



# GENERAL ORDERS

The Newsletter of the  
**Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.**  
**Our 60th Year**  
and The Iron Brigade Association



MAY 8, 2008

## VERNON BURTON The Age of Lincoln



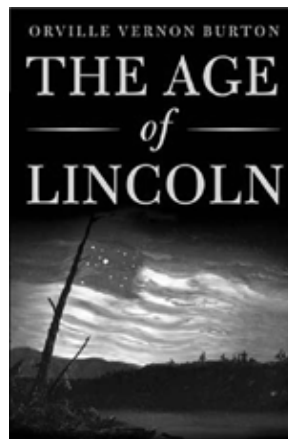
Vernon Burton is Professor of History, African American Studies and Sociology at the University of Illinois. He is the author of more than a hundred articles and the author or editor of fourteen books.

Burton's latest book, and the subject of his May presentation to our Round Table, is *The Age of Lincoln* in which he focuses on the five decades related to the presidency of Abraham Lincoln, beginning in the 1840s, chronicling the process of secession, the conduct of events in the course of the Civil War and acts of reconstruction.

Burton examines all topics relevant to the political, social and economic life during that time including slavery, religion and the rapid growth of cities. In his examination of Lincoln Burton shows how Lincoln's southernness empowered him to conduct a civil war that redefined freedom as a personal right protected by the rule of law. Burton profiles several leading figures of the time including Harriet Beecher Stowe, Henry David Thoreau, John C. Calhoun and Matthew Brady.

Burton was born in Royston, Georgia, reared in South Carolina, graduated from Furman University and received his Ph.D. in American History from Princeton University in 1976. Recognized for his teaching, Burton was selected nationwide as the 1999 U.G. Research and Doctoral University Professor of the Year presented by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and by the Council of Advancement and Support of Education. In 2004, he received the American Historical Association Eugene Asher Distinguished Teaching Prize. Within the University of Illinois he has won teaching awards at the department, school, college and campus levels.

Burton's research and teaching interests include the Civil War and the American South, especially race relations, family, community, politics and religion. In addition to his book, *The Age of Lincoln*, Burton has also written *In My Father's House Are Many Mansions: Family and Community in Edgefield, South Carolina* which was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize.



### GENERAL ORDERS NO. 08-05 May 2008

#### IN THIS ISSUE

CWRT News .....	2
Announcements .....	2
Farewell to Charlton Heston.....	3
More on Copperheads.....	3
Memorial Day.....	4
Preservation .....	4-5
On This Date .....	5
May Meeting Reservation .....	5
Civil War Book Survey .....	6

#### MAY MEETING AT A GLANCE

May 8, 2008

"The Age of Lincoln"

by Vernon Burton

Wisconsin Club

9th & Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee

(Jackets required for dining room)

5:30 p.m. – Staff Meeting

(Open to all members)

6:15 p.m. – Registration & Social Hour

6:45 p.m. – Dinner

7:30 p.m. – Program

Dinner – \$23 by reservation.

Deadline: Monday, May 5

See page 5.

Speaker and topic are subject to change.

In case of inclement weather, listen to

WTMJ or WISN radio.

*Members and guests are welcome  
to attend the May 8 meeting  
in 19th-century military or civilian attire.*

**www.civilwarwi.org**

## Membership Roster

The Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee Membership Roster will be updated this summer. Please review your information in the current roster and notify Paul Eilbes with any corrections that need to be made. Current rosters will be available at the May meeting.

## Speaker's Bureau

If you haven't already done so, please contact Peter Jacobsohn if you are interested in being included on the Speaker's Bureau list. The list is of Round Table members who would be available to speak on Civil War related topics to groups or organizations making such requests. Additionally, the list will help to identify members who would be able to make a presentation to our Round Table should a scheduled speaker have a last-minute cancellation. You can contact Peter by email at: [peter@jacobsohn.com](mailto:peter@jacobsohn.com) or by mail at:

Dr. Peter Jacobsohn  
3819 W. Le Grande Blvd.  
Mequon, WI 53092

## 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, at [jdbeatty@amcivwar.com](mailto:jdbeatty@amcivwar.com).



## Will You Be Wandering This Summer?

Are your wanderings taking you to a Civil War location this summer? If so, please consider submitting an article on your visit to the *GO* and sharing your travel experience with your fellow members.

Have you read a Civil War book you think everyone else should read? How about submitting a book review for publication in the *GO*. As we all know, we can't have enough books!

### May 12, 2008

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

### May 13, 2008

Civil War Dance, 6:30 p.m.  
Hales Corners Library

### May 20, 2008

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

### May 24, 2008

Headstone Rededication at Wood National Cemetery, 2:30 p.m.  
Union headstones have replaced the Confederate stones marking the graves of three Union soldiers for over 100 years: Lewis Jolliot, William Ryan and Jonathan Shefhey. These early graves are located within Calvary Cemetery but are maintained by the National Cemetery.

### May 25, 2008

West Side Soldiers Aid Society Service of Remembrance, Soldiers' Home Section, Forest Home Cemetery, 2405 W. Forest Home Ave., 1 p.m.; living history at the cemetery, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

### May 26, 2008

C.K. Pier Badger Camp #1 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Memorial Day Mass at Calvary Cemetery, 10:00 a.m., followed by patriotic program and taps

### May 26, 2008

Memorial Day at Wood National Cemetery, 10:00 a.m.

### May 26, 2008

Memorial Day Parade, Downtown Milwaukee, 2 p.m.

### May 26, 2008

Veterans Terrace Dedication, 11 a.m.  
Kenosha Civil War Museum

### May 31 - June 1, 2008

Reclaiming Our Heritage Multi-Era Encampment  
Milwaukee VA Medical Center

### June 14-15, 2008

A Salute to Freedom  
Grand Opening Kenosha Civil War Museum

## Tour with Ed Bearss

The Civil War Round Table of the District of Columbia is hosting a 2008 Civil War Weekend, "The Last Citadel" with Ed Bearss on June 28 & 29, 2008. Ed will lead a walk of the Battery 5 area, the strongest fortification on the original Confederate Dimmock Line. Additional stops during the first day include Fort Stedman, where a pitched battle was fought in March 1865 in Lee's final attempt to relieve the long siege; historic Old Blandford Church and cemetery; and The Crater, scene of the terrible mine explosion in July 1864. Day 2 of the tour features visits to Five Forks, the Confederate loss here broke Lee's last supply line and led to his retreat; Pamplin Historic Park where the Union broke through the Confederate defense line and City Point—Grant's headquarters and supply depot.

For complete information visit: <http://users.erols.com/kennrice/cwrtcdc.htm>. Or call, 202-306-4988.

## So long, Chuck

Oscar-winning actor, Charlton Heston, passed away on April 5, 2008 at the age of 84. Though he is not generally associated with Civil War films, he is known for a classic that covers a little known but more-or-less true story. Sam Peckinpah's *Major Dundee* starred Heston as Amos Dundee, a hard-biten Federal horse soldier leading a ragtag punitive expedition pursuing Apache raiders into French-occupied Mexico in 1864 and '65. Though fictional, there were several instances where "galvanized" former Confederates acted in concert with Union troops in the trans-Mississippi, most notably at Apache Wells in the Arizona Territory in 1862. There were several skirmishes with French troops in northern Mexico when official and unofficial bodies chased bandits and Indians across the frontier.



While *Dundee* did not garner the attention that his other films of the '60s did, and was eclipsed by many other westerns, it did make the reputation of the director, Sam Peckinpah, and provided the opportunity for us to see Heston as an insubordinate brawler and inspiring leader who was willing to do what was needed to fulfill what he saw as his instructions. He was also ruthless and uncompromising as a commander, and more than human with the only female lead in the film, Senta Berger. Heston's interaction with Richard Harris and James Coburn, two other major stars in the film, shows the range of Heston's immense talent.

Though he was against the war in Vietnam, he did not hesitate to visit with the troops and treat them with great respect for their service. His own service, by his account modest, was limited to the Army Air Force in the Aleutians in 1944-45.

So long, Chuck. We'll not see your like again.

*Submitted by John Beatty*

## Vernon Burton Invites On-Line Discussion, Scholarship

Vernon Burton, our May speaker, opens his website with the following invitation:

*Welcome to TheAgeofLincoln.com. For more than a decade I have encouraged the use of the Internet to foster scholarship, and I hope this site contributes to that end. I intend it to be both a resource to readers of The Age of Lincoln and a starting point for anyone interested in the ideas, arguments, individuals, and events that appear within its pages. Following The Age of Lincoln's publication, I will be updating and expanding the information and links you will encounter on this site. If you have any reactions to either the book or this site, I encourage you to contact me at vernonburton@ageoflincoln.com. Historical inquiry is an ongoing endeavor, and these notes will continue to expand over the first year after publication.*

For more information and discussion, visit:  
TheAgeofLincoln.com

## A Little More on the Copperhead Issue

Round Table member, Patricia Lynch, sent the following article published on November 5, 1867, in the *Milwaukee Sentinel* to Jennifer Weber, our April speaker.

***Soldiers Are Paupers***—*Base attempt of Democratic Inspectors to disenfranchise seventy-five maimed soldiers. Something for Boys in Blue to read.*

*Whatever may be their tenderness for the "rights" of deserters and draft sneaks, it is plain that they don't want deserving soldiers to vote. The same spirit that actuated the democrats of Ohio the other day, to exclaim to maimed soldiers who refused their ticket, "It's a pity you didn't lose your other leg," seems to actuate the Democratic Inspectors of the town of Wauwatosa. We are informed by Col. Theo Yates, commandant of the US Military Asylum near this city, that his adjutant last week took the wounded soldiers of the asylum, numbering between seventy and eighty, to the Wauwatosa polls to register their names, and that the Supervisors of that town refused to register on the grounds that they were paupers. The despicable Copperheadism of this act is only excelled by the ignorance manifested by the Dogberries who thought they had a "Constitutional" kink to avail themselves of, on the score of pauperism.*

*We can however, assure the Boys in Blue who read this, and whose blood boils with indignation at the insult heaped upon the heads of their maimed and disabled comrades, that the device of the democracy will not work. The boys will be on hand today and will insist on their rights of suffrage. And they will vote just as you, fellow "hireling" are going to vote—for Gen. Lucius Fairchild, of the Iron Brigade, Gen. Tom Allen, of the Old Fifth and the balance of the loyal, Union, anti-rebel Ticket.*

Jennifer Weber replied:

*Very interesting. These may have been former Copperheads who made the call, or this could be just Republican smear tactics (politics was not for the faint of heart even then). Either way, it illustrates the point that Republicans had a very long—and bitter—memory when it came to the Peace Dems.*



In 1948 the Round Table was visited by J.L. Ferree who spoke on Belle Boyd.

In 1957 Aaron Sherman spoke on Chancellorsville.

1961 brought us R. Gerald McMurtry who talked about "Ben Harding Helm: Abe Lincoln's Brother-in-Law."

In 1966 Charles Dufour visited our Round Table to speak on "Gen. E. P. Alexander, The Articulate Artillerist."

In 1968 Jack Filipiak's topic was Gen. Rufus King.

In 1979 Karen Kehoe visited and spoke about "Women in the Civil War."



## “A moment of silence... Uncover”

At our recent drill, and after a good workout of the evolutions of the battalion, the members of the 2nd Wisconsin Association took a moment of time in silence to remember the original men of the 2nd Wisconsin. We uncovered our heads, bowed, and took less than a minute to contemplate what they and the other Iron Brigade regiments' sacrifice meant to us and our country.

The sacrifice: Three years of service to the Union cause. Three months and more of drill to understand the School of the Soldier, School of the Company, Skirmish drill, Bayonet drill, School of the Battalion; Marching hundreds of miles in the sun and the rain; Illness and homesick; Army rations and supplies. What kept these men going?

In three years the Iron Brigade left their dead buried in three states and claimed the biggest engagements of the eastern theater as battle honors. First Bull Run, Brawner's Farm, Second Bull Run, South Mountain, Antietam, Chancellorsville, and Gettysburg and others. In three years they watched friends fall from their ranks. Those not killed outright were left where they lay with mortal wounds, dismembering wounds. Wounds that were survivable allowed the men to return to the ranks for another go-around with the enemy.

As Memorial Day is upon us; let's take time to remember all our servicemen and women from colonial times to the present that lie in cemeteries across this country and in countries abroad. Sacrifice is nothing without remembrance.

Rufus Dawes says it best when he wrote: “For what they died. I fight a little longer. Over their graves I get my inspiration to stand for all they won in establishing our government upon freedom, equality, justice, liberty and protection to the humblest.”

“Amen. Cover.”— *Pete Seielstad, The Fugelman, May 2008*

## Preserve and Protect

In a release dated April 9, 2008 it was announced that Jefferson County Commissioner Jim Surkamp testified before the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee to discuss legislation that calls for the National Park Service to conduct a study of the 1862 Battle of Shepherdstown. The bill, introduced by U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd, D-W.VA., would initiate a study to help determine the suitability and feasibility of making the Shepherdstown battlefield an official “National Civil War Battlefield.”

In his testimony before the Senate panel, Commissioner Surkamp emphasized the importance of conducting the study. He also noted the significance of this particular land to the history of the United States.

“General Robert E. Lee believed his campaign into Maryland in 1862 was his best chance to win the Civil War. But this very last battle of the Maryland campaign convinced Lee that his best chance to win the war was forever lost. He would not be able to justify the staggering losses at the Battle of Antietam – the bloodiest day in American history – and this loss to lead to Abraham Lincoln's announcement of the immortal Emancipation Proclamation,” said Commissioner Surkamp.

By many historians, the Army of Northern Virginia's September 1862 Maryland Campaign is regarded as the most pivotal, and perhaps the turning point of the Civil War. The campaign involved three battles: South Mountain on September 14; Antietam on September 17; and Shepherdstown on September 19-20.

The importance of the Battle of Shepherdstown is not just because it was the most important Civil War battle fought in what was to become the state of West Virginia. The consequences of the battle were important to the entire nation.

As a result of the Battle of Shepherdstown:

- Maryland remained a border state within the Union
- England and France did not recognize the Confederate government
- The South lost its best chance to win independence
- Abraham Lincoln, with the total withdrawal of the Army of Northern Virginia could claim a Union victory and announce the Emancipation Proclamation.

About 4 years ago, the Shepherdstown Battlefield Preservation Association (SBPA) was formed to save and protect about one-half of the battlefield's 640 acres. Conservation easements have been placed on 84 acres of the site that are owned by members of the SBPA. In 2006, a Transportation Enhancement Grant of \$100,000 was secured to help purchase battlefield land and the Civil War Preservation Trust agreed to provide the matching funds. In 2007, the County Commission of Jefferson County allocated \$100,000 to help purchase battlefield land.

For a complete report please visit:  
[www.battleofshepherdstown.org](http://www.battleofshepherdstown.org)

## Civil War Preservation Trust Website Updated

In a press release from April 23, 2008:

During the American Civil War both sides used the latest technology to further their cause. Ironclad warships, repeating rifles, observation balloons, submarines, and other innovative technologies played a major role in shaping the outcome of this great conflict.

The Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) recently unveiled an initial redesign to its website, including features designed to appeal to both those familiar with the organization's mission and those only just learning about the threat to our nation's hallowed ground. The improvements now being implemented will pave the way for a full overhaul and restructuring set to make its debut this fall.

"We are committed to using 21st-century technology to help us preserve historic 19th-century landscapes," said CWPT president James Lighthizer. "There is no better way than the Internet for us to communicate with the world the grave threat that our Civil War battlefields and historic sites are facing."

New and emerging technologies make history more exciting to study than ever before. For example, the Internet has allowed CWPT to take a major step forward with its popular battlefield maps—animated versions available online. These detailed diagrams allow visitors to watch the battle unfold while demonstrating the historic significance of properties protected by the Trust.

For complete details on the redesign, please visit CWPT's website: [www.civilwar.org](http://www.civilwar.org)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ON THIS DATE • MAY 8 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

1862

The Richmond *Examiner* agreed not to publish information on military movements. This agreement would last only so long as it took a paper to go to press. On both sides the leaking of information via the press was a serious problem. At one time, a New York paper published diagrams of all the fortifications of Washington, D.C.

1863

In the North as well as the South, aliens were exempt from the draft laws. On this day, Lincoln issued a proclamation that if an alien had applied for citizenship, he was eligible for the draft.

Jefferson Davis wrote leading citizens of Columbus, Mississippi:

*It would be needless to explain to you how far my ability falls short of my earnest desire, or to recount the causes which so often prevent me from affording the full protection to various portions of our common country which is called for by every consideration that can animate manly and patriotic breasts or excite a public officer to greater exertion.*

1864

Through the night men had marched in Virginia's Wilderness and when Warren's Union column neared Spotsylvania Court House in what they thought was a move around Lee's flank, they found that the flank—Anderson's corps—had beaten the Federals to the Court House. The various fights that day went by the names of Todd's Tavern, Corbin's Bridge, Alsop's Farm and Laurel Hill. Two of Lee's three corps had new commanders in the midst of the battle; Jubal Early had taken temporary command of A.P. Hill's corps as Hill was sick. Longstreet, wounded, was also missing.

Lincoln awaited news in Washington.

## CWRT Authors at VA Event

Several Milwaukee Civil War Round Table members and friends will be among those speaking and signing their books at Reclaiming Our Heritage on Saturday, May 31, and Sunday, June 1.

**Patricia Lynch, Editor**, *Out at the Soldiers' Home: A Memory Book by Elizabeth Corbett* Expanded edition with foreword by James Marten

**Darwin Adams**, *Escaping Quantrill's Trap: How an Oneida Soldier Survived the Baxter Springs Massacre*

**Lance Herdegen**, discussing and signing his Iron Brigade works.

**Robert J. Miller**, *Both Prayed to the Same God: Religion and Faith in the American Civil War*

**Thomas M. Arliskas**, *Cadet Grey and Butternut Brown: Notes on Confederate Uniforms*

Presentations and book signings will take place in the Wadsworth Library in the Milwaukee Soldiers Home Historic District. Reclaiming Our Heritage is a free-admission, family-friendly historical timeline event. Encampments and demonstrations cover American history, 1600 to the present day. For information, schedules and maps, visit [www.rohmilwaukee.org](http://www.rohmilwaukee.org), call 414-902-5599.

## Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for May 8, 2008

Mail your reservations by Monday, May 5 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 May 8 meeting of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee. (Please make checks payable to the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.)

Name of Member \_\_\_\_\_

*General Orders*, the official publication of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc., is produced September through May and upon request of the Board of Directors.

Send submissions to **Donna Agnelly, Editor**, 420 Racine St., Unit 110, Waterford, WI 53185 or email to **dagnelly@tds.net** with "Civil War Round Table" in the subject line of your message. All submissions must be received by the Editor no later than the 10th of the month prior to the next issue. The Editor reserves the right to select articles and to edit submissions for style and length.

All address changes or problems receiving your *General Orders* should be directed through Membership Chairman Paul Eilbes.

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

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.

## And the Survey Says...

Recently, a popular Civil War website conducted a survey of its readership asking the question: What is your favorite Civil War book, non-fiction or fiction? The top 50 books were published on their website.

So, Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee members, what is *your* all-time favorite Civil War book, non-fiction or fiction? What one book would you keep if you had to divest yourself (perish the thought) of your collection?



I'll have forms available at the May meeting for you to list that book, and I'll be available to accept them. For those of you not in attendance, email me at [dagnelly@tds.net](mailto:dagnelly@tds.net) or drop me at line at: Donna Agnelly, 420 Racine St #110, Waterford, WI 53185-4175.

Results of the survey will be published in the September *General Orders*.