

GENERAL ORDERS



The Newsletter of the

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



December 8, 2016

Bjorn Skaptason

***What I Saw of Shiloh:* Ambrose Bierce Goes to War**

Is it not strange that the phantoms of a blood-stained period have so airy a grace and look with so tender eyes? - That I recall with difficulty the danger and death and horrors of the time, and without effort all that was gracious and picturesque?

Ambrose Bierce

Ambrose Bierce wrote some of the finest literature in the genre of horror fiction of any American author. He also enjoyed a storied career as one of the greatest journalists of the age of Yellow Journalism at the turn of the Twentieth Century. But on April 7, 1862, nineteen year-old Sergeant Bierce of the 9th Indiana regiment faced the real horror of the battle of Shiloh. His vivid chronicle of his experience in this battle rivals any work of fiction in communicating the drama, the pathos and the horror of the Civil War and of this battle.



Ambrose Bierce knew the value of tramping over battlefields. In 1913, at the age of seventy-one, he revisited those battlefields he walked as a young man. He went to Virginia, where he first "saw the elephant." He revisited Kennesaw Mountain where he sustained and survived a head wound. He stopped at Stones River and at Shiloh National Military Park.

In his December presentation to our Round Table, Bjorn Skaptason, through words and images, will introduce the Shiloh battlefield in the footsteps of Sergeant Bierce while reciting and interpreting passages from his classic essay, *What I Saw at Shiloh*.

Bjorn Skaptason holds an M.A., in history from Loyola University Chicago. He worked as a seasonal ranger at the National Park Service's Shiloh National Military Park and Corinth Civil War Interpretive Center for two summers while studying at Loyola. He still returns to Shiloh yearly on the anniversary of the battle to help lead special interpretive hikes of the battlefield. Bjorn has previously published essays on Ambrose Bierce at Shiloh for the Ambrose Bierce Project Journal, on the United States Colored Troops in the campaign and the battle of Brice's Crossroads for the West Tennessee Historical Society Papers, and in the Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society on the Chicago Light Artillery. A dealer in antiquarian books, Bjorn produces and guest hosts Virtual Book Signing™, a live Civil War book discussion program webcast from the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop in Chicago.

milwaukeeecwrt.org

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December 2016

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December Meeting at a Glance

[Jackets required for the dining room.]

Country Club of the Wisconsin Club 6200 WEST GOOD HOPE ROAD

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

6:45 p.m. - Dinner

[\$30 by reservation, please]

Reservations are accepted until

Monday, December 5, 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 7.

Abraham Lincoln Book Shop

The Abraham Lincoln Book Shop is now officially re-opened at its new location only ½ mile from their previous location.

Abraham Lincoln Book Shop, Inc
824 West Superior Street, Suite 100
(corner of Green St. just off Chicago & Halsted)
Chicago, IL. 60642
312-944-3085
ALincolnBookShop.com

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!

Steven Smith Joins Savas Beatie

On November 1, 2016, Steven Smith joined Savas Beatie as Editorial Director. Smith, who was the founder of New York based Sarpedon Publishers, one of the most respected military history houses of the 1990s, has most recently been the editorial director of Philadelphia's Casemate Publishers. He is also the author or co-author of 10 works of his own (some under the pseudonym of Stephen Tanner).

Smith will work from his office in Rockville Centre, NY. Theodore P. Savas, Publisher and Managing Director of Savas Beatie, stated: *We are very excited to welcome Steve aboard. I have known Steve personally and professionally for nearly two decades, and the opportunity to work closely with him to build our line and expand our visibility is very exciting.*

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The Muster Roll: NEW MEMBERS

John W. Knuteson

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 November 10, 2016.

Major Contributor (\$500 and above)

Patron (\$200 - \$499)

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

Associate (\$100 - \$199)

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

Contributor (up to \$99)

Darwin Adams, George Affeldt, T. James Blake, John & Linda Connelly, Dr. Gordon Dammann, Michael Deeken, Tom Doyle, Lori Duginski, John Durr, Gary & Judith Ertel, Doug Haag, Dr. Erwin Huston, Allan Kasprzak, Christopher E. Johnson, Ardis Kelling, Jay Lauck, Fredric Madsen, Jerry & Donna Martynski, Kathleen McNally, James Melchior, Herb Oechler, John Rodahl, Chet Rohn, Dan Tanty, Fred Wendorf

Civil War Preservation News

The Civil War Trust celebrated one of its greatest victories in its history with the preservation of General Robert E. Lee's headquarters in Gettysburg. Nearly 700 people joined in the ribbon-cutting celebrations along with Civil War Trust key partners – Gettysburg National Military Park, Journey Through Hallowed Ground, the Gettysburg Foundation and the Gettysburg Seminary.

The small stone house – also known as the Mary Thompson House – and the adjacent lands that served as a combat command center during one of the most decisive battles in our history is now open. On behalf of the Trust, President Jim Lighthizer offered heartfelt thanks to all who supported this effort, from start to finish.

For more than a year, the Trust worked diligently to rehabilitate the home and return the landscape to its Civil War appearance. The work involved removing 10 modern structures and several post-war additions to the headquarters building. Period photographs and post-war surveys were used to replicate historic contours and gardens. A dog house, visible in a photo taken during the Civil War, was also installed for authenticity.



In December 1956, Bish Thompson talked to the Round Table on "How to Enjoy a War."

Stanley I. Cutler was our Round Table speaker in December 1966, speaking on "The Supreme Court in the Civil War & Reconstruction Era."

"The Battle of the Monitor and the Merrimac" was the topic of Edgar G. Archer's presentation to the Round Table in December 1976.

Alan Nolan spoke to the Round Table in December 1986 about "Robert E. Lee: A Historical View."

In December 1996, Robert E. Krick discussed "The Army of Northern Virginia's Staff Corps."

At last year's December meeting, our Round Table speaker was Dave Keller who spoke about "Camp Douglas."

NEW AT THE ANTARAMIAN GALLERY

Changing America: The Emancipation Proclamation, 1863 and the March on Washington, 1963

November 16, 2016 through January 13, 2017

Changing America examines the events leading up to the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863 and the March on Washington in 1963. Both grew out of decades of bold actions, resistance, organization, and vision. One hundred years separate them, yet they are linked in the larger story of a struggle for liberty which brought together different races, classes, and ideologies and had a profound impact on the generations that followed.

The exhibit and programs are presented by the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture and the National Museum of American History in collaboration with the American Library Association Public Programs Office. The tour of the traveling exhibition is made possible by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

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.

Lincoln's Greatest Journey:

Sixteen Days that Changed a Presidency

March 24th – April 8, 1865

Friday, December 2, 2016, Noon

Presenter: Noah Andre Trudeau

Lincoln's Greatest Journey, by Noah Andre Trudeau, offers the first comprehensive account of this momentous time. First editions of the book will be available for purchase and signing at this event.

Make Way for Liberty:

Wisconsin African-Americans in the Civil War

Friday, December 9, 2016, Noon

Presenter: Jeff Kannel

Relative to the total number of Badgers who served in the Civil War, African-Americans were few but they made up significant numbers of soldiers in at least five regiments of the United States Colored Infantry. Their pre-and post-war lives in rural communities, small towns, and cities form an enlightening story of acceptance and respect for their service but rejection and discrimination based on their race.

Other Kenosha Civil War Museum Events

Victorian Christmas

Saturday, December 3, 2016, 11am – 4pm

Explore the traditions, music, games, and dances that soldiers and civilians used to celebrate the Christmas season during and after the Civil War. Civil War Santa Claus will be making an appearance along with presentations by the West Side Victorian Dancers (11am & 3pm), the Prairie School Cello and Piano Ensembles (Noon) and The Vitrolum Republic Concert (2pm).

The Emancipation to the March on Washington:

The Big Steps Towards Citizenship

Saturday, December 10, 2016, 2pm

Presenter: Dr. Christopher Reed, Roosevelt University of Chicago

Dr. Reed will discuss how the tortuous road to the recognition of full human rights, accompanied by the enjoyment of citizenship rights and privileges, proceeded through various stages.

47th Annual Patriotic Luncheon

Honoring Presidents Washington, Lincoln, & McKinley

"Collision on the Quest for Distinction"

Saturday, February 4, 2017, 12:30 p.m.

Guest Speaker: Steven Rogstad

Abraham Lincoln and John Wilkes Booth:

Each absorbed with ambition to distinguish themselves, each on a path leading to their ultimate demise in April 1865.

Location: Alioto's Restaurant, 3041 N. Mayfair Rd., Wauwatosa, WI

Hosted by: C.K. Pier Badger Camp #1 and Auxiliary #4 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Cost: \$20 per person. Payable to C.K. Pier Badger Camp #1 before January 28, 2017

Mail check to: Elizabeth Craig, 4622 W. Mill Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53218

For more information: 414-614-3690



Letter from the 7th Regiment, No. 8
Arlington Heights, November 15, '61

The Seventh since my last letter have not performed anything remarkable. They continue in the beaten path, and persist, involuntarily to pursue the un-even tenor of our war; none of your readers would think easy were they compelled to follow our drum major from our Brigade drill-ground up to camp. Our route is covered a foot deep with excellent mortar and our drum major improves the opportunity whenever it is deepest and when we march up hill to strike up a lively quick step which causes the men to wish that worthy functionary in the possession of a very warm place. But, their wishes proving unavailing, they submit with as good grace as possible and charge their toil to their country's account.

On the 5th inst. Lieut. Ayres of the Berlin Light Guard visited our camp and I obtained a pass from Lieut. Rogers to accompany him back to the Headquarters of the 5th regiment at Camp Griffin. It was a pleasant afternoon and we took the road running between Fort Tillinghast and Fort Cass direct to Barley's Cross Roads where Lieut. Ayres, who appeared to be very familiar with the topography of the country, pointed out the place where a party of our skirmishers had a brush with a troop of rebel cavalry. Leaving this road which continues on to Fall's Church, we turned on the right in the direction of Fort Moray, till we came to the church of Olivet, (which in its present dilapidated condition resembles an old barn, the siding being almost all taken away, nothing remaining but the roof and frame work). There we left the road and made our way across lots, if the latter term can be applied to the tented field occupied by the Army of the Potomac, passing Camp Vanterwerken where the Lieut. showed me the old camp ground of the Fifth and the Abbatis which surrounds the hill which they had built; then crossing over trees and brush, or, rather what would be a clearing in Waukesha county, which had been chopped down by the soldiers of the Fifth, we came to a hill on one side of which there was a corn field and on the other a thick pine grove. Here the Berlin Light Guard had, under cover of the corn field, attacked a body of rebels, driving them away.

A California Captain was killed in the encounter. At the end of the cornfield we came to a farm house occupied by the female portion of a secession family where we halted to rest. Last summer the Berlin Light Guard were posted as guard around this domicile to prevent the occupants from communicating with their male relatives in the enemy's

ranks and an acquaintance sprang up between them and our men which the courteous bearing of the Berlin volunteers improved into positive friendship.

From the conversation of Lieut. Ayers with these forlorn widows of secession, I should judge that he was engaged in the task of collecting facts for a publication on the now extinct tribe, to witness, the first families of Virginia.

Mrs. Hurst, the housekeeper, an aged lady, almost bald, whose organs of volubility, for the time being, acquired clarity unparalleled in my experience of the capacity of woman's tongue, recited the annual of these families. Commodore Jones family whose existence is a little to the right of the present camp of the Fifth who, owing service to the United States in the Navy, turned traitor, suffered some of the troubles of war. His mansion is in the possession of our troops and of all family relics handed down from the days of Jefferson are now pretty well distributed among the venial heroes of mudsill who desecrate the sacred soil; this is the case with the majority of abandoned regal mansions within the lines of the Army of the Potomac. However, where the women are left behind, they are protected by guard detailed for the purpose by our Generals and their property is respected by the troops but when the boys advance as skirmishers or scouts and before the body of the army take possession, disputed territory is considered fair game and unoccupied houses are thoroughly searched and bed spreads, pincushions, embroidered work, and even love letters are picked up and sent as souvenirs to the mercenary and trafficking Yankees up North. It is sad to think that soap makers, inventors of shingle machines, brick layers, school teachers and curing workers in iron, should have opportunities to peruse these scented missives which Cupid had prompted the authors the folly to write. Such quantities of bad spelling subjected to the inspection of northern school girls must bring the blush to the cheeks of Virginia's daughters who boast an illustrious lineage down from the original settlers who priced the first cargo of black muscle from Africa imported in old pirated crafts manned by the outlaws of all nations. One of these whom the old lady mentioned named, Virginia Newcomb, who has a lover in the rebel army must have been omitted by treachery in his chronicles of the mishaps of the latter family. The ease she talks treason to our officers is a caution. Had she been a Northern school teacher in the south and presumed to be loyal there is not telling what odium and contempt the gallant and chivalrous

descendants of ancient loyalty would bestow on her defiance and scorn in the very teeth of Generals, unmolested, protected by the forbearance and courtesy of a higher civilization than she had, in which she was wont to draw the inspiration of her sentiments.

But I digress. After a halt of a half an hour, we proceeded on our journey, passed a large body of cavalry, splendidly equipped, and an old church where a Beaver Dam company had once held a prayer meeting; the walls was covered with soldiers autographs from Minnesota to Maine; thence past Langley's, a collection of buildings now occupied as Gen. McCall's Headquarters. From thence to Camp Griffin near Louisville was but a short distance at which place we arrived just at sunset and, with the Fifth, was on dress parade. Here I heard the most thrilling music from the Brass band of the Fifth, which has the reputation, acknowledged everywhere, of being the best in the army, excelling even the Marine Band at Washington. Adjutant West's loud cry of 'parade dismissed' brought the regiment back to quarters and I was soon engaged in the vigorous exercise of shaking hands with many members of Capt. Brugh's company. Took supper with Benjamin Starkey and slept in the tent of Corporal van Norlman that night. I saw Frank Smith, Frank Merry, John Videll, Dawes Bates and Sergeant Kees; the latter said he had to go on picket the next morning. All the boys appeared to be well that I saw although Capt. Brugh said that some sickness prevailed. The arduous duties and exposure to the frequent fall rain storms affecting seriously the general turn out on parades. In the forenoon of the next day I strolled around through the various encampments of the New York and Pennsylvania regiments visiting also the celebrated Mott's Battery stationed on the top of a small hill. Neath the spreading Chestnut shade, where, also, in an abandoned secession mansion, Gen. Hancock's headquarters is situated. Before leaving I took dinner with Capt. Brugh with a copy of the NY Times for a table cloth and it was the best meal I ate since I left Berlin. The captain enjoys hugely, apparently, a soldiers life. He said he could sleep anywhere in all sorts of storms. Pie eating with its perils develops the manhood of our troops and the position of honor now held by the brave Berlin boys is much coveted by us of the Seventh. Smith's division is on the right wing of the Grand Army; Hancock's Brigade is in the right of the latter Division and the Fifth is in the right of the brigade and as our cause is right, you may rest assured they will go right ahead.

On my return I took a different route, passing many New York and Pennsylvania regiments, also the 4th Michigan whom I found playing ball. They are encamped on a high hill near Falls Church. I believe it is called Halls Hill.

From its summit, on which there is an observatory, I could distinguish the well defined outlines of the Blue Ridge mountains, their summits blending with the clouds. The scene is magnificent. I could not help thinking that within the range of vision lay fields of contests which history will hand down as ever memorable, here shall be placed the chair of the future historian and he shall tell how Baker fell, the rout at Manassas, and the many picket encounters. Every bush has its tale of blood to utter, here poised, swings the destiny of our great Republic. May we be spared the fate of ancient empire; at least until our career ripens into a glorious example of national existence which shall eclipse the light of former ages, culminating in the happiness of our citizens. As the road was rough it was dark ere I reached my quarters that night.

The following soldiers in our regiment died on the 13th. W.I. Compton, Company D at Columbian College Hospital; Corporal Eli P. Sayre; Company A in the Eruptive Fever Hospital. And here I have to add a more melancholy story; Mrs. Mary Williams, wife of Orderly Sergeant Byron Williams, formerly of Barr Oak Valley town of Leon, Waukesha County, died last Sunday, Nov 10th

She was buried inst Tuesday near Fort Albany, the whole Company attended the funeral. She came with us from our homes, determined to see the worst, but now rests in an alien grave, mourned by all, but more by her husband who has the sympathies of his old friends in this more than ordinarily severe bereavement. After the funeral Captain Walther asked if the men were willing to subscribe enough to place a suitable grave stone to mark the resting place of the already dead of this company and the proposition was readily agreed to. The Captain pledged, himself, to furnish more than his quota for the same purpose.

The following from the Seventh are in the hospital; at Kalorama Eruptive Hospital, 15; at the General Union Hospital, Georgetown, 2d Wis, 1; at Columbia College Hospitals, Washington, 5th Wis, 1.

On the 13th and 14th, the Seventh received their pay and the boys are in the greatest stew as to how they shall spend their money, much of it will be sent home. The rest will be spent in buying stationery, postage stamps, maps, gloves, boots, leggings, butter, pies, cakes, apples, cigars &c., the balance in playing poker, euchre and some, I am sorry to say, for Rifle whiskey.

As I am very lengthy this time, your patience and that of your readers must be severely taxed but you can blame Uncle Sam for not giving work such as that at Picketon and Port Royal for us to do when I promise to be brief and concise. We have just got our blue uniforms and I must close up.

Yours, W.D.W.

November 1, 1862

The following thrilling letter has been kindly furnished us by Rev. J.H. Dudley. The writer, a lady now residing in Washington is a relative of the elder's family and her statements are perfectly reliable although they may seem incredible.

***My husband is now by my side, once more a free man, able to breathe the pure fresh air of Heaven untainted by the loathsome atmosphere of dreaded Libby prison, in rebeldom, and with churlish guilty rebel to point the ready musket at him, if he dared look forth on the beautiful things of nature made by the same kind hand which so gloriously sent forth a flood of sunlight on the works of his hand upon all both man and beast, bird and insect, and saw that all was good and not like these rebels – shutting out man the best and most noble of all his works from all the beauties of this world and by seeing the glories here from some faint conceptions of what a God is ours. – He left Libby prison on Sunday a.m. the 21st of Sept., 1862, with scarcely fifteen minutes warning, as usual. He found some kind friends there disposed to favor him but “secretly, for fear of the Jews.” Three times he was allowed to go out of prison during his confinement.

In the cook room, which was below, were, most of the time, several dead bodies not allowed to be buried until there were ten. Fifteen or twenty bodies that had laid there as many days; and in the open air, of course, perfectly tainted and so swollen, putrid and black as not to render it possible to handle them.

I have very little time now to write as I have 4 immense freight wagons at the Patent office being loaded with goods from nearly every state which has troops, which I have gotten by spending the whole time yesterday in collecting for a camp seven miles off, beyond Alexandria, for convalescents, where convalescents are sent to recruit. I visited the camps two days ago and found 16,000 men in the most awful condition such as I never supposed could be found on the American continent. One thousand had no shirts, even, and the sick, with Typhoid fever and other complaints, lying in the sand and dirt with nothing under their heads. But I need not attempt to describe the terrible scenes. Hundreds of poor, filthy fellows, following me wherever I went so that at last I had to have a guard to clear my way. I went to the sanitary rooms, and took some 300 shirts, 200 pillows, crackers, fruit, condensed milk, blankets, &c., &c., &c., One poor man, from Wisconsin, the most like a living skeleton I ever saw to whom I gave a blanket, being a little delirious kept repeating to himself and to others, “Have not got to shiver tonight” over and over again.

I came home determined to do something for them and went to Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln, to the Surgeon General and to the medical purveyor and yesterday visited most of the committees to get all I could and today I go out with a number of distributors. I gathered enough to go down to there and to take four wagons besides half a boat load, and sixteen persons for distributors when there.

I have just been out with my ambulance and bought 7 bbls. onions, 10 of potatoes, 1200 shirts, 1000 sheets, 2000 drawers, 400 pants, 6 bbs. dried fruit, 12 pairs of crutches, 500 pillows and cases, 70 quilts, 100 lbs. condensed beef, 60 cans beef soup, 80 cushions for wounded limbs &c., &c., &c.

But all this among so many is but very little. I went from 8 o'clock a.m. yesterday till 10 o'clock p.m. I only mention this to show the demand here. And now a little of our trip to **Camp Misery.**

We reach the camp about noon, and at once selected the most convenient place for our goods and had a guard placed over them. I took the sick wards as my field and the other ladies the tents on each side. The sick ward forming the hospital consists of several largest size tents all together like one. There the sick lie close together, some few on cots and others on the ground with every conceivable form of disease and wounds (including two insane) and from almost every State. A certain number of tents constitute a ward and each ward has a ward master with a nurse to every ten men.

We succeeded in giving to each of the men on beds in two wards a shirt, drawers, socks, slippers, towel, handkerchief and fan and, to such as were able, some reading with a pillow and a case. By the time I got through the two wards it was too dark to do much in the tents and I left them and joined the others in the single tents, and witnessed the burial of one poor fellow far away from home and friends in a soldiers lonely grave; but all was done very decently and a white board with name, age, home, &c. on it. Next morning at 7 1/2 o'clock we commenced our labor and selected guards for our things all of which were then opened and distributed.

Sheets, shirts, pillows, cushions, &c., &c., Soon we had the poor fellows with good clean sheets, pillows under their aching heads and quilts and blankets over them, - and Oh! such scenes, such tears, such expressions of gratitude, - was enough to break my heart. Then followed food of various kinds which many eagerly devoured. After getting through the sick wards I took place at the center near the boxes and with a good corps of aids gave out to the multitude which so thronged around us as to almost crush me. I told them I would give all something if they would keep off. But Oh, such pleading and begging – please madam give a shirt I have not had one in two months – please give me a towel, please a pair of socks or shoes I have not had any these four months and you can see how sore and swollen my feet are.

It may seem to those who have never witnessed such sight an exaggerated picture but the reality in truth does beggar all description. ...But understand, after all that we gave, three tons is but a drop in the ocean; only the sickest and a few others were supplied. The mass are without beds, without even straw to lie on, not even grass, the ground being trampled on by so great a crowd, 18,000...

Many begged most piteously for bibles. Some said ‘my wife gave me one the last thing before I left home but I lost it at such a battle.’ Cannot the people of Delavan send us something - any thing – half worn clothing, socks, old flannels – all come good.

Capt. Gibson's Company

**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

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 December 8, 2016

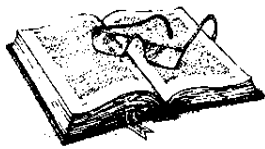
Mail your reservations by Monday, December 5, 2016, to:

Paul Eilbes
1809 Washington Ave
Cedarburg, WI 53012-9730

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

Enclosed is \$ ____ (meal price \$30.00 per person) for ____ reservations for December 8, 2016, meeting of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee. (Please make checks payable to the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.)

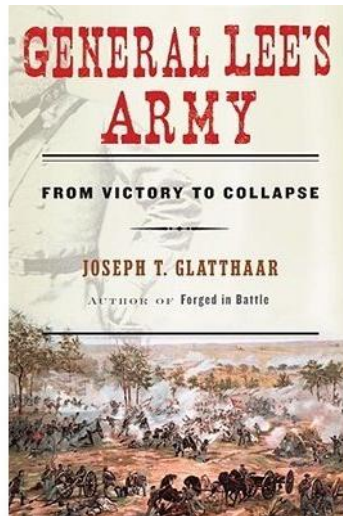
Name of Member _____



BETWEEN THE COVERS

General Lee's Army - From Victory to Collapse

by Joseph T. Glatthaar



This review is the last of five books on Lee. The author has used diaries, letters and official war records to put flesh on describing the internal parts of perhaps one of the most famous armies of the Civil War – the Army of Northern Virginia, from its inception to the end. Obviously, Dr. Glatthaar covers the period the army is led by General Joe Johnston if for nothing more than to provide the basis for the psyche of the army's make-up.

The main focus is, of course, how the army changed and developed its élan when Lee took command and how, under Lee's leadership, the Army of Northern Virginia developed into an awesome fighting machine. Dr. Glatthaar focuses on the following major topics: campaigns, reasons for enlisting in the army, the religious backgrounds of officers and enlisted, discipline, relationships of commanders, camp life between campaigns and home life, blacks and slavery and medical care.

Dr. Glatthaar highlights the fact that, while significant numbers of soldiers may not have owned slaves, they had contact with either family that owned slaves or

had some contact with the institution or benefited from it. Perhaps renting a couple of slaves to help with a crop, a building project or the like, is one example of a way the common soldier may have had a benefit from the institution. In this way, even though many did not own slaves, their belief in the institution was a key to their culture and therefore, were prone to offer their services to the Army to protect the Southern way.

The author shows how Lee worked relentlessly to mold the army into a disciplined fighting unit and while he was successful in achieving his goal of a brilliant fighting unit, he never could instill the standard of discipline Lee felt the army needed to achieve total victory. Lee, as a result of his training at West Point, felt that the army required the same standard of discipline that was expected of regular army troops. He never could raise the army to that standard. Straggling and desertion remained a bane of the army's existence throughout the war. Lee tried numerous ways to attempt to bring it under control but no method proved successful. I suspect lack of proper supplies was a large factor in causing this problem. Lack of shoes and food made for weakened troops unable to keep up a brutal marching pace in hot, steamy weather.

Dr. Glatthaar felt this particular problem was a result of the independent nature of the spirit of the men themselves. The same lack of discipline carried through the Confederate officer corps as well as all the way down to the small unit level. Many junior officers never felt the need for maintaining proper discipline in their units. The end result perhaps, was the fact that, with company officers elected by their men, harsh disciplinarians were soon voted out of the command positions. In spite of the more casual approach to discipline, the army accomplished many successes even when outnumbered. The army's ability to carry on in the face of harsh conditions is astounding.

The author provides a lot of insight into the other problems Lee was faced with: the government, supply issues, subordinates and many other issues he faced in addition to planning for the Army's operations. Lee did not have a large staff and nothing like today's modern Operations Officer and operations staff. Nonetheless, his planning led to numerous battlefield successes. Glatthaar also points out the intense feeling of confidence the rank and file developed for Lee and the implicit faith they developed in his leadership.

I found this to be a worthwhile book to read and add to my Civil War library. It provides an in-depth look into the inner workings of the Army of Northern Virginia, Lee's Army, and helped provide the why of how it functioned. I recommend this book to anyone with an interest in the Civil War, particularly for obtaining information on the key Southern army.

submitted by Bruce Klem

Fort Clinch Historic Site



In May my wife and I traveled to Jacksonville by way of the Great Smokey National Park, Biltmore Estate in Ashville, N.C. and spent some time on Amelia Island in Florida. We were visiting some friends in Jacksonville and chose to stay on Amelia Island to do some sight-seeing and enjoy the ocean breezes. One of the sights is a Civil War era fort, Ft. Clinch. Listed below is a brief history of the fort.

submitted by Bruce Klem

Fort Clinch was named for General Duncan Lamont Clinch, who was a hero of the Seminole War and a Congressman from Georgia. The fort was part of the three systems of fortifications that were designed to protect the coastline of the United States during its first century. First system of forts consisted of earthworks surrounding wood structures. The Second system of forts were made of earthworks and stone and brick structures. The third system of forts, built of thick masonry walls, provided the ultimate design for fort structures from 1812-1868. Fort Clinch was a Third System Fortification.

Construction on Fort Clinch began in 1847. The fort, shaped like an irregular pentagon, had five tower bastions. It was built of masonry and stone with a two wall system of brick and earth. The fort was designed to garrison 500 soldiers and 78 pieces of artillery.

A civilian workforce, directed by officers of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, was employed to construct the fort. Progress was slow and by 1860 only two-thirds of the walls were completed and not a single cannon had been mounted. The guard rooms, prison, lumber sheds and carpentry shops were completed. The storehouse and kitchens remained unfinished.

At the beginning of the Civil War, as Florida seceded from the Union, Confederate forces quietly took control of Fort Clinch. Rather than continuing construction on the fort, the Confederate Army established batteries in the town of Fernandina and at strategic locations on the Amelia and Cumberland Islands. Federal forces advancing along several South Carolina and Georgia coastal islands caused General Robert E. Lee to authorize the withdrawal of Confederate forces from the area in early 1862.

On March 3, 1862, as the Confederate evacuation was nearing completion, Federal warships and troops arrived to reestablish control of Fort Clinch. Company E of the 1st New York Volunteer Engineers worked tirelessly to complete the fort. Despite their best continuing efforts, the engineers never completed the fort. Today the differences in construction can be noted on some of the walls by slightly different colored bricks.

From 1869 to 1898 the Army maintained Fort Clinch on a caretaker status. On February 15, 1898, the sinking of the USS Maine in Havana harbor thrust the United States into war with Spain and brought the fort back to life. Battery A of the 6th US Artillery arrived at Fort Clinch and readied it for war. The soldiers immediately set about building a gun mount for an eight inch breech loading rifle on the fort's northeast parapet. The weapon was mounted six months later. Four 15-inch Rodman Columbiads were also placed into service and a mine field was laid in the sound in front of Fort Clinch. With the ending of hostilities in late 1898, all troops were removed and Fort Clinch was returned to caretaker status.

The Federal government sold the fort and the surrounding property to private interest in 1926 because it was no longer considered of military value. In 1935, the state of Florida bought the fort and the surrounding property in order to preserve it and provide outdoor recreational opportunities. Between 1937 and 1942, the Civilian Conservation Corps, Company 1420 repaired the fort and constructed the visitor center, roads, camping area, bathhouse and picnic area. The work of the CCC at Fort Clinch and across the State became the foundation of the Florida State Park system. Fort Clinch is one of Florida's first eight state parks.

In 1942 the US Armed forces pressed Fort Clinch into service on last time. The Coast Guard, in joint operation with the Army and Navy, established and maintained a surveillance and communications system with the fort and on various islands in the area. In September of 1942, the use of horses for beach patrol was approved. The mounted patrol kept watch for landings of spies and saboteurs along the beaches until 1945 when the fort was returned to the State of Florida.

Today the site offers, camping, a boat launch, fishing, hiking and picnic areas.

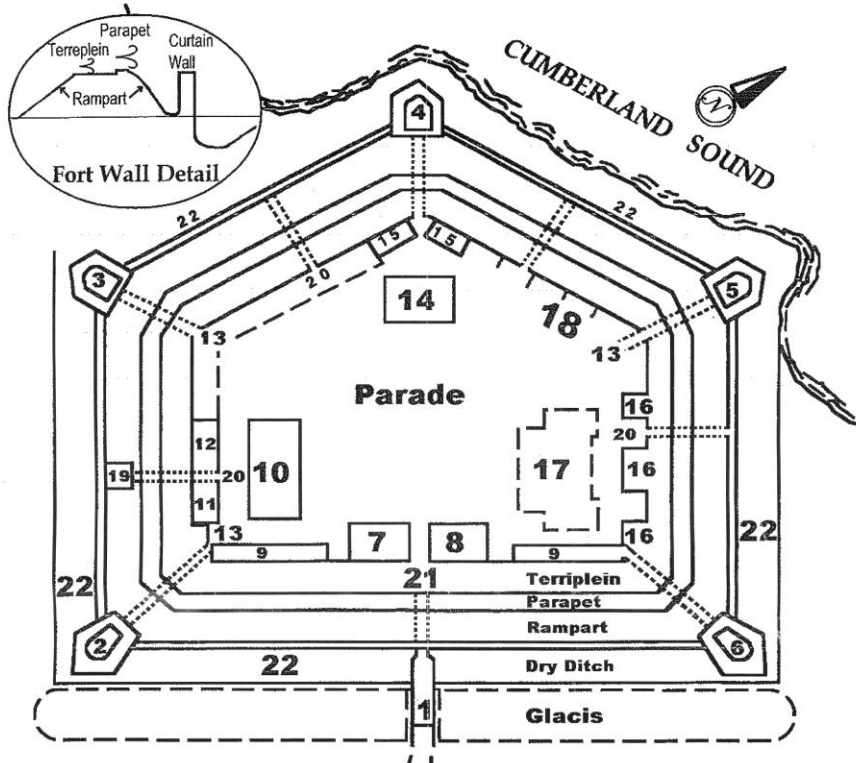
Units stationed at Fort Clinch and Fernandina during the Civil War

FEDERAL

1 st New York Engineers	33 rd US Colored Troop
4 th New Hampshire Infantry	3 rd US Colored Troop
7 th New Hampshire Infantry	4 th US Colored Troop
7 th Connecticut Infantry	8 th US Colored Troop
9 th Maine Infantry	21 st US Colored Troop
11 th Maine Infantry	34 th US Colored Troop
97 th Pennsylvania Infantry	7 th United States Infant
107 th Ohio Infantry	157 th New York Infant

CONFEDERATE

1 st Battalion Florida Infantry	Fernandina Volunteers
2 nd Florida Infantry	Palatka Guard
3 rd Florida Infantry	Jeff Davis Rifles
4 th Florida Infantry	Marion Dragoons
24 th Mississippi Infantry	Marion Light Artillery



FORT CLINCH DIAGRAM



- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 1. Swing Bridge | 12. Blacksmith Shop |
| 2. South Bastion | 13. Bastion Galleries |
| 3. Southwest Bastion | 14. Storehouse/Dispensary |
| 4. Northwest Bastion | 15. Carpenter Shop/Lumber Shed |
| 5. North Bastion | 16. Kitchens/Laundry |
| 6. East Bastion | 17. Unfinished Officers' Quarters |
| 7. Prison | 18. Unfinished Enlisted Men's Barracks |
| 8. Guard Rooms | 19. Enlisted Men's Latrine |
| 9. Ramps | 20. Curtain Wall Galleries |
| 10. Enlisted Men's Barracks | 21. Sally Port |
| 11. Bakery | 22. Curtain Wall/Scarp |



PERRYVILLE

About a year ago, I received an invitation to speak at the Perryville State Park, Kentucky, as a presenter for the Perryville Historic Battle weekend. I accepted. The topic was, “An overview of what and how the Confederate Army of Mississippi were uniformed and equipped for the Fall of 1862.”

The drive down was about 7 ½ hours, plus stops. Kentucky is a beautiful state, very rural, rolling hills, deep valleys, small towns and meandering rivers and creeks.

My wife Terry and I passed through Louisville, Bardstown, and Springfield. We wanted to tour these places, but it was not on our itinerary. We ended up staying in Springfield, Kentucky, as guests of the Perryville State Park.

The event is held on the actual battlefield. The Federal Re-enactor Camps, Confederate Camps and Civilian Camps were allowed to set up on sacred ground; this is a State Park not a National Park.

The countryside is high rolling hills and deep gullies – a heck of a place to fight a battle. A battle it was, with some 16,000 Confederates opposed to 20,000 Federals. In only five hours of combat, over 7,500 men were killed, wounded or missing.

The Perryville Battle does not rate the stature of a Gettysburg or Shiloh in Civil War history, but it was a campaign that President Lincoln kept a very close eye on. The stakes were Middle Tennessee, the Cumberland Gap, Nashville, Chattanooga and Kentucky itself. The Confederates were fearful that the Union Army, under Don Carlos Buell, could march all the way to Atlanta if not confronted! Antietam, just weeks before, captured the headlines in the newspapers, while Perryville was a blip on the pages of history; there are some good books on the battle and the whole campaign which make for a good read.

I spoke on Saturday morning to a small crowd of spectators who came specifically to see the battle. I had some Civil War scholars listening. For many, the topic about uniforms and clothing was something new to them. I had some fun, and they hopefully learned something too.

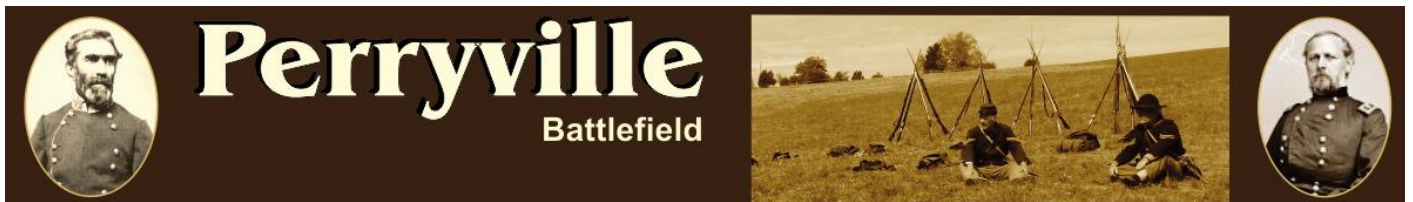
To my surprise, the whole Confederate Army passed by the presenter tent on the way to the drill field. It was fortuitous, as I was able to observe the uniforms of the reconstituted Army of Mississippi up close and personal. I was dressed in my period civilian clothes as was my wife. I strolled up to the Confederate General Staff and General Simon Bolivar Buckner, and began to take charge. My wife told me to leave them alone – like a kid at the zoo with his parents telling him it was time to go home, I slowly walked back to my lectern.

The Perryville Historic Battle weekend was a national event for the authentic re-enacting crowd. The uniforms, drills, and activities were on a much higher level of authenticity and planning; they had mule drawn cannons, wagons, and ambulances. There were lots of cannons – all full scale – and about 1,500 Federals and 1,300 Confederates. Also, a town of Perryville Civilian camp people were making period recipes like pickled onions, sewing, and dying yarn in vegetable dyes. Civil War sutlers were set up here and in town. Original Civil War firearms and militaria were in abundance.

The spectator crowd for rural Kentucky was huge – just like a Gettysburg event. Long lines for the food vendors (yes, they had catfish and hush puppies). The whole event was very well run.

I spoke again on Sunday morning and this time, more Confederates and people showed up to hear what I had to say. Basically, my presentation was based on General Braxton Bragg’s poor logistics planning at the start of his march out of Chattanooga. He took only 20 days rations for 27,000 men and cut the number of wagons per regiment by half. Nothing but food and ammunition were in the wagons – no extra shoes or uniforms.

Bragg’s men stripped down to one suit of clothing for the campaign and what they could carry. They started on August 27th and 18 days later, his men were starving, their shoes were gone and their clothing was in rags. On top of this, good drinking water was scarce. Kentucky was in a drought. Forage and food were sparse, and the people of Kentucky were not that interested in joining the Confederate Army which was the main reason Bragg invaded their state. It was to be a campaign of quick marches and maneuvering.



The Battle of Perryville, it was said, was fought over water. A collision of two thirsty armies in the middle of rural Kentucky. To the objections and pleading of his officers, Bragg retreated all the way back to Murfreesboro, Tennessee. General Don Carlos Buell was replaced for conducting a slow campaign. Never again would Kentucky face a major Confederate invasion.

It was a great weekend for Terry and me. The food was very good, the beer better and the people wonderful. If any of you get a chance, take a few days and head for Perryville. Oh, I almost forgot. Springfield is the birthplace of Abraham Lincoln. There is another park as a memorial and tour spot, but we did not have time to see that either.

We will return to Bardstown for the Bourbon tour and “their” Civil War Museum. Louisville has a great downtown tour and another magnificent military museum. The Lincoln site and Perryville Battlefield State Park are places where I want to do a complete battlefield tour. Who wants to go? I have an in with the Park Curator and Historian. Maybe get a special tour?

submitted by Tom Arliskas



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!

General Order No. 211 [submitted by Peter Jacobsohn]

General Order No. 211 is a resolution tendering the thanks of Congress to Lt. Col. Joseph Bailey of the 4th Wisconsin for distinguished services in rescuing Admiral David Porter’s gunboat flotilla during the Red River Campaign in May of 1864.

WAR DEPARTMENT

Adjutant General’s Office

Washington, June 15, 1864

The following resolution of Congress is published for the information of all concerned:

PUBLIC RESOLUTION —No. 34.

A RESOLUTION tendering the thanks of Congress
to Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Bailey, of the 4th Regt of Wis. Vols.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the thanks of Congress be, and they are hereby, tendered to Lieutenant Colonel JOSEPH BAILEY, of the 4th Regiment Wisconsin Volunteers, Acting Engineer of the 19th Army Corps, for distinguished services in the recent campaign on the Red river, by which the gunboat flotilla under Rear Admiral David D. Porter was rescued from imminent peril.

SEC. 2. *And be it further resolved, That the President of the United States be requested to cause a copy of this resolution to be transmitted to Lieutenant Colonel BAILEY.*

Approved June 11, 1864.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR:

E. D. TOWNSEND,

Assistant Adjutant General

Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Bailey

Joseph Bailey was born on May 6, 1825, near the town of Pennsville in Morgan County, Ohio. Bailey would move with his family to Illinois, where he was raised. On December 24, 1846, Bailey married Mary Spaulding of New York. The Baileys moved to Wisconsin in 1849-1850 settling in Kilbourn City (now Wisconsin Dells) in Columbia County. He would claim land along the Wisconsin River and became employed in the lumber business.

When the American Civil War broke out in 1861, Bailey organized a company of recruits known as the “Columbia County Rifles” (Company D, 4th Wisconsin Infantry). He was commissioned as a captain of the company on July 2, 1861. The regiment was sent to serve in the area around Washington D.C., and afterwards, was assigned to the Army of the Gulf and sent south as part of the campaign against New Orleans in early 1862. After New Orleans fell in April 1862, Bailey was named chief engineer of the city.

In the spring of 1863, Bailey was redeployed and participated in the siege of Port Hudson. He was promoted to major on May 30, 1863 and then to lieutenant colonel on July 15, 1863.

Bailey was detached from the 4th Wisconsin in the spring of 1864 and accompanied General Nathaniel Banks on the Red River Campaign. During the campaign, Rear Admiral Porter became stuck above the rapids at Alexandria due to the river being very low. Bailey suggested that a dam be built to raise the level of the water which would allow the fleet to escape. If the dam was not built, Porter's fleet would face one of two consequences:

- The fleet would become trapped above the rapids which would allow the Confederates to defeat them in battle.
- The fleet would risk going over the rapids in shallow water which would result in the loss of some or most of the fleet.

Porter and Banks were both skeptical of Bailey's suggestion but Bailey's commander, General Franklin, who was also an engineer, thought the dam could work. At this point, there was no alternative and all agreed to let Bailey make the attempt.

Bailey designed two wing dams above the second (lower) falls. The northern dam was constructed of trees harvested from those found along the shore. The southern dam was built of large cribs filled with stones and heavy objects since there were few trees on the southern bank.

Three thousand soldiers were utilized in building the dams; construction started on April 30, 1864. A Maine regiment would build the northern dam while three regiments of New Yorkers built the southern dam. In eight days and nights, under enemy fire and facing the jeers of fellow soldiers watching from shore, the dams were completed and the water level was raised enough for Porter's lighter boats to move. By May 13, all of Porter's fleet had moved out of danger. Porter would write in his after-action report:

The highest honors that the Government can bestow on Colonel Bailey can never repay him for the service he has rendered the country. He has saved the Union a valuable fleet, worth nearly two million dollars, and he has deprived the enemy of a triumph which would have emboldened them to carry on this war a year or two longer.

Bailey would become one of only fourteen men to receive the Thanks of Congress during the Civil War and the only one of the fourteen who was not an army or corps commander at the time.

After resigning from the army, Bailey returned to Wisconsin. Late in 1865, Bailey moved his family to Vernon County, Missouri. In 1866, he was elected county sheriff, with his office located in Nevada City. On January 13, 1866, President Andrew Johnson nominated him for promotion, even though he was out of the service, to brigadier general, effective November 10, 1864. The Senate confirmed the nomination on February 23, 1866.

On March 26, 1867, Bailey was murdered by two former Confederate bushwhackers, Lewis and Perry Pixley, who Bailey was escorting to jail after arresting the two for rustling. The two killers were never brought to justice.

On March 28, 1867, President Johnson nominated Bailey posthumously for the award of the brevet grade of major general of volunteers, effective March 13, 1865. The Senate confirmed the nomination on March 30, 1867.

Bailey is buried at Evergreen Cemetery, near Fort Scott, Kansas.

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Send submission to **Donna Agnelly, Editor**, 420 Racine St. Unit 110, Waterford, WI 53185 or email dagnelly@tds.net or 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 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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Contact Paul Eilbes for information: (262) 376-0568.

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MILWAUKEE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE QUARTERMASTER'S REGALIA

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