



# 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. 06-10

October, 2006

The **October 12th, 2006**, meeting is to be held at **Wisconsin Club**, Milwaukee

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### Gordon Damman on A Museum, A Battlefield and A Hero

Our October speaker shares this with us:

“Strange as it may seem all these topics are related and very important in my life. The story began in the late 1970’s with a collection of Civil War medical items, which has grown to almost 3000 artifacts. Karen and I traveled to many Civil War shows throughout the country, exhibiting certain items and telling the true story of Civil War medicine.

“In 1988 an idea came to me. Why not form a museum to hold these artifacts and continue telling the story of medicine from 1861 to 1865? The next question to answer was about location. Should the museum be located in the Midwest close to home or near a Civil War site?

“At Antietam the medical services of both the Union and Confederate armies had their baptism by fire with 33,000 casualties in one day. I was unable to reach an agreement with the National Park Service over building a museum of Civil War Medicine there.

“After hearing about a museum that was look-

ing for a home, the city of Frederick, Maryland offered a site that couldn’t be refused. The museum began its existence in 1992 and in October of 2000 the doors were opened in the final phase.

“All Civil War buffs have a hero — Lee, Jackson, Grant, Sherman or Lincoln. Mine is Dr. Jonathan Letterman — the Father of American Battlefield Medicine. He served for 18 months (July 1862— January 1864) as Medical Director of the Army of the Potomac. He transformed the medical department into a workable, functioning entity that alleviated the suffering of the wounded soldier.

“I am looking forward to sharing my enthusiasm for a museum, a battlefield, and a hero when we meet.”

Dr Damman is a private practice dentist in Lena, IL, and a renowned authority on Civil War medicine. He will be bestowed the Iron Brigade Award for Civil War Scholarship at the October meeting in recognition of his voluminous accomplishments in the field.

### 2006-07 Schedule

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

- November — Bob O’Neil — TBA
- 10 December — Holiday ball.
- January 2007 — TBA

- February — Dan Paterson — *A Longstreet Pictorial History*
- March — Peter Cozzens — TBA
- April — Robert Krick, Jr — TBA
- May — Becky Cumins — *2<sup>nd</sup> Mississippi*

### *Schedule of Events*

- Staff Meeting (when required;  
open to all members) 5:00 PM
- Registration and Social Hour 6:15 PM
- Dinner 6:45 PM
- Program Begins 7:30 PM

## **Iron Brigade Awards for 2006-7 Season**

The Board announces the recipients of the Iron Brigade Awards for Civil War Scholarship are to be awarded this season to:

- Peter Cozzens (March)
- Robert Krick Sr. and Jr. (April)

The Iron Brigade Awards are made to scholars who have made considerable contributions to Civil War studies. Past recipients have included Ed Berris and James McPherson. This year will see the first posthumous award, which will be presented to the son of Robert Krick Sr.

Any member wanting to nominate a scholar for the Iron Brigade award should contact the Awards and Donations Committee.

### ***Last in Their Class: Custer, Pickett and the Goats of West Point***

In this excellent book, author James S. Robbins follows the careers of the West Point "Goats," those cadets who graduated last in their Class. He also looks at many of the "Immortals," those who were candidates for Goat, and graduated near the bottom of their Class.

As the title reveals, a large portion of the book is devoted to George Custer and George Pickett, whom he believes to be the Goats who achieved the most fame after graduation. His recounting of Custer's life is outstanding, up to and including a detailed analysis of the Battle of the Little Big Horn. Attention to Pickett is also very good, but not as detailed. This may be due to a lack of primary sources, which the author uses liberally, or to the fact that Pickett achieved little after the War Between the States.

Many other Goats achieved limited fame up until 1978, when the Academy stopped using class rankings at graduation. Except for honor students, the graduating classes are now listed alphabetically. Nonetheless, the cadets know who the "Goat" is, and he or she is roundly cheered when called at the graduation ceremony.

Robbins summarizes Custer somewhat differently than other modern authors; he credits the "Boy General" as having been very intelligent, bold to rash in battle, inspiring, brave, but perpetually seeking glory. Pickett is described as an excellent soldier who was emotionally or mentally broken at the devastation of his division at Gettysburg. Robbins denies that Pickett and Lee had a falling out, and points out that Pickett remained a division general to the end.

But this book is not just about Pickett and Custer. Extensive coverage is given to others, many of whom attained note during the American Civil War. Some of these include: Henry Heth, James McNeil Whistler, William Crittenden, Edgar Allen Poe, James McIntosh, and many others. I highly recommend this book for anyone who pursues an understanding of the many personalities made prominent in that War.

—David Coverdale

### **Officers of the Board of Directors, Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc., as of August 2006**

| <b>Name</b>           | <b>Office/Title</b>                     | <b>Contact</b>   | <b>Term Expires</b> |
|-----------------------|---|--|---------------------|
| Gene Jamroz           | President                               | (414) 327-2811   | 2008                |
| Ellen Kelling Vukovic | 1st Vice President                      | (262) 334-6265   | 2009                |
| Michael Benton        | 2nd Vice President                      | (414) 962-3767   | 2008                |
| Paul Eilbes           | Treasurer/Membership Committee Chair    | (262) 376-0568;<br><a href="mailto:paul.eilbes@ipaper.com">paul.eilbes@ipaper.com</a>        | 2007                |
| William Finke         | Secretary                               | (414) 221-2764<br><a href="mailto:bill.finke@we-energies.com">bill.finke@we-energies.com</a> | 2008                |
| John D. Beatty        | Editor/Publisher, <i>General Orders</i> | <a href="mailto:jdbeatty@amcivwar.com">jdbeatty@amcivwar.com</a>                             | 2007                |
| Jim Johnson           | Webmaster                               | <a href="mailto:secondwi@earthlink.net">secondwi@earthlink.net</a>                           | 2009                |

## CHANGE IN MEAL CHARGE

**Effective November 9, 2006, the cost of Round Table dinners at the Wisconsin Club will increase to \$23.00.**

The Wisconsin Club makes every effort to hold down costs and minimize the increases it must pass along to its members and guests. The meal charge of \$20.00 has held steady since November of 2000, attesting to the success of their efforts. But rising costs have forced the club to raise the amount it charges for meals, and the Round Table must pass these costs onto its members.

Additionally, we are asking our members for assistance in holding down future meal costs. The Round Table is charged for meals based upon the count given to the Wisconsin Club on the Monday prior to the meeting. This count is derived from phone and prepaid reservations received from our members. When mem-

bers who have reserved a dinner and then do not pay for it, the Round Table must pick up the cost. These costs are reflected in the overall dinner price since dues and contributions to the Round Table must go to support our mission of education, restoration, et al.

If you have made a dinner reservation but are later unable to attend, please contact the Treasurer to cancel your reservation. To avoid incurring unwarranted costs, cancellations must be received 4 days prior to the Round Table meeting.

Please feel free to contact me, or any Board Member, if you have further questions related to meal charges or the reservation policy.

—Paul Eilbes, Treasurer

## This Month in The Civil War

*David Coverdale*

10/8/1861: Brigadier General William T. Sherman is named to head the Department of the Cumberland.

10/12/1861: The gunboat St. Louis, the first ironclad of the Union, is launched at Carondolet, MO.

10/29/1861: The largest US combined land-sea expedition departs to Port Royal.

10/4/1862: The Rebels retreat from Corinth, Mississippi and Union forces move in.

10/4/1863: The US orders enlistment of Negro troops in Maryland, Missouri and Tennessee.

10/15/1863: Rebel submarine *Hunley* sinks on a trial run, drowning 7 men, including Hunley himself.

10/13/64: Maryland adopts a new state constitution abolishing slavery.

10/19/1864: Rebels raid St. Albans, VT and robs banks of over \$200,000.

10/26/1864: Rebel guerrilla "Bloody Bill" Anderson killed near Richmond, MO.

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## Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for: October 12th, 2006

*Mail your reservations by October 6th 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](mailto: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.