



GENERAL ORDERS

The Newsletter of the
Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.
Our 62nd Year
and The Iron Brigade Association



JUNE 9, 2011

PETER S. CARMICHAEL, PH.D.

Robert E. Lee and the Strategy of Annihilation



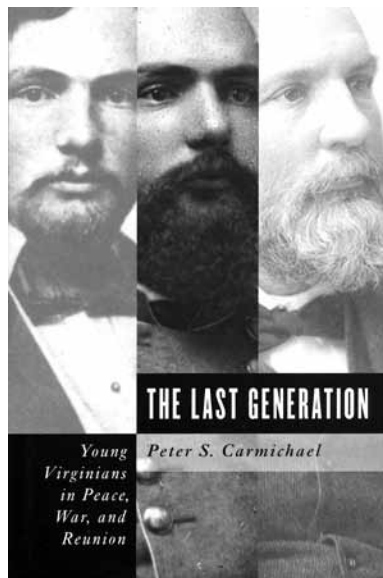
Did Robert E. Lee further Southern war aims and sustain the Confederate people in their quest for independence? Was Lee too addicted to the offensive? Was he too blood-thirsty? Was he too eager to abandon the defensive when he should have focused on how to preserve his army? These questions and more will be addressed by Peter Carmichael at our June meeting.

Carmichael currently serves as the Fluhrer Professor of Civil War Studies and Director of the Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College, having assumed this position on August 1, 2010. He succeeds Gabor Boritt as the Director of the Institute. Boritt founded the institute in 1982 to promote the study of the Civil War era. The Institute helps coordinate a number of Civil War-related events, including the Lincoln Prize, the Michael Shaara Prize, the Robert Fortenbaugh Memorial Lecture, annual programming designed to commemorate Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, as well as a week-long summer conference that hosts 300 participants annually.

Carmichael received his Bachelor of Arts in History from Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis in May 1988. In January 1992, he received his Masters of Arts in History from Pennsylvania State University and, in December 1996, his Ph.D. in History. Prior to his position at Gettysburg College, he was a professor of history at West Virginia University, specializing in Civil War Studies. He has also taught at Pennsylvania State University, Virginia Commonwealth University, Western Carolina University and the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

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Carmichael is the author of *Lee's Young Artillerist: William R. J. Pegram* (Charlottesville: The University Press of Virginia, 1995) and more recently *The Last Generation: Young Virginians in Peace, War, and Reunion* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2005). Currently he is working on a book entitled *The War for the Common Soldier*, which will be part of the *Littlefield History of the Civil War Era* series. In addition to the books he has authored, Carmichael also edited and contributed to *Slavery in North America: From the Colonial Period to Emancipation: The Civil War and Emancipation*, Vol. 4 and *Audacity Personified: Essays on the Generalship of Robert E. Lee*. He has also provided numerous reviews of Civil War books.



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June 2011

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JUNE MEETING AT A GLANCE

June 9, 2011

Peter S. Carmichael, Ph.D.

"Robert E. Lee and the Strategy of Annihilation"

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, June 6, 2011

See page 7.

Speaker and topic are subject to change.

In case of inclement weather, listen to WTMJ or WISN radio.

www.civilwarwi.org

2011 BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

At the May meeting the following board members were reelected: Michael Benton, A. William Finke and Patrick Lynch. In addition, new board members elected were: Robert Lieding and Robert Mann. The newly elected directors begin their duties in May, and will serve three-year terms.

NEW MEMBERSHIP DUES SCHEDULE EFFECTIVE WITH THE 2011-2012 SEASON

As published in the May *General Orders*, the new dues schedule is as follows:

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP – \$40.00

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP – \$50.00

(Two adults & children under 18 living at the same address)

NON-RESIDENT MEMBERSHIP – \$25.00

(Individuals living 100 miles or more from Milwaukee)

EDUCATIONAL MEMBERSHIP – \$15.00

(Student or educator interested in being a member of the Round Table)

Your dues renewal form will be enclosed in the September edition of *General Orders*.

Preserve and Protect

GETTYSBURG. The Civil War Trust announced a new preservation opportunity – two parcels along the Baltimore Pike totaling 4 acres. Tens of thousands of Union troops marched on or across this property on their way to Culp’s Hill and Spangler’s Spring. After the battle, some of the fallen were buried there.

This important ground, coupled with a separate preservation effort at the Country Club and the Josiah Benner House property, makes this an exciting opportunity.

Trust Goal: \$234,000

GAINES’ MILL AND COLD HARBOR. The Civil War Trust announced a new campaign to save two important tracts associated with two of the most historic and bloody charges of the Civil War.

The first tract is a 1.8 acre section of the Gaines’ Mill battlefield – at the very heart of the battlefield. It was across this ground that soldiers from A.P. Hill’s, Roberdeau Wheat’s, Richard Ewell’s, and John Bell Hood’s units splashed across Boatswain’s Creek and up the steep, wooded slopes to the Union positions above.

The second tract is a 0.6 acre section of the 1864 Cold Harbor battlefield – where the 2nd Connecticut Heavy Artillery made its fateful charge on June 1st into the heavily entrenched Confederate lines. The 2nd Connecticut lost 313 men out of 1,500 in this brave but doomed assault.

Trust Goal: \$177,500

June 11-12, 2011

Salute to Freedom

The Kenosha Civil War Museum presents its Third Annual Salute to Freedom. The weekend activities celebrate the museum’s third anniversary. Reenactors, period music, family craft activities and theatre presentations are featured during the weekend.

July 2, 2011

From Paper to Iron: Wisconsin Joins the Civil War
Wisconsin Veterans Museum, Madison

This special exhibit opens July 2 and runs through September 30, 2011. Included in the exhibit are artifacts showing how Wisconsin volunteers became soldiers who stood like iron.

July 16-17, 2011

Civil War Encampment and Battle Reenactment
Old Falls Village, Menomonee Falls, www.oldfallsvillage.com

July 18, 2011

“Care, Training, and Feeding of the Horse and Mule
During the Civil War,” Ray Glick, DVM
Kenosha Civil War Museum, noon

July 21, 2011

They Fought at Bull Run (and Some Who Didn’t)
Kenosha Civil War Museum, 7 p.m.

On the 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Bull Run, museum curator Doug Dammann will discuss some of the principle figures who fought, and a few who didn’t.

July 23-24, 2011

Civil War Miniatures and Gaming Weekend
Kenosha Civil War Museum

August 5-7, 2011

19th Annual Muskets & Memories Civil War Era Reenactment
Boscobel, Wisconsin, www.musketsandmemories.net

August 12, 2011

“Mrs. Bloom and Her Scandalous Outfit:
A Study in Utility and Symbolism,” K. Krewer
Kenosha Civil War Museum, noon



On June 18, 1947, Paul S. Brant spoke on “The Battle of Champion’s Hill.”

Richard B. Harwell spoke on “A Mirror of the South” at the June 1957 meeting.

“Stephen A. Douglas” was Glen Seymour’s topic in June 1961.

On June 24, 1976, Philip J. Hohlweck spoke about “Berdan’s Sharpshooters.”

John M. Priest was the Round Table speaker in June 1998. The topic that evening was “Pickett’s Charge.”

**KENOSHA CIVIL WAR MUSEUM
4TH ANNUAL GREAT LAKES
CIVIL WAR FORUM
CIVIL WAR SESQUICENTENNIAL: 1861
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2011**

This year, four speakers will discuss the battles, leaders, soldiers and events that helped to shape the Midwest's involvement in the first year of the war. Registration opens at 8:30 a.m.; programs will run 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Dr. Tom Sweeney

Care of the Wounded from the Battle of Wilson's Creek, MO

After the Battle of Wilson's Creek, Confederate wounded were treated in field hospitals and the surrounding communities. Most of the Federal wounded had to wait for medical care in southern occupied Springfield, Missouri, after the Federals had fled to Rolla and eventually St. Louis. In Missouri, the Western Sanitary Commission was formed in St. Louis on September 5, 1861, and had its center of control in that city. St. Louis became the center for taking care of the wounded in the Trans-Mississippi as many Union wounded in Missouri were brought there for treatment.

Lance Herdegen

The Second Wisconsin at Bull Run

The 2nd Wisconsin infantry was the first three year regiment to reach Washington and fought in the First Battle of Bull Run. It had little training, inexperienced leaders, and old-style smooth-bore muskets. But the Badgers made a valiant charge up Henry House Hill late in the day only to be shot to pieces and forced to fall back. This is the story of those greenhorn patriots and their baptism of fire. Soon they were part of an Iron Brigade.

Dan Joyce

Wisconsin's Grays Go to War

From small disorganized militia companies rose the 90-day 1st Wisconsin Volunteer Active Militia. Wisconsin, like many states, was unprepared for war. Using the militia system as a base, they quickly recruited adventurous young men to fill out the ranks. To equip the men, they relied on hardware stores, boot makers, local women and even state prisoners. Follow these patriotic men in their quest to put down the rebellion as they head to the Battle of Falling Waters, face the enemy and return triumphantly home.

Bruce Allardice

**Snatching Defeat from the Jaws of Victory –
The Ten Worst Civil War Generals**

The generals of the armies of our Civil War were a mixed lot, quite often amateur soldiers, quite often politicians masquerading as soldiers, usually (but not always) devoted, usually (but not always) courageous. In his talk, Bruce Allardice will examine the Butlers, the Braggs, the Burnsidese, the Pembertons, how they became generals, and why they failed to justify their promotion to high rank. You've heard about the best – now hear about the rest!

\$45 Friends of the Museum/\$55 non-members

Cost includes lectures, lunch

& admission to the Fiery Trial Gallery.

Registration deadline: September 5, 2011

For details and further information call (262) 653-4140

The Great Comet of 1861

The Great Comet of 1861 was discovered by John Tebbutt in Australia on May 13, 1861. A "great comet" is one that cannot only be seen from Earth, but is also exceptionally bright. Also, it doesn't refer to the comet insofar as it refers to a particular appearance of a comet. For example, when Halley's Comet visited the Earth in 1910, it was bright enough to be considered a "great comet." However, in 1986, it was not bright enough to be considered a "great comet." The most recent great comet event is McNaught Comet's close approach in 2007, but the most famous one that happened relatively recently was Hale-Bopp in the 1990s.

While there were several great comets in the 19th century, the 1861 comet was the most noteworthy. It was one of the brightest comets of all time, outshining all the stars in the sky, just barely excepting the Sun. In addition, the Earth passed so close to the comet that it physically entered its tail for two days. This bright period occurred in late-June/early-July of 1861, but it was at least visible in the sky without a telescope from May to August of that year.

It passed into the northern hemisphere on the 29th of June. On the Fourth of July, a soldier from the Second Wisconsin wrote this about the body: "We have been visited for a week past by a very large comet which at full day appears very bright and transparent; late at night the tail stretched nearly to the Zenith while the star was near the horizon." (In other words, it stretched from the nearly very top of the sky to the edge of the horizon.)

The comet soon became a significant sight for the American audience, and in turn it was used in period media referencing the impending Civil War. This is not surprising, as comets – particularly great comets – were seen as harbingers of death and destruction for millennia. In this case, the comet was an accurate predictor of upcoming events, as it was still visible in the sky as troops came up to line near the Bull Run tributary.

The Great Comet often appeared in period political cartoons. One such cartoon was an image of Winfield Scott's head replacing the icy core of the comet as it cuts through the heavens, with the caption "About This Time You Will Hear Thunder."

The comet left visibility in August of 1861, and it will not be seen again by the naked eye until the 23rd century. It is at least 103 astronomical units away from Earth presently or, in other words, it is 9.5 billion miles away. It is further away from the sun presently than the classical planet of Pluto.

Submitted by: Jeremy Johnson



AND SO IT CONTINUES...

Marking the Civil War Sesquicentennial

June 2, 1861 • General Pierre Gustav Toutant Beauregard takes command of the Confederate forces in northern Virginia; this collection of units will become the Army of Northern Virginia.

June 3, 1861 • Stephen A. Douglas, the “Little Giant” dies in Chicago at the age of forty-eight. The *New York Times* reports his death:

The telegraph brings us the sad news that Stephen A. Douglas is no more. He died at his residence in Chicago yesterday morning...Mr. Douglas was one of the peculiar men of the times; a remarkable illustration of what self-reliance and a faith in his ability to shape and control his own destiny will enable a man to accomplish. Of strong, vigorous intellect; of indomitable will and unflinching courage, he pursued his purposes with an energy that never faltered...He never spared an opponent, out of courtesy, to the hazard of the purpose he sought to accomplish, and never paused in the use of a weapon that would insure success. He was open, frank and generous in his friendships, though somewhat bitter and vindictive in his enmities.

His death at this time, may be regarded as a national calamity – for whatever his political faults, or his errors as a statesman may have been, his peculiar relations and exalted position, his firm and manly support of the Union, would have made his name a tower of strength. His services in the Senate and his influence in favor of the right, can, in these perilous times, be illy spared by the nation.

June 10, 1861 • The first serious battle of the war is fought at Big Bethel, Virginia, between 2,500 Federals and 1,200 Confederates.

June 22, 1861 • The pro-Union session in Greeneville, Tennessee declares its preference for the Union. The western part of the state will remain under Confederate control for most of the war but it furnishes more troops for the Union than it did for the South.

July 2, 1861 • President Lincoln authorizes Gen. Winfield Scott to suspend the writ of habeas corpus on or near any military line between Washington and New York.

July 17, 1861 • *The enemy has assailed my outposts in heavy force. I have fallen back on the line of Bull Run, and will make a stand at Mitchell's Ford. If his force is overwhelming, I shall retire to the Rappahannock railroad bridge, saving my command for defense there, and for future operations. Please inform Johnston of this, via Staunton and also Holmes. Send forward any reinforcements at the earliest possible moment, and by every possible means.* – P.G.T. Beauregard

July 20, 1861 • *I went to the tent of Gen. McDowell and had quite a conversation with him. I never had much of an opinion of him as a General, and I left his tent with a feeling of great sadness and a sort of prescience of coming disaster. He seemed discouraged and in low spirits, and appeared very doubtful of the result of the approaching conflict. That was a bad symptom.* – Elihu B. Washburne, U.S. Congressman, Illinois

July 21, 1861 • First Bull Run • In the early morning, after several days of maneuvering, the first major confrontation of the opposing armies takes place. Thirty-seven thousand Union troops

engage thirty-five thousand Confederate troops.

At 9 a.m. Maj. Gen. Irvin McDowell leads 13,000 Federals across Bull Run creek. The Federals score several tactical victories but the Confederates manage to turn the Union line resulting in the orderly Union retreat turning into a full-scale rout. Terrified, inexperienced troops run headlong into civilians who have ridden out for the day from Washington. Federal losses are 2,896 compared to Confederate losses of 1,982. The outcome of this first major battle is the realization that the war is not going to be the quick adventure many thought but rather, a prolonged and bloody fight.

Ohio congressman Albert Riddle describes the retreat of the terrified Federals: *We called to them...implored them to stand. We called them cowards, denounced them in the most offensive terms, put out our heavy revolvers and threatened to shoot them, but all in vain; a cruel, crazy, mad, hopeless panic possessed them, and communicated to everybody about in front and rear.*

REFLECTING ON THE BATTLE

When we reached the open field the air seemed to be filled with myriads of serpents, such was the sound of the bullets passing through it. Above us and around us on every side, they seemed to be hissing, writhing and twisting. I have been under many a hot fire, but I don't think that, in nearly four years experience, I ever heard so many bullets in such a short space of time. – Lt. J. Albert Monroe Reynolds' Battery, Rhode Island Artillery, Burnside's Brigade

As we rushed past the battery we were exposed to the concentrated fire of the entire rebel force then in action, and the sounds of their missiles, running through the whole scale of wartime music, from the savage rush of twelve pound shells to the spiteful “pish” of the minie bullet, was ruinous to weak nerves. – Pvt. Martin A. Haynes 2nd New Hampshire Infantry, Burnside's Brigade

I was thinking of what my father written to me to bear in mind the old saying “To keep your powder dry and trust in the Lord,” when one of those shells fell close to me burying in the ground and when exploding leaving a good-sized hole. For a few minutes I confess that I did wish that I was a ground-squirrel, or a possum so I could get into that hole. – Pvt. George S. Barnsley 8th Georgia Infantry, Bartow's Brigade

It was at Henry House Hill that Thomas J. Jackson and his First Virginia Brigade stand, barring a breakthrough by the Union troops. It was during this action where he earns his nickname “Stonewall.” Jackson and his men hold their ground for nearly four hours and then charge, forcing McDowell's Federals to begin moving back and finally breaking into a run.

As soon as our battery commences to fire, a perfect storm of shot passes over us. It seems as if the enemy had just found out where we are...Many men were killed and wounded while we are here. The wounded cry out every moment and are borne to the rear by their friends. Some are killed so instantly that those who were nearest to them would not know it. We begin to think that a battle is not so nice as some had imagined. – Drillmaster Charles C. Wight 27th Virginia Infantry, Jackson's Brigade

Soon we met the wounded, limping, or bearing bleeding arms, or with blood on the face, and some borne by friends. A few were utterly demoralized and declared that the battle was lost. Up a lane, then to the right in the open field a little below the crest, and we dismounted and unlimbered. And there was a battle-field – lines of blue, with volleys and wreaths of smoke, batteries belching flames – before us. Right and left of us were our own people of the First Brigade. Back of us rode Beauregard and his staff. To and fro passed Jackson, holding up a banded hand. Our guns were shotted and fired, and it seemed the greatest noise we had ever heard. – Pvt. James P. Smith Rockbridge Artillery, Virginia, Jackson’s Brigade

Before reaching the crest of this hill the roadway was worn deep enough to afford shelter, and I kept the several regiments in it as long as possible; but when the Wisconsin Second was abreast of the enemy, by order of Major Wadsworth, of General McDowell’s staff, I ordered it to leave the roadway by the left flank, and to attack the enemy. This regiment ascended to the brow of the hill steadily, received the severe fire of the enemy, returned it with spirit, and advanced delivering its fire. The regiment is uniformed in gray cloth, almost identical with that of the great bulk of the secession army, and when the regiment fell into confusion and retreated toward the road there was a universal cry that they were being fired on by our own men. The regiment rallied again, passed the brow of the hill a second time, but was again repulsed in disorder. – Colonel William Tecumseh Sherman Brigade Commander, Tyler’s Division

IN THE AFTERMATH

Walt Whitman visits Washington as a correspondent for the *Brooklyn Standard* and witnesses the return of the Federal army from Bull Run. He writes:

The sun rises, but shines not. The men appear, at first sparsely and shame-faced enough, then thicker, in the streets of Washington – appear in Pennsylvania Avenue, and on the steps and basement entrances. They come along in disorderly mobs, some in squads, stragglers, companies. Occasionally, a rare regiment, in perfect order, with its officers marching in silence, with lowered faces, stern, weary to sinking. All black and dirty, but every man with his musket...

Private Otho S. Lee of the 1st Virginia Cavalry, Army of the Shenandoah would write about his findings at Henry House Hill the day after the battle:

I came across a Federal Soldier lying on the bank of a small ravine where some of his comrades no doubt had laid him. He was shot through the head by a minie ball piercing his forehead. He was not dead but dying, he could not speak, but motioned as if he wanted water. I dismounted and placed my canteen to his lips, but he could not swallow, though his lips were made moist, and he soon after expired.

I then rode over to the Henry house where Mrs. Henry had been killed during the battle. I saw her dead body in the bed where she had been killed, with her family around her. She was very ill when the battle commenced and could not be moved. During the battle a grape shot pierced the house and passed through her body, killing her instantly.

July 22, 1861 • Lincoln sends for Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan in western Virginia to take command of the Federal forces

around Washington.

July 27, 1861 • McClellan takes command of the Division of the Potomac, replacing Major General McDowell and writes to his wife:

*I find myself in a strange and new position here – Presdt, Cabinet, Genl Scott and all deferring to me – by some strange operation of magic I seem to have become **the** power of the land. I almost think that were I to win some small success now I could become Dictator or anything else that might please me – therefore I won’t be a Dictator. Admirable self denial! I see already the main causes of our recent failure – I am sure that I can remedy these and am confident that I can lead these armies of men to victory once more.*

August 10, 1861 • Nathaniel Lyon, now a brigadier general, commits his fifty-four hundred Federals to the first major battle of the Trans-Mississippi West. Lyon decides to meet the attack of eleven thousand Confederates at Wilson’s Creek. During the second assault of the rebel forces, Lyon is killed while trying to rally his troops. His death resulted in a Federal retreat. The Union loses 1,317 men while the Confederate loss was 1,230.

August 31, 1861 • The month ends with the Confederate government in Richmond announcing the appointment of five full generals. The appointments are made in order of seniority and are as follows: Samuel Cooper, Albert Sidney Johnston, Robert Edward Lee, Joseph Eggleston Johnston and Pierre Gustave Tou-tant Beauregard.

And so it continues.

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



FROM THE FIELD
2nd Regiment

July 20, 1861 • Centreville, Virginia

We left Camp Peck on Tuesday the 10th at 2 o'clock p.m. Altogether there were some 15,000 of us. We marched to a place called Vienna, 10 miles from where we started and about 16 from Washington. We encamped in fields along the road for there was an awful crowd of us. We did not see any of the rebels and it was very hard marching. We had our blankets, cup, canteens, guns and three days rations, which is a big load to march with. The last consisted of dry crackers and a little meat. We started next day at 9 o'clock and found all the houses vacated. Slaves were left in some of them. The boys milked all the cows and took all the chickens they wanted. We got within two or three miles of a place called Germantown, where 3000 rebels were encamped. They had felled trees across the road to prevent us coming on to them in a hurry, and we had to move very slow and cautious for fear of masked batteries. There was a breastwork before their camp some ten feet high which we cut through. The artillery fired twice at them and they left leaving most everything behind. I took a look through their camp and found sugar and coffee in sacks, dishes &c. They tried to get away with a load of flour but their wagon broke down and they took the horses and left in a hurry. As we entered the camp ground through the cut in the breastwork each company gave three cheers for the stars and stripes at the same time waving the flag from the top of the work. We took two of the rebels prisoners. Their uniform is something like ours only the stripe is yellow instead of black. We marched after the retreating enemy but did not get up to them as they had two hours start. We encamped in a field for the night and the next morning started on and marched three miles when we stopped before another breastwork which the enemy had left the night before. Beauregard had been there with 10,000 men. They left most everything behind. We continued our advance three miles when we fell in with the rebels. They were in the woods and we could hear every shot that was fired.

The Michigan battery and two or three hundred of cavalry went to assist the advance in dislodging them, but could not as they fought irregularly and in Indian fashion. After the advance had been fighting for some time our brigade was marched forward to cover its retreat. When we got within a half mile or so of it we met our troops retreating. The cannon balls struck all around. One struck within ten feet of our company, bounded and passed over our heads. There were three of the La Crosse Light Guard wounded and one died the next day; the others will recover. It made me feel kind of funny to hear the balls whistling around my ears. We have not made another attempt to dislodge them. Our troops are still pouring in, and you may look for an awful fight within three days. We have a big army here now, at least 40,000 men and more coming all the time. We suffered quite a heavy loss in the fight on account of their mode of fighting and our advance got right on the enemy before discovering them. We must have

lost some 50 killed and a great many wounded. I am writing on the head of Davis's drum and as I am out of writing material I will conclude this account of our march and fight. – Pvt. Eskew, Randall Guards, 2nd Regiment

Baltimore • July 28, 1861

My dear friend: I have just returned from Washington and improve a spare moment in writing you again, agreeable to promise. You have, of course, been fully informed of the battle and rout on Sunday last and of our losses. While I can but sorrow for the brave men who went down before the storm of battle, and for the hearts that have been made desolate, I reinforce that in defeat we were not disgraced, that our Second Regiment, deserted by their commanding officers, broken and separated, fought on manfully in the very hottest front of the strife. Our own brave boys were firm and true to the last and faced that storm of iron hail like veterans. I found them cheerful but jaded and sore. If ever they needed sympathy, and the good things which sympathy and love alone can supply, it is now. Let Racine at once testify its appreciation of their brave deeds on the battlefield and of the honor they have done their city and State by sending those articles of diet, those little comforts, of which the soldiers tent is destitute and which are so grateful after a hard fight and a wearying retreat.

I send you by express for safe keeping, an artillery saber, brought from inside one of the enemy's batteries at Bull Run by my son, Melly. It is covered, as you will see, with secession blood which I did not care to remove lest it should detract from its value as a trophy of war. Please keep it carefully.

You have already been informed of the devilish cruelty of the rebels in their murder of our wounded soldiers. My blood has not yet ceased to run cold from listening to the recital of eye-witnesses of this more than savage butchery. Yes, they bayoneted our wounded men, in some instances thrusting them through and through! If this brutal and fiendish conduct does not arouse the entire North and arm it anew for the contest, then nothing can, and we may despair of our country. The contest is to be a terrible one, and will tax our entire resources. To decide differently is to be fatally deceived. We have now to fight, not for the Constitution, not for the Union, not for the Government, but for the national existence. The people need to see this and feel it and act promptly, with reference to it. Let the rebellion prevail and we become subjugated to the slave power, and a slave Empire takes the place of a Republican Government, and the institutions of freedom.

You may say there is no danger. But I say that there is danger. There is not only demoralization in the army, but demoralization in the States. Radical reforms must be had everywhere or our country must die! I am glad to see fresh regiments pouring in every day. It will never do for us to move again upon Manassas with less than 100,000 men, most thoroughly furnished and equipped. And when we do move we must go through whatever cost. – A.C. Barry

Milwaukee Irish Fest & Irish Fest Summer School

Civil War Music & Dance



Musician and historian David Kincaid (above right) will perform at Milwaukee's Irish Fest this August. Kincaid has devoted years of research and his extensive recording/performing experience to collections of authentic songs of the Irish from the Civil War. With two critically acclaimed albums, he has performed across the United States and Europe, had his music included in documentary films, and was engaged as both a consultant and performer in *Gods and Generals*.

Kincaid will offer a three-session class at the Irish Fest Summer School, August 16-18. "Irish Songs of the American Civil War" presents a compelling combination of history and authentic songs of both Union and Confederate Irish soldiers.

In addition, Kincaid will take part in a special presentation by the Ward Irish Music Archives on Monday, August 15, 7 - 9 p.m. The program held will highlight the new traveling exhibit (above center) which will be on display at Irish Fest's Cultural Village, August 18-21. The August 15 program at MSOE will be followed by a "session" (musical gathering) at John Hawks Pub (www.johnhawkspub.com).

Civil War Round Table member Patricia Lynch (above left) will teach Civil War era dancing at Irish Fest Summer School, using dances from the Scots-Irish community of Belfast, Maine, 1863.

Patricia is co-founder of the West Side Soldiers Aid Society, Inc., and dance mistress of the West Side Victorian Dancers, both related to Milwaukee's contributions to relief efforts during the American Civil War. She and members of the West Side Victorian Dancers have presented programs for the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table, Madison History Round Table, Kenosha Civil War Museum and a variety of living history events.

For information on and registration for Irish Fest Summer School, visit www.irishfest.com/schools/summerschool.php

The Irish Fest Schedule is available online at: www.irishfest.com

David Kincaid will also be featured at the Kenosha Civil War Museum on Sunday, August 14, 2011. \$10/\$5 for Friends of the Museum. (262) 653-4141

Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for June 9, 2011

Mail your reservations by Monday, June 6, 2011, 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 June 9, 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 June 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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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.

2011-2012 SPEAKER SCHEDULE

September 8, 2011

Marshall Krolick

October 13, 2011

Vernon Burton

November 10, 2011

Gail Stephens, "Early's 1864 Invasion of Maryland"

December 8, 2011

James "Bud" Robertson, Jr.

January 12, 2011

Parker Hills, "Chickamauga"

February 9, 2012

TBA

March 8, 2012

A. Wilson Greene,

Chicago Nevins-Freeman Award Winner

April 12 2012

Bruce Allardice, "Civil War Base Ball"

May 17, 2012

Brian Holden Reid

June 7, 2012

Dennis Frye, "Antietam"