

GENERAL ORDERS



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



General Orders No. 04-09

September, 2004

The **September 9, 2004** meeting is to be held at **MEYER'S RESTAURANT**, Greenfield

Speaker: Brig. Gen. Parker Hills (U.S. Army, Retired) on the Vicksburg Campaign

September and October Meetings at Meyer's Restaurant, Greenfield

Due to a scheduling conflict the Wisconsin Club is not available to us for our meetings in September or October. Meyer's Restaurant is located at the Spring Mall Shopping Center, 4200 S. 76th St., Greenfield, phone (414) 321-4400, a mile north of I-894 on the 76th Street exit. Ample parking is available on the Forest Home or Cold Spring sides of the shopping center. The restaurant faces Forest Home Avenue and Cold Spring. The dinner will include pressure-fried chicken and roast pork loin (in September), or beef sirloin tips with egg noodles (in October), a dessert and beverage for \$15.00 per person. Meals are served family-style.

The Forgotten Vicksburg: The Louisiana Campaign

Some of the most vicious fighting of the Vicksburg Campaign was fought in the 90 days from the time General Grant personally assumed command at Young's Point, Louisiana, on 30 January 1863, until the first men of his army boarded Admiral Porter's boats on 29 April and steamed from Hard Times, Louisiana, across the Mississippi River to Bruinsburg, Mississippi. This fighting was not between armed forces, though some combat did occur. The combatants were Grant

and his army versus weather, water, disease, fatigue, politics, and the press.

Grant recalled that, *"This long, dreary and, for heavy and continuous rains and high water, unprecedented winter was one of great hardship to all engaged about Vicksburg."* Sherman later wrote, *"I well remember when the high water of the Mississippi drove us to the levees which were also the only burial places, when the living and the dead lay with but a foot of damp earth between, when Grant and his army demonstrated the largest measure of patience and courage and perseverance."* A Northern newspaper editor reported that, *"There never was a more thoroughly disgusted, disheartened, and demoralized army than this is, and all because it is under such men as Grant and Sherman."*

To understand the leadership required in surviving the trials of the winter months of 1863 in the lowlands of Louisiana is to understand Grant's statement after his army had crossed the Mississippi River and

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Schedule of Events

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

Times subject to local conditions

Meet the New Members

DALE. A BESPALIC, Grafton, Wisconsin, Interest, General

ARTHUR B. NATHAN, Racine, Wisconsin, Interest, General



Russel F. Weigly

Dr. Russel Weigly died suddenly 3 March 2004. A distinguished military historian and author of *The American Way of War: A History of United States Military Strategy and Policy*, *Quartermaster General of the Union Army*, *A Biography of Montgomery Meigs*, and *A Great Civil War: A Military and Political History, 1861-1865*.

John F. Chelius

Member from 2002-2003, passed away 19 June 2004 at the age of 68. Survived by his wife Gail and other family members.

Mr Chelius was a sales manager for Ingersoll-Rand and an avid Lake Michigan sailor.

Symposia This Fall

- 30th Annual Congress of Civil War Round Tables in Vicksburg and Jackson, MS. 7-10 October 2004. "Grant Vs. the Disparate Trio: Davis, Pemberton and Johnston." No contact information available at this time.
- Seminary Ridge symposium 5-6 November 2004 at Gettysburg. "Lessons Under Fire: What We Learn From War." Register online at www.seminaryridge.org, email info@seminaryridge.org, or call (717) 338-3030.

Board of Directors, Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc., as of May, 2004

Name	Office/Title	Contact	Term Expires
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John D. Beatty	Editor/Publisher, <i>General Orders</i>	jdbeatty@amcivwar.com	2007
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reached the high ground. *When this was accomplished I felt a degree of relief scarcely ever equaled since.*"

September's speaker, Parker Hills, holds a Bachelor's Degree in Commercial Art from the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, MS; a Master's Degree in Educational Psychology from Sul Ross State University in Alpine, TX; and is a graduate of the United States Army War College in Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania. He is the author of numerous articles on American history and the American Civil War, to include A Study in Warfighting: Nathan Bedford Forrest and the Battle of Brice's Crossroads.

Shiloh: Powell's Patrol

In the predawn hours of 6 April 1862, a few concerned Federal officers, on their own authority, sent combat patrols to investigate reports of Confederate troops near the Federal army's encampments at Pittsburg Landing. These small patrols provided just enough warning and delay to upset the Confederate plans for surprise.

It was still light on 5 April when James E. Powell of the 25th Missouri saw about a dozen "butternuts" looking through the underbrush at the Saturday review of Benjamin Prentiss's division at Spain Field. Powell had been an NCO in the Mexican War and had been in

the Regular Army since. If there were any veterans in Prentiss's division, Powell was one of them.

He reported his sighting to W.H. Graves, the Officer of the Day. Graves had been at Bull Run, and went with Powell to see the division commander. Though generally unimpressed, the general nonetheless sent Powell out at about 4 that afternoon, with two of his 25th Missouri companies, along with David Moore and three companies of the 21st Missouri to perform a general reconnaissance and to reinforce the Federal pickets to the south.

Powell, Moore and their patrols ventured out into the heavy woods. Moore returned somewhat after dark, Powell shortly thereafter. It is likely Moore got lost in the heavy brush, timber and deep ravines in the area, and an exact account of Powell's early patrol does not survive. Moore's report later stated that he went out about three miles, but this seems unlikely. One account had the patrol getting as far as the Bell Cotton Field, where the slaves working there reported a large Confederate cavalry patrol just hours before. Whichever the case, they likely got lost and Moore later fudged his report, for a three mile penetration would certainly have encountered Johnston's forming army.

At about 7 that night Moore reported no enemy activity. Prentiss went to bed with this understanding. Powell, though almost certainly in disagreement, apparently did not share his thoughts.

2004-2005 Schedule

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

- Oct. 14 (MEYER'S RESTAURANT): Dr. Robert Zaworski *An Underwater Look at the Monitor.*
- Nov. 11: Dorothy Kelly *The War in East Tennessee*
- Dec. 9: Dr. David Zarefsky, *Lincoln, Douglas and Slavery: in the Crucible of Public Debate.*
- Jan. 13: OPEN
- Feb. 10: Rev. Bob Miller *Religion during the Civil War.*
- March 10: Bruce Allardice *Topic to be announced*
- April 7: Terry Winschel *Steven D Lee and the Making of an American Shrine.*
- May 12: OPEN
- June 9: Nat Hughes *Topic to be announced.*

Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for: September 9th, 2004

Mail your reservations by September 3rd to:

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

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

Enclosed is \$ _____ (meal price **\$15** 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 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.