

# GENERAL ORDERS



The Newsletter of the

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



October 13, 2016

Lance Herdegen

## **“The Baby Had Red Hair” Music of the Iron Brigade**

The Iron Brigade of the Army of the Potomac made its own music.

Any veteran memory of the long marching columns of 1861-65 evoked faint echoes of the soldiers singing, the thumping of field drums, or the tooting of the brass bands. Sometimes it was the stern song about abolitionist John Brown and other times more scandalous airs such as the one about a baby that “had red hair.” The brass bands which played them away from home so long ago performed in the morning formations and evening tattoos as well as during inspections and reviews.

The Western men of the Iron Brigade – the soldiers of the Second, Sixth, Seventh Wisconsin, Nineteenth Indiana and Twenty-fourth Michigan – sang as they marched to Gettysburg and the brigade band played “Hail, Columbia” and stirring marches as the Black Hats charged toward Seminary Ridge. The regimental fife and drum corps played “The Campbells are Coming” as the Sixth Wisconsin advanced on the railroad cut.

In camp, soldiers gathered to sing in groups and even alone. Music was much a part of soldier life those first years of the war and the young men played violins, harmonics, and other instruments for their comrades. Music passed the time. It entertained and comforted as well as brought back memories of home and family. It also strengthened the bonds between comrades.

Songs from those days still have an ability to produce a lingering emotional memory of those stirring times and somehow connect a listener to those men of long ago. “How often on the long weary march,” one officer wrote later with a somewhat romanced view but still much truth that “when it seemed as if our sore and tired limbs almost refused to go on – it was then the full swelling notes from a good band rallied us from the roadside ‘into line,’ flag unfurled, muskets at a right shoulder shift, gleaming in the bright sun, and the regiment appeared infused with new life and energy as they jauntingly marched along.”

Our October speaker is Lance Herdegen, a member of our Round Table and a past president. He will give an overview of the music of the Black Hats during those years that young farm boys, shopkeepers, river men, and piney camp boys became an Iron Brigade and helped save the Union. He is the award-winning author of several books and articles on Civil War topics. His latest book is *The Iron Brigade in Civil War and Memory: The Black Hats from Bull Run to Appomattox and Thereafter*. His previous book, *Those Damned Black Hats: The Iron Brigade in the Gettysburg Campaign* won the Army Historical Foundation’s Distinguished Writing Award for Battle/Operational history.

Mr. Herdegen is the 2016 recipient of the Chicago Civil War Round Table’s Nevins-Freeman Award. He recently served as Chair of the Wisconsin Civil War Sesquicentennial. He is also the former Director of the Institute for Civil War Studies at Carroll University and worked as historical consultant for the Civil War Museum of the Upper Middle West at Kenosha, Wisconsin. He had a long career as a journalist with the United Press International (UPI) news wire service where he covered civil rights and politics. He was recently inducted into the Milwaukee Press Club Hall of Fame.

Mr. Herdegen lives in the Town of Spring Prairie, Walworth County, Wisconsin.

## **General Orders No. 10-16**

**October 2016**

### **IN THIS ISSUE**

MCWRT News .....	page 2
Kenosha Museum .....	page 3
From the Field .....	page 4-5
Round Table Speakers 2016-2017.....	page 6
2016-2017 Board of Directors .....	page 6
Meeting Reservation Form .....	page 6
Between the Covers .....	page 7-8
Wanderings .....	page 9
Through the Looking Glass .....	page 10-11
Quartermaster’s Regalia .....	page 12

### **October Meeting at a Glance**

#### **Wisconsin Club**

**9<sup>th</sup> and Wisconsin Avenue**

**[Jackets required for the dining room.]**

**6:15 p.m. - Registration/Social Hour**

**6:45 p.m. - Dinner**

**[\$30 by reservation, please]**

**Reservations are accepted until**

**Monday, October 10, 2016**

**7:30 p.m. - Program**

**Speaker and topic are subject to change. In case of inclement weather, listen to WTMJ or WISN for meeting status.**

### **2016-2017 Speaker Schedule**

**Find the speaker schedule on page 6.**

# Civil War Round Table News

## When Reservations are Cancelled

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

## Your Cooperation is Appreciated

"Walk-in dinner" requests are sometimes difficult to honor. Remember, dinner reservations are to be made at least 48 hours prior to the meeting date. We are always happy to accommodate where possible, but we cannot always guarantee a dinner that evening if you have not called in or emailed your reservation. Thank you for your understanding.

## Special Dietary Needs

We have quite a number of regular members who have opted for special entrees as options to the regular dinner being served. The Wisconsin Club and the Round Table will make every effort to meet any special dietary needs you may have. As a courtesy, **please give a reminder when making your reservations**, so we don't forget to serve you what you're expecting!

## Iron Brigade Flags on Display

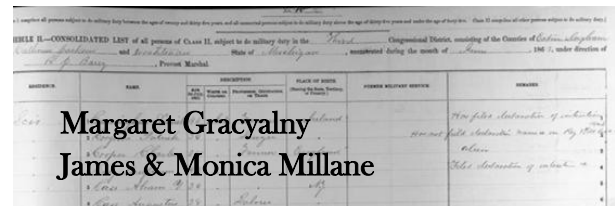
The Iron Brigade flags usually present at our meetings have been loaned to the Kenosha Civil War Museum for their exhibit, "Faces of the Iron Brigade: A Social Network of Soldiers." The exhibit will be on display at the museum until November 1, 2016.

## Historic Milwaukee Soldiers Home Will Once Again House Veterans

What could be more exciting or more appropriate? The facilities that once housed Iron Brigade veterans like Jerome Watrous and Nicholas Gaffney will be refurbished in a \$40 million project to house homeless veterans and their families.

Under a leasing deal between the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the city of Milwaukee, and a Madison developer, six vacant buildings in the Milwaukee Soldiers Home District will be renovated into 100 apartments and duplexes. It will include a support services office for veterans and their families who are homeless or at risk of losing their home. One of the six buildings includes the prominent Old Main.

## The Muster Roll: NEW MEMBERS



NAME	RESIDENCE	PLACE OF BIRTH	DATE OF BIRTH	DATE OF DEATH	DATE OF BURIAL	DATE OF INTERMENT
Margaret Gracyalny						
James & Monica Millane						

## MCWRT Annual Fund

The following members have made a generous commitment to the MCWRT by investing in that fund. This list reflects those donations made from July 1, 2016 through September 8, 2016.

### Major Contributor (\$500 and above)

#### Patron (\$200 - \$499)

Crain Bliwas, Eugene & Jane Jamrozy,  
Stephen Leopold, Robert Parrish

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

Tom Corcoran, Robert Dude, Paul Eilbes, Bill Finke,  
Randall Garczynski, Van & Dawn Harl, Dr. Peter &  
Jean Jacobsohn, Jerome Kowalski, Dr. Ray Pahle,  
Jim & Ann Reeve, Dennis Slater, Paul Sotirin

#### Contributor (up to \$99)

Darwin Adams, George Affeldt, T. James Blake,  
John & Linda Connelly, Michael Deeken,  
Lori Duginski, John Durr, Gary & Judith Ertel,  
Doug Haag, Dr. Erwin Huston, Allan Kasprzak,  
Jay Lauck, Jerry & Donna Martynski,  
Kathleen McNally, James Melchior, Herb Oechler,  
John Rodahl, Chet Rohn, Fred Wendorf

**Patrick Lynch informed us that long-time Round Table member Robert Mann recently suffered a stroke. Your thoughts and prayers are requested on behalf of Bob and his family.**

## In Memoriam~

Our thoughts and prayers go out to long-time Round Table member and past president Dale Brasser on the passing of his wife Judith. Judith passed away on September 12, 2016. Judy was a lifelong gardener and enjoyed the arts. She served as an Elder, Sunday School Supervisor, teacher, and as a member of the Monday Noon Bible Study Group at the First Presbyterian Church. The couple was married for 64 years. Judy is survived by Dale and their two sons and daughters-in-law, one daughter and son-in-law, and seven grandchildren. Funeral services were held on September 17, 2016.

~ And flights of angels sing thee to thy rest ~



In October 1956, Allen P. Julian talked to the Round Table on "The March to the Sea."

Ralph Newman was our Round Table speaker in October 1966, speaking on "An American Hero Junior Grade: Benjamin F. Butler."

"What the War Meant" was the topic of Frank Klement's presentation to the Round Table in October 1976.

Richard Fillmore Selcer spoke to the Round Table in October 1986 about "Two Gentlemen from Virginia: The Lee and Pickett Connection."

In October 1996, James M. McPherson's topic was "Darling, You Should Not Have Done That."

"A Museum, A Battlefield and a Hero," was the subject of Gordon Damman's talk in October 2006.

At last year's October meeting, our Round Table speaker was Dennis Frye who spoke about "John Brown: The Spark That Ignited the War."

## Other Kenosha Civil War Museum Events

### Beyond Freedom's Reach

By: Adam Rothman

Civil War Media Club

Wednesday, October 12, 2016, 7-8:30 p.m.

Instructor: Doug Dammann

Born into slavery in rural Louisiana, Rose Herera was bought and sold several times before being purchased by the De Hart family of New Orleans. Still a slave, she married and had children, who also became the property of the De Harts. But after Union forces captured New Orleans in 1862 during the Civil War, Herera's owners fled to Havana, taking three of her small children with them. *Beyond Freedom's Reach* is the true story of one woman's quest to rescue her children from bondage.

\$20 Friends of the Museum/\$25 non-members

### The Boss Soldier: Commanders of the Iron Brigade Sunday, November 6, 2016, 1-2 p.m.

Instructor: Lance Herdegen

Rufus King, John Gibbon, Solomon Meredith, William Robinson, Lysander Cutler, Edward Bragg, John Kellogg and Henry Morrow. All these officers at various times served as commander of the fabled Iron Brigade over the four years of the Civil War. Who were they, and what kind of leadership did they provide? The Black Hats were all quick to judge the man they called "The Boss Soldier."

\$20 Friends of the Museum/\$25 non-members

**[milwaukeeecwrt.org](http://milwaukeeecwrt.org)**

## Kenosha Civil War Museum Second Friday Lunchbox Series

The series is a free program sponsored by the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table and Iron Brigade Association.

### My Little Red Canoe

Friday, October 14, 2016, Noon

Presenter: Lia Nicine McCoo and Keryn Moriyah

Civil War Song Bards, McCoo and Moriyah, will present both music and back story of the compelling, beautiful, and whimsical songs which drew them into music of the Civil War era. Songs that draw young and old into an experience, sometimes rolling and deep, sometimes light and soaring, as wide as a river and powerful enough to lift a roomful of human spirit.

### 150 Years of the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.)

Friday, November 11, 2016, Noon

Presenter: Mike Wozny

The Grand Army of the Republic – first organized in Decatur, IL, in 1866 – was among the first advocacy groups in American politics. Its membership supported voting rights for black veterans, promoted patriotic education, helped make Memorial Day a national holiday, and lobbied the United States Congress to establish regular veterans' pensions. The program covers the G.A.R. from inception to its final muster in 1956.

### AMERICAN ULYSSES

Friday, October 14, 2016, 7 p.m.

Presenter: Ronald C. White

The dramatic story of one of America's greatest and most misunderstood military leaders and presidents; this is a major new interpretation of Ulysses S. Grant. In his time, Grant was routinely grouped with George Washington and Abraham Lincoln as the "Trinity of Great American Leaders," but fell out of historical favor in the twentieth century. Mr. White convincingly argues that we need to refocus and revise our estimates of him in the twenty-first. Based on seven years of research with primary documents, some of them never before examined by other Grant scholars, this is destined to become the Grant biography of our times.

Books will be for sale and the author available for signing the evening of the presentation.

Ronald C. White is the author of three best-selling books on Abraham Lincoln. He is a fellow at the Huntington Library and a visiting professor of history at UCLA. He lives with his wife, Cynthia, in La Cañada, California.

### Rooster Cogburn, Jesse James, and Bloody Bill: Historical Fiction and Fictional History

Wednesday, October 19, 2016, 7 p.m.

Presenter: Bjorn Skaptason

Bjorn Skaptason from the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop explores the intersection between history and fiction in Charles Portis' *True Grit* as its characters remember the Civil War.

This program is in support of the *True Grit* Big Read Program hosted by Gateway Technical College.



**Fourteenth Annual Meeting  
Reunion Association of the 29th Wisconsin Regiment  
May 16th, 1899**

**More Letters From Comrades**

**Humbolt, Iowa**

**May 11th, 1899**

John W. Laflin, Esq.

Milwaukee, Wis.

My Dear Old Comrade: When I received your circular letter, announcing the meeting of our regiment in Milwaukee the current month. My first question was, can I go? But time and circumstances answer no. So I will send my greeting, accompanied by 50c., by U.S. Mail. The low rates to the encampment should induce every comrade living within the state to attend. But at best, what a small remnant of that grand regiment of the grandest army the world ever knew will be there. As I again unroll history's scroll, I see that 38 years have passed since the first shot was fired on "Sumpter," and that shot thrilled the Nation. Ten millions of people were startled as never before; a call for volunteers to defend the flag was made; how quick the response by those leaving farm, shop, store, bench, school, pulpit, home and loved ones to protect and defend the Nation's honor.

Battles were lost and won. Comrades unnumbered fell; long and weary marches, battles fierce and bloody marked the years from '61 to '65. After the greatest and grandest fight the world ever knew, making the grandest history that was ever made, part of the actors returned to their homes. The common sacrifice for country, home and God, cemented comrades in the indissoluble bonds of "Fraternity," "Charity" and "Loyalty," and our annual meetings are intended to perpetuate the remembrance of these accomplishments and of our fallen comrades. At the reunions we recount the anecdotes and events of the war. Another meeting of our regiment is at hand, and comrades will again clasp hands,

some of whom, perhaps, have not met since parting on the battle field long years ago; and that brings retrospective thoughts of tumult and tragedy; rebellion and sacrifice; honor redeemed, justice vindicated, humanity exalted, a Union saved and consecrated by the best blood shed for mankind since the cruel Crucifixion of Calvary. But comrade, it is needless to now write of these things, we all know them. How well I would like to meet and strike glad hands with my comrades, some of whom I learned to love as brothers. But in my absence will send my annual communication. Comrade George Wood suggests that a detail be made for letter writing, and that I be one of the number selected.

Now, George, I did not think you would hold a grudge so long and then want to inflict so severe punishment. Job said: "O — that mine adversary had written a book." Now, I have great regard for the thoughts of Elder Job, and believe he knew and meant just what he said. It is evident that patient thought an adequate punishment for his adversary would be the writing of a book. Now, comrade, don't be too severe on me at this late date, for I really am getting old. If I did ever get the start of you, I am willing to be forgiven, but don't compel me to write a book, or even a long letter.

The Iowa State Encampment will be held in Waterloo, in June. There is about forty of our regiment living in Iowa, and we are going to have a reunion of our own. That being the home of Sergeant George Sitts, he and his estimable wife and entertaining family, are planning to receive and entertain us in their spacious home.

I recently spent a couple of days with Comrade Sitts and members of his family and it was a royal welcome I received from every one of them. Also in early winter I visited Comrade Ed. Paddock, at Janesville, Minnesota, and I just had a great visit with him and his estimable wife and son in their pleasant farm home.

On reading some of the letters in the last roster, the following thoughts were suggested, which I have doggeralized.

Comrades, do you remember near four decades ago,  
When you were young and active, instead of old and slow?  
Your cheeks were round, your face was smooth — till you with pride could spy  
Your upper lip looked like the brow of a Norwegian's eye?  
Your step was brisk, your head erect and proud your courtly bearing?  
And you could face a cannon's mouth while for your country daring?  
When wrongs were rampant in the land, which you went South for righting.  
But found it only could be done through four long years of fighting?  
And then how quick you'd swat a man if he would dare to mention  
That you were "following up the camp," just working for a pension.  
But time has many changes made with each of you since then,  
Instead of straight and beardless boys, you're bowed and grizzly men.

And on the roofing of your brain is there a shiny patch?  
 Has time, and care, and trouble, been working at your thatch?  
 Have all your teeth long since decayed; and are your cheeks caved in?  
 Is the end of your proboscis getting friendly with your chin?  
 Are the rooms now getting dusty within your upper deck?  
 Does your brow grow broad and massive and creep over towards your neck?  
 To the sash of some old window are you closely now allied  
 With pains your back filled full of, and catches in your side?  
 Are your eyes also fast failing? Have your ears, too, ceased their function?  
 Is the whole of your anatomy losing its former unction?  
 Are your hands becoming palsied? Your feet not quite so sure?  
 Are your joints, too, getting stiffened? Hard labor can you endure?  
 Are infirmities increasing as age comes on apace?  
 On this mighty stage of action are you lagging in the race?  
 Has passing time made all this change? Why it has quickly rolled;  
 But Uncle Sam might tell why 'tis you're prematurely old.  
 Does all this combination make you live on scanty hash?  
 Is your vesture of the plainest cause you wallet's shy on cash?  
 And if you choose to worship where the Saints are wont to meet,  
 When you enter in the synagogue do you take the corner seat?  
 And if you ask a favor from the "bosses" of the town  
 Do you hear them talk "back number" and vote to "turn you down?"  
 If you have all adverses known to mortals under heavens  
 And your only hope of comfort is through Mr. Henry Evans,  
 The Soldiers' Home or County House will surely be your due  
 For all you've done for land and home, - and may God pity you!

F.F. French  
of Co. "I"

**Traer, Iowa**  
**Feb. 27, 1899**

Comrade: I think it proper to let you know what we are doing here in Iowa; in looking over the roster of 29th Wis. Regt. I find that 49 of the old boys live here in Iowa. As our State Encampment is to be held this year in Waterloo, Iowa, being centrally located and reduced railroad fare, we ought to try and hold a regimental reunion at that time and have at least 25 of the old boys present out of that number. If you in Wisconsin have not already set your date for your reunion will you please and set some other date than June 13-15, which is the time of our encampment. I want to try and be with you this year and perhaps some others from Iowa. If we will hold a reunion at Waterloo we will send you the full details of it, and expense of printing, and have them put in your Roster, if you will accept of the idea.

I have written every boy in Iowa, and I am going to do my best to get them out. I think it most too much to ask of your Wisconsin boys to come out at that time, but I assure you, you will be used right if any of you come. We have plenty to eat and drink, and a little chink out here. I'll not send you a dollar this time, I want to bring it to you, and if I can't, will send it in time for the reunion. Please don't put this letter in the Proceedings and Roster of our Association.

Respectfully your comrade,  
ROBT. POWELL,  
Traer, Iowa

## **Nashville and Middle Tennessee Civil War Sites**

**October 23-26, 2016**

The Civil War Museum is sponsoring a motor coach tour of the principle Civil War sites of Nashville and Middle Tennessee. Expert guides will take the group to Fort Donelson, Stones River National Battlefield Park, Franklin, and Civil War sites within the city limits of Nashville.

Price includes all hotel accommodations, meals, motor coaches, guides and park fees.

**To reserve a spot, call the Museum at 262-653-4141.**

## MILWAUKEE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

### 2016-2017 SPEAKER SCHEDULE

**September 8, 2016**

David Eicher

*Tales of the Civil War High Commands*

**October 13, 2016**

Lance Herdegen - Nevins-Freeman Award Winner

*"And the baby had red hair." Music of the Iron Brigade*

**November 10, 2016**

Dave Connon

*Iowa Copperheads*

**December 8, 2016**

Bjorn Skaptason

*Ambrose Bierce at Shiloh*

**January 12, 2017**

Richard Sommers

*Lessons in Leadership in the Petersburg Campaign*

**February 9, 2017**

Bob O'Neill

*Stuart's Christmas Raid of 1862*

**March 9, 2017**

Paul Kahan

*Simon Cameron, Lincoln's First Secretary of War*

**April 20, 2017**

Diane Smith

*Command Conflict in the Overland Campaign*

**May 11, 2017**

Reverend Robert Miller

*Faith of the Fathers*

**June 8, 2017**

Donald Sender

*Untold Facts of the Custer Debacle*

**Speakers remain subject to change.**

## Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.

### 2016 – 2017 Board of Directors

Name	Office/Position	Term Expires
Donna Agnelly	Editor, General Orders	2019
Thomas Arliskas	First Vice President	2019
Terry Arliskas	Secretary	
Michael K. Benton	Second Vice President	2017
Roman Blenski	Quartermaster	2019
Crain Bliwas	Member	2019
Paul A. Eilbes	Treasurer/Membership	2019
A. William Finke	Member	2017
Van Harl	President	2017
James J. Heinz	Member	2017
Grant Johnson	Past President	2018
Bruce Klem	Member	2018
Daniel Nettesheim	Member	2018
Frank Risler	Program Chair	2018
Tom Thompson	Member	2017
David Wege	Layout, General Orders	2018

### ~ CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE NEWS EMAIL NOTIFICATIONS ~

Would you like to receive an email reminder before each meeting? How about an email telling you about a special or upcoming Civil War event in our area? If you are interested in receiving an email reminder/notification please send your email address to Grant Johnson at: [grant.johnson@responsory.com](mailto:grant.johnson@responsory.com)

Grant will be creating a database with email reminders set to go out a week before the scheduled event. This is a purely optional choice on each member's part. If you have any questions please talk to Grant at a Round Table meeting or email him at the listed email address.

## Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for October 13, 2016

Mail your reservations by Monday, October 10, 2016 to:

Paul Eilbes

1809 Washington Ave

Cedarburg, WI 53012-9730

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

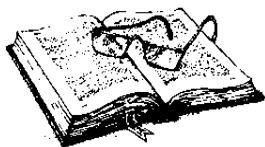
[peilbes@gmail.com](mailto:peilbes@gmail.com)

Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (meal price \$30.00 per person) for \_\_\_\_\_ reservations for October 13, 2016, 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 \_\_\_\_\_



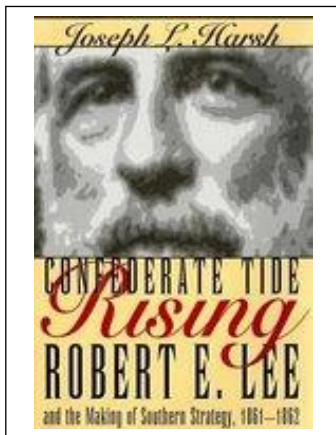


## BETWEEN THE COVERS

### Confederate Tide Rising:

Robert E. Lee and the Making of Southern Strategy, 1861-1862

Joseph L. Harsh



I picked up a book on Lee during our trip with the Kenosha Civil War Museum to Antietam, Harpers Ferry and South Mountain last October (2015). This is not a new book; it was published in 1998 as part of a larger study on the Maryland Campaign. However, when the time came to publish this work the determination was made to split the first few chapters – six – into this work with the balance published as *Taken at the Flood*.

This particular review will mark the beginning of a series of books I'm in the process of reading about Robert E. Lee. So, my next five reviews will be on that subject in order to get a better understanding of the man and the myth and perhaps, learn how he fits into the "Lost Cause" fervor.

Previous arguments on Confederate strategy as developed by President Davis take issue with the so-called "perimeter" defense, where Davis decided the Confederate war aims required that the Confederacy defend its' borders and defeat each and every incursion. Part of the rationale for that type of strategy was the need to attempt to entice neutral Missouri, Kentucky, Maryland and Delaware to join the Confederacy and to be able to protect those states on the edge of the Confederacy - Tennessee, Virginia and Arkansas. Dr. Harsh argues to the effect that President Davis and General Lee's policies allowed the Confederacy to survive longer than it otherwise could have and were best designed to win its' independence. His arguments are that Davis, except for a 4-month period, was working to build Southern forces into field armies and was urging commanders to be offensive and to take action on the enemy.

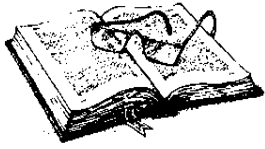
Harsh identifies three war aims the Confederacy pursued in drive: independence, territorial integrity and the union of all slave states. Independence was their primary goal to achieve. The author goes on to show how the Southern strategy changed over the early phases of the war to show how it was operating an offensive-defensive war. It was the only type of strategy that gave them the best chance to achieve their war aims. The author goes on to point out the relationship that Davis had with Lee and how the two grew their relationship to one that "was rarely equaled between a chief and subordinate." He goes on to point out the difficulty of separating ideas for the strategy's point of origination between the two men.

Dr. Harsh points out that Lee demonstrated two most useful qualities as a Confederate general. First, he had a pragmatic acceptance of the hand dealt him by fate. He resigned himself to incomplete and contradictory information and still found a way to impress his will on the enemy. Lee also brought to his new assignment maturing ideas on policy and strategy; he possessed a sharp eye for strategic opportunities. Lee worked hard to keep Davis informed at all times, in some instances, couching his requests with deference to the President and, as a result, developed a relationship of exceptional trust and respect with Davis.

The author points out that this working relationship enabled the Confederacy to thrive and grow strategically over time. Lee offered the best opportunity of implementing Davis's vision of strategy and through conferences and other communication made changes in a timely manner to enable greater success in the field. He also points to the tactics favored by Lee and that he attempted, in most cases, to use maneuver in order to get into position to make flank attacks or cause the opponent to move from a favorable defensive position.

I found this to be an interesting treatise on the Lee and Davis relationship as it dealt with the South's strategy in fighting the war. However, I'm not sure that the casual reader of Civil War books will find this a compelling, riveting read. That being said, I think this is a good book to have in one's Civil War library for the serious student of the war and I would give it at least 3 stars. I suspect that I will pick up Dr. Harsh's companion book, *Taken at the Flood*.

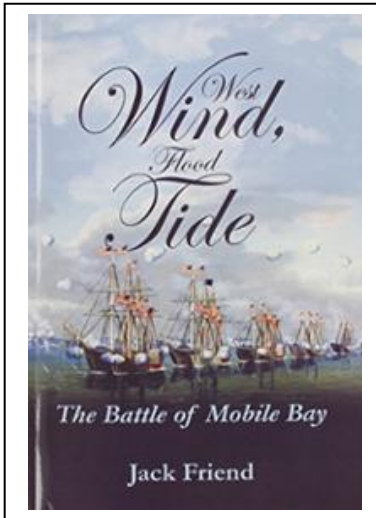
submitted by Bruce Klem



## BETWEEN THE COVERS

### West Wind, Flood Tide: The Battle of Mobile Bay

Jack Friend



Jack Friend, an army veteran of the Korean War, begins this story with the assumption of command of the West Gulf Blockading Squadron on 21 February, 1862, by Admiral David Farragut. Farragut received his initial orders in Washington D.C. to capture New Orleans, clear the Mississippi and then take Mobile.

After capturing New Orleans and with the fall of Vicksburg, Farragut was ready to move on Mobile and clear the bay. Friend details the event for both sides of the upcoming battle. The Confederates had plenty of fortifications guarding the bay, the most noteworthy at the entrance in Fort Gaines on the western side and Fort Morgan on the eastern side. There were a variety of other fortifications around the bay and in Mobile. In addition to these defenses, a small fleet protected the bay's entrance with the most formidable armored Confederate ram, the *Tennessee*, as the fleet's flagship. The *Tennessee* was the strongest ironclad the Confederacy had in 1864. It was commanded by one of Farragut's contemporaries of the old U.S. Navy, Admiral Franklin

Buchanan. He had captained the Confederate ram *Virginia*, which sank the *Cumberland* and *Congress* and fought the *Monitor* at Hampton Roads in 1862. His 49 years of naval experience thus far had served the Confederacy well.

Friend does a great job of showing how each side prepared for the upcoming battle by organizing their forces and pre-positioning assets in order to begin the fight. In the case of the Union, the capture of Pensacola went a long way to aid the Union by providing a base of supply to start the assault. Farragut continued to pressure Washington for more ironclads so he would have an adequate force to force passage into the bay and then take on the Confederate squadron led by the *Tennessee*. He needed the ships to get by the forts and torpedoes that were guarding the bay's entrance.

Farragut also had difficulty getting enough support from the army organizing his assault on Mobile and as a result, the attack was postponed more than once. It turned out to be a brutal battle and resulted in the bloodiest naval battle of the Civil War. Farragut's force had an eighteen-to-four advantage in vessels and in overwhelming superiority in firepower but the victory proved costly as he suffered nearly ten times the casualties.

Washington thought that right after the fall of Vicksburg, Mobile could be attacked and taken as part of the natural result of the opening of the Mississippi. However, other events tended to draw away the army forces to other operations. The Red River Campaign, for one, was a major draw of forces. Farragut knew that the only way to secure the entrance was to have a sufficient land force to take and occupy the forts. Fort Powell was a smaller fort on the bay that had to be taken first in order to get at Fort Gaines and in early 1863 and early 1864, General Canby did not have extra troops to mount the land assault that had to accompany Farragut's sea fight. The issue of troop availability and ironclad availability were two of the major stumbling blocks in getting Farragut's campaign underway.

The Confederates were trying to play a delaying campaign – if they could hold on to the Mobile Bay and provide a haven for blockade runners then, in conjunction with the action of Confederate field forces of the Army of Tennessee and the Army of Northern Virginia, the election of 1864 might run against Lincoln's reelection and the Confederacy might gain independence. So this was a truly crucial fight. The Confederates were very limited in forces and had to continually move forces around the area to try and guess where the Union would hit and try to insure that they had the best disposition of troops and guns.

I highly recommend this book to anyone who has an interest in Civil War joint operations and naval warfare. Mr. Friend does an excellent job in detailing the trials and tribulations each side dealt with in the operation. The author's style is very readable. My wife and I visited the sites last year as well as Pensacola and the surrounding area and enjoyed the area and the great seafood.

submitted by Bruce Klem



## Watch for the Alligator!



Continuing a look at fortifications that had outlived their day, in this issue of **General Orders** we look at Fort Pulaski near Savannah, Georgia. For much of the 19th century, masonry fortifications were the United States' main defense against overseas enemies. However, during the Civil War new technology, specifically rifled guns, prove their superiority over these forts. The siege at Pulaski is considered a landmark in the history of military science and invention. Modern rifled cannon were seen as experimental guns until field-tested in actual combat conditions, as the weapon's actual power and accuracy was unknown. Union Captain Quincy A. Gilmore decided to test the worth of the new guns against formidable Fort Pulaski on Cockspur Island from Union positions two and a half miles away.

As far as the power of rifled cannon, Quincy Gilmore was ahead of his time. He believed that a massive bombardment would make Fort Pulaski indefensible and preclude the need for a long siege. His peers thought his ideas were ridiculous.

*"But General Gillmore was not a man to be frustrated in his designs. He decided to haul the guns over the marsh to Venus Point, nearly a mile, a task any rational man would pronounce impossible. Had not General Lee already reported to Richmond that the erection of a battery on these islands was impossible? But General Gillmore left his dictionary at home and had evidently forgotten the definition of that word".*

**Second Lieut, 3rd Rhode Island Heavy Artillery**

Union troops constructed eleven sand batteries on the northwest end of Tybee Island, to the south of Pulaski and across the South Channel of the Savannah River. All work was done at night and kept quiet as possible. Whispered commands and quiet whistles directed troop efforts. Before daybreak, construction was covered with vegetation.

Despite the soldiers' best efforts to conceal their work, the fort garrison realized that something was in the works. Ironically, the Confederate officers were curious but not too concerned about enemy movements on distant Tybee Island. At the time, there was no gun in the world with an accurate, effective range at the two and a half miles from Tybee to Cockspur Island.

*Robert E. Lee himself said, "Colonel, they will make it pretty warm for you here with shells, but they cannot breach your walls at that distance."*



On April 11, 1862, after thirty hours of bombardment, Confederate troops inside Fort Pulaski surrendered to Union forces on Tybee Island. The rifled cannon had just rendered masonry forts obsolete. Rifled cannons, throwing heavier projectiles with greater accuracy and higher velocity than smooth-bore guns, had proved their worth. The damage done to the fort's walls by rifled guns is easily visible in the photograph to the left.

The "landmark" effect of the fall of Fort Pulaski may be summarized with the words of Union General David Hunter when he said,

*The result of this bombardment must cause...a change in the construction of fortifications as radical as that foreshadowed in naval architecture by the conflict between the Monitor and the Merimac. No works of stone or brick can resist the impact of rifled artillery of heavy calibre."*

A trip to Fort Pulaski today is well worth your time. The visitors' center is very informative, especially the model that shows how a massive brick and mortar fortress could be built on swampland. It was fine engineering indeed! The walls of the fort remain impressive, but the battle damage caused by those rifled cannon is obvious. Also of interest is the system that a young engineer named Robert E. Lee designed to drain the low land on which Fort Pulaski is constructed. 70-foot pilings driven into the soft mud provided a firm foundation on which to build Pulaski. Lee's design was so well planned that the fort, which contains about 25,000,000 bricks, shows few cracks in her walls to this day.



The story of Fort Pulaski is one that illustrates how technology changes warfare. From the first ironclads, to the use of railroads for supply and troop movements, to rifled cannon, lethal progress in technology drove changes in strategy and tactics. In a rather humorous twist, however, the alligator in Fort Pulaski's moat remains a rather primal reminder that nature is still the great leveler in regards to even man's most substantial creations.



*Through the Looking Glass* features are intended to tell the stories of common folks of the Civil War, whether they are civilians or military personnel. If you have access to the story of an ordinary Wisconsin citizen of this war-torn era, and are willing to share it with our Round Table, please consider submitting it to Donna Agnelly, editor of our General Orders. Thank you!

Printed below are pages from a Civil War Diary written by Sgt. Richard H. Breitengross. Originally written in high German, it was translated by an Agnesian Sister. Breitengross is buried at Rienzi Cemetery in Fond du Lac.

Breitengross descendants Marion Lorenz Blakely and Andy Lorenz have graciously allowed this material in the General Orders. Look for more thoughts from the good sergeant in a future *Through the Looking Glass* feature.

## Recollections of My Soldier Life

35<sup>th</sup> Regiment – Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry

### 1863

It was November, 1863, shortly before Christmas, that a new call came from President Lincoln: All male persons between the ages of 18 and 35, fit for military life, were to represent themselves in their county courthouse office to be examined by a military commission. Those found fit for service were to be chosen by lot to one of the new regiments that were formed.

The war had already been raging for two years, and had already taken the lives of thousands of our strongest young men. Yet, many more men were needed and many new regiments were established to fight against the South.

In this draft, it was my lot to be chosen---as well as some twenty more single and married men from Ashford. My comrades and I from Ashford now waited anxiously for notice from the County Office at Fond du Lac where we were to report for duty.

Almost a week had passed when a few recruiting officers presented themselves and begged us to enlist voluntarily before we got specific orders from headquarters. They told us we were free to do this. If not, we might get rough handling in the force regiments. Naturally we all enlisted. However, all this warning was humbug...each of these officers received \$2.00 a head, and that was the only thing they were interested in!

### 1864

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of January, all of us enlisted as volunteers for three years, or as long as the war should last. On the 10<sup>th</sup> of February, we left from Selesingerville (now Slinger) by train for Milwaukee, and then walked 3 miles to headquarters at Camp Washburn.

A few days later we received our medical examination; and on the 27<sup>th</sup> of February, we joined the 35<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Infantry, Wisconsin Volunteers. I became a private in Company H. Our captain's name was Cornelius Cuntz; Henry Hayden, 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant; David Hunter, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant; and Charles Wegeman, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant. Our staff officers were: Colonel Orff; Lieutenant Colonel Schmidt; Major G. Walther.

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of February, we obtained our uniforms, and now we drilled regularly, everyday so that we made great progress in a short time. On the 1<sup>st</sup> of March, 1864, I obtained the post of 2<sup>nd</sup> Corporal in Company H, after I had been for a number of weeks, 5<sup>th</sup> Corporal.

Now I have to tell of a circumstance that happened to me at this time. It was the custom in the regiment that Sunday mornings, all those in the camp who were not working, had permission to go to Milwaukee to church. From our company, some twenty men also received church passes, and were entrusted to 2<sup>nd</sup> Corporal G. We marched three miles to Milwaukee and entered the saloon. When I noticed that not one made a move to continue to church, I told Corporal G. that I wanted to go to Church, which he permitted.

My comrade Tr. came with me. We arrived by accident at the Lutheran Muhlauser Church. It was late and Pastor Muhlauser was already preaching. We were ushered to the front, where we understood every word clearly and distinctly. I must confess that I had never heard such an impressive sermon in America...I could have listened for hours without becoming tired. Suddenly, my comrade said to me: "I'm not staying any longer, I'm leaving." I begged him to stay at least until the sermon was over, but all in vain. He put on his cap and with heavy military steps, left the church, creating quite a disturbance. He joined the others in the saloon.

Not long afterwards, the whole troop appeared at the church door. Comrade Tr. came to me and said Corporal G. wanted me to come at once. I told him I had a church pass and I would come to the place we were to meet as soon as the sermon was over. However, this did not work.

Once more Tr. came and demanded I should come at once. In order to bring this noisy disturbance to an end, I went along, sorry that I couldn't hear the rest of the sermon. Soon all of us marched back to camp. A few days later, Corporal G. was demoted because of his drunkenness, and I was appointed to his place although I was but a 5<sup>th</sup> Corporal then.

We remained in Milwaukee until the 18<sup>th</sup> of April, 1864. Then, by train via Chicago and St. Louis, we set out for the South. Since our regiment numbered 1,030 men, it required an unusually long train. When the air within our car became too close, I and a number of others climbed to the roof, and from there had a good view of everything.

From all sides, cities, farms and other spots, people waved hats and handkerchiefs as a farewell. The weather was very pleasant, and so it was a pleasure to sit on top of the car and scream good-bye to the people. We left Milwaukee at 9 a.m. and arrived at Chicago at 4 p.m. We left Chicago at 6 p.m. and reached Springfield, Illinois the next morning and the same evening, Alton and St. Louis, Missouri.

Alton, Illinois is a very romantic city on the Mississippi River. It is built on a hill, from the top of which one gets a wonderful view of the Missouri. The next morning, we were ferried across the river to St. Louis. We marched through the city toward Benton Barracks, our camp, in which we remained until the 26<sup>th</sup> of April.

We reached Cairo (Ill.) the next day. On the 28<sup>th</sup>, we saw a steamboat which the enemy, a few days previous, had grounded. It was a government boat, now only half visible. The shore and the surrounding territory along the Mississippi are beautiful and romantic, as well as profitable for the bush rangers.

That same afternoon, we passed Fort Pillow, which had been a strong fortress but was now a heap of rubble. We traveled on 'til midnight, and then landed on a wild shore of the river. Our colonel placed three camp sentinels, who caught an enemy spy whom we took along to Memphis, where we arrived the next morning.

We remained here until the afternoon, then continued our trip to Helena (Arkansas) and to Vicksburg (Mississippi), which we reached the first of May. From here on to New Orleans (Louisiana) we made no more stops. We passed Natchez (Miss.), Port Hudson and Baton Rouge (Louisiana). This part of the trip was very pleasant, the view on both shores of the Mississippi was beautiful. One could see large plantations where, however, most of the buildings were in ruins.

Our steamer "Maria Denning" finally reached New Orleans the evening of the fourth of May. The city, with its thousand of gas lights, was a beautiful sight. We spent the night on board. Next morning, the fifth of May, I was on sentry duty, and had the second relief under me, whereby I could also go on shore, if I wanted to.

The following day, we received orders to Port Hudson (north of Baton Rouge on the Mississippi River), which we reached safely in two days. Our camp was outside of the fortress, about one mile from the Mississippi River. Port Hudson is a strong and well-garrisoned stronghold of 12,000 – 15,000 black and white troops. Here we had much to do: drilling, sentry duty, and outpost duty...all of which had to be done according to strict military orders.

On the fifth of June, the paymaster paid us for two months. Hardly anyone of us had a penny left of the money that we brought from home. Many of us were sick from the great heat. Before long, half of the Regiment was down with dysentery, from which twenty-five of our company died. This was only the beginning.

### **From the Wisconsin Historical Society:**

The 35<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Infantry was organized at Camp Washburn in Milwaukee and mustered into service on February 27, 1864. The regiment was ordered to Alexandria, Louisiana, April 18, promptly moved to New Orleans, and then traveled to Port Hudson, Louisiana, where it arrived on May 7. It served at Port Hudson until June 1864 and then moved through Arkansas and Alabama. It participated in the campaign against Mobile and its defenses, the siege of Spanish Fort, and the capture of Fort Blakely, Alabama. The regiment mustered out on March 15, 1866. It lost 276 men during service. Two enlisted men were killed. Three officers and 271 enlisted men died from disease.

*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 submission to **Donna Agnelly, Editor**, 420 Racine St. Unit 110, Waterford, WI 53185 or email [dagnelly@tds.net](mailto:dagnelly@tds.net) or [donnaagnelly@gmail.com](mailto:donnaagnelly@gmail.com) with "Civil War Round Table" in the subject line of your message. All submissions must be received by the Editor no later than the 10<sup>th</sup> 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.

Copyright © 2015 by the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc. Permission is granted for use of the contents, in whole or in part, in non-for-profit Civil War Round Table newsletters only. All other rights are reserved.

*General Orders* design & layout by Dave Wege.

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 log, along with your name or initials.

ITEM	COST
Hooded Sweatshirt in Northern Blue.....	\$35.00
Baseball Hat.....	\$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](mailto:dbcpmilw@execpc.com)

You may also see Roman in person at the  
Monthly Meeting at the Book Raffle table.

