



GENERAL ORDERS

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



MARCH 11, 2010

ERIC A. JACOBSON

The Battle of Franklin



On November 30, 1864, in Franklin, Tennessee, General John Bell Hood sent his Confederate Army of Tennessee across nearly two miles of open ground in an effort to destroy John M. Schofield's Union forces before they could reach the safety of Nashville. The Battle of Franklin became one of the bloodiest five hours of fighting during the Civil War. Casualties totaling roughly 10,000 included the loss of six Confederate generals: Cleburne, Gist, Granbury, Adams, Strahl and Carter. In the end, Hood's troops failed to breach the Union breastworks. The Army of Tennessee was destroyed.

Former Confederate soldier W. J. Worsham would write about both Spring Hill and Franklin:

In looking over this sad scene, the question irresistibly forces itself upon us, who was to blame for all this? Was it one of the inexplicable decrees of Fate? These questions may never be satisfactorily answered.

Mr. Jacobson will speak on this Confederate tragedy at our March meeting, covering the genesis of Hood's Tennessee Campaign, the lost opportunity at Spring Hill, and Hood's alleged use of laudanum, as well as the bloody assault at Franklin.

Mr. Jacobson has been studying the Civil War, and specifically the Battles of Spring Hill and Franklin, for nearly 25 years. A Minnesota native, he lived in Arizona for over a decade before relocating to Middle Tennessee in 2005. During his time in Arizona, he worked on his first book, *For Cause & For Country: A Study of the Affair at Spring Hill and the Battle of Franklin*, a project which encompassed nearly 10 years. Released in 2006, the book has been extremely well received and is considered by some to be one of the most important books ever written about Hood's 1864 Tennessee Campaign.

Mr. Jacobson's second book, *The McGavock Confederate Cemetery*, was released in April 2007. Eric is currently the Associate Director and Historian at Carnton Plantation, where he has been employed since the Spring of 2006. Married for 18 years, Eric lives in Spring Hill with his wife and two daughters.

**"A profound silence pervaded the entire army;
it was simply awful, reminding one of those sickening lulls
which precede a tremendous thunderstorm."**

**Confederate John M. Copley,
writing about the Battle of Franklin**

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March 2010

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MARCH MEETING AT A GLANCE

March 11, 2010

Eric A. Jacobson
"The Battle of Franklin"

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, March 8, 2010

See page 5.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS • EVENTS • MEETINGS

March 8, 2010

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

March 16, 2010

Prairieville Irregulars, 7 p.m.
Student Center Building, Carroll University
Tom Finley: The Wilderness

March 22, 2010

West Side Soldiers Aid Society, 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.
Matousek Auditorium, Milwaukee VA Medical Center
Cordelia Harvey Portrayed by Mary B. Kababik
Presentation of the Kenosha Civil War Museum
Free and open to the public
Information: 414-427-3776

CIVIL WAR NEWS

As reported in the *Gettysburg Times*, after a prolonged discussion on Monday, February 22, 2010, the Cumberland Township Planning Commission tabled its talks over whether to support casino land-zoning in the municipality.

The planning commission has scheduled a March 11 meeting to vote on a proposed zoning amendment submitted by Mason Dixon Resort & Casino co-partners, David LeVan and Joseph Lashinger. LeVan and Lashinger are hoping to transform the Eisenhower Inn into an exclusive slots resort; a zoning amendment is needed to facilitate the project. The proposed location of the resort has been a heated issue between casino supporters and adversaries.

In a related move, the Cumberland Board of Supervisors has re-scheduled its special meeting date to consider gaming facilities in the township's mixed-use district from March 2 to March 18, 2010.

In other Gettysburg news, there is a possibility that the **Cyclorama** may temporarily close.

A structural flaw in the ceiling of the new \$103-million Battlefield Visitor Center is causing water to damage portions of the newly restored Cyclorama painting. Condensation is dripping onto what has been referred to as "minimal areas" of the painting. Gettysburg National Military Park spokeswoman Katie Lawhon has described the problem as a "short term" issue.

In a December 22, 2009, Division Chief Meeting it was reported that the "roof is a tongue-and-groove type that expands and contracts. There is an air leak which is causing condensation." According to the report, repair of the roof would probably require shutting down the Cyclorama program for between two to three months. After the problem is corrected, conservators will address the minimal damage done to the uppermost part of the painting. Lawhon indicated that the area of the painting hit by drops of water was part of a new infill area and not part of the historic canvas.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ IN THIS MONTH • MARCH ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

1861

March 11 • The Confederate Congress in Montgomery adopted the Constitution of the Confederacy, which would be ratified by the end of April 1861.

1862

March 9 • Pvt. Barber, Co. D, 15th Illinois Volunteer Infantry, wrote from Pittsburg Landing, Tennessee:

The rebels were concentrating all their available forces at Corinth, only twenty miles from us, and the two armies lay watching each other for several weeks, like ferocious bull dogs eager for a fight. Grant was waiting for Buell to come to his assistance before he commenced offensive operations, but all the while threatening the rebel army.

1863

March 13 • The Confederate States Laboratories (CSL) on Brown's Island exploded. Forty-five women and children were killed. The explosion was forceful enough to shake the Richmond Arsenal, located near the James River.

The brainchild of Confederate ordnance chief Col. Josiah Gorgas, the CSL made small arms and ammunition for the Confederate Army. Women and children were the bulk of the workforce with their ages ranging from twelve to sixty. Their hands were smaller and as such were well suited for assembling cartridges, fuses, caps and primers. At peak efficiency, a child as young as nine could turn out up to 1200 cartridges in a day.

The *Richmond Examiner* would report on March 14, 1863:

Between eleven and twelve o'clock yesterday morning, a dull, prolonged roar in the direction of Brown's Island startled that portion of the city and directed attention to the island, on which is located the Confederate Laboratory works, for the manufacture of percussion caps and gun cartridges.

A tide of human beings, among them the frantic mothers and kindred of the employees in the laboratory, immediately set towards the bridge leading to the island, but the Government authorities, soonest apprised of the disaster, had already taken possession of the bridge, and planting a guard of soldiers, allowed passage to none except the workmen summoned to rescue the dead and wounded from the ruins.

139 years after the explosion, on September 15, 2001, a monument at Richmond's Oakwood Cemetery was dedicated to those who died.

1864

March 9 • Ulysses S. Grant was commissioned Lt. General; his commission was officially handed to him by President Lincoln, in the presence of the Cabinet. Following the ceremony, Grant and Lincoln engaged in private conversations before Grant left for the Army of the Potomac and a visit with Maj. Gen. Meade.

Kenosha Civil War Museum Events

The Milwaukee Civil War Round Table and Iron Brigade Association are sponsoring the following event at the Civil War Museum in March.

**On The Authority Of The Lord God Almighty
The True Story of Mary Ann Ball Bickerdyke**
Saturday, March 27, 2010, 1 p.m.



One of the best known nurses during the war, Galesburg, Illinois native Mother Mary Ann Bickerdyke became a legend in the armies of Grant and Sherman. Numerous colorful stories have been told of her exploits and her lack of respect for rules and regulations. She later wrote of her services, "I served for four years. I was in 19 hard-fought battles. I did the work of one and I tried to do it well."

Betsy Estilow's presentation will separate myth from truth and explore the life of this amazing woman.

Ms. Estilow is a Professor of History and Biology at Hood College, Frederick, Maryland.

The Civil War Museum Media Club will be discussing Lance Herdegen's *Those Damned Black Hats! The Iron Brigade in the Gettysburg Campaign* on March 10, 2010, 7-8:30 p.m.

The Media Club meets on a quarterly basis. Doug Dammann, Museum Curator, will be the moderator for this discussion. \$5 Museum members/\$10 non-members.

Contact the museum for additional details: (262) 653-4140.

A Look at Our Sponsored Events at the Kenosha Museum

I was able to take in the first two events our Round Table has sponsored at the Kenosha Civil War Museum, and I'm here to tell you that they were terrific! At both events there was a sign at the front of Freedom Hall, the room in which the events took place, acknowledging that our Round Table and the Iron Brigade Association were the sponsors. Doug Dammann, Museum Curator, also made note of our sponsorship in his introduction and post-program comments.



In January, at the first event I attended, I heard a really good presentation by Michael Kutzer on the Battles of Chattanooga and Atlanta Cyclorama paintings done by Milwaukee's American Panorama Company. Kutzer, lead transcriber for a project sponsored by the Milwaukee County Historical Society, the Museum of Wisconsin Art and the Max Kade Institute, talked about these paintings and about Frederick Wilhelm Heine. Kutzer has been transcribing Heine's diaries, written in old style German and in very bad and very small handwriting. The diaries detail the creation of these panoramas, how the artists visited the original battlefields for their research and how meeting eyewitnesses helped to create authentic paintings. Mr. Kutzer was both informative and entertaining and spoke to a very appreciative audience.

On my next visit to the Museum, I enjoyed a theatre presentation on *Caroline Quarlls: My Independence Day*. As part of the presentation, the actress portraying Caroline read from one of Caroline's letters to Lyman Goodnow, Prairieville (Waukesha) abolitionist and her escort in her flight to freedom to Detroit and onward across the Detroit River to Sandwich, Canada.

The "icing on the cake" for this talk was that Kimberly L. Simmons, a direct descendant of Caroline Quarlls, was in the audience and was gracious enough to answer questions afterwards.

It truly turned into a special afternoon.

If you have the opportunity please take in one of these fine events that our Round Table is sponsoring this year. And, if you haven't had the chance to visit the museum yet, what better time than now!

Submitted by Donna Agnelly



In Memoriam



Hans L. Trefousse

On January 8, 2010, at the age of 88, historian and author Hans L. Trefousse passed away at his home in Staten Island.

Hans was a specialist in Civil War and Reconstruction-era history. Among his books were *Impeachment of a President: Andrew Johnson, the Blacks and Reconstruction* and *Thaddeus Stevens: Nineteenth-Century Egalitarian*.

In 1998, Professor Trefousse was interviewed by CNN after the House Judiciary Committee approved articles of impeachment against President Clinton. Trefousse looked to the past as he commented:

If you judge by the Johnson impeachment, you would see that if you impeach for reasons that are not the real reasons, you really can't win. It seems to me the real reason today is not the perjury or Monica Lewinsky, but rather the differences between the Republican right and the president and the dislike of many of the Republicans for the president. So I think the outcome would be very similar to the one in 1868. And so it was.

At his death, Professor Trefousse was distinguished professor emeritus of history at Brooklyn College.



Arthur W. Bergeron, Jr.

Civil War historian, Dr. Arthur W. Bergeron, Jr. passed away at the age of 63 on February 8, 2010, in Shippensburg, PA.

Bergeron was the historian at Pamplin Historical Park and the National Museum of the Civil War Soldier near Petersburg, Virginia, from 1996 to 2003. He was Chief of Interpretive Services for the Louisiana Office of State Parks from 1987-1996. From 1981-1986, he was historian at the Port Hudson State Historic Site.

Bergeron was the author, co-author or editor of nearly a dozen books, including: *The Civil War Reminiscences of Major Silas T. Grisamore, CSA* (1993), *Confederate Mobile, 1861-1865* (1991), and *A Thrilling Narrative: The Memoir of a Southern Unionist* published by the University of Arkansas Press in April 2006.

Bergeron was a past president of the Richmond and Baton Rouge Civil War Round Tables as well as a member of the Society of Civil War Historians, Blue & Gray Education Society, and Harrisburg Civil War Round Table.



Preserve and Protect

Knoxville. The Legacy Park Foundation (LPF) has purchased 70 acres of land known for the November 25, 1863, Battle of Armstrong Hill. The organization is dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of key Knoxville historical and wilderness areas.

The Armstrong Hill purchase comes on the heels of the preservation of 100 acres known as Fort Higley by the Aslan Foundation, a philanthropic group located in Knoxville. The Foundation is now determining how to best preserve and interpret the historical aspects of Fort Higley. Archaeologist and Vice-President of the Civil War Alliance, Joan Markel, commenting on Fort Higley has said, "How do we best protect 146-year old earthworks? The spectacular view we enjoy today is part of what makes these locations so special and during the war these same views provided great strategic benefits."

Appomattox Station. The Civil War Preservation Trust has reached its fundraising goal for the 47 acre section of the Appomattox Station battlefield. The 47 acres saved are at the heart of the battlefield, the events of which on April 8, 1865, led to Lee's decision to surrender his army the following day.

Will Simmons, Director of Tourism for the Town of Appomattox, stated, "preserving the Appomattox Station battlefield site is an important step in telling the complete story of the final days of the Civil War in Virginia. This historic site links both the historic downtown Railroad Depot with the preserved village of Appomattox Court House and will enhance future visitors experience in learning about this significant chapter of American history."

Wisconsin Veterans Museum

The Good Gray Nurse: Walt Whitman and the Civil War
An Exhibit by Madison Artist Michael Hecht
March 9, 2010 through June 12, 2010

By the time the Civil War started, Walt Whitman was already a published poet and writer. On December 16, 1862 a listing of fallen and wounded soldiers from the Battle of Fredericksburg appeared in the *New York Tribune*; Whitman's brother, George Washington Whitman, serving in the 51st Regiment of New York Volunteers was on the list. Whitman traveled to Falmouth, Virginia, across the Rappahannock River from Fredericksburg to find and care for his brother whom he found only slightly wounded, but his travels south had a profound and lasting effect on him. The hospitals, the wounded soldiers, and the amputations Whitman witnessed filled him with the desire to help these wounded men.

After leaving Falmouth, Whitman returned to Washington, traveling with a trainload of wounded soldiers bound for the Union capital. He found a job in the Army Paymaster's Office and for the next three years kept almost constant company with wounded soldiers. He spent his small salary on food, gifts and tobacco for the wounded in wards throughout Washington. Douglas O'Connor wrote of Whitman's hospital service, "His theory is that these men, far from home, lonely, sick at heart, need more than anything some practical token that they are not forgotten."

Using Whitman's wartime poems about the Civil War as his inspiration, artist Michael Hecht has created this new exhibit, layering his own knife drawings of soldiers' silhouettes over stark images from the battlefield.

For Your Reading Consideration

Civil War P.O.W.

The Life & Death of a Farmer-Lawyer-Soldier

Larry A. Jones and Phillip J. Tichenor

One hundred forty years after his death in August 1864 at Andersonville Prison, Dealton Tichenor's great-grandsons have written a book about his life as a farmer and attorney in Crawford County, Wisconsin, and his service and death during the Civil War.

The first part of this book covers Tichenor's life in Wisconsin before the war and the variety of jobs he held from farmer to pump manufacturer to lawyer. The next part of the book deals with Tichenor's service during the war.

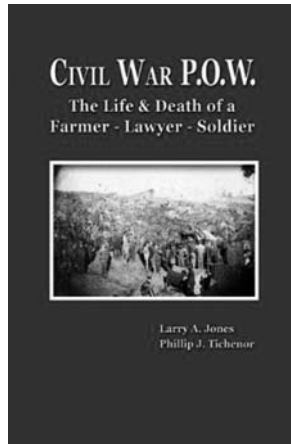
Dealton's journal entries and his letters are also included in this book.

Tichenor would enlist not once but twice during the war. Dealton's first enlistment was with the 31st Wisconsin Regiment and ended on November 6, 1863, when he was discharged due to illness. In the January 21, 1864, the *Prairie du Chien Courier* reported that Tichenor had returned home on account of his health and was now in the town of Seneca, having taken a license to practice in their courts.

In March 1864 Dealton enlisted again this time with the 36th Regiment where he remained until his capture in May 1864. Tichenor's great-grandsons have been unable to pinpoint exactly when he arrived at Andersonville Prison but have been able to document that he was admitted to the prison hospital on August 7. After eleven days in the hospital, Dealton died. He is buried in grave #6097 in the prison cemetery.

In his final letter home, on July 3, 1864, Dealton wrote to his wife Mary letting her know he was alive and well and that he had been a prisoner since May 27. Dealton closed the short letter writing that he hoped to live to see Mary again.

If you are interested in adding this book to your library, please contact by email Phillip Tichenor at tiche001@comcast.net or by phone at 763-898-3292.



In March 1947 Lloyd D. Miller spoke to the Round Table about the Battle of Franklin.

The topic of Harry Hershenson's talk in March 1953 was Thaddeus Stevens.

Our speaker in March 1963 was Guilbert Piper, who spoke about "Civil War Small Arms and Ammunition."

In March 1966 E.B. Long visited our Round Table. The topic that night was "A Reappraisal of the Mississippi Valley Campaign."

"Ohio's Civil War Prisons" was the focus of Phillip R. Shriver's talk in March 1972.

John E. Divine spoke about "Calvary Campaigns: Prelude to Gettysburg" in March 1983.

In March 1966 Brian S. Wills spoke on "A Struggle from the Start: Nathan Bedford Forrest."

On the March

August 28th, at an early hour, we march to Hainesville, turn to the right Bethlehem Church road, and halt and lay on arms until 5 p.m. when we return to the pike and march slowly toward Centerville. At about 6 p.m., and two miles from Gainesville, while marching by the flank a rebel battery, posted on a wooded eminence to the left of the road, open fire on our column. The old Second promptly faced to the front, and directed by Gen. Gibbon, advance by quick time upon the battery, and soon met the enemy's infantry emerged from the woods. Here for twenty minutes the Iron Brigade checked and sustained the onset of Stonewall Jackson's whole division of rebel infantry under one of the most intensely concentrated fires of musketry ever experienced by any troops in this or any other war.

From the Diary of Cornelius Wheeler, Co. I, 2nd Wisconsin

On December 26, 1891, Cornelius Wheeler, became the ninth Governor of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers in Milwaukee and served in that capacity until December 24, 1914. Patrick Lynch will discuss the life and military career of Wheeler at the April 20 meeting of the Prairieville Irregulars.

Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for March 11, 2010

Mail your reservations by Monday, March 8, 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 March 11, 2010, 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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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.

CWRT of Milwaukee, Inc. • 2010 Meetings

April 8, 2010

David O. Stewart, Trial Lawyer, Ropes & Gray, Washington, "The Impeachment of Andrew Johnson"

May 13, 2010

William W. Freehling, Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, "The Strange, Difficult Triumph of Southern Secession."

Civil War military or civilian dress is welcome at the May meeting.

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

HARD TIMES BALL

A Civil War Ball

**Celebrating the Music of Stephen Foster
and the Resilience of the American People**

Saturday, April 10, 2010, 7 p.m.

**Hosted by the West Side Soldiers Aid Society
Marian Center for Nonprofits, Milwaukee**

Tickets & information: (414) 427-3776