

GENERAL ORDERS



The Newsletter of the

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



September 10, 2020

Ted Savas

Lost and Found: The Archaeology of the Battle of Payne's Farm, November 27, 1863

(the most consequential battle you've heard nothing about)

The Battle of Payne's Farm (one of the most fascinating small-scale actions of the war) was the only serious fighting during the Mine Run Campaign. It was also an accident. Had it not been fought, two Union corps would have been behind Lee's left-rear while the balance of the Army of the Potomac was in his front. A retreat behind Mine Run would have been impossible, and one of the largest battles of the war would have ensued. As Ted Savas and friend Paul Sacra discovered in the early 1990s when they set out to find the battlefield, every published source was wrong, and completely misplaced the battle and the troops who fought it. Ted and Paul found it, mapped it, and recovered more than 1,000 relics. Ted will talk about the battle, his archaeological discoveries (with photos and maps), and why you should remember one of the most important actions of the war you know almost nothing about.

Viking fan Theodore P. Savas graduated from The University of Iowa College of Law in 1986 (With Distinction), and made the mistake of moving to the wrong coast, where he practiced law in Silicon Valley for many years and taught business and history classes at the college level for about 20 years.

In 1990, he co-founded Savas Woodbury Publishers with David Woodbury (later Savas Publishing). The company was sold to an East coast publisher in 2001. Ted and the late Russel H. Beatie, who was also often cloaked in royal purple, founded Savas Beatie in January 2004.

Savas is the author or editor of fourteen books (published in six languages), including *A Guide to the Battles of the American Revolution* (with J. David Dameron, Spellmount and SBLLC, 2006), *Hunt and Kill: U-505 and the U-Boat War in the Atlantic* (Spellmount, SBLLC, 2004), *an epic fantasy novel entitled Why the Vikings Will Crush the Cheeseheads in 2020* (TBD, 2020), *Silent Hunters: German U-boat Commanders of World War II* (Campbell, 1997; Naval Institute Press, 2003) and *Nazi Millionaires: The Allied Search for Hidden SS Gold* (Casemate, 2002), as well as scores of articles in a variety of journals, magazines, and newspapers.

His hobbies include scuba diving, smoking good cigars, playing bass and keyboards in the hard rock band Arminius, and hanging his Viking sign low over his front door so his best friend, a Packer fan, has to bow each time he enters.

Publisher, Author, Editor, and Hard-Rocker Ted Savas

General Orders No. 9-20

September 2020

IN THIS ISSUE

MCWRT News	page 2
From the Archives	page 3
Area Events	page 3
From the Field	pages 4-5
In Memoriam	pages 5 and 12
Round Table Speakers 2020-2021	page 6
2020-2021 Board of Directors	page 6
Meeting Reservation Form	page 6
Between the Covers.....	pages 7-8
Wanderings	pages 9
Through the Looking Glass	page 10-11
Civil War Trips and Travel	page 12
Quartermaster's Regalia	page 14

September Meeting at a Glance The Wisconsin Club 9th and Wisconsin Avenue

[Jackets required for the dining room.]

6:15 p.m. - Registration/Social Hour

6:45 p.m. - Dinner

[\$30 by reservation, please]

Reservations are accepted until

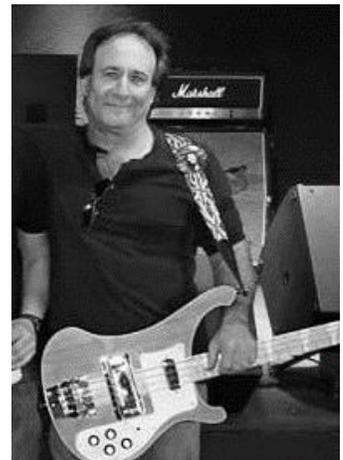
Monday, September 7, 2020

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.

2020-2021 Speaker Schedule

Find the speaker schedule on page 6.



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 COLOR GUARD OF THE IRON BRIGADE ASSOCIATION

Since 2008, the Board of Directors has recognized long service members of the Civil War Round Table. Membership in the Color Guard of the Iron Brigade Association salutes those members who have achieved forty years' membership in the Round Table. In grateful appreciation of these members having “stayed true to the colors” for so long, the following will be added to the Color Guard:

**ANDREW OREN
DANIEL WARTINBEE**

Members of the Color Guard are authorized to omit dues at their discretion, with no reduction in member benefits.

MASKS REQUIRED!

A mask is required when you come to the meeting per both the City of Milwaukee mask ordinance and state mandate. The City of Milwaukee requires that a mask be worn both indoors and outdoors. You are required to wear a mask in the common areas of the Club. The ordinance allows you to remove the mask while seated at the table. If you are not drinking in the bar area you should have your mask on while talking to other people.

Masks can be removed while sitting at your table for dinner. Club servers will be masked and wearing gloves. If you forget your mask the Round Table as well as the club will have disposable masks available.

The Muster Roll: NEW MEMBERS

NUMBER	NAME	REGISTRATION	PLACE OF BIRTH	FORMER MILITARY SERVICE	REMARKS
1500	Ken Rayca

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 March 2020.

Major Contributor (\$500 and above)

Patron (\$200 - \$499)

Eugene & Jane Jamrozy, Daniel Netteshheim

Associate (\$100 - \$199)

Dale Brassler, 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 Bespalec, 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, Richard Tonelli, Michael Uihlein, Bernard VanDinter

Speaker Enhancement Fund

George Affeldt, Donna Agnelly, Jeryl Anthony, Tom & Terry Arliskas, Mike Benton, Dale Bespalec, T James Blake, Angela Bodven, Dale Brassler, 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 Jamrozy, 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 September 1951 Seymour Frank spoke to those assembled on “We’ll Hang Jeff Davis From a Sour Apple Tree.”

“Abraham Lincoln and Slavery” was the topic presented by Max H. Herriott in September 1961.

William A. Sutton was the speaker at the September 1971 meeting speaking on “Carl Sandburg and Abraham Lincoln.”

At the September 1981 meeting Albert Castel spoke to the Round Table members about “The Not So Fine Art of Lying: Some Civil War Generals and Their Reports.”

The September 1991 meeting welcomed Blake A. Wagner to the Round Table to speak on “Stannard’s Second Vermont Brigade.”

Dianne Buck spoke to the membership in September 2001 on “Civil War Statue on Wisconsin Avenue.”

At the September 2011 meeting Bruce Allardice’s topic was “Civil War Baseball.”

At last year’s meeting Janet Croon spoke on “The War from My Window: The Civil War Diary of LeRoy Wiley Gresham.”

AT THE MUSEUM

For the safety of all visitors and staff, the following changes and policies are in place until further notice at the museum:

- Temporary Hours: 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Closed Saturday & Sunday
- A mask or other PPE is REQUIRED and must cover your mouth and nose
- Visitors are asked to sign in with your name and contact information
- Please practice social distancing at all time, staying 6 feet apart
- Visitors who feel ill or have a fever higher than 100.4 are asked to visit at a later date
- The museum is operating at 25% of building capacity, and there may be a wait to get in
- Some interactive exhibits and elements including the Resource Center are temporarily closed



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.

WATCH ON FACEBOOK

The Wounding of Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.
Friday, September 11, 2020 Noon
Presented by: Dr. Gordon Dammann

Great Lakes Civil War Forum 2020
Command Decisions
Saturday, September 12, 2020

Registration at 8:30 a.m. Program beings at 9:30 a.m.
\$65/\$55 Friends of the Museum. Lunch included
To register visit or call the museum at: 262-653-4140

Doug Dammann has noted that the Forum will be held. In-person seating, this year, is limited to 50 people. There is a virtual option via Zoom for those who either can’t make it to Kenosha or prefer to attend from the comfort of their home.

In person attendance sign up:

<https://84428.blackbaudhosting.com/84428/Great-Lakes-Civil-War-Forum-12Sep2020>

Virtual Attendance sign up:

<https://84428.blackbaudhosting.com/84428/Virtual-Great-Lakes-Civil-War-Forum>

Scheduled Forum Speakers:

- **The Battle of Perryville**
Chris Kolakowski
- **“Sir I Have No Division:” Command Decisions and Pickett’s Charge at Gettysburg**
Wayne Motts
- **Negley on Horseshoe Ridge**
Dave Powell
- **Grant, Lee, Butler and Beauregard at Petersburg: June 12-18, 1864**
A. Wilson Greene

For other offerings available online from the Kenosha Civil War Museum see page 5.

Round Table Donation to the Kenosha Civil War Museum

At the July 30, 2020, summer meeting of the Board of Directors the board approved our annual Program Sponsorship to the Kenosha Civil War Museum in the amount of \$1,000. A check will be presented to museum curator Doug Dammann at the annual Great Lakes Civil War Forum on September 12, 2020.



The State Journal
Thursday Evening December 5, 1861
Madison, Wisconsin

Our minister to Brazil, James Watson Webb, found forty-seven American vessels in port at Rio on his arrival there. Many of them were commanded by secession captains who openly displayed the secession flag, thought keeping up the stars and stripes at the peak in order to secure the advantages of a recognition as United States vessels. Gen. Webb at once instructed the consuls at that and other Brazilian ports to notify all concerned on their arrival, that, upon the display of a rebel flag from any American ship, the master would be instantly removed and the vessel be placed under the command of the first officer or some other suitable person, and be sent home to her owners; that she will be treated in all respects as if retaken from her captors, her voyage be considered as terminated, and sent home, as the readiest way of restoring to loyal American citizens their property recaptured from the rebels who may have had possession of her.

The State Journal
Thursday Evening December 5, 1861
Madison, Wisconsin

The Great Conspiracy Against the Union
How It Came About.

The origin and first causes of the great conspiracy against the Union, which has culminated in a Civil War, cannot too often be presented to the attention of the people, or too thoroughly understood.

The Union was formed with the seeds of conspiracy latent in its bosom. The spirit already revealed was scarcely silenced – it was not destroyed. It still existed, rankling, festering, burning to make itself manifest. At the mention of slavery it always appeared full-armed with barbarous pretensions, even in the first Congress under the Constitution – at the presentation of that famous petition where Benjamin Franklin simply called upon Congress to step to the very verge of its powers to discourage every species of traffic in our fellow-men – this spirit broke forth in violent threats. With kindred lawlessness it early embraced the extravagant dogma of States Rights which has been ever since the convenient cloak of treason and of conspiracy.

At last in 1830 under the influence of Mr. Calhoun, it assumed the defiant front of Nullification; nor did it yield to the irrepressible logic of Webster or the stern will of Jackson without a compromise.

The pretended ground of complaint was the tariff; but Andrew Jackson, himself a patriot slaveholder - at that time president – saw the hollowness of the complaint. In a confidential letter, which has only recently been brought to light, dated at Washington, May 1st, 1833 and which during the last winter I had the honor of reading and holding up before the conspirators of the Senate in the original autograph, he says: —

“The Tariff was only the *pretext* and Disunion and a Southern Confederacy the real object. *The next pretext will be the Negro or Slavery question.*”

The conspiracy, thus exposed by Jackson, and confessed by recent parties to it, was quickened by the growing passion for Slavery throughout the Slave States...

It is natural that a people thus trained should listen to the voice of conspiracy. Slavery itself is a constant conspiracy; and its supporters, whether in the Slave States or elsewhere, easily become indifferent to all rights and principles by which it may be constrained.

The State Journal
Tuesday Evening, September 10, 1861
Madison, Wisconsin

Wanted: A Regimental Band for the 7th Regiment

A Good Regimental Band is wanted for the Seventh Regiment at Camp Randall. Also two regimental Buglers. None but good musicians need apply.

Applications to be made to:
Joseph Vandor
Colonel Commanding 7th Reg.
August 15, 1861

The State Journal
Tuesday Evening, September 10, 1861
Madison, Wisconsin

Senator Johnson.

This noble patriot in his speech at Cincinnati, stated the gist of the national crisis in the following plain words:

And if this rebellion should succeed in destroying the Government as I pray God it may not, then there would be established upon its ruin either an aristocracy or a monarchy. The question submitted to you is not shall we stop at Manassas? But the issue is, you must either conquer them or they will conquer you. If they take Washington, do you think they will stop? No. They will take Baltimore; and if they take Baltimore, they will want Philadelphia; and having Philadelphia, they will march to New York, until as their Secretary of War said in Montgomery, they will dictate the terms of their compromise within the wall of Faneuil Hall. I speak plainly; it is their intention to give you a military dictatorship. The same bayonets which destroy this

Government will dictate the next. Instead of a Constitution, they will give you swords and bayonets. We need not mince nor hesitate in this matter. We speak in common parlance – you must either whip them or they will whip you. They are many of them insolent proud braggarts, like spoiled children; and badly spoiled, at that you must whip it out of them or they will whip you. (Loud applause)

**Wisconsin State Journal
Saturday, October 25, 1862**

The Pride and Glory of Wisconsin
Forty thousand men have volunteered from Wisconsin!

They are the noblest and best of our people. Wherever a battle has been fought or danger pressed the sharpest, it has never been said of any of our regiments that they flinched or hesitated. Ever true to the dear old flag. Ever prompt in duty. They have proved a wall of fire in battle; a bulwark upon which the waves of treason broke in vain. We are proud of them. The State is proud of them and for their trials and sufferings they will be justly entitled on the return of peace, to an arch of triumph – the free offering of the people for their great and noble achievements.

Thank you, Jim Johnson, as we embark upon another season of insightful and delightful memories in our *From the Field* features!

**The following lectures are available to watch online:
Facebook:**

- Arming Ohio
Presented by: Phil Spaugy
- The Petersburg Regiment in the Civil War: A History of the 12th Virginia Infantry from John Brown's Hanging to Appomattox, 1859-1865
Presented by: John Horn
- Medical Innovations of the Civil War
Presented by: Trevor Steinbach
- The Vicksburg Campaign: Grant's Masterpiece
Presented by: Dan Nettesheim
- The 29th Wisconsin at Vicksburg
Presented by: Tom Arliskas
- I've Heard of Her: Jane Addams

YouTube:

- The War That Made Beer Famous
Presented by: Lance Herdegen
- Illinois Regiments at Gettysburg: July 1863
Presented by: Dennis Doyle
- I've Heard of Her: Belle Boyd Presented by:
Jenn Edginton & Samantha Machalik

For further information on topics and speakers please visit the museum website at:

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

Antietam “Legend” of a Historian Dies

On July 8, 2020, Charles Theodore “Ted” Alexander Jr. passed away in the Meritus Medical Center in Hagerstown, Maryland. Ted was 70 years old and had been in declining health for the past year.

Ted was the historian at Antietam National Battlefield for over 30 years. He was past program coordinator for Chambersburg Civil War Seminars & Tours. He was a US Marine Corps Veteran who served during the Vietnam War.

The Greater Chambersburg Chamber of Commerce remembered Ted:

We had the opportunity to work with Ted for more than 30 years. With his input and passion, the programs raised hundreds of thousands of dollars to preserve our nation's sacred history. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family during this difficult time – he will be missed.

Eric Wittenberg succeeded Ted as program coordinator to the Chambersburg Civil War Seminars and Tours and shared his thoughts about Ted:

In the spring of 1992, I had the great good fortune to meet Ted Alexander, the chief historian at Antietam National Battlefield. We quickly struck up a warm friendship that lasted for nearly 30 years. Ted had a heart as big as his body – if he liked you, he would do anything for you. That's the thing that I always will remember about him. He became like a big brother to me...

Along the way, Ted invited me to present at one of the programs of the Chambersburg Civil War Seminars, and I soon became one of the regulars at those events. Attending year after year, I got to know many of the participants – they became friends.

Unfortunately, Ted had to step down as program coordinator last year due to health problems, and having understudied him for some time, I became the logical successor. While I was – and am – honored to be the one to succeed Ted, it made me terribly sad to have to do so, because it meant the end of an era...

Sleep well, my dear friend. You've earned it. You leave behind a giant pair of shoes that I can only hope to try to fill, and you will be badly missed.



❧ *And Flights of Angels Guide Him to His Rest* ❧

**MILWAUKEE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
2020-2021 SPEAKER SCHEDULE**

September 10, 2020	Ted Savas
<i>Lost and Found: The Archaeology of the Battle of Payne's Farm</i>	
October 8, 2020	Rob Girardi
<i>Topic To Be Determined</i>	
November 12, 2020	John R. Scales
<i>The Battle and Campaign of General Nathan Bedford Forrest</i>	
December 10, 2020	Dave Powell
<i>Union Command Failure in the Shenandoah: Maj. Gen. Franz Sigel and War in the Valley of Virginia, May 1864</i>	
January 7, 2021	Jennifer M. Murray, PhD
<i>George Gordon Meade</i>	
February 11, 2021	Leslie Goddard
<i>Presenting Clara Barton</i>	
March 11, 2021	TBA
<i>Topic To Be Determined</i>	
April 8, 2021	Ron Kirkwood
<i>Too Much for Human Endurance</i>	
May 13, 2021	Michael Hardy
<i>General Lee's Immortals</i>	
June 10, 2021	A. Wilson Greene
<i>Re-assessing Grant and Lee in the Overland Campaign</i>	

Speakers/topics remain subject to change, especially due to the fluid Covid situation. We appreciate your understanding!



**Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.
2020 – 2021 Board of Directors**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Office/Position</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
Donna Agnelly	Editor, General Orders	2022
Thomas Arliskas	Second Vice President	2022
Terry Arliskas	Secretary	
Michael K. Benton	First Vice President	2023
Roman Blenski	Quartermaster	2022
Crain Bliwas	Member	2022
Paul A. Eilbes	Treasurer	2022
Van Harl	Past President	2023
Tom Hesse	Second Vice President	2023
Grant Johnson	Membership/Webmaster Past President	2021
Bruce Klem	President	2021
Daniel Nettesheim	Member	2021
Frank Risler	Program Chair	2021
Tom Thompson	Member	2023
Justin Tolomeo	Member	2023
David Wege	Layout, General Orders	2021

milwaukeecivilwar.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

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

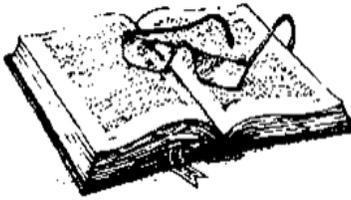
Milwaukee Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for September 10, 2020

Mail your reservations by Monday, September 7 to:
Paul Eilbes
1809 Washington Avenue
Cedarburg, WI 53012-9730

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

Enclosed is \$_____ (meal is \$30.00 per person) for _____ people for the September 10, 2020 meeting of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee.
(Please make checks payable to the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.)

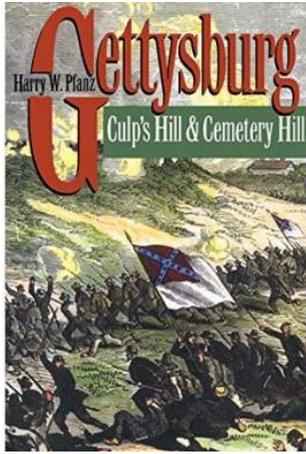
Name of Member _____



BETWEEN THE COVERS

Gettysburg - Culp's Hill & Cemetery Hill

Harry W. Pfanz



In order to be prepared for the 2019 Civil War Symposium which covered Gettysburg, my plan was to read all the books I hadn't read yet on Gettysburg. In keeping with the plan, I chose this classic, *Gettysburg, Culp's Hill & Cemetery Hill* by Harry W. Pfanz, retired Chief Historian of the NPS. Mr. Pfanz retired in 1981; this book was published in 1993. I have and had read his book *Gettysburg, The Second Day* quite some time ago and managed to pick up Culp's in the used book section of the Civil War museum a couple of years ago. I found this book to be of personal interest in that, in attending this year's Civil War Institute's seminar at Gettysburg, I did tours of the Culp's Hill fight of Greene's brigade and in particular, the 137th NY.

I found Mr. Pfanz's book to be very interesting and straight forward in his descriptions of the fight as it developed on the battle. His book begins with the introduction of the two key commanders in this part of the fight, General Ewell on the Confederate side and General Howard on the Union side. Mr. Pfanz does justice to each of these leaders in providing background information on each and explains how they came to the position of

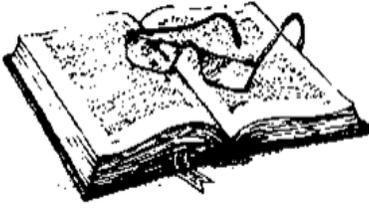
Corps Command. One thing I liked about this presentation is that when Mr. Pfanz begins a section on a new part of the battle he introduces each commander of the fight on both sides so the reader can be familiar with the leadership involved.

The casual Civil War buff may be overwhelmed. Pfanz is very detailed and much of the book is written at the regimental level. One not generally familiar with the right part of the Union line and the generals involved may find themselves getting lost. But for those who want to know the Battle of Gettysburg, this is an excellent work that gives great detail while preserving the flow of the story. I believe that in this work the reader will be impressed with the fight on Culp's Hill and how it was the key to holding together the right flank of the Union position. Considering how much publicity was given to the 20th Maine defending the left, I think a strong case can be made for the fight made by the 137th NY on the right flank, especially when one considers the number of regiments attacking the 137th vs the number attacking the 20th Maine position. General Greene's sole brigade was responsible in holding off a Confederate Division at maybe 4:1 odds vs only part of a division fighting for Little Round Top. Mr. Pfanz also highlights General Greene's leadership in holding the key position. Greene, who happened to be the oldest brigade commander at Gettysburg, was 60 years old. This book does him and his men justice.

This book is an hour-by-hour description of the battle that revolves around these two key pieces of terrain on the Gettysburg battlefield. Mr. Pfanz provides plenty of detail on this fighting on both sides along with detailed maps that enable the reader to visualize things. Especially interesting to anyone who has visited the battlefield, the maps help you really put things into a proper picture. The reader is taken through the action from Day 1 through Day 3 and the final Confederate attack and subsequent withdrawal. Mr. Pfanz points out that "the Culp's Hill fight was a disaster for the Army of Northern Virginia. Casualties far exceeded the 1823 reported for the Confederates as Daniel's, Smith's and O'Neal's brigades were not included in this total. When the fighting ended, Union lines were still intact and the fighting had contributed little to actions on other parts of the battlefield. Hindsight tells that the Confederate assault of 3 July was a tragic waste." One interesting bit of trivia to this fight is that General Geary reported his division fired 277,000 rounds in this fight, a fantastic quantity for the roughly 3900 men of his unit!

I highly recommend this book to anyone interested in the Gettysburg fight as it covers a very important segment of the battlefield that is not covered in much of the Gettysburg lore. It is a most worthy addition to anyone's bookshelf in spite of the age of the writing. Actually, any of Mr. Pfanz's works on this battle would be a great addition to one's library.

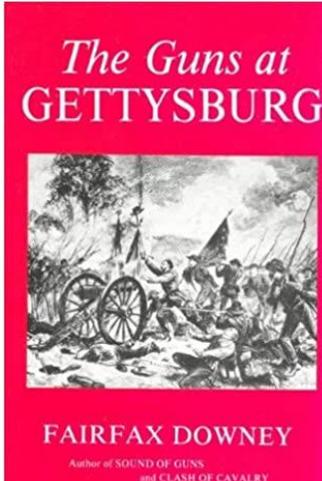
submitted by Bruce Klem



BETWEEN THE COVERS

The Guns at Gettysburg

Fairfax Downey



This is another book in my reading plan to read all unread Gettysburg books that I have. This book was written in 1958. Mr. Downey was a writer and military historian. Fairfax Downey graduated from Yale. After college, he served in the U.S. Army as a Captain in the 12th FA in World War I. During the Second World War he served in North Africa, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel. He worked as a newspaper reporter in Kansas City and New York City, retiring in the 1950's. Downey passed away in 1990 leaving behind a legacy of many books.

This is probably a book that not many would pick up to read. I purchased it because of my military background in the artillery and considering its age, thought it might offer some interesting perspectives on the Battle of Gettysburg. There aren't a lot of books dealing with just the artillery portion of the battle and this was probably one of the first. Mr. Downey covers both sides in his chapters in sort of a point-counterpoint. His work tells this story of how artillery functioned and how it was used or misused throughout the battle by dividing the discussion into ten chapters. The chapters were then organized by

the 3 days of battle – morning, midday and evening to cover Day 1. Day 2 was covered in two chapters – Devil's Den and the Peach Orchard and the second chapter Little Round Top and Cemetery and Culp's Hill. Day 3 is in three chapters covering the initial assembly, the cannonade and finally the charge. The last chapter deals with horse artillery.

The single most impressive figure in this book is General John Hunt, the Union's head artillerist. Hunt was courageous and cool under pressure. He seemed to cover the entire battlefield during the three days and was able to have his guns and reinforcements in the right place and in the nick of time. Confederate Colonel Porter Alexander, chief of artillery for Longstreet, also receives deserved high praise. The appendices he provides shines light on Hunt by including Hunt's after action report on his portion and actions performed during the fight. Most students of the battle know that much of the Confederate cannonade overshot its intended mark and was relatively ineffective. But Downey explains as well how the positioning of the Confederate artillery was faulty (how the South failed to use all its available guns) and how its fire failed to concentrate on those portions of the Union forces that could do the impending infantry assault the most damage. Perhaps another voice in the overly optimistic approach to the final charge against the Union center was made by Colonel Long of Lee's staff and the general's link with his artillery. Colonel Long commented that Confederate guns would silence Union guns on Little Round Top, thus eliminating deadly flanking fire. This was an incorrect view shared by Lee as well. Neither Lee nor Longstreet questioned this comment. In the action, Union fire from the flank brutalized the attacking force.

One appendix I thought was worthwhile was the table of artillery ammunition showing the various types and capabilities and another which described the manual of the piece, detailing the drill of the artillery from the artillery tactics manual of the time. It gives the reader a clear view of the steps and procedures the artilleryman went through to fire the gun. All in all, this is not a book for the average reader but for anyone looking to focus on the factors that involved artillery in the Battle of Gettysburg I think it is worth exploring.

submitted by Bruce Klem

Custer at Custer



One wonders what they were thinking, those troopers of the 7th Cavalry who were sent to a rocky spire by George Armstrong Custer. Were they sent to serve as lookouts? Were their orders to keep alert for possible hostile activity from the Sioux or Cheyenne? Were they scouting from high ground to determine exactly what might lie ahead of Custer's 1874 expedition to the Black Hills?

None of the above is true. The notoriously vainglorious Son of the Morning Star, aka George Custer, sent the troopers to a perilous peak so that they could carve his initials into the rock, forever immortalizing his foray into sacred Sioux grounds. Custer wanted people to remember his feats of derring-do for many years to come.

Custer's 1874 encampment was set in a beautiful valley. Today highway 16A runs through the area on its way to Custer, SD, only a few miles to the west. From this camp, the 7th U.S. Cavalry was tasked with protecting settlers and other folks who were trespassing on the land that the government had promised the Sioux would be theirs forever. Across the meadow was a stockade, built by settlers who illegally occupied the land. Among them was Annie Talent, first white woman settler in the Black Hills. The Gordon Stockade has been rebuilt and stands as a historical exhibit.

Why mention Annie Talent? An obelisk raised in her honor is really the starting point for a trek to find Custer's initials. My exploring party and I know that now. Our first foray, however, missed the abandoned and overgrown road by her marker. As a result we spent two hours "Lewis and Clarking" through field and forest and never found the treasure for which we looked. Ah, doom and gloom, not to mention irritation, reigned.



Then we reread some directions and pulled up an old 1962 photograph that was taken from the spot of the carving toward the valley where Custer camped. Through judicious alignment of the camp, Highway 16A, and a few prominent peaks, we narrowed the spot on which the initials might have been carved to two chunks of rock. Easy, right? We hiked and climbed right to the memorial carving!

Not so much. After hiking a 1/2 mile and climbing and crawling over several square blocks of mostly vertical real estate we were stumped. So we sat and investigated the landscape in light of what we knew of Custer's personality and the relationship he had with his men. His men were under orders to carve his message. They were not, however, interested in climbing too high or getting too far away from the protection of the camp.

And so we climbed one more set of cliffs, ledges, and boulders. Before us lay the site of the camp, with the highway exactly where it appeared in the 1962 picture. And, to my everlasting joy, there was the carving. I felt like Aladdin finding Ali Baba's cave, or Garry Adelman finding another answer to a historical mystery in a Civil War photograph, or just a guy who had lost and found his car keys. "G C US 74" was displayed before us just as described.



Finding the carving was worth the climb and the early disappointments. To know that two of Custer's men had stood where we stood; to feel their presence and see what their eyes saw in 1874, was magnificent. The feeling represents every discovery one of us had made over the years. Perhaps it was finding a Civil War ancestor or a historical passage that exactly summed up our feelings about an event or person. It was pure magic.

submitted by Dave Wege



Through the Looking Glass features are intended to tell the stories of common folks of the Civil War, whether they are civilians or military personnel. If you have access to the story of an ordinary citizen of this war-torn era and are willing to share it with our Round Table, please consider submitting it to Donna Agnelly, editor of our General Orders. Thank you!

HANS CHRISTIAN HEG

Abolitionist, Prison Reformer, Colonel 15th Wisconsin

The bravest of the brave

William Passmore Carlin



On June 23, protesters tore down the statue of Hans Christian Heg. The nearly 100-year-old statue which stood in front of the Capitol since 1925, was decapitated, dragged down State St. in Madison and thrown into Lake Monona by protesters. Renowned Civil War and Iron Brigade historian, past president and continuing member of our Round Table, Lance Herdegen, said: “They got the wrong guy when they pulled that statue down.”

Now is a fitting time to take a look “through the looking glass” at Hans Christian Heg.

Heg was born in Norway in 1829 and with his family immigrated to America in 1840 settling in Racine County, Wisconsin. After two years in California during the Gold Rush, Heg returned home to Wisconsin to care for his younger siblings and manage the family farm. He entered politics and joined the Free Soil Party which centered on opposing the expansion of slavery into the western U.S. He was also a leader of Wisconsin’s Wide Awakes – an anti-slavery militia.

He was elected warden of the state prison in Waupun, Wisconsin in 1859 and used his position as state prison commissioner to advocate for vocational training rather than punishment of prisoners. Heg would resign his position as commissioner when the Civil War started in 1861. He would return to Racine County and raise the 15th Wisconsin, a regiment that was composed almost completely of fellow Norwegian immigrants. He was heavily involved in the recruitment of the 15th Wisconsin and wrote an appeal that appeared in the Wisconsin Norwegian language newspaper:

Scandinavians! Let us understand the situation, our duty and our responsibility. Shall the future ask, where were the Scandinavians when the Fatherland was saved?

The regiment would train at Camp Randall in December of 1861 and would leave for the south on March 2, 1862.

During August and September 1862, Heg would lead the 15th during Don Carlos Buell’s 400-mile retreat north to Louisville, Kentucky, the last 2 weeks of the march conducted on half rations and little water.

October 1862, Heg led his regiment into their first big battle at Perryville. The regiment suffered few casualties – Heg was one casualty when he was injured when his horse fell; there were no fatalities for the regiment.

At the Battle of Stones River the 15th suffered serious casualties. Heg lost more than 100 men and his leadership of the regiment was tested. After the battle his brigade commander, William Passmore Carlin, reported:

While every field officer under my command did his duty faithfully, Colonels Alexander and Heg, in my opinion, proved themselves the bravest of the brave. Had such men as these been in command of some of our brigades, we should have been spared the shame of witnessing the rout of our troops and the disgraceful panic, encouraged, at least, by the example and advice of officers high in command.

In response to Heg’s conduct at Stones River, General Rosecrans placed him in command of the 3rd Brigade of the 1st Division, 20th Army Corps on May 1, 1863.

On September 19, 1863, Heg would order his brigade forward into the Battle of Chickamauga. Heg was constantly in the thick of close-range combat around Viniard’s Farm as he rallied and encouraged his brigade. He was shot in the abdomen in the late afternoon and died the next morning from his mortal wound. The 15th’s surgeon, Stephen Himoe, attended Heg in his final hours and wrote in his personal diary:

...friends who called to see him, wept like children. Everybody who knew him loved him. He was not only a noble patriot, but a true Christian and died peacefully and calmly, fully persuaded of a glorious immortality thro’ Jesus...

continued



The 1864 Annals of the Army of the Cumberland wrote of Heg:

His bravery, demonstrated in many engagements, is unquestioned. It is not however, the reckless daring of an unskilled and careless man, but the cool and determined valor of a competent, thoughtful commander. He is prudent, but not timid; deliberate but not slow in movement. In person he is of medium size, rather slender, and with features more than ordinarily prepossessing. With the courage he has power of endurance so natural to the Scandinavian, and well calculated to share the hardships and privations of a march as he directs the movements of his command.

Han Christian Heg is buried in the Norway Lutheran Church Cemetery in Racine County. They definitely “got the wrong guy when they pulled that statue down.”

submitted by: Donna Agnelly



Saratoga Springs History Museum

July 17, 2020

A statement From James Parillo, Executive Director of the Saratoga Springs History Museum, and Samantha Bosshart, Executive Director of the Saratoga Springs Preservation Foundation.

This morning we are sad and disappointed to report that the monument to the 77th NY Volunteers, or the Bemis Height's Regiment, in Congress Park was toppled over and shattered during the night. The monument was erected in 1875 on the 10th Anniversary of the end of the Civil War to honor the men of the 77th who lost their lives fighting for the Union Army. The 77th was made up of men from Saratoga Springs, Wilton, Schuylerville, and other surrounding communities who volunteered, not those who were drafted. When the regiment was raised, it was supposed to be numbered in the 30's, but the officers petitioned to have the unit commissioned as the 77th in honor of the Battle of Saratoga, fought in 1777. The monument originally stood in the center of Broadway at the entrance of Congress Park. In 1921 it was moved into Congress Park as it became a difficult obstacle for automobiles to navigate. We hope that security cameras show the vandals in the act so they can be identified and found.



The annual membership renewal form can be found in this issue. Please complete the form and return it as soon as possible. By renewing right away, using the postage paid envelope, you will be saving the Round Table the cost of mailing reminder notices. The money we save can be used for the excellent historical programming provided by your Milwaukee Civil War Round Table! Thank you for choosing to be a member of this fine organization! Keep spreading the word about us!

In Memoriam

On March 29, 2020, at age 69, Darby Kirkland Upham, daughter of our Round Table founder, William H. Upham Jr. passed away. A gathering to celebrate her life is planned for a later date when all can participate. Darby is survived by her sister Monie Elizabeth Upham and by other relatives and friends.



Dr. Raymond G. Pahle, past member of the Round Table, passed away on March 4, 2020 at the age of 91. He is survived by his second wife of over 41 years Clarice and his sons Joe and Gregg and daughters Barb, Jane, Nancy and Lynn as well as 13 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. A public gathering in his memory was held on June 13, 2020.

Civil War Travel - Things to See and Do

National Civil War Naval Museum

If you have any plans of traveling to Georgia in the foreseeable future you may want to visit the National Civil War Naval Museum in Columbus, Georgia. Our President, Bruce Klem, has visited the museum and says it is well worth seeing. Bruce also has complimentary passes admitting one available – please see him if your travels take you that way.

You can also visit their website to get an idea of what the museum offers at:

www.portcolumbus.org



THE KENOSHA CIVIL WAR MUSEUM TRIP ANNOUNCED THAT THE OCTOBER 18-21, 2020 TRIP TO SHILOH AND CORINTH HAS BEEN CANCELLED.



A FINAL DECISION ON WHETHER THE Civil War Time Travelers TRIP TO FT. DONELSON, SHILOH, CORINTH AND VICKSBURG IS STILL A “GO” WILL BE MADE AT THE END OF AUGUST.

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. You may also email her at 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 (\$50), family (\$60), 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.



The CWRT Congress has made available multiple Civil War-related media offerings as others are marketing them. Many of them can be accessed at our outstanding MCWRT website!

If you haven't visited the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table website, make it a point to do so. The content is absolutely superb.



Civil War Silent Book Auction

At several past meetings, a silent book auction has been offered in addition to the book raffle conducted by our Quartermaster Roman Blenski. Proceeds from these auctions were sent off to help Civil War museums such as the Seminary Ridge Museum in Gettysburg.

At our July Board of Directors meeting, it was decided to move forward with additional silent auctions.

Many of the books in previous auctions were from the collection of Lawrence G. Lefler, descendant of Corporal Amos Lefler of Company E, 6th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry. This year, Larry's books will be supplemented by volumes from the collection of Sgt. Major J.J. McClaire (USMC, Ret.) and others.

The following books will be at auction at the September 10, 2020 meeting if the Round Table.

<u>Three Years with Grant</u> by Sylvanus Cadwallader	paperback
<u>Gettysburg: A Journey in Time</u> by William Frassanito	paperback
<u>Grant and Lee: A Study in Personality and Generalship</u> by Major General J.F.C. Fuller	paperback
<u>The Genius of Robert E. Lee</u> by Al Kaltman	hardcover
<u>The Man Behind the Guns: General Henry J. Hunt</u> by Edward G. Longacre	paperback
<u>Hunter Holmes McGuire: Stonewall Jackson's Doctor</u> by John W. Schildt	paperback
<u>The Twelfth Corps at Antietam</u> by John W. Schildt	paperback
<u>In the Hands of Providence: Josh a L. Chamberlain</u> by Alice Rains Trulock	hardcover



Wanderings

Remember to send the story of any of your Civil War wanderings to Donna Agnelly for possible inclusion in our on-going feature about historical travel enjoyed by members of the MCWRT. Positive memories and encouragement to travel more will motivate others to visit those same sites!



Through the Looking Glass provides a venue for the sharing of personalities from the war years. These featured articles are not necessarily about military exploits and experiences. They can delve into the lives of civilians who also faced the war's upheaval.



WE WANT YOU!

to have another fun and fellowship-filled year packed with great meetings and historical content. Please speak to any Board member (see page 6) to offer suggestions to improve **your** Round Table. Also, please remember to tell others about the MCWRT. We grow best by word of mouth provided by enthusiastic and excited members.

Huzzah! Here is to another season of the Milwaukee Civil War 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
4601 W. Holt Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53219
(414) 327-2847, dbcpmilw@execpc.com

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

