



# GENERAL ORDERS

The Newsletter of the  
**Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.**

**Our 62nd Year**  
and The Iron Brigade Association



JANUARY 13, 2011

## LAWRENCE LEE HEWITT, PH.D. Slandered Heroes: Deserters Who Didn't

The official service records of some Civil War soldiers come to the conclusion that they were absent without leave at the end of the war when, in fact, they either died in service or remained on duty. Our January speaker will be talking about these service records and how the vast majority of the conclusions were the result of bureaucratic procedures used by both sides that required soldiers who disappeared on the battlefield to be labeled as deserters on subsequent muster rolls. These same regulations enabled at least one massacre to be covered up by the North, while amendments to them in the fall of 1863 by the South required thousands of men who were present with their units to be listed as deserters. Union and Confederate soldiers representing the Eastern, Western, and Trans-Mississippi theaters will be highlighted as examples of these bureaucratic injustices.



Lawrence Lee Hewitt

A native of Louisville, Kentucky, Lawrence Lee Hewitt received his B.A. from the University of Kentucky in 1974. After attending graduate school there, where he studied under Charles P. Roland, Hewitt transferred to Louisiana State University in 1975 to study under T. Harry Williams. Hewitt completed his dissertation under William J. Cooper, Jr., receiving his Ph.D. in 1984.

After serving as the Historic Site Manager of the Port Hudson and the Camp Moore State Commemorative Areas, he joined the faculty of Southeastern Louisiana University in 1985. Hewitt received the institution's highest honor, The President's Award for Excellence in Research, in 1991. He attained the rank of full professor in 1993 and resigned his position in 1996 to marry a native of Chicago, where he currently resides.

Since relocating to Chicago, Hewitt has served as Managing Editor (1997-1998) and Book Review Editor (1997-1999) for *North & South*, published numerous articles and book reviews, and addressed various organizations throughout the United States. In 2002, the University of Missouri Press published *Louisianians in the Civil War*, which he co-edited with Arthur W. Bergeron, Jr. Along with Bruce Allardice he co-edited *Kentuckians in Gray: Confederate Generals and Field Officers of the Bluegrass State*, published by the University Press of Kentucky in 2008.

Hewitt is nearly finished with *America's Foremost Hispanic: David Glasgow Farragut*, and is currently researching *The 14th Louisiana Infantry: The Fightingest Regiment in the Civil War*.

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January 2011

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### JANUARY MEETING AT A GLANCE

January 13, 2011  
 Lawrence Lee Hewitt, Ph.D.  
 "Slandered Heroes:  
 Deserters Who Didn't"

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, January 10, 2011  
 See page 3.

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

**A GENTLE REMINDER  
FROM THE MEMBERSHIP CHAIR**

As a reminder to those of you who have not yet made your membership renewal, this will be the final issue of the *General Orders* you will receive. You can still renew for this season! Are you unsure if you have renewed or would you like information on renewing? Contact Membership Chair Paul Eilbes by phone: 262-376-0568 or by email: peilbes@gmail.com.

A sincere thank you to everyone who has renewed their membership. It is truly what enables us to do what we do.

**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 logo, along with your name or initials.

Mail: Roman Blenski, Quartermaster  
4601 W. Holt Ave.  
Milwaukee, WI 53219  
Call: 414-327-2847  
Fax: 414-543-8289  
Email: dbcpmilw@execpc.com  
In Person: Monthly Meeting at Book Raffle

ITEM	COST
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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS • EVENTS • MEETINGS**

**January 10, 2011**

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

**January 18, 2011**

Prairieville Irregulars, 7 p.m.  
Student Center Building, Carroll University  
Speaker: Donna Agnelly, "Meet the In-Laws"

**January 24, 2011**

West Side Soldiers Aid Society, 7-9 p.m.  
Period Games Nights & Winter Social  
Wadsworth Library, VA Grounds  
February 5, 2011  
Patriotic Luncheon, Bluemound Gardens, 12:30 p.m.  
Speaker: Jessica Michna as Mary Todd Lincoln  
C.K. Pier Badger Camp #1, SUVCW

**January 3, 1861** • The War Department canceled the order to remove guns from Pittsburgh to Southern forts; the order had been issued by former Secretary of War Floyd. Floyd, who had resigned and gone South, had been shipping weapons and large guns South for the past several months.

**January 18, 1861** • In the U.S. House of Representatives, John Sherman, brother of William Tecumseh Sherman, made his reply to his Ohio colleague, Pendleton, as to whether the North should be conciliatory towards the South saying:

*You and I see already rising in the West, where military feeling is rife, a spirit which will not brook much longer the insults already cast upon the flag of the country...if you have any misapprehension about the Northern people – if you suppose that because they are cold, because they are not fired by your hot blood, they will not perform their duty everywhere, you are very much mistaken. We are the equals of each other; we are of the same blood, the same parentage, the same character; your warm sun has quickened your blood, but our cold climate has steadied our intellects and braced our energies.*

**January 5, 1862** • In Otterville, Missouri. Private Barber, Co. D, 15th Illinois Volunteer Infantry wrote:

*We now received another installment of pay. A good many of the boys had acquired the habit of gambling. "Chuck Luck" was their favorite game. Many a soldier would venture all his hard earnings on the throw of the dice, and thus lose in a few hours what it had taken him months to earn. This species of gaming was carried on to such an extent that an order was issued prohibiting it. If anyone was caught at it, he was arrested and his money confiscated, but this did not stop the practice.*

**January 1, 1863** • Pvt. Barber, now Corporal Barber, Co. D, 15th Illinois Volunteer Infantry, en route to Lafayette, Mississippi wrote:

*I never saw it rain harder in my life than it did that morning, and it continued to rain the most part of the day. Ravines and gulches that we passed over dry-shod the day before, were now filled with water rushing in torrents from down the hillsides and valleys... but for all that, the boys jogged along as happy as larks. The harder it rained the louder would we sing and shout and crack our jokes.*

**January 1, 1864** • Pvt. Jackman of "The Orphan Brigade" in Dalton, Georgia, commented on the New Year's Day weather:

*The new year ushered in a very cold manner. Ground hard frozen this morning. The sun shone bright yet a cool wind blowing in forenoon. Very cold tonight out of doors but the reckless winter winds that come sweeping over the bleak hills, roaring and snapping, screaming and shrieking, through the bare branches of the old oak overhanging our abode fail to penetrate the well chinked walls about us. There is a fire kindled in the earthen hearth to a convivial glow lending a perfect air of coziness to the little tene-ment.*

## Kenosha Civil War Museum

### SECOND FRIDAY LUNCH BOX LECTURE SERIES

Noon-1 p.m., Civil War Museum's Freedom Hall. Snacks and beverages are available in the Museum vending machines or you can bring your own lunch.

#### FIRST BULL RUN

**Friday, January 14, 2011**

The factors that led up to the battle, what occurred, and how the results shocked the northern half of the country will be discussed. Presented by Doug Dammann, Civil War Museum Curator.

#### WE, THE PEOPLE

**Friday, February 11, 2011**

Both the North and South governments were extensions of the original compact between the states – The U.S. Constitution. The similarities, differences, and problems facing both governments will be discussed. Presented by Brett Lobello, Civil War Museum Curator of Education.

#### COLONEL ELMER ELLSWORTH

**Friday, March 11, 2011**

He was a friend and election aide of Abraham Lincoln. The death of Colonel Ellsworth, the first prominent Union casualty of the war, will be discussed. Presented by Doug Dammann, Civil War Museum Curator.

#### FEBRUARY WEEKEND PRESENTATIONS

*There are two upcoming lectures being sponsored by the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee and the Iron Brigade Association. The lectures are free public presentations.*

#### LINCOLN'S FIRST 100 DAYS

**Saturday, February 12, 2011, 1 p.m.**

Lincoln scholar and Wisconsin Lincoln Bicentennial Commission member Steve Rogstad will discuss President Lincoln's response to the daunting challenges he faced during his first 100 days in office.

#### QUILTS AND THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

**Sunday, February 20, 2011, 1 p.m.**

Were quilts used extensively as a means of communication to slaves escaping on the Underground Railroad? A discussion of the Underground Railroad, the role quilts did or did not play and how quilts were used during the Civil War and the women who created them will be presented by Donna Agnelly.

## Civil War News Briefs

The 7th U.S. Cavalry flag, the only U.S. flag not captured or lost during **George Armstrong Custer's** Last Stand at the Battle of Little Bighorn, sold at auction in December for a bid of \$1.9 million dollars. The flag was sold by Sotheby's of New York on behalf of the Detroit Institute of Arts, which bought the flag for just \$54 in 1895. The buyer was not immediately known. Frayed, torn, and with possible bloodstains, the flag had been valued before its sale at up to \$5 million.

A group of very excited people hope that a newly awarded million-dollar grant will help reveal another piece of **Franklin, Tennessee**, Civil War history. On the Columbia Pike stands the Carter House while across the street, in an area where at least eight U.S. soldiers won the Medal of Honor and two of the six Confederate generals were killed, stands Domino's Pizza. The good news – the Cameron brothers are willing to sell and, although not yet a done deal, the new grant money gives the Franklin preservationists the ability to formally offer to buy the land.

On December 2, 1864, **Tod Carter**, a **Franklin, Tennessee**, boy and Confederate soldier would die in his family home from a bullet wound he received during the Battle of Franklin. Now, on the 146th anniversary of his death, the family is donating the bullet they believe killed Tod to the Franklin Trust. The family is also donating more than 200 pages of letters written between Tod and his brother Moscow, as well as Moscow's diary as part of a special collection that is being organized by state archivists. Anne Warren, Carter family descendant, decided it was time to share the items that had been kept in her family for decades.

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#### CWRT of Milwaukee, Inc. • 2010 - 2011 Meetings

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##### **February 10, 2011**

Steven Rogstad

##### **May 12, 2011**

Tom Schott, Ph.D.,  
Alexander Stephens

##### **March 10, 2010**

Susan Boardman,  
Gettysburg Cyclorama

##### **June 9, 2011**

Peter Carmichael, Ph.D., TBA

##### **April 7, 2011**

Richard M. McMurry, Ph.D., TBA

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

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## Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for January 13, 2011

Mail your reservations by Monday, January 10, 2011, to: **ALSO, call in reservations to:**

**Paul Eilbes**

**(262) 376-0568**

**1809 Washington Ave.**

**Cedarburg, WI 53012-9730**

Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (meal price \$23.00 per person) for \_\_\_\_\_ reservations for January 13, 2011, 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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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.



On January 11, 1949, Marshall Wingfield spoke to the Round Table about "Robert E. Lee."

In January 1952, Elmer Gertz's topic was "Charles A. Dana: The Eyes of the Government at the Front."

U.S. Grant, III, spoke about "The Development of Military Law in the Civil War" in January 1961.

"Perryville and the Kentucky Campaign" was the subject of the talk presented by Brooks Davis in January 1970.

Walter N. Trenerry spoke about "John Pope: His Political Problems and His Pratfall at Second Bull Run" in January 1984.

In January 1990, Alan D. Gaff talked to the Round Table. The topic that day was "If This is War: An Account of the Second Wisconsin at the First Battle of Bull Run."