

GENERAL ORDERS

The Newsletter of the

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



December 7, 2017

David Dixon

The Lost Gettysburg Address

Let us, therefore, my friends, ever honor these our martyred countrymen, above all the dead heroes of other lands and ages and next only to our Fathers of the Revolution, who lived and died to establish that general Liberty, which American Treason in rebellion now strives to slay and which these, their worthy sons here died in arms to defend.

Charles Anderson

Few know or remember that there were two orators who shared the stage with President Lincoln at the Gettysburg dedication on November 19, 1863. The final speech of the day was lost and forgotten.

Our October speaker, David Dixon, will recount the life story of Charles Anderson, a slave owner who sacrificed nearly everything to help save the Union. David will explain how Anderson ended up sharing the spotlight with Lincoln and Edward Everett at Gettysburg in November, 1863. He argues that the three featured speeches at Gettysburg were a carefully crafted rhetorical ensemble, each having a specific political purpose, in addition to memorializing the dead soldiers. He will also share the unusual story of the discovery of the speech manuscript itself, in a most unlikely place.

David Dixon earned his B.A. in Political Science from the University of California and his M.A. in History from the University of Massachusetts. He spent 35 years in marketing with Fortune 500 companies. David has published numerous articles in scholarly journals and magazines. Most have focused on black history and Union supporters in the Civil War South.

David's website is called "B-List History." It focuses on historical figures who were important in their time, but are all but forgotten today.

Recently, David published his first book, *The Lost Gettysburg Address: Charles Anderson's Civil War Odyssey*. The biography received widespread acclaim. David has since spoken at the 2016 Sacred Trust Talks at Gettysburg, been interviewed on Civil War Talk Radio and has made appearances at historical societies, libraries, conferences, and private clubs across the country. He is one of the most popular speakers on the Civil War Round Table circuit.

David's book recounts the unusual life story of Charles Anderson, a slave owner who sacrificed nearly everything to help Lincoln save the Union. Anderson's speech, which followed Lincoln's at Gettysburg on November 19, 1863, remained lost for nearly 150 years until it was discovered recently. A transcript of this speech, along with rare photographs and a hand-drawn map of the Stones River battlefield, are all published in Dixon's book for the first time.

General Orders No. 12-17

December 2017

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December Meeting at a Glance Country Club of the Wisconsin Club 6200 Good Hope Road

[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, December 4, 2017

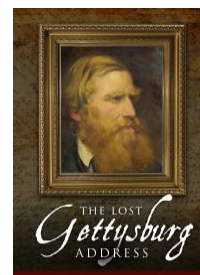
7:30 p.m. - Program

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.

Currently, David is writing the first full-length biography of Union General August Willich, a German 48er who distinguished himself in a number of important battles.



Mr. Dixon will be bringing books with him to sell at our meeting. The cost is \$19 for one or \$29 for two books.

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.

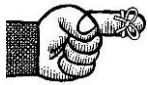
Special Dietary Needs

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!**



REMINDER: Folks will be very lonely if they go to the Wisconsin Club for the December MCWRT meeting. **We will gather at the Country Club at 6200 Good Hope Road for this meeting.**

NOTICE: Challenge Coins were left at one of the dinner tables at the November meeting. Contact Paul Eilbes at [262-376-0568](tel:262-376-0568) or Donna Agnelly at [262-332-0452](tel:262-332-0452). The coins will be at the Registration Table at the December meeting.

The Muster Roll: NEW MEMBERS

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 December 7, 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, Christopher Johnson, 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

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.



“Josiah Gorgas” was the subject presented to the Round Table members by Frank Vandiver in December 1947.

At the December 1957 meeting, Robert B. Browne spoke to those assembled on “Lesser Figures in John H. Morgan’s Command.”

Charles F. Leich was our Round Table speaker in December 1967 speaking on “The Rebel Falcon of the West.”

A film on “The Battle of Chattanooga” was presented at the December 1977 meeting by Philip J. Hohlweck.

Dr. Gordon E. Dammann spoke to the Round Table in December 1987 “In Defense of the Civil War Surgeon.”

At the December 1997 meeting, Peter Jacobsohn gave his talk to the membership on “Dr. Edward Maynard, Surgeon, Dentist and Inventor.”

Bjorn Skaptason was our speaker at last year’s December meeting speaking on “What I Saw at Shiloh: Ambrose Bierce Goes to War.”

VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS

Saturday, December 2, 2017, 10 am – 4 pm

A family friendly celebration showcasing the traditions that soldiers and civilians used to celebrate the Christmas season during and after the Civil War.

Free admission to the Fiery Trial gallery, soldier and civilian presentations, cookie decorating, holiday songs and carols, make your own luminaries, Civil War era games, crafts, and story-telling.

11 am: German Turners Men’s Choral Group

Noon: Author Jim Pula presents the 26th Wisconsin at Chancellorsville

1 pm: Holiday favorites performed by Ed Pierce and the Palmyra Eagle Band

2 pm: Victorian dance demos with the West Side Victorian Dancers

3 pm: Christmas carols with Kenosha Chamber Choir



Victorian Christmas is held in conjunction with the Kenosha Public Museum, International Holiday and Kenosha Harbor Holiday.

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.

Sandburg’s Lincoln: History or Historical Novel?

Friday, December 8, 2017, Noon

Presented by: Steven Rogstad

Carl Sandburg won three Pulitzer Prizes: two for his poetry and one for his presidential biography of Abraham Lincoln. While academically-trained scholars have been critical of his research, interpretations, and literary style, few scholars remain as intrinsically associated with Lincoln as has Carl Sandburg. This lecture will examine Sandburg’s place in Lincoln biography, and how the poet’s sweeping and descriptive narrative of Lincoln and his times created an image of Abraham Lincoln that is still embedded in American culture.

THE 26TH WISCONSIN AT CHANCELLORSVILLE

Saturday, December 2, 2017, Noon

Presented by: James S. Pula

The 26th Wisconsin was largely made up of German-speaking immigrants from southeastern Wisconsin. Mr. Pula’s program will reconsider the performance of the regiment during the Battle of Chancellorsville as part of his larger study of the 11th Corps in his new book: *Under the Crescent Moon: With the Eleventh Corps in the Civil War*.

EXTENDED THROUGH DECEMBER 30, 2017

Antaramian Gallery – Second Floor

From Civil War to Great War

One war divided a nation, the other the world.





From the Second Regiment

Fort Tillinghast, Arlington, Va., December 8, 1861

Winter has not yet set in, although it is the season of storms and frost. December has brought us sunshine instead of snow. It is the most delightful winter weather that I ever beheld in northern latitude and reminds me of the bright winter days in the far off sunny South. The sky of Cuba seems about our heads cloudless and bright and beautiful.

We are in our canvass houses yet but as comfortably situated as need be and if this weather lasts we will want no other winter quarters; still it is well to be prepared for a rainy day. And many regiments are building log cabins for themselves and log stables for their houses. This delightful weather cannot last long and, as we have made no preparation yet for wintering here, I think it is not decided whether we will remain here or move away to some other point. We have been at this encampment over two months, the longest time we have remained at any one place since going into camp, and we are getting tired of Fort Tillinghast, Arlington Grove, the Potomac, and Washington in the distance. For one, I have seen enough of this portion of the Old Dominion and ready for a move at any time. I had hoped that our regiment would be sent south with Butler or Burnside but that is past hoping for and we must await some other movement.

We expect to commence picketing again next week and then we will have a livelier time and see something to relieve our eyes from the monotonous pictures that we have gazed upon so long. They have become so by being constantly presented to our view and though they have not lost their beauty, we fail to see it as we did when they were less familiar.

Camp life becomes tedious without frequent changes in locality; drill &c; and for that reason soldiers all like to do picket duty though they are more exposed and have a harder time than when excused for such duty. We have not had any picketing to do since leaving Camp Advance and all the boys seem highly pleased with the prospect of a change and a chance to try our hands again at our old sport.

Congress being in session now there is a great demand for papers in our camp. The soldiers read a great deal and keep themselves well-posted in political affairs and military movements. The morning paper can be found in every tent. Newsboys have a splendid chance to make money and they know how to improve it for when there is any important news in their papers they charge us five cents

for the same paper that at other times can be bought for two, but money is nothing in comparison with news and no soldier will stand for a few pennies.

The health of the 2d Regiment is good. We have plenty of clothing and floors and fireplaces in our tents.

R.K.B.

Editorial Correspondence

A Visit to the Wisconsin Troops

Washington, Dec. 9, 1861

As we indicated in our last, we left New York on Friday morning (the 6th) and arrived in this city the same evening. We immediately learned that Gen. King's brigade, of which the 2d, 6th and 7th Wisconsin form a part, was to be reviewed on Saturday principally for the benefit of residents of our State who are now in this city. We at once went to work to obtain the necessary passes to be present also.

This work of obtaining passes is ordinarily attended with considerable difficulty and delay but owing to remarkably good luck, we received the necessary papers for passing over to the "sacred soil" in a very few minutes and were on our way to Arlington Heights soon after breakfast on Saturday morning.

The weather was mild but until afternoon there was a dense fog that interfered with our seeing things to as good advantage, as we should have liked. It broke away however clear and pleasant in the afternoon.

The Brigade was on parade on our arrival and had nearly completed the exercises; but we witnessed enough to convince us that our Wisconsin regiments are thorough soldiers and fully prepared for any emergency that may await them. As the regiments were marching off the grounds, our carriage was near the passage and our party consisting of Senator Hopkins, B.E. Hale of Beloit and ourselves were first recognized by that genial member of the editorial fraternity, Charley Robinson of Gen. King's staff, whose cordial greeting made us feel at home. He was followed in rapid succession by Gen. King, Colonels Fairchild of the 2d, Cutler and Sweet of the 6th, Robinson of the 7th, Majors Hamilton, Allen and Bragg, Capt. Randolph, Quartermaster Ruggles, Dr. Ward, F.P. Brooks and numerous others whose hearty greeting and strong shaking of hands gave abundant evidence that they remembered Wisconsin and the friends they had left behind. It was a joyous meeting, such a one as does the soul good. It afforded us great pleasure to answer the anxious inquires each one had to make about friends at home.

After making a visit to the headquarters of Gen. King at the Arlington House, we went to the camps of the 2d, 6th and 7th Regiments. They are located very near together on remarkably pleasant grounds. The men seem to be well cared for and they are really happy and healthy.

The command of the Second Regiment devolves almost exclusively upon Lieut. Col. Fairchild – Col. O'Connor not having recovered the use of his voice – and we are happy to find that the Regiment is remarkably well pleased with the field officers. Lieut. Col. F. is very active and efficient in his armies and extremely popular with his men. This is just what we expected of Lucius, for he was always a Prince among good fellows and was always popular with all who know him. His Regiment will go where he directs without faltering. Maj. Allen is also in excellent health and no company can boast of a braver and better Captain and his men know how to appreciate him. Lieut. Rollins is also a most capital officer, giving great energy and ability to the discharge of his duties. This Company – the Randall Guards – is a very superior one and could not be otherwise made up as it is of the best kind of men and under the command of such capable officers. Indeed we are happy to find that the Second Regiment has entirely recovered from the Bull Run disaster and ranks among the very best Regiments of the Army. It deserves the reputation it has obtained for it has earned it by good deeds...

Indeed the men in all the regiments seem to be contented and happy and only anxious to have some work to do for now they feel prepared for action. We trust they will be gratified in this respect before long and we have no fears but they will act well their parts.

The supplies of provisions to the troops seems to be abundant and satisfactory. We heard no word of complaint. In fact all seemed to be well pleased. We partook of a soldier's dinner at the headquarters of Gen. King, and can only say that we have no pity for the man who would complain of such living...

The property of the regal Gen. Lee of Arlington Heights is among the most delightful spots on earth. The view from the House is most enchanting. How a man living upon such a spot overlooking, as it does, the Capitol in all its grandeur and educated to love and protect the Government is more than we can divine. There must be an innate corruption in such a being not common to even depraved humanity. Hanging is altogether too good for such a man...

We have seen nothing of the city yet worth mentioning having spent our time thus far with the Wisconsin troops but we feel that we have made a rapid progress and that we have done our first duty after arriving at this place...

Patriot War Correspondence

From the Second Regiment

Fort Tillinghast, Arlington, Va., December 14, 1861

“The trumpet calls – trek out, trot out

We cheer the stirring sound

Swords forth my lairs there smoke and dust

We thunder o'er the ground.”

At 8 o'clock on the morning of the 12th, the 2d Regiment, in heavy marching order, was paraded on our regimental parade ground to the South of Fort Tillinghast preparatory to a march to the outskirts of the out line for the purpose of guarding for a day or two that portion of the Old Dominion where yet the Stars and Stripes float proudly in the breeze.

The meaning of the expressive phrase “heavy marching order” may be unknown by many of our friends in Wisconsin and for that reason I will here state that it is simply being ready to march with equipment all one and consisting of fun and ammunition to the amount of forty rounds, haversack containing from one to three days rations, canteen filled with water and knapsack packed with two blankets and, if warm, an overcoat strapped on top.

On this occasion most of us wore our overcoats, for the morning, though pleasant, was frosty and cold and as we marched away over the hard frozen ground our heavy tramping added a charm to the soul-inspiring music of the fife and drum.

We passed over the same road that led us to Bull Run last July until we reached Fall's...



FROM THE CIVIL WAR CENTENNIAL COMMISSION

August 1960, Vol. 3, No 8

Significant Events on the Eve of War

August 17, 1860

Warns the *New York Herald*: There are hundreds of small minds among our public men North and South, and thousands of inconsiderate people who contemplate with indifference, and some even with pleasure, the possibility of a dissolution of our compact of Union, which is the only thing that saves us from the fratricidal strifes and onerous burdens which now weigh like a nightmare upon the energies of Europe.

**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

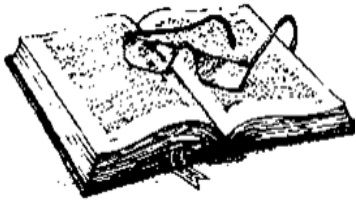
Grant will be creating a database with email reminders set to go out a week before the scheduled event. This is a purely optional choice on each member's part. If you have any questions please talk to Grant at a Round Table meeting or email him at the listed email address.

Milwaukee Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for December 7, 2017

Mail your reservations by Monday, December 4 to:
Paul Eilbes
1809 Washington Avenue
Cedarburg, WI 53012-9730

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

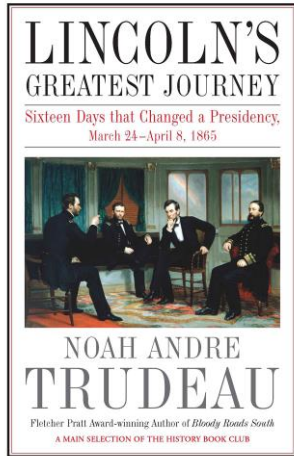
Enclosed is \$_____ (meal is \$30.00 per person) for _____ people for the
December 7, 2017 meeting of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee.
(Please make checks payable to the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.)



BETWEEN THE COVERS

Lincoln's Greatest Journey: Sixteen Days That Changed a Presidency. March 24 – April 8, 1865

by Noah Andre Trudeau



Lincoln's Greatest Journey was published in 2016 by Savas Beatie publications. The author, Noah Andre Trudeau, was at the Kenosha Civil War Museum in November 2016 to discuss and present his book. I missed Mr. Trudeau's presentation but that didn't stop me from buying a signed copy of the book as well as another one of his works, *Gettysburg*. Who doesn't need another book on Gettysburg?

In this work, Mr. Trudeau sets his focus on Lincoln's longest trip away from the White House during his presidency. He left the bustle and burdensome weight of the war in Washington, D.C. as a result of an invitation from General Grant to come down to City Point to visit the army and discuss the course of the war. General Grant wanted to ensure that they were both on the same page as to the conduct of the war and felt it would be most appropriate to meet. Grant was also responding to some lobbying by his wife, Julia, recommending that he invite the Lincolns to City Point. Julia had read several reports in the papers noting that President Lincoln looked worn down, exhausted and haggard from the tremendous pressures and strain he was working under. Julia further indicated that the

weather was good and that many others were coming down to visit and see the army making it beneficial and proper for Mr. Lincoln to come. A short visit away from Washington, D.C. would help recharge the President's health and help ease his mind from the day-to-day strain.

Previous writings on this trip have been somewhat limited in information and Mr. Trudeau, in his work, provides one of the most extensively researched and detailed stories of this important trip and of the actions and discussion that occurred between Grant and Lincoln during the war. Trudeau follows Lincoln's visits to the camps and his reviews of the troops. He also covers Lincoln's trip to the large Union hospital at City Point and describes how Lincoln took the time to visit personally with each soldier in the hospital – a visit that is not mentioned in many previous accounts.

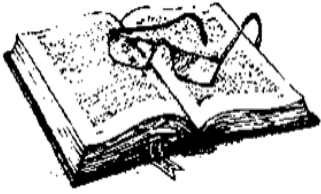
The author also covers the historic meeting with Lincoln, Grant, Sherman and Porter that took place during Lincoln's visit aboard the *River Queen*. It was at this meeting that the terms of the end of the war were clarified and how Lincoln's vision of treatment of the surrendering Confederacy would be embraced back into the Union.

Another event that receives attention is the conflict that developed between Mrs. Lincoln and Julia Grant. The conflict developed over the fact that General Ord's wife was with the group when they go to a troop review and Mrs. Lincoln became fixated on the possibility that Mrs. Ord was taking over as the head dignitary when it should be Mrs. Lincoln. Mary Todd Lincoln viewed this as a distinct violation of protocol; although this was not the case it caused a stir that refused to go away.

Mr. Trudeau also provides a much clearer picture of Lincoln's visit to the fallen capital of the Confederacy; quite a risky trip given the fluid situation in Richmond and the fact that Lincoln's escort was extremely small. The crowds that surrounded Lincoln were large once the people left in the city saw him and realized who he was; the Rebel army had only left the city a day or so before. Nonetheless, Lincoln travelled to the Confederate White House and actually sat at Jefferson Davis's desk. In later years, Grant would often comment about Lincoln's visit and how much he was impressed by the man every day he was there. Grant said: *He was incontestably the greatest man I ever knew. What marked him especially was his sincerity, his kindness, his clear insight into affairs. Under all this he had a firm will, and a clear policy.*

I think Trudeau does a good job in showing Lincoln's qualities in this work and helps to provide another little seen piece of the Lincoln puzzle. I recommend this book to anyone with an interest in Lincoln and to any student of the Civil War and the closing days of the war.

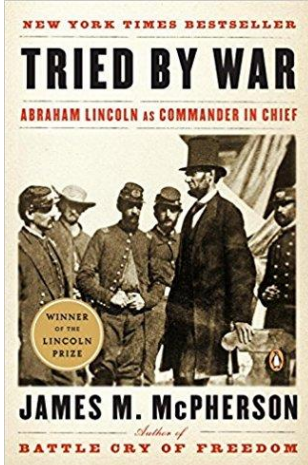
submitted by Bruce Klem



BETWEEN THE COVERS

Tried by War: Abraham Lincoln as Commander in Chief

by James McPherson



This review covers another work on President Lincoln and how he changed during the war, from a mere novice military leader to one of the great U.S. Presidents who guided the nation during conflict. Lincoln grew to become an excellent commander-in-chief, better than most of his generals. I felt this book would be a good follow up to the Trudeau book also reviewed in this issue of the newsletter. Mr. McPherson spoke on this book a couple of years ago at the Kenosha Civil War Museum and it was at that event that I purchased my copy.

Mr. McPherson noted in his earlier work, *Battle Cry of Freedom*, that the role of Lincoln as commander-in-chief had been under-examined by most historians. *Tried by War* is the work McPherson developed to dig into this crucial role. He shows how Mr. Lincoln, at first, gave deference to the generals he put in charge of the military forces. General Scott devised the Anaconda Plan which Lincoln quickly put into play. Lincoln knew his counterpart was militarily educated through West Point and actively served during the Mexican War leading troops. Lincoln's military service and knowledge paled in comparison. He knew he had to get up to speed quickly if he was to lead the nation back

to unity. Lincoln, according to McPherson, "possessed a keen analytical mind and a fierce determination to master any subject to which he applied himself."

The author shows how Mr. Lincoln dove into the subject by reading as much as he could about military principles by noted experts in military theory of the time. He shows how Lincoln went along with the decisions his generals made early in the war, but he gradually became frustrated with their actions or, lack of action on many an occasion; these occasions usually caused campaigns to go awry. McPherson discusses Lincoln's need to continually try to goad his generals into taking appropriate action.

In this work, McPherson points to the way Lincoln made it his commitment to link policy and strategy resulting in the most hands-on American commander-in-chief. He shows how Lincoln oversaw strategy and offered operational advice. As McPherson shows, Lincoln understood the synergy of political and military decision-making. The Emancipation Proclamation, for instance, harmonized the principles of union and freedom with a strategy of attacking the crucial Confederate resource of slave labor. Lincoln exercised the right to take any necessary measures to preserve the union and majority rule, including violating longstanding civil liberties (though McPherson considers the infringements milder than those adopted by later presidents).

I think this is a very good work and that McPherson shows how Lincoln developed over the war to become the greatest commander-in-chief. He shows how Lincoln worked to craft a strategy that would ultimately lead the Union to victory. The idea of operations in concert with time put the Union advantage of manpower into successful play to defeat the Confederate forces to end the war. Lincoln performed in a dynamic fashion in the five functions as commander-in-chief: policy, national strategy, military strategy, operations and tactics. He ended up leading his generals in implementing the strategies needed for victory something, until Grant came along, that his generals should have been capable of doing but were not, and showing Lincoln how to meld them together. Lincoln had to learn this himself.

I recommend this book to anyone interested in the Civil War and Lincoln and believe it to be a good addition to any Civil War library. It is a relatively short read given Mr. McPherson's style.

submitted by Bruce Klem

"As a Virginian, Scott deplored the cry of many Republican politicians and newspapers for an invasion to "crush the rebels." Even if successful, he wrote, an invasion would produce "fifteen devastated provinces [that is, the slave states] not to be brought into harmony with their conquerors, but to be held for generations, by heavy garrisons."

[James M. McPherson, Tried by War: Abraham Lincoln as Commander in Chief](#)



It was the best of times--it was the best of times. The Civil War Time Travelers rolled out at 0-dark-30 from the state that gave the Union the Iron Brigade and headed to the very spot where that same Iron Brigade saved the day and saved the Union while being destroyed in combat--Gettysburg, PA.

This adult field trip into the past was due to the efforts of David Wege, a member of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee and an educator of young minds. Rumors have it that Principal Wege has spent a quarter of his adult life tramping the battlefields of Gettysburg, both the commonly known sights and many of the obscure ones sometimes known only to a few. His in-depth knowledge of the battle at Gettysburg and his other vast wealth of civil war history made for five days of rapid fire question and answer sessions that kept the Time Travelers hungry for more information.

The adventure evolved in four stages. First there was the road trip to Gettysburg, and then a day trip to Harpers Ferry and the Antietam battlefield, where Wisconsin troops fought and solidified the name Iron Brigade. Then, three nonstop days of touring the Gettysburg battlefield and lastly the trip back to God's country. The timing was excellent and we made all our stops as arranged. There was no down time and at the end of each day we ate supper and passed out from exhaustion--a good exhaustion.

The Time Travelers enjoyed outstanding professional battlefield guides to join our tour and bring to life the deadly struggle of that three-day battle in southeast Pennsylvania, fought in the hot days of July in 1863.

The last day at Gettysburg involved a 5 ½ hour tour led by Garry Adelman. We trod from the start of the conflict where the Iron Brigade traded their lives for their nation, to the grounds of the famous Pickett's Charge where the Federal forces stopped Lee and forced the secessionists back to their short-lived nation.

There is no flat ground in Gettysburg. History was brought alive for the Time Travelers. On day three of the tour the expedition formed on the uneven field north of town where the 6th Wisconsin charged across to the infamous Railroad Cut to stop the advance of the secessionists. This new 2017 Wisconsin unit, with flag in hand, dashed as fast as our age would allow into the imaginary rifles of those who came to destroy the unity of the Nation. Some fell, everyone had wet feet and we all understood war is hard and dangerous work.

I, for one, did lots of reading before the trip so I could have a working knowledge of the battle. Traversing the grounds of a battle that literally shaped the course of our Nation made that written Gettysburg history come alive. Sadly, standing on the same ground where countless lives were ended made the written history more foreboding. I am an Army-trained Infantry officer and I mentioned many times to my wife during this Gettysburg field trip that I was glad I never had to fight in such a massive and destructive battle.

While visiting the museum and using the McKenna Foundation Resource Room I found two relatives who fought, died and were buried in marked graves at Gettysburg. One of my relatives was in the 2nd Wisconsin and died in the arms of his uncle after being shot in the gut on the first day of that battle. Marked graves are important, it means a deceased combat veteran can be accounted for, recognized and visited. Many who died at Gettysburg were buried where they fell and lost to history or buried in a grave marked unknown.

We enjoyed a presentation by re-enactor Gary Rath portraying a civil war doctor who performed an 1863 (then considered a modern medical procedure) leg amputation. He also lectured on military medicine practiced during the Civil War.

There were people on the field trip who had a very limited background in studying Civil War history and there were people who possessed a robust knowledge of that war. Everyone enjoyed the field trip and everyone, no matter their level of civil war history knowledge, learned something.

The generals on both sides of the Battle of Gettysburg were impressed with the "good ground" that the battle was to be fought on. The troops in the field I believe felt differently. Broken, uneven ground, steep hills and the remnants of ancient mountains were the battlefield at Gettysburg. In most cases troops were exhausted from traversing the ground even before firing their first shot in combat. Lack of water, lack of food and lack of rudimentary battlefield communication cost lives.

To this day the US Department of Defense arranges for military groups to tour the Gettysburg battlefield to obtain a profound understanding of a large battlefield and all that it takes to fight and win in that complex environment.

Visiting history can be much more fascinating than just reading about history. It can also be terrifying to be that close to "old" death that is really not that old and not that far away from our lives today.



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!

SAMUEL J. SEYMOUR - WITNESS



The stories of witnesses to the Civil War can take some unusual turns and this story is certainly one of those. How many of us, and I suspect it is the majority, remember the old television quiz show *I've Got a Secret* hosted by the man wearing a bowtie and sporting a crew cut, Garry Moore? For those of you too young to recall this show, the “guest” would whisper his secret in Garry’s ear, the secret would be displayed on the TV screen for the viewing audience and the very erudite celebrity panel (my favorite was Henry Morgan) would engage in a version of twenty questions as they tried to guess the individual’s secret.

On February 9, 1956, a 96-year-old man would whisper in Garry’s ear, “I saw John Wilkes Booth shoot Abraham Lincoln.” The gentleman was Samuel J. Seymour. He was the last surviving witness of Lincoln’s assassination in Ford’s Theatre on April 14, 1865.

Samuel James Seymour was born on March 28, 1860 in Maryland. He was five years old when he made the trip to Washington D.C. with his father. While father and son were in the capital, Samuel’s godmother, Mrs. George S. Goldsboro took him to Ford’s Theatre to see *Our American Cousin*. Samuel and his godmother took their seats in one of the balconies, witnessed the arrival of the president and proceeded to enjoy the play until the third act.

In an interview with Frances Spatz Leighton, Seymour would describe what he witnessed:

All of a sudden a shot rang out – a shot that always will be remembered – and someone in the President’s box screamed. I saw Lincoln slumped forward in his seat. People started milling around and I thought there’d been another accident when one man seemed to tumble over the balcony rail and land on the stage. Hurry, hurry, let’s go help the poor man who fell down, I begged...Mrs. Goldsboro swept me into her arms and held me close and somehow we got outside the theater. That night I was shot 50 times, at least in my dreams – and I sometimes still relive the horror of Lincoln’s assassination, dozing in my rocker as an old codger like me is bound to do.

Seymour lived the majority of his adult life in Baltimore, Maryland working as a carpenter and contractor. By the time he made his appearance on the TV show he was in failing health and walked with the aid of a cane. During his stay in New York City, where the game show was taped, he fell down a flight of hotel stairs. Garry Moore, seeing Seymour’s frailty as he helped him to his seat on the set, suggested that he forgo his scheduled appearance; doctors examined him and left the decision up to Seymour who refused to pass on the opportunity to appear on the show. For those of you who are wondering if the panel guessed Seymour’s “secret” – they did. Bill Cullen guessed that the secret was related to the Civil War and Jayne Meadows correctly guessed the secret.

Samuel J. Seymour passed away 63 days after his appearance on *I've Got a Secret* at his daughter’s home in Arlington, Virginia. He was survived by 5 children, 13 grandchildren and 35 great-grandchildren. He is buried at Loudon Park Cemetery in Baltimore, Maryland. The last surviving witness’s voice was now silent.

submitted by Donna Agnelly

CIVIL WAR NUGGET: Remembering Col. Pier: Weldon Railroad

On August 19, 1864, Col. Colwert K. Pier and the 38th Wisconsin came off siege and picket duty before Petersburg. The men accompanied the movement to the left for the capture of Weldon Railroad. After a fatiguing march through mud and rain, they met the enemy in the afternoon, and captured a number of prisoners in the action that ensued.

Early on the 22nd, they moved forward and rapidly threw up a line of entrenchments, with the 38th’s group occupying a position directly across the track. Before noon, the enemy attacked the position from three directions simultaneously, but after a severe engagement lasting two hours, it was repulsed. The Union troops fortified the position.

Pier later said, “...we went for the Weldon Railroad and walked into a pocket surrounded by rebels. The ablest straggler in the army could not find the rear, for there was none. But we held the road all the same.”

Col. Colwert K. Pier is the namesake of Milwaukee’s Camp (chapter) of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. This article appeared in the August 2017 newsletter issue of C. K. Pier Badger Camp #1 Camp Orders and is reprinted here, in its entirety, with the permission of the author, Steve Michaels, Camp Commander.

UNION GENERALS, EVANSTON, ILLINOIS, AND OHIO

submitted by John B. McHugh

Growing up in Evanston, Illinois, I recall our city had three streets named after Union Civil War generals: Grant, Sherman and Sheridan. I walked, rode my bike, and drove on those three streets many times.

I subsequently discovered that two of these great Union generals were born in Ohio (except Sheridan) and spent their formative years in Ohio. I, too, have deep Ohio connections, having graduated from Xavier University in Cincinnati, and having spent a number of years working in Cleveland and Columbus.

That prompted me to ask this question, "What are the commonalities of these three Union generals?" All had a deep Ohio connection. Sheridan was born either in route from Ireland or near Albany, New York, but was raised in Somerset, Ohio. Second, all had streets named after them in my hometown, Evanston, Illinois. Finally, it is generally agreed that these three were the greatest Union generals and possibly rank among the most capable generals the United States has ever produced. For those reasons, I started to read about these three famous soldiers. Let me share some of my favorite books about them.

Note: I have not included the usual bibliographic information such as copyright date, publisher, length, etc., as some of these books may be out-of-print. You can search online to find the current bibliographic data or check with your local library system. Also, this selection was a starting point for me, and many more fine books and articles are available on Generals Grant, Sherman and Sheridan.

U.S. Grant

The Unlikely Hero by Michael Korda

Korda has written a short, bare-bones biography but a good one to start with. Korda is a talented biographer, who also has a strong grasp of military history. After reading Korda, you will understand why Grant is held in high esteem.

Grant and Sherman: The Friendship That Won the Civil War by Charles Bracelen Flood

This title may be hyperbole but there is some truth to it. What is true is that the relationship between these two extraordinary military leaders was a vital factor in the Union victory. What fascinated me was that an ambitious man, such as Sherman, was content being number two to Grant and was loyal to him throughout his military career. In many organizations, a subordinate will do unethical things to undercut his/her boss in order to be promoted to his/her job.

Ulysses S. Grant, Memoirs and Selected Letters by Ulysses S. Grant

This memoir written by General Grant (no ghost writers back then) was funded by Mark Twain to help the destitute Grant during the end stages of his terminal throat cancer. This work is for hard-core Civil War devotees. Grant's humility and honesty shine through in his memoirs. He does take a few barbs at figures like Jefferson Davis and Robert E. Lee and some of his incompetent Union colleagues. But Grant is never unkind or nasty in his commentary. Getting through this book takes a commitment as it can be dry reading, but worth the effort.

General Ulysses S. Grant: The Soldier and the Man by Edward G. Longacre

This was the first Grant biography I read. It presents an acceptable overview of Grant and was fine as a starter book, but not successful as a definitive biography. Some readers criticize the Longacre book for its obsession with the possibility that Grant was an alcoholic. You will have to make up your mind about Grant's drinking. An instructive anecdote about President Lincoln is as follows: When President Lincoln heard the rumor of Grant's excessive drinking, spread by envious colleagues, President Lincoln allegedly said, "Find out what he drinks and send a case to all my generals if it will get the same results."

Philip Sheridan

Little Phil: The Story of General Phillip Henry Sheridan by William F. Drake

I read this a number of years ago when I wanted to read a biography of Sheridan and this seemed to be the only recent book available. I did learn about the life of Sheridan but I find this book wanting. In my opinion, it was not a solid work based on careful research of primary and secondary resources.

Terrible Swift Sword: The Life of Philip H. Sheridan by Joseph Wheelan

Start with this comprehensive biography of General Sheridan. All capable biographers tell a story that engages the reader and this is what Wheelan does. The entire life span of Sheridan is covered including his pivotal leadership in the conflict with the Indians after the Civil War. A plus: Sheridan's many successful military engagements are laid out for the reader. I learned a couple of things: first, Sheridan revolutionized cavalry warfare; second, he was a bright man and first-rate strategic thinker.

- continued -

William T. Sherman

Sherman: A Soldier's Passion for Order by John Marszalek

If you are interested in General Sherman, read this masterful biography and you will come away with a satisfying understanding of this extraordinary general's life. You may also conclude that Sherman was the most gifted Union general and certainly ranks in the top three or four on both the Union and Confederate sides.

John B. "Jack" McHugh is a semi-retired publishing executive living in Glendale, WI. McHugh welcomes any comments you have on his writing at: jack@johnbmchugh.com.

Have You Ever Written a Book Review?

Your Reviews Matter – and Help Keep Civil War Publishing Alive

We love reading about the Civil War.

We save our hard-earned money and buy the books on the subject(s) we love. Sometimes we check them out from libraries. Other times, we borrow them from friends or family members.

However, the vast majority of book readers **never** leave public reviews of the titles they read. Not on blogs, not on Facebook, and not on Amazon. Not in newsletters, or in magazines, not in newspapers, broadsheets, or emails. And most readers don't think twice about not doing so.

It's understandable. Most people are busy, and/or they don't think they write well enough to leave a public review. Many folks admit the idea doesn't often cross their mind, or don't believe a review is really all that important or could possibly make any difference.

They could not be more wrong.

It matters – in more ways than you can imagine.

Here are a few reasons why you should pen a review, however brief or long, however general or detailed.

First, authors need your feedback. They labor alone, often for many years, send a manuscript off to the publisher, and wait for a long while (sometimes years) until it is published. Reviews are one of the few ways they get feedback from the end user: You.

Trust me, authors do not write for the money. They write for the joy researching brings them, and the pleasure of the writing experience. They do it to enrich your life by providing you (hopefully) what you love. Share your honest opinion with them. Your reviews matter to them more than you know.

Second, publishers (at least those who care) need your feedback. It is important to let us know what you like, and what you don't like. Some publishers are exceptionally engaged with the reading public and look very much forward to hearing from those who purchase and read their books. (We scout the web for reviews to learn whether what we did worked – or didn't work). If we don't hear from you – how will we ever truly know whether we were successful with a given book?

How was the writing? How was the overall editing? Did you like the footnotes, or do you prefer end notes? Why? What did you think of the quality (or lack thereof) of the maps? Were they helpful? Were there enough of them? Were they placed properly? Ditto on the images. Interested publishers seek out fair and honest reviews and trust me, we pay attention.

Publishers publish for many of the same reasons authors write. Speaking for myself, it certainly isn't for the money, but for the love of the game. The concept of adding enjoyment to the lives of others and enriching them in a unique way is truly satisfying. So is leaving something worthwhile for posterity.

Your reviews matter.

Third, other potential readers rely upon and need your honest opinion. Marketing blurbs and jacket copy are important sales tools, but interested readers are more influenced by YOUR opinion. Think about it: Don't you like to read what others think about a new book in which you have an interest? Of course you do.

If Book X is released and the first several reviews are very negative – no maps, terrible writing, repetitive, sloppy or no editing, etc. – aren't you glad you didn't shell out thirty bucks for it? Sure you are. On the flip side, if early reviews are glowing, doesn't it help you make an informed buying decision?

Your reviews matter.

Fourth, most book readers don't take into consideration that booksellers and wholesalers follow reviews carefully. Here is a simple example outside the Civil War that makes my point.

The fascinating memoir *Steel Boat, Iron Hearts: A U-boat Crewman's Life Aboard U-505*, by Hans Boebeler (with John Vanzo) has been very successful – but NOT because of anything the authors have done (Hans is deceased, and John as a rule does not do events), but because some of our promotions triggered a wave of reviews, that turned into other opportunities.

As the number of positive reviews climbed, more booksellers and wholesalers stocked it, more libraries picked it up, and more readers discovered this gem of a memoir. Foreign rights agents sought us out, as did a major audio rights company. Thousands of readers around the world would never have heard of this book EXCEPT for all of your reviews – which climbed in number from 19 to ... 501 (as of the date of this post (Thursday, October 26, 2017).

Wait a minute, you think, “Why do I want to make money for a publisher?” (Seriously, you thought that?) Well, if your niche publisher goes out of business, who is going to publish what you love to read? If your doctor goes out of business, who will treat you?

Your reviews matter.

Fifth, Amazon – the uncomfortable elephant in the room today – uses reviews and page hits to determine which books are popular, how many to stock, and how to match them with other similar interests. Many people check Amazon first to see how a book has been reviewed (I know many of you are nodding your head, right?) How many of us have glanced at a star rating and thought, “Only a two-star average with 10 reviews? I'll pass.” Or, “Wow, this has 22 reviews and a 4.5-star rating average. I will get a copy.”

Your reviews matter.

I can hear some of you shouting, “But Ted, I am not a good writer!” I hear this almost daily. Here is a dirty secret: It doesn't matter.

Just write what you liked (or didn't like) about a book. Post it on Amazon, on Facebook, online somewhere, or maybe in a series of tweets. It can be as simple as, “I liked this book because [the subject is interesting,] [it was easy to read,] [there were lots of good maps,] [the footnotes were informative,] etc.” If you feel comfortable, go in-depth and write several paragraphs. Your opinion matters.

Reviews help keep authors writing, publishers publishing, and readers reading. Your participation with reviews is critically important and, likely, much more so than you realized.

Help shape YOUR reading future. Your opinion matters.

Theodore P. Savas
Savas Beatie LLC

General Orders, the official publication of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.
is produced September through June and upon request of the Board of Directors.

Send submission to **Donna Agnelly, Editor**, 420 Racine St. Unit 110, Waterford, WI 53185 or email dagnelly@tds.net 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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General Orders design & layout by Dave Wege.

Yearly memberships available: Individual (\$40), family (\$50), non-resident (\$25), attending an educational institution (\$20).
Contact Paul Eilbes for information: (262) 376-0568.

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