



GENERAL ORDERS

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



MAY 12, 2011

TOM SCHOTT, PH.D.

Alexander Stephens and Jefferson Davis: A Marriage Made in Hell



Alexander Stephens

Political expediency dictated the selection of Alexander H. Stephens as Vice President of the Confederacy. Stephens, a former Whig from Georgia, the Empire State of the South and one which could not be ignored for top offices in the new nation, vehemently opposed secession right up until passage of the secession ordinance. Jefferson Davis was his political opposite: a Democrat who favored secession. The two men did share some personality traits, but this only served to exacerbate the differences between them. The period of cooperation between them after the election lasted only a few months. Thereafter, Stephens stayed at his home in Georgia and away from Richmond.

For Stephens the war was about “constitutional liberty” above all else. Therefore, Stephens opposed virtually everything the Davis administration did in its efforts to win the war: conscription, impressment, financial policy, and especially suspension of writ of habeas corpus. In 1864, the Vice President delivered a speech to the Georgia legislature publicly attacking the administration’s policies. He actively supported various peace plans being proposed in the South in the latter stages of the war. He was the worst possible choice for the office he held in the Confederacy.

At our May meeting, Tom Schott will explore the Confederate career of Alexander H. Stephens.

Schott was born in Vicksburg, Mississippi in 1943 with “Civil War in my blood.”

Married for 44 years and the father of three children, Schott lives in Norman, Oklahoma, to be near his two grandchildren. He is an online teacher in the Department of Liberal Studies at the University of Oklahoma. Schott had a 32-year career with the U.S. Air Force and Special Operations Command as historian and has been retired since 2006. He received his Ph.D. in American History under T. Harry Williams at LSU in 1978. He was the last Williams student to receive this degree before Williams death the following year.

Schott has authored *Alexander H. Stephens of Georgia: A Biography* (1988); “Lieutenant General William J. Hardee, the Historians, and the Atlanta Campaign” in *Confederate Generals in the Western Theater*, vol. 2 (2010); and “Maj. Gen. Gustavus Woodson Smith” in *Kentuckians in Gray* (2008). Upcoming articles include Henry Sibley and the New Mexican Campaign of 1862 and William Preston in the University of Tennessee’s series on Confederate Generals in the West and another on Jubal Early in a book of essays in honor of T. Harry Williams to be published by the University of Tennessee Press next year.

Schott is also an acknowledged baseball nut and is a member of SABR, the Society for American Baseball Research, and its biography committee. He is working on a short biography of Hack Wilson, a Chicago Cubs player during the 1920s and 1930s. Since 2004 he has been a baseball trivia expert on Allexperts.com.

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May 2011

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MAY MEETING AT A GLANCE

May 12, 2011

Tom Schott, Ph.D.

“Alexander Stephens and Jefferson Davis: A Marriage Made in Hell”

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, May 9, 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

CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE NEWS

2011 BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINEES

In accordance with the Articles of Incorporation, the Nominating Committee of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee recommends the following slate of nominees for the upcoming election of members to the Board of Directors:

- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| Michael Benton | Patrick Lynch |
| A. William Finke | Robert Lieding |
| Robert Mann | |

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

AN OPPORTUNITY TO DO MORE

The purpose of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee is to be an educational organization. We bring in speakers during our season and support outside programs designed to increase understanding of the American Civil War era. We have had a long-standing commitment to the Klement Award program, granting money to further history education at Marquette University. We have, on occasion, contributed toward the restoration of local statues significant to the era. Among more recent opportunities has been the new program sponsorship at the Civil War Museum in Kenosha. Last season, we sponsored the Lincoln bicentennial issue of the Milwaukee County Historical Society. We have contributed to many other worthy programs in the past.

With the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War upon us, the Board of Directors sensed an opportunity to do more to promote this educational awareness. The opportunity, as most do, comes with an obligation. In order to increase our possible contributions, the Board has voted a modest increase in membership dues. As far as we can tell, this is the first increase in twenty years, possibly even longer.

The new membership dues schedule, effective with the 2011-2012 season, is:

- 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)

We have also taken the opportunity to add a membership category. That new category is an EDUCATIONAL MEMBERSHIP. This is for a student or educator who would be interested in being a member of the Round Table. As we understand the finances of students (and teachers), the cost of this membership is \$15.00.

As it worked successfully this season, we will continue to enclose your dues renewal in the September *General Orders*. Be on the lookout for it in late August.

We appreciate your past support, and look forward to your continued support of our educational mission. Of course, feedback of any kind is always welcome, and can be directed to me.

Your obedient servant,
Paul Eilbes, Treasurer

**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



Paul S. Brant spoke to the Round Table in May 1954. The topic that night was "The Battle of Missouri."

In May 1961 Gerald R. McMurtry spoke about "Ben Harding Helm, Abe Lincoln's Brother-in-Law."

"Jim Frey, Hard-Luck Sailor and Confederate Ship Captain" was the topic Jim Dan Hill spoke on in May 1971.

Michael Hughs spoke to our group in May 1991 about "The Battle of Chattanooga."

CWRT of Milwaukee, Inc. • 2011 Meeting

June 9, 2011 • Peter Carmichael, Ph.D., TBA

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS • EVENTS • MEETINGS

May 9, 2011

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

May 14, 2011

Cambridge Civil War Weekend

May 17, 2011

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

May 21-22, 2011

Rally Round the Flag, Evansville

May 29, 2011

Service of Remembrance & Decoration of Graves, 1 p.m.
Forest Home Cemetery, Milwaukee

May 30, 2011

Wood National Cemetery Memorial Day Observance, 9:30 a.m.
Milwaukee Memorial Day Parade, 2 p.m.

June 4-5, 2011

Reclaiming our Heritage
Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center, Milwaukee

10TH & FINAL YEAR FOR RECLAIMING OUR HERITAGE

June 4-5, 2011, to Mark Grand Finale for Living History and Veteran Tribute Event

In 2002 employees at the Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center suggested a Civil War encampment as a way to help the public to discover one of Milwaukee's – indeed, one of the nation's – historical and architectural gems: the Milwaukee Soldiers' Home, once known as the Northwestern Branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers.

Not only did that inaugural event attract the attention of thousands of visitors, it also took on life of its own, becoming an annual favorite for reenactors of all eras of U.S. military history and one of Wisconsin's premier patriotic events.

Now in its 10th year, Reclaiming Our Heritage will come to a grand conclusion on June 4-5, 2011. The decision to discontinue the event is based on dwindling resources, both financial and human, as well as challenges faced by the VA staff during this time of war. While this will be the final year for the event, organizers are determined to find new ways to continue their mission of honoring veterans and the legacy of veteran health care.

Highlights of the annual event include a Civil War School Day for area 5th graders, a Positively Patriotic Parade, Cemetery-by-Lantern Tours of Wood National Cemetery, entertainment, children's activities, military displays and demonstrations. The event, which is free and open to the public, has been self-sustaining with donations and sponsorships from the greater community. Event organizers deeply appreciate the support offered by the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee over the years.

Information: www.forohmilwaukee.org / 414-427-3776

AT THE KENOSHA MUSEUM

The Crisis of Civil War Command / Harold Holzer

Sunday, May 15, 2011, 1 p.m.

Lincoln's attitudes and philosophies regarding war changed over his lifetime. From Army captain to legislator to President, his decisions and actions were influenced by his life experience and the changes taking place in the country.

The Civil War Museum in partnership with the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop, Inc., presents this free public program. Seating is limited. Registration is not required.

Friday Lunch Box Series

The Union Naval Blockade / David Noe

Friday, May 13, 2011, Noon

The Union Navy implemented strategic blockades of Southern ports. Identify what goods were imported and exported through these ports. Learn about Confederate blockade running and how effective the blockades were. Check out the number of captures vs. successful runs.

The History of Memorial Day / Steve Michael, SUVCW

Saturday, May 28, 2010, 1 p.m.

After the end of the Civil War, the GAR observed a day of remembrance for their fallen comrades. Join the discussion of the history of Memorial Day and its direct link to the Civil War.

Sponsored by the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee and Iron Brigade Association

From the Fruitlands to Orchard House & Beyond:

The Life & Times of Louisa May Alcott / Rose Stephenson

Saturday, May 14, 2011, 12:30 p.m.



Rose Stephenson brings to life a fascinating woman and the times in which she lived. This first-person show is based on Miss Alcott's novels, letters, and journals. Seating is limited and is first-come, first-served.

Sponsored by the Kenosha Chapter of the DAR and the Civil War Museum

SAVE THE DATE!

4th Annual Great Lakes Civil War Forum

Civil War Sesquicentennial: 1861

Saturday, September 10, 2011

Featured Speakers: Dr. Tom Sweeney, "Care of the Wounded from the Battle of Wilson's Creek, Missouri"; Lance Herdegen, "The Second Wisconsin at Bull Run"; Dan Joyce, "Wisconsin's Grays Go to War"; Bruce Allardice, "Snatching Defeat from the Jaws of Victory – The Ten Worst Civil War Generals."

For further information contact the Kenosha Civil War Museum at: 262-653-4141

AND SO IT CONTINUES...

Marking the Civil War Sesquicentennial

MAY 6, 1861 • Arkansas and Tennessee Legislatures pass Secession Ordinances.

Jefferson Davis approves a bill the Confederate Congress passed on May 3 declaring that the Confederacy recognizes a state of war between the U.S.A. and C.S.A.

British journalist William Howard Russell reports on the newly divided country. In a report filed from Montgomery, Alabama, then the Confederate capital, Russell writes:

At the end of this long street, on a moderate eminence, stands a whitewashed or painted edifice, with a gaunt lean portico, supported on lofty lanky pillars, and surmounted by a subdued and dejected-looking little cupola. Passing an unkempt lawn, through a very shabby little gateway in a brick frame, we ascend a flight of steps into a hall, from which a double staircase conducts us to the vestibule of the chamber. Any thing much more offensive to the eye cannot well be imagined than the floor and stairs. They are stained deeply by tobacco juice, which has left its marks on the white stone steps and on the base of the pillars outside...The door of the chamber is open and we are introduced into a lofty, well-lighted and commodious apartment, in which the Congress of the Confederate States holds its deliberations. A gallery runs half round the room, and is half filled with visitors – country cousins, and farmers of cotton and maize, and, haply, seekers of places great and small.

MAY 10, 1861 • Judith McGuire, a middle-aged wife and mother living in relatively comfortable wealth in Alexandria, Virginia writes in her journal today. Mrs. McGuire comments on the breakdown of Alexandria society as more families move farther south to escape a possible invasion by the North. She writes: “We are now hoping that Alexandria will not be a landing place for the enemy, but that the forts will be attacked. In that case, they would certainly be repulsed, and we could stay quietly at home.”

Mrs. McGuire also comments on the activities of the ladies of Alexandria writing:

For a long time before our society was so completely broken up, the ladies of Alexandria and all the surrounding country were busily employed sewing for our soldiers. Shirts, pants, jackets, and beds, of the heaviest material, have been made by the most delicate fingers. All ages, all conditions, meet now on one common platform. We must all work for our country. Our soldiers must be equipped. Our parlor was the rendezvous for our neighborhood, and our sewing machine was in requisition for weeks. Scissors and needles were plied by all. The daily scene was most animated. The fires of our enthusiasm and patriotism were burning all the while to a degree which might have been consuming, but that our tongues served as safety-valves. Oh, how we worked and talked, and excited each other! One common sentiment animated us all: no doubts, no fears were felt.

Meanwhile, in St. Louis, Missouri, civilians and troops riot. Secessionists demand the removal of Federal troops from all public buildings and arsenals. Captain Nathaniel Lyon, commander of the St. Louis Arsenal, refuses. Lyon receives a communication from D. M. Frost, commander of the local militia. In his communication Frost writes:

Sir: I am constantly in receipt of information that you contemplate an attack upon my camp, whilst I understand that you are impressed with the idea that an attack upon the arsenal and United States troops is intended on the part of the militia of Missouri...So far as regards any hostilities being intended toward the United States or its property or representatives, by any portion of my command, or, as far as I can learn (and I think I am fully informed), of any other part of the State forces, I can say positively that the idea has never been entertained.

Lyon responds to Frost’s communication by writing:

Sir: Your command is regarded as evidently hostile towards the Government of the United States. It is, for the most part, made up of those secessionists who have openly avowed their hostility to the General Government, and have been plotting at the seizure of its property and the overthrow of its authority.

You are openly in communication with the so-called Southern Confederacy, which is now at war with the United States; you are receiving at your camp, from the said Confederacy, and under its flag, large supplies of the material of war, most of which is known to be the property of the United States.

Lyon demands the immediate surrender of Frost’s command. Approximately 700 local militiamen gather outside the city at Camp Jackson. Lyon responds by leading nearly 7,000 men who surround the pro-Confederate militiamen who surrender without a fight.

Marching back to St. Louis, Lyon’s men encounter a pro-Southern crowd who shout pro-Southern slogans and proceed to throw rocks and bottles at the troops. A fire-fight soon begins in the streets, during which twenty-eight people die.

The rioting continues for several days but the Union holds St. Louis and Missouri.

MAY 13, 1861 • **BALTIMORE** • Brig. Gen. Benjamin Butler, without permission from Army Headquarters, moves troops from Relay Station, Maryland, into Baltimore and takes possession of Federal Hill. Butler claims that he had reports of a riot in the city and added that he found several manufacturers of arms, supplies and munitions meant for the “rebels.”

In St. Louis, awaiting developments, William Tecumseh Sherman writes to a friend:

Already Missouri is humbled. I have witnessed it; my personal friends here, many of them Southern, admit that Mis-

souri's fate is sealed. I have no doubt 100,000 disciplined men will be in Louisiana by Christmas next. The Mississippi River will be a grand theatre of war...It is horrible to contemplate but it cannot be avoided.

MAY 20, 1861 • North Carolina secedes.

The Confederate Congress votes to move the capital of the Confederacy to Richmond, Virginia. The move ensures Virginia's involvement in the Confederacy.

MAY 23, 1861 • Virginia citizens vote 3 to 1 in favor of secession.

MAY 24, 1861 • Federal troops, moving to secure the Federal capital in Washington, cross the Potomac River and seize the city of Alexandria, Virginia.

Col. Elmer Ellsworth, age 24, commanding the New York Fire Zouaves (the Eleventh New York) is killed by hotel owner James Jackson, after Ellsworth removed a Confederate flag from the roof of Jackson's hotel. *The New York Times* in their account of Ellsworth's death reported:



Colonel Ellsworth was attracted by the large secession flag flying from the Marshall House, kept by J. W. Jackson. Col. Ellsworth entered the hotel, and seeing a man in the hall asked: "Who put that flag up?" The man answered, "I don't know. I am a boarder here"... Col. Ellsworth, Lieut. Winser, the chaplain of the regiment, Mr. House,

a volunteer aide, and four privates, went up to the roof and Col. Ellsworth cut down the flag...As they left the attic, the man who said he was a boarder, but proved to be the landlord, Jackson, was met in the hall, having a double-barrel gun, which he leveled at Brownell. Brownell struck up the gun with his musket, when Jackson pulled both triggers of the gun. The contents lodged in the body of Col. Ellsworth, entering between the third and fifth ribs. Col. Ellsworth at the time was rolling up the flag. He fell forward on the floor of the hall and expired instantly, only exclaiming "My God." Jackson was immediately and fatally shot by Brownell.

MAY 25, 1861 • Ellsworth's body lay in state in the East Room of the White House where the funeral service was conducted. The President and Mrs. Lincoln were present. The President would write to Ellsworth's parents stating: "So much of promised usefulness to one's country, and of bright hopes for one's self and friends, have rarely been so suddenly dashed, as in his fall."

MAY 1861 CONCLUDES • The month would end with the Federal Potomac Flotilla shelling the Confederate batteries at Aquia Creek, Virginia. The Confederacy names Pierre Gustave Toutant Beauregard to command the Alexandria Line. In the North, Brig. Gen. Nathaniel Lyon supersedes William S. Harney in command of the Department of the West.

And so it continues.

On The Web

Virginia Center for Civil War Studies / The Essential Civil War Curriculum: A Sesquicentennial Project of the Virginia Center for Civil War Studies and the History Department of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech). As announced in their press release, the website contains a definitive list of Civil War topics and related content that public and academic audiences wishing for a broad understanding of the Civil War should study.

The site is sponsored by Professor William C. Davis and Dr. James J. Robertson, Jr. A Board of Historians composed of the country's most eminent Civil War scholars individually and collectively approves all scholars wishing to contribute to the website. A member of the Board of Historians will review and approve all contributions, and the website's sponsors will have the final say on whether any contributed content is actually posted on the site, thereby ensuring the quality of the information. Visit the site at: www.essentialcivilwarcurriculum.com



Civil War Trust: Don't forget to visit the Civil War Trust and view the wonderful information they have placed on their Education Tab. Articles and resources galore are at your fingertips here. www.civilwar.org

Disunion / New York Times Blog: A new blog from *The New York Times* that "revisits and reconsiders America's most perilous period – using contemporary accounts, diaries, images, and historical assessments to follow the Civil War as it unfolded." <http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/category/disunion>

Civil War 150 / Washington Post: Don't forget to visit this site often – there is a wealth of material here with constant additions. The site also features a very interesting blog. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/civil-war>



Wisconsin Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission / Civil War 150 Wisconsin: Make sure you visit this site often – new pictures and events have been added. What better way to spend some quality time than exploring our state site.

Are you a descendant or do you have possession of photos, letters, documents, or other historic information relating to a Wisconsin Civil War soldier that you would like to share? Then make sure you go to the submission form located on the Wisconsin Faces tab. www.civilwarwisconsin.com

Preserve and Protect

Land acquisition at Gettysburg is announced. Interior Secretary Ken Salazar announced on March 25, 2011, the addition of a 95-acre parcel at Gettysburg National Military Park.

What had been in its most recent incarnation a nine-hole golf course at the former Gettysburg Country Club will now be known by its historical name – the Emanuel Harman Farm. On July 1, 1863, the first day of the Battle of Gettysburg, major fighting took place at this location.

Gettysburg Casino Location Rejected by Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board. Since the proposal to open a Mason-Dixon Gaming Resort a half-mile from Gettysburg National Military Park was announced last year, there has been immense opposition. In an April survey only 17 percent of Pennsylvanians supported the idea. Nearly 300 prominent historians united to urge the rejection of this location. In 2005, similar opposition was found for a plan to construct a casino one mile from the edge of the park.

In response to the latest rejection by the Gaming Control Board, Civil War Trust president Jim Lighthizer stated: “Now that two such proposals have been denied – clearly demonstrating the resonant power of this iconic site and the widespread desire to protect it – I sincerely hope that those who seek personal profit and financial gain will think twice about trading on the blood of 50,000 American casualties.”

On April 1, 2011, longtime advocate for Civil War battlefield preservation, Senator Jim Webb, in partnership with Senator Mark Warner, reintroduced the “**Petersburg National Boundary Modification Act**” to protect an additional 7,200 acres of historic battlefields surrounding Petersburg National Battlefield. The expansion would make Petersburg National Battlefield the largest military park in the United States.

Petersburg National Battlefield currently attracts more than 150,000 visitors. The Modification Act legislation would give the National Park Service authority to acquire 12 battlefields, totaling 7,200 acres, surrounding Petersburg National Battlefield.

In introducing the legislation, Senator Webb indicated that, “Petersburg saw nearly one quarter of the Civil War fought in its surrounding area, and the preservation of these battlefields is important for future generations to understand and appreciate the significance of our nation’s history.” Senator Warner added, “With the approach of the sesquicentennial anniversary of the Civil War, this legislation to protect historic ground is more timely than ever. Heritage tourism is an important component of Virginia’s economy and the expansion of the Petersburg Battlefield will spur new tourism and jobs in the region.”

National Park Service Rangers report no damage at Shiloh or Corinth following the recent violent storms. An e-5 tornado destroyed up to 85 Civil War soldier tombstones in Smithville, Mississippi. Cleanup continues at Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park to remove downed trees and debris. The public is urged to use caution on the park trails until an assessment can be completed and the trails have been cleared.

2011-2012 Speaker Schedule

September 8, 2011

Marshall Krolick

October 13, 2011

TBA

November 10, 2011

Gail Stephens, “Early’s 1864 Invasion of Maryland”

December 8, 2011

Location: Country Club of the Wisconsin Club

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

Location: Country Club of the Wisconsin Club

Brian Holden Reid

June 7, 2012

Location: Country Club of the Wisconsin Club

Dennis Frye, “Antietam”

Lincoln Inauguration Commemorated

In March, Round Table member Ardis Kelling traveled to Washington, D.C. During her visit, Ardis attended the Commemoration of the Sesquicentennial of the First Inauguration of President Abraham Lincoln held at the Congressional Auditorium in the United States Capital.

Harold Holzer gave some fine remarks on the 1861 Inauguration. Actor Sam Waterson, who frequently portrays Lincoln, gave the Inaugural Address. Ardis noted that he started out rather bland but warmed up as he went along. A Supreme Court Justice issued the oath of office and managed to flub his lines but Lincoln, portrayed by Michael Krebs, recited the oath correctly.

In the program for the event it was noted that Lincoln planned the menu for the luncheon that followed his inauguration. It was served at Willard’s Hotel in Washington after the ceremonies at the Capitol had ended. Immediately after the luncheon, Lincoln and his family moved into the White House. An adaptation of Lincoln’s Inaugural Luncheon was held at the Willard Intercontinental Hotel. The menu at the March 5, 2011, luncheon started out with Mock Turtle Soup, followed by Boef en Salaison, Cabbage Farce and Parsley Potatoes with Blackberry Pie completing the meal.

Music for the event was provided by the Myrtilla Miner Elementary School Glee Club and Washington Revels Jubilee Voices. The keynote speaker at the event was Ronald C. White, Jr., author of *A. Lincoln: A Biography* (2009) and *The Eloquent President: A Portrait of Lincoln Through His Words* (2005).

FROM THE FIELD
Camp Randall

May 6, 1861

Life is somewhat strange here in camp. All is bustle and activity. Our quarters are being arranged for convenience and use. Now while I write the noise and jar of the hammer and saw, mingled with music from drum and fife is sounding in my ears. The smoke of the camp-fire and the motley throng of uniformed soldiers surrounding it are before me and all seems "merry as a marriage ball." You are probably aware that we are at camp in the fair grounds about one and a half miles from the center of the city of Madison. The camp ground is enclosed by a high fence and is large enough though rather uneven in surface.

The companies barracks are constructed of boards along the east and south sides of the ground.

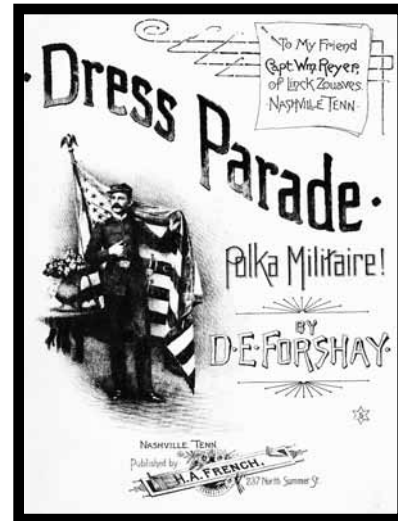
You may be assured that our first night in camp will not be forgotten by the company. Our "big corporal" bellowed like a Thracian bull and all the smaller corporals and privates generally set up such bellowings, barkings, crowings, etc. as never before were heard by the animal creation outside of Noah's ark.

The second day of our military life served to try our patience and to make real the amount of sacrifice we are supposed to make. The rain poured down and the roof of our shanties did not shed the dampness of heaven from our heads. But boys only laughed at such hardships and told long stories of other times. Our "big corporal" with his squad "stood guard" Saturday night for the first time. A detailed account of their merry adventures, if written, would prove an interesting chapter. But time is so valuable at present that I cannot write much in detail. You may wish to know how we live - what we get to eat etc. I will say that we have plenty of meat, potatoes, beans, bread, and coffee, with an occasional soup. Our eating apartment is in a building formerly used for fair purposes. During two days of rain streams of water ran through the roof to the great detriment of provisions. Coffee set upon the table, weak enough, became even more diluted.

Taking our quarters as a whole, we are well provided for and ask for nothing better excepting perhaps dry places in wet weather. The Colonel and other regimental officers are exceedingly affable and pleasant men and work for the comfort and convenience of the regiment.

We all try to be satisfied though an occasional grumble will now and then escape us. When the weather becomes fair and nature smiles we will do so. Even a pleasant fire drives scowls away.

When we get more settled I will post you further in our movements and expectations.



*Period attire is welcome
at the May 2011 meeting.*

Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for May 12, 2011

Mail your reservations by Monday, May 9, 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 May 12, 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). See also the article on page 2 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.

