

# GENERAL ORDERS



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



NOVEMBER 7, 2013

### LAWRENCE LEE HEWITT

#### Civil War Myths and Mythmakers

*The Civil War readily lends itself to mythic interpretation. It is a story of great armies and desperate battles, of high stakes and larger-than-life personalities; and it exhibits in bold relief the grandeur of passionate convictions and heroic exertions. — Matthew Berke (2007)*

*Ask all our millions, north and south, whether they would vote now (were such a thing possible) to have our war for the Union expunged from history, and the record of a peaceful transition to the present time substituted for that of its marches and battles, and probably a handful of eccentrics would say yes. Those ancestors, those efforts, those memories and legends, are the most ideal part of what we now own together, a sacred spiritual possession worth more than all the blood poured out. — William Jones (1910)*

Our speaker at our November Round Table meeting will be Lawrence Lee Hewitt. Larry will be exploring Civil War myths and will specifically be looking at several Confederate generals, but Jefferson Davis, Joshua Chamberlain, and one private will also have prominent roles in Larry's presentation. Most of the specifics will deal with the Confederate high command, from the Army of Northern Virginia to the Trans-Mississippi Department. Though the campaigns of Gettysburg, Appomattox, and the Seven Days' Battles figure prominently, the focus will be more on what happened after the fighting had ended at each of them. In addition to Chamberlain, generals given special attention are Robert E. Lee, J.E.B. Stuart, John Brown Gordon, John Bankhead Magruder, Theophilus H. Holmes, Benjamin Huger, and especially Braxton Bragg and Nathan Bedford Forrest.

Larry is this year's recipient of the Nevins-Freeman Award given annually by the Civil War Round Table of Chicago for distinguished scholarship in the Civil War field, and for the recipient's contribution to the Round Table movement.

Lawrence "Larry" Lee Hewitt is a native of Louisville, Kentucky. He received his B.A. (1974) from the University of Kentucky and his M.A. (1977) and Ph.D. (1984) from Louisiana State University. He was the manager of the Port Hudson (1978-1982) and Camp Moore (1982-1986) Historic Sites and taught at Southeastern Louisiana University from 1984 – 1996. He was a tenured full professor when he resigned to marry a native of Chicago, where he currently resides. Larry is the 1991 recipient of SLU's President's Award for Excellence in Research, the 1991 Charles L. Dufour Award, the 2011 Dr. Arthur S. Bergeron, Jr. Award, and the 2013 Nevins-Freeman Award. He is a past president of the Baton Rouge Civil War Round Table and former managing editor of *North & South* magazine. His publications include *Port Hudson, Confederate Bastion on the Mississippi* (1987), *The Confederate High Command...* (1990), *Leadership During the Civil War...* (1992), *Louisianians in the Civil War* (2002), *Kentuckians in Gray: Confederate Generals and Field Officers of the Bluegrass State* (2008), three volumes of *Confederate Generals in the Western Theater* (2010, 2010, 2011), *Lee and His Generals: Essay in Honor of T. Harry Williams* (2012), and *Confederate Generals in the Trans-Mississippi, Volume One* (2013).



Left: You may have admired Stephen Lang in *Gettysburg* or *Gods and Generals*. Here's an opportunity to see him on the stage in Milwaukee, November 11, 2013, 7:30 p.m., at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets: (414) 273-7121 or [www.marcuscenter.org/](http://www.marcuscenter.org/)

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##### NOVEMBER MEETING AT A GLANCE

Lawrence Lee Hewitt  
"Civil War Myths and Mythmakers"  
November 7, 2013

The 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 – **\$25 by reservation.**  
Deadline: Monday, November 4, 2013  
See page 9.

Speaker and topic are subject to change.  
In case of inclement weather, listen to  
WTMJ or WISN radio.

[www.civilwarwi.org](http://www.civilwarwi.org)

## CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE NEWS

### WHEN YOU CANCEL YOUR RESERVATION

Please be aware that cancellations within 48 hours of the dinner meeting are subject to payment in full for the reservation amount. The Round Table is charged for these reservations whether the dinners are used or not.

### YOUR ASSISTANCE IS APPRECIATED

Please remember that our dinner counts are due at least forty-eight hours before the dinner meeting. We are always happy to see you and welcome you to the meeting and *will make every attempt to accommodate everyone who comes*, but we cannot always guarantee a dinner that evening if you have not called, emailed or sent in your reservation. If you do find yourself suddenly free the evening of our presentation, you are always welcome to come and hear the speaker after dinner, at no charge. Thank you for your understanding.

### CWRT ANNUAL FUND

The following members have shown their generous commitment by making an investment in the CWRT Annual Fund. This list reflects donations received from July 1 through October 13, 2013.

#### **Patron (\$200 - \$299)**

Crain Bliwas, Grant Johnson, Stephen Leopold

#### **Associate (\$100 - \$199)**

Paul Eilbes, David Gapinski, Dr. Raymond Pahle, Christine Plichta, Laura Rinaldi, Paul Sotirini, Gil Vraney

#### **Contributor (Up to \$99)**

George Affeldt, Robert Christie, Dean Collins, John & Linda Connelly, Dr. G. E. Dammann, Bob Dude, A. William Finke, Richard Gross, Dr. Erwin Huston, Gene & Jane Jamroz, Christopher Johnson, David Jordan, Dr. Bob Karczewski, Ardis Kelling, Dr. Rodney Malinowski, Bob Parrish, Ann & James Reeve II, Chet Rohn, David & Helga Sartori, Bernard VanDinter

### MILWAUKEE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE QUARTERMASTER'S REGALIA

What better way to show off your pride in our organization! All items are made of first-rate, quality materials, modestly embroidered with the Round Table/Iron Brigade logo, along with your name or initials.

ITEM	COST
Hooded Sweatshirt in Northern Blue.....	\$35.00
Baseball Cap .....	\$10.00
Blue Brief Case.....	\$25.00
Blue Light-Weight Sweatshirt.....	\$30.00
Blue Izod Polo Shirt.....	\$40.00
Blue Dress Shirt.....	\$40.00
Blue Fleece-Lined Jacket.....	\$60.00
Iron Brigade Pin.....	\$5.00
CWRT Pin.....	\$5.00
Bugle Pin.....	\$5.00
Iron Brigade Medal.....	\$25.00
Red River Medal.....	\$25.00
CWRT 60 Year Medal.....	\$10.00

Contact Roman Blenski, Quartermaster, 4601 W. Holt Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53219, (414) 327-2847, dbcpmilw@execpc.com or see him in person at the Monthly Meeting at Book Raffle.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS • EVENTS • MEETINGS

#### **November 11, 2013**

Manitowoc Civil War Round Table, 7 p.m.

Manitowoc Historical Society Heritage Center

Speaker: Dave Ramseur

#### **November 12, 2013**

Waukesha Civil War Round Table, 7 p.m.

Citizens Bank of Mukwonago, Waukesha Branch

Mike and Antina Pennock, "Sharp Shooters of the Civil War"

#### **November 14, 2013**

Wisconsin Veterans Museum, 7 p.m.

Dr. Richard H. Zeitlin Education Center

Dr. Alison Efford, "Wisconsin Germans, Abolitionism, and the Civil War"

#### **November 19, 2013**

Prairieville Irregulars Civil War Round Table, 7 p.m.

2nd Floor Boardroom, Campus Center Building, Carroll University

Jim Heinz, "And His Gun Spoke Out For Him: Alonzo Cushing at Pickett's Charge"

## CIVIL WAR NEWS OF NOTE

### The Gettysburg Magazine

*The Gettysburg Magazine* has been sold to the University of Nebraska Press. Work is underway to get Issue 48 on press and everything caught up-to-date. Current subscribers will be receiving the issues they are due.

### Arlington National Cemetery

Arlington National Cemetery began enforcing a policy that forbids the placing of mementos on graves, notably in Section 60, which contains the graves of over 800 servicemen and women killed in Iraq and Afghanistan. The controversial removal of personal items has outraged many families, as reported by Reuters.

The newer graves in Section 60 carry fresh reminders of those whose lives were cut short and of the families and loved ones who grieve for them. Section 60 bore witness to graveside moments of mothers and fathers, wives, sisters, brothers, girlfriends and children sitting, kneeling and often sleeping beside a grave as they touched, held and kissed the headstones of those they loved and lost.

Recently, Arlington National Cemetery began enforcing the policy that forbids the placing of mementos at the gravesides. These headstones have been stripped of these mementos; some have been saved by the cemetery, others have been discarded.

There has been backlash from family members, but for the time being, at least, the cemetery will continue to adhere to their policy in an effort to maintain the dignity of the hallowed grounds.



## KENOSHA CIVIL WAR MUSEUM

**November 8, 2013, Noon**

Camp Letterman

Dr. Gordon Dammann discusses the role of Camp Letterman, the hospital established after the Battle of Gettysburg to consolidate the 21,000 wounded of both armies who lay scattered in over 160 locations. Named for the Medical Director of the Army of the Potomac, Jonathan Letterman, the camp housed over 4,000 patients at its peak and became a model for military hospitals.

**November 17, 2013, 1:30–3:30 p.m.**

Finding Your Civil War Ancestors

Learn the basics of genealogical research using U.S. records and the Internet. See how military records can assist in tracking the wife or daughter of a veteran. \$20/\$15 Friends of the Museum

**November 23, 2013, 1–3 p.m.**

What Is the True History of the Gettysburg Address?

To this day, there are still mysteries and controversies surrounding Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. Did Lincoln write the speech on an envelope while traveling to Gettysburg from the White House, or did he begin writing it weeks prior to its delivery? Steve Rogstad's class examines what really took place on the speaker's stand that day and identifies the true history behind Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. \$20/\$15 Friends of the Museum

**December 7, 2013, 1–2:30 p.m.**

Civil War Arms, Technology and Uniforms

Reenactor Steve Sherry presents a workshop on Civil War small arms and uniforms. Sherry brings examples of cavalry and infantry weapons and discusses the accuracy, range and ammunition of the different firearms available to the Union and Confederate soldiers. The workshop will also show images of soldiers' uniforms during the early years of the war. \$20/\$15 Friends of the Museum

THE CAMPAIGNS OF '63  
**Gettysburg & VICKSBURG**  
The Union Army's Greatest Victories

Compelling narratives and important artifacts from the Upper Midwest

**THROUGH MARCH 31, 2014**  
John M. Antaramian Gallery

Civil War Museum

5400 1st Avenue • Kenosha, WI 53140 • 262-653-4141 • [www.TheCivilWarMuseum.org](http://www.TheCivilWarMuseum.org)  
Open Sunday & Monday 12-5pm | Tuesday through Saturday 9am-5pm | Thursdays 9am-8pm

## FROM SAVAS BEATIE

### THE EMERGING CIVIL WAR SERIES

In December of 2012, Savas Beatie issued the first title in its new and ongoing series, The Emerging Civil War. Each book in the series offers a concise overview of its subject matter for the Civil War enthusiast or, an introduction to those just entering into the study of the Civil War. At the purchase price of \$12.95 these books are a wonderful addition to anyone's Civil War Library.

### Current Titles in the Series

*Simply Murder: The Battle of Fredericksburg, December 13, 1862,* December 2012

*A Season of Slaughter: The Battle of Spotsylvania Court House, May 8-21, 1864,* April 2013

*The Last Days of Stonewall Jackson: The Mortal Wounding of the Confederacy's Greatest Icon,* May 2013

*Bushwhacking on a Grand Scale: The Battle of Chickamauga, September 18-20, 1863,* September 2013

### Upcoming Titles

*Bloody Autumn: The Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1864,* November 2013

*Grant's Last Battle: The Story Behind the Personal Memoirs of Ulysses S. Grant,* December 2013

### Coming in 2014

*Thunder in the Harbor: Fort Sumter, Charleston and the American Civil War • Hurricanes from the Heaven • The Battle of Cold Harbor, May 26-June 5, 1864 • The Aftermath of Battle • The Burial of the Civil War Dead*



In November 1948, Robert B. Browne spoke about the "Escape of Gen. John H. Morgan."

Steven Ambrose spoke to the Round Table in November 1958. The topic at that meeting was "John Hunt Morgan's Ohio Raid."

"Custer's First Charge" was the topic of Don Russell's presentation to the Round Table in November 1968.

Brooks Davis was our featured speaker in November 1978. The topic that evening was "The Mississippi Marine Brigade."

At the November 1988 meeting, Gordon Whitney presented "Sherman's Lieutenants" to our group.

Bob O'Neill visited our Round Table in November 1998. His talk that evening was on the "Federal Cavalry in the Peninsula Campaign of 1862."

"The History of Fort Sumter" was presented to the Round Table by Richard W. Hatcher, III in November 2008.

At last year's November 2012 meeting our featured speaker Thomas G. Clemens spoke about "An Overview of the Maryland Campaign of 1862."



**Headquarters, 29th Regt. Wis. Vol. Inftry**  
**Cassion Crow Bayou, La. Nov. 2/63**

**Friend Willard**

I have not heard from you for a long time. I am almost afraid that you have forgotten me. As it may be that there is some mail lying around somewhere for which I will yet receive. We have been fooling around this section since I last wrote you, out of the reach of mail, news and in fact everything but Guerillas, grey-backs, wormy hard-tack and thick headed, semi-seelssh<sup>1</sup> Generals. We started on what was generally believed to be an expedition to Texas, but we have been wandering among the woods, swamp, prairies and Bayous of this state in a manner rivaling the Israelitish march through the wilderness as Capt. Bob Shottus's circular expedition on the race course. I can't conceive what the object of our perignations<sup>2</sup> is unless it is to demonstrate the fact that the strategists of the Potomac are nowhere, scooped, played out, decidedly done for at their own game.

We are marched out as far as eight miles beyond Opelousas, went into camp and stayed there 3 or 4 days. We then broke up camp and commenced falling back, the enemy, (what few there were) hovering around our rear and flanks picking off stragglers and small parties. General Franklin, who is supposed to command the expedition (when he isn't too drunk) then commenced stringing us out, apparently to see how much ground we could cover and still have each group within a day or two march of each other, at least this is the mildest construction which can be put on such a course of action. If this was not his reason then there is only one other object for which he can be laboring and I must admit that he is succeeding very well at it. He ordered Gen. Burbridge's Brigade of eleven hundred and some odd men to bring up the rear. Our division was most of it, we have been in camp some three days all of which time the "deluded Bretheren" have been skirmishing with Burbridge and picking up stragglers from our camps. Day before yesterday they picked up in parties of 2 and 3, 17 of our men and shot a captain of the 24th Iowa in sight of our camps. They also drove in Burbridges pickets, he sent into us for support, but after we had got out about 2 miles we were met by a courier who stated that the Rebs had withdrawn and we were not needed. Yesterday when his men were at dinner they were charged into by an overwhelming force of cavalry and mounted Infantry who had dismounted about 2 miles from the point of attack, and swept his skeleton Brigade right before them, they turned both flanks and had them engaged in front, both flanks and rear all at once. Our Division got notice of their intentions and hurried out to check them, but only arrived in time to save his wagon train, and what was left of his force. We engaged them and drove them back about 4 miles, out of a little over 1100 men in the Brigade there is lost or killed, wounded and prisoners 636. The 23rd Wisconsin was in this Brigade and I have just got back from their camp, they have exactly 100 men left together with a few officers. I inquired of officers of the 23rd how many men they had in their respective companies, one had 5, one 6, one 9 and the other 12. Col. Gripey is surrounded and a prisoner, an ambulance has gone out towards where our southern bretheren was last seen, under a flag of truce to try and negotiate for his exchange. We lost a splendid Parrot gun (a 10 pounder). We only managed to take about 100 prisoners.

I am back in the Adjutants Office. Blake got promoted and a young fellow by the name of Hale has received the appointment. I will run the institution until he arrives from the north. We held our election yesterday and got

through just before the rumpus. Our entire vote stands as follows: Union (260) two hundred and sixty. Copperhead (7) seven. Not so bad for the hardshell 29th. Rothe got only 4 votes, damn him. I have not seen George for several weeks, he was all right then. Frank to give you an idea of the policy pursued in this Department now I close by giving you a copy of an Order issued by our late Corps Commander, and on file in this office. Vermillionville is a little secesh hold about 4 miles from where we were camped. Taking a Rebels chicken or sweet potatoes was called marauding. Prof. Ord had all the officers called up before him and lectured them in Gen. Banks name on the beauties of the conciliatory policy, but you may imagine how little of it was sucked by the officers of the 13th Army corps.

#### **COPY**

**Headquarters 13th Army Corps**  
**Near Vermillionville, La. Oct 1st, 1863**

#### **Special Orders** **No. 94**

The citizens of Vermillionville, La. are authorized to organize themselves in a patrol, for the protection of themselves and their families and personal property against Marauders either white or black.

This order to be read on Parade at the head of each Regiment of the Command.

By order of E.O.C. Ord  
Major Genl.  
(Signed) Walter B. Scates  
Lt. Col. and A.A. Genl.

OFFICIAL

How do you like it Frank. — John (Captain John B. Scott, 1st Lieutenant, Co. B, 29th Wisconsin Vol. Inf.)

**Letter to the Hartford Home League**  
**Carrion Crow Bayou, La.,**  
**November 4, 1863**

Mr. Editor:

The last time I wrote to you it was under the impression that we should have a fight very soon, but time has shown that I was not right, and that Dick Taylor knew the imbecile qualities of the powers that rule through Texas on this expedition better than I knew them. Upon ascertaining that the rebels had evacuated Washington, Gen. Franklin commenced the grand blackout by moving the 19th Army Corps from Opelousas to New Iberia, a distance of sixty miles, and quite out of supporting distance of the 13th Corps, which was left behind. And then to make the matter as much worse as it was possible to make it, Franklin scattered us, the 13th Corps, a Brigade and a Division in place, over a distance of fifty miles, and seeming to make it a study that no two detachments should be able to assist the other in the event of an attack. Burbridge's first Brigade of the fourth Division remained to the rear, and amongst other regiments numbered the 23rd Wisconsin and the 18th and 60th Indiana. Our division, the third, were encamped on the other side of Buzzard's Prairie from them, a distance of five miles, but in plain sight. No other troops were in the neighborhood, our first Division having moved to Vermillionville, and altogether, we did not number more than 4,000 men.

On the night of the 2nd, six members of our First Louisiana Cavalry deserted to the enemy, and gave them information of this state of affairs.

1. Seelss:Blind, Archaic

2. perignations: an angle of 360 degrees or going around in circles

Yesterday noon matters began to culminate. The enemy made a flint at Burbridges front, making the real attack on his flank. Up to this time no one dreamed of a fight, more than a usual skirmish, or if they had, no preparations had been made to meet it. The 23rd Wisconsin was being paid off by Maj. Tenney of Madison, and all were at dinner or in the preparation of it. The rebels were all mounted infantry, and charged into camp almost before our men were in line. However, Gen. Burbridge was not the officer not to make a good fight, and in a moment his brave men were making the best resistance that could be made; but his handful of 1,100 men could not stand up long before five times that number. They were surrounded but fought on expecting us to help them. Nor were they mistaken, for at the report of the first gun our Division was on the march, and the 46th Indiana at the head of our column came up on the "double quick" just in time to make a charge and save the wagon train and what few men were saved gallantly they wheeled into line and with the same cheer they gave at Champions Hill, Col. Binghurst at their head, they charged with the bayonet. At this moment Secesh found it their policy to give up two pieces of cannon they had just captured from Burbridge and, facing by the rear rank went off in their usual skiddle style. Our loss in men was very large. Out of 1,100 that was in the battle 626 were either killed, wounded or taken prisoners. The 23rd Wisconsin did well under the command of Col. Guppy, who was taken prisoner and wounded and out of the whole number that went into the fight 135 were either killed our wounded, or missing. Only 100 of them came out safe, but it was reasonable to be presumed that most of the missing are on the march to Austin as prisoners of war. We took a few prisoners – about sixty in all, and they were the hardest looking chaps I ever seen before, in every sense of the term. Swarthy, tall and gaunt, ragged and unshorn, my idea of Southern chivalry sunk still deeper. I noticed a colored boy on a horse bringing in a "contraband" soldier, whom he proudly assured me he had taken, and to the question of Capt. Holmes why he didn't let his prisoner ride and he go afoot, he grinningly replied rolled his eyes and showing a quantity of ivory that would honor an elephant, "He wouldn't let me ride when I was picking cotton for him so he'll walk now, sure!"

Gen. C.C. Washburn commands the troops here, and in the fight yesterday won the praise of everybody, and the universal wish is that he might be in command of the whole expedition. Had the least attention been paid to his wishes, I have the pleasure of knowing, the disaster would not have occurred. Today things look as if he had "taken the responsibility" and if the rebels risk another fight, they will find us in a position to give them the sharpest turn they ever experienced. The election took place in our regiment yesterday before the excitement in the fourth Division transpired. The number of votes cast was 267, of which number J.T. Lewis and the whole Union State ticket received 260 votes – and Palmer and the balance received seven. So please credit the 29th with having seven knaves or fools. Those that take exception to my plain expression that such as those who vote the copperhead ticket took the life of a brother from my side on the battlefield, and that is both honest and earnest. Corp. Harvey C. Brewster of Company "I" is made a Sergeant. Corp. Brewster has acted in the capacity of Sergeant for a long time, and a strict observance of the duties of the position has well entitled him to his position. — Random (Lloyd V. Nanscawen, Co. I, 29th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry)

#### Nov. 1, 1863

Editor State Journal:—Rumors have reached me from time to time that the remains of those men of the "Iron Brigade" and of the 56th Pennsylvania and 76th New York volunteers who fell at Gainesville in the bloody fight of August 28th 1862, were carelessly buried. Upon examination, a few days since while passing the battlefield on our way to Thorofare Gap, it was found to be true.

I have today had details from all the regiments who fought there were sent to the ground under the charge of Capt. Richardson of the 7th Wisconsin. They have carefully interred the remains. Many of them could be recognized by the positions where they lay or by the articles found about them. As the friends of those who fell there will doubtless hear of

the loose manner of the first burial, I write this to assure them that all has been done that could be to give them a decent burial.

Very Respectfully,  
L. Cutler, Brig. Gen.

#### November 1st, 1863

##### Circular.

The degrading and disgraceful habit of gambling among officers and men of this command prevails to an alarming degree.

The General Commanding has no desire to prevent any proper amusement among those under him, but on the contrary desires to encourage it. Gambling is out of that character. If officers forget themselves and lose their self-respect so far as to become a gambler, they have no right to set the evil example before the men entrusted to their care. The indulgence in the practice has become so habitual that officers neglect their duties, remain away from their camp and quarters to indulge in it and in some instances it is found do not hesitate to indulge in the lowest tricks of blacklegs. It is idle to expect to restrain men while officers are permitted and permit themselves to indulge in this practice. It is enjoined upon all officers in this command to enforce existing orders, and circulate in relation to this vice among their men and to refrain from the practice themselves.

A continuance of the practice will be treated as conduct prejudicial to good order and military discipline. All disbursing officers will be dealt with under PAR996 Revised Army Regulations. It is to be hoped that there will be no occasion to refer to this subject again or to take any further action in relation to it, but the Genl. Com'dg would be remiss in his duty did he quietly witness the demoralization of those under him through the influence of this vice.

by Command of Brig. Genl. Cutler  
Signed Robert Monteith  
Lieut. A.A.A.G. Hd. Qrs, 1st Brigade  
November 3rd, 1863  
Official  
J.H. Wood

Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> we are again called on to exercise the elective franchise. The polls are opened at all company headquarters. Quite a spirited political contest ensues, but the result, well, that is best shown by an examination of the returns.

Election in the Iron Brigade  
Letter from Charlie Dow  
Co. G, Second Regiment  
Luther C. Dixon – received 23  
Montgomery M. Cothren – received nix  
Eds. State Register: — Above you will find an account of Co. "G" alias "Forty Thieves."

It is not a very big vote but an awful strong one. It includes all the votes of the company except four which were not come-at-able as the men were on "detached service."

The vote of this regiment gives DIXON 189 and COTHREN 17 votes. The 6th regiment gives DIXON 210 votes and COTHREN 33 votes. The 7th regiment is unanimous for DIXON, giving him 309 votes. Total in this Brigade, DIXON 708, COTHREN 50.

But seven of the companies of our regiment held an election which accounts for the smallness of our vote.

As a portion of our regiment are on picket to-day the companies that held an election picked up the polls, about noon and made the picket line a visit which caused us to travel about five miles over the blameless roads that Virginia affords. Teaching a country school and boarding round is

*continued on page 6*





## THE ROSE FIELD: OFF THE BEATEN PATH

Bodies lay scattered like so much debris after the storm. Sometimes bloated, often torn by shot, shell, or scavengers, images of the Civil War dead invaded the American consciousness through the work of men like Alexander Gardner and Matthew Brady. Romantic death became a thing of dusty old paintings and even dustier rhetoric. There was nothing glamorous or heroic in the truth told through the lens of a battlefield camera.

If there was truly ever a haunted spot on the Gettysburg battlefield, it might well be a field on the Rose Farm. The farm of George and Dorothy Rose is south of Gettysburg on the eastern side of Emmitsburg Road. George Rose was a butcher from Germantown, Pennsylvania, who had recently purchased the farm from Jacob Benner. The farmhouse dates back to 1811 and was completed to its present form in 1824. The barn was built in 1812.

The Rose Farm was at the center of some of the fiercest fighting on the second day of the battle. The farm included the Stony Hill, the Rose Woods, and a twenty acre field where over 20,000 men engaged in brutal, often hand-to-hand combat leaving over six thousand killed or wounded. The fighting here was a direct result of Dan Sickles' ill-conceived forward movement from his assigned position on Cemetery Ridge. Confederate Brigadier General Joseph Kershaw's troops forced the Federals from their positions occupying the grounds. Referring to the Rose Farm, General Kershaw said, "In my center front was a stone house, and to the left of it was a stone barn, both about 500 yards from our line, and on a line with the crest of the orchard hill. Along the front of the orchard, and on the face looking toward the stone house, the enemy's infantry was posted." General Kershaw's South Carolinians took this ground despite the obstacles the General later described. He said, "... examining the position of the enemy, I found him to be in superior force in the orchard, supported by artillery."

The stone walls of the farmhouse and barn provided shelter to the Confederates of Semmes' and Kershaw's Brigades, and the farm buildings were used as a Confederate field hospital. It is estimated that between 500 and 1,000 Confederate soldiers were buried on the property. Despite his brigade's eventual successes on this second day of the Battle of Gettysburg, Brigadier General Kershaw offered in his official report, "It was now near nightfall, and the operations of the day were over. Gathering all my regiments, with Semmes' brigade, behind the wall, and placing pickets well to the front, I commenced the melancholy task of looking up my numerous dead and wounded. It was a sad list."

In a visit there last summer with the Civil War Trust's Teachers Institute and through the powerful description of guides Garry Adelman and Tim Smith, a group of several dozen educators enjoyed a somber revelation of the action there. Using stereoscopic photographs and 1960's style 3-D glasses, the group was led to the exact locations of several of Gardner's most iconic photos. With only some Angus cattle as witnesses and some low-lying mist to provide atmosphere, the teachers experienced in an almost spiritual way the carnage that resulted from the fighting. Raising one's eyes from a picture of bodies posed grotesquely by Death, then seeing the same rock resting mere yards away, became a cause for quiet reflection about things like sacrifice, courage, and the cost of war. Each

of the soldiers captured in images by Alexander Gardner was a brother, son, friend, or father of living, breathing Americans. Many were able to be identified by unit and name, and lay hastily buried beneath a crudely carved wooden headstone until family came to claim their loved one for reburial back home.

The Rose Farm doesn't get as many visitors as Little Round Top, the Copse of Trees, and other more famous Gettysburg sites. It's a little off the beaten path, though lying adjacent to the bloody Wheatfield and south of the Peach Orchard. While a short walk up a dirt lane is necessary to reach the field, the experience there is not to be missed. With few casual tourists likely to intrude, a visitor would do well to invest at least an hour at the Rose Farm. Come equipped with a book such as William Frassanito's *Gettysburg: A Journey in Time* in hand. Frassanito performed ground-breaking work when he determined that many photographs previously identified as being related to July 1 fighting were actually images taken of action from July 2 on the Rose Farm. The key to his identification was unique rocks and boulders which, unlike tree lines and fences, are less changed by time. You're encouraged to spend some quiet time on the field. Read the stories of some of the men captured in Gardner's pictures. Line the photos up with natural markers and stand or sit in quiet contemplation of soldiers in blue and grey and the sacrifices they made.

Then take an additional second to enjoy the awesome revelation that Gettysburg still has plenty of stories to tell to even the most avid Gettysburg student, particularly when one gets off the beaten path!

Stay tuned for the continuing adventures of "Dave and Friends"

— Submitted by Dave Wege

### FROM THE FIELD...continued from page 5

nothing compared with a travelling election.

This style of voting may be constitutional in point of law but I can testify that it is unconstitutional physiologically speaking for I caught a tremendous cold in the operation.

The only fault with our election was it was rather dry. I think if the "chairman of the State Central Committee" would furnish more Beer and less Blanks it would be productive of good results.

As I am somewhat tired I shall not attempt to scribble a letter tonight. I will close by repeating the "Soldier's Prayer:"

Our Father which art in Washington, Uncle Abram is thy name; Thy victories won, thy will be done in the South as it is in the North. Give us this day our daily pork and crackers, and forgive us our short comings as we forgive our Quartermaster, and lead us not by traitors but deliver us from skeddaddlers; for thine is the power over... the soldier for the period of three years or during the war.

Respectfully,

Charlie Dow.

Edit if you feel you should...

# AND SO IT CONTINUES: November 1863...

## Marking the Civil War Sesquicentennial

The month begins with the armies settling into winter camps along the Rappahannock and Rapidan rivers in Virginia. In the west, Grant had relieved the siege of Chattanooga and the "Cracker Line" was in full operation. Bragg wondered what Grant's next move would be. Fort Sumter, under renewed bombardment at the end of October, remained defiant. The Federal government controlled or partially controlled large areas of Southern soil yet the Confederacy was still unbowed.

**November 1, 1863** • 780 rounds of artillery and mortar shells were fired upon Fort Sumter – the defenders stayed on. From Savannah, President Davis would write to Bragg expressing his disappointment that Grant had opened the Chattanooga supply line.

**November 2, 1863** • President Lincoln receives, and accepts, an invitation to make "a few appropriate remarks" at Gettysburg during the dedication of the new National Cemetery.

In a letter about newspaper comments, President Lincoln wrote, "I have endured a great deal of ridicule without much malice; and have received a great deal of kindness, not quite free from ridicule. I am used to it."

President Davis would comment that he "did not believe Charleston would ever be taken."

**November 3, 1863** • 661 artillery rounds are fired against Fort Sumter.

President Lincoln would write to Secretary Seward that dispatches "from Chattanooga show all quiet and doing well."

**November 4, 1863** • Bragg detaches Longstreet's corps from the Army of Tennessee and sends it against Burnside at Knoxville.

President Davis visits James Island and the forts and batteries around Charleston.

**November 5, 1863** • Federals reduce the bombardment on Fort Sumter. Dahlgren would describe the condition of the fort: "The only original feature left is the northeast face, the rest is a pile of rubbish."

In Chattanooga, Grant inspects the lines while awaiting the arrival of Sherman hoping Sherman would arrive in time to allow for a strike on Bragg before Longstreet could attack Burnside.

Mosby and his rangers were active in northern Virginia.

**November 6, 1863** • In West Virginia, Federal forces under Brigadier General William W. Averell encounter Confederates blocking the road at Droop Mountain. Averell divides his forces and the two-prong advance routs the Confederates allowing the Federals to proceed towards Lewisburg, West Virginia.

**November 7, 1863** • In Virginia, the Army of the Potomac under Meade pushes across the Rappahannock at Rappahannock Station and Kelly's Ford. Lee begins withdrawing to the line of the Rapidan.

In Richmond there was fear that the 13,000 Union prisoners on Belle Isle might attempt to escape. The Confederates bring out the artillery to surround Belle Isle stopping any escape attempt.

Averell's troops make contact with other Northern troops under A. N. Duffie and capture Lewisburg, West Virginia.

**November 8, 1863** • Meade's men, moving further toward Lee, skirmish at Warrenton, Brandy Station, Culpeper Court House, and Stevensburg. Although the fighting was not heavy it indicated that Meade and Lee were maneuvering and waiting for the right opportunity.

**November 9, 1863** • President Davis returns to Richmond as a heavy early snowstorm fell in Virginia.

In Washington, President Lincoln attends the theatre, seeing John Wilkes Booth in *The Marble Heart*.

**November 11, 1863** • Major General Benjamin Butler returns to active Federal command replacing Major General John G. Foster in the Department of Virginia and North Carolina.

President Davis suggests to General Bragg that he "not allow the enemy to get up all his reinforcements before striking him, if it can be avoided."

**November 12, 1863** • A new bombardment which would last four days opens up against Fort Sumter.

In Washington, President Lincoln attends the wedding of Kate Chase, daughter of Secretary of the Treasury Salmon P. Chase, to Rhode Island senator William Sprague.

At Chattanooga, Grant still waits for Sherman to appear.

**November 13, 1863** • From Orange Court House, Lee wires President Davis that he was extremely short of corn for the horses. Davis orders forage to be sent up in preference of other cargo.

**November 14, 1863** • All is quiet in Virginia and Chattanooga.

Nathan Bedford Forrest is assigned an "operational area" of western Tennessee for his raiding parties. The Confederate government indicates that force and confiscation should be used if necessary to collect the tax in kind from reluctant farmers in North Carolina.

**November 15, 1863** • Four divisions of General Sherman are at Bridgeport on the Tennessee. Sherman goes to Chattanooga to confer with Grant and look over the ground before moving his troops closer to the city.

Confederate guns at Fort Moultrie open a bombardment of the Union positions at Cumming's Point on Morris Island in Charleston Harbor.

**November 16, 1863** • In an engagement at Campbell's Station Longstreet fails to cut off Burnside's line of retreat. Burnside withdraws to Knoxville, which Longstreet immediately besieged.

General Nathaniel Banks' Union troops occupy Corpus Christi, Texas, securing the port for the Union.

**November 17, 1863** • At Knoxville, Longstreet continues his siege of Burnside with little action. The partial siege of Chattanooga continues and the bombardment at Charleston goes on.

**November 18, 1863** • A special train of four cars leaves Washington for Gettysburg. The President is travelling alone, depressed over his son Tad's illness and his wife's state of mind over her son's illness. Upon his arrival at Gettysburg he speaks briefly to a crowd outside the Wills House, where he will be staying, and then retires.

**November 19, 1863** • At Gettysburg, Edward Everett talked for two hours, tracing the history of men at war from the earliest times to the present. The President took his turn on the platform and in a few sentences commented on the dedication of the cemetery. Some in the audience appeared moved by the words, others respectful. Some newspapers would comment favorably on the speech while others gave it normal or passing coverage. The President felt that perhaps his brief address fell flat. He returned that night to Washington going back to his sick son.

**November 20, 1863** • President Davis asks General J. E. Johnston for more help for Bragg at Chattanooga.

In Richmond the food supply was a growing problem. Richmond had gone from a town of less than 40,000 before the war to over 140,000 in the space of eighteen months. Residents were beginning to get desperate.

In Washington, Lincoln received a note from Edward Everett congratulating the President on his remarks at Gettysburg. Lincoln replied, "I

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## AND SO IT CONTINUES....continued from page 7

am pleased to know that, in your judgment, the little I did say was not entirely a failure.”

**November 21, 1863** • At Chattanooga, Grant prepares for action as Sherman moves up to cross the Tennessee at Brown’s Ferry and march to the right flank of the Confederates before recrossing the Tennessee and striking them at the north end of Missionary Ridge. Thomas was to attack Missionary Ridge in the center and Hooker was to attack the Confederate left flank. Heavy rains delayed the action.

**November 22, 1863** • On Missionary Ridge, an unsuspecting Bragg detaches General Simon Bolivar Buckner from his Army of Tennessee and sends Buckner to Knoxville to support Longstreet. Bragg is unaware that Grant’s army is about to descend upon him. Grant orders Thomas to demonstrate in front of Missionary Ridge the following day.

**November 23, 1863** • George Thomas sends the divisions of Major General Philip Sheridan and Brigadier General T. J. Wood forward to demonstrate against the Confederate lines. They move to about a mile from the Rebel lines, taking Orchard Knob with little opposition, before darkness descends. During the night, Sherman, north of the Tennessee, sends a brigade across the Tennessee River near South Chickamauga Creek to make a foothold and prepare a bridge.

At Knoxville Federal and Confederate troops try limited assaults on the siege and besieged lines. The Federals are only partially successful against an enemy parallel and the Confederates drive in Union pickets.

The *Ohio State Journal* publishes their account of the President’s address at Gettysburg:

*The President’s calm but earnest utterances of this brief but beautiful address stirred the deepest fountains of feeling and emotion in the hearts of the vast throng before him, and when he had concluded, scarcely could an untearful eye be seen, while sobs of smothered emotion were heard on every head.*

*At our side stood a stout, stalwart officer, bearing the insignia of a captain’s rank, the empty sleeve of his coat indicating that he had stood where death was reveling, and as the President, speaking of our Gettysburg soldiers, uttered that beautifully touching sentence, so sublime and so pregnant of meaning — “The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here” — the gallant soldier’s feelings burst over all restraint, and burying his face in his handkerchief, he sobbed aloud while his manly frame shook with no unmanly emotion.*

*In a few moments, with a stern struggle to master his emotions, he lifted his still streaming eyes to Heaven and in low solemn tones exclaimed, “God Almighty, bless Abraham Lincoln!” and to this spontaneous invocation a thousand hearts around him silently responded “Amen.”*

**November 24, 1863** • Early in the morning, three Federal divisions under Joseph Hooker cross Lookout Creek and begin the difficult climb up Lookout Mountain, hoping to drive the sparse Confederate defenders from their location. In what would become known as the “Battle Above the Clouds” because the top of the mountain was shrouded in mist, little opposition was met as most of the Confederate troops had withdrawn to Missionary Ridge. By evening the Union held the mountain.

At the foot of Missionary Ridge near the Tennessee, Sherman seized what he thought was the north end of the ridge, but found that a wide ravine separated him from the main part of Missionary Ridge and Tunnel Hill, one of his main objectives and the site of an important railroad tunnel. The attack did reveal, to the Confederates, one direction of the Northern drive.

In eastern Tennessee, Burnside and Longstreet are still at a standoff.

**November 25, 1863** • Grant orders Sherman to move against the north

end of Missionary Ridge and Tunnel Hill, the latter being held by General Patrick Cleburne and his men. Hooker was to move from Lookout Mountain to try and cut off a Confederate retreat into Georgia or to follow the enemy. Thomas, with four divisions, was to move in the center when Sherman reached the ridge. Soon after sunrise Sherman attacked without success as Cleburne’s men resisted. Heavy fighting continued into the afternoon with little or no progress made by Sherman. Missionary Ridge was still held by the Confederates. Hooker also ran into difficulties and it was late afternoon before his men ascended the southern end of Missionary Ridge.

Thomas and his divisions were ordered to move toward the lower Confederate breastworks near the base of the ridge. The divisions overwhelmed the Confederate line driving them up the steep slope of the ridge. The Confederates on top could not fire for fear of hitting their own men. The Confederate line finally broke and ran down the back slope of the ridge towards Chickamauga Creek.

The continued assault up the ridge had been unplanned, and without direction from their generals. Among the Union men assaulting the ridge was newly commissioned second lieutenant Arthur McArthur who was awarded the Medal of Honor for action on this day.

Sheridan’s division pursued the Confederates but was held off by Hardee’s corps until the Confederates withdrew in the darkness. The siege of Chattanooga was broken; Bragg’s army was intact but beaten.

Grant issued orders for a follow-up at first light.

**November 26, 1863** • Sherman and Thomas chase Bragg’s troops from Chickamauga Station toward Ringgold, Georgia. The Union troops clash with Cleburne’s rear guard near Ringgold and heavy fighting took place. The Federals finally called a halt giving Bragg a chance to regroup his army.

At Knoxville, Longstreet was preparing an assault unaware that Bragg had been defeated and was withdrawing.

In Virginia, Meade’s Army of the Potomac crosses the Rapidan in an attempt to turn Lee’s right flank near Mine Run. Meade hoped to maneuver Lee out of his position forcing him to fall back toward Richmond. It was the start of a campaign of marching and maneuvering.

**November 27, 1863** • Confederates have withdrawn towards Ringgold Gap and Taylor’s Ridge, closely followed by Grant’s army. Grant sends two divisions under General Gordon Granger to Knoxville to relieve Burnside.

In Virginia, Lee countered Meade’s offensive of the previous day by moving to the east. Skirmishing occurred in the old Wilderness Church area and west to the Culpeper area.

At Columbus, Ohio, General John Hunt Morgan and some of his officers escape prison and reach Confederate territory.

**November 28, 1863** • Sherman was ordered to send more troops to the relief of Burnside.

In Virginia, Meade was sending skirmishers against the Confederate positions at Mine Run.

Bragg wires to Richmond, “I deem it due to the cause and to myself to ask for relief from command and investigation into the causes of the defeat.”

**November 29, 1863** • Longstreet sends his Confederates against Fort Sanders, one of the forts guarding the city of Knoxville. This is Longstreet’s last attempt to take Knoxville, knowing that Grant has reinforcements on the way.

**November 30, 1863** • The month would end with Bragg receiving a telegram from the War Department in Richmond accepting his offer to resign from command. Bragg is ordered to turn the army over to General Hardee in the interim. Grant sends many of his men toward Knoxville. The troops begin to settle in for the winter.

And so it continues.



# GETTYSBURG ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

Tens of thousands of reenactors and even more spectators converged on the site of what is arguably the best known battle in American history. I was there with maybe 100 members of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry. Our four days of reenacting provided many memorable sights, sounds, and experiences, but what was most powerful and memorable for me occurred before we even set up camp.

On July 3, we rose from our beds in a motel outside of Gettysburg, dressed in our Iron Brigade uniforms, and set out for the famous battlefield. We would have a brief tour of the National Military Park before going to the event site to set up camp.

The majority of our "tour" was spent at Willoughby Run, the scene of fierce combat early on the first day of the battle. We walked off the road and followed a footpath to the creek itself. There, Kevin Hampton, member of Co. K and Curator of Research and Public Programs with the Wisconsin Veterans Museum, described the events of July 1, 1863. We stood on the banks in our frock coats and tall black hats, listening to Kevin and imagining the smoke, noise, and carnage experienced by the Iron Brigade that day.

It might sound cliché to say that each of us felt a lump in our throats, or a chill in our spines, but it would be the truth. We were humbled to stand on the ground where the men we imperfectly portray purchased their fame and earned our gratitude with their sweat, blood, and lives. How then to mark that feeling? What gesture to offer that would say, "You are remembered"? One man, I do not remember who, removed his hat and silently dipped it in the water. Others followed, in twos and threes, carefully making their way down the steep banks of the run. With reverence, maybe even with silent prayers, we all touched our hats to the clear waters that had once run red with blood. Our hats were not noticeably affected by this small gesture, but our hearts most definitely were.

— Submitted by John Thielmann

Visit the *York Daily Record* online for a photo gallery of the last day of the Gettysburg 150 reenactment, July 7, 2013.

<http://mediacenter.ydr.com/2013/07/07/photos-last-day-of-the-gettysburg-150th-anniversary/>

This past summer I journeyed to Gettysburg with several members of the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table for the 150<sup>th</sup> battle reenactment sponsored by the Gettysburg Anniversary Commission. I think we all agree it was one of the more impressive events we've attended. There were approximately 11,000 participants in the four days of the reenactment with about 50,000 spectators each day.

The size of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry was comparable to the size of the regiment in Gettysburg in 1863. Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Wisconsin Association was largely from Wisconsin with other companies from California and the East Coast.

It's difficult to adjust to the heat of summer (90-95 degrees each day), but I don't believe that impaired our enthusiasm. Quite honestly, not all of the scenarios met our expectations. Unfortunately, one of those falling short was the First Day Willoughby Run scenario. In spite of that, the comradery we share as reenactors and living historians was the most important part of the event to us.

For me, the most interesting scenario was a depiction of some of the action in the Wheatfield on the Second Day in which the Wisconsin troops portrayed the 17<sup>th</sup> Maine. I "took a hit" in the middle of the field to stay with some of our young Wisconsin men. As the Union regiments were fed into the engagement piecemeal, I noticed an officer beginning to bring his men on line. He wore a black headband. Those of you who are familiar with the Wheatfield action will recall that a 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps brigade fed into the chaos to support Sickles 3<sup>rd</sup> Corps troops was led by Col. Edward Cross from New Hampshire. Cross had worn a red head band in previous actions. Prior to the Wheatfield, he predicted his death in battle and wore the black head band. In fact, he did not survive the Wheatfield action. Because of the distance from the spectators at this reenactment, I'm sure many did not observe this, but I appreciated the detail this particular reenactor contributed — a tribute to Col. Cross.

We know we can *never* recreate or *completely* comprehend what the Boys in Blue endured for the sake of our nation, but as reenactors and as members of a Civil War Round Table, we take advantage of every opportunity to increase our knowledge, improve our impression, and be as true to the story as possible. We are dedicated in our particular way to keeping green the memory of the men and women of the Civil War and to sharing our knowledge with students of every age and in every walk of life.

— Submitted by Patrick J. Lynch

## Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for November 7, 2013

Mail your reservations by Monday, November 4, 2013, to: ALSO, call in reservations to:

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

(262) 376-0568  
peilbes@gmail.com

Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_ (meal price \$25.00 per person) for \_\_\_\_ reservations for October 10, 2013, 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 June 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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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.

## 2013 – 2014 SPEAKER SCHEDULE

December 12, 2013

Kevin Weddle "Lincoln's Tragic Admiral"

*The December meeting is at  
the Country Club of the Wisconsin Club*

January 9, 2014

Robert I. Girardi "Civil War Logistics"

February 13, 2014

Harold Knudsen "General Longstreet"

March 13, 2014

Charles "Chuck" Teague "Lincoln's Gettysburg Address"

April 10, 2014

Scott Bowden "Last Chance for Victory"

May 8, 2014

David Bastian "Grant's Canal"

June 12, 2014

Kenneth W. Noe "The War in Appalachia"