



GENERAL ORDERS



**The Newsletter of the
Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.
Since 1947
and The Iron Brigade Association**

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General Orders No. 05-12

December, 2005

The **December 8th, 2005**, meeting is to be held at **Italian Community Center**, Milwaukee

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Steve Fratt: Civil War Combat and the 19th Century Revolution in Military Affairs

Many discussions on Civil War tactics and weapons have focused on the question: “to what degree the American Civil War was a harbinger of *modern warfare*.” Here “modern warfare” is synonymous with “twentieth-century warfare.” Debaters like to draw attention to trench warfare and varieties of new weapons as the indicators that the American Civil War changed warfare radically in the mid-nineteenth century, a fact lost on the Europeans preparing for the conflicts of the twentieth century. In other words, Americans like to criticize Europeans for not taking the military revolution of the American Civil War more seriously.

Dr. Steve Fratt will challenge this popular position by showing that muzzle-loading tactics were appropriate for the American Civil War despite the innovations in technology usually associated with the “military revolution” of the 1860s. Technical augmentations did exist and these will be highlighted by Dr. Fratt.

However, improved technology is not the only ingredient necessary to create a Revolution in Military Affairs. Such revolutions need the appropriate intellectual and bureaucratic culture in military institutions which aim to foster change and welcome it.

Americans lacked the appropriate progressive attitude in and necessary support of their prewar military institutions which were needed to bring about an American Revolution in Military Affairs. Because of these deficiencies, the Europeans, rather than the Americans, led the way towards the next Revolution in

Schedule of Events

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| • Staff Meeting (when required;
open to all members) | 5:30 PM |
| • Registration and Social Hour | 6:15 PM |
| • Dinner | 6:45 PM |
| • Program Begins | 7:30 PM |

Military Affairs in the West in the late nineteenth century.

Steven D. Fratt is director of the School of Humanities, chair of the History Department, and associate professor of history at Trinity International University's Trinity College. His areas of expertise include battle tactics in the American Civil War, Western European intellectual history, history of science, history of warfare, and philosophy of history.

Directions to the Italian Community Center

The Italian Community Center is located at 631 E. Chicago Street, south of I-794 and east of I-94 in the Old Third Ward west of the Summerfest Grounds. According to the WWW site, take I-94 East to I-794 and get off at the Jackson Street exit. Go south two blocks. The Italian Conference Center is on the southeast corner of the intersection of N. Jackson and E. Chicago Streets. Parking is available on the south side of the building.

Mansfield Battlefield Organization Wants Members

The Friends of the Mansfield (LA) Battlefield is looking for new members, and the Board is considering an institutional membership.

Mansfield was a battle in the ill-fated Red River Campaign that took place on 8 April 1864. The battle was also known as Pleasant Grove or Sabine Cross Roads. The battle routed the Federal troops and ended the Federal advance up the Red River.

To raise funds for the battlefield they are selling commemorative bronze medallions for \$20.00 plus shipping. The Round Table will be taking pre-orders for these medals when logistics are worked out. Any interested parties should contact the Quartermaster, Roman Blenski.

Individual memberships start at \$25. For more information contact The Friends of Mansfield Battlefield, PO Box 44144, Shreveport, LA., 71134-4414.

Member Directory to be Updated

The Membership Directory is to be updated this season. Members whose address or other personal information has changed since the last roster was published, or who would like to change their information, or can't remember what's in the Directory should contact the Membership Chairman, Paul Eilbes.

As a reminder, the *GO* mailing list and the Membership Directory database are separate: just because you get the *General Orders* does not mean that your correct address is in the Membership Directory.

Herdegen Book Hits Paper

Indiana University Press is pleased to announce the recent paperback publication of *The Men Stood Like Iron; How the Iron Brigade Won Its Name* by our own

Lance J. Herdegen. *Civil War* reviews: "Sound research in unpublished materials allowed the author to impart a freshness to his descriptions of fighting at the Brawner Farm, South Mountain . . . and Antietam."

No volunteers tramped with more innocent resolve on the drill fields of 1861 than the farmers, immigrants, shopkeepers, and "piney" camp boys who volunteered for the Second, Sixth, and Seventh Wisconsin and the Nineteenth Indiana Infantry. *The Men Stood Like Iron* is the moving, often melancholy, story of how the backwoods "Calico boys" became soldiers of the celebrated "Iron Brigade."

For more information about this book, visit: <http://www.indiana.edu/~iupress/books/0-253-21825-X.shtml>

SUV Patriotic Luncheon 4 February 2006

The 2003 Patriotic Luncheon, hosted by the C. K Badger Camp 1 of the Sons of Union Veterans (SUV) will be honoring Presidents Washington, Lincoln and McKinley. The luncheon will be held on Saturday 4 February at 12:30 PM at the Bluemound Gardens, 11703 Bluemound Road in Wauwatosa. Dr. Van Mobley of Concordia University will speak on Lincoln and his Generals.

Reservations can be made before 28 January by sending \$16 per person to the C.K Badger Camp 1, 6623 S. North Cape Road, Franklin, WI, 53132-1227. No walk-ins will be admitted.

For more information, contact Steve Michaels at (414)276-7100, (414)425-4648 (evenings), by e-mail (steve_michaels@metronetworks.com), or at the Wisconsin Department Website, <http://www.suvcw-wi.org>.

Officers of the Board of Directors, Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc., as of July 2005

Name	Office/Title	Contact	Term Expires
Gene Jamroz	President	(414) 327-2811	2008
Ellen Kelling-Vukovic	1st Vice President	(262) 334-6265	2006
Paul Eilbes	Treasurer/Membership Committee Chair	(262) 376-0568; paul.eilbes@ipaper.com	2007
William Finke	Secretary	(414) 221-2764 bill.finke@we-energies.com	2008
John D. Beatty	Editor/Publisher, <i>General Orders</i>	jdbeatty@amcivwar.com	2007
Jim Johnson	Webmaster	secondwi@earthlink.net	2006

Shiloh — The Hornet's Nest IV

At around noon on 6 April an attack on the southeast corner of the Duncan Field was repulsed in a storm of fire. Soon after an attack on the north of the Davis Wheatfield (southeast of the Duncan Field) was similarly blasted back. The gunfire and roar of cannon in the zone was so intense that even four-footed Rebels were affected by it. A rabbit dashed out of some scrub brush and huddled next to a Federal soldier, its fear of man overwhelmed by the horrid din of small arms and crashing of artillery.

Around 1300, Sherman and McClernand fell back to Jones Field, their counterattack spent. This left the Hornet's Nest alone, a mile from the nearest Federal units, with their right flank in air. Soon afterwards, one of Hurlbut's brigades that had been holding the far left of the Federal line against almost token attacks from the Confederates finally gave way to retreat north to the Dill Branch Creek. The Hornet's Nest was completely isolated.

Inside, the dead and severely wounded were stripped for ammunition, canteens were shattered for the last drops they provided, and the pond turned vivid red. By 1400, communications in and out had ceased, command and control had broken down, and clouds of smoke reduced visibility to nearly zero. Cotton blooms and peach blossoms carpeted the ground on the southern edge of the position with white and pink, interspersed with the dead and wounded that littered the

fields.

The battle continued almost without relief: when not under direct attack, a continual bombardment from artillery and sniping from pickets wore away at the beleaguered Federals in the Hornet's Nest. A Confederate attack on the Peach Orchard north of the Sara Bell Cotton Field was driven back, but this attack showed that the Hornet's Nest's left flank was vulnerable. This was important, since more and more Confederate troops were being drawn into the Hornet's Nest fighting. But the Confederate command had almost no overall picture of what was happening on the field. Albert Johnston, the Confederate commander of the Army of the Mississippi, led his battle from the front.

This was not necessarily the case with the Federals. At about 1430 Grant directed his chief of staff to establish a defensive line from Pittsburgh Landing to Chambers Field about a mile west. This has been called Grant's Last Line, and was to be formed by the remaining artillery that included siege guns, Sherman's and McClernand's survivors, Nelson's arriving brigades, and whatever else could be scraped together.

At about the same time Bragg attacked the Sunken Road again, and again was driven back. During this attack Johnston was fatally wounded, leaving the command to Pierre Beauregard.

2006 Schedule

- January 12, 2006: Stephen Servais—*"As if We Were Foreigners Suddenly Coming into a Strange Country; New Englanders in Tidewater Virginia, 1861-1865"*
- February 9: James McPherson—*"Abraham Lincoln as Commander-in-Chief"*
- March 9: Gail Stephens—*"Lew Wallace"*

- April 20: Horace Mewborn—*"The Battles of Manassas"*
- May 11: Mark Nell—*"How the Bible Helped Start the Civil War"*

Meetings are at the Wisconsin Club unless otherwise noted. *Speakers and topics are subject to change without notice.*

Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for: December 8th, 2005

Mail your reservations by December 2nd to:

Paul Eilbes, 1809 Washington Ave. Cedarburg, WI 53012-9730

ALSO, call in reservations to (262) 376-0568

Enclosed is \$_____ (meal price \$20.00 per person) for _____ reservations for the next 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: _____

In the Event of Inclement Weather...

Since we live in a part of the Union that has such wonderful weather, the President will decide if there is to be any change in a meeting due to weather. Listen to WTMJ or WISN radio for news of meeting cancellations if the weather turns on us.

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.

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A Gentle Reminder

The Wisconsin Club and the Board of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee would like to remind our members that jackets are required for the Club's dining room. Please contact club management if you have any questions.

General Orders Submissions and Editorial Policy

All submissions to the *GO* are used on a space-available, date-required basis. Electronic submissions are preferred over paper. The Editor/Publisher reserves the right to edit all submissions for length, propriety, content, and house style. Submissions with a direct Civil War interest, or those that are date-sensitive, will be published first.

All submissions must be received by the Editor/Publisher at jdbeatty@amcivwar.com no later than the 10th of the month before the next *GO* (for example, submissions for the January *GO* must be received by 10 December). All address changes, or problems receiving the *GO*, are handled through the Membership Chairman.