

GENERAL ORDERS



The Newsletter of the

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



September 13, 2018

Timothy B. Smith

Difficult and Broken Ground: The Terrain Factor at Shiloh

Any understanding of the Battle of Shiloh has to start with an understanding of the terrain in which it was fought.

Timothy B. Smith

Shiloh: Conquer or Perish

Numerous factors combined to cause the major Union victory that was Shiloh. Timing, numbers, and leadership all combined to sway the action in definite ways, but perhaps the most dominant reason was the terrain on which the Battle of Shiloh took place. Any understanding of the battle has to be firmly based on an understanding of the battlefield, and Dr. Timothy B. Smith, basing this lecture on his award-winning book *Shiloh: Conquer or Perish*, will walk us through a detailed examination of the terrain factor at Shiloh. He will explain how the ground, often described negatively as a trap for the Union forces, was actually set up perfectly for Union victory and Confederate defeat. Little known factors will be examined in order to understand more fully how the battle was shaped and funneled in certain directions, leading to a major advantage for the Federal forces. Albert Sidney Johnston famously proclaimed that he must conquer or perish that day, and he, and perhaps his Confederacy, did the latter at Shiloh in large part due to the terrain on which the battle was fought.

Our September speaker, Timothy B. Smith, Ph.D. Mississippi State University, 2001, is a veteran of the National Park Service and currently teaches history at the University of Tennessee at Martin. In addition to numerous articles and essays, he is the author, editor, or co-editor of eighteen books, including *Champion Hill: Decisive Battle for Vicksburg* (2004), which won the nonfiction book award from the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters, *Corinth 1862: Siege, Battle, Occupation* (2012), which won the Fletcher Pratt Award and the McLemore Prize, *Shiloh: Conquer or Perish* (2014), which won the Richard B. Harwell Award, the Tennessee History

Award, and the Douglas Southall Freeman Award, and *Grant Invades Tennessee: The 1862 Battles for Forts Henry and Donelson* (2016), which won the Tennessee History Book Award, the Emerging Civil War Book Award, the Albert Castel Award, and the Douglas Southall Freeman Award. He is currently writing a book on the May 19 and 22 Vicksburg assaults. He lives with his wife Kelly and children Mary Kate and Leah Grace in Adamsville, Tenn.



General Orders No. 9-18

September 2018

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September Meeting at a Glance

The 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, September 10, 2018

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.

2018-2019 Speaker Schedule

Find the speaker schedule on page 6.

Don't forget!

When you come to the Round Table meeting remember to stop at our Quartermaster's table and get some raffle tickets for the monthly book raffle. You can't win if you don't play!

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!

The vacant chair



Coming in November for Veterans' Day!

The Muster Roll: NEW MEMBERS

NUMBER	NAME	RESIDENCE	DATE OF BIRTH	CLASSIFICATION	REMARKS
	Doug Arnold				
	Peter Keepman				
	James A. Rydlewicz				

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 June, 2018.

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, Laura Rinaldi, David & Helga Sartori, Dennis Slater, Paul Sotirin, Gil Vraney

Contributor (up to \$99)

George Affeldt, Jeryl Anthony, John Beatty, T. James Blake, Dale Brasser, John & Linda Connelly, Tom Corcoran, 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, Edward Newman, Herb Oechler, Tom Pokrandt, John Rodahl, Diana Smurawa, Dan Tanty, Michael Uihlein, Bernard VanDinter

SILENT AUCTION

Larry Lefler of Fremont, Nebraska passed away on June 23, 2018. He was a descendant of Amos Lefler, Co. E, Sixth Wis. Vols. who was seriously wounded and listed as MIA following the heroic charge on Gettysburg's Railroad Cut on July 1, 1863. Larry had quite a collection of Civil War books and magazines, and he wanted them to get into the hands of those who would truly appreciate them. A group of these books will be available via silent auction at our September meeting. Proceeds will be divided between the MCWRT and the Seminary Ridge Museum. Please bid accordingly. Some books will have a minimum bid.

Bearss, Edwin C.	<i>Receding Tide , Fields of Honor</i>
Borritt, Gabor	<i>The Lincoln Enigma , The War President , The Gettysburg Gospel</i>
Brown, Elizabeth Pryor	<i>Six Encounters with Lincoln , Clara Barton, Professional Angel , Reading the Man</i>
Cheek, Philip Pointon, Mair	<i>Sauk County Riflemen</i>
Gibbon, John	<i>The Artillerist's Manual (1991 Morningside reprint)</i>

Other items will include titles by Alan Nolan, Alan Gaff, and James I. Robertson.

Further titles by Herdegen, Guelzo, McPherson and others will follow at later meetings.



At the September 1948 meeting “Lincoln Raises an Army” was the subject of Don Russell’s presentation to the membership.

At the September 1958 meeting Hambleton Tapp gave a talk on “Perryville.”

E. B. Long was the speaker at the September 1968 meeting speaking on “Generals and Their Wives.”

Howard M. Madeus talked about “Artillery and Ammunition of the Civil War” at the September 1978 meeting.

The featured speaker at the September 1988 meeting was Robert K. Krick speaking to the members assembled on “Lee’s Maryland Campaign of 1862.”

“When History Meets Hollywood” was the subject of Brian Pohanka’s presentation in September 1998.

At last year’s meeting Ed Bonekemper spoke to the group on “False Remembrance of the Civil War: The Myth of the Lost Cause.”

Kenosha Civil War Museum Second Friday Lecture Series

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

Friday, September 14, 2018 @ Noon
Reevaluating the Eleventh Corps at Gettysburg

Presented by Dr. James Pula. For more than a century and a half the conduct of the Eleventh Corps at Gettysburg has been clouded by accusations that its men abandoned their posts with only feeble resistance. In this illustrated PowerPoint presentation, Mr. Pula will review the battle, the part played by the Eleventh Corps, and come to some very different conclusions.

**NOW AT THE ANTARAMIAN GALLERY
FOR HONOR AND FAMILY:
THREE FAMILIES IN THE CIVIL WAR**



**October 13, 2018 TWENTIETH Annual Talking Spirits Cemetery Tour
Forest Hill Cemetery – Madison, WI**

Online registration begins Tuesday, September 4, 2018 Rain date: October 14, 2018

On the 90-minute walking tour, local actors share Civil War stories through portrayals of Wisconsin Civil War soldiers and citizens buried at Forest Hill Cemetery. Saturday tours leave every 20 minutes starting at noon and ending at 4 p.m. Purchasing tickets online allows you to book a preferred time slot.

2018 Cast of Characters

Ella Bennett Bresee and her father, James Bennett

James served under William Vilas in Company A, 23rd Wisconsin Infantry Regiment. He was discharged on April 5, 1863, due to wounds received on an expedition up the Arkansas River. He reenlisted in Company D, 37th Wisconsin Infantry Regiment on March 11, 1864. He was wounded at Petersburg, was breveted First Lieutenant and was discharged in May 1865. His daughter, Ella, was 3 years old. As a child Ella was taken by her father and mother to Forest Hill Cemetery to decorate the graves of soldiers who were killed in the Civil War. Ella would continue her patriotic work throughout her life. During WWI she volunteered for the Red Cross and started the first canteen service in the state. The story of James and Ella will focus on homefront activities and ways in which the men and women who fought were honored.

Lieutenant Hugo Stock and his father, Captain John Stock

On July 10, 1848, eight-year-old John Stock of Bavaria, Germany landed in New Orleans and began his journey to Wisconsin. Sixteen years later John would enlist in Company I, 4th Wisconsin Cavalry. He would be promoted to First Lieutenant and was transferred to Company C where he continued to progress through the ranks until he was mustered out as a Captain in 1866. John married Selma Diehnelt in 1872; the couple had eight children. The couple’s youngest son, Hugo, graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, joined the Wisconsin National Guard and served on the Mexican border. In 1917, he entered active service for WWI and became a pilot. Hugo was killed on September 28, 1918 in Issoudon, France, in an accident on the flying field. John died on September 30, 1918 never knowing that Hugo had preceded him in death. The Stocks’ story will center on the themes of legacy, duty, and obligation.

FROM THE FIELD

1861 SEPTEMBER, A Soldier's Life in the 2nd Regiment

To join our future comrades we struck tents across the Potomac on Aqueduct bridge and Maridian Hill near Washington City, marching five miles; here we remain until September 3rd, when in the evening the long roll beats and we fall in and march rapidly through Georgetown up the Potomac to Chain Bridge, seven miles.

September 4, 1861, the Second and Fifth Wisconsin and Nineteenth Indiana Regiments were temporarily detached from King's Brigade and assigned to Brig.-Gen. Wm. F. Smither's command, and immediately crossing the river his division occupying a command in position, covering the approaches of Chain Bridge, distance marched, three miles.

Cornelius Wheeler's diaries

...of drill and soldierly bearing highly creditable to both officers and men. For three days previous to the Review at Bailey's Cross Roads, they marched out to the review ground, a distance of six miles, and went through the drill. Accustoming themselves to the part, they were in the greatest assembling of armed men the Western continent ever witnessed and it is stated that were highly complimented by Gen. McClellan for their soldierly bearing, being the only regiment that observed strict discipline and military etiquette while passing the General. Other regiments, it is stated, shouted, sang, threw and made many other extravagant demonstrations but not a man of the 2d turned his head until the order to present arms was given and their conduct elicited special praise from the Washington papers.

Decidedly the best war correspondence that has yet been printed is published by the *Madison Journal* of last Saturday consisting of extracts from about fifty different letters received from the boys of the Second by a Lieutenant at Madison who was wounded at Bull's Run. Written without any idea of their being published they give a perfect reflex of a soldier's life in camp much more accurately than carefully prepared correspondence. We extract liberally.

L.E.A. has the utmost confidence in the superiority of the 2nd regiment and the Randall Guards in particular. Hear Him: "We have slept on the ground every night and it has rained every other night but we don't care for that, we are tough and can whip more Secesh than any other regiment in the army. We have done more picket duty than any other company in the regiment in the army, but we don't care for that; for when we have the Captain at our head we can climb the Missouri or swim the Allegheny Mountains. But to return, we are in tip-top fighting order and all anxious for a fight and all we want to make our company complete is your presence.

E.R.C. after speaking of the present location and condition of the regiment writes in the following strain: "It was indeed an unfortunate affair for us when you got shot but we hope to see you with us again. The next time we play ball, we will be able to handle ourselves better. The boys all have great confidence in General McClellan and are anxious to try Secesh on again. If we only knew the man that gave you that unlucky hit we would give him a pass to the other side of Jordan mighty quick. Within three months time we will unfurl the American flag in the city of Richmond. This time we will send no boys to mill but go ourselves; and if Jeff Davis don't wish he had leave of absence you may take my head for a football. We all feel that the old sinner has no rights that white men are bound to respect. We propose to make short work of him now and the best thing he can do is to get some able advocate to plead his cause at the throne of Divine Grace, for there is no room for repentance here. He has stolen our money and attempted to overthrow the best government the world ever saw; and that, too, after it has nourished and protected him and gave him advantages that few countries afford.

He has insulted the memory of Washington and of all the fathers of the republic. The voice of those illustrious dead who consecrated the first and best fruits of their immortal genius to the cause of liberty cries aloud from the portals of the tomb to their children's children to avenge them against him who now dares to disturb their repose. With their sacred influences and the god of Battles on our side, we are invincible and conquer we must. Years hence it will be no cause of regret to you that you suffered the hardships of war and that you bled in a cause so similar to that in which our revolutionary heroes were engaged. They fought to acquire liberty – you keep the boon which they left you as a heritage."

S.E.S. among other things says: "Hard crackers are getting to be a great delicacy in this God forsaken land of Virginia, especially for the ragged Second, as the fighting Fifth calls us; but we will show them how to put on style when we get our new clothes. We are having some of the best times out on picket you ever saw.



Cornelius Wheeler
2nd Wis. Volunteers

J.R.B. writes quite a long letter giving the scenes since the Bull Run affair. We make the following abstracts. "Although we have war in the land yet we have had during the past week more rumors of war than anything else. About midnight every night some of our pickets will imagine they see a rebel army creeping through the shadowy bushes, and the result is that some fated stump or pig or cow tastes lead or at least gunpowder; but sometimes good luck makes it a rebel so the long roll beats, then turns out boys quick.

R.F.B. says: "Give my best wishes to all the friends of freedom in Madison. Stir up the boys, so that Wisconsin may fill up her regiments without drafting. I received a letter from my brother yesterday. Good for him – he has enlisted."

B.M. expresses himself thus: "We have finally got settled down in old Virginia once more and are ready to give the cowardly traitors what they deserve. We got our pay yesterday and you had better believe we will not eat any sheet iron crackers for awhile."

J.H.S. writes thus: "We are now in a low green valley on the old Virginia shore in daily anticipation of a call from Lord Jeff, and in view of this we have been under arms almost without cessation since we crossed the Potomac. We are all, I think, if possible, more anxious to meet Secesh than we were previously to Bull Run. We are on picket duty nearly all the time and that suits us, for the peaches are not all gone yet, and green corn and potatoes are quite plenty, and we live well."

E.H. ... I wonder what kind of name the Second has in Madison. We have a very good one in adjoining regiments with the exception of the Fifth, which calls us the ragged Second. We played a good joke on them the other day. We took a private and dressed him so as to resemble a Secesh as much as possible and then made believe he was a

prisoner and let him go near the camp of the 5th. There was a scattering for him, I can tell you, but when they discovered the cheat they looked rather cheap."

J.K. goes off in the following style: "We are a hard-looking set of boys at present – dirty ragged pants is our uniform; but the material inside of them is as good as it ever was. We are pretty close to Old 'Secesh,' and have to get out of bed in a hurry sometimes in the rain. The boys are all in good spirits and want to pitching Old Secesh."

H.C.W. gives the realities of a soldier's life thus: "We have been trying some of the realities of soldiering the past week – working on for days and sleeping in the open air-nights; but we are good for all such things. Our company goes out on picket this afternoon. Picketing is a grand old business; for there is lots of green corn and sweet potatoes where we go and the Second knows how to get them."

L.O.I. gives some idea of what they are doing: "Since we left camp Kalorama, we have had no tents but had to sleep in some brush huts which we have made. We have been at work on a fort which we call Fort Smith and it is now finished so that I think the rebels will meet a warm reception if they come within range of the thirty-two pounders that are pointed in every direction. I will also tell you that it is a general thing to be called out in the night and stand in line of battle for two or three hours because the pickets are firing nearly the whole night. A couple of nights since we had to stand out in the rain until we were wet entirely through. We did not feel well the next morning but we are all right now for yesterday we got our tents and were paid off so that we have everything we want except our new clothes; and we think we shall have them in a few days so the 5th and 6th will have no cause for calling us the "ragged Second."

Thank you, Jim Johnson, for these fascinating memories for our *From the Field* features!

WADE HOUSE – 28TH ANNUAL CIVIL WAR WEEKEND
Saturday, September 29 – Sunday, September 30, 2018
9am – 5pm Saturday 9am – 4pm Sunday

This annual special event at Wade House brings the history of the American Civil War to life. Held the last weekend in September, Civil War weekend is two action-filled days of battle reenactments, military drills, medical care situations, period music and food, demonstrations, educational presentations and more.

Experience the 1860s clash of arms between North and South as Union and Confederate troops set up camp conduct drills and offer a variety of demonstrations. Expanded food and beverage offerings and an extensive array of Civil War-related items are available for sale on site.

Skirmishes – 11 am daily	Adults	\$15
Battle – 2 pm	Seniors and Students with ID	\$13
	Children 5 - 17	\$8
	Children under 5	free
	Family Rate	\$40
	(2 adults and 2 or more dependent children)	



**MILWAUKEE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
2018-2019 SPEAKER SCHEDULE**

September 13, 2018 **Tim B. Smith**
*Difficult and Broken Ground:
The Terrain Factor at Shiloh*

October 11, 2018 **Ted Karamanski**
The Civil War as an Indian War

November 8, 2018 **Paul Kahan**
*The Presidency of U.S. Grant:
Preserving Civil War Legacy*

December 13, 2018
David Hirsch & Dan Van Hafen
Abraham Lincoln and the Structure of Reason

January 10, 2019 **Bjorn Skaptason**
Shiloh in the Footsteps of Henry Morton Stanley

February 7, 2019 **Rob Girardi**
Gouverneur K. Warren

March 7, 2019 **Horace Mewborn**
Elijah V. White

April 11, 2019 **Brad Gottfried**
Maps of Fredericksburg

May 9, 2019 **John Horn**
*The Petersburg Regiment in the Civil War:
A History of the 12th Virginia Infantry from
John Brown's Hanging to Appomattox 1859-1865*

June 13, 2019 **Greg Biggs**
*The Question was One of Supplies: The Logistics
for William T. Sherman's Atlanta Campaign*

Speakers/topics remain subject to change.

**Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.
2018 – 2019 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	2021
Bruce Klem	First Vice President	2021
Daniel Nettesheim	Member	2021
Frank Risler	Program Chair	2021
Tom Thompson	Member	2020
David Wege	Layout, General Orders	2021

**~ 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

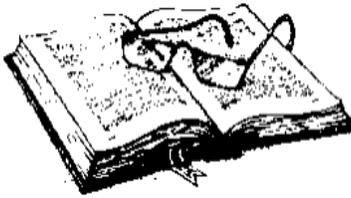
Grant will be creating a database with email reminders set to go out a week before the scheduled event. This is a purely optional choice on each member's part. If you have any questions please talk to Grant at a Round Table meeting or email him at the listed email address.

Milwaukee Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for September 13, 2018

Mail your reservations by Monday, September 10 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
September 13, 2018 meeting of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee.
(Please make checks payable to the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.)

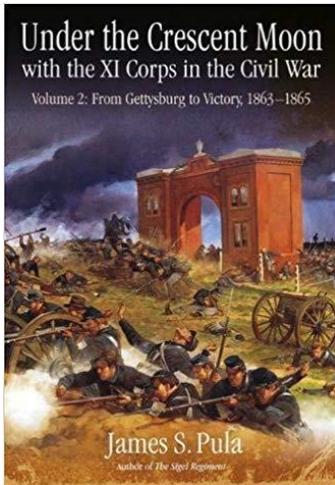


BETWEEN THE COVERS

Under the Crescent Moon with the XI Corps in the Civil War

Volume 1: From the Defenses of Washington to Chancellorsville 1862-1863

James S. Pula



My review is on a new book published in 2017 and written by James Pula. Mr. Pula spoke at the Kenosha Civil War Museum on December 2, 2017. The author has developed a story that held my own interest in the XI Corps as a result of the October 2017 museum trip to Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville. Our tour guide for the Chancellorsville portion presented the group with some additional information and new viewpoints on the fate of the XI Corps and its positioning on that fateful May 2, 1863. As a result, this book was something that really was in my wheel house for further exploration.

Mr. Pula indicated, during his presentation, that Volume II will be coming out in Spring 2018. In his discussion, Mr. Pula pointed out the title comes from the fact that the Corps wore the badge of a Crescent Moon, which General Hooker had established for the XI Corps units after he took over the command of the Army of the Potomac. Mr. Pula points out that his motives for the book were to shine a new light on the XI Corps record and look beyond the racial prejudices of the day that painted the heavily German heritage makeup of the Corps as a group that would run rather than fight and become “panic-stricken.”

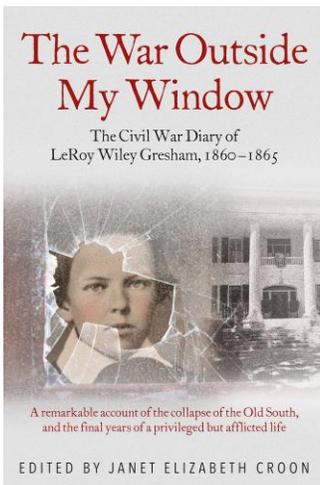
The record of the Corps had been ridiculed and abused ever since that fateful May day in 1863. Mr. Pula points out that the unit was never really accepted by the rest of the Army of the Potomac. The general feeling was that the XI Corps did not earn its stripes of combat to measure up with the rest of the Army of the Potomac. The Corps actually came to the Army of the Potomac from General Pope’s army after 2nd Bull Run. The Corps had originally been General Franz Sigel’s I Corps. It now became the Army of the Potomac’s XI Corps. It carried with it the catch phrase “I fight mit Sigel” in part because of the large German makeup of some of the division; this element of racial tension and lack of trust with the XI Corps and the rest of the Army of the Potomac helped plant the seeds for a bad reputation.

The author details the actual makeup of the divisions of the XI Corps to show that, while some regiments had a heavy German ethnic makeup, many others did not and some were less than the majority. He goes on to show that this Corps was the smallest strength-wise of Hooker’s army as it marched on to its date with destiny. It was somewhat strange that the XI was chosen as one of the three to lead the advance into the Wilderness at the opening stage of the campaign. Pula goes on to present many of the individual comments from XI Corps members in how they reacted when Jackson’s force fell upon the open right flank of the Corps. Some of the other facts he presented in telling this story is how the Corps was originally set up for defense. It appears, from the record, that General Howard was confused by the location he was to defend and as a result, his Corps was not in a position to receive an attack.

Mr. Pula brings into the story all the warnings the XI Corps got from a variety of sources that an attack was coming at them quite possibly from a direction that they were not remotely set up to handle. Other information given to their headquarters was that they should be ready for a pursuit and be more ready to move out. They ended up with no reserve reaction force when the XI Corps sent their Corps reserve brigade to help the III Corps and didn’t bother to replace it. There were many other factors that came into play that Mr. Pula has pointed out from official records and personal diary information. He manages to paint a picture from those documents that units didn’t run at the sight of the Rebel attack but for the most part, because of poor positioning, unit after unit was simply overwhelmed. Each individual regiment was hit one-by-one by almost six to one odds and continuously put into situations where they were hit with overpowering crossfires. This put the officers in charge of those Union regiments to decide to either stay put and fight to the last man or fall back to a better defensible position. While some broke and ran, the numbers were not as large as the first reports indicated.

I found this book to be a very interesting read and one that sheds new light on the May 2nd fight between the XI Corps and General Jackson’s Confederate forces. I highly recommend this book to any student of the Civil War and those interested in the Battle of Chancellorsville. I believe each reader will find this book contains some new information and a more detailed analysis of what actually happened to the XI Corps when it was attacked on May 2.

submitted by Bruce Klem



The War Outside My Window

The Civil War Diary of LeRoy Wiley Gresham 1860-1865

edited by Janet Elizabeth Croon

If you were at the June Round Table meeting you would have heard me highly recommending this book and the companion book *I Am Perhaps Dying* by Dennis Rasbach, to the assembled members. In my years as a member of our organization I have never stood at the podium and told members to go out and buy a particular book. I will say here, BUY THIS BOOK!

In the Publisher's Preface, Ted Savas, Savas Beatie Publications, starts out by saying that "Until the spring of 2017, I had never heard of LeRoy Wiley Gresham. Odds are you hadn't either."

Following is an excerpt from an article by Ted Savas published in *Civil War Times* printed in the *General Orders* with Ted's generous permission.

LeRoy was an invalid teenager from a slave-holding family in Macon, Georgia. In 1856, a chimney collapsed and crushed his left leg. In 1860, his mother Mary gave the 12-year-old a blank journal to record his experiences with his father, John Gresham, on their trip to Philadelphia to see a medical specialist. Sadly, the doctor could not help him.

Once home he continued writing, putting pen to paper with a vim and often tongue-in-cheek vigor that impresses even now. The mid-19th Century blogger spent 1860-1865 recording what he read, heard, observed, thought, felt, and experienced ...

There is no other published account remotely like this one in the Civil War field...

Much of the diary discusses secession and the Civil War, and just as the war evolved, so did LeRoy's ability to reason, analyze, and expound develop. He handled major events concisely and crisply. His early simple observations evolved into complex and nuanced writing. He learned to temper his hopes because initial military reports were often wrong, and to question what he was being told to read...

This is only half of the story. Sprinkled throughout are foreboding passages that make it clear the gifted teenager was very ill. LeRoy offers readers, in exceptionally personal detail, a horrifying account of his daily suffering. His chronic cough was accompanied by draining lower back abscesses, pain, vomiting, diarrhea, and loss of appetite. His leg drew up. Doctors and family members prescribed a host of remedies, some of which were poison. He took morphine...

Surgeon Dennis Rasbach studied the diary and private letters and discovered LeRoy suffered from pulmonary tuberculosis that spread to his spine. His condition worsened with each passing year. Unbeknownst to LeRoy, he was chronicling his own slow and painful descent toward death in tandem with the demise of the Southern Confederacy.

Now you have heard of LeRoy Wiley Gresham. Once you read his account, you will never forget him.

From LeRoy's Diary entries:

February 7, 1861: *My leg and back are no better but I hope they will improve soon...*

Wednesday, June 5, 1861: *Lying on front porch. There is no news at all, not even a telegraphic dispatch, an ominous silence I fear...My back is not hardly healing at all. I look but almost fear to do so...*

Friday, September 20: *On this day 5 years ago my leg was broken and from that time I have never been altogether well...Father brought up some splendid Catamba wine yesterday...*

Tuesday, September 2nd, 1862: *...Glorious news! Our army has gained a signal victory over the combined forces of Pope and McClellan in the Plains of Manassas...the news is not very satisfactory and the anxiety will be very great to hear more...*

Saturday, October 25th, 1862: *... My cough is miserable – wearisome – harassing – and gives me little rest night or day, It is worse when I lay on my left side...*

Tuesday, July 7th, 1863: *... The news is all Northern, a Battle has been fought at Gettysburg, Pa. between the Yanks under Meade and the Confeds under Lt. Gens Longstreet and Hill in which the "Anks" acknowledge that they were worsted. Mr. Clisby thinks it was not a large affair. There will however probably be a big fight as both sides are concentrating their forces.*

continued on page 13



American Battlefield Trust 2018 Teacher Institute

The American Battlefield Trust is the umbrella organization that now covers the Civil War Trust. The CWT still exists, but it shares an organizational structure that also promotes battlefield preservation of not only Civil War sites, but also Revolutionary War and War of 1812 lands.

As in the past, the Trust has as a core part of its mission the education of teachers, students, and enthusiasts who know the importance of walking hallowed ground and preserving national memory for generations to come.

This year's Institute was held near Valley Forge. Almost 200 teachers from around the country attended the sessions. Field trips were taken to the Civil War museum in Harrisburg and to the national historic park at Valley Forge. Exceptional breakout sessions fit a variety of interests, from social history to controversies past and present to military studies.

As we have done for fifteen years, several Civil War teachers traveled together before the Teacher Institute to get the most bang for our traveling buck. This group once styled itself as "The Three Stooges." With the addition of a fourth companion who hales from Estes Park, CO, we now are The Four Horsemen of The Apocalypse. It's not meant to be funny. We often seem to be a danger to ourselves and others. That was especially true when Dave from PA drove the vehicle. He has since been banned from sitting behind the wheel of our conveyance.

Prior to the actual Institute, we traveled just east of Dayton, OH to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. Several hours were spent in the Air Force museum there. The Memphis Belle, the famous Boxcar (which dropped the second of two atomic bombs in 1945), and many more artifacts ranging from World War I to Korea, Vietnam, and our nation's present conflict in the Middle East may be found there. The Vietnam section was especially poignant, as two of our group are veterans of that war.

Over the next few days we traveled to Carlisle Barracks and the War College, to the Revolutionary War battlefield at Brandywine, and to Fort Delaware State Park. This last stop took us to a very well-preserved masonry fort which served as a prison during the Civil War. Originally built to protect Philadelphia, it housed over 12,595 Confederate prisoners during the war. Today, costumed interpreters take you back to the summer of 1864. Visitors may tour the parade ground, officers' quarters, barracks, kitchen, blacksmith shop and ordnance room, and hear stories of great escapes. A definite highlight of the fort is its Columbiad cannon and its live-fire demonstration! To get to the fort, visitors must first cross the Delaware River aboard a modern ferry.

We visited a jewel of a museum located in the town of Intercourse, PA. The American Military Edged Weapons Museum houses the private collection of a gentleman who decided to display his incredible artifacts so that the public could enjoy his hobby. Inside is an amazing assortment of swords, knives, and wonders I never knew existed.



As always, our travels took us to out-of-the-way places. Many of these stops I would never had made by myself. Included in the list was the Lancaster Cemetery. There we visited the grave of General John Fulton Reynolds, where we paid silent tribute to that Pennsylvania native who did much to secure the good ground at Gettysburg in July 1863.

This whirlwind tour lasted a scant two days, but we saw so much. Then it was off to the Teachers Institute itself. A great list of speakers, from renowned historians to classroom educators, shared teaching content and ideas to help each teacher improve instruction of American history. And, as always, friendships were renewed and new ones were formed.

One day was devoted to a tour. The Trust made arrangements for a visit designed along either a Revolutionary War or Civil War theme. We chose to visit the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg. Our tour of the museum and its displays was exceptional, but this was followed by a behind-the-scenes visit to the artifacts vault. George Sears Greene's frock coat; the pistol William Quantrill carried at Lawrence, Kansas; strict orders written on June 30, 1863 by John Buford limiting the sale of "spiritous liquors;" and a hat ribbon from a crew member of the USS Monitor were among the treasured artifacts we saw. The shelves and boxes that lay behind the items selected for our viewing held contents we could only dream about.

So, members of our Milwaukee Civil War Round Table, write up your travel adventures and share them with the group. Seek out the little jewels, the precious nuggets of history, and the sites that will simply blow others away.

submitted by 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!

Conrad Dippel and a Civil War Memorial



It certainly ranks as one of the most unusual Civil War memorials in Wisconsin.

Pvt. Conrad Dippel of Watertown, who lost his right arm in 1864 at Petersburg, Va., erected a monument at Oak Hill Cemetery in Watertown to his 37th Wisconsin Infantry and to 13 close colleagues who were killed, wounded, or captured. The monument consists of a large plaque on a rock, giving statistics for the 37th, and is fronted by an eerie combination of military memorial gravestones, plaques and private memorial tombstones. Dippel and his wife are buried 80 to 100 feet away, the cemetery says.

There is nothing consistent about the men named, other than being in the 37th. Most were hit on June 17 or 18, but others were on other days or in other months. About half were in Co. I along with Dippel. Two are officers, but most are sergeants and privates.

The soldiers are from all over the state, so this is not a tribute to hometown boys. A few are buried or have memorial stones in other Wisconsin places and in other states. Others do not, according to Find a Grave; maybe they were among the many MIAs in the trenches at Petersburg and do not have memorial stones in their own towns.

Many more men in Co. I were KIA or wounded on June 17 or 18 but are not on the memorial.

From all the above factors, this research concludes that the monument is Dippel's tribute to his war buddies and direct officers in the 37th.

The story behind the memorial is not known in Watertown today. "I am not aware of any newspaper article that appeared regarding Mr. Dippel and the Civil War memorial he set up," said William F. Jannke III, who has written two books about Watertown history.

"I can tell you that Dippel lost an arm in the war and claimed that they cut it off with no more anesthetic than good strong whiskey, and that from that time onward he was known as 'one-armed Dippel.' In my book, 'Watertown: A History,' I ran a picture of him, one of only two known," Jannke added.

Dippel died at age 80. His brief obituary in the Watertown Daily Times on June 1, 1912, did not discuss his efforts at Oak Hill. The Watertown Public Library unearthed the obituary and asked for a copy of this story about Dippel's war memorial to include in its history files.

The obit's headline called Dippel a "plasterer and mason by trade" and noted his wound at Petersburg. It said he was born in Germany and educated at the Polytechnic Institute of Dresden. Dippel came to America in 1849, learned the mason trade in New York and arrived in Watertown in 1855. He taught school for six years, the obit said, and "served as justice of the peace and held other minor offices of trust in the community." It added that he was a beekeeper "and attained considerable prominence in that industry."

The large plaque on the memorial rock pays tribute to the regiment and gives these statistics – 154 KIA, 71 discharged due to wounds, 335 severely wounded, 48 died of disease and 30 taken prisoner. E.B. Quiner's official Wisconsin history gives only a toll of 156 killed and 91 died of disease.

From the wording on one of the plaques, for Pvt. Hans Warner, Dippel evidently made this a decade and a half after their ordeal. The plaque labels Warner as "secretary of state of Wisconsin in 1880." He held that office from 1878 to 1882, died in 1896 and is buried at Ellsworth in Pierce County.

Another stone at the memorial says the man on it was age 86 in 1911 (notably not saying he had died), so maybe all or part of the monument was done at that time, a year before Dippel died.

In the fighting of June 17 and 18, "the 37th suffered severely," says Quiner's history, at: <http://content.wisconsinhistory.org/cdm/compoundobject/collection/quiner/id/17121>.

The 37th had left Wisconsin in April, and then served guard duty, but this was its first combat. It arrived in Petersburg in the afternoon of June 16, and immediately was ordered "to move to the support of a charge" against enemy works along with other regiments.

The next day, another charge was made "under a perfect storm of shell, shot and canister. When about halfway across the intervening space, an order was given by someone to 'half wheel to the right,' which produced confusion in the movements of the brigade, and exposed the left to an enfilading fire from the batteries, which made terrible havoc in the ranks of the 37th."

On June 18, the brigade advanced over the previous day's field of battle to the edge of an oat field.

"An order was given to move forward, and the command, under a sharp fire of cannon and musketry, pressed on across the oat field, towards a line of works, about half a mile in advance...they soon came to a deep cut of the Norfolk and Petersburg Railroad, and there were met by a terrible fire, which swept the top of the cut," Quiner said.

"An attempt to charge up the opposite side was met by the same sweeping fire, and soon the rebel sharpshooters obtained a position on the right, where they could fire along the whole length of the cut. Under cover of an artillery fire, two charges beyond the railroad cut were attempted in the afternoon..." and the 37th eventually was relieved by fresh troops.

The buddies that Dippel honors in Watertown are from places like Marinette, Janesville, La Crosse, Prairie du Chien, Menasha and more.

But a real mystery man is Theobald DuNavarra. He is not in the Wisconsin roster or the National Park Service database under his name or under several variations that were attempted; the private stone at the site gives his name only as Theobald and says he was in Co. I, and wounded on June 17. It does not give a rank for him. There also is a plaque in French by his stone that gives his name as Theobald Du Navarra and says he was wounded in the right arm. There were seven in Co. I wounded on this day, but nobody even close to Du Navarra's name.

Possibly he was someone who was around the camp and befriended Dippel's group, but was not a soldier or was using a false name. Possibly this was a nickname that Dippel knew him by; possibly the fog of years got Dippel confused about his name.

Submitted by: Tom Mueller
past commander, C.K. Pier Badger Camp #1
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

FROM OUR JUNE 2018 SPEAKER DENNIS RASBACH sent to Frank Risler and Donna Agnelly

Dear Frank,

I am writing to thank you and the Milwaukee CWRT for your gracious invitation, and for the kind hospitality extended to my wife Ellen and me, and to our friends Ted and Faye Chamberlain, at the recent June meeting of your club. Your preparations and communication were both thorough and thoughtful; your officers and members were welcoming and helpful; the Wisconsin Club was a fabulous venue; and the accommodations at the Doubletree were more than comfortable. Each of us was moved by the casing of the colors ceremony for fallen members of your club over the past year, and we were humbled and honored by your presentation of a certificate, and especially of an Iron Brigade Association pin, to Ted and to me. We found your *General Orders* newsletter to be well-written, attractive and comprehensive. Donna Agnelly's enthusiastic endorsement of my new book *I Am Perhaps Dying*, was icing on the cake.

Our experience in Milwaukee was truly memorable. Your reputation as one of the premier round tables in the country will be enhanced by our retelling of the story to others. Please convey to your group our sincere thanks and appreciation for the privilege of having spent this time with you, and extend to them our best wishes for the future of your club.

Sincerely,
Dennis A. Rasbach

P.S. The Kenosha Civil War Museum was first rate.

The Great Lakes Civil War Forum

Conquer or Perish – The Shiloh Campaign

Saturday, September 15, 2018

Registration 8:30 – 9:30 am. Programs begin at 9:30 am

\$60/\$50 Friends of the Museum – fee includes all programs, museum admission and catered lunch.

To register call the museum at 262-653-4140

Speakers:

Tim Smith – *Anatomy of an Icon: The Hornet's Nest*

This talk will examine the famous Hornet's Nest throughout its history, not just on April 6, 1862, but also how it is perceived in the American memory. It will also examine whether the attention showered on the Hornet's Nest is appropriate or whether it has been overemphasized.

Larry Daniel – *Shiloh – What Did it all Mean*

This program will not examine the tactics, but rather the meaning of it all. Daniel's thesis is that while later battles eclipsed Shiloh in body count, there was a uniqueness to Shiloh that has not always been appreciated.

Bjorn Skaptason – *Wisconsin and Shiloh*

This program will consider the ways in which the Battle of Shiloh affected the State of Wisconsin and how it is remembered today. The lecture will cover the pre-battle history and operations of the three Wisconsin regiments – the 14th, 16th and 18th – who fought at Shiloh. The story of Governor Louis P. Harvey will also be relayed in the program.

Tom Arliskas – *Shiloh – A Soldier's Battle*

This program, using a collection of notes and memories of the men, offers perspectives and research on the uniforms, clothing, and firearms of both the Confederate and Union Armies that fought at Shiloh. The program will explain how these soldiers actually looked on the field of battle, what weapons they used, and how these factors helped determine the outcome of the Battle of Shiloh.

Talking Spirits Cemetery Tour

Senator Robert M. La Follette

Former governor of Wisconsin and United States Senator since 1905, La Follette spent the decades leading up to WWI as a Progressive reformer. He stood against U.S. involvement in the war and pressed for neutrality. La Follette would be one of five senators to vote against entering the war and would continue his protests in spite of accusations of betrayal. He voted against instituting a military draft and opposed the Espionage Act, predicting that it would be used to suppress free speech. In the post-war years, he enjoyed growing respect for his anti-war, free speech stance. In 1923, after Wisconsin re-elected him, the Senate reimbursed him \$5,000 for legal fees in his defense against the expulsion petition to remove him from the Senate. La Follette's story will look at the political climate during WWI and the theme of free speech and standing for one's beliefs.

Private Clifton A. Bewick speaking about **Lieutenant Maurice O. Togstad**

Togstad and Bewick were members of the 32nd Division, Wisconsin National Guard. They arrived in France in early 1918 and Maurice Togstad was quickly promoted to first sergeant. He was awarded the Croix de Guerre and a Bronze Star for extreme gallantry in action in Alsace in May. Maurice was given a field commission to second lieutenant in early November for meritorious service. On November 10, 1918, one day before the armistice, a German bomb was dropped near the two men; Togstad lived only a few minutes with a wounded Bewick with him when he died. He was buried in Brehville, his body was exhumed and transferred to Madison for burial three years later. His mother, Mina, was the first Gold Star mother to sign the charter application for the local Disabled American Veterans post named in part for her son. The story will be told from Clifton Bewick's perspective and will cover the themes of valor and loss.

continued from page 8

Tuesday, September 6th, 1864: ...*Was occupied from 2 O'clock till nearly 6 with Father, helping him to take the numbers of all his bonds, preparatory to secreting it some time when the enemy come. The only, all-absorbing topic of conversation is the Yankee advance – when they will be in Macon – what will be done in that event – how we will all get along, &c Sherman is in Atlanta and can take his own time to organize recruit and make that point his permanent base to operate against Macon and Columbus. If something is [not] done to dislodge him, Lincoln is good for another 4 years term, and then anarchy desolation and woe to both sides. O! it is fearful thing to look forward at the prospect.*

Tuesday, June 6th, 1865: ...*I am continually under the influence of opium which I am taking every three hours in larger quantities than I ever did before.*

Thursday, June 8th, 1865: *I have slept pretty well for the last two nights under the influence of a quarter grain of Morphia... I have read nothing at all for the past ten days and consequently know little of the outside world...*

The last diary entry was written by LeRoy's father:

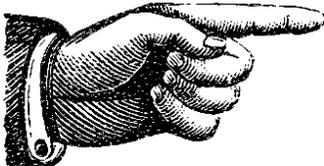
LeRoy Wiley Gresham, author of this diary, died in Macon, Ga. June 18th 1865

There is nothing like this diary. It is truly a look at the war (and not just the war) through this house-bound young man's eyes. You get to see, as it occurred, LeRoy's family life, the social structure he was part of, how war news was received and how often the initial information was inaccurate. In tandem with all this is LeRoy's medical issue – his crippled leg and his ever declining health battle due to tuberculosis – it is truly heartbreaking. The decline of the Confederacy, the death of the Confederacy and LeRoy's decline and death go hand-in-hand.

Read this book, read it slowly as you see the war and LeRoy's family life and failing health through his eyes and then come and talk to me about this remarkable young man. Our conversation should be a lively one!

Ted Savas excerpt and The War Outside My Window excerpts printed with permission of Ted Savas, Savas Beatie Publications. <http://savasbeatie.com/>

submitted by Donna Agnelly



The annual membership renewal form can be found in this issue. Please complete the form and return it as soon as possible. By renewing right away, using the postage paid envelope, you will be saving the Round Table the cost of mailing reminder notices. The money we save can be used for the excellent programming provided by your Milwaukee Civil War Round Table! Thanks for choosing to be a member of the organization that has been accurately called “the best kept secret in Wisconsin!”

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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.

The Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc., admits members of any race, color, national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges and activities of the Round Table.

**MILWAUKEE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
QUARTERMASTER'S REGALIA**

What better way to show off your pride in our organization! All items are made of first-rate, quality materials, modestly embroidered with the Round Table/Iron Brigade log, along with your name or initials.

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Baseball Hat.....	\$10.00
Blue Brief Case.....	\$25.00
Blue Light-Weight Sweatshirt.....	\$30.00
Blue Izod Polo Shirt.....	\$40.00
Blue Dress Shirt.....	\$40.00
Blue Fleece-Lined Jacket.....	\$60.00
Iron Brigade Pin.....	\$5.00
CWRT Pin.....	\$5.00
Bugle Pin.....	\$5.00
Iron Brigade Medal.....	\$25.00
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You may also see Roman in person at the Monthly Meeting at the Book Raffle table.

