

GENERAL ORDERS



The Newsletter of the

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



APRIL 10, 2014

SCOTT BOWDEN

Last Chance for Victory:

Robert E. Lee and the Gettysburg Campaign

It is sufficient to show what was done & what was not done. No blame can be attached to the army for its failure to accomplish what was projected by me, nor should it be censured for the unreasonable expectations of the public. I am alone to blame, in perhaps expecting too much of its prowess & valor. It however in my opinion achieved under the guidance of the Most High a general success, though it did not win a victory...—Robert E. Lee to Jefferson Davis, July 31, 1863

At the April meeting our Round Table speaker will be Scott Bowden who will be taking a look at Lee and the Gettysburg Campaign.

Scott Bowden is uniquely qualified to present and analyze the generalship of Robert E. Lee. A nine-time award-winning author of 25 works connected to Napoleonic and American military history, Scott's books are included in the curriculum of military schools in France and the United States of America. His combined background in the fields of Napoleonic and American military history make possible the unique and in-depth analysis required to fully and accurately describe Robert E. Lee's generalship within its proper historical context.

After graduating from Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, Texas, Scott launched on a writing career that has spanned more than three decades. His titles include *Armies on the Danube 1809* (1980, with a second edition in 1989), co-authored with Charles Tarbox, which utilized previously unpublished documents from the French army archives at the *château de Vincennes* in Paris, as well as Austrian army returns from the *Kriegsarchiv* in Vienna...

While working on these and other Napoleonic titles, Scott was also contributing to American history, including the booklets *Armies at First Manassas* (1988) and *Armies at Gettysburg* (1988). However, it is Scott's 2001 landmark work, *Last Chance For Victory: Robert E. Lee and the Gettysburg Campaign* (co-authored with Bill Ward) that is considered by many the seminal work on Robert E. Lee and his role in the pivotal 1863 Pennsylvania campaign. *Last Chance For Victory* received numerous literary awards, including the prestigious Douglas Southall Freeman American History Award, and was named to the United States Chief of Staff Air Force Recommended Reading List, only the second title connected to the American Civil War ever to receive such a distinction and honor. For its in-depth and context-based analysis of Lee's generalship and decision-making in the Gettysburg campaign, *Last Chance For Victory* was named as part of the curriculum at the School of Advanced Military Studies at the United States Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

The combination of Scott's body of work in the Napoleonic era and with Robert E. Lee sets the stage for the ground-breaking series *Robert E. Lee at War: The Mind and Method of a Great American Soldier*.

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April 2014

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APRIL MEETING AT A GLANCE

Scott Bowden,
"Last Chance for Victory: Robert E. Lee
and the Gettysburg Campaign"
April 10, 2014

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, April 7, 2014
See page 9.

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

www.milwaukeeecwrt.org

CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE NEWS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

In accordance with the Articles of Incorporation, the nominating committee of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee recommends the following slate of nominees for the upcoming election of members to the Board of Directors:

Michael K. Benton
A. William Finke
James J. Heinz
Tom Thompson

The slate will be voted on at the election during the May meeting. Newly elected directors begin their duties upon election and typically serve three-year terms.

SMILE

You may have noticed something a little different with some of our name badges at the March Round Table meeting. At the Board's mid-term meeting a discussion was held on how we could really make our new members feel welcome and special at our meetings. Some of you may not know that the person sitting at your table is new to our organization. Now, you can look at their name badge where you will find a colorful "smiley face" sticker by their name. Take the time to say hello and warmly welcome our new members—invite them to sit at your table, find out what area(s) of the Civil War most interests them, enjoy their company and share the fellowship of our great organization.

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.

2014 CWRT SPEAKER SCHEDULE

May 8, 2014

David Bastian, "Grant's Canal"

June 12, 2014

Kenneth W. Noe, "The War in Appalachia"

ANNOUNCEMENTS • EVENTS • MEETINGS

April 10, 2014

Waukesha Civil War Round Table, 7 p.m.
Citizens Bank of Mukwonago, Waukesha Branch
Speaker: Tom Sobottke, "Civil War Memories"

April 14, 2014

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

April 15, 2014

Prairieville Irregulars Civil War Round Table, 7 p.m.
2nd Floor Boardroom, Campus Center Building,
Carroll University
Speaker: Doug Dammann, "So You Want To Make A Civil War Movie"

April 16, 2014

Friends of the Racine Public Library, 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.
Racine Public Library, 75 7th St, Racine
Mrs. Cordelia Harvey portrayed by Mary Kababik

April 26-27, 2014

U. S. Grant's Homefront
Galena, IL
Information: (888) 777-6016

May 3-4, 2014

Elmbook Historical Society
20th Annual Civil War Encampment
Dousman Stagecoach Inn Museum, Brookfield
Information: (262) 782-4057

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, 2013, through February 4, 2014.

Major Contributor (\$500 and above)

James Wiensch

Patron (\$200 - \$299)

Crain Bliwas, Grant Johnson, Stephen Leopold

Associate (\$100 - \$199)

Michael Benton, Tom Corcoran, Paul Eilbes, David Kaminski, 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, Ted Fehing, A. William Finke, Richard Gross, Lance Herdegen, Dr. Erwin Huston, Gene & Jane Jamrozy, Christopher Johnson, David Jordan, Dr. Bob Karczewski, Ardis Kelling, Frank Kosednar, Fred Madsen, Dr. Rodney Malinowski, Tom Olsen, Bob Parrish, Ann & James Reeve II, Chet Rohn, David & Helga Sartori, Dan Tanty, Bernard VanDinter

KENOSHA CIVIL WAR MUSEUM

SECOND FRIDAY LUNCHBOX SERIES

Confederate Cavalry in the Chickamauga Campaign April 11, 2014, Noon

Despite winning the battle of Chickamauga in September of 1863, Confederate General Braxton Bragg is often blamed for a number of missteps and mistakes during the campaign. Dave Powell will discuss how the Confederate cavalry contributed to those missteps.

Uncle Billy's Boys: The 55th Illinois at Vicksburg May 9, 2014, Noon

Dr. Laurence Schiller, Northwestern University, describes the actions of the Illinois 55th, under the overall command of Brigadier General William Sherman, during the Vicksburg Campaign and gives a picture of the tensions and problems of the civilian soldiers who made up the regiment.

Sponsored by the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee and the Iron Brigade Association

THE WRECK OF THE GOODRICH STEAMER S.S. WISCONSIN

Sunday, April 13, 2014, 1:30 p.m.

Presented by: Ms. Tamara Thomsen, a Wisconsin Historical Society Maritime Archaeologist

In 1929, the steamer *S.S. Wisconsin* foundered off of Kenosha in a gale, taking the lives of her captain and crew. In 2007, Wisconsin Historical Society divers conducted a Phase II archaeological survey of the wreck to explore her mysteries. Hear the ship's storied history, and learn what divers discovered in the frigid depths of Lake Michigan.

A HOUSE DIVIDED: ILLINOIS IN THE CIVIL WAR

To support the April 19, 2014, opening of this new temporary exhibit, two programs will take place on April 26.

Living History Event: 36th Illinois Saturday, April 26, 2014, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Reenactors from the 36th Illinois will be at the museum. The company represents the 36th Illinois in a time line of their events and appearances during the war. The group will also bring a collection of artifacts from the original 36th including Grand Army of the Republic medals, images of members of the 36th, and selected personal effects.

State of War: The Illinois Home Front During the Civil War Saturday, April 26, 2014, 1 – 2 p.m.

The Illinois homefront was a great economic asset to the Union. Besides tremendous agricultural output, the Civil War-era saw Chicago go from a commercial to an industrial center. Dr. Theodore Karamanski, Loyola University, will discuss the political and social divisions that roiled Illinois. Important contributions included war songs such as "The Battle Cry of Freedom," the great Sanitary Fairs, the founding of the Union Leagues, and the Grand Army of the Republic.

KENOSHA CIVIL WAR MUSEUM

CIVIL WAR HOME FRONT SEMINAR: A REVIEW

On Saturday, March 15, 2014, I had the pleasure of attending the Inaugural Great Lakes Home Front Seminar at the Kenosha Civil War Museum. The 30 attendees included several members of our wonderful organization, and we all agreed that this was one terrific, exciting and energizing day at the museum.

All four speakers were outstanding and provided so much information to think about, explore and continue to research on our own. I, quite literally, ran out of paper while taking notes and was squeezing notes into the margins of the paper.

The Home Front Seminar is just another example of the great programming provided at the museum. Many of the attendees also took the opportunity to experience *Seeing the Elephant* — the 360° movie that is now part of the museum's offerings. If you haven't taken the opportunity to attend a lecture, seminar or forum at the museum put it on your "to do" list. As noted elsewhere, September will bring the 7th Annual Civil War Forum to the museum. The Forums are always well attended and provide a great day of scholarly presentations and shared fellowship. I would suspect that next year's Home Front Seminar, and we all have high hopes for that happening, will find increased attendance as this year's participants spread the word — as I have just done!

— Donna Agnelly

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE MUSEUM

5th Annual Salute to Freedom

June 21, 2014

This year's event will feature an 1864 Encampment with Midwestern troops on leave and a lively impression of a Soldiers Aid Fair. The event is free and open to the public. *Sponsored by the West Side Soldiers Aid Society.*

Lincoln's Air Force

August 26, 2014

7th Annual Civil War Forum 1864: Hard and Total War

September 13, 2014

\$60/\$50 Friends of the Museum

Registration for this popular event is now open. Call the Civil War Museum at (262) 653-4140

For more information on Civil War Museum Programs, visit the website: www.kenosha.org/wp-civilwar/

AND SO IT CONTINUES: April 1864...

Marking the Civil War Sesquicentennial

April 1864 would find Grant at his new headquarters with Meade's Army of the Potomac. Since moving there in March he has been busy organizing and consolidating his overall situation. In front of the Army of the Potomac was Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia. Banks' Union army on the Red River was running into trouble from General Taylor's forces. Southern dissatisfaction with Davis and his administration continued to increase. Fort Sumter would see only sporadic fire during the month.

April 1, 1864 • Major General Frederick Steele was moving south to support Banks' Red River operation in Louisiana. Steele was to keep the rebels occupied while Banks drove for Shreveport.

April 3, 1864 • Skirmishing on the Red River occurred at Grand Ecore, Louisiana. Eight gunboats and three other vessels, conveyed by Admiral Porter, brought reinforcements to the expedition. A. J. Smith's Federals marched overland towards Natchitoches to join Banks for the assault on Shreveport.

April 4, 1864 • Major General Philip Sheridan becomes the head of the cavalry for the Army of the Potomac. Sheridan had the full confidence of Grant and had a reputation for hard fighting.

The New York Sanitary Commission Fair opens. At the close of the fair \$1,200,000 would be raised for the needs of the soldiers.

April 5, 1864 • Banks' Red River expedition slows down. The low river was hindering the Union advance and Confederate forces, refusing to be engaged in any large move, fell away from the Yankees.

April 6, 1864 • The Constitutional Convention of Louisiana met at New Orleans and adopted a new state constitution abolishing slavery.

April 7, 1864 • General James Longstreet, wintering in Greenville, Tennessee, was ordered back to the Army of Northern Virginia and Lee's command. Longstreet had been detached since early September, 1863, before the Battle of Chickamauga. On the Red River Banks had advanced near Mansfield; Taylor drew his Confederates back.

April 8, 1864 • At Sabine Crossroads (Pleasant Grove) near Mansfield, Major General Richard Taylor makes a stand with his Confederates to stop Banks' advancing forces. Banks had his columns strung out with wagon trains intermixed in the line of march. Taylor struck late in the afternoon with a full scale battle breaking out. Banks' forces were flanked both right and left and the Federals fled in panic. One Yankee would call it "our ske-daddle from the rebs." Finally, at Pleasant Grove the troops of William H. Emory stood fast and the Southern attack died down.

The U.S. Senate passed a joint resolution 38 to 6 abolishing slavery and approving the Thirteenth Amendment.

April 9, 1864 • Banks' Federals, beaten the previous day at Sabine Crossroads, draw up in line of battle near Pleasant Hill, Louisiana, expecting another attack from Taylor's Confederates. The skirmishing is light to begin with but in the late afternoon the Confederates make their main drive, gaining some ground. A countercharge by the Federals succeeds, driving the Confederates back and ending the engagement.

General Grant issues campaign orders: Meade and the Army of the Potomac would make Lee's army the objective: "Wherever Lee goes, there will you go also." Grant's intent: maintain contact with Lee's army and wear it down.

April 10, 1864 • Banks pulls back his force from Pleasant Hill towards the Red River and his gunboats and transports. In Arkansas, General Steele's Union expedition heads back towards Little Rock. Going up the Red River to support Banks, Admiral D.D. Porter is stopped at Springfield, Louisiana where the Confederates have created an obstacle. Porter would describe it to General Sherman:

When I arrived at Springfield Landing I found a sight that made me laugh. It was the smartest thing I ever knew the rebels to do. They had gotten that huge steamer, New Falls City, across Red River, 1 mile above Loggy Bayou, 15 feet off her on shore on each side, the boat broken down in the middle, and a sand bar making below her. An invitation in large letters to attend a ball in Shreveport was kindly left stuck up by the rebels, which invitation we were never able to accept.

Word was received of Banks' defeat at Sabine Crossroads and his retreat towards Pleasant Hill. Transports with the troops of Brigadier General Andrew Jackson Smith were ordered to join Banks as soon as possible. The Red River campaign was effectively done.

April 11, 1864 • At Little Rock, Arkansas, a pro-Union state government was inaugurated, with Dr. Isaac Murphy as governor. Pro-Union Virginians voted to accept a constitution for the "Restored State of Virginia" which included abolishing slavery. A convention had deliberated in Alexandria, drawing up the constitution. The government represented only a few northern and coastal areas of Virginia firmly held by the Union army.

April 12, 1864 • General Bedford Forrest's cavalry strike at Fort Pillow with about 1500 men against 557 defenders, including 262 Negro soldiers. Forrest demanded surrender of the fort but Major William F. Bradford refused and Forrest's Confederates attacked. According to Forrest and other Southern sources, the Federal casualties resulted from fighting before surrender. According to extensive testimony taken afterwards by the Federals, the Union troops surrendered almost at once and soldiers were shot down afterwards in what would be described as a massacre, especially of the Negro soldiers. Controversy continues to this day over how many men surrendered and when.

April 13, 1864 • Admiral Porter, with his gunboats, reach Grand Ecore on the Red River. Banks' retreat continues with no hope that the campaign will be renewed.

April 14, 1864 • Forrest's cavalry skirmishes at Paducah, Kentucky. Small Union gunboats help to repulse the Southerners.

President Lincoln reviewed sixty-seven court martial cases, pardoning several.

April 15, 1864 • At Knoxville, Tennessee, Governor Andrew Johnson supports emancipation at a large pro-Union meeting.

The Richmond *Examiner* expresses concern over the coming

campaign in Virginia noting:

So far, we feel sure of the issue. All else is mystery and uncertainty. Where the first blow will fall, when the two armies of Northern Virginia will meet each other face to face; how Grant will try to hold his own against the master spirit of Lee, we cannot even surmise.

April 16, 1864 • A report of U.S. prisoners since the beginning of the war showed that the Federals had captured 146,634 Confederates.

Private Jackman of “The Orphan Brigade” would write from Dalton, Georgia:

Pretty morning. Have not had any newspapers for a week owing to the strike of the printers in Atlanta. I feel at a loss without the daily papers — don't know what is going on in the world. Looking for flag-of-truce letters as ten days have passed since a boat arrived at City Point...

April 17, 1864 • In a major policy change, General Grant orders no further exchange of prisoners until the Confederates balanced Federal releases. Grant further directed that “no distinction whatever will be made in the exchange between white and colored prisoners.”

Confederate troops launch an attack on the Union garrison at Plymouth, North Carolina. Union gunboats move to support the garrison and are promptly attacked by shore-based artillery.

April 18, 1864 • The Confederate attack continues on the garrison at Plymouth. In a Confederate change in command, P.G.T. Beauregard is assigned to lead the Department of North Carolina and Southern Virginia. Beauregard will be in charge of defending Richmond, the southern part of Virginia, and the northern portion of North Carolina against the threat of Federal invasion by Benjamin Butler from the coast.

President Lincoln, in an address at the Baltimore Sanitary Fair says: “We all declare for liberty; but in using the same word we do not all mean the same thing.”

April 19, 1864 • The *C.S.S. Albemarle* joins the Confederate attack on Plymouth, ramming and sinking the *U.S.S. Smithfield*, damaging another wooden gunboat, and driving off others. Confederate troops now surround the town. S.J. Gibson, 103rd Pennsylvania Volunteers wrote:

Morning comes after a night of terror. The Rebs are before us, behind us, and on each side of us. They have carried Ft. Wessell on our right & turned its guns on us...Now we are “gone up” unless we get reinforcements, but we will die “game.” Bombardment continues all day...

An enabling act to permit Nebraska territory to join the Union was approved after passage by the U.S. Congress.

April 20, 1864 • With no protection from the gunboats, the garrison at Plymouth, North Carolina, surrenders at 10 a.m. to Confederate troops under Brigadier General R.F. Hoke. S. J. Gibson, 103rd Pennsylvania wrote of the surrender:

Our flag still floats defiantly, but we cannot hold out much longer; the Rebs have got all their artillery in position and have carried the forts on our left...At 10 a.m. our flag is lowered. We are prisoners of war.

April 21, 1864 • General Banks' Federals withdraw from Grand Ecore, Louisiana, to Alexandria. Confederate units pursue Banks

but mount no offensive.

April 22, 1864 • Confederate harassment on the Red River continues with attacks on transports. Skirmishing occurs at and near Cloutierville, Louisiana.

The motto “In God We Trust” was first stamped upon coins under an act of the Federal Congress.

April 23, 1864 • Confederate and Federal patrols clash near Hunters Mill, Virginia - the clash, though brief, is only about 20 miles from the White House.

April 25, 1864 • In Louisiana, the Federals were arriving at Alexandria on their retreat from Sabine Crossroads. D.D. Porter was still above the city on the Red River.

April 26, 1864 • Rapidly falling water in the Red River traps the Union gunboat fleet above the rapids. Vessels still above Alexandria suffer considerable damage in fighting with onshore Confederates. A two-day engagement occurs at the junction of the Cane and Red River. Federal troops in North Carolina begin to evacuate Washington following the fall of the Plymouth garrison.

April 27, 1864 • President Davis instructs Jacob Thompson to proceed at once to Canada as a special commissioner; C.C. Clay Jr. joins Thompson, at Davis's request, a few days later. The mission was apparently to see what help could be obtained.

April 28, 1864 • The start of another seven day bombardment on Fort Sumter begins.

D.D. Porter, still trapped at the rapids above Alexandria, Louisiana, advises Secretary Gideon Welles:

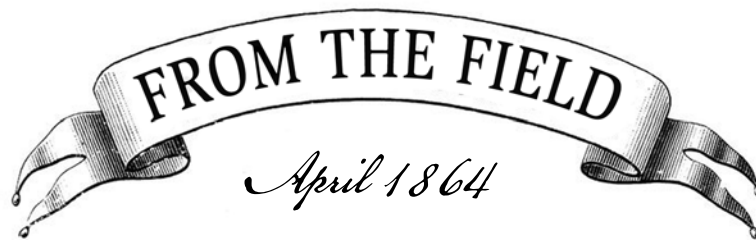
I find myself blockaded by the fall of 3 feet of water; 3 feet 4 inches being the amount now on the falls; 7 feet being required to get over; no amount of lightening will accomplish the object...In the meantime, the enemy are splitting up into parties of 2000 and bringing in the artillery...to blockade points below here...

April 29, 1864 • Coming to the aid of D.D. Porter's squadron, Lt. Col. Joseph Bailey proposed that a dam of logs and debris be built across the top of the rapids above Alexandria to hold the water until it reached the desired depth of 7 feet. Then, the dam would be blown and the boats could ride the crest of the water over the rapids to safety. Porter would later write of the decision:

This proposition looked like madness, and the best engineers ridiculed it, but Col. Bailey was so sanguine of success that I requested Gen. Banks to have it done...two or three regiments of Maine men were set to work felling trees...every man seemed to be working with a vigor seldom seen equalled...

April 30, 1864 • The month would end with President Davis and his wife Varina suffering a personal tragedy when their five-year-old son Joe falls from the high veranda at the Confederate White House and perishes. President Lincoln wrote to General Grant expressing his “entire satisfaction with what you have done up to this time, so far as I understand it.”

And so it continues.



**Camp of the 29th Reg. Wis. Vol.
Natchitoches, La., Saturday April 2nd 1864**

Dear Folks at Home:

As I have a few leisure moments I thought I would occupy them in writing to you although I don't know when I shall have a chance to send a letter but I will have it ready when I get a chance to send it.

My health is good as ever now. Alfred has been quite unwell for a day or two but is quite well by now and I guess you will not think there are any of the boys bad off when I tell you that we marched twenty-two miles yesterday forenoon. The way it happened the cavalry came through ahead of us, expecting to find Gen. Smith here to support them but when he got here, there was no one here and so they sent back for us to hurry up, and I believe we made as good time as has been made in the war. We left Alexandria the 28th of March, and laid over one day at Cane River waiting for pontoon bridges to be made and arrived here yesterday noon, and we have marched about 75 miles in about four days. Gen. Smith took another road to our right and although he had a day or two the start of us, he got here about the same time we did. We have not met with any of the considerable forces of rebels yet. Some say they are in force not many miles ahead but it is rather doubtful whether they will muster enough courage to give us battle this side of Shreveport and they may leave that place as they did Little Rock without a fight. We are laying over today and we have orders to stay in camp and have our guns in shooting order.

The rebels burned all of the cotton and grist mills along the road ahead of us and drove off the cattle so that we could hardly get enough beef to eat.

We are getting into the country where there are more negroes than there has been and they think they are surely delivered from bondage. They are our only friends, and we get a great deal of information from them. All along the road they came with water, corn bread and tobacco to give to the soldiers. They seem to be willing to divide the last mouthful with the soldiers. There has never been any of our soldiers before and it makes the darkies stick out their eyes to see so many people.

Yesterday one old darkie followed along with us and we asked if he was going with us and he said no he was going to tell his brother how glad he was because the Yankees had come. They are perfectly delighted with the musik, some of them will dance as long as they can hear it and some will follow us up so as to hear it as long as they can. The best of the negroes have been run off but there are enough left so that Uncle Sam is getting a good many soldiers out of them. They say that slavery has existed in its worse form in this part of the country and I suppose that is the reason the negroes are so pleased to get away. The plantations look like a small village where they have their buildings. There is generally a large side house and from twenty to fifty negro houses and then cotton gin or sugar houses, a blacksmith shoe steam,

saw mill and grist mill together and many more buildings. Every man is independent doing all of his work himself. Things are very high here. I tried yesterday to buy some meal for a pudding but could not for the people said they had not got but a little and did not know when they was ever going to get any more, and there was none to be had and the mills were burned now they could not get any corn ground. They said that people did not think of using flour for it is one hundred dollars a barrel and none to be had at that, coffee is twenty five dollars a pound and cotton cloth five dollars a yard.

The poor people are very tired of the war and would like to have peace at any terms. There is a woman here close by our camp who has got a brother in the army (rebel) and she says he wrote her he had to eat corn like a horse, for that was all he could get to eat. She said he was a prisoner near Alexandria and she seemed to feel glad for she thought he would get more to eat now.

Our boys was inquiring of a citizen about a skirmish that our cavalry and the rebs had and the citizen said that the rebs got us and then run just as they always do. You see he was mad at them for they burnt his cotton gin and cotton before they left. There is a citizen here that says some of the rebel soldiers say the first chance they have to get into our lines they are going to.

He says that if the rebels make a stand at Shreveport that it is so situated that we will have to take the whole army prisoners. The boys are just saying that the above citizen is one of the rebel soldiers that was pressed into the army and had escaped to our lines. They say he tells a true story about the rebel affairs. He says he has got three sons in the rebel army that have been dragged into the army. He says these are the first union troops he has seen and he does not calculate to get outside our lines again.

Peter Tubbs
(Co. I, 29th Wisconsin Vol. Inf.)

**Grand Ecore La., April 11, 1864
Sabine Cross roads Affair**

Dear Sister Ella:

I rec'd yours of Feb. 22nd v. March 16th this P.M., also one from Johnstown stating that all were well.

As the mail leaves at 7 tomorrow I am writing in Kent's tent by his light, in order to relieve your minds of my concern about my safety.

Last time I wrote we were at Natchitoches, which place we left the next day and proceeded towards Shreveport.

We marched two days and arrived at a small place called Pleasant Hills, Thursday the 7th. Previous to our arrival, the Cavalry had been in a fuss with the rebs and lost some men. When our 2nd brigade arrived (it being in advance), the rebs retired. Next morning

we moved again — the 4th Division in advance; and they were skirmishing with the enemy all day.

In the P.M., we were going into camp when the rebs commenced shelling the 4th Divis. which was then four miles ahead of us. We were ordered to advance and as quick as possible, came up with them and found them, as well as the Cavalry, nearly cleaned out by the rebs.

We formed in line of battle in a heavy growth of small pines, and advanced to the borders of a field, in which were hosts of rebs. We opened fire, and they returned it, but finally fell back to the opposite side of the field.

They soon rallied, and commenced a flank movement, succeeded in turning both of our flanks and had nearly gobbled our whole division before the General discovered what was up — tho we were able to see it all the time.

Our brigade commander was shot, and when we saw the mounted Texans coming in behind us, upon our left, the brig. commenced a simultaneous movement to the rear. Several had been shot, and others wounded, and the others were nearly out of cartridges; yet we would have stood our ground had we not been fully aware that we were out numbered ten to one. The rebs were within a few rods of us upon each side, and constantly firing and calling “Halt! And surrender! You Yankee sons of bitches!” But ne’r a halt did they get from me, for I have a pair of legs that don’t like to be taken; so I beckoned to them with my coat tail to come and take me, if they were in so much want of me; tho I didn’t really think they meant me when they called such names.

I had my “pump” as well as guns (both loaded) and I didn’t mean to be fed upon “hog and hominy” for a few months if I could help it. And “By the gods” I made my legs and arms do all they could to prevent it.

I soon reached the head of our trains, and found a regular jam, of wagons, cannon, mules... Cavalry & c. — but no sign of the 19th Corps. So I continued my retreat in good order, with gun, accoutrement, knapsack and all, and about three miles from the field met the 19th men, coming to our support.

The rebs were charging down the road, and we formed across, and checked them, covering the retreat until we arrived at Pleasant Hills again. There were two or three batteries, a long train of wagons, and lots of men taken by the rebs. Banks and Franklin were both there, and the damned fools had shoved the guns and wagons to the front, so it was impossible to get them off, or even turn them around. The whole route was through heavy fine timber with heavy underbrush; and the road crossed several ravines, where there was only room for one wagon to move at once. It was about 4:30 p.m. when we went in and sunset when we came out; the retreat was kept up all night, and we arrived at Pleasant Hills in the morning.

Only five Cos. of our Reg’t were in the fight (B,G,D,H and E), the others being in rear guard of our train that day. We found A.J. Smith was there with ten thousand men and Col. Green, Ed Morehouse, and scarce thirty-odd recruits had come up with him from this place (which is only two miles from Natchitoches) but Ed Wheeler wasn’t along. About noon, we of the 13th Corps moved off with the trains while Smith worked strategy upon the rebs. He is a General; and before night he had licked the cusses as bad as they did Franklin and Banks. We marched nearly all night and now are here; where Smith (who fell after taking 26,000 prisoners) and all the rest, are tonight.

What will be done next, I cannot say, tho I hardly think we will have to fight again. Banks is out — he’s President now; and old Franklin will be “dammed”.

I have told you all I know, as can think of — and after marching fifteen miles I feel like sleeping.

So with love to all, and thanks to mother for writing a little, I will say Good Evening.

M.P. Wheeler (Sergeant Marcus Pratt Wheeler — Co. G, 29th Wisconsin Vol. Inf.)

“He that fights and runs away may live to fight another day!” & c. Thank God for good legs and good luck!

Amen! So not it be continually.

Janesville Weekly Gazette March 11, 1864

The Fourteenth Wisconsin — On Saturday noon 201 men about one-half new recruits belonging to the 14th Wisconsin Infantry arrived from Madison at the Soldiers rest, where they paid their recruits to a bounteous dinner prepared by the ladies. This regiment passed through this city about the middle of last month which time its roster appeared in those columns. Since then the regiment has been recruited some 400 men, who after being paid will join the main body in a week or two. The boys go to Vicksburg the theatre of their former exploits.

Wisconsin newspaper editor Marcus M. Pomeroy of the *La Crosse Democrat* called Lincoln “Fungus from the corrupt womb of bigotry and fanaticism” and a “worse tyrant and more inhuman butcher than has existed since the days of Nero...The man who votes for Lincoln now is a traitor and murderer...And if he is elected to misgovern for another four years, we trust some bold hand will pierce his heart with dagger point for the public good.”

PROCEEDINGS OF CONGRESS; SENATE. A SCIENTIFIC MISSION TO EASTERN ASIA. RAILROAD FACILITIES WITH WASHINGTON CONFISCATION. THE PACIFIC RAILROAD. THE REPEAL OF THE FUGITIVE SLAVE ACT. INDIAN TREATIES. A LAKE SUPERIOR RAILROAD.

Published March 8, 1864
New York Times

WASHINGTON, Monday, March 7.

Mr. MORGAN, Of New-York, presented a memorial from the American Geographical and Statistical Society, in favor of Surgeon McGowan’s proposed commercial, industrial and scientific mission to Eastern Asia. Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Messrs. WILSON, MORGAN and SUMNER presented numerous petitions for increased railroad and mail facilities between Boston, New-York and Philadelphia, which were referred to the Committee on Post-offices and Post-roads.

Continued on page 8

Mr. FOOTE, of Vermont, (Union) presented a petition from Eli Thayer, praying the passage of a law confiscating the lands of the rebels, and distributing them among freedmen. Referred to the Committee on Slavery and Freedmen.

Mr. CONNESS, of California, (Union) introduced a bill to amend the act to aid in the construction of a railroad from the Missouri River to the Pacific Ocean, passed July 1, 1862.

Referred to the Special Committee on the Pacific Railroad.

On motion of Mr. SUMNER, of Massachusetts, (Union) the bill repealing all acts for the rendition of fugitive slaves was made the special order for Wednesday next, at 12 ½ o'clock.

Mr. SHERMAN, of Ohio, (Union) offered the following resolutions:

Resolved, That a quorum of the Senate consists of a majority of the Senators duly chosen and qualified.

Resolved, That if a majority of the Presidential electors, duly appointed and qualified, vote for one person, he is President.

Resolved, That if the election of President devolves upon the House of Representatives and the votes of a majority of the States represented in the House be cast for one person, he is the President.

Referred to the Committee on Judiciary, and ordered to be printed.

The bill authorizing the President to negotiate a treaty with certain Indian tribes of Oregon was, on motion of Mr. NESMITH, called up and passed.

The Senate on motion of Mr. RAMSAY of Illinois, (Union) proceeded to the consideration of the bill granting lands to aid in the construction of a railroad from St. Paul, Minnesota, to the head waters of Lake Superior.

Mr. HOWE, of Wisconsin, (Union) opposed the bill at considerable length.

Messrs. RAMSAY and WILKINSON, Minnesota, and JOHNSON, of Maryland, supported the bill.

Mr. DOOLITTLE, of Wisconsin, replied to the remarks of Mr. JOHNSON and defended his state from any narrow-minded policy against her sister State, Minnesota.

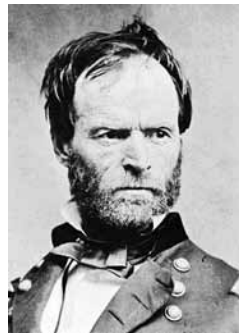
The Senate went into executive session at quarter past three o'clock and subsequently adjourned.



In April 2003 our Round Table speaker was Kenneth Noe. The speaker topic at that night's meeting was "The Battle of Perryville."

Last April John J. Fitzpatrick, Jr., Esq. visited our Round Table and presented a talk on "There is no fail here," Abraham Lincoln at Gettysburg.

WILLIAM TECUMSEH SHERMAN



Museum of the Confederacy Person of the Year: 1864

At the February 22, 2014, Person of the Year Symposium the surprising choice for Person of the Year: 1864 was "Cump" Sherman. Each speaker on the panel selected their nominee for the honor and presented a talk in support of their nominee. The nominees were voted on by those attending the symposium.

Gary Gallagher came up with a dual nomination: U.S. Grant and Robert E. Lee. In support of his nomination Gallagher commented, "no one else comes close."

Harold Holzer nominated Abraham Lincoln. Holzer argued that "although Lincoln won as 1861 Person of the Year, 1864 was his most influential year."

John Marszalek nominated Sherman supporting his nomination by saying: "He changed the way wars were fought and was most responsible for the outcome of the Civil War."

Joe Mobley nominated North Carolina Governor Zebulon Vance indicating that "no other Confederate Governor sparked as much controversy and Vance was a great barometer for a state's support for the war effort."

Craig Symonds, the final speaker, nominated Patrick R. Cleburne. In his remarks about Cleburne he noted: "His battlefield achievements in 1864 were unmatched and he was a true hero of the Civil War."

The final tally by the attendees gave Sherman 38 votes, Cleburne 29, Lincoln 15, Lee and Grant 11, Vance 8, David Farragut (write in) 1 and Citizens (write in) 1.

After considerable feedback on Sherman's selection the museum responded by issuing the following statement:

We appreciate the discussion that has taken place since the announcement of the vote at our Person of the Year: 1864 Symposium, but we want to make a few things clear. First of all, the Symposium attendees, most of whom are Museum members, were responsible for the voting, not the Museum staff and our co-sponsors. Secondly, it was clearly explained to the voters that they were not choosing the most popular or likable person, but rather the person they felt "most influenced events" in 1864. Finally, the votes were cast after spending all day listening to respected historians give lectures "pitching" their respective candidates, so the information provided in those lectures and the ability of the speaker to make the case for each nominee must be taken into account.

In the end, while the final vote tally may be the part of the Symposium that gets the most attention, we like to think of it as secondary to the act of getting historians and history buffs together to talk about the events and people of 150 years ago. We look forward to many more conversations like this in the future.

THE CIVIL WAR COMES TO DOOR COUNTY

On June 8, 2014, a new week-long Civil War class will be held at The Clearing in Ellison Bay, Door County. Pat Gardner, Round Table member and adjunct professor at Carroll University, is expanding her popular Civil War Course for an unforgettable living and learning experience. The Clearing started as a retreat and folk art school and there is plenty of time to relax, refresh and explore beautiful Door County as well. Information and registration are available at www.theclearing.org or by calling toll free at 877.854.3225.



In a statement released by the Trust on May 17, 2014, Ed Clark, Gettysburg National Military Park superintendent, was announced as the honoree of the National Park Service Legacy Award. To symbolize the lasting impact that his leadership will have on the battlefields under his jurisdiction, Clark's award includes a model 1839 U.S. cartridge box plate recovered from the site of a Confederate camp near Manassas, Virginia, where he was previously stationed.

"The National Park Service is charged with protecting, preserving and interpreting many of the most significant sites — environmentally, culturally and historically speaking — in our country," Civil War Trust president Jim Lighthizer said. "It is a daunting task, but one made possible through the vigilance and dedication of a very special group of men and women. Over the years, I've had the pleasure of working with many fine individuals in the ongoing fight for the future of our nation's Civil War battlefields, but few have left a deeper imprint than Ed Clark."

Formerly superintendent of Manassas National Battlefield Park in Virginia, Clark began a tenure in the same capacity at Gettysburg National Military Park and Eisenhower National Historic Site this February.

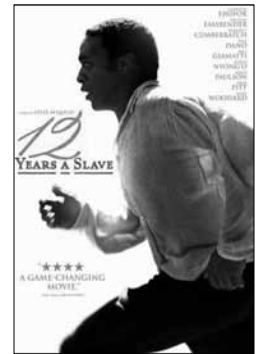
APRIL SPEAKER...continued from page 1

Legion of Honor Publishing is proud to offer the volume, *Robert E. Lee at War: Hope Arises From Despair*. The book carries the reader from the time Lee ascended to army command on June 1, 1862, through the conclusion of the Seven Days campaign, and ends with an unprecedented, original, in-depth analysis of Lee's art of war. Within these pages, Lee's generalship is revealed in a manner unparalleled in its clarity and unique analytical style. Along with a stunning presentation of maps, sidebars, orders of battle, artwork and other graphic elements, the gripping narrative of *Robert E. Lee at War: Hope Arises From Despair* promises to be a significant contribution to American military history and particularly to that of Robert E. Lee.

Biographical and book information provided by Legion of Honor Publishing.

NOW OUT ON VIDEO 12 YEARS A SLAVE

If you didn't have the opportunity to see this Academy Award winning film, now is the time. The film came out on DVD/Blue Ray on March 4, 2014. The film is based on the book by Solomon Northup — a free black man taken into slavery in Louisiana — and documents not only his 12 years in slavery but his efforts to regain his freedom. Although a difficult film to watch it is also an uplifting one as we see the human spirit prevail. Having seen the film I can tell you that there is absolutely no bad performance given by any of the actors. It is an important film and definitely worth your time and money to see. I highly recommend it to you for your consideration. — *Donna Agnelly*



A SNIPET FROM HISTORY

The Overland Stage Route to the Pacific —

The fare from the Missouri river to Placerville, Cal. is \$200; to Denver, \$75.

It is believed the road is now secure from Indian attacks throughout its entire length.

The trip to California is made in 18 days; to Colorado in five or six.

Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for April 10, 2014

Mail your reservations by Monday, April 7, 2014, to:
Paul Eilbes
1809 Washington Ave.
Cedarburg, WI 53012-9730

ALSO, call in reservations to:
(262) 376-0568
peilbes@gmail.com

Enclosed is \$ ____ (meal price \$25.00 per person) for ____ reservations for April 10, 2014, 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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Yearly memberships available: Individual (\$40), Family (\$50), Non-Resident (\$25), attending an educational institution (\$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.

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.