

# GENERAL ORDERS

The Newsletter of the

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



February 13, 2025

Hampton Newsome

## Gettysburg's Southern Front

On June 14, 1863, US Major General John Adams Dix received the following directive from General-in-Chief Henry Halleck: "All your available force should be concentrated to threaten Richmond, by seizing and destroying their railroad bridges over the South and North Anna Rivers, and do them all the damage possible." With General Robert E. Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia marching toward Gettysburg and only a limited Confederate force guarding Richmond, Halleck sensed a rare opportunity for the Union cause.

Mr. Newsome will discuss the intriguing and little-known Federal offensive against Richmond during the Gettysburg Campaign – the subject of Mr. Newsome's book *Gettysburg's Southern Front*. Sometimes referred to as the Blackberry Raid, the operation was led by John Dix and provided a significant opportunity by U.S. forces to threaten the Confederate capital and damage Lee's operation in Pennsylvania.

Newsome lives in Charlottesville and is author of several books on the Civil War including -- *Richmond Must Fall: The Richmond-Petersburg Campaign, October 1864*, which was published by Kent State University Press in 2012 and recognized as a best book of the year by the *Civil War Monitor* magazine;

and *The Fight for the Old North State: The Civil War in North Carolina, January-May 1864*, published in 2019 by the University Press of Kansas and recipient of the Emerging Civil War Book Award and the Richard Barksdale Harwell Award from the Atlanta Roundtable. His most recent title is *Gettysburg's Southern Front: Opportunity and Failure at Richmond* was also published by University of Kansas Press and received the Edwin C. Bearss Book Award for Outstanding Scholarship from the Chicago Civil War Roundtable as well as the Emerging Civil War 2023 Book of the Year.



## General Orders No. 2-25

February 2025

### IN THIS ISSUE

MCWRT News .....	page 2
From the Archives .....	page 3
Kenosha Civil War Museum .....	page 3
Area Events .....	page 3
From the Field .....	page 4
Through the Looking Glass .....	page 5
Driftless Area CW Club .....	page 6
In Memoriam .....	page 6
Patriotic Luncheon Invitation .....	page 7
Civil War Museum of Delafield .....	page 7
Preservation News: SVBF .....	page 7
Round Table News 2024-2025 .....	page 8
• 2024-2025 Speaker Schedule	
• 2024-2025 Board of Directors	
• Meeting Reservation Form	
Between the Covers .....	page 9
Wanderings .....	page 10
More from the Kenosha Museum .....	page 10
Additional Educational Programs .....	page 10
Travels and Tours .....	page 11
Quartermaster's Regalia .....	page 12

## February Meeting at a Glance

The Wisconsin Club

9<sup>th</sup> and Wisconsin Avenue

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

**Jackets are required for dining room.**

5:30 p.m. - Registration/Social Hour

6:30 p.m. - Dinner

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.

**2024-2025 Speaker Schedule p. 8**

[milwaukeeecwrt.org](http://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!

## Non-Discrimination Statement

The Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc. does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, national origin, religion, age, sexual orientation, creed, ancestry, pregnancy, marital or parental status, gender identity or expression, veteran status, physical, mental, emotional or learning disability, or any other legally protected status in its educational programs, activities, or membership.

The movie *Glory*, with its star-studded cast including actors Matthew Broderick, Morgan Freeman, Denzel Washington, and Cary Elwes will have a special showing on the big screen.

The Oriental Theater – 2230 N. Farwell Avenue – will host this event on Friday, February 28 at 7:00 p.m. Treat yourself!

Our February speaker, Hampton Newsome, has supplied us with a link to purchase his books. As a late Christmas present, he also supplied a discount code!

<https://kansaspress.ku.edu/author/hampton-newsome/>

Discount Code: 24EVENTS40

If you have not done so lately, check out the website of the Milwaukee Round Table. Grant Johnson and his team have done exemplary work in updating the page and keeping it fresh and informative! And, they are not done yet! Thank you, Grant!

## The Muster Roll: NEW MEMBERS

NAME	RANK	REGIMENT	PLACE OF BIRTH	OTHER MILITARY SERVICE	REMARKS
...	...	...	...	...	...

## 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 July 1, 2024 through September 14, 2024.

### Major Contributor (\$500 and above)

Susan Anderson, Roman Blenski, Paul Eilbes, Gerald Frangesch, Dawn and Van Harl, Charles and Rebecca Jarvis, Grant Johnson

### Patron (\$200 - \$499)

Mike Deeken, Doug Haag, Gene and Jane Jamrozy, Dan Nettesheim, Laura Rinaldi

### Associate (\$100 - \$199)

John Abbott, Tom and Terry Arliskas, Crain Bliwas, Dale Brasser, Gary and Judy Ertel, Bill and Claudette Finke, Doug Haag, Jim Heinz, Peter and Jean Jacobsohn, Bruce Klem, Don Korte, Rod Malinowski, Kathy McNally, Brad and Kathy Schotanus, Dennis Slater, Dan Tanty, Justin and Stacy Tolomeo, Paul Zehren

### Contributor (up to \$99)

George Affeldt, Mike Benton, Dale Bespalec, Jim Blake, Robert Christie, Jim Cornelius, Gordon Dammann, Ellen DeMers, John Durr, George Geanon, Julian Gonzales, Brian Gunn, Leon and Margaret Harris, Paul Heaton, Christopher Johnson, Jerome Kowalski, John Lenchek, Steve Leopold, Paul and Susan Miller, Ed Newman, John Rodahl, Diane Smurawa, Sam Solberg

### Speaker Enhancement Fund

John Abbott, George Affeldt, Mike Benton, Jim Blake, Jim Bolek, Dale Brasser, Gordon Dammann, Ellen DeMers, Lori Duginski, Gary and Judy Ertl, John Durr, Paul Eilbes, Gerald Frangesch, Julian Gonzalez, Doug Haag, Jim Heinz, John Helmenstine, Tom Hesse, Peter and Jean Jacobsohn, Gene and Jane Jamrozy, Jerome Kowalski, John Kuhnmuench, John Lenchek, Steve Magnusen, Rod Malinowski, Tom and Robin Martin, Kathy McNally, Jim and Monica Millane, Dennis Mueller (in honor of Frank L. Klement), John and Susan Petty, Laura Rinaldi, Dennis Slater, Diane Smurawa, Dan Tanty, Paul Zehren



**Previous February meetings of the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table featured these speakers and topics.**

- 2008 David Long: "Lincoln, Davis, & the Dahlgren Raid"
- 2009 Bruce Allardice: "Lincoln as a War Leader"
- 2011 Steven Rogstad: "There is in This Something So Repugnant to Humanity: Lincoln's Art of Persuasion"
- 2012 Dave Wege: "Pugnacious and Pertinacious Patrick Cleburne"
- 2013 Mary Abroe, PhD.: "Grosvenor of Ohio: Saving Chickamauga from Horseshoe Ridge and Back"
- 2014 Harold Knudson "General Longstreet"
- 2015 Leslie Goddard: "Why *Gone with the Wind* Still Matters"
- 2016 Don H. Doyle: "The Cause of All Nations: An International History of the Civil War"
- 2017 Bob O'Neill: "Stuart's Christmas Raid of 1862"
- 2018 Larry Lee Hewitt: "Richard Heron Anderson"
- 2019 Robert Girardi: "Gouverneur K. Warren's Last Battle: The General and the Historians"
- 2020 Connie Langum "Battle at Wilson's Creek"
- 2021 Doug Dammann: "Benjamin Franklin White: Wisconsin's First Surgeon"
- 2022 Steven Acker: "The 36<sup>th</sup> WI Infantry: All in a Year"
- 2023 Charles Knight: "From Arlington to Appomattox"
- 2024 Carolyn Ivanoff: "We Fought at Gettysburg"



The Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee was established in 1947 and is the second oldest of the more than 200 Civil War Round Tables still in existence in the United States and abroad. Current membership of the MCWRT is approximately 200.

## **Kenosha Civil War Museum Second Friday Lecture Series**

Sponsored by the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table and the Iron Brigade Association. Free and open to the public.

### **What Did Lincoln Know about Science, and Did It Matter?**

**Friday, February 14 | 11:00am – 12:00pm  
Presenter: Dr. James M. Cornelius**

James M. Cornelius, PhD., the curator of the Lincoln Presidential Library from 2007-2018, has been working on this topic for more than a decade and has given two preliminary talks on the subject. It begins with the surprise that Lincoln was our only president who held a scientific patent, then takes up the mental world of his era concerning such topics as "race science," phrenology, genetic inheritance, astronomy, geography, weaponry, folk vs "real" medicine, natural history, discovery, and linguistics. Some of these fields may have influenced his presidential or other political actions. Parts of the talk may be unpalatable to polite conversation about him, and that is why the topic needs addressing.

### **Civil War Media Club**

#### **The Demon of Unrest by Eric Larson**

**Tuesday, February 25 | 6:30pm – 7:30pm  
Presenter: Doug Dammann**

**\$8 (\$10 non-members) | Register Online**

Master storyteller Erik Larson offers a gripping account of the chaotic months between Lincoln's election and the Confederate firing on Fort Sumter – a period marked by tragic errors and miscommunication, inflamed egos and craven ambitions, personal tragedies and betrayals. Lincoln himself wrote that the trials of these five months were "so great that, could I have anticipated them, I would not have believed it possible to survive them."



**More exciting offerings from the Civil War Museum may be found on page 10, along with other programs related to the study of the American Civil War.**



**Madison**

**June 28, 1860**

### **No Union in the Democratic Party**

The Douglas National Committee have issued a circular scouting the idea of running a ticket in common with the Breckinridge party. They say that no one who desired the election of the Douglas ticket has ever countenanced for a single moment the proposition tending towards it. We are, therefore, to have two democratic parties in the field, and all democrats must make up their minds soon and decide which king they will serve.

If they support Douglas they do it with a positive certainty that every vote given to their candidate aids so far to throw the election into the house, where no one party has a majority, and where there can be no election. The house being unable to elect, the choice of a vice president, who will become president, devolves upon the senate, which chooses from the two candidates having the highest number of votes at the election. Who are these likely to be?

As regards one of them, Hamlin, certainly no one can have any doubt; it is quite as sure that the other must be the candidate who will receive the greatest number of votes in the southern states. According to physical appearances, the Douglas ticket has no show of success in any southern state except Missouri, and even there it is uncertain.

There are four parties in the field in that state, all nearly equally divided, and it would not surprise us at all if Lincoln should be successful.

As Johnson, the Douglas candidate for vice-president, has no prospect of being one of the two highest returned to the senate, it follows that either Lane or Hamlin will be the next president, if there shall be no choice by the people. It can now be seen by Douglas Democrats that every vote given to their candidate is a vote for old Joe Lane for president. He is notoriously incompetent; so entirely unfit that his nomination is considered a disgrace to the party. His election would be doubly obnoxious to the Douglas men, because of his incapacity and his connection with the Breckinridge party. He would be a mere tool in the bands of the faction which has nominated him, and was probably put upon the ticket with that design.

It will be the grand aim of the Breckinridge party to prevent an election by the people, and, strange as it may seem, they are in some localities supporting the Douglas ticket for that purpose. They fear that Lincoln and Hamlin may be elected by the people, and thus their pet scheme of electing Lane will be spoiled. Our readers may see a notable instance of this kind

of Illinois. There the prospects of the Republican ticket are every day growing stronger, and to prevent its success, the Buchanan men are advocating the election of Douglas- not for the purpose of promoting his success (for they have no idea that he can be elected, even if he carries Illinois,) but to prevent Lincoln from getting that state.

Thus we see the Buchanan organization at Chicago the Herald, putting up the names of Douglas and Johnson, although no words of condemnation have been severe enough for them to apply to Douglas heretofore. The question is, will the Douglas men help these men in their desperate and unprincipled game to elect Joe Lane to the presidency? they can only answer this question for themselves, but evidently the most certain method which they could adopt to prevent the success of the scheme of the Breckinridge men would be to vote directly for Lincoln and Hamlin.

### **Greeley's Prediction**

1. We predict that Lincoln and Hamlin will have the highest Electoral Vote, and that Breckinridge and Lane will have the next highest.
2. We predict that Bell and Everet whom the Express pretends to support-will have more Electoral Votes than Douglas and Johnson, whom it really favors.
3. We predict that Breckinridge and Lane will have twice as many Electoral Votes as Douglas and Johnson.
4. We predict that Lincoln and Hamlin will have four times as many electoral Votes as either Bell and Everett, or Douglas and Johnson

These results are obvious. They inhere in the nature of things. Lincoln and Hamlin represent a principle-that of National resistance to the diffusion of slavery.

Breckinridge and Lane represent the antagonistic principle-that of National protection to the diffusion of slavery. Douglas and Johnson represent a dodge-namely: National indifference to the diffusion of slavery. Earnest men are necessarily with one or the other of the first two named.

And earnest men happen to be greatly in the majority about these days. Really very few are indifferent, while none who can read are blind to the great, overshadowing issue of our age. Political trimmers who would ignore the gravest facts by resolving that they don't see, or care nothing about them, may vote for Douglas or Bell; but the people are overwhelmingly in favor of a settlement of the slavery extension issue on its merits-one that shall be real and binding. from some unaccountable cause, our democratic friends have seen nothing from Mr. Greeley since his first utterance. How do they like his later prediction?

**Thank you, Jim Johnson, for these *From the Field* features!**



*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 members, please consider submitting it to the **General Orders**. Thank you!

## Uncovering the Past: The Missing Soldiers Office and Room 9

In 1996, Richard Lyons, an employee of the General Services Administration (GSA), and his partner were on a routine inspection of 437 7th Street, a rundown building slated for demolition.

While exploring the third floor, Richard felt something (or someone) tap his shoulder. He turned around and saw an envelope hanging out of the slats of the ceiling.

The envelope, addressed to Edward Shaw, was clearly very old and caught Lyons' interest. He grabbed a ladder in order to explore the attic and see what else might be lurking there.

What Lyons found was a treasure trove of artifacts—over a thousand objects in all. Among them was a sign that read “Missing Soldiers Office, Office 3rd Story Room 9, Miss Clara Barton.” These were the rooms where Clara Barton had lived and worked during the Civil War.

The third-floor rooms had gone unchanged for almost a hundred years. In 1911, reactions to the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire ushered in a new wave of fire safety legislation. At the time, rather than pay to get the entire building up to code, the landlord simply boarded up the third floor and continued to rent the first two floors as commercial and professional spaces. While the stores below occasionally used the third floor for extra storage, the rooms went both unaltered and uncared for until Lyons discovered them. The GSA worked with experts and artisans to restore the third floor to how Clara would have seen it.

Lyons' discovery sparked two decades of hard work and collaboration to save the building and turn it into the Clara Barton Missing Soldiers Office Museum.

The site of the Clara Barton Missing Soldiers Office Museum was commissioned to be constructed in 1853 by Raphael Semmes, a United States Navy officer who would later serve the Confederacy. The first floor served as retail space, the second floor held offices, and the third floor was built to be a boarding house – all three floors retain nearly the same purposes today!

Susan Ireland, a wealthy widower, purchased the building in 1857 and owned it in 1861 when Clara Barton rented out a bedroom and some storage space. Clara was employed at the nearby United States Patent Office. When the Civil War broke out that same year, Clara was compelled to service and began utilizing the space to collect supplies for Union soldiers. She regularly visited soldiers stationed in Washington, D.C., and soon after, tended to them and delivered supplies to nearby battlefields, including Antietam, Fredericksburg, Cedar Mountain, and more.

In 1865, Clara rented out several additional rooms and transformed them into the Missing Soldiers Office, Room 9. From 1865 to 1868, Clara received about 63,000 letters inquiring about the whereabouts of missing loved ones who had fought in the war. With a team of nearly 20 people working on-site here, she helped locate or identify more than 22,000 missing soldiers.

At the end of 1868, Clara moved to Europe and her co-worker and landlord Edward Shaw packed her belongings up, storing them in the ceiling above her bedroom. In the 1930s, after a fire in the building, the third floor and Room 9 were completely boarded up. The space remained vacant until it was purchased by the General Services Administration in the mid-1990s, and, slated for demolition, it was saved by a carpenter named Richard Lyons. The story of his inspiration to do so, and the restoration of the site to the Museum it is today, is a fascinating history all its own.

submitted by Dave Wege  
taken from a new quarterly newsletter  
Clara Barton Missing Soldiers Office Museum

## The Driftless Area Civil War Club

Programs are held monthly on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month  
at the Odd Fellow Lodge at 121 Front Street Mineral Point.

**February 15, 2025** - John Helmenstine, past president of the Iowa County Historical Society will tell us of the 1865 deployment of the 49th Wisconsin Infantry Regiment and about the local Southwestern Wisconsin chapters of the Grand Army of the Republic organization.

**March 15, 2025** - "The Literate Soldier" by Dave and Key Wege will present a program about soldier's Civil War letters to and from home. Dave and Kay are also the organizers and sponsors of excellent week-long Civil War tours.

**April 19 2025** - Rich Fronck President of the Madison Civil War Club will speak on "The Life of Andrew Jackson Bovee and the Battle of the Wilderness." His great grandfather fought for the Union in the Civil War.

**May 17, 2025** - Julie Mason of Argyle will share her experiences as a Civil War re-enactor and maybe let her father talk about his part in being a re-enactor.

**June 2025** - Dave Wege on "When Johnny Came Marching Home." The topic explores the effects of going to war and experiencing traumatic injury. What is a wounded veteran's life like on returning home? The talk will include a "then and now" scenario.

**July 2025** - Paul Eilbes of the Milwaukee Civil War Roundtable will speak on General Ambrose Burnside and his successes and failures as a commander.

**August 2025** - John Pare (Mt. Horeb), and John Helmenstine will display & inform us on the collecting of Civil War stamps, envelopes & other paper.

**September 2025** - Jim Heinz will speak about Admiral David Farragut and his important contributions to a final Union victory.

Contact John Helmenstine at [helmenstine@att.net](mailto:helmenstine@att.net) for more information.

## In Memoriam

Milwaukee Round Table member Michael Deeken recently lost his brother Phil due to complications from a stroke. Phil and Mike are proud descendants of Sgt. Peter Schneider of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wisconsin Infantry.

Born and raised in the Milwaukee area, Phil made his home in Portland, Oregon. He was married to Delia Mooney on June 19, 1979. They had three children: Jessica, James, and Christopher.

Phil joined the Navy's Submarine Service and trained at the elite Nuclear Power School before serving on the USS Sculpin SSN-590. Following the Navy, he enjoyed a career including the Dept of Energy's Argonne National Laboratory in Chicago, and National Facilities Manager for Kohl's Department Stores during nationwide growth.

Our sympathies are with the Deeken family at their loss.



Our condolences are also extended to the family of Dale Brassler. Dale passed away on January 13, 2025.

Dale married the late Judith (Mentink) Brassler on April 16, 1952, in Oostburg. He spent 27 years as the Business Manager for the Manitowoc Public Schools, retiring in 1992. The Brasslers had three children, seven grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

He was an active contributor to Civil War Roundtables in Manitowoc and Milwaukee, being a member of the Milwaukee Round Table since 1988 and serving as its president from 2003-2005. Dale was a frequent reenactor around Wisconsin and the Midwest, a member of the Civil War Singers, and a willing speaker at elementary schools, high schools and college history classes. He often made his presentations in full Union Army uniform, all while carrying the musket his great-grandfather had brought home from the war and which sparked his curiosity about that period.

*May flights of angels guide them to their rest.*

**440 Wells Street, Basement Suite  
Delafield, WI 53018 262-347-9111**

Please check the website for titles and times of presentations.

Please register at our website: [www.civilwarmuseumdelafield.com](http://www.civilwarmuseumdelafield.com)

The museum is open Thursdays and Saturdays from 11:00-3:00 or by appointment, or call **262-347-9111**.

Or to register via email or contact us with questions, write to us at: [cwmdel@gmail.com](mailto:cwmdel@gmail.com)



## Shenandoah Battlefields Foundation Announces Preservation Victory at Cross Keys

CROSS KEYS, Virginia — The Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation has preserved the historic 98-acre Webb Farm on the Cross Keys Battlefield. This significant achievement underscores the Battlefields Foundation's commitment to preserving the Shenandoah Valley's rich Civil War history and their continued effort to conserve open space in Rockingham County and throughout the Valley.

The Webb Farm, owned in 1862 by Dr. J. B. Webb, is a crucial part of the Cross Keys Battlefield. This battle played a pivotal role at the end of "Stonewall" Jackson's 1862 Valley Campaign. The preservation of this land ensures that future generations can continue to learn and draw meaning from this historic landscape. The farm witnessed intense fighting throughout the day with Jackson's Confederates taking up positions along Mill Creek Ridge and engaging in fierce skirmishes with Fremont's Federal army.

Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of the landowners, Fred and Jane Cline, who agreed to donate an easement on the property, the Battlefields Foundation, and its members were able to secure this preservation victory. The Cline's wanted to protect their property because they "have been concerned with the incredible amount of development in the Shenandoah Valley" and wanted to prevent "the loss of another working farm."

With the support of the Commonwealth of Virginia, the area around the Webb Farm and other properties at the Cross Keys and Port Republic battlefields will be opened to the public with new walking trails and interpretive signs as part of the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Tourism Infrastructure Plan. As part of this partnership, wayfinding signage was recently installed from Interstate 81 and Route 33 to the battlefields to promote the sites and guide visitors.

*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 submissions to **David Wege** at [wegs1862@gmail.com](mailto:wegs1862@gmail.com). All submissions must be received by no later than the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to the next issue. We reserve the right to select articles to be printed and to edit for content, style, and length.

All address changes or problem receiving your *General Orders* should be directed to **Treasurer 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-profit Civil War Round Table newsletters only. All other rights are reserved.

Yearly Round Table membership available: Individual (\$50), family (\$65), non-resident (\$30), attending education institution (\$25). **Contact Paul Eilbes for information at (262) 376-0568.**

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

**MILWAUKEE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE  
2024-2025 SPEAKER SCHEDULE**

September 12, 2024	John Horn <i>Wilson-Kautz Raid</i>
October 10, 2024	Jen Murray <i>General George Gordon Meade</i>
November 7, 2024	Allen Ottens <i>The Grant-Rawlins Relationship During the Civil War</i>
December 12, 2024	Jon Sebastian (At the Bavarian Bierhaus) <i>We Are All in This War – The Northern Homefront</i>
January 9, 2025	Bjorn Skaptason <i>Milwaukee and Shiloh</i>
February 13, 2025	Hampton Newsome <i>Gettysburg's Southern Front</i>
March 13, 2025	Gerald Prokopowicz <i>Civil War Talk Radio: Podcasting History</i>
April 10, 2025	Phil Spaugy <i>The 19<sup>th</sup> Indiana of the Iron Brigade</i>
May 8, 2025	Steven Phan <i>Asian and Pacific Islanders During the Civil War</i>
June 12, 2025	Dave Powell <i>Nevins-Freeman Award Winner</i> <i>Lost Opportunities in the Atlanta Campaign</i>

**Speakers/topics remain subject to change.  
We appreciate your understanding!**



**Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.  
2024 – 2025 Board of Directors**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Office/Position</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
Terry Arliskas	Secretary/Program Chair	2025
Thomas Arliskas	Past President	2025
Michael K. Benton	Past President	2026
Dale Bspalec	Member	2026
Roman Blenski	Quartermaster	2025
Paul A. Eilbes	Treasurer	2025
Van Harl	First Vice President	2026
Tom Hesse	President	2026
Grant Johnson	Membership/Webmaster Past President	2027
Bruce Klem	Past President	2027
Daniel Nettesheim	Member	2027
John Petty	Second Vice president	2025
Frank Risler	Member	2027
Justin Tolomeo	Member	2026
David Wege	Editor, General Orders	2027

**www.milwaukeecwrt.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 February 13, 2025**

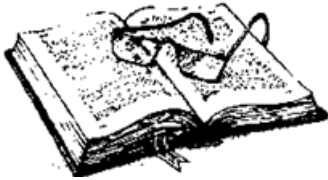
Mail your reservations by Monday, February 10 to:  
Paul Eilbes  
1809 Washington Avenue  
Cedarburg, WI 53012-9730

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

Enclosed is \$\_\_\_\_\_ (meal is \$35.00 per person) for \_\_\_\_\_ people for the  
February 13, 2025 meeting of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee.  
(Please make checks payable to the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.)

Name of Member \_\_\_\_\_

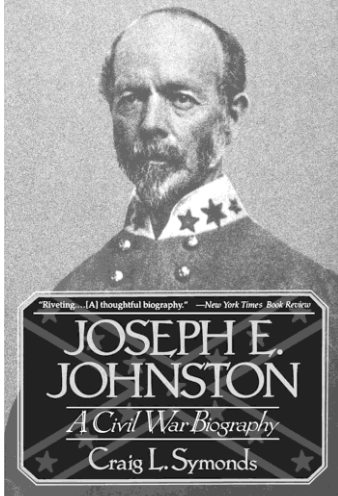




# BETWEEN THE COVERS

## Joseph E. Johnston: A Civil War Biography

Craig L. Symonds



This review is on a book that I got at the Kenosha Civil War Museum's used book section. The book by noted author Craig L. Symonds is Joseph E. Johnston: A Civil War Biography. Mr. Symonds has written many books to include *The U. S. Navy, A Concise History*, *The Battle of Midway*, *The Civil War at Sea*, *Stonewall of the West* and many other fine works on military history. I've some of the other books by the author and I found him to be a writer who does excellent research on the topic and does his best to present an accurate picture of the topic as well as presenting a fair and honest view of both sides of the participants. I had some preconceptions on Joseph Johnston and I felt after reading this book by Mr. Symonds I have come away with a different view on Johnston's' action during the Civil War.

After briefly covering Johnston's early life and family, Symonds provides an in-depth look at his career: West Point, the Mexican War, army career moves, several theaters in the Civil War, particularly against Sherman in Georgia, his petty disagreements with Confederate president Davis, his civilian business life after the war, his published arguments about his role in the war, and his death from a cold caught while standing respectfully hatless for

Sherman's funeral procession on a cold February day. Symonds analyses Johnston's military decisions and moves in a clear, easy-to-read, and painstakingly even-handed way. He warmly presents Johnston's private life and personal relationships, which reveal deeply positive as well as sadly negative qualities. I felt that Mr. Symonds does not over-praise or condemn.

The book does not overlook the general's flaws that interfered with his leadership. However, his strategy and tactics I think were well suited to the Confederate situation. Grant and Sherman said that, if the Confederacy had followed his example, the Confederacy would have been able to resist for a longer time. One point that Mr. Symonds points out that during Johnston's handling of the Georgia campaign and the fact he was constantly retreating, Lee was essentially doing the same thing against Grant. Which if you look into the Overland Campaign that's what Lee was doing in fending off Grant's drive to Richmond. Continuously moving to block and hold. Johnston was doing the same dance with Sherman. Sherman for the most part wasn't attacking as much as Grant but was flanking Johnston's defenses like Grant was doing to Lee. In my opinion I believe that Johnston given the strength of his army was doing the best under the circumstances. I also thought that Hood failed him as a subordinate in more than one situation and had ulterior motives during this campaign.

At the same time, he doesn't shy away from pointing out Johnston's weaknesses and hypocrisies. Johnston is a divisive figure in Civil War history and historiography, often portrayed in extremes- a genius abused and underused by Jefferson Davis, or else an ineffective and overrated commander. Symonds looks at both sides here, underscoring how pettiness and inflexibility from both ends hurt the working relationship between Davis and Johnston, but also shows moments where Johnston simply failed to rise to the occasion. There was a lot of dysfunction in the Confederacy, and Symonds elucidates both the causes and effects of that dysfunction. Johnston's reputation has benefited mostly from the way Davis relieved him of command during the Atlanta campaign, but if you want an objective and thorough analysis of Johnston as a general, you need to read this book.

Mr. Symonds points out Johnston's qualities as cited by many who knew him. "Personally brave, a man who inspired loyalty, even devotion, a soldier in looks carriage and manner, he was an organizer, march, feed, clothe and fight an army." He understood the importance of defeating an enemy army as opposed to capturing strategic places.

He had weaknesses too. Orders issued tended to be unspecific another flaw was he failed to appreciate the political factors in strategic planning. His personal weaknesses, hair trigger temper, touchiness on matters of rank, politically unsophisticated and allowing bitterness and wounded pride affect his relationship with the chief executive.

I think this is a book anyone interested in learning about the command structure and generalship of the Confederate war effort should read. It is a good look into one of the key commanders of the Confederate forces and their inter relationships with the government.

submitted by Bruce Klem



## A Civil War Enthusiast's Lament

When the weather outside gets warmer, and you want to be a charmer,  
Send a write-up of your trips. We will print, we will print, we will print!

Take some pics and write a story, since these poems are kinda boring,  
We even used a made-up word! Share your trips, share your trips, share your trips!

**Public programs are free to attend and pre-registration  
is not required unless otherwise noted.**

### Food Preservation

**Saturday, February 8, 12pm – 2pm | \$16 (\$20 for non-members)**

**Instructor: Emily Martinsen**

Food preservation has gone from an essential practice to a fun hobby. Join Civil War Museum Educator Emily Martinsen for a family-friendly, hands-on workshop about the history of food preservation. Try your hand at making butter and “quick pickles.” Take home some historic and modern recipes and even some samples for later.

### Beyond Board Games: Historic Military Gaming

**Saturday, February 22, 10am – 4pm | Sunday, February 23, 12pm – 4 pm**

Historic Miniature Gaming and the Historical Miniatures Gaming Society are coming to the Civil War Museum!

On both Saturday, 2/22 and Sunday, 2/23, visit the museum and explore the fascinating hobby of building, painting, and sculpting terrain for gaming with historic miniatures. Anyone interested in getting an A+ in history should get to know the hobby and the folks at the Historic Miniatures Gaming Society!

At this event, you'll see Civil War miniature battle games that are both easy to learn and vastly rewarding. Take command and witness how this hobby of “*chess on a grand scale*” used strategy and tactics to challenge the imagination.

## Additional Educational Programs

**February 26 – 12:30 p.m.**

**Jim Heinz: “The U.S. Colored Troops”**

There will be a lecture on the Company F of the U.S. Colored Troops. They were recruited in Milwaukee to fill regimental quotas for the war, and were the only African-American Civil War unit credited to Wisconsin. This presentation will take place at the Zablocki Public Library, 3501 W Oklahoma Avenue.

**April 9 – 7:00-8:30 p.m.**

**\$10 non-members/\$5 seniors/ North Point Lighthouse members are free**

**Laura Rinaldi & Terry Arliskas: “The Milwaukee’s Soldiers Home”**

The history and renovation of the Milwaukee Soldiers Home is one of only 43 National Historic Landmarks in Wisconsin. It contains some of the oldest and most historic buildings in the VA system. This presentation will take place at the North Point lighthouse in Milwaukee's Lake Park, 2650 N Wahl Avenue.

\$925/person  
Double Occupancy

Civil War Time



Travelers, LLC

**Trouble in the Trans-Mississippi:**  
Wilson's Creek, Pea Ridge, Prairie Grove  
April 27 - May 2, 2025

Join CWT<sup>®</sup> for a week exploring the Trans-Mississippi as we dive into the lesser-known battles of Wilson's Creek, Pea Ridge, and Prairie Grove. Union victories came hard early in the war, but Old Glory eventually flew over the region despite early setbacks and defeats. Come visit these pristine battlefields and discover why the Trans-Mississippi was important in the overall Union war effort.

Our formula for sharing the story of the Civil War involves using the talents of members of our own Round Table as speakers. We also enjoy the skills of NPS Rangers and well-known historians/authors to build a historical framework for the sites we visit and the events we explore.

History for the Civil War novice and for the truly serious student of the conflict, it's all here when we go find some *Trouble in the Trans-Mississippi*.

Contact [wegs1862@gmail.com](mailto:wegs1862@gmail.com)

## The Civil War Round Table of Chicago Shiloh and Corinth – April 23-27, 2025

74<sup>th</sup>  
Tour

**Historian: Bjorn Skaptason**

**\$1,095/person double occupancy**

**\$1,435/person single occupancy**

The tour includes hotel room for Wednesday evening through Sunday noon, all lunches and dinners, all motor coach services, tour guide, all admission fees, and tour kit. Dinner Wednesday evening and all breakfasts are on-your own.



**For information or to register:**

**Rae Radovich**

**708-361-3823**

**[raeradovich@earthlink.net](mailto:raeradovich@earthlink.net)**

**Paper registration forms are available at the registration table at our meetings of the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table.**

**MILWAUKEE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE  
QUARTERMASTER'S REGALIA**

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

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>COST</b>
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 Roman in person at the monthly meeting at the Book Raffle table.

