country had given all its energies to

war. You may ask if he saw any evidences of Union sentiment. He saw many such evidences. He talked with many of the soldiers, and took every occasion to ascertain their views. He had opportunities of speaking with them when no officers were present. They told him – most of them – that they had been in the army a long time, and that they had an impression that he wanted to take away their Southern rights. But most of them had only a vague impression of what they meant by the phrase, as very few of them have any slaves. They said they wanted the war to end, as they wished to go home.

Many of them had not been home since the beginning of the war, and were anxious about their families. The officers are mostly from wealthy families. They feel differently. They are defiant, and declare that to sustain the institution of slavery they must fight to the bitter end. If unsuccessful, they know that slavery is dead. They will fight as long as there is a hope of success. But the private soldiers did not share in these feelings.

The minor officers taken prisoners were treated well till they reached Richmond, but the private soldiers had indignities heaped upon them that he had never heard of being practiced on our prisoners. At Tunnel Hill they had their rubber blankets taken from them. At Atlanta they were put in an enclosure and their other blankets and overcoats were taken from them (cries of shame). That night, which was cold, the men slept on the naked ground, with nothing to protect them from the inclemency of the elements. On reaching Richmond the officers were put in Libby Prison; 1,100 officers were confined in six rooms. These rooms were low and dingy. Thus nearly 150 men were shut up in each room.

They were not allowed to go out, they slept on the floor. NO cots were allowed. Scarcely a man had a blanket to lie on. He shared a ragged old horse blanket with Dr. Dixon, of this State. The filth was indescribable. The audience would spare him from going into details.

The stench was such that sometimes he wrapped his blanket about his head to avoid the odor. It was sickening and horrid in the extreme. They were treated by the rebel officials with every species of indignity, some of the time smallpox prevailed in the rooms. Everything that human ingenuity could devise, was done to avoid the gloom of prison, and keep up their spirits. But at the best, it was but a lingering death. When officers were in a dying state they were refused an opportunity to have friends come and see them from adjoining rooms. No respect was shown them, and everything was done to aggravate the misery of their condition. Gen. Winder, who had general charge over the Richmond prisoners, did not visit them while he was there, and made no response to their request for an amelioration for their sufferings.

Coming in the September issue – Part II - The Escape!

The Great Lakes Civil War Forum

Where the Fight was the Thickest:
The Campaigns of the Iron Brigade of the West

Saturday, October 15 * Check In Opens at 8:30 am * Program Begins at 9:30 am
\$55 (\$70 for non-members) includes lunch

A Deadly Game of Bo-Peep: The Iron Brigade at South Mountain, September 14, 1862

Presenter: Dr. Brian Matthew Jordan

On Sunday, September 14, 1862, the Army of the Potomac notched three, hard-earned victories in the rugged passes of South Mountain. One of the most inspiring moments of this first major combat of the Antietam Campaign involved a brigade of hearty Midwesterners who, ascending the old National Pike, forced Turner's Gap. How did this daring action contribute to and shape the identity of what came to be called the Iron Brigade? And how did the battle itself shape the course of the Maryland Campaign? Historian Brian Matthew Jordan will address these questions and more.

Whoever Stood in front of the Corn Field at Antietam Needs no Praise: The Black Hat Brigade at Antietam

Presenter: Scott D. Hartwig

The Battle of Antietam was not the costliest battle the western brigade of General John Gibbon fought in the war, but for those who experienced its ferocity it was an unforgettable experience that no one who survived it ever wanted to repeat. Nearly a year later, Rufus Dawes of the 6th Wisconsin, would write that he dreaded the very thought of the Antietam. This program will examine the experience of the brigade that day, what sustained them through some of the fiercest fighting of the war, how some failed, but ultimately how they emerged from the Maryland Campaign with the nickname The Iron Brigade.

Boys, We Must Hold Our Colors on This Line or Lie Here Under Them

Presenter: Phil Spaugy

The 19th Indiana is probably the least known of the Iron Brigade regiments. The veterans of the 19th had no authors such as Mickey Sullivan, Rufus Dawes, Jerome Watrous, or George Otis to write their regimental history. But the other men who wore the Black Hats remembered them well. Jerome Watrous of the 6th Wisconsin Volunteers recalled, "The 19th Indiana regiment became known as "Old Posey County" or "Swamp Hogs No. 19" and "every man of them did not care a goll darn how he was dressed, but was all hell for a fight."

The 19th Indiana brought 339 men to Gettysburg and by the end of July 1 had lost 27 killed, 133 wounded and 50 missing. Phil Spaugy's program will detail their vicious fighting along Willoughby Run and during the retreat to Seminary Ridge, where the 19th Indiana served on the exposed left flank of the brigade.

Camp-Fire Memories of the Iron Brigade

Presenter: Lance Herdegen

The four years of Civil War cast a long shadow over the surviving veterans of the Iron Brigade. At first, they were too busy getting on with their lives and did not to give much thought of their days in uniform. But the years passed and soon they were caught up in an overwhelming need to think of soldier days, seek out the old comrades, and reflect on what had been accomplished. They called their reunions "Camp-Fires" and the written accounts comprised much of what is known today of the Iron Brigade. Writers and researchers delight in finding those accounts, but often use only small segments after making decisions on their historical value. The accounts themselves were often softened to spare readers, yet they hint at the truth of the war experience and provide an important glimpse of how the war and its memory affected the veterans and their families.

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS

The Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, custodians of the Iron Brigade Association, was established in 1947 and is the second oldest of the more than 300 Civil War Round Tables in the United States and abroad. This year we will be celebrating our 75th anniversary at the Civil War Museum in Kenosha the weekend of October 14-15, 2022. Activities include a dinner on October 14th and presentations on key battles in the history of the Iron Brigade of the Civil War on October 15th. Current membership is approximately 300. Membership in the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc. has many perks. Membership automatically includes membership in the Iron Brigade Association.

October 14, 2022 Dinner

Appetizers

Bacon-Wrapped Water Chestnuts finished in a house-made Bourbon BBQ glaze
Personal Charcuterie Cup

Plated Salad

Apple Salad
Spring Mix & Romaine Lettuce, Candied Pecans, Blue Cheese Crumbles with a Champagne Vinaigrette

Buffet Dinner

Black Angus Top Sirloin
Served with a Red Wine Demi-Glace

Grilled Scottish Salmon
Flame-grilled on-site and served with Mango Relish for a tropical citrus flavor

Roasted Wisconsin Red-Skinned Potatoes
Oven-Roasted with Fresh Herbs & Garlic-Infused Olive Oil

Maple Glazed Carrots
Artisan Dinner Rolls & Butter

Chef David's Famous Cheesecake Bars
House-made Cheesecake on an Oreo Cookie Crust Topped with Raspberry Drizzle

Cost of Dinner Event per person: \$50

[Please be aware that this dinner cost is separate from the Forum on Saturday.]

Additional items available for dinner event guests:

Certificate for one Used book
Commemorative Note pads & post-its
Golf style shirt (TBD)
Auction prints and books

CWRT CONGRESS 2022 SUSTAINABILITY CONFERENCE

September 16 – 18, 2022

At the Kenosha Civil War Museum

Mission: To educate and inspire Civil War Round Tables in strategies for sustainability

Why Attend?

Civil War enthusiasts are no longer as plentiful. Most don't respond to traditional advertisements. And, their wants and needs have changed.

At the Congress:

- Learn the "SECRETS" to success
- Set meaningful GOALS
- PRIORITIZE challenges
- Master PROVEN PRACTICES
- Pursue SUSTAINABILITY
- Build RELATIONSHIPS
- Discover win-win MARKETING
- ACQUIRE new skills & insights
- Be INSPIRED to succeed



Register at: www.cwrtcongress.org/2022

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.

The Mayhem at Manassas trip is almost full!

Preview for 2023: *Atlanta is Ours! (And Fairly Won!)*



Preliminary planning suggests we will visit Dalton, Resaca, the brand-new Rocky Face Ridge Park, Allatoona Pass, Pickett's Mill, Kennesaw Mountain, Kolb's Farm, Andersonville, the Southern Museum of Civil War and Railroad History (home of the **General**), and the Atlanta History Center, where the **Texas** is memorialized. We will also stop at Columbus, home of the National Civil War Naval Museum as we make our way back towards Wisconsin.

Of course, much may change in a year, but the outline of the October 2023 trip will remain as described.

MILWAUKEE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE 2021-2022 SPEAKER SCHEDULE

September 9, 2021	Eric J. Wittenberg <i>"Seceding from Secession; The Creation of West Virginia"</i>
October 7, 2021	David Dixon <i>The American Civil War: A Radical, International Revolution</i>
November 11, 2021	Tom Clemens Nevins Freeman Award Winner <i>Joseph K. Mansfield</i>
December 9, 2021	Dennis Doyle (At the Country Club) <i>Illinois Regiments at Gettysburg</i>
January 13, 2022	Garry Adelman <i>Civil War Myths and Mistakes</i>
February 10, 2022	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	Dave Wege <i>Four Calico Boys of Company E</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. 2022 – 2023 Board of Directors

Name	Office/Position	Term Expires
Donna Agnelly	Editor, General Orders	2025
Thomas Arliskas	Past President	2025
Terry Arliskas	Secretary	
Michael K. Benton	Past President	2023
Roman Blenski	Quartermaster	2025
Paul A. Eilbes	Treasurer	2025
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
John Petty	Member	2025
Frank Risler	Program Chair	2024
Tom Thompson	Member	2023
Justin Tolomeo	Member	2023
David Wege	Layout, General Orders	2024

www.milwaukeeecwrt.org

~ CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE NEWS EMAIL NOTIFICATIONS ~

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

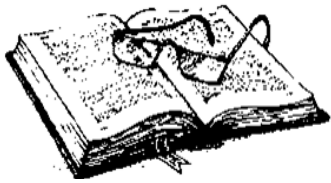
Grant will be creating a database with email reminders set to go out a week before the scheduled event. This is a purely optional choice on each member's part. If you have any questions please talk to Grant at a Round Table meeting or email him at the listed email address.

Milwaukee Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for June 9, 2022

Mail your reservations by Monday, June 6 to:
Paul Eilbes
1809 Washington Avenue
Cedarburg, WI 53012-9730

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

Enclosed is \$_____ (meal is \$30.00 per person) for _____ people for the
June 9, 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 Maryland Campaign of 1862: Vol. 1

Ezra Carman; edited by Thomas G. Clemens

This book is a review on the first volume of Ezra A. Carman's Maryland Campaign books. The book is a republic of Carman's original work from the Library of Congress by Dr. Thomas G. Clemens, Professor at Hagerstown Community College and licensed tour guide at Antietam Battlefield. I purchased the set at the Kenosha Civil War Museum's 2016 September Symposium where one of the speakers was Dr. Clemens. Ezra Carman was the colonel of the 13th New Jersey at the Battle of Antietam and fought in more than 20 battles during the war. After the war he took on the project of detailing the Battle of Antietam. Carman's original work has been annotated by Dr. Clemens and the result is the three-book set.

Carman can be tough to get through thanks to a sometimes awkward writing style, but his histories are chock full of details and facts that make them indispensable to students of the 1862 Maryland Campaign. Carman took his cue criticizing McClellan from Palfrey before him, carrying it on to the next generation of readers, so be aware of the bias. Dr. Tom Clemens' annotations are excellent, adding sources and balance to Carman's fundamentals. While McClellan takes a lot of abuse from most historians for his cautious maneuvering and poor battle planning (in my opinion), he was being bombarded quite a bit from Halleck about protecting Washington. These missives from DC I think reinforced Mac's fear that the Confederates had hundreds of thousands of troops in Lee's army as well as another army lying in wait to attack DC once the Army of the Potomac was engaged with Lee's 100k force.

I found that Dr. Clemens' additional notes and comments help flesh out Carman's work and are a definite enhancer on understanding the ins and outs of the campaign. I think one important chapter in this book is the first one. In it, Carman provides details on the intense political situation that was developing in Maryland as the pressure for secession built up both in the nation and the state. As pointed out, much of the pressure to secede came from outside the state. While there was plenty of internal feeling towards splitting much was present to maintain the state as part of the Union or at worst become a neutral force in the coming conflict. Dr. Clemens' notes help the reader follow the internal turmoil going on in the state politics as well.

Carman provides a very detailed account of the Confederate movement into Maryland and describes Lee's thinking on the aim of the campaign. He quotes a discussion with General Walker, one of Lee's division commanders, where Lee goes on to say, "He (Mac) is an able general but a very cautious one. His army is in a very disorganized and chaotic condition, and will not be prepared for offensive operations, or he will not think it's for 3-4 weeks. Before that time I hope to be on the Susquehanna." Obviously this line of Confederate thinking was still carried to the next invasion of the North in 1863.

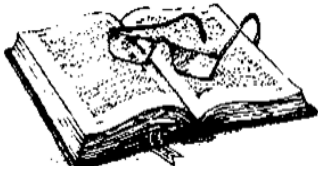
The "Lost Order" changed the narrative of the campaign. It gave Mac the battle plan of Lee and he now knew what was going on with the Confederate forces. Again much is made by some historians of the slowness of Mac to react to this piece of intel. I'm not so sure that the time involved for the Union forces to shift into action was too slow. It takes time in an army to react to a change in a tactical plan based on one piece of intel. Orders must be issued via new plan and subordinate units directed to do certain things. This is accomplished with a new written battle plan put to paper and distributed to all commands. In the mid-1800's army this was all done on paper and hand distributed. All of this takes time. Recon units must be ordered out to verify Confederate locations before combat can take place.

That combat takes place at South Mountain as the Union forces tries to hit the main Confederate force. One fault I would find with Mac's reaction at this point was the very timid instructions given to Franklin's Corps in the relief operation of Harpers Ferry garrison. The Confederate forces were over matched by Franklin's troops who were being reinforced by some of Couch's forces and had more men on hand than McLaws Confederates in Pleasant Valley. An attack by Franklin could have put the Confederates at Harpers Ferry in jeopardy and relieved the Union forces there. It would have had a dramatic effect on the entire Confederate operation. A serious lost opportunity for the Union and McClellan.

This book is not for the casual Civil War reader. It is not a book for beginners. I would recommend the Sears book, *Landscape Turned Red* and maybe Murfin's *The Gleam of Bayonets* before tackling this set. But if you want to seriously study the Maryland campaign, you must start here. The Carman manuscript has long been acknowledged as the most thoroughly researched account of this period of the war. Dr. Clemens treatment of the manuscript has only enhanced that. The footnotes and bibliography are an easy road map to further study. Furthermore, on most of the debatable points Dr. Clemens points out Carman's biases, presents countering opinions and leaves the reader to choose.

The maps are outstanding and add considerable clarity to the narrative. If you are looking for a detailed account, often down to the company level, this is the book for you. If you are trying to choose between this one and the Pierro edition of the Carman manuscript, I would choose this edition for the maps alone. The maps are in the front of the book so you're not searching for a map to check out unit positions. It is a slow read but I think for the serious student well worth it.

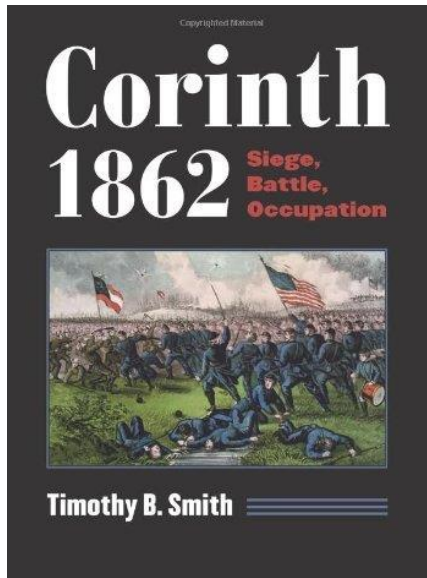
submitted by Bruce Klem



BETWEEN THE COVERS

Corinth 1862: Siege, Battle, Occupation

Timothy B. Smith



My book review today is on a book that I read in preparation for the Kenosha Civil War trip to Corinth and Shiloh. The book is by our tour guide Timothy B. Smith. This was a book that I purchased at a presentation by Mr. Smith on September 15, 2018. Having lived in Corinth from 1984 to 1985 I had a chance to examine first hand some of the sites that are mentioned in this book as well as visiting the Shiloh battlefield on numerous occasions, so I really enjoyed reminiscing about the city as I read this book.

When Corinth is remembered at all, it is usually afforded one or two sentences that record – and usually mock – Henry Halleck’s slow, creeping advance on the city from the Shiloh battlefield. The resulting siege of the city (29 April – 30 May 1862) was hardly a siege at all, but is better remembered that way than as Halleck’s very slow forward assault, which is what it actually was. There was some push back from the rebels. At Farmington there was a battle that set the Union forces to reconsider their advance tactics. In our touring we got to see some of the earthworks from both sides. Beauregard’s line and the Union siege set ups. Our tour took us to Corinth first and then Shiloh, but the book provided plenty of detail on the Union advance and the battle that followed at Corinth in the fall.

After the Confederate retreat back to Corinth by Beauregard, defenses were improved but Beauregard realized he was in no position to fend off the Union forces coming down to his position and ended up pulling out to save the army to fight another day. The Union forces moved in and took the town without a fight. That would come later.

Then there’s the battle of Corinth (3-4 October 1862) in which the rebels tried and failed to recapture their fallen town. This was a brutal and ugly affair with big casualty lists on both sides that nevertheless is almost forgotten today. Why? A glance through the order of battle provides the essential clue. Except for the three commanders – Earl Van Dorn, Sterling Price, William S. Rosecrans – how many of the named participants are recognizable? Not many and none of the three commanders mentioned has a stellar record; at a minimum, biographical accounts of all three are riddled with constellations of asterisks.

For those who enjoy reading Civil War history and learning exactly how and why various battles were developed and fought, this is a don’t miss read. Mr. Smith is an expert on the western theater during the Civil War. This book starts at the end of the Battle of Shiloh and leads the reader through a detailed campaign leading up to and through the Battle of Corinth. Excerpts from letters and diaries of soldiers in the field are frequently used to show what they saw, thought and often endured. The topography and weather conditions are described in detail as they often had a direct impact on the outcome of most battles. The battle itself is described by drilling down to an almost blow by blow chronological account of regiments, companies, and sometimes individual soldiers. The conduct, leadership, and competence of upper command is not overlooked. The good, the bad, and the ugly is described. Last but by no means least, there are plenty of maps to follow the movements during each segment of the battle. Having Mr. Smith as our tour guide certainly helped to bring his book to light. We got to see many of the key places mentioned in the book and having lived in Corinth made it very interesting for me as I realized while I was there I had missed many parts of the battle.

I highly recommend this book for anyone interested in the Western theater action. The leaders are perhaps new to the reader but many of these names are key in the West. Mr. Smith’s style is an easy read and will hold your interest throughout.

submitted by Bruce Klem



It's that time of year. Folks are traveling to Civil War sites across the nation. Please keep the **General Orders** and *Wanderings* in mind when you make these trips. Our membership would love to hear of your adventures and insights as you experience the thrill of walking hallowed ground. So, take notes, take photos, and share!

The American Battlefield Trust Teacher Institute will be in Mobile this summer. Expect to hear from Dave Wege about the Institute and side trips made along the way. We might hit Champion Hill, and will certainly spend time with the Trust historians for a grand four-day event!

Ed Bearss Memorial Event



The Bearss family invites the public to attend a celebration of the life of Edwin C. Bearss, to be held in Gettysburg, PA, on June 26, 2022. This day would have been his 99th birthday. The event will begin at 1:00 pm EDT and last about one hour. American Battlefield Trust President David N. Duncan will emcee the event, welcoming speakers who will reflect on aspects of Ed's amazing life and career: US Marine Corps Lieutenant General (Ret.) Richard P. Mills; Jerome A. Greene, retired historian for the National Park Service; and O. James Lighthizer, president emeritus of the American Battlefield Trust.

The event will be held on land preserved by the American Battlefield Trust adjacent to the Seminary Ridge Museum, 111 Seminary Ridge, Gettysburg, PA 17325. The area will be tented, with seating available and water and light refreshments provided. Portable toilets and indoor restrooms will be available nearby.

The Museum parking lots will be available nearby with an area reserved for handicapped guests. Guests will be able to walk on paved surfaces except for a short distance on grass to the tent where the service will be held. Please do not park at Lee's Headquarters; it is further away from the event and crossing Chambersburg Pike safely can be challenging.

[Please indicate your intention to attend by emailing billvodra1@gmail.com](mailto:billvodra1@gmail.com) so that we may ensure adequate seating and refreshment. For those unable to attend in person, video of the event will be posted online by the Trust subsequently.

Attendees may wish to consider having a brunch before, or dinner after, the ceremonies at one of the many restaurants in Gettysburg. Picnicking in the area may also be possible; check with the National Park Service or local parks.

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 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.

Copyright © 2015 by the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc. Permission is granted for use of the contents, in whole or in part, in non-for-profit Civil War Round Table newsletters only. All other rights are reserved.

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.



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

The 1889 GAR National Encampment in Milwaukee

In August of 1889, the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) held its 23rd national convention or “encampment” in Milwaukee. The GAR, founded in Illinois in 1866, was the national organization for Union Civil War veterans. Shortly after its founding, the first of Wisconsin’s 280 GAR posts was established. Eventually, over 6000 posts were organized nationwide with over 400,000 veteran members at its height.

The GAR held local, state and national conventions. They called the conventions encampments since many of the attendees were housed in tents reminiscent of their war years. The 1889 Milwaukee encampment was among the largest of the national meetings. Over 75,000 veterans and visitors came to Milwaukee from all over the country. Among them were many VIPs and dignitaries, both military and civilian. General Sherman and President Benjamin Harrison were the most prominent and attracted considerable attention. Other luminaries included Clara Barton, Susan B. Anthony, Julia Ward Howe, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Count Ferdinand Zeppelin, Arthur McArthur, Sr., four former Wisconsin governors, and members of the Pabst and Uihlein families.

These encampments were not merely social gatherings. Among other things, the leadership lobbied for the care and support of disabled and wounded soldiers and care for widows and orphans of the deceased. High on the list of priorities were ongoing discussions advocating pensions for veterans and families of the deceased.



Over the course of the four day Milwaukee encampment there were many scheduled events. Reunions of the military units in attendance took place at various venues around the city. There were concerts, tours, parades and other entertainment options. Captain Frederick Pabst was a generous major sponsor of the social events. He invited the veterans to his lakefront resort in Whitefish Bay and to the Pabst Brewery. Thousands of the veterans attended.

The first day featured a massive parade. An estimated 20,000 men marched in the procession on Grand Avenue. 7000 of these were members of various Wisconsin GAR posts. Nearly 250,000 spectators witnessed the parade. The climactic event took place at the lakefront on the final day. A mock naval battle, witnessed by more than 300,000 men, women and children, was staged in Milwaukee’s harbor. Boats on the lake and cannons on the shore fired blank volleys at one another. When the last shots were fired the 23rd national encampment had ended.

When all was said and done, the crowning achievement of the 1889 encampment was the recognition extended to America’s honorable Union army veterans.

In addition to the 1889 National GAR Encampment held in Milwaukee there were 3 other national encampments held in Wisconsin.

- In September of 1923 the encampment was again in Milwaukee – the national membership was now 76,000.
- In September of 1937 the encampment was held in Madison. The national membership was now 3,300.
- In September of 1943 it was back in Milwaukee. The national membership had now dwindled down to 400.
- The 1889 encampment in Milwaukee was when GAR membership was at its height with 400,000 veteran members.

submitted by Dr. Peter Jacobsohn



Join Us For Our Next Program of 2022!

Tuesday, June 14th, 2022, 6:30-8:00 pm

**The Peninsula Campaign
and The Seven Days' Battles**

This presentation will focus on Union General McClellan's failed attempt to take Richmond in the spring of 1862 and the emergence of Confederate General Robert E. Lee.

**528 Wells Street, Suite F
Delafield, WI 53018
262-303-4133**

Seating is limited! Please register at our website:

<https://www.civilwarmuseumdelafield.com>

Or to register via email or contact us with questions, write to us at:

cwmdel@gmail.com

Visit us at Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/Civil-War-Museum-of-Delafield-WI-108835694973198/>

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)

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

