



GENERAL ORDERS

The Newsletter of the
Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.
Our 64th Year
and The Iron Brigade Association



JUNE 13, 2013

TIMOTHY B. SMITH, PH.D. Corinth 1862: Siege, Battle, Occupation

The battle was continued. Early in the morning the enemy threw shells and cannon balls in the town of Corinth, and it looked as if they would ruin and take the town, but our heavy guns soon silenced theirs. Afterward the enemy tried strong bayonet and musketry attacks on our forces, but each time they were repulsed with heavy losses, and finally, on October 4, at about 11:30, they retreated and were put to flight, with our troops following. Our regiment pursued them only as far as the hospital of the secessionists where we captured the wounded and enlisted ones and held them under guard, until they were brought to Corinth. But, Oh how many gave up the ghost and were sunk in the ground, wrapped in a blanket, before they were mustered. It is terrible to be compelled to stand by and see how much the poor mutilated fellows have to suffer!

Stephen Werley, October 4, 1862

In the spring of 1862, there was perhaps no more important location in the western Confederacy, and possibly in the entire South for that matter, than Corinth, Mississippi. Major General Henry W. Halleck declared on May 25, "Richmond and Corinth are now the greatest strategical points of war, and our success at these points should be insured at all hazards." Corinth's defender, P.G.T. Beauregard, similarly argued to Richmond immediately after Shiloh that, "If defeated here, we lose the Mississippi Valley and probably our cause."

Our June speaker, Dr. Timothy Smith, will discuss the siege, battle and occupation of Corinth. Situated at the crossing of the western Confederacy's two most important rail lines, Corinth has gained the sobriquet as the crossing point of "the vertebrae of the Confederacy." As a result, Union and Confederate armies vied for control over the railroad town over almost the entire year of 1862, first in a spring siege and then in a fall battle. The occupation in between the two and after Corinth was safely in Union hands brought additional issues such as logistics, dealing with local civilians, and Federal policy regarding slaves and contrabands. Examining Corinth in the Civil War, especially in the pivotal year of 1862, can thus help us understand the crucial events wedged between and often overshadowed by Shiloh and Vicksburg.

Dr. Timothy B. Smith grew up in Carrollton, Mississippi, and received a B.A. and M.A. in History from Ole Miss in 1996 and 1997 respectively. He then received a Ph.D. from Mississippi State University in 2001, studying under Dr. John F. Marszalek. His major field was Early United States History. A veteran of the National Park Service, Smith currently teaches history at the University of Tennessee at Martin. His main area of interest and specialty, in addition to the military events of the Civil War, is in the history of Civil War battlefield preservation.

Smith is the author of several books including: *This Great Battlefield of Shiloh: History, Memory, and the Establishment of a Civil War National Military Park*, 2004; *Champion*

Continued on page 10

GENERAL ORDERS NO. 6-13
June 2013

IN THIS ISSUE

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----|
| CWRT News | 2 |
| Quartermaster's Regalia..... | 2 |
| Announcements | 2 |
| Kenosha Civil War Museum | 3 |
| Looking Back..... | 3 |
| From the Field..... | 4 |
| March of the Sixth Corps | 6 |
| Marking the Sesquicentennial..... | 8 |
| Civil War News | 10 |
| June Meeting Reservation | 11 |

JUNE 13 MEETING AT A GLANCE

Timothy B. Smith
"Corinth 1862: Siege, Battle, Occupation"

The Country Club of the Wisconsin Club

6200 W. Good Hope Road., Milwaukee
See map on page 7.

(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 – **\$25 by reservation.**

Deadline: Monday, June 10, 2013

See page 11.

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

www.civilwarwi.org

CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE NEWS



William and Sue Graham • Eric and Lisa Lowder
Brad Phillips • Adam Wiensch

CWRT ANNUAL FUND

The following members have shown their generous commitment by making an investment in the CWRT Annual Fund. This list reflects donations received through April 15, 2013.

Major Contributor (\$500 and above)

In Memoriam: Eugene and Caroline Jamrozy,
James Wiensch, Bob Lieding, Crain Bliwas

Benefactor: (\$400 and above)

Sponsor: (\$300 - \$390)

Allan Kasprzak and Trudi Schmitt, Eugene and Jane Jamrozy

Patron: (\$200 - \$299)

Associate: (\$100 - \$199)

Michael Benton, Richard Gross, Dr. Bob Karczewski, Paul Eilbes, Doug Haag, Grant Johnson, Jerome A. Kowalski, Robert and Linda Mann, Laura Rinaldi, Dave and Helga Sartori

WHEN YOU CANCEL YOUR RESERVATION

Please be aware that cancellations within 48 hours of the dinner meeting are subject to payment in full for the reservation amount. The Round Table is charged for these reservations whether the dinners are used or not.

FROM YOUR TREASURER

The September *General Orders* will include your dues renewal notice. A postage paid envelope will also be included with the newsletter. Our membership year runs from July 1 to June 30, and all memberships come due at this time. Please return your dues promptly; this saves the Round Table the cost of sending out further reminders. Thank you for being a member of our Round Table!

ANNOUNCEMENTS • EVENTS • MEETINGS

June 14, 2013

Flag Day, 11:30 a.m.

Marcus Center for the Performing Arts

June 18, 2013

Festival at Wauwatosa. Hart Park, 5–10 p.m.

Concert by Ensemble of the 1st Brigade Band

Bring a picnic supper and seating.

Free and open to the public.

Information: 414-427-3776

July 20-21, 2013

Old Falls Village Civil War Encampment

Menomonee Falls

<http://www.oldfallsvillage.com/eventsofv.htm>

July 27-28, 2013

Civil War Encampment

Pewaukee Area Historical Society

<http://www.pewaukeehistory.org/pewaukeeHistoricalSocietyEvents.asp>

August 3-4, 2013

Muskets and Memories

Civil War Reenactment at Boscobel

General Admission \$8 per day, Ages 7-12 - \$4, under 7 – free

For a complete schedule visit: <http://musketsandmemories.net/sched.html>

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 logo, along with your name or initials.

| ITEM | COST |
|--|---------|
| Hooded Sweatshirt in Northern Blue | \$35.00 |
| Baseball Cap | \$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, (414) 327-2847, dbcpmilw@execpc.com or see him in person at the Monthly Meeting at Book Raffle.

KENOSHA CIVIL WAR MUSEUM

Coming to the John M. Antaramian Gallery

The Campaigns of '63: Gettysburg & Vicksburg

Compelling narratives and important artifacts from the men of the Upper Midwest who fought to achieve these momentous Union victories 150 years ago. The opening is scheduled for June 15, 2013.

SECOND FRIDAY LUNCHBOX SERIES

Civil War Museum Freedom Hall – Noon

Friday, June 14

We Are Coming, Father Abraham: 115th Illinois at Vicksburg

Presented by Rod Miller

Follow the 113th Illinois from mustering in to marching through the swamps of Mississippi to service as provost guard in Memphis. Look into the lives of individuals that served including five Medal of Honor recipients.

Friday, July 12

Reflections on the Battle of Gettysburg, 150 Years Later

Presented by Professor Sandra Moats

Occurring on July 1, 2 and 3, 1863, Gettysburg was the only northern battle of the war. This battle was a central piece of Robert E. Lee's ambitious strategy to move the war north and force the Union to sue for peace. The Union held its line, resulting in a significant setback for Lee and the Confederate army. Professor Moats discusses what occurred on the battlefield and its long term significance for the war.

Friday, August 9

Long Road Home:

The Trials and Tribulations of a Confederate Soldier

Presented by Richard Zevitz

Long Road Home is a story of two Southern soldiers, one from Alabama, and the other from Tennessee. They escape capture and destruction at Fort Donelson only to struggle westward to find themselves cold, weary, exhausted, and caught in the futile struggle at Island No. 10. Zevitz's novel about Civil War prisons and battles, tactics, and strategy, is a journey of identity and self-discovery.

LIVING HISTORY SATURDAYS

Saturday, July 6

General Ulysses S. Grant

1 p.m. Meet General Grant

3 p.m. The Vicksburg Campaign as told by "General Grant."

These two first-person, interactive programs are performed by Larry Werline who will answer questions about Grant.

Saturday, July 27

Saturday, August 10

A Soldier's Life

12-4 p.m. both days

Family-friendly reenactors dressed and "in-character" Civil War soldiers will be in Freedom Hall to answer questions about their gear, Civil War battles, and what it took to be a Civil War soldier. At noon on each day there will be a 45-minute interactive presentation designed for families.

Saturday, August 24

Join the H.L. Hunley, Confederate Submarine

1 p.m.

This interactive program by Steven Quick dives deep into the workings of the Confederate Navy and the interworkings of the Confederate submarine. Participants take on the roles of the crew and do their best to operate one of the Confederacy's greatest weapons.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG

Monday, July 1 – 1 p.m.

The Black Hats at Gettysburg

Lance Herdegen will discuss the role played by the Iron Brigade of the West during the first day of the Battle of Gettysburg.

Tuesday, July 2 – 1 p.m.

Upper Midwesters at Little Round Top

Curator Doug Dammann tells the stories of the 16th Michigan and a group of Chicago men serving in the 44th New York in the midst of the battle to save the Union line on Cemetery Ridge.

Wednesday, July 3 – 1 p.m.

And His Gun Spoke Out For Him:

Alonzo Cushing at Pickett's Charge

Jim Heinz explains how a newly commissioned artillery officer from Delafield, Wisconsin, played a vital role in the Union victory at Gettysburg.

For more information on programs and events taking place at the Civil War Museum and the Kenosha Public Museums please call (262) 653-4140 or visit www.thecivilwarmuseum.org



In June 1947, Parker Webb spoke about "The Battle of Chickamauga."

Otto Eisenschiml talked about "The Story of Shiloh" at the June 1949 meeting.

"The Streight-Forrest Campaign" was the topic of Rucker Agee's presentation in June 1958.

At the June 1965 meeting featured speaker Avery Craven spoke about "The Meaning of the Civil War."

William S. Middleton's presentation at the June 1972 meeting was on "Medicine at Camp Randall."

"Mary A. Bickerdyke: A Female Hero of the Civil War" was presented by Karen Osborne at the June 1982 meeting.

John M. Priest visited our Round Table in June 1998. The topic that evening was "Pickett's Charge."

FROM THE FIELD
Summer 1863

Vicksburg, Mississippi
June 12th, 1863

Dear Mother

It is a fine day to-day and I feel fine, so I thought that I would write you a few lines. To-day is the 12th day of June and it is my birthday, so I thought I would write you a letter to let you know that I am well, and hope this finds you the same. We have been here one month lacking six days and the Rebels haint give up yet, but they will have to come down and draw in some of their feathers before long. I think that we have got them foul. Everything works all right for what I know. We have got them and have had them so that they could not work their big guns on us...

We have lots of Gray Backs, but not very plenty of Green Backs, but the boys think that we will get payed up when we get Vicksburg. We get plenty to eat now, but when we are on the March, we could not get anything to eat only a little fresh beef and pork and that we had to forage after we had stopped for the night... If anybody complains that they haint got enough to eat, just tell them to enlist. Tell Albert never to grumble for something to eat as long as he is at home, for he don't know what it is to be hungry, nor he never will unless he inlists in the Army of the United States and is put on force marches. But we are where we can get all we want to eat now, and we are getting fat again and feel first rate...

I will tell you what I saw done yesterday when I was up in the pitted. The Reb kept shouting at us with muskets, and the battery men saw them, so just for a joke, they sent a cannon ball over at them. I saw a Reb knocked about ten feet above the fort and come down on the outside. Now that is a big story, but when a cannon ball strikes a log and a man stands behind, it will use him pretty ruff...

Well I cant think of eny more to write only that the boys are all well. Oh yes, I want to know if Ari ever got eny of my allotment and how much he got. I believe that there is 50 dollars in all. If he has got eny, I wish you would write and let me know... Please write as soon as you get this. No more at present.

Henry Welsh
Co. I 29th Reg Wis Vol
Care of Capt O.C. Bissell Trey Helana, Ark

Vicksburg, Mississippi
June 30th/63

Dear Mother

As I haint got anything else to do, I will write you a few lines to let you know that I am well. I hope that these few lines will find you the same. I thought that I would write you often while I can and while we are here at Vicksburg, as you will be ancious to hear from here to know things are agoing on well...

We have got over two hundred pieces of cannon planted on the hills around Vicksburg, and the more coming every day, and lots of troops a coming in all the while. I tell you that Vicksburg is ours in a short time. We have cleaned them out twice and made them run and now we have got them penned up like a lot of sheep.

It is the hardist looking place here that I ever saw in my life! It is up hill and down — up hill and down. I tell you it is ruff country. I would not live here if they would give me a good farm — now that is as shure as you live!

I understand that the people of the North think that this war haint agoing to end very soon. I dont know as it will but I would not be afraid to bet ten dollars that whoever lives to see next fall will see this thing to an end. If it don't end by next fall, it wont end for three years. I tell you what I found in their haversacks the next day after the Battle of Backers Creek (or Champion Hills; it goes by either name). It was corn meal in some and corn bread in others with no salt at all and some fresh beef with hardly any salt. I saw a good meny prisoners. They most all looked like they wanted something to eat. There is a good meny deserted and come into our lines from Vicksburg. They say they cant stand it much longer in Vicksburg...

I saw Guvenor Solomon yesterday as he was here and made a short visit. Our Captain has gone home. If you can I wish you would send me a pair or two of wooling socks for I cant wear cotton sock in the summer. I was lucky enough to get hold of a pair of socks of one of our boyes and I gave him 75 cents...

I wish you would send me some postage stamps. If you don't, I will have to stop writing.

I cant think of anything more so I will stop writing. Please write as quick as you get this. No more at preasant. Yours as ever

Henry Welsh (Co. I, 29th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry)

June 1863 Second Wisconsin

The following is correspondence between Col. Fairchild and Mrs. Edgar O'Connor

Headquarters, 2d Wis Vols Inf.
Below Falmouth, Va. June 9th, 1863

My dear Madam — The officers and soldiers of this regiment who served under your late husband, our Colonel, have delegat-ed me to ask your permission to erect over the grave a suitable monument in token of our respect and esteem for him as our commanding officer.

I trust yourself and his father and mother will not object to this as we wish sincerely to thus testify in a lasting manner our admiration for him as a gentleman and gallant officer who fell while bravely leading us into battle.

An early answer will enable us to move in the matter before the coming battles.

With kind regards to the Judge and Mrs. O'Connor, I am

Your friend,
Lucius Fairchild

**Mrs. Edgar O'Connor, Beloit, Wis.
Beloit, Rock Co., June 15th, 1863**

Col. L. Fairchild: — Dear Sir: — Your favor of the 9th inst. I have just received and I can fully appreciate your request for an early answer. In reply I would say that words fail to express my emotion on receiving this and other proof of the high regard which is entertained for the memory of my dear husband by his fellow soldiers. Believing that I understand the noble feeling which prompted the offer, I gratefully, tearfully, yield to you and the soldiers he loved so well, the sacred privilege of performing the last outward tribute of respect that can be paid the dead. I hope also that this generous act will be the means of silencing a few evil minded persons here at home who have by base calumny sought to destroy his reputation and which is I confess very trying to my sensitive nature, this I trust will prove to all that his soldiers who had the best opportunity of knowing him are willing to defend his honor.

It is a pleasure to me to know that they know him as I did, that his goodness was never implored in vain and that if he was not always able to prevent an abuse of power, he always inspired the sufferer's heart with hope that last consolation to the affected...

Respectfully
J. O'Connor

**First Division First Army Corps
Gettysburg, July 5, 1863**

DEAR BROTHER: — I am all safe yet. This brigade commenced the battle on the 1st. We had to march five miles and were thrown immediately forward into the fight without support. We were exposed to a very heavy artillery fire and were scarcely on the field before my horse was killed by a shell. This division only was engaged and this brigade was on the extreme right of the line. We came in at a double quick and found ourselves within two hundred yards on the rebel line of battle as soon as we reached the top of the ridge in our front... In less than half an hour, the right of our brigade was completely enclosed, Gen. Reynolds had been killed in our immediate front and we were ordered to fall back, which we did...

We commenced fighting at ten o'clock A.M. and continued almost constantly engaged till four in the afternoon when we fell back through the town. I had two horses killed under me during the day, the General had one killed and two wounded... In that day's fight, the 11th corps which came up on our right about two o'clock P.M. proved themselves a set of arrant unmitigated cowards and lying wretches.

The miserable cowardly pups fought about an hour and then fell back leaving us to be almost completely surrounded by the rebels; yet they claim to have covered our retreat. We fought forty minutes after they left us and would never have gone back had not the 11th corps uncovered our right flank. On the second I

was knocked off my horse by a flattened ball but immediately mounted again. It did not hurt me much, we were behind breastworks at the time.

In haste
Your brother Tom

**Company K, 7th WIS REGT.
Quartermaster Shirrell of the 7th Regiment in a letter dated
Warrenton, Va.
July 24, 1863**

ENCLOSED YOU WILL FIND A LIST OF THE CASUALTIES
IN THE CO. K. 7TH REGIMENT

... We have had long and tedious marches through the hot sun, rain and mud, finally came up with Lee; the result you already know. Our loss in the Gettysburg fight was heavy but that of the rebels most fearful.

The old "Iron Brigade" was as usual the first into the fight and before reinforcements could reach them they were very badly used up. Before going in they drew rations for 2250 men; they now draw for but 850 men. The 7th now draws for but 191 men.

There are but a few of them, but they cannot be whipped; you can "bet" on that. I know not how you look at it at home, but I assure you that it is "glory" enough for any one man in these parts to have the honor of belonging to the old "Iron Brigade."

**From the 6th Regiment
In the field at Gettysburg, Pa.
July 2, 1863**

Editor's Republic: — I will write you a word but I do not know as I shall have an opportunity of sending it soon. Our Corps fought a severe battle at this place yesterday, which resulted in our being driven back a mile. The 11th Corps came in to assist us but did not fight. I believe a Wisconsin brigade could whip the whole corps...

The Iron Brigade lost 1140 men yesterday. It has 450 for duty this morning. We never did harder fighting. The 6th Wisconsin charged on the R.R. cut and captured the 2nd Miss Reg. entire, Maj. Stone commanding surrendered his sword and regiment, which numbered 430 men to Lieut. Col. Dawes of the 6th Wisconsin, but not until after a resistance which excelled in desperation anything we had ever witnessed before. Our regiment pushed on with terrible loss to the edge of the ditch; it received and returned the fire of the rebel hundreds crouching beneath it. Soon many of them held up their hats as a signal of surrender and our men ceased firing to spare them.

But they were reluctant and reckless, and many of them seeing we were small in numbers continued to shoot our men, and of course death was the ready punishment by Yankee bullet, bayonet or blow of musket. The work of murder continued for moments, and was only stopped when Maj. Stone came forward and made a formal surrender...

Yours, H.J.H.

THE MARCH OF THE SIXTH CORPS TO GETTYSBURG

J.S.ANDERSON

If you should place your left hand with the fingers extended, on a map of the state of Pennsylvania, drawn upon a scale of six miles to an inch, with the second finger pointing Northwesterly to the village of Gettysburg and about two inches from it, you would have a good idea of the situation of the several corps of the Army of the Potomac on the last day of June, 1863, by letting each finger nail represent an army corps, the index finger representing the 1st and 11th Corps together with two corps near the knuckles of the middle fingers, while the thumb would represent the 6th Corps away off to the right near Manchester, Md., ready to make a forced march to Baltimore, in case the rebels should make a sudden dash toward that city as it was rumored they intended doing. We, of the 6th Corps, had been marching steadily to the North every day since we broke camp near Acquia Creek, Va., nearly two weeks before.

We had a hard march of twenty miles on the 30th of June starting at 4 A.M. and had camped on both sides of the Baltimore Pike about 2 p.m. Rested the balance of that day and all that night...

All day of July 1st, we lay under temporary shelters, the hot sun casting its rays upon us as we lay on our blankets in the improvised shades, blessing the good fortune that afforded us the chance for rest after the many days of continuous marching.

The day passed on this way and just after sunset, when we had disposed of our coffee and hard tack and were sitting around enjoying the cool of the evening twilight, some of us saw a mounted officer come galloping down the pike from the West.

His horse was covered with dust and foam, its flanks bloody from continued spurring. He drew rein as he neared us and shouted, "Where is Corps Headquarters?"...

In a moment more, all was hurry and confusion, the bugles sounded the assembly, and orderlies and staff officers were rushing in all directions to the headquarters of the several brigades, whose bugles again sounded the call, and officers rushed out shouting to the men, "pack up, pack up and fall in"...

In a few minutes we learned that a battle had been begun at a place called Gettysburg. That General Reynolds, who commanded the 1st Corps, had been killed. That the Wisconsin regiments had been in action and been badly cut up. That Colonel Fairchild had been badly wounded, Colonel Stevenson killed and that many of the men from our state had been killed and wounded. That our forces here had been fighting against odds, and were compelled to give ground. That we were to join the rest of the army at Gettysburg, where a great battle was to be fought, and where we would be needed. "Gettysburg. Where is Gettysburg?" "Thirty-two miles away." "Thirty-five miles away," was the answer, for the divisions were scattered over more than two miles of ground.

Our first division soon took up the line of march and plodded on for about half an hour when the word came from the rear, "Halt!" Somebody had blundered on the wrong road and had gone two or three miles out of the way...

We had thus lost valuable time and added several miles to the distance we must necessarily travel. The head of the column was turned to make a cross-cut to reach the Baltimore and Gettysburg Pike again...

The night was cool, the road smooth and clear and we marched silently and swiftly along. Suddenly from away towards the head of the column was heard the strains of a band, breaking through the stillness of the night. The men caught the cadence of the music and fell into the marching step.

The band was playing the "Old John Brown" Battle Hymn, and as they reached the chorus, first a score of voices, joined the words to the music, then a hundred, then a thousand, and soon ten thousand voices rolled out the battle song...

So far as my memory serves me this was the only march of that character where the 6th Corps used music on the route. Occasionally when passing through a city, the bands would play, but I have no recollection that we ever used music to march by when simply on the route. Whoever was responsible for it, it was certainly a happy inspiration and helped the men wonderfully...

About 11 o'clock we reached that part of the pike over which the troops in advance of us had passed with their artillery and trains, the day and night previous and the road was covered with dust three or four inches deep, which rose in great clouds and nearly stifled us. There was no music and no singing now, we were fast reaching the limit of human endurance. Men reeled and staggered along as if they were drunken. Ever and anon a rifle or musket would fall clattering on the stony pike, as the man who carried it collapsed and sank in a quivering heap in the midst of the roadway. He would be seized and dragged to the roadside, his musket laid beside him and his comrades would resume their places in the ranks and struggle on...

One incident that I shall never forget. At a large farmhouse stood near the pike with rare thoughtfulness the people had brought out a number of tubs and pails and placed them along the side of the road. An old man and a boy were busy drawing water from the well and a portly matron and two handsome girls were keeping the tubs and pails filled with cool sweet water. Their faces were flushed and they trembled with exertion. I said to the lady, "Madam, that work is very hard on you." She said, "God bless you, I don't feel it. I have two boys somewhere among you and I would not want them or their friends to pass their mother's house without at least a cup of cold water." I passed on, I trust she met her boys and that they lived to be a comfort to her in her old age...

About one o'clock, or a little after, we came to what appeared to be the 'divide' where the land began to slope toward Gettysburg. The rumble of the cannonade became plainer, and faraway where the green of the trees met the skyline we could see the white puffs stand out in the blue sky indicating where the shells were bursting above the trees, on the crest of the hills.

The sight acted on the men of the 6th Corps as the spur acts on the jaded horse. Every man quickened his step and we pushed on down the miles of descent yet to be covered before we could reach the battlefield...

As we came nearer, our practised ears could detect the continuous roll of musketry amid the pauses of the artillery, nearer yet and we could see a stream of wounded men coming down the slopes from the hills. We left the pike and struck across the fields towards Little Round Top which the rebels were trying to reach and which our comrades of the Third and Fifth corps were defending with strenuous courage and energy. We arrived on the field of Gettysburg at a critical moment. Sickles had been driven back, broken and in disorder, from the Peach Orchard. The rebels had pierced our lines and were struggling to maintain a hold upon Round Top. The leading brigade of the 6th Corps marching column never halted but went right into action from the line of march.

The Second Brigade turned to the right and strengthened the broken lines at once. The rebels saw the reinforcement and withdrew their attack.

The men of the 6th Corps marched forty-two miles in nineteen hours to the help of their comrades and went directly into battle...

After the battle the entire corps followed in pursuit of the enemy as far as Fairfield Pass but did not attack in force, although several times the rear guards came in touch and there was some lively skirmishing and a number of prisoners were taken...

Gen. Wright in his report on the Gettysburg Battle says: "Great credit is due to officers and men for the excellent spirit manifested by them all. The fatiguing and extraordinary march accomplished in reaching the Battle-field and it is the more creditable as they had already almost unprecedented marches, and were to some extent ex rest."

Report to Fifth Wisconsin Association, 1904

NEW GETTYSBURG BOOK

In time for the Sesquicentennial commemoration

Gettysburg: The Last Invasion

Allen C. Guelzo

\$35.00, Also available for eBooks

In his new book, Guelzo shows the face, the sights, and the sounds of nineteenth-century combat: the lay of the land, the fences and the stone walls, the gunpowder clouds that hampered movement and vision; the armies that caroused, foraged, kidnapped, sang, and were so filthy they could be smelled before they could be seen; the head-swimming difficulties of marshaling massive numbers of poorly trained soldiers, plus thousands of animals and wagons, with no better means of communication than those of Caesar and Alexander.

Despite all that has been written about the battle of Gettysburg, Allen Guelzo provides new information and insights in this stirring account. Unafraid to challenge conventional wisdom, he praises General O. O. Howard, maintains that General Meade did indeed contemplate retreat on July 2 but was persuaded otherwise by subordinates, and criticizes Meade for missed opportunities in the pursuit after the battle. Readers will find much to think about in this book.

— James M. McPherson

What is there left to say about Gettysburg? In Allen Guelzo's deft, scholarly hands, plenty. Gettysburg: The Last Invasion is fresh, fascinating, and compellingly provocative. It is a marvelous book that deserves to be read and savored. And it deserves to be on the bookshelf of all Civil War buffs.

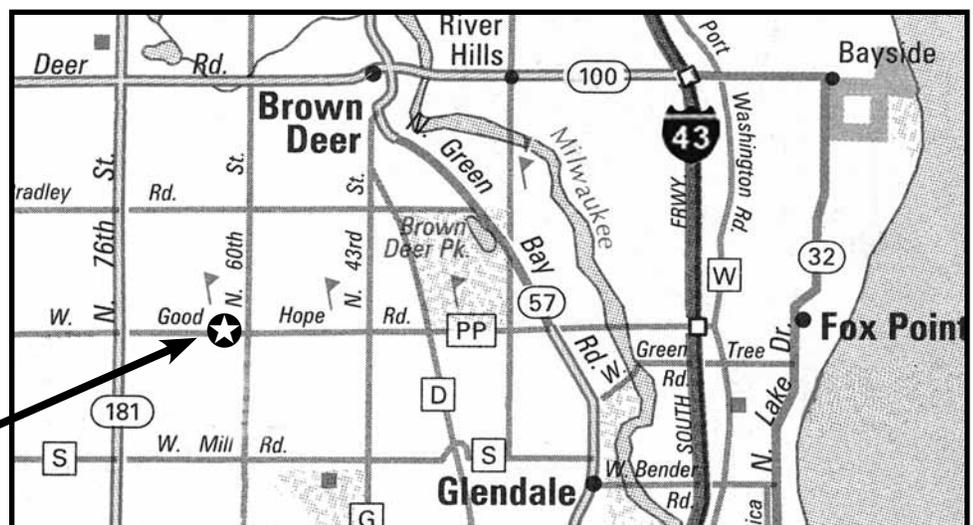
Jay Winik, author of *April 1865*

June Meeting

Our June meeting will be held at the **Country Club of the Wisconsin Club**, formerly the Brynwood Country Club, located at 6200 W. Good Hope Rd., Milwaukee WI 53223 (414) 353-8800.

Valet Parking is highly recommended.

**THE COUNTRY CLUB OF
THE WISCONSIN CLUB**



AND SO IT CONTINUES: Summer 1863...

Marking the Civil War Sesquicentennial

June 1863

The month begins with Pemberton's Confederates and the citizens of Vicksburg tightening their belts as they endure the continuing siege of Grant's army. Port Hudson is also under siege. In the South the price of goods continues to increase due to scarcity and the decreasing value of Confederate currency. The war is entering its third summer.

June 1, 1863 • Burnside, in command of the Department of the Ohio, issues a general order: "On account of the repeated expression of disloyal and incendiary sentiments, the publication of the newspaper known as the *Chicago Times* is hereby suppressed." A group of leading Chicago citizens asks Lincoln to rescind the order.

June 3, 1863 • Lee's Army of Northern Virginia is on the move. 75,000 men leave the Fredericksburg area moving in a westerly direction. The decision to invade the North has been made. The Gettysburg Campaign is under way.

June 6, 1863 • Lee's army marches from Fredericksburg toward Culpeper Court House. Hooker's Federals try to determine the destination of the Confederate forces.

June 8, 1863 • Lee, with Longstreet's and Ewell's corps, arrive near Culpeper Court House — the first stop in their new invasion route.

A Vicksburg resident writes of the Union bombardment:

Twenty-four hours of each day these preachers of the Union made their touching remarks to the town. All night long their deadly hail of iron dropped through roofs and tore up the deserted and denuded streets.

June 9, 1863 • The Battle of Brandy Station, Virginia. The Confederate cavalry under Stuart faces the Union cavalry under Alfred Pleasonton with some infantry support. For almost twelve hours the two sides engage in the greatest cavalry battle to be fought on American soil. A surprised Stuart barely avoids defeat but in the end the Confederates hold the field.

June 10, 1863 • Ewell's corps head northwest. Hooker writes to Lincoln that the time is right to march on Richmond. Lincoln would respond, "I think Lee's army, and not Richmond, is your true objective point." North of the Potomac, citizens are becoming alarmed although no Confederate army has yet to appear on their soil.

June 13, 1863 • Ewell's corps drive in the Federal outposts at Winchester in the Shenandoah and occupy Berryville. Hooker and the Army of the Potomac start to move northward toward the Potomac leaving the position on the Rappahannock they have held for the past seven months.

June 14, 1863 • The Second Battle of Winchester, Virginia. At Port Hudson, Banks calls on the Confederates to surrender — the Confederates refuse and Banks orders an assault at dawn.

Hooker and the Administration in Washington are uncertain as to where Lee's army is. Lincoln wires Hooker: "If the head of

Lee's army is at Martinsburg and the tail of it on the Plank road between Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville, the animal must be very slim somewhere. Could you not break him?"

June 16, 1863 • The Confederates begin to cross the Potomac. Hooker moves most of his army to Fairfax Court House. Hooker wants to move north of Washington and confront Lee. Halleck wants Hooker to follow Lee and possibly relieve Harpers Ferry.

June 18, 1863 • At Vicksburg Grant relieves Major General John A. McClernand from command of the Thirteenth Army Corps.

June 19, 1863 • Ewell moves north of the Potomac toward Pennsylvania. A.P.Hill and Longstreet follow from Virginia.

June 20, 1863 • West Virginia becomes the thirty-fifth state by presidential proclamation. Breastworks are being erected north and west of the city of Baltimore as a precaution against Confederate raids.

June 23, 1863 • From Murfreesboro, Major General Rosecrans finally moves toward Braxton Bragg beginning the Tullahoma, Tennessee Campaign. By month's end, Rosecrans will outflank Bragg and force him to fall back behind the Tennessee River.

June 24, 1863 • Longstreet and A.P. Hill's corps begin crossing the Potomac in order to join Ewell in Maryland and then invade Pennsylvania.

June 25, 1863 • Lee gives JEB Stuart permission to leave the Army of Northern Virginia, giving up his role as the "eyes of the commander," and to join Lee on the other side of the Potomac. Lee would not see Stuart again until the middle of the Battle of Gettysburg.

June 26, 1863 • Jubal Early and a portion of his command enter Gettysburg. The next day they will march toward York. Federal militia flee after a brief skirmish near Gettysburg — a number are captured. Hooker reports himself on the way to Frederick, Maryland.

June 27, 1863 • Lincoln decides to relieve Hooker and appoint Major General George Gordon Meade as commander of the Army of the Potomac. The main forces of Lee, Longstreet and Hill's corps arrive at Chambersburg. Halleck sends a message to Meade putting him in command of the Army of the Potomac.

June 29, 1863 • Meade, having received Halleck's order the previous day, moves rapidly toward Maryland. Both Union and Confederate armies are heading in the general direction of Gettysburg.

June 30, 1863 • The month will end with Federals and Confederates wondering how long the siege of Vicksburg could continue. From Chambersburg and elsewhere, Confederate forces are converging on the Gettysburg area. Meade orders the Federal troops of General Reynolds to occupy Gettysburg. In Washington, Lincoln is resisting pressure to put McClellan back in command.

July 1863

July opens with Lee in Pennsylvania with the citizens of that state and Maryland anxious and uncertain. The Federal Army under Meade is moving north to meet the Confederate invasion.

Rosecrans has moved Braxton Bragg's Confederates out of Tennessee and has made Chattanooga a new key position. At Vicksburg there is certainty that the siege cannot last much longer. In the North there is discontent over the draft, the pace of the war, and Administration policies. In the South there is worry over how long defense could last along with discontent with the Davis administration, the officers in the field and the economic hardship being endured.

July 1, 1863 • Battle of Gettysburg, Day 1. At daybreak Confederates of A.P. Hill's corps move along the Chambersburg-Gettysburg Pike in search of the Union forces near Gettysburg. West of town, Southerners collide with Buford's cavalry pickets. By mid-morning, Major General Reynolds would be killed at the edge of McPherson's Woods. By afternoon both armies flood towards Gettysburg. By day's end losses would be heavy for both sides, but the Federals would suffer more and victory on the first day would belong to the South. More Federals would come in during the evening and night. The Federal line would stretch from Spangler's Spring and Culp's Hill on the north, along Cemetery Ridge, to the Little Round Top on the south. The Confederates would establish a long line from the town south along Seminary Ridge facing the Union army.

July 2, 1863 • Battle of Gettysburg, Day 2. It would be a day of struggle and death. Longstreet's corps is ordered to attack the Federal left and Ewell's corps is to drive on Cemetery and Culp's Hills. There will be delays. Longstreet would oppose the plan. Major General Dan Sickles in command of the Third Corps believing the Confederate line threatens his flank, moves forward without permission to the Peach Orchard, the Devil's Den, and along the Emmitsburg Road creating an exposed salient. Major General G.K. Warren finds the crest of Little Round Top unoccupied by Federals realizing that if the crest is gained by the enemy, the whole line could collapse.

In the West, the Vicksburg siege continues. In Washington, a concerned president spends long hours at the War Department.

July 3, 1863 • Battle of Gettysburg, Pickett's Charge. Meade begins to dig fortifications on Cemetery Ridge while bringing troops in there from Culp's Hill and elsewhere. Lee determines to attack the Federal center and crack the enemy line. Once again, Longstreet opposes the plan. At around 1 p.m an artillery duel opens. The shelling would continue for two hours. Believing that the Union line is weakening, the Confederates prepare to attack. Pickett's three brigades move toward the Emmitsburg Road. Pettigrew and Trimble also march forward. An eyewitness would write:

...men going down on their hands and knees, spinning round like tops, throwing out their arms, gulping up blood, falling; legless, armless, headless. There are ghastly heaps of dead men...

The Confederates would retreat across the fields. Lee would say, "All this has been my fault." The Battle of Gettysburg was at an end.

At Vicksburg, white flags of truce flew as Generals Pemberton and Grant conferred under an oak tree for the surrender of the fortress of Vicksburg. Terms are settled upon including the parole of prisoners.

July 4, 1863 • Vicksburg formally surrenders. Grant enters the city and watches the Stars and Stripes replace the Confederate flag on the courthouse.

Despite urging from Washington, Meade and his army do not immediately pursue the retreating Confederates.

July 7, 1863 • Braxton Bragg's Army of Tennessee is now encamped around Chattanooga. Federal forces reoccupy Maryland Heights, on the north bank of the Potomac at Harpers Ferry. Lincoln is concerned over Meade's failure to strike Lee during his retreat.

July 8, 1863 • Confederate General Franklin Gardner asks Federal General Banks for terms and unconditionally surrenders Port Hudson.

July 10, 1863 • The siege of Battery Wagner, Charleston Harbor begins. President Davis, distressed over Gettysburg, middle Tennessee, Vicksburg and Port Hudson now adds Charleston to his list of worries.

July 11, 1863 • First Assault on Battery Wagner. Federal troops under Brigadier General Quincy A. Gillmore make a futile assault on Battery Wagner on Morris Island in Charleston Harbor.

The first names in the new Federal draft are drawn in New York City.

Lee fortifies his defensive position north of the Potomac as he waits for the rising water of the river to fall. Meade slowly begins to mount what might be a general attack against Lee's army.

July 12, 1863 • Meade's army prepares to attack the Army of Northern Virginia which has its back to the river. Lee writes to Davis that the river continues to subside and he hopes to cross the Potomac on the following day.

July 13, 1863 • Draft riots occur in New York City. Fires break out in various parts of the city, a Negro church and orphanage are burned, and casualties mount. Returning troops from Gettysburg along with firm army control will bring an end to the riot on July 16. One estimate will put the number of people killed or wounded at a thousand along with property losses in the neighborhood of \$1,500,000. Riots will also occur in Boston, Portsmouth, New Hampshire, Rutland, Vermont, Wooster, Ohio and Troy, New York.

During the night Lee crosses the Potomac to the safety of Virginia. In the morning, Meade's Army of the Potomac would find abandoned entrenchments.

Continued on page 10

And So It Continues...continued from page 9

July 14, 1863 • Lincoln would write to Meade expressing his gratefulness for the success at Gettysburg but would end his message with: “Your golden opportunity is gone, and I am distressed immeasurably because of it.”

July 18, 1863 • Second assault on Battery Wagner. After pounding the Confederate earthworks with mortars, ironclads, and thirty-six guns, Brigadier General Truman Seymour’s six thousand Federals make a frontal charge and fail. At the head of the attack are the 54th Massachusetts Colored Infantry which will suffer horrific losses including the death of their colonel, Robert Gould Shaw.

July 19, 1863 • Meade’s army completes crossing the Potomac in pursuit of Lee at Harpers Ferry. The rapidly moving army heads south into Virginia and towards the passes of the Blue Ridge.

July 24, 1863 • Longstreet’s corps arrive at Culpeper Court House south of Meade’s advancing Federals. Troops of the Federal Third Corps move into the Shenandoah Valley in Front Royal only to find the Confederates gone. Meade begins to concentrate his forces at Warrenton.

July 29, 1863 • President Lincoln writes to General Halleck that he does not demand that Meade engage Lee immediately. Lincoln opposed “pressing” Meade into offensive action.

July 30, 1863 • This momentous month in the war witnesses the fall of Vicksburg and Port Hudson and the Battle of Gettysburg. Lincoln issues an order that the government of the United States would “give the same protection to all its soldiers, and if the enemy shall sell or enslave anyone because of his color, the offense shall be punished by retaliation upon the enemy’s prisoners in our possession.”

And so it continues.



Commemorative Illumination

June 30, 2013
9:00 p.m.- 10:30 p.m.
Soldiers' National Cemetery

On the 150th anniversary weekend of the Battle of Gettysburg, the Gettysburg Foundation will light a luminary candle on each Civil War soldier's grave in the Gettysburg National Cemetery. The candle lighting is a solemn commemoration of the sacrifices made on this and other battlefields.

For information on the Illumination and other 150th events, visit <http://www.gettysburgfoundation.org/>

June Speaker...continued from page 1

Hill: Decisive Battle for Vicksburg, 2004; The Untold Story of Shiloh: The Battle and the Battlefield, 2006; The Golden Age of Battlefield Preservation: The Establishment of America's First Five Civil War Military Parks, 2008; and A Chickamauga Memorial: The Establishment of America's First Civil War National Military Park, 2009. The University Press of Kansas published Corinth 1862: Siege, Battle, Occupation in 2012, for which Smith won the McLemore Prize from the Mississippi Historical Society and the Fletcher Pratt Award from the Civil War Roundtable of New York. Smith is currently working on a history of Mississippi's secession convention as well as a new volume on Shiloh for the University Press of Kansas.

July 7, 1863

Fellow-citizens: I am very glad to see you to-night. But yet I will not say I thank you for this call. But I do most sincerely thank Almighty God for the occasion on which you have called. How long ago is it? Eighty odd years since, upon the Fourth day of July, for the first time in the world, a union body of representatives was assembled to declare as a self-evident truth that all men were created equal.

...and now on this Fourth of July just past, when a gigantic rebellion has risen in the land, precisely at the bottom of which is an effort to overthrow that principle “that all men are created equal,” we have a surrender of one of their most powerful positions and powerful armies forced upon them on that very day. And I see in the succession of battles in Pennsylvania, which continued three days, so rapidly following each other as to be justly called one great battle, fought on the first, second and third of July; on the fourth the enemies of the declaration that all men are created equal had to turn tail and run...

I would like to speak in all praise that is due to the many brave officers and soldiers who have fought in the cause of the Union and liberties of this country from the beginning of this war, not on occasions of success, but upon the more trying occasions of the want of success. I say I would like to speak in praise of these men, particularizing their deeds, but I am unprepared...

And now I have said about as much as I ought to say in this impromptu manner, and if you please, I'll take the music.

Abraham Lincoln

OLD WORLD WISCONSIN COMMEMORATES THE SESQUICENTENNIAL

Experience the profound impact the Civil War had on Wisconsin's soldiers and civilians as you explore life on the home front and in the camps.

August 3-4, 2013 • Wisconsin In Mourning. Learn about the mourning rituals of the time.

August 10-11, 2013 • Secrets of the Civil War. Hear the story of Caroline Quarlls, runaway slave who escaped to Wisconsin. Meet John Zimm, author of *This Wicked Rebellion* on August 10.

August 17-18, 2013 • TBA

August 24-25, 2013 • Gone For A Soldier. This very special encampment allows you to experience the life a Civil War soldier with Company K, Second Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Association.



Company K, Second Wisconsin on parade in Evansville, Wisconsin, during their 3rd Annual Rally 'Round the Flag weekend, May 18-19, 2013. Photo by John Decker. On Friday, May 18, the Company hosted a Civil War School Day for close to 2,200 young people.

August 31 – September 2, 2013 • Soldiers's Aid Society. Discover the work of this group and hear Cordelia Harvey, "The Wisconsin Angel," tell her story.

Admission:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|------|
| Adults | \$16 |
| Students/Seniors (65 and older) | \$14 |
| Children (5 – 17)..... | \$9 |
| Children under 5..... | Free |
| Active Duty Military Family | Free |

Fee includes an all-day tram transportation pass.

Free admission to active duty military identification holders and up to five immediate family members from May 27 through September 2 as part of the Blue Star Museum Initiative.

**For information and hours visit:
www.oldworldwisconsin.org**



Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for June 13, 2013

Mail your reservations by Monday, June 10, 2013, to:
Paul Eilbes
 1809 Washington Ave.
 Cedarburg, WI 53012-9730

ALSO, call in reservations to:
 (262) 376-0568
peilbes@gmail.com

Enclosed is \$ _____ (meal price \$25.00 per person) for _____ reservations for June 13, 2013, 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.

Copyright © 2013 by the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc. Permission is granted for use of the contents, in whole or in part, in non-for-profit Civil War Round Table newsletters only. All other rights are reserved.

General Orders design & layout by Patricia A. Lynch, Harvest Graphics. Yearly memberships available: Individual (\$40), Family (\$50), and Non-Resident (\$25). See also the form on page 7 of this issue of *General Orders*. 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.

Will You Be Wandering This Summer?



Are your wanderings taking you to a Civil War location this summer? If so, please consider sharing your travel experience with your fellow members by submitting an article to the *General Orders*.

Have you read a Civil War book you think everyone else should read? How about submitting a book review for publication in the *GO*? As we all know, we can't have enough books!

*Send "Wandering" submissions, book reviews,
and announcements to:*

*Donna Agnelly, Editor
General Orders
420 Racine St., Unit 110
Waterford, WI 53185
or email to dagnelly@tds.net*