



GENERAL ORDERS

The Newsletter of the
Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.

Our 60th Year

and The Iron Brigade Association



APRIL 10, 2008

JENNIFER WEBER

Copperheads

Jennifer Weber's principal interests in the Civil War are the seams where political, social and military history come together. In her presentation to our Round Table, Weber will focus on the Copperheads, the Northern antiwar activists who came perilously close to defeating Lincoln and ending the Civil War in the South's favor.

In her look at the Copperheads, Weber will explore how these passionate defenders of civil liberties and states' rights deplored Lincoln's suspension of *habeas corpus*, his liberal interpretation of the Constitution, and his moves toward emancipation. Weber will also look at how Copperheads instilled fear in the Midwest—fear that their neighbors would destroy their livestock and homes and how Union soldiers, angry at Copperhead attacks on the war effort, moved firmly behind Lincoln. When interviewed as to what her study of the Copperheads revealed about President Lincoln, Weber stated:

He understood what this war was about and was able to articulate that to the country so eloquently. This is hardly a new observation, but it is striking to me how Lincoln never wavered from his goals of reuniting the country and, later, emancipation despite withering attacks and the very real possibility that these objectives would cost him his political career. I also found it interesting that Lincoln almost never alluded publicly to his critics or responded to their criticism. For the most part, their comments just rolled right off his back. He was an extraordinary leader.

Weber is an Assistant Professor at the University of Kansas. She is a native Californian who worked for several years in her home state as a journalist and political aide. In addition to her work at the university, she also serves on the advisory panel for the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission.

In addition to her book, *Copperheads: The Rise and Fall of Lincoln's Opponents in the North*, she is currently working on a children's book about the Battle of Gettysburg to be published by National Geographic; a collection of essays in honor of her graduate advisor, James M. McPherson, to be published by the University of Virginia Press; and a monograph comparing conscription and its consequences in the Union and the Confederacy.



There once was a Copperhead vile
Who attempted to damage a file,
So he tried it in truth
But soon broke every tooth
On that rusty and crusty Old File.

Illustration and limerick from an 1864 campaign pamphlet of the National Union Party

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APRIL MEETING AT A GLANCE

April 10, 2008
 "Copperheads"
 by Jennifer Weber
 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, April 7
 See page 5.

2008 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.

Two members of the Board are seeking reelection:

Michael Benton
A. William Finke

Three members are seeking election to the Board:

Patrick Lynch
Jean Schwonek
Charles Vogel

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

After many years of long and honorable service, William H. Upham, Jr., and Eugene L. Jamrozy are stepping down from their positions on the Board of Directors. The Board wishes to thank them for their participation and their many contributions during their terms of service. Bill and Gene will be missed by everyone on the Board.

Donations for Camp Randall Guns

The Awards and Donations Committee is asking members to consider making their Civil War-related donations to the Camp Randall Guns Fund. "The project is local, the effects are real, and we're grabbing a piece of history," John Beatty has said. "One of these guns was captured at Shiloh. Can't get much more authentic than that."

Sadly neglected over the years, the old artillery pieces are literally disintegrating in place. Think of the Camp Randall guns next time you want to give of your hard-earned money. John Beatty, Awards and Donations Committee chair, jdbeatty@amcivwar.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS • EVENTS • MEETINGS

April 4-5, 2008

Book sale to benefit patient libraries of the Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center. Times and locations at www.wssas.org/414-427-3776

April 8, 2008

Waukesha Round Table Meeting, 7 p.m.
Citizen's Bank of Mukwonago-Waukesha

April 12, 2008

Manitowoc Living History Encampment, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Washington Park, Skirmish at 2 p.m.

April 14, 2008

Manitowoc County Civil War Round Table Meeting, 7 p.m.
Manitowoc Historical Society Heritage Center
Speaker: Patrick Lynch on Ira Barnes Dutton, "Uncle Sam's Missionary"

April 15, 2008

Prairieville Irregulars Civil War Meeting, 7 p.m.
Student Center Building, Carroll College
Speaker: Darwin Adams

April 19, 2008

Lincoln Fellowship of Wisconsin Annual Meeting
Maggiano's Little Italy at Mayfair Mall
Speaker: Craig Symonds
For information contact: Pete Skelly 608-756-2590

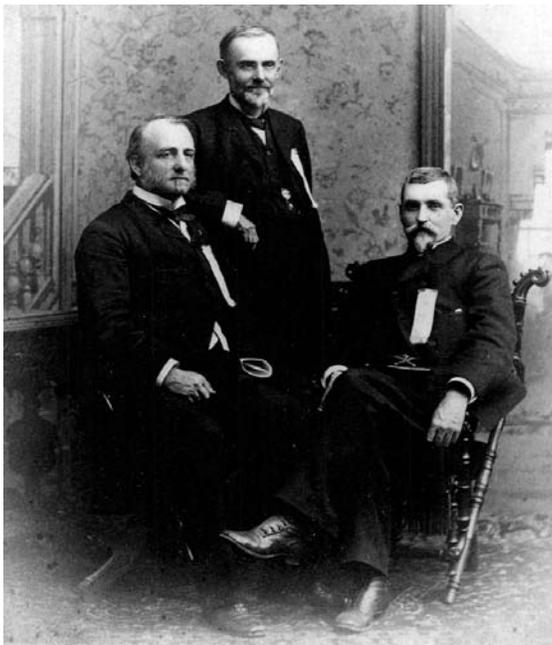
April 22, 2008

Civil War Dance, Ben Hunt Room, Hales Corners Library, 6:30 p.m.
Information: www.wssas.org/414-427-3776

Gettysburg Museum & Visitors Center

The new museum and visitor center at Gettysburg National Military Park will open to visitors at 8 a.m. on April 14, 2008. A September Grand Opening is planned when the newly conserved Cyclorama painting will be completed.

Source: *March 2008 Heritage News, National Park Service*



Feast Fit for a Civil War General

The public is invited to join the members of Major John Gibbon Camp #4 of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War on April 19, 2008, for the annual birthday dinner of this revered Iron Brigade commander.

The dinner will be held at Heaven City, Mukwonago, beginning with a social hour at 6:30 p.m. Dinner will be served at 7:00 p.m. Lance Herdegen will be the evening's featured speaker.

Heaven City Chef Jimmy Wade, a native of Virginia, takes pleasure in creating an authentic menu with a North-South twist. Although General Gibbon served with the Union Army, three of his brothers chose to fight for the Confederacy.

The evening is a fundraiser for Sons of Union Veteran Camp #4, a 501(c)(4) patriotic organization dedicated to Civil War education, preservation and citizenship. Cost of the dinner is \$25 per person plus tax and gratuity.

For information and reservations, contact Patrick Lynch at 414-427-3776 or Patrick_lynch13@hotmail.com. Directions to Heaven City can be found at: www.heavencity.com.

Photo: *Three heroes of the Iron Brigade, Generals Fairchild, Bragg and Gibbon, Milwaukee, 1881*

KENOSHA MUSEUM

Memorial Day Update

A special Memorial Day observance and preview of a traveling exhibit on the sunken Union transport ship *Maple Leaf* will be held at the Civil War Museum of the Upper Middle West on Monday, May 26, 2008. The event is free and open to the public but requires advance registration.

The *Maple Leaf* was sunk late in the Civil War in the St. Johns River near Jacksonville, Florida, by a Confederate torpedo. The exhibit features items used by the servicemen on the vessel, an authentic reproduction of the 1861-1865 era torpedo used, photographic panels, and an informational video. The exhibit will be open until 1 p.m.

A special Decoration Day memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. in the museum's "Lest We Forget" gallery honoring America's soldiers. For information or to make reservations call 262-653-4140 or go to www.thecivilwarmuseum.org

Due to construction delays and the recent fire at the museum, tours of the museum displays to members of Round Table groups will not be available on May 26.

The Grand Opening of the museum is scheduled for June 14-15, 2008. The museum is located at 54th Street and First Avenue north of the Kenosha Public Museum.



Several Round Table members were among the 2nd Wisconsin reenactors present at Dedication Day ceremonies at the Kenosha Museum, March 29.

Civil War Visits Oshkosh Museum

A national touring exhibition documenting the parallel lives of Abraham Lincoln and Russian Tsar Alexander II will open at the Oshkosh Public Museum on June 21, 2008. *The President and the Tsar: Emancipator and Liberator* explores the Civil War and the relationship between these two leaders.

The museum, as part of the exhibit, brings the story of the Civil War to Oshkosh, combining the use of photographs, artifacts, paintings and lithographs, first accounts of battles and diary entries from Oshkosh resident Nancy Derby. A hands-on section of the exhibit includes a Springfield percussion rifle musket that visitors will be able to hold and a percussion revolver. For further information visit: www.oshkoshmuseum.org/exhibits

In separate news, the Oshkosh Public Museum has acquired an extensive Civil War collection relating to Colonel John Hancock. The collection includes artifacts from the Civil War and the Grand Army of the Republic used by Hancock. Letters to Hancock's wife, Jennie, are also part of the acquisition. For information on the collections contact archivist Scott Cross at: scross@ci.oshkosh.wi.us

In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of long-time Round Table member and friend, Ed Adams. Ed passed away at the age of 85 on March 18, 2008.

Ed was born on January 7, 1923 in North Fond du Lac. He served in the U.S. Air Corps during World War II as a meteorologist in the China Burma India theatre. After the war he graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. On April 27, 1946 he married Marjorie Manthei.

Ed taught in the Port Washington school district until 1957, when he went to work for AC Delco for 10 years, working in research and development of the Apollo moon project. In 1968 he began a 17-year career as a business manager for the Port Washington-Saukville School District. It was in this capacity that Ed first met Round Table member and past president, Dale Brassler. Dale indicates that the two never talked about the Civil War until they met at a Round Table meeting and discovered their common interest. Ed joined the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee in 1985.

He was a graduate of the Civil War Institute at Carroll College and donated an American flag to the institute; the flag will have a new home at the new Kenosha Civil War Museum. Dale Brassler remembers him as the best expert on the Riots in Port Washington during the war. Ed always had something to contribute to a conversation, was always interested in learning and loved to tell a good joke.

In addition to his membership in our Round Table, Ed was also a member of the Manitowoc Civil War Round Table and the Prairieville Irregulars Civil War group.

*We shall meet but we shall miss him,
There will be one vacant chair.*



In 1950 Frank Klement spoke to us on "The Copperheads in the Middle West." Frank Klement would return in April of 1965 to talk about "Wisconsin in the Civil War."

In 1953 O.H. Felton's topic was "Harper's Ferry in the Civil War."

1961 brought us Thomas D. Clark to talk about "Kentucky, the Borderland in the Civil War."

In 1962 Richard D. Mudd visited our Round Table and spoke on "The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln and the Trial and Imprisonment of S.A. Mudd."

In 1979 William A. Frassinito spoke on Antietam.

1987 brought Michael B. Chesson to our Round Table to speak on the Richmond Bread Riot of April 2, 1863.

Research News

Does your interest in the Civil War go beyond reading books, periodicals, and watching films? Have you researched any documents or records in courthouses, historical libraries, or archives or wanted to but time, distance, or expenses limit you?

Do you own a computer or have access to the Internet?

If I say the word “footnote,” what comes to mind?

Footnote.com is a recently launched website whose goal is to scan millions of historical documents and make them available on-line. They are partnering with the Who’s Who of historical documents and on-line research — the U.S. National Archives and FamilySearch (e.g. Family History Library, Salt Lake City). The Allen County Public Library (another well known repository for genealogists) is also a partner. Some of the non-military databases available are historical newspapers including the *London Times* 1785-1820. (What were they saying about this newly formed government of the U.S.?)

By allowing Footnote to create images of their documents, the National Archives receives a free image of every document, which can then be made available at every Archives.

The launch of the website boasted 4.5 million pages of images. By mid-March they have now scanned approximately 29 million, and more are being added monthly.

A quick review of the available databases included these gems:

- Matthew B. Brady Collection of Civil War Photographs (5,688 images)
- Confederate Amnesty Papers
- Custer’s Court Martial
- Lincoln Assassination Papers (12,000 images)
- Pearl Harbor Muster Rolls
- WWI Military Cablegrams – AEF and War Department

You can search and view all images at no charge. However, to print or save an image does require a paid membership. The current rate is \$7.95/month or \$59.95/annual.

A little research tip: Get all your search terms, lookups etc. in order and ready to go. Sign up for a monthly membership and see how much you can accomplish in one month. If you think it’s worth an annual membership — sign up. If you can be patient and wait five years for the images to be free through the National Archives — mark your calendar for 2013!

DID YOU KNOW?

The State of Wisconsin Digital Collection includes *Wisconsin Goes to War: Our Civil War Experience*. The collection is comprised of first person narrative accounts of Wisconsin soldiers and citizens. The first phase of the collection consists of 630 pages dating from 1861 to 1866. It is anticipated that over 2600 pages of original documents will be in the collection at its completion.

The collection contains the letters and papers the executive office received from Cordelia Harvey in her capacity as state military agent for the Western Division of the Union Army. The site also

IN RELATED NEWS

In October 2007 FamilySearch and the U.S. National Archives announced a partnership agreement as a result of years of discussion between the two organizations; the goal is to scan and digitize records of the NARA and eventually make them available on-line.

Here’s a little background:

Say the words *Granite Mountain Record Vault* to genealogists and their eyes will flutter as if someone said *Gettysburg* to a Civil War buff. Beginning in approximately 1983 the Genealogy Society of Utah began collecting and microfilming historical and genealogical records through partnerships with churches, libraries, and governments throughout the world. As of 1991 they had amassed 1.7 MILLION rolls of microfilm. The originals are stored in “the Vault” which is literally built into a canyon outside of Salt Lake City. They are currently involved in a project to convert all those microfilms to digital media.

Back to the partnership: The plan is for FamilySearch to operate digital cameras five days a week at the Washington D.C. NARA, filming their documents. Their pilot project? Digitizing the Civil War Widow’s pension application files! The documents will eventually be posted on Footnote.com and the indexes available on the FamilySearch website. Their goal is to complete all 1,280,000 files. As the NARA recently raised their pension file ordering fee to \$75, I can only say “Oh Happy Day!”

ONE LAST BIT OF RESEARCH NEWS

The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) is a National Archives facility and is located in a suburb of St. Louis.

An October, 2007 press release announced the second phase of an overall plan to open their entire paper and microfiche OMPF collection. The entire collection is over 57 million individual files.

The bad news: They plan to make records available every year through 2067! Guess we’ll have to leave instructions for our grandchildren to continue the search!

The entire press release with links to NPRC and information on how to obtain records can be found at the NARA webpage:<http://www.archives.gov/press/press-releases/2008/nr08-14.html>.

Submitted by: Jean Schwonek

has a link to the Wisconsin Historical Society Archives for additional historical material in specific collections.

Take the time to click on the home page for The State of Wisconsin Collection. On the home page you will find writings about the state and materials relating to its history and ongoing development. I found some wonderful material on my community of Waterford as part of the collection. To start your adventure and view the collections please go to: <http://digicoll.library.wisc.edu/WI/subcollections/WIWarAbout.html> — Donna Agnelly

TEN MOST ENDANGERED BATTLEFIELDS

Civil War Preservation Trust 2008 Annual Report

Every year the Civil War Preservation Trust publishes their annual report *History Under Siege*. The report lists the top ten endangered battlefields along with fifteen additional sites at risk. In 2007 the CWPT saved more than 1,600 acres of hallowed ground; since its inception, CWPT has protected more than 25,000 acres at ninety-nine sites in eighteen states. And the fight continues.

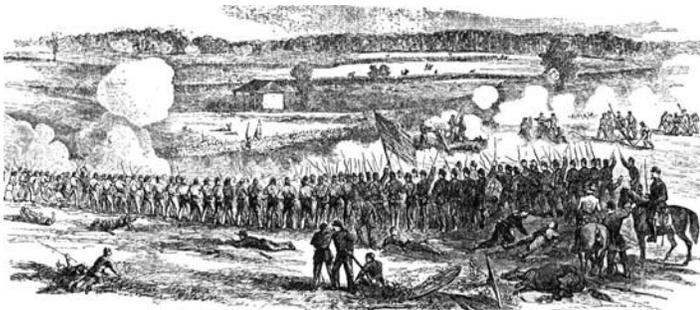
In his remarks at the National Press Club where the 2008 *History Under Siege Annual Report* was presented, O. James Lightizer, CWPT president, reminded the audience of the importance of preservation. He compared Pickett's Charge during the Battle of Gettysburg which resulted in heavy losses, to a similar charge during the Battle of Franklin where the charge was twice as long, the loss of life almost twice the number including six Confederate generals and yet, the charge is today, largely forgotten.

"What's the one variable that's different?" he asked. "Around the turn of the 20th century, we paved over Franklin. Franklin is substantially gone.... And once again, if you can't remember where you've been, it's tough to know where you're going. We've got to avoid future Franklins."

Here is the 2008 list of the top ten endangered battlefields:

- Antietam, Maryland
- Cedar Creek, Virginia
- Cold Harbor, Virginia
- Hunterstown, Pennsylvania
- Monocacy, Maryland
- Natural Bridge, Florida
- Perryville, Kentucky
- Prairie Grove, Arkansas
- Savannah, Georgia
- Spring Hill, Tennessee

For the complete report please visit: www.civilwar.org



Battle of Perryville, sketch by H. Mosler in *Harper's Weekly*, Nov. 1, 1862

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ON THIS DATE • APRIL 10 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

1861

Confederate Secretary of War telegraphed Confederate commander Beauregard indicating that if Beauregard was certain that an attempt would be made to resupply Fort Sumter that he should "*at once demand its evacuation, and if this is refused proceed, in such manner as you may determine, to reduce it.*"

1862

President Lincoln approved the joint resolution of Congress calling for the gradual emancipation of the slaves by the states.

At Shiloh the cleanup after the battle continued. Pvt. Barber, Co. D, 15th Illinois Volunteer Infantry wrote:

It was a painful task. Months passed before I recovered from the effects of it. Now we turned our attention to the rebel dead. We noticed that the faces of all of them had turned black. On examination, we found that their canteens contained whiskey and gunpowder which was, no doubt, the cause of it. It seems that this had been given to them just before going into battle to make them fight.

1863

In Richmond President Davis called for people to "*let fields be devoted exclusively to the production of corn, oats, beans, peas, potatoes, and other food for man and beast...and let all your efforts be directed to the prompt supply of these articles to the districts where our armies are operating.*"

1865

In response to the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia on April 9, President Lincoln was serenaded several times this day by happy and relieved crowds in Washington. The President promised the crowds that he would make a more formal speech the following day and asked the band of one group to play "Dixie" saying it was "*one of the best tunes I have ever heard.*"

Lee prepared General Order No. 9, which disbanded the Army of Northern Virginia.

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**ADVANCE NOTICE!
YOU ARE INVITED
TO ATTEND THE MAY 8 MEETING
IN YOUR MILITARY OR CIVILIAN
CIVIL WAR ATTIRE.**

Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for April 10, 2008

Mail your reservations by Monday, April 7 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 the April 10 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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General Orders design and layout by Patricia A. Lynch.

Yearly memberships available: Individual (\$35), Family (\$45), and Non-Resident (\$20).

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.

Frankly, My Dear...

Say it isn't so! On April 4, 2008 at the New London Theatre in London's famed West End, *Gone With the Wind: The Musical* is set to open. The musical is the brainchild of Margaret Martin, a novice playwright from Southern California. The musical is being directed by Sir Trevor Nunn of *Cats* and *Les Misérables* fame. The musical is initially booked until September 27, 2008.

Anyone packing their bags for a trip across the big pond?



CWRT of Milwaukee, Inc. • 2008 Meetings

April 10, 2008

May 8, 2008

Jennifer Weber — Copperheads Vernon Burton — TBA

Speaker Schedule Subject to change. In case of inclement weather, listen to WTMJ or WISN radio.