

GENERAL ORDERS

The Newsletter of the

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



November 9, 2017

Tom Clemens

Special Order 191 and the Maryland Campaign

Confederate General Robert E. Lee issued Special Orders No. 191 on September 9, 1862 during the Maryland Campaign while his army was camped on the Best Farm. The orders outlined his plans for the Army of Northern Virginia during the campaign and divided the army into four sections to secure garrisons and supplies, and capture Federals at Martinsburg, Harpers Ferry, and Boonsboro, while Lee went to Hagerstown. Lee anticipated that he would have time for the army to complete their tasks then join him to march north.

Copies of the orders were written for each of Lee's commanders. One of the orders, written for Major General Daniel Hill, was lost. Hill had already received his orders from Major General Thomas Jackson, (his immediate superior until the next day when he would have his own command), thus did not realize another order had been sent to him from Lee's camp. In fact that order was lost. How it was lost remains a mystery.

National Park Service - Monocacy National Battlefield Maryland

The famous Lost Order has been a unique aspect of General R. E. Lee's invasion in September 1862. Mystery still surrounds some aspects of this famous document, and no small amount of controversy too. A close examination of the facts and theories regarding its discovery, usage and importance may yield some interesting conclusions, and will certainly provide stimulating discussion.

Our November speaker, Dr. Tom Clemens, will discuss Special Order 191 and the Maryland Campaign in his talk to our Round Table. Dr. Clemens will address the mystery that continues to surround the Special Order as well as taking a look at what the ramifications were regarding its discovery.

Dr. Thomas G. Clemens received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in history from Salisbury University, and his Doctorate in History Education from George Mason University, where he studied under noted Civil War historian Dr. Joseph L. Harsh. Tom came to Hagerstown in 1978 and spent most of his 34-year career at HCC teaching American History, retiring in 2012. He has written many book reviews, magazine articles and appeared in several television shows focused on Civil War topics. He edited and annotated General Ezra A. Carman's 1,800 page narrative of the *Maryland Campaign of September 1862*, which has received awards from the Army Heritage Foundation; the third and final volume was released in March. His monograph about General Joseph K. F. Mansfield was published in *Corps Commanders in Blue* in 2014. His latest article, published in the June 2016 issue of *Civil War Times*, proved the Pry House at Antietam was never McClellan's Headquarters.

Tom is a founding member and current president of Save Historic Antietam Foundation Inc., a non-profit historic preservation organization. In the past two years SHAF and the Civil War Trust have cooperated to purchase four properties and demolish six non-historic structures on the Antietam battlefield. More structures will be removed soon. Tom is also an NPS-approved Antietam Battlefield Guide, and a 30+ year volunteer there.

General Orders No. 11-17

November 2017

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November Meeting at a Glance Wisconsin Club 9th 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, November 6, 2017

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.

2017-2018 Speaker Schedule

Find the speaker schedule on page 6.



The 27th annual Wade House Civil War Weekend was another huge success.

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!

COMING IN OCTOBER 2022



**OUR 75TH ANNIVERSARY
START THINKING ABOUT IT!**

LOOK HERE!



**November 9, 2017 MCWRT Meeting
MILITARY UNIFORM/PERIOD ATTIRE NIGHT**

The Muster Roll: NEW MEMBERS

TABLE II--CONSOLIDATED LIST of all persons of Class II, subject to the military duty in the _____ State of _____, established during the month of _____, 1861, under direction of _____

Keith Rain

NUMBER	NAME	RESIDENCE			PLACE OF BIRTH (Showing by State, Territory, or Country)	FEDERAL MILITARY SERVICE	REMARKS
		City	County	State			
1	Keith Rain	Wauwatosa	Wauwatosa	Wisconsin			
2	Keith Rain	Wauwatosa	Wauwatosa	Wisconsin			
3	Keith Rain	Wauwatosa	Wauwatosa	Wisconsin			
4	Keith Rain	Wauwatosa	Wauwatosa	Wisconsin			
5	Keith Rain	Wauwatosa	Wauwatosa	Wisconsin			
6	Keith Rain	Wauwatosa	Wauwatosa	Wisconsin			
7	Keith Rain	Wauwatosa	Wauwatosa	Wisconsin			
8	Keith Rain	Wauwatosa	Wauwatosa	Wisconsin			
9	Keith Rain	Wauwatosa	Wauwatosa	Wisconsin			
10	Keith Rain	Wauwatosa	Wauwatosa	Wisconsin			

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, 2017 through September 9, 2017.

Major Contributor (\$500 and above)

Patron (\$200 - \$499)

Eugene & Jane Jamrozy, Steven Leopold, Robert Parrish

Associate (\$100 - \$199)

Michael Benton, Crain Bliwas, Bob Dude, Bill Finke, Douglas Haag, Dr. Peter & Jean Jacobsohn, David Jordan, Bruce Klem, Jerry & Donna Martynski, James & Ann Reeve, David & Helga Sartori, Dennis Slater, Paul Sotirin, Gil Vraney

Contributor (up to \$99)

George Affeldt, John Beatty, T. James Blake, Dale Brasser, John & Linda Connelly, Dr. Gordon E. Dammann, Michael Deeken, John Durr, Thomas Eddington, Paul Eilbes, Gary & Judy Ertel, Van & Dawn Harl, Leon & Margaret Harris, Dr. Erwin Huston, Allan Kasprzak, Ardis Kelling, John Kuhnmuensch, Jay Lauck, Dr. Rodney Malinowski, John (Jack) McHugh, Herb Oechler, Tom Pokrandt, John Rodahl, Diana Smurawa, Dan Tanty, Michael Uihlein

We are grateful for the generosity of our membership.

milwaukeecwrt.org



Searching for more information about the
CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF MILWAUKEE?

Find us on Facebook. Current and upcoming events are posted there for our members or for others interested in what our group has to offer! Check it out, and tell an interested friend about us.



“Civil War Ordnance” was the topic presented to the Round Table membership by Charles S. Schwartz in November 1947.

At the November 1957 meeting, Frank Klement spoke to those assembled on “Knights of the Golden Circle – Fact or Fancy.”

Rodney C. Loehr was our Round Table speaker in November 1967 speaking on “The Wilson Raid.”

“The Battle of Franklin” was the topic of Lloyd D. Miller’s talk to the Round Table in November 1977.

Dr. James A. Ramage spoke to the Round Table in November 1987 about “John Hunt Morgan: Folk Hero of the Confederacy.”

At the November 1997 meeting, Clint Johnson spoke to the group about “The Carolinas Civil War Characters and Places.”

“Could the South Have Won the War?” was the question posed in John Y. Simon’s presentation to our group in November 2007.

At last year’s November meeting Dave Cannon spoke to those assembled about “The Propaganda Campaign in Iowa and... a Couple of Stories about Confederates from Iowa.”

A Veteran’s Day Concert – The Wisconsin National Guard’s 132nd Army Band Saturday, November 11, 2017; 3pm

Join the Civil War Museum for a special Veteran’s Day concert by the Wisconsin National Guard’s 132nd Army Band. Military bands have a long tradition of supporting and entertaining service members and civilians with music. In Wisconsin, the National Guard’s 132nd Army Band keeps the tradition alive and thriving with approximately 60 citizen-Soldier-musicians who travel the state, the country, and even the world with a variety of music that everybody enjoys.



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.

Quilts and the Civil War Friday, November 10, 2017, Noon

Presented by: Allison Rainboth

The period before and during the Civil War was one of the most turbulent in American history. Quilts made before and during the war years are evidence of the impact on daily living. Allison Rainboth, quilt historian and owner of Sisters Choice Quilting Service, will discuss the changes in fabrics, patterns and quilting designs. Allison will bring her collection of battered beauties from the period with her.

Finding the Lost Battalion Saturday, November 11, 2017, 1 pm

Free and Open to the Public

Presented by: Robert Laplander

Toward the end of WWI, on the evening of October 2nd, 1918, Major Charles W. Whittlesey led nearly 700 men of the American 77th Division who were under his command into the narrow Charlevaux Ravine, deep in the heart of the Argonne Forest in northeastern France.

That night, German forces quietly slipped in behind the unit, cutting them off a half mile ahead of the American lines.

Five days later, the Major marched 194 survivors out of the ravine – and into history.

Civil War Media Club:

The Smell of Battle, The Taste of Siege

by Mark M. Smith

Wednesday, November 15, 2017

7-8:30 pm

\$10/\$5 Friends of the Museum

Discussion Leader: Doug Dammann

Historical accounts of major events have almost always relied upon what those who were there witnessed. Nowhere is this truer than in the nerve-shattering chaos of warfare, where sight seems to confer objective truth and acts as the basis of reconstruction. In *The Smell of Battle, The Taste of Siege*, historian Mark M. Smith considers how all five senses, including sight, shaped the experience of the Civil War and thus its memory, exploring its full sensory impact on everyone from the soldiers on the field to the civilians waiting at home.

THE CIVIL WAR
MUSEUM
UPPER MIDDLE WEST EXPERIENCE

FROM THE FIELD

EXECUTIVE OFFICE, Madison, Wisconsin, July 4th, 1861
To His Excellency, The Governor of New York

Dear Sir: It seems to be assumed that the moment one of our citizens enlists as a soldier in the service of the United States, he loses to a certain extent his citizenship, and that he is entitled to but little further consideration. This has been at all times an inhuman error, but at this time is doubly so. The men who have enlisted as soldiers in the present war have not done so for the pay of the soldier, nor because they were out of employment. The men who fill the armies of the United States, to-day, enlisted with the patriotic purpose of putting down a wicked rebellion, and maintaining the integrity of the Federal Government. They are our neighbors and fellow-citizens, who, braver than we are, go to endure the privations of the camp, and to brave the dangers of the battle-field, not only for themselves, but for us. From Wisconsin – and I doubt not the same may be said of all the loyal States – all classes and conditions of men, men of all the professions and avocations and employments of life, swell the ranks of our regiments. There is scarcely a soldier but leaves behind him a family or social circle broken by his absence. In every conceivable way they make great sacrifices. They carry the honor of their respective States with them, and are pledged to uphold that honor as well as to punish rebellion. They are entitled to our greatest consideration and care. Whoever defrauds a patriotic, liberty-loving, government-loving soldier is a thief. So far as possible, the several States should do, and are doing, all in their power to send their regiments forward well uniformed and provided for the service in which they are to engage. I feel impelled to submit that the duties of the authorities of the several States toward the stalwart-hearted men who go to do our battles for us, do not and cannot end here. The history of all wars tells us that both during their continuance and after their close, thousands of soldiers, sick and diseased and maimed, go wandering homeward, suffering with privation and want, begging their weary way, and meeting that curious public gaze, which has no sympathy or kindness in it. Each State has a rich reversionary interest in the citizen soldiers who represent it, and each State owes to itself and to every soldier, an obligation to take care of that interest.

During the afternoon and I have determined, in behalf of Wisconsin, to send with each regiment, men whose sole business it shall be to stay with the regiment, look after its welfare, and to see that every man who, from sickness or the casualties of war, becomes so far disabled that he can no longer endure the fatigues or perform the duties of the camp or field, shall be safely and comfortably returned to this State, and to his family or friends. In health or sickness, in triumph or defeat, these men are ours and our country's, and our obligations and hopes equally go with them. May I invite you to co-operate in this movement? The agents appointed by and for the several States, for these purposes, can, to a very large extent, act in concert, and aid each other. I cannot doubt but that by a proper effort, all Railroad and Steamboat Companies, touched by the humanity of the object, can be induced to pass all disabled persons free, upon a certificate from the proper responsible authority, that as such they were honorably discharged from service. The expense will be comparatively light, and the good to result, incalculable.

Very respectfully,
ALEX. W. RANDALL

READING FOR THE SOLDIERS! **CAMP RANDALL, July 9, 1861**

Messrs. Editors: - God bless the patriotic ladies of Madison for their generous sympathy in behalf of the citizen soldiers, who have left their domestic, social, and literary advantage, that they might maintain the flag of their country – in contributing papers and other good reading matter that shall make their stay in Camp Randall pleasant and morally profitable.

Your citizens little realize the great sacrifice that is made by a large majority of the 5th and 6th regiments in obeying the call of their country; and in no way can the moral standing of our soldiers be so well preserved as by placing good reading within the reach of every man...



Wisconsin sent 56 regiments of infantry, cavalry, and artillery off to war. The total number of Badgers who took up arms for the Union was 91, 379. Over 12,000 of those men did not return. They are among the many veterans we honor this Veterans' Day.

**HEADQUARTERS, 5th REG., W.A.M.
CAMP RANDALL, MADISON, JULY 15TH, 1861
Editors Journal and Courier:**

I last wrote you from Milwaukee during the excitement of the Bank riot. Since that time we have had no important remarkable danger to face. While in Milwaukee many of the Germans, being exasperated because we helped to put down the riot, threatened to kill any Zouave who fall into their hands. They also declared that they would clean us out even if the banks should redeem the uncurrent money; this coming from pretty reliable sources with the knowledge that they were arming themselves tended to keep us in good humor as well as wide awake.

The boys were not so much afraid of them but that whenever they could get a pass or run the guard, they were sure to venture single-handed and alone up into German town. The Monday after the first riot they set as the day when they were to capture us, and they were to employ in the meantime preparations for the assault. Reports exaggerating the numbers and power of the rioters, were circulated through the city, before Monday morning, therefore the Mayor had collected several hundred soldiers in the city.

Thus, the appointed day passed off peaceable though several hundred Germans marched by our armory armed with various instruments of savage warfare.

The next morning we started for Camp Randall. Two other companies, which had been sent to Milwaukee for preserving quiet returned with us. The parting to the Beloit boys was not so trying as to the rest, as we had very few acquaintances in M. – when we reached camp we found many of our friends here some in the Band, others in the “Star Rifles” – camp life is much more pleasant now than it was when Capt. Slaymaker’s company was here...

The kind treatment we received from the people of Beloit on commencement day showed that their love and sympathy will follow us to the field of battle. It will ever be remembered by us, whether on the field or in the camp. We call that day our last amid civilization. Camp life is so uncivilized or uncivilizing.

Our company was presented with about one thousand dollars in gold by the bankers of Milwaukee for protecting their property from the mad fury of the mob.

**SUPPER TO THE 5th and 6th REGIMENTS
Ladies are always doing good things**

At a meeting of the ladies and gentleman of this city and surrounding country held in the Assembly Hall on Saturday evening it was resolved to give an entertainment to the soldiers of the 5th and 6th regiments now in Camp Randall, on Thursday next at 5 o’clock. It was resolved to invite the ladies of all the towns in the county to join with the ladies of this city in this entertainment, and make it such a one as the noble and patriotic soldiers deserve...

Friends now is the time to show your patriotism, your liberality, your appreciation of the noble soldiers. More particulars will be issued in the form of circulars and handbills as the arrangements are perfected. Let this affair be worthy of the noble hearted citizens of Dane County!

**THE ENTERTAINMENT YESTERDAY
AN IMMENSE SUCCESS
SIX THOUSAND PERSONS PRESENT.**

The supper in honor of the 5th and 6th regiments, now at Camp Randall, given by the ladies of Dane county last evening was in all respects, a most perfect success. The interest felt in the matter, both by the soldiers and the ladies was briefly alluded to yesterday. We will only add, that the interest increased on the part of all, until the whole affair was brought to a happy conclusion something after nine o’clock in the evening. At an early hour in the day yesterday the people commenced pouring in from the country, in single wagon or carriage loads, and in delegations; and each vehicle was well filled with choice things...

While the tables of some of our hotels may boast of a greater display of crockery and silverware upon them none ever presented a more substantial or wholesome looking entertainment in the way of eatables or one better calculated to satisfy the demands of good appetites, than the tables set on this occasion. They presented an attractive, substantial and inviting appearance reflecting immense credit upon the patriotic ladies who have devoted themselves to the work for the past three days with a zeal known only to those of the fairer sex when engaged in what they know to be a worthy cause ...

While the ladies are entitled to great credit for the part they acted on this important and interesting occasion, it must not be forgotten that the soldiers met them fully half way in the way of adding attractions to the scene. They were animated with a spirit and zeal that gave the most ample evidence that they fully appreciated the compliment intended by the ladies and their real gallantry was displayed to its utmost in the preparation for their reception upon the grounds. Large detachments from each of the companies were actively at work during the day in cleaning up the grounds and ornamenting them specially for this occasion.

They succeeded most admirably in their part of the work...

Reminder: For the November meeting of our Milwaukee Civil War Round Table all in attendance are invited to wear period garb or military uniform. A photo will be taken and published in the General Orders.

**MILWAUKEE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
2017-2018 SPEAKER SCHEDULE**

September 7, 2017

Ed Bonekemper
*False Remembrance of the Civil War:
The Myth of the Lost Cause*

October 12, 2017

Dave Powell
Chickamauga

November 9, 2017

Tom Clemens
Special Order 191 and the Maryland Campaign

December 7, 2017

David Dixon
Lost Gettysburg Address

January 11, 2018

Bruce Allardice
Battle of Ezra Church

February 8, 2018

Larry Hewitt
Confederate General Richard Anderson

March 8, 2018

Robert D. Jenkins
Peachtree Creek

April 12, 2018

John Marszalek
Lincoln Topic
Nevins-Freeman Award Winner

May 10, 2018

Joseph Rose
Grant Under Fire

June 7, 2018

Dennis Rasbach
Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain at Petersburg
Speakers/topics remain subject to change.

**Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.
2017 – 2018 Board of Directors**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Office/Position</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
Donna Agnelly	Editor, General Orders	2019
Thomas Arliskas	President	2019
Terry Arliskas	Secretary	
Michael K. Benton	Second Vice President	2020
Roman Blenski	Quartermaster	2019
Crain Bliwas	Member	2019
Paul A. Eilbes	Treasurer/Membership	2019
A. William Finke	Member	2020
Van Harl	Past President	2020
James J. Heinz	Member	2020
Grant Johnson	Past President	2018
Bruce Klem	First Vice President	2018
Daniel Nettesheim	Member	2018
Frank Risler	Program Chair	2018
Tom Thompson	Member	2020
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

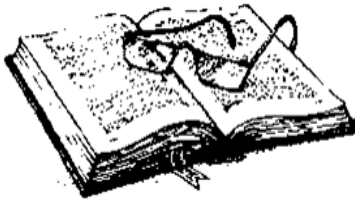
Grant will be creating a database with email reminders set to go out a week before the scheduled event. This is a purely optional choice on each member's part. If you have any questions please talk to Grant at a Round Table meeting or email him at the listed email address.

Milwaukee Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for November 9, 2017

Mail your reservations by Monday, November 6 to:
Paul Eilbes
1809 Washington Avenue
Cedarburg, WI 53012-9730

Call or email reservations to:
(262) 376-0568
peilbes@gmail.com

Enclosed is \$_____ (meal is \$30.00 per person) for _____ people for the
November 9, 2017 meeting of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee.
(Please make checks payable to the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.)



BETWEEN THE COVERS

Forts Henry and Donelson: The Key to the Confederate Heartland

by Benjamin Franklin Cooling

This book review is a result of my taking the Kenosha Civil War Museum trip to Forts Henry and Donelson. There was a recommended reading list and the book reviewed here was one of those recommended. It probably would have made more sense to have read this book before attending the tour but by buying it at the gift center at Fort Donelson I got a chance to buy a souvenir.

The book was originally published in 1987 and, according to some sources, Professor Cooling may have been the first to identify this middle area of the Confederacy as “The Heartland.” Professor Cooling considers both sides and how they each approached control of this key area. The key to controlling the area of the heartland is how the rivers, the Tennessee and Cumberland, were the central feature of the area; both were means for communication and logistical movement as well as for rapid, open avenues for transportation.

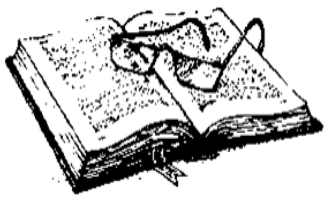
I found the book to be an easy read and the author’s style provided a good flow of information. The author follows the campaign from the generals’ point of view and he provides each side’s thinking and priorities in the region. The Confederate side seemed to be focused on territory, at least initially, both at the Presidential level and the local level. This in turn led to a spread out defense of a large area. The troops available were not enough to support this strategy and instead of being strong in a few key areas, they ended up being weak across the board and were not able to defend anything successfully. The Confederates lost sight of some of the key manufacturing sites, powder mills on the Cumberland and the so-called “Great Western Iron Belt” in the area between the rivers. As a result, they never massed forces to defeat the Union thrust into the area.

The poor sighting of Fort Henry negated the ability of that fort to be any sort of strategic bastion as they had hoped and was, for all intents and purposes, abandoned to the Union. General Johnston never visited either sight much to the detriment of the Confederate defense plan. Nor did General Johnston try to centralize troop locations to be better able to respond, in force, to incursions until he finally needed to attack at Shiloh. The defeat in the Heartland was compounded by inept command at Fort Donelson that, in the end, resulted in the loss of the army and approximately 20,000 troops to captivity – troops that the Confederate government could ill afford to lose.

On the Union side, it took some time to get organized and determine who was to lead the force into the vital Heartland area. Halleck spent a lot of time looking for someone other than Grant to head up this force and in the end reluctantly handed the ball to him. Grant and Foote, as it turned out, worked well together as a team and implemented a combined joint operational force to achieve victories. Considering the hard winter weather of the campaign it was a wonder that the campaign was successful. I think it shows the fortitude on both sides of the individual soldier and the early attitudes they had to fighting. However, total victory was lost again in the disjointed command structure. Halleck lost a major victory by not following up on the loss of the river forts with a deeper move into Tennessee. I think the author does a good job of showing the divisiveness of those in command positions in his analysis of the campaign. The author includes Foote’s thoughts on river warfare and shows the how and whys of Foote’s use of his gunboats and how they helped the successful campaign.

There were plenty of pictures and period lithographs in the book and a number of good maps that helped the reader to visualize troop concentrations and movements. I enjoyed reading this book and after visiting the battlefield sights it really helped in gaining a better understanding of the campaign. I highly recommend this book to anyone interested in exploring the campaign in the early part of the war, how important this region was to the Confederate side and what the early victory meant to the Union. The book also highlights the early troubles of leadership on both sides between trained officers and political appointees. It would be interesting to see how this book compares with Tim Smith’s new work on the subject, *Grant Invades Tennessee*.

submitted by Bruce Klem



Between the Covers

A Broken Regiment: The 16th Connecticut's Civil War

by Lesley J. Gordon

I picked up this book last year at the Civil War Institute's Summer Conference, which was on Reconstruction. The book really doesn't have anything to do with Reconstruction, but it seemed like an interesting subject. The author, Lesley J. Gordon, is a professor of history at the University of Akron; she was a speaker at the conference and spoke about the returning Union soldier. I thought this book would be a slightly different study from other unit histories I've read, like the Iron Brigade, the Louisiana Tigers, The Stonewall Brigade, and the Irish Brigade just to mention a few. Like other unit histories, the author highlights the soldiers' motivations for joining the unit and fighting for the Union.

This book is vastly different from the unit records I've read about previously in that this unit was rushed into combat with little or no training. The regiment was mustered into service on August 24, 1862, and in slightly more than three weeks they would be going into battle in one of the biggest fights for the Army of the Potomac, the Battle of Antietam. The regiment was first sent to Washington D.C. and then sent to join the Army of the Potomac. As inexperienced as they were, many of the men were hard pressed to keep up on the march. The unit simply did not have sufficient time to build themselves up to strength for campaigning. Nonetheless, they were assigned to Colonel Edward Harland's brigade of the 3rd Division, IX Corps. During the later stages of the battle, the 16th was ordered to attack the Confederate right along with the 3rd Rhode Island. This untrained unit, some who had not yet fired their muskets, moved forward and entered into a vicious Confederate crossfire, taking heavy casualties; about 25% broke and ran. Colonel Beach could not get them to rally and the unit fell out of action. Thus set the unit's history in battle - a unit that fled the scene.

In the years that followed, the regiment participated in minor skirmishes before surrendering en masse in North Carolina in 1864 at the Battle of Plymouth. It was surrounded in the fortifications of that post and in spite of giving a good account of itself, was forced to surrender. Most of its members spent months in southern prison camps, including the notorious Andersonville stockade, where disease and starvation took the lives of over one hundred members of the unit. Over time, competing stories emerged of who they were, why they endured what they did, and how they should be remembered. By the end of the century, their collective recollections reshaped their troubling and traumatic past, and the "unfortunate regiment" emerged. The struggles of the 16th led survivors to reflect on the true nature of their military experience during and after the war, and questions of cowardice and courage, patriotism and purpose, were often foremost in their thoughts as "The Brave Sixteenth," their individual memories and accounts altered to fit the more heroic contours of the Union victory. Because of the initial exposure to combat, the unit developed morale problems, discipline issues, command and control problems and other issues as they tried to reconcile their performance with their patriotic motives for joining.

I felt this book was a good read and recommend it to anyone interested in unit histories. I believe it serves as a good contrast to the more famous unit histories and gives a good picture to any student of the Civil War on the importance of proper training, individual struggles in dealing with their experiences of war and the impact of combat on individuals and entire units. Professor Gordon's book illuminates this unit's complex history amid the interplay of various and often competing voices and is a good examination of the relationships between men, war and history.

submitted by Bruce Klem

CIVIL WAR NUGGET

While it is often argued the rifled musket was a great impact on the battlefield; the improved range had a marginal effect due to a couple of reasons. While the effective range was good out to about 350 yards, because of the arching effect of the round, the actual kill zones were about 70-100 yards and about 300-350 yards. The area in between was generally a dead zone because very few soldiers received the proper training to use the sights to achieve hits at the in-between ranges. The other factor that negated the impact was that the landscape of the American battlefield as too wooded to take better advantage of the range improvements. Further information on this topic is available in *Civil War Infantry Tactics* by Ed Hess.



If ever a Wanderings article deserved the name, this is probably it. From Indianapolis, where four old friends met for our annual Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse Tour, to Memphis, where we joined hundreds of other teachers for the Civil War Trust Teachers Institute, we wandered all over the south central United States. This annual jaunt has created some great memories. Our trip got off to a bad start when the fully loaded GMC Acadia was backed out of the garage, to find the right front tire was flat. No worries, though, our handy host Robert Clayborn (of Patrick Cleburne lineage) fixed it. Then we were off to... the hospital. One of our pals, Jeff Arnold of Colorado, was experiencing severe stomach pain and went to the emergency room. Leaving him overnight, we traveled to Wilson's Creek, and then back to St. Louis the next day to get the impatient patient.

Wilson's Creek was an exceptional stop, even without Jeff. Robert's good friend Jeff Patrick is a ranger there, and he had laid out some goodies for us to study. We saw a beautifully preserved battle flag from one of Stand Watie's Cherokee regiments. Stunning wallpaper from Vicksburg, used as writing material for correspondence, was truly intriguing. The most incredible piece we viewed, however, was the sword belt and buckle Pat Cleburne was wearing when he met his untimely death at Franklin. It had just been returned from being conserved at a very hefty price.

The battlefield is simply stunning. It is small enough for one to wrap one's head around the troop movements and action. This first major battle west of the Mississippi River briefly focused the nation's attention on the trans-Mississippi. We saw where Nathaniel Lyon met his untimely end. Despite inferior numbers, Lyon had decided to attack the enemy encampment, lying peacefully unaware of the Federal presence. Lyon's plan called for 1,200 men under Colonel Franz Sigel to swing wide to the south, flanking the Southern right, while the main body of troops struck from the north. Success hinged on the element of surprise. I have never been too impressed with Sigel, and his role in the fighting at Wilson's Creek did nothing to change that judgment. For more than five hours the battle raged on Bloody Hill. Fighting was often at close quarters, and the tide turned with each charge and countercharge. Sigel's flanking maneuver, initially successful, collapsed altogether when Ben McCulloch's men counterattacked at the Sharp Farm. Defeated, Sigel and his troops fled the field. Lyon, twice wounded, was killed while positioning his troops. An attempt at a Union victory turned instead into a retreat back to Springfield.

Traveling onward, now with Jeff once again with us, we visited Helena, Arkansas and then Vicksburg. Jeff wanted to see where his ancestor Hugh Gibson of the 118th Illinois had fought [see *Through the Looking Glass*]. From Vicksburg we traveled to Mobile Bay, Forts Jackson and Gaines, and Brice's Crossroads. We ate loads of shrimp from the Gulf, and gladly tried some alligator. From one eatery, we even saw some gators swimming lazily in a creek that feeds the Gulf of Mexico. They may have been looking for supper, too. Every hospital sign was a cause for finely-tuned humor at Jeff's expense. Our final stop was Memphis, the headquarters for the CWT Teacher Institute.

Excellent workshops, fine dining, great speakers, and battlefield tours make the Teachers Institute a not-to-be-missed July event. Our tour at Shiloh, led by retired General Parker Hill, was absolutely outstanding. We got to places I had never been, and this was not my first trip to the battlefield. There is much to see in this Tennessee "wilderness." It certainly remains in pristine condition. Garry Adelman did his usual great job entertaining, educating, and working photo study magic. Kristopher White, historian, author, and new Education Manager of the Civil War Trust, was exceptional in his new position. We skipped the Elvis tour, believing that he probably wasn't on the field at Shiloh.

All good things come to an end. This extended trip, with its exciting visits to battlefields and 21st Century hospitals, also wound down to a close. And while we wandered extensively, it was with purpose. The patched tire held. Jeff managed to stay out of the emergency room. What a great trip with great friends - Robert Clayborn of Indianapolis, David Niekum of Pittsburgh, Jeff Arnold of Estes Park, and myself - educators, historians of a sort, and Civil War *Wanderers*.

The December installment of *Wanderings* will tell the story of a Big People's Field Trip to Harpers Ferry, Antietam, and Gettysburg. Traveling with a group called the **Civil War Time Travelers**, several members of our Round Table will travel where heroes trod. Highlight of the trip will include a Civil War Field Hospital "Surgery by Candlelight" conducted by medical reenactor and educator Gary Rath. Headlining the tour on October 26 will be Garry Adelman of the Civil War Trust. It is hoped that all of us can keep up with him. Along the way, we will focus on many events that are associated with our own Iron Brigade of the West. I hope you enjoy the story.

Dave Wege



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 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!

Hugh Gibson - Common Soldier of the 118th Illinois Infantry



Hugh Gibson c. 1890

Hugh Gibson was 21 years old when he enlisted in Co. I of the 118th Illinois Volunteer Infantry. The muster roll reveals that he was 5'6" in height, with dark hair and blue eyes. He was a farmer from Riverton, Sangamon County, Illinois. Pvt. Gibson was mustered into service at Camp Butler at Springfield on September 8, 1862 and received his training there. While at Camp Butler the 118th guarded Confederate prisoners in the prisoner of war camp located there.

In November of 1862, the 118th was transported to Memphis, where it performed picket duty around the city. The regiment marched in pursuit of Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest, who was conducting raids in the area. Despite two weeks of hard marching, they never caught up to Forrest. During much of February 1863, the soldiers guarded sections of the Memphis and Charleston Railroad.

The 118th was then assigned to Gen. Sherman's 15th Corps. The regiment took part in the battle of Jackson, Mississippi, on May 14, then followed the army at the siege of Vicksburg beginning on May 18. Their position was at the northern end of the Union lines, near the Stockade Redan. It does not appear that the men took part in the Union assault on May 19, as the total casualties of the regiment for the entire siege were 20 killed and wounded. The regiment then participated in Sherman's siege on Gen. Johnston's army located at Jackson, Mississippi, with seven men killed and wounded. From there the regiment went on picket duty near Oak Ridge, Mississippi, where the men participated in several skirmishes with Confederate guerillas and went on scouting missions. From July 1863 until June 1864 the 118th mostly did picket and provost duty in and around Memphis, with an occasional "hard marching scout."

Now under the command of Gen. Samuel Sturgis, Pvt. Hugh Gibson and the 118th set out to distract Gen. Forrest from attacking Sherman's lengthy supply lines in Tennessee while the Union army was moving on Atlanta. To do this, Sturgis marched with 8,000 infantry and cavalry into northern Mississippi, which forced Forrest to suspend his movement into Tennessee with approximately 3,500 cavalymen. The resulting fight between Sturgis and Forrest is known as the Battle of Brice's Crossroads, a.k.a. The Battle of Tishomingo Creek, a.k.a. the Battle of Guntown, on June 10, 1864. Though he outnumbered Forrest more than 2-1, Sturgis' haphazard handling of his men contributed to a crushing defeat for the Union. The 118th, however, fought a gallant rear-guard action to allow many Union soldiers to escape. Details of the battle appeared in the *Daily Illinois State Journal*, published in Springfield, on June 22 and 23. These details came from private letters that had been sent from participants to friends and loved ones, detailing the failings of Sturgis and some other regiments, but noted the bravery and sacrifices made by the 118th. There was also a detailed list of the killed, wounded, and captured/missing. Pvt. Hugh Gibson was one of those captured.

Hugh Gibson provided an account of his capture to *The National Tribune*, published in Washington D.C. on January 16, 1908. He tells the readers that after his capture he was robbed of over \$300, had his clothes taken and was forced to wear "old cast-off garments" instead. He was sent to Camp Sumter, the infamous prisoner of war camp in Andersonville, Georgia. Though the records show that he was there about five months, he suffered mightily. Pvt. Gibson writes that his weight dropped from 174 lbs. when captured, to just 81 lbs. when he was released. Moreover, he says that in the 44 years since his release, he has never weighed more than 154 lbs. He had developed scurvy, which caused all of his teeth to fall out before settling in his right eye, compelling its later removal. He also mentions that he believed that he was the first person to drink from Providence Spring.

Apparently due to his very poor health, Hugh Gibson was paroled at Savannah, Georgia, on November 26, 1864. Where exactly he was sent after being paroled is unclear, but it is known he mustered out of service on August 3, 1865, at Vicksburg. From there he went back to Illinois where he got married, had a son, and continued to farm. Later in life he moved to El Reno, Oklahoma for a time, before moving to Oakland City, Indiana, where he died and was buried in 1915 at the age of 79.

submitted by great-great-grandsons Jeff and Mike Arnold, Colorado

STATE'S WORST DEATH TOLL

Of the 70 Wisconsin units in the Civil War, which one had the highest death toll?

Was it one of the three Badger regiments in the Iron Brigade, with its long string of huge battles? Or one of the four cavalry units? The 1st Wisconsin Heavy Artillery or maybe one of the 13 light artillery groups? Or any of the other four dozen infantry regiments?

This research may surprise you: The Wisconsin unit with the highest death toll was the little-heralded 25th Infantry, with a total of 460 deaths. This is derived from each unit's statistics at: <http://www.civilwaraarchive.com/unionwi.htm>

The 25th was in the siege of Vicksburg, Miss., and suffered from malaria, typhoid, dysentery, heat, humidity, and other stresses of the period, including a particularly tough march in June 1863, three weeks before Vicksburg fell.

"The great amount of sickness which afflicted the regiment...is attributed to the hardships of the rapid march from Satartia to Snyder's Bluff, the regiment having accomplished two days' march in one," E.B. Quiner said in his definitive 1866 book "Military History of Wisconsin."

Satartia, Miss., is east of Vicksburg on the Yazoo River, and its population today is not even 100. Snyder's Bluff, Miss., is on the Yazoo River north of Vicksburg.

"The excessive heat, and the exhausted condition of the men, with the unhealthy position at Snyder's Bluff to which they were assigned, was productive of disease, which, for many months, afflicted the command to a frightful extent." Quiner said. "On the 16th of August, the daily report showed but 90 men fit for duty."

Disease was the main determinant for most of the five Wisconsin units that had the worst total number of deaths.

The first table accompanying this article shows the top five for total deaths were the 25th Infantry, 4th Cavalry, 7th Infantry (an Iron Brigade unit), the 1st Cavalry and the 16th Infantry. The other tables show the highest totals solely for battlefield deaths and solely from diseases.

The 25th is little-heralded in the sense that no book has been written about it, although two of its soldiers wrote letters that were compiled into small books. Neither gives time to any substantial discussion of illnesses in the regiment as a whole.

Pvt. John Brobst of Co. G often wrote to towns-girl Mary Englesby, and the letters were compiled into "Dear Mary" in 1960 by their great-granddaughter, Margaret Brobst Roth. Brobst briefly discusses illness a few times, including how his doctors were using opium with quinine to fight malaria. He battled the disease for several weeks in early 1864 and was in the hospital several weeks in fall 1864.

The other book, "A Badger Boy in Blue: The Civil War Letters of Chauncey H. Cooke," is difficult to obtain. Excerpts from his time at Camp Randall in Madison can be seen at: <https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Article/CS3063>

The 25th was organized at La Crosse and mustered in on September 14, 1862. It spent its first two months in Minnesota as part of suppressing the Indian uprising before moving to Camp Randall. It departed on February 17, 1863, for Cairo, Ill., and Kentucky.

Soon it was in Louisiana and the siege of Vicksburg under Gen. Ulysses S. Grant starting one month before the vital city surrendered on July 4, 1863. Then the 25th spent several months at Helena, Ark., before being part of the Atlanta campaign under Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman.

The regiment's lieutenant colonel, Samuel J. Nasmith, died of disease in his native Platteville, Wis., on August 17, 1863, six weeks after the surrender of Vicksburg.

The regiments with the worst death toll on the battlefield were no surprise: The three Wisconsin parts of the Iron Brigade. The 7th Infantry was the tops, with 281 – 10 officers and 271 enlisted men killed or mortally wounded.

Highest death total from battles & disease

460 – 25th Infantry
431 – 4th Cavalry
424 – 7th Infantry (Iron Brigade)
401 – 1st Cavalry
399 – 16th Infantry

Highest death total from battles

281 – 7th Infantry (Iron Brigade)
244 – 6th Infantry (Iron Brigade)
238 – 2nd Infantry (Iron Brigade)
188 – 26th Infantry
157 – 36th Infantry

Highest death total from disease

409 – 25th Infantry
328 – 1st Cavalry
314 – 4th Cavalry
274 – 35th Infantry
267 – 23rd Infantry

These rankings were calculated by Tom Mueller, a researcher and author for more than three decades, and past commander of the C.K. Pier Badger Camp #1 of Milwaukee, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

A New Midwest Congress of Civil War Roundtables?

On July 22nd, a meeting of Officers and members of several Midwest Civil War Roundtables was held at the Kenosha Civil War Museum. Mr. Rick Czar of the Salt Creek Round Table was our MC. The goal of all this was to present the idea of an Association or Congress of Round Tables to share and list speakers, ideas, future symposiums and to increase membership. Many of these outlying Round Tables average 25 to 40 members and their numbers are stagnant or falling. We here in Milwaukee are lucky to have as many dues paying members as we do, and are able along with Chicago, to arrange and support the quality of speakers we have.

Many items were presented and discussed concerning how Round Tables can use Associations like the Visitors Bureau and the Chamber of Commerce in their areas to let people know when and where they meet. Fund raising was another topic. Where to find potential new members and how to reach them, etc. was another. One important aspect for Round Table meetings is the caliber of its speakers. A survey on presentations to evaluate a speaker, and a speaker list with subject topics was proposed and generally accepted by the attendees. A Facebook Page is in the works that will list all the Round Tables in a geographic area like Chicago-Milwaukee, their presenters and subjects, dates, locations and times.

This first meeting was a success and a second is planned for July 3rd of 2018. This is a win-win for Civil War enthusiasts and the future of many Round Tables. Your Milwaukee Civil War Round Table had many of its Board in attendance and they too felt the whole concept of a Midwest Congress worthwhile. The Round Tables will be using the Kenosha Civil War Museum as a base. I would like to thank Doug Dammann of the Museum for his interest and help in supporting this Round Table consortium.

In response to some of the suggestions, Round Table Cards were printed up to be used by the MCWRT members for potential new members and visitors. Comment Cards will also be placed on the tables for our members. Write down your concerns, evaluate the speakers, and give us your ideas on any topic that you feel will make the MCWRT better.

More information will be forthcoming on this new Congress of Round Tables in the future for the betterment and efficiency of our shared interests.

Thomas Arliskas
President MCWRT



Fall 2017 Title Releases from Savas Beatie

Start saving your pennies! Savas Beatie announced these new books set for a Fall release. For more information visit their website: <http://savasbeatie.com>

Meade and Lee After Gettysburg

by Jeffrey Win Hunt (Available now)

Custer's Gray Rival

The Life of Confederate Major General Thomas Lafayette Rosser
by Sheridan R. Barringer

Death and Disease in the Civil War

A Union Surgeon's Correspondence from Harpers Ferry to Richmond
by Christopher E. Loperfido

Six Days In September

A novel of Lee's Army in Maryland, 1862
by Alexander B. Rossino

New Emerging Civil War Series Titles:

Battle Above the Clouds: Lifting the Siege of Chattanooga & the Battle of Lookout Mountain
October 16 – November 24, 1863
by David A. Powell

That Field of Blood: The Battle of Antietam
September 17, 1862
by Daniel J. Vermilya

Richmond Shall Not Be Given Up

The Seven Days' Battle
June 25 – July 1, 1862
by Doug Crenshaw

New Emerging Series!

Emerging Revolutionary War Series

A CIVIL WAR LETTER

This Civil War soldier letter was written by Alvah H. Daniel (1810-1864) who served in Co. H, 1st Wisconsin Cavalry. His son, William F. Daniels (b. 1843) served as a bugler in Co. F, 1st Wisconsin Cavalry. William enlisted December 1, 1861, but was discharged November 18, 1862 for disability, having been sick most of the time. Another son, Henry Daniels (b. 1842) was drafted in the fall of 1864; no military record has been located. Alvah died in the service in 1864.

Cape Girardeau (Missouri)
May 20th 1863

My Dear Daughter (Helen)

I just received your welcome letter of the 12th and was very glad to hear from my family and hear that you are enjoying usual health and I wish one more thing – not to borrow any trouble about me – because trouble comes fast enough of itself. I wrote you as soon as I could after the Battle at the Cape (Battle of Cape Girardeau). We pursued the enemy 100 miles and then we had to return back before I could write. I have written to Nathan and one to Henry and if he has gone, you have him if he comes back. I sent him 2 dollars thinking he was out of money and wanted a little as I have plenty and you wrote that Henry nor George were not earning anything.

I was paid off (the) 18th of this month and I have near or over 70 dollars by me at this time. I think I shall get along and I am as saving with my money as any other body and I want you to buy feed for your pig and make it good and kill it when you get ready and do as you think best.

I wrote to Henry to write to me. I hardly think there will not be another battle here again very soon. I want to hear from Henry as soon as you do. I wrote I seen John Wilder. He told me he had written 3 since the battle. I have not much to write at this time --- only don't you (go) hungry nor ragged as long as you have anything to do with.

I am glad to hear from Pretty and Eliza. Give my love to them both and say I am well. I will send you another soon and I want to hear from Nate and you. Give my love to all my children and Mother and yourself.

From your old father – A.H. Daniels to his daughter Helen

Give my respects to Uncle Joseph's family. I should send you some money but I may buy me another horse. Give me all the news Capt. (John) Hyde is going home soon or has gone.

submitted by Peter Jacobsohn



In the *Crop Duster* book review in the October *General Orders* the type of fighter plane German pilot Thielmann flew was a FW 190, a single-engine fighter, NOT a JU 88, which is a twin-engine bomber.

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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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Contact Roman Blenski, Quartermaster
4601 W. Holt Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53219
(414) 327-2847, dbcpmilw@execpc.com

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

