



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. 04-11 November, 2004

The **November 11, 2004** meeting is to be held at **WISCONSIN CLUB**, Milwaukee
Speaker: Dorothy Kelly: *The War in East Tennessee*

***"A WANT OF CONFIDENCE":
THE FAILURE OF LONGSTREET'S EAST TENNESSEE CAMPAIGN***

The failure of the East Tennessee Campaign and the Confederate repulse at the Battle of Fort Sanders will be the topic of this month's program.

In dismissing Maj. Gen. Lafayette McLaws from the First Corps in December, 1863, Lt. Gen. James Longstreet charged McLaws with "a want of confidence" throughout the East Tennessee Campaign. In studying the campaign, however, it becomes obvious that the "want of confidence" was Longstreet's. Delays, procrastinations, and indecision, coupled with Longstreet's inability to resolve dissension among his subordinates, doomed the campaign to failure.

In contrast to Longstreet's lackluster performance, Union Maj. Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside conducted a skillful delaying action drawing Longstreet toward Knoxville and out of supporting distance of Gen. Braxton Bragg's army at Chattanooga. The resulting siege of Knoxville and Battle of Fort Sanders saw the opponents of Marye's Heights on opposite sides of the wall. Burnside dug in with the determination of a bull dog while Longstreet vacillated, planning and then postponing attacks. These delays proved fatal to the Battle of Fort

Sanders and to Bragg's army under attack at Chattanooga.

Dorothy Kelly is a native of Knoxville, TN. Her ancestors fought with both Confederate and Union armies. She is a board member of the Knoxville Civil War Roundtable, and has served two terms as president, six years as newsletter editor. She is currently Director of Programming and Director of Preservation.

Kelley has presented talks on East Tennessee and the Civil War to round tables in Tennessee, Virginia, North Carolina and Missouri, to the East Tennessee Historical Society, numerous county historical societies, seminars, service organizations, etc. She has conducted numerous private and public tours of Knoxville and East Tennessee Civil War sites.

She has authored several articles on East Tennessee Civil War history, the most recent on Sanders' 1863 East Tennessee Raid (December 2002 issue) and a biography of Gen. William Price Sanders (February, 2004 issue) in *North & South Magazine*. She has several articles on East Tennessee's Civil War history are on the Knoxville Civil War Roundtable's web site at Korner.net.org/kcwrt. She is a founding Board member and past president of the Tennessee Civil War Preservation Association.

<i>Schedule of Events</i>	
• 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
<i>Times subject to local conditions</i>	

Symposium This Fall

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.

Fall Classes at the Institute for Civil War Studies

Tuesday, Nov. 2: The Confederate Raiders - The War Against Northern Shipping. From 1861 to 1865, in a time-honored tradition that was legally somewhere between legitimate economic warfare and piracy (depending on point of view), the Confederate raiders not only stalked the Seven Seas, but also the U.S. coastline from Maryland to Maine. Typified by ships such as *Alabama*, *Florida*, and *Shenandoah*, the Rebel raiders were almost everywhere, and the Northern effort to hunt them down, stop them, or deny them targets were just as dogged as the gray-clad corsairs themselves. Instructor John Beatty is an avid military historian and researcher working on a master's degree in Civil War studies.

Tuesday, Nov. 30: The Army of Northern Virginia -- Heralded in song and legend, the soldiers in this capably led Southern army nearly achieved independence for the South. Unlike their Western counterparts in the Army of Tennessee, these rebel foot soldiers followed victory with victory and spread fear and war far into the North. Were they better fighters than the Yankees or were other factors afoot? We'll study the campaigns and commanders of this remarkable band of warriors. Instructor Tom Finley is a former National Park Service ranger at Fredericksburg and has given several presentations on various topics.

Classes meet from 7 to 9 p.m., carry one CW Unit, for a cost of \$60 each student. For information and to enroll see <http://marian.cc.edu/civilwar> or call 262-524-7198, Institute for Civil War Studies at Carroll College, 100 N. East Ave. Waukesha, Wisconsin, 53186. Carroll is Wisconsin's oldest college, chartered in 1846.

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

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Shiloh — Powell's Patrol II

At about 8:30 on the evening of 5 April, Gilbert Johnson, who had taken a company of the 12th Michigan out to reinforce the picket lines, returned to camp with reports of bugles and drums. He and Graves went again to Prentiss, but Prentiss only told Johnson to withdraw his company, knowing he had orders not to provoke a fight. They were back in camp by 10.

By this time several of Prentiss' officers were convinced that there was a large Confederate force in the immediate vicinity, and that the division, if not the whole army, should be alerted. They went to see their brigade commander, Everett Peabody.

If anyone in Prentiss' division could have saved Grant's army in the next few hours, it was Peabody, a former railway builder, veteran of the siege at Lexington, MO, and an impressive bull of a man. Peabody was simultaneously convinced of his imminent death and of an immanent attack on the Federal camps around Pittsburg Landing.

Earlier in the evening, he had had a disagreement with Prentiss. Prentiss, like Sherman and Grant, were convinced that the Confederates were miles away, cowering from the oncoming Federal forces. After days of patrol contacts with grayclad units large and small, Peabody wanted to position a battery to protect his exposed brigade. Prentiss said no.

At about 3 on the morning of 6 April Peabody sent Powell and his three companies out on a reconnaissance. His task was to force any Confederate forces they found to deploy, and to hold them in place until the rest of the division could come to his aid.

With Powell were two companies of the 12th Michigan, including Johnson's company. As they disappeared south down the Seay Field Road with dawn three hours away, Peabody bade them goodbye, convinced he would be killed that day.

Naming the Battle of Shiloh

Both at the beginning and the end of the battle, Federal forces under Grant occupied both the Pittsburg Landing and the Baptist meeting house that gave the battle its current name. During the war the Federals always referred to it as "Pittsburg Landing," and Grant in his *Memoirs* consistently called it that. The Confederates, when they did speak of it, usually called it "Shiloh:" for they seized the meeting house on the first day, and Beauregard set up his headquarters there, near Sherman's camps.

Since the war it has mostly been known as Shiloh, which means "place of peace."

2004-2005 Schedule

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

- Dec. 9: Dr. David Zarefsky: *Lincoln, Douglas and Slavery: in the Crucible of Public Debate.*
- Jan. 13: Nat Hughes: *Topic to be announced.*
- Feb. 10: Rev. Bob Miller: *Religion during the Civil War.*
- Mar 10: Dan Nettesheim: *Topic to be announced*
- Apr 7: Terry Winschel *Steven D. Lee and the Making of an American Shrine.*
- May 12: OPEN

Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for: November 11th, 2004

Mail your reservations by November 5th to:

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

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

Enclosed is \$_____ (meal price \$20 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.