



GENERAL ORDERS

The Newsletter of the
Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.
Our 61st Year
and The Iron Brigade Association



APRIL 16, 2009

DR. STEPHEN R. WISE Gate of Hell: The 1863 Campaign for Battery Wagner and Charleston

In April the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee will be visited by Dr. Stephen R. Wise, historian and director of the museum and cultural resource manager for the Marine Corps Recruit Depot located at Parris Island, South Carolina.

The summer of 1863 witnessed three massive campaigns that sharply affected the Civil War's outcome. An ocean of ink has been spilled on two of those campaigns — Gettysburg and Vicksburg. But the Union army/navy campaign to take the "cradle of the Rebellion," Charleston, was perhaps the most interesting of the three.

The campaign introduced a new era in the science of engineering and gunnery. It involved extensive use of ironclad vessels as a combined northern army/navy task force tried to sweep the Confederates off Morris Island and capture Battery Wagner. The campaign was a major testing ground for African-American troops including the well-known 54th Massachusetts. It also involved such personalities as Generals P.G.T. Beauregard, Quincy A. Gillmore, Rear Admiral John Dahlgren and Nurse Clara Barton.



Dr. Wise, in his presentation, will vividly recreate the 1863 Campaign for Charleston. The skillful, bold operations made the 1863 Campaign for Charleston exceptional in the annals of military history. One British observer considered the Battle of Morris Island to be the war's most important campaign. Although the battle was popularized in the movie *Glory*, the long, drawn-out battle involved much more than a solitary regiment and a single charge.

Dr. Wise is a native of Toledo, Ohio. He received his Bachelor's degree from Wittenberg University and a Master's degree from Bowling Green State University. He was drawn to the University of South Carolina to study under the direction of the late Thomas L. Connelly, noted Civil War historian, under whom Wise earned his Ph.D.

Dr. Wise has written and edited a number of works including *Lifeline of the Confederacy: Blockade Running During the Civil War*, a highly acclaimed, comprehensive account of the Confederate effort to deliver supplies through the northern blockade. In another publication, *Gate of Hell: The Campaign for Charleston Harbor 1863*, he covers the 1863 campaign that found northern troops battling on Morris Island for the control of Charleston harbor. The South Carolina Historical Society gave *Gate of Hell* the award as the best book written in 1994 on South Carolina History.

Dr. Wise currently lives in Beaufort, South Carolina. He teaches history as an adjunct professor at the Beaufort campus of the University of South Carolina. He also serves as an advisor to the South Carolina Battleground Preservation Trust.

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APRIL MEETING AT A GLANCE

April 16, 2009
 "Gate of Hell: The 1863 Campaign for Battery Wagner and Charleston,"
 Dr. Stephen R. Wise
 Wisconsin Club
 9th & Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee
 (Jackets required for dining room)
 5:30 p.m. – Staff Meeting
 (Open to all members)
 6:15 p.m. – Registration & Social Hour
 6:45 p.m. – Dinner
 7:30 p.m. – Program
 Dinner – \$23 by reservation.
 Deadline: Monday, April 13, 2009
 See page 3.
 Speaker and topic are subject to change.

2009 Board of Directors Nominees

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.

Five members of the Board are seeking reelection:

Ellen Kelling Vukovic	Elaine Ottmann
Jud Wyant	Frank Risler
Jim Johnson	

The slate will be voted on at the election held during the April meeting. Newly elected directors will begin their duties in May, and typically serve three-year terms.

Donations for Camp Randall Guns

The Awards and Donations Committee is asking members to consider making their Civil War related donations to the Camp Randall Guns Fund. "The project is local, the effects are real, and we're grabbing a piece of history," John Beatty has said. "One of these guns was captured at Shiloh. Can't get much more authentic than that."

Sadly neglected over the years, the old artillery pieces are literally disintegrating in place. The first of the restored cannon was unveiled at a ceremony at Camp Randall on October 4, 2008. Think of the Camp Randall guns next time you want to give of your hard-earned money. John Beatty, Awards and Donations Committee chair, at jdbeatty@amcivwar.com



In April 1960 Larry W. Sagle spoke to our group on "The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad and the Civil War."

In April 1961 Tomas D. Clark's topic was "Kentucky, the Borderland in the Civil War."

Sherman J. Lavigna spoke to the Roundtable in April 1972 about "General William T. Sherman, A Personality Profile."

In April 1989 "The Army of the Tennessee under Grant" was the topic presented by Charles Wesselhoeft.

In April 1994 Major Kenneth F. McKenzie, USMC spoke on "The Combined Union Attack on Charleston."

ANNOUNCEMENTS • EVENTS • MEETINGS

April 13, 2009

Manitowoc Civil War Round Table, 7 p.m.
Manitowoc County Historical Society Heritage Center

April 18, 2009

Manitowoc Civil War Encampment
Washington Park, Manitowoc

April 21, 2009

Prairieville Irregulars, 7 p.m.
Student Center Building, Carroll University
Speaker: Dan Nettesheim

April 27, 2009

West Side Soldiers Aid Society, 7 p.m.
Wadsworth Library, VA grounds
Speaker: Donna Agnelly

Larry Tagg Book Signing Events

Author Larry Tagg will be in Madison and Kenosha in early May to discuss his book, *The Unpopular Mr. Lincoln: the Story of America's Most Reviled President*.

The book is the first full-length treatment written entirely from the perspective of Lincoln's contemporaries. What did the men who worked with him, for him, and against him actually think of Lincoln during his lifetime? Tagg dug deeply into newspapers, diaries, journals, letter collections, and other firsthand sources to paint what is perhaps the most riveting portrait ever of Lincoln's election, inauguration, four long years as Commander-in-Chief, and tragic assassination. Readers are left to reach their own conclusions about how these startling accounts and evaluations of our sixteenth president affect his standing in the eyes of his countrymen.

You can hear Mr. Tagg discuss his book and have your copy signed at the following locations:

Wednesday, May 13, 2009, 12 p.m.

Wisconsin Veterans Museum
30 W. Mifflin St.
Madison, WI 53703
608-267-1799

Thursday, May 14, 2009, 7 p.m.

Kenosha Civil War Museum
5400 First Ave.
Kenosha, WI 53140
262-653-4140

For more information including excerpts from the book and an interview with the author visit: http://www.savasbeatie.com/books/LINCOLN_book.htm



SOLDIERS, SAILORS, CIVILIANS!
Nineteenth-century attire is welcome at the May 7, 2009, meeting
of the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table.



On April 16, 1861 the firing on Fort Sumter created a unifying experience for the Union. Even in some parts of the South, the Union spirit was apparent. William G. Brownlow, a local newspaper editor in Knoxville, Tennessee, declared that he would “fight the secessionist leaders till hell froze over, and then fight them on the ice.” Another brave soul in Knoxville placed a Union flag atop a 125-foot pole and dared anyone to remove it.

In Richmond, on April 16, 1862, President Jefferson Davis signed the bill authorizing conscription of every white male between eighteen and thirty-five years of age. The bill provided for substitutions of draftees, a pattern that would be followed in the North. On the same day in Washington, President Lincoln signed the bill abolishing slavery in the District of Columbia.

On April 16, 1863 Acting Rear Admiral David D. Porter’s fleet of twelve vessels attempted to run past city of Vicksburg. They came downriver to aid Grant’s crossing. All but one of the vessels got through safely. The passage of the flotilla was one more step in the build-up for the land campaign. Around this date, the Army of the Potomac was preparing for the move to Chancellorsville. The paymaster visited several of the units and paid all that was due through February 28, 1863.

Pvt. Jackman of the Orphan Brigade wrote on April 16, 1864, “*Pretty morning. Have not had any newspapers for a week owing to the strike of the printers at Atlanta. I feel at a loss without the daily papers – don’t know what is going on in the world. Looking for flag-of-truce letters as ten days have passed since a boat arrived at City Point.*”

At the Kenosha Civil War Museum

What Not to Wear in the 19th Century

Saturday, May 9, 1 – 3 p.m.

Nancy Wolfe will share her knowledge of women’s and men’s garments of the 1850s and 1860s. She will show a large selection of original garments and accessories from her personal collection, and will discuss appropriate patterns, fabrics and trims for those who plan to sew their own clothing. She will also discuss where others may buy ready-made garments and accessories. Nancy is a contributing editor for *Antique Trader’s Vintage Clothing Price Guide*.

Workshop cost: \$25 (\$20 Members/Seniors) Contact The Civil War Museum to register at 262-653-4432

Great Lakes Civil War Forum

Saturday, September 12, 2009

Abraham Lincoln and Gettysburg will be featured at the Second Annual Great Lakes Civil War Forum.

Speakers include authors and historians Lance J. Herdegen on the Iron Brigade at Gettysburg, Marshall Krolick on the Command Structure of the Union Army at Gettysburg on July 1, 1863, Steve Rogstad on Lincoln and the Gettysburg Address and David Eicher with a slide-illustrated talk on interesting and unknown sites on the famed battlefield.

For symposium fees and additional registration information, please call The Civil War Museum at 262-653-4432 or email the staff at ddammann@kenosha.org.

In Memoriam John Hope Franklin



On March 25, 2009, John Hope Franklin, best known as the author of *From Slavery to Freedom: A History of African Americans*, died of congestive heart failure at the age of 94 at Duke University Hospital in Durham, North Carolina. For more than 70 years, he documented the African-American experience. His body of work earned him more than 100 honorary degrees. He is recognized as the greatest historian of black America.

In the preface to his book Dr. Franklin wrote that the book was “the story of the strivings of the nameless millions who have sought adjustment in a new and sometimes hostile world.” The book was originally published in 1947, has been updated eight times and has sold more than 3 million copies.

Unlike earlier historians, Franklin saw the Civil War as more of a liberation than a defeat in the region. He wrote, “It had been delivered from the domination of an institution that had stifled its economic development and rendered completely ineffective its intellectual life.”

In his presentation to our Round Table in March Dr. John Latschar quoted Franklin as describing the art of history as “connecting the dots. The more dots that are connected, the better the history.”

After years of teaching in the North, Franklin moved back to the South in 1980 and took professorships in Duke University’s history and law departments.

In 1995 he talked about the lure of the South saying: “The South, as a place, is as attractive to blacks as it is to whites. Blacks, even when they left the South, didn’t stop having affection for it. They just couldn’t make it there. Then they found the North had its problems, too, so you look for a place of real ease and contentment where you can live as a civilized human being. That’s the South...it’s home.”

Tribute to Medics and VA Staff

Military Medics and the medical staff of the VA Medical Center will be honored at the 8th Annual Reclaiming Our Heritage event, **May 30-31, 2009**, at the Zablocki VA Medical Center.

The weekend will include a Medic Reunion Tent, a side-by-side Civil War and modern field medical demonstration, and an exhibit celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Milwaukee VA’s Spinal Cord Injury Unit and plans for a Spinal Cord Injury addition.

This free-admission, family-friendly event on the VA grounds, 5000 W. National Avenue, kicks off with the Positively Patriotic Parade on Saturday, May 30, 10 a.m. In recognition of the Lincoln Bicentennial, organizers invite the public to join President Lincoln (Bob Rotgers) in reading part of his Second Inaugural Address. The President will deliver the majority of the address while the public joins in the final paragraph which includes the theme of this year’s event: “care for him who shall have borne the battle.”

For event information, visit www.rohmilwaukee.org or call 414-902-5599.

Old Cyclorama Building May be Saved

As reported in the March 30th issue of Gettysburg Times, a federal judge has sided with a preservation group in an ongoing lawsuit to save the old Cyclorama building from demolition at Gettysburg National Military Park.

In court documents filed March 23, Magistrate Judge Alan Kay recommended that the U.S. District Court rule in favor of the nonprofit Recent Past Preservation Network. The group filed a lawsuit in 2006 to prevent the park from razing the old Cyclorama Center.

Kay wrote that the park violated the National Environmental Policy Act in the late 1990s, when it made the decision to raze the old Cyclorama building. The judge also ordered the park to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement evaluating the potential impacts of demolishing the Cyclorama Center, and alternatives to demolition.

The park's plan to level the old Cyclorama building dates back to its General Management Plan of 1999, and its ongoing goal to transform the 6,000-acre Civil War battlefield back to its 1863 appearance.

Two Gettysburg area businessmen, Eric Uberman and Bob Mo-nahan Jr., have offered to accommodate the old building on their properties.

The park has until April 23 to appeal the judge's decision, and has agreed to hold off on demolition until the case is resolved by the court.

10 Most Endangered Battlefields Civil War Preservation Trust 2009 Report

Every year the Civil War Preservation Trust publishes their annual report *History Under Siege*. The report lists the Top 10 Endangered Battlefields along with 15 additional sites at risk. Since its inception, CWPT has protected more than 25,000 acres of hal-lowed ground at 100 sites in 19 states. And the fight continues.

Here is the 2009 list of the Top Ten Endangered Battlefields:

Cedar Creek, Virginia

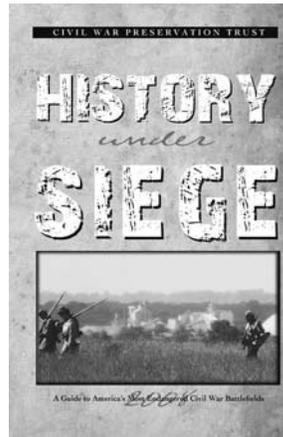
Threat: Limestone mining operations across portions of the battlefield have long been one of the most dramatic and visible threats. Heavy machinery and slag piles are already visible from many battlefield locations. Cedar Creek is also threatened by a proposed network of high voltage electric transmission lines.

Fort Gaines, Alabama

Threat: The main foe – The Gulf of Mexico. Each year the waves reclaim an average of 10 feet of land – 400 feet of historic battle-field have already been lost.

Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

Threat: Many historically significant locations on the battlefield lie outside the boundaries of Gettysburg National Military Park and are vulnerable to residential or commercial development.



Monocacy, Maryland

Threat: Officials in Frederick County, MD are weighing the possibility of building a “waste-to-energy facility” along the banks of the Monocacy River. The facility would burn up to 1,500 tons of trash per day. The proposed 350-foot smokestack would dominate the skyline across the battlefield.

New Market Heights, Virginia

Threat: No portion of the battle-field has been protected by any preservation organization, in-

cluding the National Park Service. A housing development has already destroyed significant portions of the battlefield at Deep Bottom.

Port Gibson, Mississippi

Threat: A recent study projects that a traffic increase along U.S. Hwy 61 will increase by 45% in the next 20 years prompting the Mississippi Department of Transportation to propose a major road widening affecting this historic area.

Sabine Pass, Texas

Threat: Sabine Pass received almost a direct hit from Hurricane Rita in 2005 causing damage so severe the site was closed. Ef-forts at repair were further hampered by Hurricane Ike in Sep-tember 2008. Currently closed, the site is set to reopen in either April or May of 2009.

South Mountain, Maryland

Threat: Like other battlefields in the Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia area, South Mountain faces the threat of the proposed network of high voltage electric transmission lines. In December 2008 Dominion Power purchased land in the area as part of a plan to build a \$55 million natural gas compres-sion station.

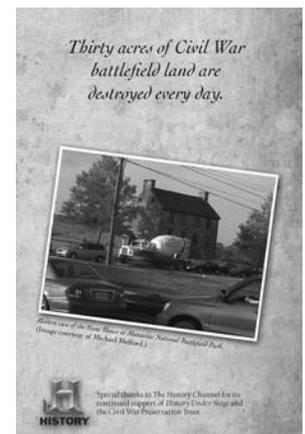
Spring Hill, Tennessee

Threat: Intense development in the Nashville region has posed major challenges for this battlefield. GM is seeking to sell ap-proximately 500 acres of unused land surrounding the Rippavilla Plantation. There is an interested buyer.

Wilderness, Virginia

Threat: Preservationists are facing an uphill battle to stop Walmart from building a supercenter less than a quarter mile from the Wil-derness National Battlefield, but within the historic boundaries of the battlefield.

For the complete report which also lists 15 more at-risk sites and a review of the past year's success stories please visit: www.civilwar.org



Those Damned Black Hats! Recent Book by Lance Herdegen

The Iron Brigade — an all-Western outfit famously branded as The Iron Brigade of the West — served out their enlistments entirely in the Eastern Theater. Hardy men were these soldiers from Indiana, Wisconsin, and Michigan, who waged war beneath their unique black Hardee Hats on many fields, from Brawner's Farm during the Second Bull Run Campaign all the way to Appomattox. In between were memorable combats at South Mountain, Antietam, Chancellorsville, Mine Run, the Overland Campaign, and the grueling fighting around Petersburg. None of these battles compared with the "four long hours" of July 1, 1863, at Gettysburg, where the Iron Brigade was all but wrecked.

Lance Herdegen's *Those Damned Black Hats! The Iron Brigade in the Gettysburg Campaign* is the first book-length account of their remarkable experiences in Pennsylvania during that fateful summer of 1863. Drawing upon a wealth of sources, including dozens of previously unpublished or unused accounts, Herdegen details for the first time the exploits of the 2nd, 6th, 7th Wisconsin, 19th Indiana, and 24th Michigan regiments during the entire campaign. On July 1, the Western troops stood line-to-line and often face-to-face with their Confederate adversaries, who later referred to them as "those damned Black Hats." With the help of other stalwart comrades, the Hoosiers, Badgers, and Wolverines shed copious amounts of blood to save the Army of the Potomac's defensive position west of town. Their heroics above Willoughby Run, along the Chambersburg Pike, and at the Railroad Cut helped define the opposing lines for the rest of the battle and, perhaps, won the battle that helped preserve the Union.

Herdegen's account is much more than a battle study. The story of the fighting at the "Bloody Railroad Cut" is well known, but the attack and defense of McPherson's Ridge, the final stand at Seminary Ridge, the occupation of Culp's Hill, and the final pursuit of the Confederate Army has never been explored in sufficient depth or with such story-telling ability. Herdegen completes the journey of the Black Hats with an account of the reconciliation at the 50th Anniversary Reunion and the Iron Brigade's place in Civil War history.

"Where has the firmness of the Iron Brigade at Gettysburg been surpassed in history?" asked Rufus Dawes of the 6th Wisconsin. Indeed, it was a fair question. The brigade marched to Gettysburg with 1,883 men in ranks and by nightfall on July 1, only 671 men were still to be counted. It would fight on to the end of the Civil

War, and do so without its all-Western makeup, but never again was it a major force in battle.

Some 150 years after the last member of the Iron Brigade laid down his life for his country, the complete story of what the Black Hats did at Gettysburg and how they remembered it is finally available.

http://savasbeatie.com/books/IRON_BRIGADE_book.htm

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To view a ten question interview conducted by Chris C. Wehner with Lance please visit www.soldierstudies.org/index.php?action=herdegen01

Chris Wehner is the curator and founder of the website and the author of *The 11th Wisconsin Regiment in the Civil War*.

CWRT Honor for Lance Herdegen

The Commander of the Color Guard of the Iron Brigade Association is the second-highest honor in the Association. The lifetime honorary post is bestowed only on those members who have distinguished themselves and the interests of the Iron Brigade Association to such a degree as to warrant their consideration for future appointment as Brigadier General Commanding.

Lance Herdegen became the latest honoree to this post at the March meeting of the Round Table. Lance was recognized with a standing ovation by the members in attendance as he accepted this well deserved award.

New Publication by CWRT Member John D. Beatty

Former *General Orders* Editor/Publisher, John Beatty, is the co-author of a new book, *What Were They Thinking: A Fresh Look at Japan at War, 1941-1945*. The book, co-authored with Lee A. Rochwerger, challenges the generations-old "living space and resources" argument attributed to Japanese motivations in World War II. While not strictly a book on the Civil War, *What Were They Thinking* does mention the 1861-65 conflict in at least one place.

For more information please visit www.merriam-press.com or www.lulu.com.

Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for April 16, 2009

Mail your reservations by Monday, April 13 to:
Paul Eilbes
1809 Washington Ave.
Cedarburg, WI 53012-9730

ALSO, call in reservations to:
(262) 376-0568

Enclosed is \$ _____ (meal price \$23.00 per person) for _____ reservations for the April 16 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 _____

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

Send submissions to **Donna Agnelly, Editor**, 420 Racine St., Unit 110, Waterford, WI 53185 or email to **dagnelly@tds.net** with "Civil War Round Table" in the subject line of your message. All submissions must be received by the Editor no later than the 10th of the month prior to the next issue. The Editor reserves the right to select articles and to edit submissions for style and length.

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

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General Orders design and layout by Patricia A. Lynch.

Yearly memberships available: Individual (\$35), Family (\$45), and Non-Resident (\$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.

CWRT of Milwaukee, Inc. • 2009 Meetings

April 16, 2009

Dr. Stephen R. Wise:
Gate of Hell: The 1863 Campaign
for Battery Wagner and Charleston

May 7, 2009

James Ogden: Chickamauga
Period attire welcome

Speaker and topic are subject to change. In case of inclement weather, listen to WTMJ or WISN radio.



James Wiensch
Mequon, WI