



GENERAL ORDERS

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



MAY 9, 2013

ETHAN S. RAFUSE

Robert E. Lee, Gettysburg, and the Elements of Confederate Defeat

I think and work with all my power to bring the troops to the right place at the right time; then I have done my duty. As soon as I order them into battle, I leave my army in the hands of God.—Robert E. Lee

When the Army of Northern Virginia crossed the Potomac River in June 1863, Robert E. Lee well understood he was running high risks and playing for high stakes. Indeed, after the war Lee was recorded as declaring he understood he was “playing a very bold game, but it was the only possible one.” Was this the case?

Our May speaker, Ethan S. Rafuse, will consider this question as part of a broad examination of Lee’s generalship during the Gettysburg Campaign and the factors—above all the lessons of history—that shaped it. Rafuse’s presentation will describe how the factors that shaped Lee’s generalship were not only evident in the course and outcome of the Gettysburg Campaign, but the war in the East as a whole.

Ethan S. Rafuse received his Ph.D. in history and political science at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. He spent three summers working as a park ranger at Manassas National Battlefield and the Harry S. Truman National Historic Site. Rafuse taught military history at the United States Military Academy of Military History at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, where he is a professor of military history. In 2012, he was the scholar-in-residence at the George Tyler Moore Center for the Study of the Civil War and delivered the inaugural lecture in the Department of Defense’s History Speaker Series. He is the author, editor, or co-editor of nine books including *McClellan’s War: The Failure of Moderation in the War for the Union*; *Antietam, South Mountain and Harpers Ferry: A Battlefield Guide*; *Robert E. Lee and the Fall of the Confederacy*; *The Ongoing Civil War: New Versions and Old Stories* (with Herman Hattaway); *A Single Grand Victory: The First Campaign and Battle of Manassas*; and the forthcoming *Army War College Guide to the Richmond and Petersburg Campaigns of 1864-65*.

Rafuse lives with his wife and daughter in Platte City, Missouri.



*American Memory, Library of Congress,
LC-BH831- 565*

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May 2013

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MAY MEETING AT A GLANCE

Ethan S. Rafuse
"Robert E. Lee, Gettysburg and
the Elements of Confederate Defeat"

The Wisconsin Club

900 W. 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 – **\$25 by reservation.**
Deadline: Monday, May 6, 2013
See page 11.

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

CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE NEWS

2013 BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

At the April meeting, the following board members were reelected:

Donna Agnelly Tom Arliskas
Roman Blenski Crain Bliwas
Paul Eilbes

The newly elected directors begin their duties upon election and will serve three-year terms.

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.

JUNE 13, 2013 MEETING

The June meeting of the Round Table will take place at the Country Club of the Wisconsin Club located at: 6200 W Good Hope Rd, Milwaukee. Speaker: Timothy B. Smith, Battle of Corinth.

IT'S A TRADITION!

Military and civilian attire of the 1860s is welcome at the May 9, 2013, meeting. Gentlemen, pull that frock coat out of storage, polish your buttons, freshen up that Hardee hat, wear your Iron Brigade pin and ribbon. Ladies, join the festivities in your best day or dinner dress. Let's do our Civil War heritage proud!



ANNOUNCEMENTS • EVENTS • MEETINGS

May 4-5, 2013

Dousman Stagecoach Inn Museum, Brookfield
19th Annual Civil War Encampment

May 13, 2013

Manitowoc Civil War Round Table, 7 p.m.
Manitowoc Historical Society Heritage Center
Speaker: Sarah Muraski

May 14, 2013

Waukesha Civil War Round Table, 7 p.m.
Citizens Bank of Mukwonago Waukesha Branch
Speaker: Terry Arliskas, "Mourning Jewelry and Customs of the Victorian Period"

May 21, 2013

Prairieville Irregulars Civil War Round Table, 7 p.m.
Boardroom, Campus Center Building, Carroll University
Speaker: Dave Wege, "Staunch and Stalwart:
Co. E of the Calico Sixth"

May 26, 2013

Forest Home Cemetery, Service of Remembrance, 1 p.m.
Civil War Veteran Tour, 2 p.m. See page 6.

May 27, 2013

Memorial Day Observance, Wood National Cemetery
Concert, 9:10 a.m.; Ceremony, 9:30 a.m. See page 6.

May 27, 2013

Memorial Day Service, Calvary Cemetery, 10 a.m.
See page 11.

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

Now Showing at the John M. Antaramian Gallery

Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War

With the election of Abraham Lincoln as the nation's 16th President in 1860, America faced its greatest Constitutional Test. *Divided*—Are we a single nation? *Bound*—Can slavery be uprooted? *Dissent*—Must civil liberties give way? Visit this new traveling exhibition now through May 31. Funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Presented by the National Constitution Center and the American Library Association.

Civil War Media Club

Tuesday, May 21, 2013, 7 – 8:30 p.m.

Two Illinois Giants – Grant and Lincoln

In the first half of the meeting the group will discuss *U.S. Grant: The Making of a General 1861–1863*—a period in which Grant rose from semi-disgraceful obscurity to the position of overall commander of all the Union armies. The second half of the meeting will be devoted to a discussion of Steven Spielberg's *Lincoln* movie, now available on DVD. The movie will not be watched at the meeting.

\$10/\$5 Friends of the Museum

Second Friday Lunchbox Series: May 10, 2013, Noon

The Union High Command at Chancellorsville, presented by Rob Girardi

Civil War historian and author Rob Girardi explores the personalities of the Union commanders and how their decisions affected the outcome of the campaign.

Saturday, May 11, 2013, 10-11:30 a.m.

Culinary History: Sweets and Treats, instructors: Brett Lobello and Carolyn Wheeler

How we satisfy hunger influences many of our daily decisions. It was no different for people of the Civil War-era. Sweets such as cakes, jams and jellies kept families and their soldiers connected. Comfort items received from home made camp life more bearable, supplemented army fare, reminded soldiers what they were fighting for and provided a small distraction from what lay ahead. This is not a cooking class. Participants will receive Civil War-era recipes.

\$15/\$10 Friends of the Museum

Saturday, May 11, 2013, Noon-2 p.m.

Gettysburg, instructor: Steve Acker

Steve Acker, Slinger High School history teacher, presents a study of the most written about battle in American history. The class will study reasons for Lee's movement into Pennsylvania, key leaders, the specifics of the three days' battles and the legacy of Gettysburg. \$15/\$10 Friends of the Museum

Memorial Day Celebration

Saturday, May 25, 2013

9 a.m.–11 a.m. Veterans Coffee, Kringle and Conversation
All veterans and soldiers are welcome to stop in for some hospitality

11 a.m. Memorial Day Ceremony
Honoring all those who have served and those who serve.

5TH ANNUAL

A SALUTE TO FREEDOM

Friday, June 7, 2013, 4–8 p.m.

4–6 p.m. Free flashlight tours of the Fiery Trial Gallery

7–8 p.m. Patriotic Concert by the Kenosha Pops

Saturday, June 8, 2013, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Living history groups encampment east of the Museum. This year's theme: Civil War Technology; Special exhibits of Civil War weapons, clothing and miniatures; Lincoln's Gettysburg Address performed by George Buss; Family Activity tent

Sunday, June 9, 2013, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

1 p.m. Concert Band of the Wisconsin National Guard's 132nd Army Band

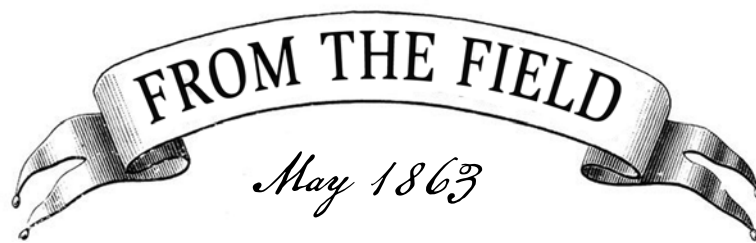
3 p.m. Civil War Museum Theatre Program

Co-sponsored by the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table and the Iron Brigade Association and the Civil War Round Table of Chicago.



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

The Civil War Museum now has an official Facebook Page! Learn about special up-to-the-minute features and activities on www.facebook.com/CWMKenosha. Be sure to hit the "like" button.



**East of Grand Gulf
Mississippi May 9th 1863**

Well Chauncey,

I take this opportunity of writing you a few lines to inform you that I am as well as can be expected after a long march and a hard fight which I suppose that you have heard of before this.

April 30th about 3 P.M. we were 4 miles below Grand Gulf on the banks of the Mississippi. We started and marched all night. The sun rose and we had gone as far as the enemy would let us.

May 1st 1863 – 7 A.M. the fight commenced. We were drawn in line of battle behind a hill and ordered to lay down. The balls whistled over our heads at no slow rate. We was not there long until we were ordered to advance. We advanced in line of battle over hills almost perpendicular and the cane was so thick as it could stand. We were under fire all the fore noon but we did not have a chance to fire back again. The rebels were repulsed in the fore noon. Our position was changed. We were drawn in line of battle in the after noon. The rebels thought they would try us again. We were ordered in front. We had to advance and we hadn't got in shape when they began to throw the lead into us.

We give them as good as they sent. Our Regt was in the worse place of any Regt that was engaged and we were cut up the worst. I tell you Chank that the way the men fell around me was not slow. The balls whistled around my head, in fact all around me in all shapes. There was a heavy cross fire besides a heavy fire in front. Our Co lost the most men of any other Co in the Reg. Better soldiers than those that fell on the battle field cant be found.

Every man stood up and done his best. Our 2nd Lieutenant had command of the Co. We had not been engaged more than 5 minutes and he was wounded. He then told the orderly Sergeant to take command of the Co. The orderly spoke and said boys stand up and do the best you can. He had not more than got the words out of his mouth and he was shot down dead on the spot and then George Alexander our 4th sergeant was shot dead and then Dibble our 5 sergeant was wounded. Hodge was slightly wounded, there Co E was left with out any one to take command but that made no difference with us, we were bound to fight for the old flag. I will now give you a list of those killed and wounded on the battlefield of our Co. – Lieut. G. W. Hale wounded, orderly sergeant D.S. Ketchum killed, George W. Alexander killed, William Herrick morterly wounded he has since died, H.J. Spring we think is morterly wounded, C. Cross morterly wounded. He has since died. C.A. Dibble wounded has had his leg taken off. A.J. Floyd wounded. R.J. Furden wounded...

P.Hodge slightly wounded, He did not give up. He is with us yet. I seen almost all of those boys fall. I tell you that it was the awfulest sight that I ever seen. I rather think good chicken hearted folks up home would faint to see such a sight. There is one good thing about it. We whipped the Rebels the worst kind. Those that were at the battle of Pittsburg Landing that was here say it was a harder battle than it was, for the time we were engaged. If the war

can end without any more fighting I never want to see men filed up in that way again but I expect we have got to have a big fight at Vicksburg. I hope then we will have a chance to rest for we have seen as hard times as any soldier ever did see since we left Helena and we are badly cut up. During the engagement I fired 40 rounds. My gun got so hot that I had to stop and wipe it out so that I could load it. You can depend upon it that I gave the secesh the best I had. I tell you we suffered for watter, the poor wounded boys cryed watter watter. I wish you would when you write send me an envelope and a sheet of paper. I lost every thing I had but my rubber blanket and what I had on my back. I have to borrow paper to write on. I cant write very often till we get settled again. We cant bye a thing. Our sutlers are all left behind. Please write to Ma and tell her that I am all right. Truman Tyrrel was not in the fight. He was left sick at Port Gibson. Charley Bryant is all right. I must come to a close. Give my love to all the folks. Give my love to Mr. Parkers folks. Tell them to write soon.

Ben Wilbur
Private, Co. E, 29th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry

**Willo Springs Encampment, Miss.
Mai 6, 1863**

Dear Parents,

I take this opportunity to send you a few lines in the hope that they will find you alive and well, as they leave me at present. May the Lord be praised for keeping us and safeguarding us from temptation.

I have been through another terrible battle the last few days at a place called Grand Gulf, Miss. The battle began with the gunboats on April 28, and they fought from 8 in the morning until 3, I was able to see it all going on. We crossed the river on April 29 and travelled all night. We reached the battlefield by seven o'clock in the morning of the 30. The battle opened at midnight and lasted all day. We, the 23rd, took about 50 prisoners of war. Our soldiers took 12 of their brass cannon. All the Welsh boys came through alive and well. I spoke to Richard Owans after the battle. The 29th was cut up pretty badly, a ball passed through Richard Owan's cartridge box. There are very many Welsh boys in the various regiments. There are about a hundred in the 50 Ohio, and many in the Iowa regiments.

A rebel general was killed by the second shot, another was taken prisoner. We were the first to enter a town called Port Gibson, Miss. One regiment of rebel troops was almost wiped out, they lay all over the ground. We drove the rebels over 5 miles that day. I do not know what our losses were. Two rebel officers came in with a flag of truce the next day, they wanted permission to bury their dead, but it was not granted.

We are within about 30 miles of Vicks. Vicks. will probably be the next place. The soldiers had a bad time climbing up and down the hills. General U.S.A. Grant and McClerrow were present, and

they were in the thick of the battle like the rest of us. The terrain was the hilliest I have ever seen. The rebels burnt some splendid bridges as they fled, but it availed them nothing for we are able to build floating bridges in an hour or two to go across. The 1st, 6th, and 12th Wis. Batteries are here, and the 11th, 14th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 23rd and 29th Wis. Inf.

The mail is leaving now. Rees Cook has been ill, but is well again.

John G. Jones

Corporal, Co. G, 23rd Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry

**From Our Light Guard
Camp 2d Wis. Vols.
Near Fredericksburg Va.
May 1st, 1863**

C. Seymour, Esq:

This the 1st brigade of the 1st Division 1st Army Corps of the Army of the Potomac, now lies some three miles below Fredericksburg on the North side of the Rappahannock and I hope it will not be considered vain in me should I assert that we are in the best of health and spirits, and await the next onset with all confidence in our officers and arms. During the last grand struggle of this army never were we more confident of success and we could have held the position we occupied on the right with surety; but it is evident that the enemy were twice our number; therefore we could not advance and we were compelled to seek another channel. We were neither beaten nor compelled to retreat as is stated by numerous journals of but little consequence...

The weather here is extremely warm and summer is truly upon us; but we are not cognizant of the fact by such evidences as greet one in those States where the clash of arms have not resounded on the field of battle. No ploughmen can be seen at work, no building of any description is visible and, in truth, not even a lettuce bed or flower pot graces the surroundings of once beautiful residences while a majority of dwellings in this section are used by the army for hospital headquarters, &c. It is true that this country is actually devastated – mere grave yard for both armies...

We are now “falling in” for picket.

Respectfully yours,
C.C. Bushee

**N.Y. Times, May 17th '63
“FROM THE IRON BRIGADE”**

The following is from a private letter from a member of the Janesville company in the Second Wisconsin Regiment:

Dear Father:—We have been having a great time since I wrote you last. We started from our old camp on the 28th of April, marched about six miles and pitched tents.

Remained about three hours when we were ordered to march again, it being about twelve o'clock at night. Marched four miles to the Rappahannock river, where we waited for the pontoon bridges; but they were delayed so long in getting them ready that it became daylight and the rebels commenced firing on the pontoon train...

Companies B, E, and G (our company) were ordered to draw the pontoons down and put them into the river; and away we went, hallooing and yelling, the rest of the brigade following to cross in the boats as we got them ready.

When we came to the river the rebels opened a heavy fire of musketry upon us but that didn't stop us. The boats were launched and filled with soldiers who went across the Rappahannock on it... Within half an hour from the time we commenced, we had a bridge across the river and the troops crossing. The rebel officers wanted to know what troops we were and when we told them they said it was a most desperate undertaking and was the “biggest thing of the war...”

C. H. Cheney

Co. D. 2d Wisconsin, Regiment

**From the Seventh Wisconsin
May 1st 1863**

It becomes my painful duty to inform you of the death of our dear friend and brother Capt. Alex. Gordon, Jr. He was shot by the rebel sharp shooters on the morning of the 28th, inst. while attempting to cross the river,—He lived but a short time after he was hit. I was with the train at the time, but as soon as informed by the messenger, hastened forward, but the poor boy was cold in the embrace of death ere I reached him...

I have done everything that was in my power to do. Before burial, his body was wrapped in an oil cloth and blanket to prevent decomposition as much as possible and there will be no trouble in identifying the place hereafter. I have all his personal effects in my possession and will retain them until an opportunity presents to send them home. ..

Yours truly,
David Sherell

**The Seventh Wisconsin Regiment
Washington, D.C., May 29, '63**

It is said that it is never too late to “render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's.” In view of this great truth, I have taken my pen in hand for the purpose of paying a just tribute to a gallant regiment. The name of which heads this article. In doing this, I do not desire to make any invidious comparisons which will in any manner reflect upon other Western regiments which have so bravely passed through the fiery ordeal of the campaign in Virginia and Maryland as to much cannot be said or written in their praise. Believing that the meritorious conduct of the veterans comprising this regiment have not received the extended notice through the press, which they so richly deserve, I have taken this method to place upon record, a plain and truthful statement of the services rendered by the 7th during the eventful scenes of the recent terrible conflicts in Virginia and Maryland dating back from the 20th of August, 1862 to the storming of the Fredericksburg Heights, on the 29th of April, 1863.

During this campaign but little has been written of the part taken in the battles by Gen. Gibbon's “Iron Brigade”; of the trials and

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From the Field...continued from page 5

hardships which the sons of the far West have endured in "Dixie's land," and but little praise has been awarded to the officers in command who have led their brave comrades on to victory and imperishable glory. Comparatively few are there away from the blood-stained soil of Virginia and Maryland who know how Wisconsin's sons have taken the lead in fierce conflicts, with Indiana's noble 19th by their side. That great battles were fought during the period above mentioned is known to every school boy in the land but of the individual deeds of heroism and the conspicuous parts performed by the distinguished regiments of Gibbon's late command very little has appeared in print...

It was at the battle of Gainesville, Va., on the 25th of August, 1862, that Gen. Gibbon's command of Western troops comprising the Wisconsin 2d, 6th, 7th and Indiana 19th engaged a full division of the enemy and after a desperate engagement defeated them though we gained a triumphant victory, the rank and file of the Brigade was sadly decimated...

Here I must remark in justice to the gallant Acting Colonel, Capt. Callis, that he distinguished himself by his soldierly conduct and bravery. The morning after the splendid victory of South Mountain, between day break and sunrise, our troops were in hot pursuit of the enemy; the remnant of the war-worn veterans of the 7th, burning to revenge their comrades pressed forward with the old Brigade to the historic battle field of Antietam, where the fortunes of war again afforded the regiment another fearless Acting Col. an opportunity to avenge the fall of the gallant spirits who the day previous fought by their side. Those who witnessed that fearful conflict on the plains of Antietam, Sept. 17, will remember the conspicuous part acted by the 7th in charging front advance whole under gallant fire, and there by saving the celebrated Battery B belonging to the Western brigade from being captured. In Gen. Gibbon's official report of the part taken by his command at Antietam he says great credit is due to Capt. Callis, Acting Col. of the 7th, for the manner in which he maneuvered his regiment during the battle...

No loyal State has greater reasons for being proud of her soldiers than Wisconsin, which has freely poured out her best blood in defense of the Republic. The men and officers of the fighting 7th, like those of their comrades from the prairies and pinerias of Wisconsin have won for themselves a proud name, which the historians will record upon the pages of future history.

*Rest on, embalmed and sainted dead,
Dear is the blood you gave—
No impious footstep here shall tread
The herbage of your grave.
Nor shall your glory be forgot
While Fame her record keeps,
Or honor points the hallowed spot
Where valor proudly sleeps.*

—Theodore O'Hara, "Bivouac of the Dead"

MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY WOOD NATIONAL CEMETERY

The formal Memorial Day Ceremony will take place at Wood National Cemetery on the grounds of the National Historic Landmark Milwaukee VA Medical Center on Monday, May 27, 2013. A pre-program concert by the Milwaukee American Legion Band begins at 9:10 a.m., with the formal program beginning at 9:30 a.m. The keynote speaker will be Stephen Muro of the National Cemetery Administration. There will be Cemetery walking tours offered immediately following the formal ceremony. Refreshments will be served following the ceremony.

The ceremony is held in the northwest corner of the Cemetery near the Soldiers and Sailors Monument, on the VA Milwaukee grounds, 5000 W. National Avenue, just west of Miller Park.

SERVICE DECORATION OF GRAVES

In Memory of the "Boys in Blue" Buried at

FOREST HOME CEMETERY

SUNDAY, MAY 26, 2013, 10'CLOCK P.M.

Please bring Flowers of May. Meet near the Flag at Section 23.

This annual memorial service is offered by the West Side Soldiers Aid Society with the Rev. Mr. Dean Collins officiating. It is held at Section 31, the plot purchased by the Lady Managers of the 1864-1867 Soldiers' Home in downtown Milwaukee and later used by the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers prior to the opening of its own Cemetery (Wood National Cemetery).



CIVIL WAR VETERAN TOUR FOREST HOME CEMETERY

At 2 p.m., following the May 26, 2013, Service of Remembrance, the public is invited to a guided tour of this historic cemetery's Civil War markers and monuments by Tom Ludka and Margaret Berres. Through exhaustive research and meticulous documentation Ludka and Berres reveal the scope and significance of the cemetery's "Eternal Bivouac." Tour will begin at the Halls of History. Forest Home Cemetery is located at 2405 W. Forest Home Ave., Milwaukee. Information: (414) 645-2632.

AND SO IT CONTINUES: May 1863...

Marking the Civil War Sesquicentennial

The month begins with the Northern armies on the move. The Army of the Potomac under Joseph Hooker was positioned at Chancellorsville in the Wilderness of Virginia, ready to move between Lee and Richmond. At Fredericksburg a portion of Hooker's army under Sedgwick were threatening the Confederates. In the west, Grant was across the Mississippi at Grand Gulf. The Confederates feared the loss of both Vicksburg and the Mississippi Valley. Johnston hoped to relieve Pemberton in Vicksburg and save the city as well as the Confederate army.

May 1, 1863 • Hooker, with 70,000 men, crosses the fords and begins the Battle of Chancellorsville. The Army of Northern Virginia under Lee, moves out of Fredericksburg to block the Army of the Potomac's exit from the Wilderness. Jubal Early remained in Fredericksburg with a force of 10,000 to oppose Sedgwick's force of 40,000. Hooker moves his main force forward and skirmishes briefly with advancing Confederates.

In the afternoon, Hooker stuns his officers and the Confederates by ordering his main units to withdraw and concentrate themselves in a small area near Chancellorsville. Hooker goes on the defensive with little or no fighting.

In the woods of the Wilderness that evening Lee and Jackson talk. Their "cracker barrel" conference results in the decision to have Jackson take 26,000 of the 47,000 available forces around the left flank to attack Hooker's right flank. Lee would demonstrate with the rest of his army at Chancellorsville.

In the west, Grant's army continues to move across the river south of Vicksburg. McClelland's corps head inland toward Port Gibson thirty miles south of Vicksburg. A small Confederate force hurries towards Port Gibson to intercept McClelland. Throughout the day McClelland's forces face the forces of Major General John S. Bowen. Overwhelmed by the Union force, Bowen retires to Port Gibson and then evacuates the town.

May 2, 1863 • Early in the morning Jackson's flanking force moves past Catherine Furnace deeper into the Wilderness. Although the columns were seen from the Union lines it was thought that the Southern army was withdrawing. By late afternoon, Jackson's main columns were on the Orange Turnpike within striking distance of the Eleventh Corps of the Army of the Potomac under O.O. Howard. At 6 p.m. Jackson gave the order which opened the assault on the unsuspecting Federal right flank. On the Federal left flank Lee opens fire on Meade's men to draw attention away from Jackson. The Federal right flank falls back in confusion and panic with few of the units fighting well. Years later Hooker, attempting to deny any responsibility, would write about Howard:

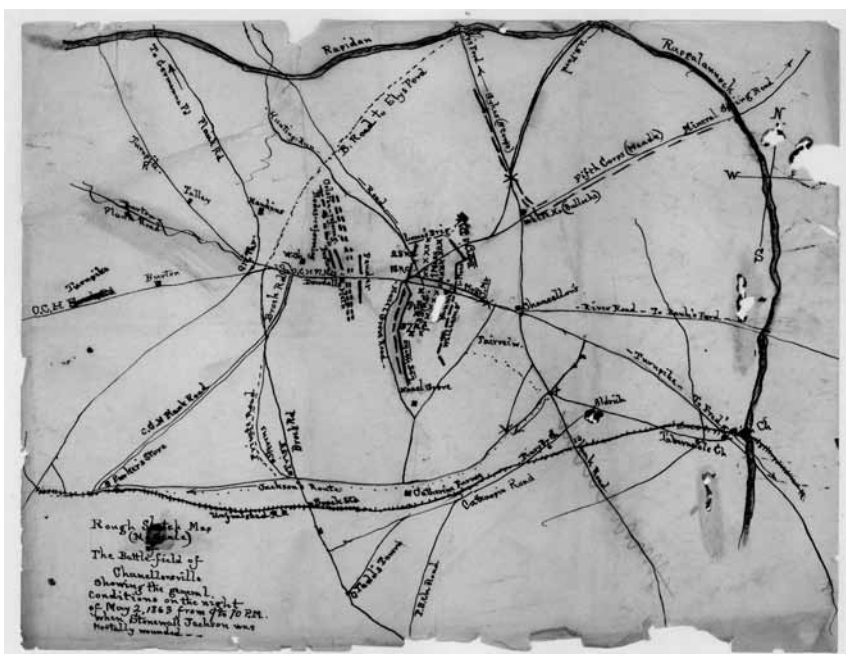
Howard was always a woman among troops. If he was not born in petticoats he ought to have been, and ought to wear them. He was always taken up with Sunday Schools and the temperance cause. Those things are all very good, you know, but have very little to do with commanding army corps.

In the twilight, while Jackson and his staff are riding through the scrub timber they are mistaken for Federals and fired upon by their own troops. Jackson is struck twice in the left arm and once in the palm of his right hand. He is taken to a nearby farmhouse where his arm is amputated later in the evening. A.P. Hill was wounded earlier and is unable to take command leaving the command of Jackson's troops to JEB Stuart.

In the west, Grant's corps is moving rapidly eastward towards Jackson.

May 3, 1863 • President Lincoln, haunting the telegraph office at the War Department, gets little or no news from the Army of the Potomac.

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In the Robert Goldthwaite Carter papers, 1900-1936 (Mss2 C2467 b)

"Showing general conditions on the night of May 2, 1863, from 9 to 10 p.m., when Stonewall Jackson was mortally wounded."

American Memory / Library of Congress from the Virginia Historical Society

And So It Continues...continued from page 7

Stuart, with Jackson's corps, seizes a low hill known as Hazel Grove, from which he fires on Chancellorsville. A shell strikes the Chancellor House where Hooker is headquartered; falling debris hits Hooker on the head temporarily disabling him. Hooker orders a retreat.

In what is often called the second battle of Fredericksburg, Sedgwick's forces twice attack Marye's Heights and finally drive Jubal Early off the Heights but suffer tremendous casualties. Early finally retreats; Lee confronts Sedgwick at Salem Church late in the afternoon. A sharp battle breaks out in the later afternoon lasting until dark. Lee successfully halts Sedgwick's advance.

In the west, Confederates evacuate Grand Gulf on the Mississippi. Admiral Porter tells Secretary of the Navy Welles, "...it is with great pleasure that I report that the Navy holds the door to Vicksburg." Finding Grand Gulf evacuated, Porter sends his gunboats downriver to meet with Farragut at the mouth of the Red River.

Longstreet is recalled to Lee's Army of Northern Virginia and abandons his siege of Suffolk, Virginia.

May 4, 1863 • Hooker fails to take the initiative near Chancellorsville. Lee reinforces his troops opposing Sedgwick's advance near Salem Church. Early, driven off Marye's Heights the day before, moves against Sedgwick's rear. In the late afternoon, the Confederates attack but fail to cut Sedgwick off from Banks' Ford over the Rappahannock. Sedgwick falls back to the ford and crosses the river by pontoons during the night.

At a late night conference, Hooker decides to withdraw the Army of the Potomac across the Rappahannock. For a second time Federal forces fail in the Fredericksburg area.

In the west, Grant is still pulling his troops across the river and pushing them east towards Jackson, Mississippi, as fast as is possible to keep the Confederates off balance.

May 5, 1863 • Lee prepares to attack Hooker again but discovers that the Federals are moving back across the Rappahannock in defeat.

Clement Vallandigham, leader of the Peace Democrats or Copperheads, is arrested in Dayton, Ohio. He is taken to Ambrose Burnside's Department of the Ohio headquarters in Cincinnati and is tried by a military commission the following day. He is convicted of expressing treasonable sympathies.

May 6, 1863 • Lincoln receives news of the defeat at Chancellorsville from Hooker and the Richmond newspapers. In the afternoon Lincoln and Halleck leave to meet Hooker.

A.P. Hill is assigned command of Jackson's old corps. Jackson is lying in a house at Guiney's Station soon to be joined by his wife.

Clement Vallandigham is sentenced to two years' confinement in a military prison. On the Red River Porter's Federal flotilla occupies Alexandria, Louisiana which has been abandoned by the Confederates.

May 7, 1863 • At Falmouth, Virginia, Lincoln and Halleck conclude their meeting with Hooker and return to Washington. Lincoln is concerned about Northern morale after the Chancellorsville defeat. He writes Hooker saying:

If possible I would be very glad of another movement early

enough to give us some benefit from the fact of the enemies communications being broken, but neither for this reason of any other, do I wish anything done in desperation or rashness.

Another worried president wires Pemberton in Vicksburg:

To hold both Vicksburg and Port Hudson is necessary to our connection with Trans-Mississippi. You may expect whatever it is in my power to do for your aid.

On the Mississippi, Grant, joined by Sherman's corps, begins to move from the Grand Gulf area toward Jackson and the railroad between Vicksburg and Jackson.

At Spring Hill, Tennessee, Confederate Major General Earl Van Dorn is assassinated by Dr. Peters. It was alleged that Van Dorn and Mrs. Peters had a "liason."

May 8, 1863 • Lincoln issues a proclamation that being an alien would not exempt anyone from the draft if he had declared his intention to become a citizen.

May 9, 1863 • Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston is ordered to take command of all Southern troops in Mississippi.

May 10, 1863 • In a small house near Guiney's Station, south of Fredericksburg, Stonewall Jackson dies. Pneumonia had set in after the amputation of his arm. A grieving Lee does not know how to replace him. Honor guards escort the body back to Lexington, Virginia. After his death, Mary Anna Morrison Jackson would write about coming to her failing husband's bedside:

When he left me on the morning of the 29th, going forth so cheerfully and bravely to the call of duty, he was in the full flush of vigorous manhood, and during that last, blessed visit, I never saw him look so handsome, so happy, and so noble. Now, his fearful wounds, his mutilated arm, the scratches upon his face, and, above all, the desperate pneumonia, which was flushing his cheeks, oppressing his breathing, and benumbing his senses, wrung my soul with such grief and anguish as it had never before experienced...

May 11, 1863 • Lincoln's Secretary of the Treasury, Salmon P. Chase, in an argument over an appointment, tenders his resignation. Lincoln turns it down.

May 12, 1863 • In Massachusetts, Colonel Robert Gould Shaw has exceeded his 1000-man limit in recruiting his all-black regiment – the 54th Massachusetts. The excess in recruits were used to form another black regiment – the 55th Massachusetts.

Grant's army is barely 10 miles away from Jackson when General John Logan's division of McPherson's corps runs into a brigade of Confederates commanded by Brigadier General John Gregg. Fighting ensues with the outnumbered Rebels forced to withdraw to Jackson.

May 13, 1863 • Beleaguered Vicksburg is calling for more support. Two corps of Grant's army moves toward Jackson under McPherson and Sherman. At Jackson, Johnston can muster only 12,000 men and knows that Grant's army stands between him and Pemberton.

The remains of "Stonewall" Jackson are honored in Richmond. After the funeral services, Jackson's body, accompanied by his family, is placed on a canal barge and sent to Lynchburg, Virginia.

May 14, 1863 • McPherson's and Sherman's corps near Jackson,

Mississippi, in a driving rainstorm. Johnston, realizing the futility of opposing Grant with twelve thousand men, begins to evacuate vital supplies and withdraws to the north. By midafternoon, Federal forces occupy the capital. McClelland is solidly astride the railroad at Clinton, between Johnston and Pemberton.

Lincoln writes to Hooker that he has heard that “some of your corps and Division Commanders are not giving you their entire confidence.”

At Lynchburg, Jackson’s remains are taken by an escort of Virginia Military Institute cadets to Lexington, where his body is placed in his old lecture hall.

May 15, 1863 • Leaving Sherman in Jackson to destroy Confederate supplies and installations, Grant moves several columns to Edward’s Station, east of Clinton, where Pemberton’s main force is located. By nightfall, Grant is within four miles of Pemberton.

At Lexington, Jackson’s body is taken to the Presbyterian Church for a brief funeral service after which the casket is taken to the cemetery south of town for burial.

May 16, 1863 • Grant, moving quickly towards Edward’s Station, blocks a move by Pemberton to join Johnston; the two forces meet at Champion’s Hill. By midafternoon, after the hill has changed hands three times, the Confederates have had enough and begin to withdraw towards Vicksburg and the bridge crossing the Big Black River.

May 17, 1863 • Confederates under Pemberton have their backs to the Big Black River. One of Pemberton’s divisions has been cut off and goes to join Johnston. The Union army opens fire on the entrenched Confederates who, in danger of being cut off from crossing the river, retire and burn the bridges. Stymied, Grant begins building bridges to cross the Big Black River.

May 18, 1863 • Grant’s army moves across the Big Black River, takes Haynes’ Bluff and begins to invest Vicksburg. The fortifications are completely surrounded on the land side, and the gunboats are on the river. There is no escape for Pemberton’s army.

President Davis calls for civilians and militia to join General Johnston in Mississippi. He urges Johnston to link up with Pemberton and attack the enemy.

In Massachusetts, the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiment receives orders to depart on May 28th for an assignment to the Department of the South.

May 19, 1863 • Following a Cabinet meeting, President Lincoln commutes the May 7th sentence of Clement Vallandigham for treason to banishment to the Confederacy.

At Vicksburg, Grant makes his first assault on the entrenchments, sending Sherman, McPherson, and McClelland against the Confederates; they were repulsed. Union mortar boats begin their barrages on the city.

May 20, 1863 • Troops begin to gather for Banks’ major Federal push toward Port Hudson on the Mississippi. Grant considers the problems of a direct attack on Vicksburg.

May 21, 1863 • The siege of Port Hudson begins. At Vicksburg, Grant issues orders for a general assault on Pemberton’s lines for the twenty-second.

May 22, 1863 • Grant attacks a three-mile section of the crescent-shaped defenses of Vicksburg. Grant will lose almost 3200

of his total force of 45,000 in the large-scale attack. Confederate losses were less than 500. Grant goes into siege mode. The Orphan Brigade was alerted for Mississippi. Corporal Barber, Co. D., 15th Illinois Volunteer Infantry would write:

It was fifteen miles to Vicksburg and we could plainly hear the heavy notes of artillery. On the 18th and 22d, when the charges were made, the hills fairly shook with the shock of artillery. Grant saw what a sacrifice of life it would cost to take the place by storm, so he waited the slow and surer operations of a siege...

May 23, 1863 • Near Bayou Sara, Banks’ main Federal force crosses the Mississippi at night in a heavy storm headed for Port Hudson.

May 24, 1863 • Major General John A. Schofield is ordered to supersede Samuel B. Curtis in command of the Federal Department of Missouri. President Lincoln spends the day visiting hospitals in and near Washington.

President Davis wires Johnston that he knew Pemberton would hang on with tenacity at Vicksburg.

May 25, 1863 • Confederates fail to evacuate Port Hudson and Federal efforts to surround the post get fully under way.

Federal military authorities turn over former Ohio congressman Vallandigham to the Confederates outside Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

May 26, 1863 • Federal troops under General Banks complete setting up siege operations at Port Hudson below Vicksburg. Banks requests Admiral Farragut drop a few mortar rounds into the fortifications at odd times during the night to keep the defenders awake. Farragut complies.

President Davis writes to Lee:

Pemberton is stoutly defending the entrenchments at Vicksburg, and Johnston has an army outside, which I suppose will be able to raise the siege, and combined with Pemberton’s forces may win a victory.

May 27, 1863 • Banks launches his attack on Port Hudson with little result; disjointed movements fail along the entire line with heavy losses. Farragut’s gunboats continue firing on the fortifications after the assault fails.

May 28, 1863 • From Boston, the 54th Massachusetts Volunteers leave for Hilton Head, South Carolina.

May 29, 1863 • Major General Burnside, in command at Cincinnati, offers his resignation to President Lincoln as a result of the arrest, conviction and banishment of Vallandigham. Lincoln refuses the resignation.

May 30, 1863 • Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia is reorganized into three corps under Generals Ewell, A.P. Hill, and James Longstreet. The reorganization will remain until the end of the war.

May 31, 1863 • The month would draw to a close with the sieges continuing at Vicksburg and Port Hudson. The armies of Lee and Hooker remained on the Rappahannock. In the west Rosecrans faces Bragg north of Tullahoma. President Davis is less and less hopeful over Vicksburg.

And so it continues.

CIVIL WAR NEWS

2013 Commemorative Civil War Stamps

Earlier this year the U.S. Postal Service announced the designs for the 2013 Civil War Commemorative stamps. During the Civil War Sesquicentennial, the Post Office is issuing two stamps each year commemorating significant events in the war that occurred 150 years ago from the year of the stamp's issue.

For 2013, the stamps selected commemorate the Vicksburg Campaign and the Battle of Gettysburg.

The Vicksburg stamp is a reproduction of an 1863 lithograph by Currier & Ives titled "Admiral Porter's Fleet Running the Rebel Blockade of the Mississippi at Vicksburg, April 16, 1863." This is the third year in a row that a Currier & Ives lithograph was used in one of the issued stamps. Previously, the Fort Sumter and the Forts Jackson and St. Phillips stamps featured Currier & Ives artwork.

The Battle of Gettysburg stamp is a reproduction of an 1887 chromolithograph by Thure de Thulstrup, a Swedish-born artist who became an illustrator for *Harper's Weekly* after the Civil War. Thulstrup's work was one of a series of popular prints commissioned in the 1880's by Boston publisher Louis Prang & Co. to commemorate the Civil War. The stamp depicts Pickett's Charge. The Union Second Corps under Winfield Scott Hancock is pictured defending against the charge. Thulstrup is also a repeat artist in this series; his lithograph of the Battle of Antietam was used in that 2012 stamp.

The 2013 Civil War commemorative stamps first day of issue will be May 23, 2013 in Vicksburg, Mississippi.

Henry C. Koch

As reported in the March 30, 2013, *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, when seven notebooks filled with Henry C. Koch's maps, notes, drawings and musings were put up for auction, the Wisconsin Historical Society snapped them up.

In the time before Koch designed Milwaukee's City Hall and the Pfister Hotel, he was a Civil War private fighting with the 24th Wisconsin Infantry.

Koch was born in Germany and moved to Milwaukee with his family when he was just a toddler. He apprenticed to an architect after completing his schooling. He enlisted in the 24th Wisconsin in the summer of 1862 seeing action in several battles.

Koch had a knack for drawing and was soon taken off the battlefield to become one of General Phil Sheridan's topographical engineers. The detailed sketches Koch made of battles, terrain and buildings would later be turned into U.S. Army maps which illustrated these battles.

After the war, Koch resumed his career as an architect designing several noteworthy buildings including the hospital, theater and chapel which are part of the Milwaukee Soldiers Home National Historic Landmark District. Koch passed away in 1910.

The Historical Society used private donations from a recent capital campaign to purchase the notebooks. The pages are currently being digitized at the Historical Society Museum in Madison and will soon be available for viewing online.

Fredericksburg

Relic hunter, John Blue, discovered a finger ring near Fredericksburg. The ring, a Civil War version of the dog tag, bears the name, company and regiment of the owner – Private Levi Schlegel.

The ring was originally found by Blue in 2005 but he didn't try locating any of the soldier's relatives until recently. With the help of his friend, Margaret Binning, a genealogist and volunteer at the Manassas Museum, Levi Schlegel was tracked to Reading Public Library where Ernest Schlegel sits on the board.

Levi Schlegel was 21 when he joined his first regiment, the 167th Pennsylvania in 1862. The regiment was a 9-month outfit that disbanded in August, 1863. Levi remained out of the army for a year before enlisting again in September, 1864 with the 198th Pennsylvania regiment, Company G in Berks County, Pennsylvania, where Reading is located. The regiment mustered out of service on June 12, 1865.

Levi Schlegel came home to Reading, married and had 11 children. He is buried beside his wife, Mary, in Reading's Charles Evans cemetery.

Sharpsburg

A local Sharpsburg man, J. D. Taylor Jr., planting trees at his home on April 11 unearthed a live Civil War-era shell. Taylor thought he had hit a rock with his shovel while digging in his yard about a mile from the Antietam National Battlefield.

In a news release, the Maryland State Fire Marshal's office said that the object was a 3-inch Federal Navy Schenkl that had not been fired and had an intact fusing mechanism. The shell weighed about eight pounds, was about nine inches long and had a spring-loaded detonator on the end.

Technicians from the state fire marshal were joined by U.S. Army bomb technicians. Authorities using computers in their vehicles researched the device and determined it had been used by both the Union army and navy during the war.

Technicians took the shell to a neighboring farm and detonated it without incident.

Never Forgotten Honor Flight Day of Giving

On Tuesday, May 21, 2013, over 160 participating Culver's restaurants in Wisconsin, Chicago and Michigan will donate 10% of sales to their local Honor Flight's Hub.

The mission: to fly WWII and Korean War veterans and terminally ill veterans from other conflicts to visit their memorials in Washington, D.C.

Every day is a bonus for these veterans. Enjoy a delicious meal and more importantly, help benefit this great cause.



SONS OF UNION VETERANS
OF THE CIVIL WAR AND AUXILIARY

Memorial Day Service

Monday, May 27, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.

at Milwaukee's Historic

CALVARY CEMETERY

5503 W. Bluemound Road

Outdoor Mass with Archbishop Jerome ListECKI,
(Lt. Col., ret.), Main Concelebrant,
followed by a Patriotic Program:

- Nationally-renowned Civil War author, Lance Herdegen
- Cannon firing by Cushing's Battery A, 4th U.S. Artillery
- Procession to graves of Union Soldiers
- Decoration of soldiers' graves
- Musket salute
- Rifle salute and Taps by American Legion Milwaukee Police Post #415

* Address by President Abraham Lincoln (Mr. Nic Bur)



For more information, call (262) 787-3567 or (262) 782-0535
dcollins@wi.rr.com

*In case of inclement weather, ceremonies will be held in
St. Vincent Pallotti Church at 5502 W. Bluemound Rd.*

Memorial Day at Milwaukee's Historic Calvary Cemetery

On Monday, May 27, 2013, the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and Auxiliary will hold its Memorial Day Service at Calvary Cemetery at 5503 W. Bluemound Road, Milwaukee. The event will begin at 10:00 a.m. with an outdoor Mass concelebrated by Archbishop Jerome ListECKI followed by a patriotic procession to and decoration of the Union soldiers' graves, a cannon salute, musket salute, and a rifle salute as well as Taps. President Lincoln will give a brief address. American Legion Milwaukee Police Post 415 will participate. The keynote speaker is nationally renowned Civil War Iron Brigade author, Lance Herdegen. The First Brigade Band has also been invited to return.

If weather is inclement, the event will move inside St. Vincent Pallotti's east church across the street at 5502 W. Bluemound Road. For further information, contact Dean Collins at (262) 787-3567; (262) 782-0535 or dcollins@wi.rr.com

Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for May 9, 2013

Mail your reservations by Monday, May 6, 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 May 9, 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.

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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.



In May 1953, Herbert A. Keller spoke about "Major Joseph H. Spencer and the U.S. Signal Corps."

James V. Murfin talked about "Antietam" at the May 1963 meeting. "Grant and the Capture of Forts Donelson and Henry" was the subject of Gerald Browne and Roger T. Zeimet's presentation in May 1973.

William Garrett Piston was our featured speaker in May 1993. The topic that evening was "James Longstreet and the Writing of Southern History."

At the May 2003 meeting our guest speaker was William Beaudot. Beaudot's presentation was on "The 24th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry."

At last year's May 2012 meeting the Round Table welcomed Brian Holden Reid who talked to us about "The Strategy of the Civil War."