

GENERAL ORDERS



The Newsletter of the

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



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*

The Petersburg Greys (Co. B) and the Petersburg City Guard (Co. A) were in the security detail for John Brown's execution. The Richmond Greys (Co. G) were originally in the 1st Virginia Infantry. This regiment was in every ANV engagement from beginning to end.

Jim Klag
Civil War Talk Forum

The 12th Virginia has a storied history. John Wilkes Booth stood in the ranks of one of its future companies at John Brown's hanging. Its men first saw combat in naval battles, including Hampton Roads and First Drewry's Bluff. In their first land battle, Seven Pines, they were an embarrassment. After Seven Pines the 12th's record was one of hard-fighting from the Seven Days' Battles through to Appomattox.

At our May meeting, our speaker John Horn will talk about one of the most ignored though remarkable actions of the Petersburg siege – the rout of three Federal divisions by three Confederate brigades on June 22, 1864 just south of Petersburg.

Horn's definitive history of the 12th is grounded in decades of archival research that uncovered scores of previously unused accounts. His research has produced a result that is lively, driving, and up-tempo describing not only the unit's marches and battles but also giving personal glimpses into the lives of the Virginians who made up the 12th regiment.

A native of Illinois, John Horn received a B.A. in English and Latin from New College, Sarasota, Florida in 1973 and a J.D. from Columbia Law School in 1976. He has practiced law in the Chicago area since graduation, occasionally holding public office, and living in Oak Forest with his wife and law partner, H. Elizabeth Kelley, a native of Richmond, Virginia. The couple have three children. He and his wife travel to the Old Dominion each year to visit relatives, battlefields, and various archives. He has published articles in *Civil War Times Illustrated* and *America's Civil War*. His books include *The Destruction of the Weldon Railroad* and *The Petersburg Campaign*. With Hampton Newsome (author of *Richmond Must Fall*) and Dr. John G. Selby (author of *Virginians at War*), Horn co-edited *Civil War Talks: The Further Reminiscences of George S. Bernard & His Fellow Veterans*.

Books will be available for purchase from the author
before and after the meeting.

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May 2019

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**May Meeting at a Glance
The Wisconsin Club
900 W. 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, May 6, 2019

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.

www.milwaukeeecwrt.org

Silent Auction

**More books from the fine
collection of Larry Lefler will
be available at the May
meeting.**

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!

ELECTION: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As announced at the March and April Round Table meetings and in accordance with the Articles of Incorporation, the nominating committee of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee recommends the following slate of nominees for the upcoming election of members to the Board of Directors for a three-year term ending in May 2022.

- Donna Agnelly
- Thomas Arliskas
- Roman Blenski
- Crain Bliwas
- Paul A. Eilbes

MCWRT Nominating Committee:

Donna Agnelly, Michael Benton, Paul Eilbes

The election will take place at the May 9, 2019 Milwaukee Civil War Round Table meeting.

The Muster Roll: NEW MEMBERS

NAME	ADDRESS	PLACED BY	DATE
William and Carol Hughes			
Matt McCoy			

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 through December 12, 2018.

Major Contributor (\$500 and above)

Patron (\$200 - \$499)

Roger Bohn, Gene and Jane Jamrozky, Grant Johnson, Steve Leopold, Robert Parrish

Associate (\$100 - \$199)

Michael Benton, Crain Bliwas, Bill Finke, Doug Haag, Van and Dawn Harl, Dr. Peter and Jean Jacobsohn, Bernard Jene, David Jordan, Bruce Klem, Kathy McNally, Jim and Ann Reeve, Laura Rinaldi, Dennis Slater

Contributor (up to \$99)

George Affeldt, John Beatty, Dale Bspalec, T. James Blake, Anne and Shaw Bridges, John and Linda Connelly, Dr. Gordon E. Dammann, Mike Deeken, Lori Duginski, John Durr, Tom Eddington, Paul Eilbes, Gary & Judy Ertel, Gerald Frangesch, George and Alison Geanon, Jim Heinz, Alan Kasprzak, Ardis Kelling, Jerome Kowalski, John Kuhnmuensch, Jay Lauck, Frederic Madsen, Rod Malinowski, Herbert Oechler, Tom Pokrandt, John Rodahl, Chet Rohn, David and Helga Sartori, Diana Smurawa, Dan Tanty, Michael Uihlein, Bernard Van Dinter, Gilbert Vraney

NEW SPEAKER ENHANCEMENT FUND

As they say, the only thing certain in life is change. As your board of directors continues to strive to bring you the best of the best speakers available, and as we need to rely more and more on doing things as our own Milwaukee CWRT, we are kindly asking for generous donations to our Speaker Enhancement Fund.

Your generosity will allow us to seek out and book the best speakers available, many exclusive to our own Milwaukee CWRT.

As the cost to travel increases and shared expenses with other groups decreases, we want to plan ahead and march forward to our own drum.

See any board member for more details.



From the Archives

In May 1949 John G. Graf spoke to those assembled on "The Battle of Gettysburg and Gen. George Meade."

"Lincoln and the Abolitionists" was the topic presented by Roman T. Zorn in May 1959.

William K. Alderfer was the speaker at the May 1969 meeting speaking on "The Old State Capitol Complex: Illinois' Newest Historical Site."

At the May 1979 meeting Karen O. Osborne spoke to the Round Table members on "Women in the Civil War."

The featured speaker at the May 1989 meeting was E. H. Simmons who spoke on "Fort Fischer: Amphibious Finale to the Civil War."

"Confederate Cover Up at Seven Pines" was presented by Mike Andrus at the May 1999 meeting.

At last year's May meeting Joseph Rose spoke to the group on "Grant Under Fire: An Exposé of Generalship and Character in the American Civil War."

RG Productions Presents

The Magnificent Ambersons

Sunday, May 5, 2019 2 p.m.

On what would be Orson Welles' 104th birthday, relive the Victorian-era period drama, widely considered to have been based on his Kenosha upbringing.

Women in History Tea: Amelia Earhart

Saturday, May 18, 2019 1 p.m.

Adults - \$35/\$25 Friends of the Museum

Ages 10 -16 - \$20/\$15 Friends of the Museum

First female pilot to fly solo across the Atlantic. Author of best-selling books. Recipient of the U.S. Distinguished Flying Cross Award. Women's rights activist. Amelia Earhart achieved much by the time of her disappearance on an attempt to fly around the world at the age of 39. Hear her fascinating story in a first-person presentation by Leslie Goddard. Enjoy traditional tea foods and choose from a variety of hot teas.

Civil War Media Club

Shoeleather and the Bayonet

Tuesday, May 21, 2019 7 – 8:30 p.m.

Instructor: Doug Dammann

\$10/\$5 Friends of the Museum

Join local author Steve Acker for a discussion of his new historical novel *Shoeleather and the Bayonet*.

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, May 10, 2019 Noon

I Have Not Wavered at All: Robert Gould Shaw's Journey to the 54th Massachusetts

Presented by: Claire Herhold

Robert Gould Shaw is remembered today as the colonel of the first all-African American volunteer regiment in the Civil War – the regiment that opened the door for 180,000 African American men to serve by war's end. Despite growing up as the son of prominent abolitionists, Shaw struggled with the decision to accept the position. This talk will examine Shaw's relationship with the regiment in the context of his family's activism and nineteenth century conceptions of masculinity.

Friday, June 14, 2019 Noon

Alabama's Cahaba Prison

Presented by: Gene Salecker

This presentation centers on the history of Alabama's Cahaba prison, an institution that housed Union prisoners inside an old cotton warehouse built beside the Alabama River. Mr. Salecker will show that Cahaba was one of the better run Confederate prisons with the lowest death rate among southern prisons. That is not to say it was not without its problems. In early 1865, the river rose and flooded the entire compound, forcing the prisoners to either stand waist-deep in the water for a few days or scramble onto the few logs and such that the Confederates floated into the prison. He will also tell of an unsuccessful attempt of a full-scale breakout that was foiled at the last minute.

History on Tap

Friday, May 10, 2019 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

FOR ADULTS 21 AND OLDER

\$35/\$25 Friends of the Museum

Celebrate Kenosha's Craft Beer Week by sampling beers from across the Midwest in the Main exhibit of the Civil War Museum. These beers were selected not only for their great taste, but also because they fit into the themes of the museum gallery. Your ticket includes eight 4 oz. tastings. Have a great time sampling in the exhibition, but be careful – you might just learn something too!

The Good, the Bad & the Ugly:

Hollywood and the Civil War

Tuesday, May 14, 2019 6:30 p.m. – 8 :00 p.m.

Instructor: Dr. Gordon Dammann

\$20/\$15 Friends of the Museum

Clips from well-known films will be used to illustrate the Hollywood version of Civil War medicine, including what they got right and wrong.



May 1861

Camp Randall Items

Two companies from Camp Randall, the Berlin Light Guard and the Janesville Light Guard, left for Milwaukee yesterday afternoon under the command of Major Larrabee, to assist in quelling the riot.

The Manitowoc Guards, Capt. T. Clark, and the North Star Rifles, from Taychee dab, Capt. Emerson, arrived yesterday afternoon. The first named company are composed of strong, hardy men from the lumbering districts and have been well drilled in marching, but have not been exercised in the manual of arms. The North Star Rifles average taller men but have not been as thoroughly drilled and do not march in line as well.

The second regimental parade and drill was conducted under command of Col. Cobb, this morning. Lt. Col. Emery is again at his post and E. R. Chase acted as Adjutant none having been appointed as yet.

Two or three companies belonging to the 6th regiment are expected this afternoon.

Matters at Camp Randall

We spent an hour or two at Camp Randall this forenoon. Everything exhibited very animated appearance, indicating active preparations for the grand entertainment this afternoon. Men from each company had been detailed to decorate and put in good condition the grounds about their respective encampments. Some men are busy at work planting trees around each tent giving the whole an appearance of being in a beautiful grove. Others are decorating the tents by raising beds in front of them, in the shape of shields, hearts, stars and various other devices, surrounding each with turf. When the ornamental work shall have been completed for the reception of the ladies this afternoon, there will be an exhibition of taste rarely witnessed. The zeal with which men are at work in their respective departments, gives the most abundant evidence that they fully appreciate the compliment the ladies intend to bestow upon them and this will appear to all when they look upon the tasteful and elegant preparations that the soldiers are making.

We trust that the most sanguine anticipations of both the ladies and the soldiers will be fully realized in the pleasure of the afternoon and evening and that nothing will intervene to mar the interesting occasion. From the extreme interest that all parties are taking in the matter there can be no doubt of its complete success such a one as shall reflect honor upon those who get up the entertainment and prove a merited mark of the great respect our people entertain for the noble and patriotic men composing the Fifth and Sixth regiments.

The rain of yesterday was just in time to put the grounds in the tiniest possible condition and if this day and evening shall pass without more rain no improvement could be made so far as the grounds are concerned. They are dry but free from dust and perfectly smooth. The chance of the evening will no doubt prove an interesting and animating feature of the entertainment.

The drill of the 5th Regiment this morning was under command of Lt. Col. Emery, Col. Cobb having gone home for a few days. Col. Emery is very much at home in command and performed his duties with much coolness and ease. His voice, in command, is distinct and is heard the length of the line with great clearness. Col. Emery is an excellent officer and deservedly very popular with the men of the Regiment.

The surgeon of the 6th Regiment informed us that one of the soldiers confined in the hospital with the measles expressed the greatest fear that Capt. McIntyre would refuse to muster him into the service of the United States, in that condition; and when the time came he exerted himself to the utmost to stand upon his feet though it was with much difficulty that he did it. He passed the ordeal however and is making best efforts to recover. Such anxiety to serve the country as is evinced by the men in the ranks shows patriotism among the masses that cannot fail to preserve the Government.

The progress that is being made from day to day is very great. It is a rich treat to witness the drills of the different regiments. The drill of the 5th is in the forenoon and the 6th in the afternoon. The prospect now is that the attendance upon the campgrounds this afternoon will be very large. The people from the country will be there in full numbers and they will be well paid for their trouble in coming to town.

Everything looks encouraging for a good time as we go to press. Successes attend the entertainers and the entertained.

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

******* IN HONOR OF DECORATION DAY *******

In honor of Decoration Day period attire or military uniform may be worn if you desire.

VICTORY!

AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST AND UNITED LUTHERAN SEMINARY ANNOUNCE PRESERVATION SUCCESS AT GETTYSBURG

February 25, 2019 The American Battlefield Trust and the United Lutheran Seminary announced the permanent protection of 18 critical acres on Seminary Ridge at Gettysburg. The \$3.5 million transaction – one of the most ambitious preservation efforts in the Trust’s history – closed on February 25 and encompasses property of profound military significance that has remained largely unchanged since the 1863 Battle of Gettysburg. To date, the Trust has helped protect 1,040 acres at Gettysburg, the bloodiest battle ever fought on American soil.

“Seminary Ridge will forever carry a defining legacy as the land that witnessed intense combat at the Battle of Gettysburg and the beginning of the end of the Civil War,” remarked Trust president James Lighthizer. “We are honored that the United Lutheran Seminary entrusted us to protect this remarkable landscape after its careful, 186 years of stewardship. Today is a win for our nation’s history.”

The preservation of Seminary Ridge includes the Trust’s acquisition of 11 acres to the west of Seminary Ridge Road, coupled with the placement of a conservation easement on seven acres to the east, along Chambersburg Pike. The land has been part of the Seminary since it moved to the site in 1832 and is adjacent to the original Mary Thompson House, which served as General Robert E. Lee’s headquarters after the first day of the battle. The Trust successfully preserved and restored the house in a landmark effort launched in 2014.

“United Lutheran Seminary is excited to partner with the American Battlefield Trust to preserve this ground on which a ‘new birth of freedom’ was gained through the sacrifice of so many,” said Richard Green, United Lutheran Seminary interim president. “This land should forever be preserved and honored as the space where national and religious history intersected as shown through our Seminary Ridge Museum. United Lutheran Seminary and the American Battlefield Trust will continue to work together to see this pledge through.”

Recognized as some of the bloodiest ground at Gettysburg left in private hands, the land at Seminary Ridge witnessed the climactic scene of the first day’s fighting. The determined defense on Seminary Ridge by men from the Union’s Iron Brigade and 24th Michigan Volunteer Infantry enabled the army to regroup and hold Cemetery Hill, key to the ultimate Federal victory at Gettysburg. Hundreds of soldiers from North and South fought and fell on the ground to be protected by the Trust.

The Milwaukee Civil War Round Table and Iron Brigade Association along with individual members proudly contributed to this landmark preservation campaign.

A NEW USE FOR BOTTLE CAPS

As reported on the American Battlefield Trust’s Facebook page and by the Emerging Civil War (ECW), the ECW’s editor-in-chief, Chris Mackowski, met the 2016 Trust’s Teacher of the Year, Phil Caskey, at the 2018 Trust’s Teacher Institute. Caskey has found a unique way of using discarded bottle caps. In 2018, Caskey spread 24,000 bottle caps out on his classroom floor as a way of representing each life lost in the battle of Antietam.

Caskey, a high school history teacher in Morgantown, West Virginia, is three years into collecting enough bottle caps to represent every life lost in the Civil War. He currently has about 400,000 and is looking for some assistance; he needs approximately 320,000 more to complete this collection.

The project is conducted by Caskey and his students. As Caskey said: *I’m looking to quantify and give a visual representation of what the actual toll of the American Civil War was. Numbers are just numbers...I wanted to be able to quantify the loss.*

The bottle caps Caskey currently has on hand have come from members of the community, students, parents and anyone else who wants to donate them. He notes that he has been receiving the bottle caps from all over the country as his project has gained more attention.

Caskey and his students only accept plastic bottle caps; all caps are counted by hand. Caskey estimates that he will reach his goal of 720,000 caps in two years. He plans to create a visual display of some sort when the collection is complete but has yet to determine what that end result will be.

If you would like to send bottle caps to this remarkable teacher he is accepting water bottle caps, soda bottle caps, milk jug caps, and almond milk jug caps. He is trying to avoid anything larger than those as being too large. Bring your bottle caps to a Round Table meeting. A collection container will be available at the registration table in May and June. We will send a Milwaukee Round Table shipment to Mr. Caskey.

JAMES K. L. DUNCAN: MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT

Seven Medal of Honor recipients from the Civil War are buried in Milwaukee, but nobody knows what any of them looked like – until now.

A photo of James K.L. Duncan has surfaced, and a little-known drawing of his act of heroism from a 1907 book has been found in several places on the web. Just in time for the 155th anniversary of his heroism.

Duncan, a Navy ordinary seaman, was serving on the tinclad USS Fort Hindman on March 2, 1864, near Harrisonburg, LA., when according to his MOH citation:

Following a shellburst at one of the guns which started a fire at the cartridge tie, Duncan immediately seized the burning cartridge, took it from the gun and threw it overboard, despite the immediate danger to himself. Carrying out his duties through the entire engagement, Duncan served courageously during this action in which the Fort Hindman was raked severely with shot and shell from the enemy guns.

Duncan was age 18 at the time, and the medal was awarded six weeks after the action. He came to the Milwaukee Soldiers Home in 1910 and died there on March 27, 1913, at the age of 67. He is buried in section 19, grave 41 at Wood National Cemetery.

A mugshot of Duncan has been posted on his Find a Grave entry for more than a year, and was noticed while researching this story. The page had been examined many times over the years. Volunteer Mike Serpa of California says he put the mugshot there after finding it in his long term photo project involving MOH recipients from the Civil War and beyond, digitally cleaning up hundreds of existing images that have cracks, tears, wear, etc.

Serpa chanced upon Duncan's photo "not with Google but at archive.org. "I usually click 'Search text contents' for old books. I check for names or regiments numbers." When he finds one, he makes a note to check for burial and will add a photo on the man's Find a Grave entry.

Duncan's photo was in a 1911 publication of Monmouth College at Monmouth in western Illinois, where he had studied in 1862 and 1863. The publication marked the 50th anniversary of the war's start. Duncan is on p. 56-57; you can see it at:

<https://archive.org/stream/monmouthcollegeioomonm#page/56/mode/2up>



The article says he was from Sunbeam, not far from Monmouth. The school's website says today that Monmouth "furnished 232 soldiers and sailors from the student body, faculty and board of trustees. A quarter of them were wounded and one in eight was killed. Two were awarded the Medal of Honor..."

There are no known photos of the other six Milwaukee MOH burials. Several were residents of the Soldiers Home, but a librarian at the VA said a few years ago that at most, they would have been only in a large group photo of various companies there. Some of their Soldiers Home records – such as Duncan's – did not even note they were MOH recipients.

Families of these MOH men are not known today and none have put photos at Find a Grave. Serpa checked his files, but he did not have any of the other Milwaukee men.

The action drawing of Duncan's act of heroism was found at the Navy Historical Center's information page about the Fort Hindman. Several related sites have picked it up. It likely has been there for many years, but is so small that it is difficult to notice. It has his name in the little headline.

The drawing is taken from *Deeds of Valor*, a two-volume book recounting hundreds of MOH cases from the Civil War through the Spanish-American War.

The 1,000-page book was published in 1905, and Duncan is on page 54 of Volume 2.



Continued on page 7

The book is in the Milwaukee Public Library and has this quote from Duncan:

When I regained consciousness after the explosion of the cartridge I looked about me in surprise, for there were the men rushing about, loading and firing the guns, but all were inaudible to me. Upon recovering from my amazement I became convinced that I was deaf. This belief was confirmed by the surgeon, who pronounced the drum of my right ear completely destroyed, and the other temporarily impaired.

Duncan enlisted in Chicago on June 26, 1863, and left on July 8, 1864, four months after the heroism and injury. His record at the Soldiers Home says only that he mustered out. But he returned in March 1865, staying to June 1, 1868.

Duncan's ship had six 8-inch guns and took a Confederate merchantman on the Red River on March 1 – the day before his heroism – while engaging Confederate sharpshooters and a battery ashore on the Black River and later that day in the Ouachita River.

Harrisonburg is a village on the Ouachita in east-central Louisiana, population 348 today. Despite that tiny size, it is the seat of Catahoula Parish, population 9,875.

Submitted by: Tom Mueller
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Wanderings: Educational Travel Opportunities

CIVIL WAR MUSEUM 2019 MANASSAS TOUR

Sunday, October 20, to Wednesday, October 23, 2019
Reservations can be made by mail, in person or by phone at 262-653-4140 with a credit card.

For a complete itinerary and details visit:

<https://museums.kenosha.org/civilwar/events>

Go to the bottom of the events page and click on the link provided for the tour itinerary.

CIVIL WAR TIME TRAVELERS 2019 TOUR

Showdown in the Shenandoah is next year's October tour. Cross Keys, Port Republic, New Market, Winchester, and Cedar Creek will be our historical highlights. We will also visit the Perryville Battlefield in Kentucky on our way south to the Valley! For information contact Dave Wege at wegs1862@gmail.com. You can also visit the group's Facebook page: Civil War Time Travelers, LLC.

CHICAGO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE 2019 TOUR

Please check chicagocwrt.org for the Vicksburg Campaign 2019 Battlefield Tour sign up information. The dates are May 2 to May 5, 2019. Ed Bearss and Terry Winschel are the guides.

GRAND OPENING FOR THE NEW AMERICAN CIVIL WAR MUSEUM

On May 4, 2019, The American Civil War Museum opens at its new, state-of-the-art location in Richmond. The 29,000 square foot museum combines the American Civil War Center at Historic Tredegar and the Museum of the Confederacy and is built into the hillside at historic Tredegar.



The new museum has enclosed the ruins of the iron works into the glass fronted lobby.

The Museum's Mission statement: To provide a fuller, more diverse narrative of the Civil War that includes stories of the Union and Confederacy, but also how the war impacted on African-Americans, Native-Americans, and immigrant communities.

The new location is at:
500 Tredegar Street
Richmond, VA

**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 Haften
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 **John David Smith**
Micheal J. Larson
Dear Delia: Letters of Henry Young

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

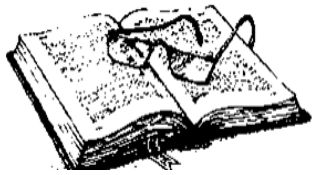
Grant will be creating a database with email reminders set to go out a week before the scheduled event. This is a purely optional choice on each member's part. If you have any questions please talk to Grant at a Round Table meeting or email him at the listed email address.

Milwaukee Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for May 9, 2019

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

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

**Enclosed is \$_____ (meal is \$30.00 per person) for _____ people for the
May 9, 2019 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 LIEUTENANTS:

The High Command of the Army of the Potomac

by Stephen W. Sears

My review this time around is a book that is not for the faint of heart but one I found to be very interesting. I say this because at 766 pages it may scare some off but I think it is well worth the effort.

In this work, Stephen Sears traces the development and growth of not only the Army of the Potomac but in particular, the leadership of that Army. He uses a quote in the introduction from one of its' regimental and later brigade commanders, General Regis de Trobriand's memoir. The quote is: "this one army became the army of the President, the army of the Senate, the army of the House of Representatives, the army of the press and the tribune, somewhat the army of every one. Everybody meddled in its affairs, blamed this one, praised that one, exalted such a one, and abused such a one."

Sears shows how these factors had a direct impact on the actions of each of the army's commanders. He also shows how the unique personalities of each of the subordinate commanders led to success or failure on the battlefield. His work shows how, while McClellan struggled to work with his commander-in-chief, Lincoln, how McClellan's subordinates had trouble working under his command as well.

At the army level Mr. Sears identifies how these personality difficulties often affected how well the army performed in the field. Ill-timed troop movements or formations often worked against the Army of the Potomac and ended up giving the advantage to Lee and the Confederates.

For a variety of reasons McClellan's distorted view on Confederate strength and his own fear of making an error hamstrung the army's ability to succeed and coupled with the variety of personal conflicts between subordinates seemed to make it impossible for the army to ever succeed on the battlefield.

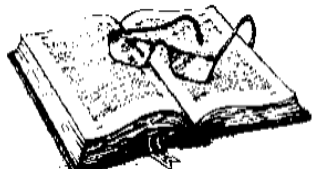
The author spends most of his time identifying these conflicts and shows how that affected the overall leadership of the Army of the Potomac. Even the succession of commanders failed to overcome the bad start the army had until Gettysburg but eventually it managed to turn things around under Grant's arrival.

While not perfect, planning and leadership throughout the army improved, in part due to Grant's arrival and perhaps in larger part due to the experience gained by the leaders and the soldiers themselves. Sears throughout the book develops the relationships between the subordinates as well as the top leaders in the Army of the Potomac. One key player in the McClellan era I found to be was General Fitz-Porter. It appears from the information presented in the book that he was a key confidant to McClellan and from what I read, had a major impact in supporting McClellan in his overcautious leadership style and tactics.

This story does not end well with McClellan. The leadership styles of McDowell, Burnside, Hooker and Meade all had to be worked into the make-up of the psyche of the Army of the Potomac. Sears carefully weaves the leadership abilities of each of these leaders in this book. Each one seemed to be in a battle with both the Confederate forces and General Lee as well as the administration. Some had obvious strong points but each had their own foibles in leadership and temperament. The situations that each commander was faced with differed from the previous commander. Many of the problems may have resulted in conflicts between personal goals and desires and what was good for the nation and the army they were tasked to lead. It was probably the first time in the nation's history that the results of the army were strongly woven with the needs of the administration that would lead to the survival of the nation. The main army commanders in our nation's previous wars were more or less given complete authority to run the campaign. In the Civil War, much more coordination with the administration was required and I think that was the result of the conflict in leadership. The military commanders were less than thrilled to have anyone looking over their shoulders and given the closeness of the theater of operation for the Army of the Potomac to Washington the oversight was on a high level. It increased with each defeat or set back. The confidence in commanders would not reduce the oversight until Grant arrived on the scene and his unique talent enabled him to work effectively with Lincoln. While the Army of the Potomac as an entity still had growing pains with some stumbling troops and subordinate commanders they began to believe in themselves and their leadership and achieved success.

I really liked this book in spite of the length and found it a very interesting read. I recommend the book to anyone with an interest in the Eastern campaign and the Army of the Potomac. It is also a very important book to understanding how the Union struggled in fighting Lee and the Confederacy in the East.

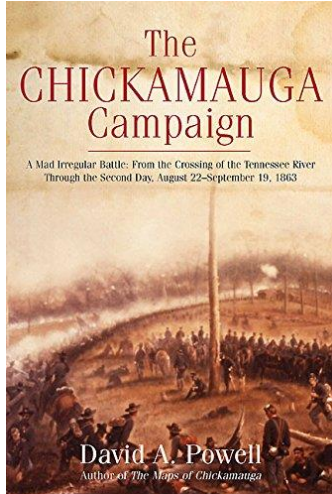
submitted by Bruce Klem



BETWEEN THE COVERS

The Chickamauga Campaign: A Mad Irregular Battle: From the Crossing of the Tennessee River through the Second Day August 22 – September 19, 1863.

by David A. Powell



This will be the first of a series about the same battle, Chickamauga, broken up into three books. The first book in the series is a mouthful of title and a complex battle. I read this series in preparation of taking the battlefield tour through the Kenosha Civil War Museum in October 2018. Our guide for the tour of both Chickamauga and Chattanooga was none other than the author of this book, Mr. David A. Powell. There are a couple of other books that can be read on this campaign also by Mr. Powell. The first is *Failure in the Saddle* which covers Confederate Cavalry operations leading up to the battle and the campaign. The other book is *Maps of Chickamauga* which I read in concurrence with the three book series. I read *Failure in the Saddle* a few years before.

I had previously read one book on this battle – *This Terrible Sound* by Peter Cozzens. I can't even remember how long ago I read that book, but suffice it to say it had been a while back. My wife and I also toured the battlefield 5 or 6 years ago using a CD. I felt that some newer, updated versions of the battle would be in order and I think the series by Mr. Powell filled the bill. Having heard the author discuss this book at the museum a couple of years ago and then a brief follow-up last year, confirmed that this was the series to read prior to the tour.

Dave has, I think, managed to produce a cogent battle narrative ranging from strategic level implications to unit level actions that tend to captivate the reader's attention throughout. He also has the knack of adding just the right amount of detail to make the narrative clear and engaging but without getting bogged down in minutiae. Added to his fine writing ability, what makes his book first rate are his keen analysis and refreshing intellectual honesty. Dave has worked through tons of data and research to provide a very understandable book on a most confusing battle. His narrative isn't just interesting reading but is scholarship of the finest sort, tamping down some old myths and bringing to light a new understanding of some key facets of the battle.

In this work, Powell leads the reader into the early beginnings that set the stage for this battle. From Tullahoma through Chattanooga into Chickamauga he shows how Bragg's plans came to naught when his subordinates failed to execute his plan to trap Rosecrans's forces off from their base at Chattanooga by hitting hard on the Union Army's left flank and putting the Army of Tennessee between Rosecrans Army of the Cumberland and Chattanooga, its main supply point. He provides good details on the inner workings and misfires of Bragg's command. He shows how this leadership failure was a continuing problem within the Army of Tennessee throughout its' history. Mr. Powell also provides great insights into Bragg's own poor track record of working with subordinates and the undercurrents working against him in his command.

A major part of this work is the back and forth combat that occurred between the Union and Confederate forces. The fighting that happened in Viniard and Brock fields was a fight where each side first had success and then followed on forces that proceeded to turn into chaos and defeat. Mr. Powell provides an excellent, clear picture of both sides actions that was based on individual brigades duking it out in thick woods. Dave provides lucid comments that enables the reader to understand and follow each confusing encounter. He has included many maps from his *Maps of Chickamauga* that greatly enhance the reader's ability to follow the action. I also used the book of maps to better follow the action.

While Dave has a couple of maps included in this book, the book of maps have many more to make the job of understanding the back and forth flow much more clearly. I will withhold my recommendation on whether the map book is a must in order to understand the 3-volume series on this battle until I have reviewed all three books.

I will go out on a limb and say that I highly recommend this book even though it is the first one of the series. It is a very clear, easy to understand and readable book putting the reader in the center of the confusing fighting for both sides. It also shows clearly the confused state of each of the two commands as they attempt to react to the fighting in the woods that precludes good fields of view to react effectively to the changing situations.

submitted by Bruce Klem

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All address changes or problems receiving your *General Orders* should be directed through Membership Chairman Paul Eilbes.

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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!

William Wallace

We met William Wallace, an Irishman who served in the 3rd Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, in the April General Orders. Wallace was wondering about his friend David Clark, from whom he has not heard following Clark's capture. He writes on September 18, 1862 from the Post Hospital near Alexandria.

Dear Sarah,

All the sick and wounded that was able to walk at all was sent from Washington and Alexandria to this camp to make room for those that were wounded in the late fights in Maryland. I left along with the rest but is very sick yet, though I am able to walk round through the camp, and as poor as a rake.

I think there must be as many as 6000 convalescents in this camp. As they are able they are sent off daily to their regements. I don't know when I will be able to get to mine, if ever, for my complaint is such that it may be a long time before I get better. One doctor in the regement said long ago that I was affected with a disease of the heart. (rheumatic fever) Two Dr.'s in the hospitle in Grace Church said so, too, but said I might get better by proper treatment. I would have told you before of it but I did not like to worry your mind about it, neither now need you trouble yourself for it will do you no good.

I left Grace Church hospitle on the 16th along with 33 more. We are about one mile out along side of Ft. Elsworth. We are all in tents, but has nothing to lay on but dirty blue clay, but very little to eat, but it is the best Sam can afford after losing so much about Manassas in the late fights.

We get encouraging news from our army just now. I hope it will continue. James Wallace come to the hospitle to see me last week, he got shot in the right arm above the elbow with buck shot. Let me know if David Clark has been released and if he joined the company.

Wm. Wallace

At this point in his military adventures William Wallace was furloughed home in advance of his medical discharge. He then re-enlisted on January 5, 1864 as a veteran and soon rejoined his companions. It is now October 15, 1862.

Dear Sarah,

I hope that you will not be offended at me not writing to you often. The truth is I was not able to write I was so sick, but thank God I am able to walk with the aid of a staff. I had a sore spell of rheumatic pains in my head for 10 days but has quite got rid of them now. The Dr. says that my heart is only slightly effected and I may get rid of it altogether which is very encouraging to me. I have not felt it for some time. I will try and get to the regement this week although I am not able to duty yet, nor will I for a month to come. I am so thin of flesh. We get very bad attendance here. I have not seen the Dr. in five days but I begin to think I get along better without him. We don't get any vegetables of any sort at all. From 3 to 4 dies here daily. We are in tents, five in each tent, no beds, has to lay on the hard ground, which is not a very comfortable bed for sick folks, but we must put up with it now.

David is come to see me this morning as usual. He is well.

Wm. Wallace

Clark had been exchanged for a Confederate prisoner on September 14 but did not rejoin the regiment until October 24.

Prisoner exchanges were a common occurrence in 1862. They were in some ways a "gentlemen's agreement" to trade like rank for like rank. The balance after such a trade were paroled, not to take up arms until they were exchanged. An old, debunked myth is that the practice of prisoner exchanges was ended by Ulysses S. Grant. It is true that in August of 1864 he decried prisoner exchanges as a means for the Confederate army to swell its ranks. General Grant is often accused of stopping prisoner exchanges, that he did it because of the callous arithmetic of the war – calculating that by stopping exchanges the Union armies could simply outlast the Confederates. His statement is so ingrained into the common interpretation of Civil War prisons that it was engraved on the Wirz Monument in the town of Andersonville. However, the prisoner exchange issue was far more complicated, and the timeline of exchanges does not support the notion that Grant stopped the prisoner exchange. Much of the system broke down after the Emancipation Proclamation when the Confederates States refused to exchange United States Colored Troops. President Lincoln then issued General Order 252, which effectively suspended prisoner exchanges. The result, of course, was the rise of the dread prison camps.

Poor Wallace continued to suffer debilitating health issues. He had a severe fever, which resulted in loss of his hair. He often was confined to his tent due to ill health, suffering from the effects of winter's cold, but counted his blessings in just being alive and mending. Writing on December 7, 1862 from near Alexandria, he shares this news.

Last night was terrible, my coat and pillow froze fast to the tent and my blanket had a white frost all over it. The river Potomac is ice half way across and I think after this night it will be complete. You need not talk about cold weather in Wisconsin for it is cold enough here for any person. My fingers is so cold writing this that I can scarce hold the pen.

I got your picture a few days ago. It was a long time on the way, I have taken many a long look at it since. I think you were about commencing to cry at the time you got it took. The baby's is first rate, take them all through, they please me very well. I keep them under my head and of course I dream on them every night.

William Wallace

Wallace continued to heal. His letters continued to arrive in Mayville. He writes of taking turpentine to combat a stomach ailment. It is, he says, "not very pleasant." He was still on the mend during the fighting at Second Manassas.

I am on the mending scale all the time but not near well yet as our food is not the best to recruit sick folks. It is a pitable sight to see 62 men waiting at the kettles, waiting for their meals in single file, some on crutches, some on staffs, and mostly all looking like death wet and cold. It is enough to make a well man sick looking at them. But they can't keep us long here for it is too cold. Better quarters must soon be provided for us.

With his convalescence eventually complete, William Wallace returned to his regiment. But the rest of his story, which may have been recorded as a part of this series in the Mayville paper, has been lost. Perhaps it remains to one of you, our fine readers, to unearth the remainder of his story and share it with the **General Orders!**

adapted from a 1979 series by Evaline Boeck in the Mayville News
submitted by Dave Wege

The Grand Review

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