

# GENERAL ORDERS



The Newsletter of the

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



January 9, 2020

Pamela D. Toler, PhD

## ***FROM UNWANTED TO INDISPENSABLE: THE REAL NURSES OF THE CIVIL WAR***

*You must never so much think as whether you like it or not, whether it is bearable or not, you must never think of anything except the need, and how to meet it.*

Clara Barton

The nurses of the Civil War ushered in a new era for medicine in the midst of tremendous hardship. While the country was at war, these women not only learned to advocate and care for patients in hostile settings, saved countless lives, and changed the profession forever, they regularly fell ill with no one to nurse them in return, seethed in anger at the indifference and inefficiency that left wounded men on the battlefield without care, and all too often mourned for those they could not rescue.

Our January speaker, Pamela D. Toler, will tell the story of how thousands of women with little or no experience with nursing volunteered to serve their country during the Civil War, taught themselves how to do the job under adverse circumstance (including hostility from the surgeons with whom they worked), and created a profession that did not exist before the war.

This new profession of nurses who rushed into service met challenges that would discourage less determined individuals at every step of the way. They saw casualties on a scale Americans had never seen before; diseases like typhoid and dysentery were rampant; and working in conditions that were equally physically and emotionally abysmal.

Armed with a PhD in history, a well-thumbed deck of library cards, and a large bump of curiosity, author, speaker, and historian, Pamela D. Toler translates history for a popular audience. She goes beyond the familiar boundaries of American history to tell stories from other parts of the world as well as history from the other side of the battlefield, the gender line, or the color bar. Toler is the author of eight books of popular history



for children and adults, including *Heroines of Mercy Street: the Real Nurses of the Civil War* and *Women Warriors: An Unexpected History*. Her work has appeared in *Aramco World*, *Calliope*, *History Channel Magazine*, *MHQ: The Quarterly Journal of Military History*, *The Washington Post* and *Time.com*.

## **General Orders No. 1-20**

**January 2020**

### **IN THIS ISSUE**

MCWRT News .....	page 2
From the Archives .....	page 3
Area Events .....	page 3
From the Field .....	page 4-5
Did the Midwest Win the Civil War?..	page 5-6
Round Table Speakers 2019-2020.....	page 7
2019-2020 Board of Directors .....	page 7
Meeting Reservation Form .....	page 7
Between the Covers.....	pages 8-9
Wanderings .....	page 10
Savas Beatie on George McClellan .....	page 11
Through the Looking Glass .....	page 12
Museum Workshops.....	page 13
Quartermaster's Regalia .....	page 14

### **January Meeting at a Glance Wisconsin Club 9<sup>th</sup> 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, January 6, 2020

7:30 p.m. - Program

**2019-2020 Speaker Schedule**  
Find the speaker schedule on page 6.

### **New Year's Eve 1862 Murfreesboro, Tennessee**

Union troops played *Yankee Doodle*, followed by *Hail Columbia*. Confederate soldiers hearing the music played *Dixie* in return. Songs went back and forth across the battle lines throughout the night. The exchange of music ended with the Union playing *Home Sweet Home* and the Confederate band joined in.

American Civil War Voices

# 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 Lighthizer Legacy Fund

After twenty years of leadership and tens of thousands of acres preserved, Jim Lighthizer is planning to retire from his position as President of the Trust. In tribute to his extraordinary service and impact on battlefield preservation, we're proud to introduce **The Lighthizer Legacy Fund**.

With The Lighthizer Legacy Fund, we hope to build on the incredible progress we've made under Jim's leadership by completing these three projects of particular passion and historical significance. The three projects involve saving land at Gaines' Mill and Cold Harbor, the Liberty Trail of the Southern Campaigns in the American Revolution, and the 1862 Maryland Campaign. Your support of this Fund honors Jim's years of dedication and makes a valuable contribution to our nation's shared history. We hope you'll agree that continuing Jim's momentum on these three critical projects is more than a tribute to the man himself – it's a gift to our nation.

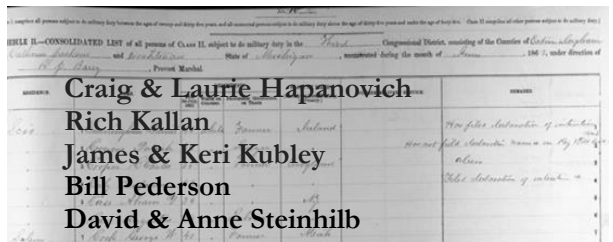
To inaugurate The Lighthizer Legacy Fund, we currently have the opportunity to save 278 hallowed acres at Shepherdstown, where, after the carnage of Antietam, the Confederates managed to slip back into Virginia to fight another day. Learn more about the land at stake, then make a tax-deductible donation to start building on Jim's extraordinary legacy today.

Donations can be made directly through the American Battlefield Trust website. There is a special page set up there for this purpose. A phone call to the Trust at 1-888-606-1400 may also be made.

As Jim himself said recently concerning his retirement and the involvement of grassroots members of the Trust,

*"I can be replaced, but you most definitely cannot!"*

## The Muster Roll: NEW MEMBERS



NAME	ADDRESS	DATE
Craig & Laurie Hapanovich		
Rich Kallan		
James & Keri Kubley		
Bill Pederson		
David & Anne Steinhilb		

## 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, 2019 through September 14, 2019.

### Major Contributor (\$500 and above)

#### Patron (\$200 - \$499)

Eugene & Jane Jamroz, Daniel Nettesheim

#### Associate (\$100 - \$199)

Dale Brasser, Bill & Claudette Finke, Gerald Frangesch, Doug Haag, William & Carol Hughes, Peter & Jean Jacobsohn, Bernard Jene, David Jordan, Stephen Leopold, Kathy McNally, Bob & Mary Lou Parrish, Randle Pollard, James & Ann Reeve, David & Helga Sartori, Dennis Slater, Jr.

#### Contributor (up to \$99)

George Affeldt, Dale Bepalec, T. James Blake, Robert Christie, John & Linda Connelly, Cynthia Cooper, Gordon Dammann, Michael Deeken, Lori Duginski, John Durr, Paul Eilbes, Gary & Judy Ertel, George Geanon, Julian Gonzalez, Jr., Leon & Margaret Harris, Christopher & Mary Beth Johnson, Jerome Kowalski, Jay Lauck, Fredric Madsen, Rod Malinowski, Robin Martin, Carol Maudie & Gerald Witherspoon, Jim & Monica Millane, Ed Newman, Herb Oechler, Thomas Olsen, Tom Pokrandt, John Rodahl, Dr. James Rydlewicz, Sam Solber, Dan Tanty, Michael Uihlein, Bernard VanDinter

## Speaker Enhancement Fund

George Affeldt, Donna Agnelly, Jeryl Anthony, Tom & Terry Arliskas, Mike Benton, Dale Bepalec, T. James Blake, Angela Bodven, Dale Brasser, Civil War Time Travelers, Tim Crawford, Ellen DeMers, Bob Dude, Lori Duginski, John Durr, Paul Eilbes, Gary & Judy Ertel, Julian Gonzalez, Jr., Rick Gross, Doug Haag, Dan & Carol Hughes, Van & Dawn Harl, Leon & Margaret Harris, Jim Heinz, Gene & Jane Jamroz, Bernard Jene, Grant Johnson, Allan Kasprzak, Bruce Klem, John Kuhnmuensch, Jr., Stephen Leopold, Robin Martin, Kathy McNally, Jim & Monica Millane, Thomas Olsen, Bob & Mary Lou Parrish, David Perez, Tom Pokrandt, Jack Rodencal, Dr. James Rydlewicz, David & Helga Sartori, Diana Smurawa, Dan Tanty



In January 1950 M. F. Cockrell spoke to those assembled on "The Siege of Vicksburg."

"Brawner Farm" was the topic presented by Alan Nolan in January 1960.

Brooks Davis was the speaker at the January 1970 meeting speaking on "The Perryville and Kentucky Campaign."

At the January 1980 meeting John Y. Simon spoke to the Round Table members on "Grant as Historian: The Memoirs Revisited."

At the January 1990 meeting Alan D. Graff talked to those assembled about "If This is War: An Account of the Second Wisconsin at the First Battle of Bull Run."

At the January 2000 meeting "Vicksburg: Shut Up as in a Trap" was the topic presented by Terry Winschel.

At last year's January meeting Bjorn Skaptason spoke to the group on "Shiloh in the Steps of Henry Morton Stanley."



Winter - what was it like for the men in blue and gray?  
Hear from them in their own words.

*"Thursday Dec. 17th – Last night was very stormy – this morning no better. Our house leaks all over, and our chimney works badly, which make things rather uncomfortable."*

– Lieutenant Charles Stewart 124th New York Volunteers

*"The view is wild, bleak, and desolate. The elements, which have been warring for the last fortnight, have called a truce and left a sea of mud."*

– George P. McClellan 155th Pennsylvania Infantry

*"We then rake up dry leaves and fill the dog house about ten inches deep with the leaves, which makes us a good warm bed."*

– Private John W. Stevens, 5th Texas Infantry

*"...within a few hours of Washington, men are dying of scurvy because they haven't transportation enough to give us potatoes & onions. Some of my men are in a horrible state."*

– Captain Henry Livermore Abbott, 20th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, January 3, 1863

## 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, January 10, 2020 Noon**

**Iowa Confederates: The Forgotten Iowans of the Civil War**

**Presenter: Mr. David Cannon**

David Cannon, author of the newly published *Iowa Confederates in the Civil War*, will discuss the motives of 76 men who served the C.S.A. and ways in which they were shadow images of their Union counterparts. He will also share statistics on the number of Iowans who returned to the state after Appomattox. In addition, he will give insights into wartime Iowa, in particular, the State Republican Party's propaganda campaign.

**Friday, February 14, 2020 Noon**

**Railroad Defense in the Atlanta Campaign**

**Presenter: Mr. Robert Girardi**

In May of 1864, William T. Sherman advanced upon the city of Atlanta. His campaign forced him to rely upon a vulnerable 473-mile supply line along the route of the railroads. This is an in-depth examination of the means Sherman used to protect his communications deep within enemy lines.

### Other Free Programs:

**Saturday, January 25, 2020 1 p.m.**

**Performed by: Pamela Welcome**

This heart rendering, emotion packed characterization of the trials and tribulations of the most phenomenal and renowned leader of the Underground Railroad talks about life as a slave and how certain food and customs are being carried forth in the world today. Hence, that information is connected to Harriet Tubman's life from childhood to death. The focus is on specific hardships that Harriet endured and eventually overcame. Lastly, the program concludes with a powerful spirit and song filled first person characterization of Harriet Tubman alive and free.

**Sunday, February 2, 2020 1 p.m.**

**Elizabeth Cady Stanton**

**Performed by: Laura Keyes**

Elizabeth Cady Stanton fought for equal rights for women for over fifty years, and upon her death in 1902 she left behind a legacy of her crusade for female equality and myriad writings that would inspire feminists for over a century to come. Hear from Mrs. Stanton in 1866, when the Civil War was over, but the battle for Women's Suffrage was just beginning.

**MORE Kenosha Museum Events on page 13**





## ARMY CORRESPONDENCE

Near Belle Plain, VA

Jan. 19, 1863

Now that the Army of the Potomac is again on the move it may not be amiss to dwell for a moment upon the probable result of its earnest endeavors – Would to Heaven the impressions that swell impetuously within the bosoms of at least two-thirds of those composing this vast army with skin to victory. Nay, we'll not linger on this all absorbing topic. You can judge from the foregoing, however, that our faith is plighted. How vain it is, while we have such a Cabinet as heralds its power unmolested and is maintained and doted on by the most enlightened denizens that ever graced a continent.

The Army of the Potomac have built excellent winter quarters, the soldiers have been allowed to labor incessantly for near two weeks and as soon as they were comfortably ensconced within their rude but comfortable log domiciles, giving ample time too for the enemy to form anew their base and fortify – they are ushered forth to lie upon mother earth in the most severe weather. If a winter campaign was intended, why did not our government embrace the golden

opportunity offered during the most beautiful weather that ever greeted a lover of nature – the past six weeks? We are still enraptured with the solitary hope that McClellan is soon to be ushered among us! Should such an event fail to be recorded in history, never will we be able to proclaim to the world that our arms have succeeded in making good their only desire, a reunion of all the States!

On the 17th inst., the Printers of the 2nd Wis Vol. assembled to do honor to the memory of Benjamin Franklin – the Printer, Statesman and Philosopher. It was the 157th anniversary of the birthday of that once noble patriot!

It is the Second Festival (At Fort Tillinghast a year ago) that the disciples of Faust of this Regiment has given. One year ago there were 36 printers in the 2nd and now there remains only 14. Quite a number of invited guests were present among whom were Col. Fairchild, Major Stevens, Adjutant Dean and Quartermaster Ruggles of the 2nd Reg't and the jovial Brigade Surgeon Dr. Ward, all of whom participated in the hilarious, as well as more serene, incidents of the evening.

Everything passed off to the entire gratification of all present and the occasion will long be remembered by the participants. It would be useless to make note of more than the following, as I fear your space will not admit. This was prepared and read by Lieut G. M. Woodward, of Co. "B", is worthy of record.

It is, however, only an extract from a poem composing twenty-five stanzas.

"Twas thus we met one year ago-  
How like a dream has past!  
Where frowned upon the frowning foe,  
The guns of Tillinghast.  
Look round you, craftsmen! Where are they  
Whose places then were filled –  
Who mingled with us voices gay?  
The voices DEATH has stilled!

Go! Follow o'er Virginia's soil  
The "Second's" glorious band,  
As thro' the miry roads they foil  
And thro' the burning sand,  
And mark them with the heat o'ercome.  
And from their burdens sore,  
They drop with fever stricken home-  
They to march no more.

Go seek them where in van or flight,  
The "Second's" flag is seen,  
Mid flaming bands and bayonets bright,  
With bursting shell between  
Where Gainseville sees the traitors break,  
Before the leaden rain,  
And where the thunderous echos make  
Manassas reel again.

Where up the mountain's side is borne  
Their column on the foe,  
And where "Antietam's" fields of corn,  
The fiery conflict show;  
On every field without a fear,  
The Printer-soldier's stood!  
They hold their country's honor dear,  
And stayed it with their blood!

O, sweetly Natures mourner's keep,  
Their vigils o'er the sod,  
And screen them where they calmly sleep,  
Within their last abode!  
Let every zephyr breathing by,  
Each alien footstep chide,  
Take up their dirge and with a sigh,  
Tell how they nobly died.

And craftsmen, mid this merry din,  
Give them a gentle thought.  
With feelings warm and deepened in,  
The light from memory caught,  
And vow while we have life and breath,  
To keep afresh their fame –  
To avenge their early honored death,  
Upon the "Giant Shame."

Oh, glorious art which bides in one,  
All other arts beside,  
And all the tilts thro into that run  
The schemes which men have tried  
The brightened hopes the lofty plights  
Imagination climbs  
Around her unable form united  
The logic of the times

Oft as the sun his splendor shows  
Oft as in gloom he sets  
With tidings of the world life goes,  
To banish vain regrets  
To lift the darkness from all eyes  
Open wide the doors of hope  
And lead mankind by gentle tine  
Up wisdom's highest slope.

And we her children we who left  
Her at the Nations call,  
To fight for flag by treason rift.  
For country, home, all souls  
We'll not forget her cherished claim,  
E'en in the midst of war,  
But sing and toast her honored game,  
And sound her praise afar

So fellow craftsmen here to-night,  
We'll have a famous bout!  
Bring in the wine in beakers bright,  
And anxious care turn out  
What seek we now of wars alarms,  
What seek we of the fight!  
Midst eloquence and music's charms,  
We'll have a bout to-night!

We would wish to add that your paper – the cheerful medium comes regularly to hand and whether amid the battle's strife or in our quarters ripe with comfort, it comes greeting and is indeed a welcome companion.

HAWKEYE

**A NOTE FROM JAMES JOHNSON:**

*With my son Jeremy (and Round Table member) writing for the local newspaper "The Iron County Reporter" with a well-known by-line for the last couple of years and since I also worked for years for the "Tampa Tribune Newspaper" the poem has a personal meaning for me and a tie with newspaper people of whatever time or era.*

## **DID THE MIDWEST WIN THE CIVIL WAR?**

**States like Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin Fed and Armed the Union –  
and Sent Men to Die for Their Country, Too**

Fort Sumter, Bull Run, Antietam, Vicksburg, Gettysburg, Appomattox Courthouse.

These are the places you usually think of when you think about the Civil War. Not Milwaukee, Detroit, Indianapolis, Chicago, Minneapolis-St. Paul, Des Moines. And yet the newly developed Upper Midwest played a decisive role in the war between the North and South that in the final tally not only preserved the Union, but ended slavery.

Some 750,000 sons, brothers, fathers, and friends marched away from their homes and farms in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin to serve on faraway battlefields, something like one in eight residents. It wasn't a universally popular war in those states – an anti-draft riot in Port Washington, Wisconsin, was the first significant anti-war disturbance in the country. But Midwesterners answered the call to defend the Union and to win recognition as full partners in a union of states that they had joined just a few decades earlier.

These men in those frontier military regiments were a curious mix of backgrounds – sons of New England and Pennsylvania and Ohio and New York, and even Virginia, Tennessee and Kentucky, as well as children of Germany, Ireland, Norway, and other places. In some of the backwoods volunteer companies could be found one or two free blacks and slave runaways as well as representatives of the Ojibwa, Oneida, Potawatomi, and other tribes – all to carry a musket with the rest. There were all-German and all-Irish units sent from these Upper Midwestern states, and even a company of Ojibwas in a Minnesota regiment. The 15th Wisconsin was composed almost exclusively of Norwegians, 115 names Ole.

Whether born in America or "bred beyond her borders, or in foreign climes," a Wisconsin veteran wrote after the war, the new soldiers from the Upper Midwest were proud of their new states and new nation.

Continued on page 6

Not infrequently, every civilized nation on the face of the earth was represented in the rank and file of the same regiment. Every condition of social, religious and political faith, all the trades, occupations and professions were represented. The same tent covered the banker, lumberman, medical student, lawyer, merchant and machinist. The millionaire's son touched elbows with the son of his father's hired man.

The nation's population shift began at the end of the Revolutionary War, when the land west of the Appalachian Mountains beckoned. It soon led to the formation of the new states of Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin, and that brought more settlers, men and women of ambition and vigor interested in making a future. It mattered not if they came from Ireland, Germany, England, or other places across the sea, or from more established states. Life on what was then a harsh frontier forever changed and shaped them. "They were young men and women in their very prime; a sturdy, stalwart, self-reliant element such as pushed out to develop a new country...their superiority was noticeable," William Herndon, Abe Lincoln's law partner, wrote of his neighbors.

Lincoln himself made his way from Kentucky to Indiana to Illinois, where he married well and became a lawyer of repute. Like Sol Meredith, who walked out of North Carolina to prosper and grow strong in Indiana political circles, and two brothers named Clayton and Earl Rogers, who came from Pennsylvania to the new Wisconsin territory to open a sawmill "10 miles from the nearest white woman," the settlers on the new frontier, Herndon said, could raise families and build a future, as well as drain a marsh, clear a field, and even create a state.

In many ways, these settlers and arriving immigrants filling the Upper Middle West were a new kind of American. They had a certain kinship with those who pushed into the Ohio River Valley and Kentucky in earlier times, but they were better educated and riding the growing wave of the Industrial Revolution. They had a sharp sense of place and distance fed by the growth of newspapers, railroads, highways, canals, and the telegraph. They counted among their friends others who were white and black, immigrant or native-born, sons and daughters of local tribes and early French trappers. As soldiers, these "Western boys" had a certain dash and sense of themselves of the like never before seen in the United States. When a Western regiment appeared – one volunteer said – the "fine physique, the self-reliant carriage of its men at once challenged attention."

In the final tally, the Union was restored not only by blood, but by the growing industrial and agricultural might of the Upper Midwest. Those people left behind produced massive amounts of foodstuffs and materials they moved over hundreds of miles of river and rail to the war front. Midwestern farmers produced wheat, corn, and oats as well as butter, cheese and livestock needed to feed the soldiers. Raw materials such as copper and iron ore were mined to supply new shops and factories. In Michigan, vast amounts of wood were used to produce salt needed to preserve tons of meat. From there and from other Upper Midwest states came the lumber needed for artillery limbers and musket stocks. Wisconsin mines produced lead for bullets and state tanners cured the leather needed for animal harnesses and military belts. Indiana mills ground wheat into flour, and Hoosier factories made the wooden barrels needed to store salt pork and beef. Illinois river towns became military staging areas. The women left behind sent food in large amounts to their sons, husbands, and fathers in faraway army camps, staged large fairs to raise money for the wounded or support the families of those in uniform, and visited the army hospitals near the battle areas to serve as nurses.

It was that stunning display of cooperation, ability, and industrial might by the diverse, swirling, and ever-changing population in the Upper Midwest that would manifest itself again and again over the next 150 years in even larger military conflicts involving the United States.

It is just as certain now, as it was from the very beginning, that America is ever-changing and evolving – always a place of new beginnings and fresh starts. Abe Lincoln, who split rails to make fences as a farm boy in rural Illinois and climbed to the highest office in the land, benefited from a more sweeping, more modern vision of the nation acquired in his days of the frontier. That understanding helped him forge a victory in a civil war of unexpected fury and magnitude, and that is why his address at a cemetery dedication at Gettysburg still echoes a century and a half later. In so many ways today we are still working on what Lincoln called "a new birth of freedom," and his simple words remind us, as we go about our own lives in a world of growing complexity and danger, that freedom and hope and a future are bought with sacrifice, hard work, and yes, even understanding.

submitted by Lance Herdegren

## MILWAUKEE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE 2019-2020 SPEAKER SCHEDULE

September 12, 2019	Janet Croon
<i>The War Outside My Window: The Civil War Diary of LeRoy Wiley Gresham</i>	
October 10, 2019	Jim Lighthizer
<i>Battlefield Preservation</i>	
November 7, 2019	Ethan Rafuse
<i>The Valley Campaign</i>	
December 12, 2019	Dan Weinburg
<i>Country Club of the Wisconsin Club Abraham Lincoln Book Shop Artifacts</i>	
January 9, 2020	Pamela Toler
<i>Heroines of Mercy Street: Nurses in the Civil War</i>	
February 13, 2020	Connie Lanum
<i>Wilson Creek Battlefield</i>	
March 12, 2020	David Sutherland
<i>VMI Civil War Legacy</i>	
April 16, 2020	Michael Schaffer
<i>Memory of Self and Comrades: Thomas W. Colley</i>	
May 7, 2020	A. Wilson Greene
<i>Petersburg Campaign</i>	
June 11, 2020	Brian Steele Wills
<i>George Henry Thomas</i>	



**Speakers/topics remain subject to change.**

## Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc. 2019 – 2020 Board of Directors

Name	Office/Position	Term Expires
Donna Agnelly	Editor, General Orders	2022
Thomas Arliskas	Second Vice-President	2022
Terry Arliskas	Secretary	
Michael K. Benton	Past President	2020
Roman Blenski	Quartermaster	2022
Crain Bliwas	Member	2022
Paul A. Eilbes	Treasurer	2022
A. William Finke	Member	2020
Van Harl	Past President	2020
James J. Heinz	Member	2020
Grant Johnson	Membership, Past President Webmaster	2021
Bruce Klem	President	2021
Daniel Nettesheim	First Vice President	2021
Frank Risler	Program Chair	2021
Tom Thompson	Member	2020
David Wege	Layout, General Orders	2021

**milwaukeeecwrt.org**

### ~ 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](mailto:grant.johnson@responsory.com)

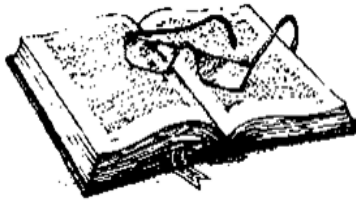
Grant will be creating a database with email reminders set to go out a week before the scheduled event. This is a purely optional choice on each member's part. If you have any questions please talk to Grant at a Round Table meeting or email him at the listed email address.

## Milwaukee Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for January 9, 2020

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

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

Enclosed is \$\_\_\_\_\_ (meal is \$30.00 per person) for \_\_\_\_\_ people for the  
January 9, 2020 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

## TO MY BEST GIRL

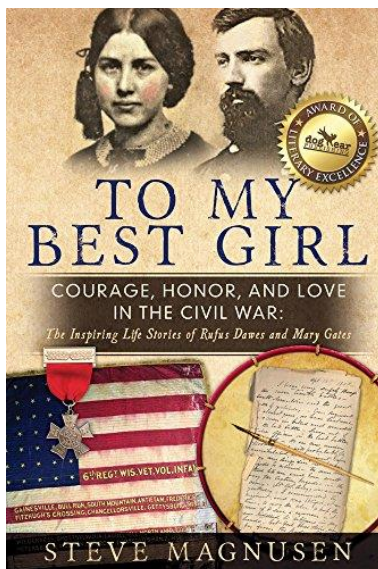
Steve Magnusen

This book was chosen as the March 2019 selection for the Kenosha Civil War Museum's media club. This was a book Steve Magnusen presented at the Round Table; I know a number of people purchased the book and have read it. We have had a review written about it but I thought I would add my take on this excellent read.

This is billed as a historical novel and if coupled with Dawes' own book, *A Full Blown Yankee of the Iron Brigade*, his memoir of his service in the 6th Wisconsin and the Iron Brigade, makes for a great read and personal love story of the soldier Dawes and his fiancée and wife, Mary. Mr. Magnusen uses a large number of sources to develop the story of Dawes' early life and the two families of Dawes and Gates. It's hard to imagine that this is a novel woven together from the variety of sources used. As a reader, it seemed to me that the dialogue in this book as it occurred between each character was what was actually spoken.

This is the love story of Rufus and Mary Dawes, newlyweds during the civil war. It seamlessly combines meticulously researched history and the couple's letters with the author's own fictional accounts of their dialogue and state of mind. Twenty-year old Rufus rose from lieutenant to colonel as a combat soldier, and the author's vivid description of the relentless action at the unit level during the war, especially the Battle of Gettysburg, drives the well-paced narrative. Mary's letters, often poignant and marked with beautiful prose, remind us that life for women was equally fraught. You become completely caught up in admiration for these two young people and grow increasingly anxious about their fate. You come to realize that Rufus Dawes managed to survive without any sort of wound through some of the major battles of the Civil War and fights through that war to almost its end. That is something by itself that is near incredible.

Magnusen covers some of the daily conflict that occurred between the officers and men of the Iron Brigade and he shows, with some poetic license in his dialogue development, the in-fighting for promotion that occurred with some of the officers and the impact that had on leadership and friendships in the brigade. Magnusen, through the use of sources, letters and his dialogue shows how the overall Army leadership and needless attacks that led to endless casualties changed how Rufus viewed the Army itself. In the reading you can feel the sense of frustration to that leadership that grows within him and the rising anxiety he feels of ever seeing his new wife again.

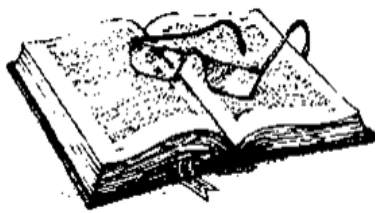


The author carries the reader through the period after the war and follows the two to their end. I think that Rufus begins his decline probably from the effects of his service in the war. It was something that took a tremendous toll on Rufus mentally and that, in turn, had an impact on physical ailments that he suffered near the end of his life.

I found this to be a great read and as I said, coupled with Dawes' own book on his service is a must read for any student of the Iron Brigade to have in their library. As a novel I found it hard to put down as I became drawn to the characters and the action that flowed around their lives. I highly recommend this book and Dawes own book as a fantastic view on service in a combat unit that fought in the Eastern theatre.

submitted by Bruce Klem



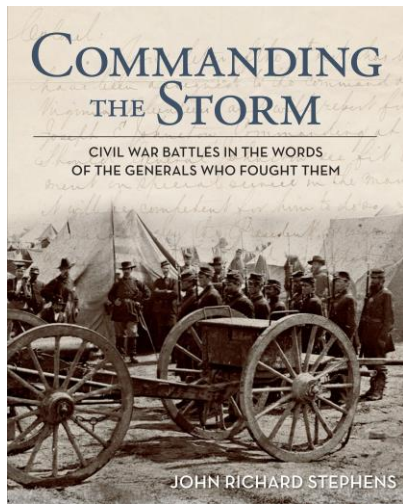


# **BETWEEN THE COVERS**

## **COMMANDING THE STORM**

### **CIVIL WAR BATTLES IN THE WORDS OF THE GENERALS WHO FOUGHT THEM**

**by John Richard Stephens**



My review is on a book I received from the Civil War Trust a couple of years ago after making a donation. Perhaps some of our members also have this book. The book is a 2012 copyright and weighs in at 300 pages. The format of this book is that the author took twelve of the key battles of the Civil War and examined the battle through the eyes of one or more of the main participants of the battle using letters and other documents that these men wrote on the experience of their units and themselves in each fight.

The author provides biographies on each of the leaders he uses as well as information about each battle and parallel statistics so anyone doing research may find this book helpful in that regard. I did find two errors while reading the book, most probably printing mistakes, and the first one was concerning the Battle of First Bull Run in the lead-in section under the Commanders section: Beauregard was listed under the Union. I suspect this was due to a printing layout issue. The second error was under the section on Sherman's March to the Sea – Sheridan's

name was inserted instead of Sherman's; this was probably a correction due to spell check. Otherwise, I found this to be a good book to get a view of the various commanders' perspectives on the battle. In many cases, the text chosen highlighted the commander's views on why a battle may have gone against them or what should have been done differently to make the result more impactful.

Mr. Stephens opens the book with a thumbnail sketch on the lead up to the war which includes some stats showing how each side stacked up with the assets they had. He also shows how the politics of the situation moved the nation into armed conflict. The battles covered in the book include Fort Sumter, First Bull Run, Shiloh, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Vicksburg, Chickamauga, The Crater, March to the Sea and Appomattox Court House. Each section begins with the battle overview and then comments on the battle by some of the key participants. For example, on Antietam he includes comments from Longstreet, McClellan, Hood, Early, Lee, Meade and Hooker. What I thought was a bit out of the ordinary were some of the leaders he chose in his first section on the War Begins. He presented us with the feelings expressed by Custer, Sherman, Early, Lee and Pickett. I believe he was using these leaders to show examples of popular opinion for both sides. I was surprised by his choice of Custer and Pickett but I did find them interesting.

Another feature of this book was in many of the sections the author included what he called "Side Boxes" which were special sections on unique features of the war. For instance, he had a section called "Friendly Fire," another "Aerial Reconnaissance," or a third "Innovative Weapons" to name just a few. Each of these little vignettes provided some very interesting tidbits of information or little known facts or other information of interest.

The last section of the book has brief paragraphs on all the commanders that the author cited to provide an end note to what had happened to each after the war and what civilian activities they became involved with and the date of their death.

I found this book interesting in some of the new information it offered and commanders' opinions on each of these battles. Since it was not a book I sought out and basically a freebie, it will be a good resource book in my library, but not one I would recommend for serious students of the war. It is a good introduction book to the conflict and might be good for the less serious student.

**submitted by Bruce Klem**



## “Showdown in the Shenandoah”

The Civil War Time Travelers, LLC returned from a week-long visit to the beautiful Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. On the way to Harrisonburg, which was our base of operations for the tour, we detoured to Perryville, KY to learn of the engagement there between Confederate forces commanded by Braxton Bragg and Federals led by Don Carlos Buell. This beautiful battlefield is not heavily visited but remains a jewel among Civil War sites. A visit there is highly recommended. Allen Bozarth was our guide in Kentucky. He drove down to Perryville from Cincinnati on short notice when our original guide encountered a medical situation in his family and had to miss our tour. Allen did a great job, particularly when he got out onto the fields themselves. There is much to see and learn at Perryville, and hiring Allen Bozarth as a guide is a great way to understand the battle.

While in Virginia the group spent a few days visiting little-known sites from “Stonewall” Jackson’s 1862 Valley Campaign. These included the battles fought at Cross Keys and Port Republic. Smaller in scale than Antietam or Shiloh, the fights in the Valley cemented Jackson’s reputation as a military genius. On the other hand, the 1862 Valley Campaign also highlighted the ineptitude of the Union command structure at this time in the war. Jackson’s campaign prevented the Federal government from sending reinforcements to General George B. McClellan, who was moving on Richmond, the capital of the Confederacy, with overwhelming numbers. In addition, Jackson’s surprise victories over three separate Union armies seriously damaged Union morale and allowed the Valley, called “The Breadbasket of the Confederacy,” to continue to supply the southern cause with food and supplies for another two years. The 1862 Campaign, especially the fights at Cross Keys and Port Republic, have considerable drama in their own right, yet they are relatively small enough in scale that one can grasp their complexities.

On October 22-23 the Time Travelers jumped from 1862 to 1864. A trip to New Market and the Virginia Museum of the Civil War introduced the group to the story of the VMI cadets. These teenage boys from the Virginia Military Institute plugged a gap in Confederate lines just as Federal forces were moving towards victory. The trained but untried cadets not only plugged the lines, but also drove Union troops as they attacked through a spot on the battlefield called “The Field of Lost Shoes.” There a field of winter wheat was churned into mud, pulling the brogans right off the boys’ feet as they charged. Ten cadets died in this assault, among them Thomas Garland Jefferson, great-grand-nephew of our third President.

After New Market, the Time Travelers visited Third Winchester with historian Timothy Smith and Cedar Creek with NPS Ranger Eric A. Campbell. Both of these professionals gave us fantastic information related to the fighting, not forgetting to include events that led the armies to these sites. This use of both a historian and an NPS Ranger is part of the format the group has followed with great success. Members of the group who belong to the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table also present topics related to the tour. The result leads to excellent history content!

A more somber episode the group discussed was the story of a period called “The Burning.” In 1864, Union General Phil Sheridan was told to make the Valley useless to the war aims of the Confederacy. Ulysses S. Grant ordered Sheridan to turn the Valley into a “barren waste.” In response to those orders, and in retaliation for raids and deaths caused by rebel guerillas and partisans, the war was taken to civilians. Barns, crops, mills, and anything else that could support the Confederacy were put to the torch. Horrible atrocities were committed by both sides as this new concept, now called “hard war” or “total war,” was put into effect. As we stopped at overlooks on Skyline Drive the Valley was laid out before the Time Travelers like one of Jedediah Hotchkiss’s maps. It was easy to envision pillars of smoke rising over devastated farms and mills.

While in the Valley, visitors must also take time to enjoy the beauty of God’s creation. After a very gray drive one day over the backbone of the Blue Ridge, the Time Travelers returned again on a day filled with sunshine. Skyline Drive takes travelers to incredible vistas and breath-taking views. It also provided an appropriate platform for the sharing of the Civil War history that occurred in the Valley, particularly the story of Hotchkiss, with the Valley spread before us like a three-dimensional map.

Special thanks are extended to Donna Agnelly, Tom and Terry Arliskas, and Doug Haag for excellent presentations on key personalities and specific history in the Shenandoah Valley. From Turner Ashby to Jedediah Hotchkiss and from the Valley as the Confederacy’s “Breadbasket” to the role and plight of the Brethren in the Valley, these talks showcased the wealth of knowledge and talent of our own Milwaukee Civil War Round Table!



Civil War Time Travelers, LLC is a tour group based out of Campbellsport. Led by Dave and Kay Wege, the group is in its third year of existence. Previous trips went to Gettysburg and Antietam, to Chickamauga, Chattanooga, and Franklin, and, now, the Shenandoah Valley. October 24-30, 2020 will find the group Time Traveling to Shiloh, Tennessee and Vicksburg, Mississippi. The group can be found on Facebook at Civil War Time Travelers, LLC or contacted at [wegs1862@gmail.com](mailto:wegs1862@gmail.com).

From Our Good Friends  
at Savas Beatie  
www.savasbeatie.com

## Too Useful to Sacrifice

### *Reconsidering George B. McClellan's Generalship in the Maryland Campaign from South Mountain to Antietam*

Steven R. Stotelmyer

The importance of Robert E. Lee's first movement north of the Potomac River in September 1862 is difficult to overstate. After his string of successes in Virginia, a decisive Confederate victory in Maryland or Pennsylvania may well have spun the war in an entirely different direction. Why he and his Virginia army did not find success across the Potomac was due in large measure to the generalship of George B. McClellan, as Steven Stotelmyer ably demonstrates in *Too Useful to Sacrifice: Reconsidering George B. McClellan's Generalship in the Maryland Campaign from South Mountain to Antietam*.

History has typecast McClellan as the slow and overly cautious general who allowed opportunities to slip through his grasp and Lee's battered army to escape. Stotelmyer disagrees and argues persuasively that he deserves significant credit for moving quickly, acting decisively, and defeating and turning back the South's most able general. He accomplishes this with five comprehensive chapters, each dedicated to a specific major issue of the campaign:

- Fallacies Regarding the Lost Orders
- Antietam: The Sequel to South Mountain
- All the Injury Possible: The Day between South Mountain and Antietam
- General John Pope at Antietam and the Politics behind the Myth of the Unused Reserves
- Supplies and Demands: The Demise of General George B. McClellan

In *Too Useful to Sacrifice*, Stotelmyer combines extensive primary research, smooth prose, and a keen appreciation for the infrastructure and capabilities of the terrain of nineteenth century Maryland. The result is one of the most eye-opening and ground-breaking essay collections in modern memory. Readers will never look at this campaign the same way again. By the time they close this book, most readers will agree Lincoln had no need to continue his search for a capable army commander because he already had one.

**About the Author:** Steven R. Stotelmyer is a native of Hagerstown, Maryland. He first visited Antietam National Battlefield as a child and has been fascinated with it ever since. After serving in the US Navy, he earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Frostburg State College and a Master of Arts from Hood College in Frederick, Maryland. Stotelmyer was a founding member of the Central Maryland Heritage League in 1989 which helped preserve some of the South Mountain Battlefield. Steve is a National Park Service Certified Antietam and South Mountain Tour Guide.



## *Vicksburg is the Key*



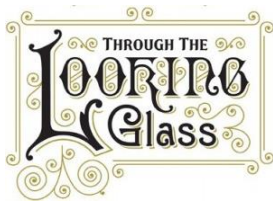
Civil War Time Travelers - October 24-30, 2020

### **Ft. Donelson – Shiloh – Corinth – Vicksburg**

Approximately \$825.00 cost will include historians, guides, hotels, and coach transportation with pick-ups in Campbellsport and College Avenue, Milwaukee.

*Come join as we are "Traveling Where Heroes Trod!"*

Please see the Registration Table for more information or Facebook @ Civil War Time Travelers, LLC.



*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!

## **“Lt. J.F. Rowe”**

In the January 2019 issue of the General Orders the Wanderings article talked about the October 2019 trip made with the Civil War Time Travelers to Chickamauga, Chattanooga and Franklin. In the article it was made mention that my friend and fellow traveler, Laura Rinaldi, was able to stand on Lookout Mountain where an uncle of her brother-in-law, Kelley, was 154 years ago. Captain James F. Rowe first served with the 6th Massachusetts and then the 33rd Massachusetts. His company presented him with a sword when he transferred to the 33rd. The sword was recently recovered by Laura’s sister, Susan. And, that famous Lookout Mountain picture with the 4 men in it – Kelley’s uncle was one of the men pictured.

Susan sent me the story behind the sword as described by James Mountain Antiques. Let’s take another journey “through the looking glass.”

The 1850 Foot Officer’s sword, made by C. Roby & Co., W. Chelmsford, Massachusetts was “presented to Lt. J.F. Rowe by the Stoneham Light Infantry.” The 31 inch blade is etched: the left side of the blade from hilt to top, an eagle from neck upward – a military camp scene with troops at drill – U.S. – a panoply of arms surmounted by the federal shield – an eternal flame atop wavy vines with a banner within that reads: “April 19th, 1861.” The right side begins with the etched name of the maker – the same bust of the eagle – a small flurry of oak leaves and acorns – a panoply of drums and crossed flags – another eagle mounted on a federal shield with a banner in the beak that reads, “Union” – another panoply similar to the lower one and finished with wavy foliage. The blade retains most of the original bright etchings on frosty backgrounds. The hilt has a little gilt remaining but an even overall patina gives the brass an untouched look. The grip is shagreen, finished with a simple finely twisted wire wrap. The scabbard has all the original mountings of brass; the upper mount bears the presentation. The leather shows typical wear with chipping, crackling and a few areas of where the stitching has been broken; there may be a brake under the middle mount.

James F. Rowe of Stoneham, born in 1836 in New Hampshire, was 25 years old when he enlisted on July 21, 1860. He was commissioned into Co. L of the 6th Mass. Infantry on April 22, 1861, and was wounded in the head by a brick thrown from a window when Captain Follansbee’s four companies tried marching on Pratt Street, Baltimore. It is nearly certain he is the first officer wounded in the Civil War. He mustered out on August 2, 1861 in Boston. He was promoted to Full 1st Lieutenant on July 31, 1862 when he enlisted in Company D, Massachusetts 33rd Infantry Regiment. J.F. would be promoted to Full Captain on August 9, 1863 and would muster out on June 11, 1865.

Although the presentation was not dated on the sword, it may be assumed that the sword was given by the fellow members of the Stoneham Light Infantry upon the return of the regiment to Massachusetts and prior to Rowe taking a commission in the 33rd Mass. Infantry in July of 1862, the key being the “April 19th, 1861” date on the blade.

The 33rd Mass. saw some heavy fighting, first in the Army of the Potomac and then serving in the western theatre in General Sherman’s army and its’ march to the sea.

The history of the 6th Mass. makes mention that Rowe served on the staffs of Hooker, Howard and Mower. Lt. Rowe fought the entire war. After the war, he was said to have “went out West” where he lost touch with family.



**Information provided by:  
Susan Anderson sister of  
Round Table member  
Laura Rinaldi**





## CIVIL WAR WORKSHOPS:

Visit the museum website at [www.thecivilwarmuseum.org](http://www.thecivilwarmuseum.org) or call 262-653-4140 to register for these workshops.

**Tuesdays, January 28 and February 4, 2020**

**6:30 – 8:30 p.m.**

**Sherman and Shiloh**

**Presenter: Bjorn Skaptason**

Bjorn Skaptason's workshop will focus on William T. Sherman's lifelong controversies involving the battle and how he could not let them go. One of the specific illustrations is Sherman's 1862 battle with Lt. Governor Benjamin Stanton of Ohio involving the alleged cowardice of Ohio troops in the battle. Learn how this giant of the Civil War fought the Battle of Shiloh on the battlefield and in the history books all the way until his death.

**\$30/\$20 Friends of the Museum**

**Thursday, February 13, 2020**

**4:00 – 5:30 p.m.**

**Tea and Tour**

**Presenters: Jenn Edginton and Doug Dammann**

Step back to life in the 1860s with a delicious tea and museum tour. Participants will engage in conversation and learn about Victorian manners while sipping tea and sampling small treats. After the tea, join the Civil War Museum Education staff for a highlight tour of the Fiery Trial, stopping at some of our favorite artifacts to learn more about the Civil War and life during the 1860s.

**\$25/\$15 Friends of the Museum**

**Tuesday, March 10, 2020**

**7 – 8:30 p.m.**

**Civil War Media Club**

**The Real Horse Soldiers: Benjamin Grierson's Epic 1863 Civil War Raid Through Mississippi**

**Moderated by: Doug Dammann**

Benjamin Grierson's Union cavalry thrust through Mississippi is one of the most well-known operations of the Civil War. The last serious study was published more than six decades ago. Since then other accounts have appeared, but none are deeply researched full-length studies of the raid and its more than substantial (and yet often overlooked) results. The publication of Timothy B. Smith's book rectifies this oversight.

Participants are encouraged to read the book before the meeting and come prepared to share their thoughts.

**\$10/\$5 Friends of the Museum**

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

Send submission to **Donna Agnelly, Editor**, 420 Racine St. Unit 110, Waterford, WI 53185 or email [dagnelly@tds.net](mailto:dagnelly@tds.net) or [donnaagnelly@gmail.com](mailto:donnaagnelly@gmail.com) with "Civil War Round Table" in the subject line of your message. All submissions must be received by the Editor no later than the 10th of the month prior to the next issue. The Editor reserves the right to select articles and to edit submissions for style and length.

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

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*General Orders* design & layout by Dave Wege.

Yearly memberships available: Individual (\$40), family (\$50), non-resident (\$25), attending an educational institution (\$20).

**Contact Paul Eilbes for information: (262) 376-0568.**

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.

ITEM	COST
Hooded Sweatshirt in Northern Blue.....	\$35.00
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
Red River Medal.....	\$25.00
CWRT 60 Year Medal.....	\$10.00

**Contact Roman Blenski, Quartermaster**  
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(414) 327-2847, [dbcpmilw@execpc.com](mailto:dbcpmilw@execpc.com)

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

