

GENERAL ORDERS



The Newsletter of the

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



February 11, 2021

Doug Dammann

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN WHITE WISCONSIN'S FIRST SURGEON

Doug Dammann's program will look at the history of the First Wisconsin Infantry (90 Day Troops) through a collection of documents and artifacts that belonged to the regiment's first surgeon, Dr. Benjamin Franklin White. Dr. White enlisted in the First Wisconsin out of Prairie Du Chien, Wisconsin, on April 24, 1861. He and the rest of the regiment, Wisconsin's only 90-day enlistees, traveled to the Eastern Theater after organizing at Camp Scott in Milwaukee. The contents of the White collection paint an interesting picture of a young man who traveled the Oregon Trail in search of gold, attended medical school in Chicago, was active in the Wisconsin State Militia, and served with the 1st during the first summer of the war.



Mr. Doug Dammann has worked at the Civil War Museum of Kenosha, Wisconsin, for 13 years. He holds a Masters Degree in Historical Administration from Eastern Illinois University and a Bachelors Degree in History from Kalamazoo College. Before coming to Kenosha, Doug had professional stops at The National Air and Space Museum, The National

Museum of Civil War Medicine, and the College Football Hall of Fame. He lives in Kenosha with his wife Holly and two children, Andrew and Charlotte.

General Orders No. 2-21

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February 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, February 8, 2021

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.



Ulysses S. Grant altered the course of the war in the west in February 1862 with victories at Forts Henry and Donelson.



In February 1952 Fred H. Harrington spoke to the Round Table on “N. P. Banks: A Politician in Uniform.”

In February 1962 Fred Schwengal spoke to those assembled on “Lincoln Emerges: December 3, 1861.”

“Lincoln’s Changing Reputation” was the topic of Gordon E. Parks talk in February 1972.

At the February 1982 meeting Howard Michael Madaus was our speaker talking on “Hijinks North and South: How Well Behaved Were the Boys in Blue and Gray?”

In February 2012 Round Table member Dave Wege spoke to those assembled on “Pugnacious and Pertinacious Patrick Cleburne.”

At last year’s meeting “Battle at Wilson’s Creek” was the topic presented by our speaker Connie Langum.

At the Museum

If you wish to sign up for one of the workshops and are having trouble accessing the museum’s website, you can register with a credit card by calling the museum between 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday at 262-653-4140.

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

For a more complete description of the March Facebook talks please continue to page 5.



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 Great Camel Experiment presented by: David Noe
- The Wounding of Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. presented by: Dr. Gordon Dammann
- Seceding the Secession presented by: Eric Wittenberg
- Recovering the Voices of the Union’s Midwest Irish presented by: Damian Shiels
- Gettysburg Stories: Monuments and Iconic Locations presented by: Steve Acker
- New Philadelphia presented by: Gerald McWorter and Kate Williams-McWorter
- Arming Ohio presented by: Phil Spaugy
- 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

Reconstruction and Revolution

Noon - February 12, 2021

Presenter: Victoria Smalls

The Reconstruction Era was a historic period in which the United States grappled with the question of how to integrate millions of newly free African Americans into social, political, economic, and labor systems. Ranger Small’s presentation focuses on aspects of education, citizenship, and land ownership for the Freedmen, on prominent figures and political leadership, on the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments to the constitution and present a new timeline of Reconstruction.

Electricity and Civil War Medicine

Noon – February 19, 2021

Presented by: Dr. Trevor Steinbach

This program explores the medical use of electricity as well as the surgeons and doctors who made use of this cutting-edge technology during the Civil War. Learn about the equipment they used, the injuries it was used to treat, how well it worked, and more.

Coming on Facebook in March:

Scotland and the Civil War

Noon – March 12, 2021

Presented by: Dr. David Silenat

No Place for a Lady

Noon – March 5, 2021

**FREE BUT REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED
THROUGH THE KENOSHA PUBLIC LIBRARY**

FROM THE FIELD

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

La Crosse Tribune

Aug. 4, 1911

W. E. Minshall tells of the part Four Newspapermen Played in the Civil War. Grave of just one is found. Sister of John Longmire searched for Half Century Before finding the last Resting Place.

W. E. Minshall, John W. Longmire, Louis Broughton and John L. Somerby, four young men working on the Northwestern Times at the time of the outbreak of the Civil War, held a meeting on April 26, 1861, at which time they decided to volunteer for service in the south.

They joined Company I of the Sixth Wisconsin regiment which later was christened the Iron Brigade because this was the first army which up to that time had been able to defeat the famous General Stonewall Jackson.

A short time ago Mrs. Helen Decker, a sister of John Longmire, one of the volunteers, found the grave of the young man, after a search of fifty years. When she visited Washington recently, she went to the National Soldiers Home in that city, where she discovered that her brother was buried there instead of at Arlington Heights as at first supposed.

W. E. Minshall, one of the four volunteers, now residing in Chicago but who is visiting in La Crosse now is the only one of the four now living. He was reminded of the war times when he read that the grave of Mr. Longmire had been found, and he tells an interesting story of the adventures of these men who volunteered to fight for the Union.

All four started for the front immediately after enlisting, but soon after reaching the south, W. E. Minshall and John Longmire were taken sick with typhoid fever.

Typhoid Claims One

"When I had recovered from my attack of typhoid" said Mr. Minshall, "I discovered that John Longmire had died with the fever. I at once notified his mother of his death and I thought he had been buried at Arlington. Mr. Longmire was the first to die."

There is a curious story connected with the wounding of Messrs. Minshall and Somerby, two of the volunteers who received bad wounds earlier.

"John Somerby and I were walking in Washington one day," said Mr. Minshall, "when we met a soldier who had been in the Battle of Bull Run, where he had been shot in the neck, the bullet passing through without serious injury."

"This impressed Somerby greatly and he turned to me and said if they hit me, I hope it will be some other kind of wound. From that time on he had a fear of being hit in the neck."

"After this we had been walking less than an hour when we met another soldier who had lost an eye in battle. This made a great impression on me and I turned to Somerby and said I don't want to get hit there."

Famous Battles

The Sixth Wisconsin fought at Gainesville in August 1862.

"It was here that Somerby got just what he didn't want," said Mr. Minshall, "for he was shot in the neck."

One the decisive battles of the west, Prairie Grove, was fought on December 7, 1862. The 6th Wisconsin was in that fight and to show what determined men made up that army they marched 110 miles in three days and three nights then went into the battle and won it although the Confederates outnumbered them almost five to one. General Herron was the commander of the Union army, while T. C. Heinman commanded the opposing forces which numbered 28,000.

It was here that Mr. Minshall received the wound that he did not want and which he had spoken of when he saw the soldier at Washington. While his regiment was charging a six-gun battery, Mr. Minshall lost an eye. He was captured as he lay wounded but he later made his escape.

Thus the fate of these four men who enlisted for service in the war was decided. John Longmire was the first one to die. Typhoid fever causing his death in October, 1861. John Somerby was shot in the neck at Gainesville in August, 1862, but he recovered from that and afterwards went to Los Angeles where he died about eight years ago. Louis Broughton, another of the four, was shot at Gettysburg. Mr. Minshall is the only one of the four who is now living and he has been blind for over thirty years as a result of his wound received at Prairie Grove.

General Bragg, the gallant leader of the Iron Brigade and author of the famous phrase: "We love him for the enemies he has made."



Tells Many Incidents

In connection with the war, Mr. Minshall relates some incidents which are not well known because of the fact that they are not included in many histories. He says that Lieutenant Frank A. Haskell of Company I, Sixth Wisconsin was the man who really saved the day at Gettysburg for it was he who rallied the line and was responsible for the repelling of Pickett's Charge.

Also, at the same time that Pickett's Charge was being repulsed at Gettysburg, Grant had practically captured Vicksburg, a great stronghold in the west.

There was a La Crosse company under the command of Captain A. H. Pettibone, in the Sixth Wisconsin in the Civil War.

Dubuque Times Journal June 9, 1910

The Womens Relief Corps convention was stamped by a protest against the installation of the statue of General Lee in the Hall of Fame, in Washington. Mrs. Henry, past commander of the Daughters of the G.A.R. called for a mighty effort to show that it was the men of the north who were victors of the war and that it was the men of the south who were vanquished.

Madison Wisconsin State Journal April 14, 1863

The Old Flag of the Sixth Major Hanser, of the 6th Regiment, delivered today at the Executive office, the old regimental flag of the gallant Sixth regiment, worn and torn and tattered in the fierce conflicts of Gainesville, Bull Run 2d, South Mountain, Antietam and Fredericksburg. It will be replaced by the Governor with a new flag, under the law passed at the late session, the following admirable letter from Col. Bragg, now commanding the regiment, accompanies the flag.

Contributed – as always – by Jim Johnson

Coming on Facebook at the Kenosha Civil War Museum

Scotland and the Civil War

Noon – March 12, 2021

Presented by: **Dr. David Silenat**

Dr. David Silenat of the University of Edinburgh will discuss the role of Scotland in the American Civil War, including the 50,000 Scots who fought in the war, Scotland in the abolition movement, the construction of blockade runners in Scottish ports, and the lasting influence that the American Civil War had on Scotland.

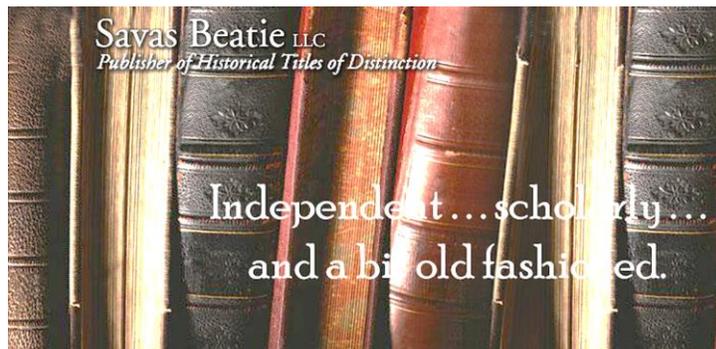
No Place for a Lady

Noon – March 5, 2021

Presented by: **Betsy Estilow**

**FREE BUT REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED
THROUGH THE KENOSHA PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Soldier, politician, farmer and nurse were all jobs traditionally held by men until the Civil War engulfed our nation. Woman, both in the North and South, moved out of their homes and into the workforce. One of the most important of these roles was that of nurse. Although in the mid- 19th Century it was considered improper for a woman to nurse a man outside of her family, thousands of women defied these constraints and moved into the hospitals. They were met with scorn and contempt from the medical establishment but they persevered. The roles taken by these women transformed society and their stories tell an often-overlooked tale of courage, sacrifice and devotion.



FROM Savas Beatie Publications

The 3-volume Vicksburg Campaign, long out of print, is being reprinted by Savas Beatie in a limited edition run. Copies are still available! Contact Savas Beatie at savasbeatie.com or call 916-941-6896 and place your order! In addition, the following volumes will also be available soon:

- **Embattled Capital: A Guide to Richmond During the Civil War**
- **John Bachelder's History of the Battle of Gettysburg**
- **The Sigel Regiment: A History of the 26th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, 1862-1865**
- **Meade and Lee at Rappahannock Station: The Army of the Potomac's First Post-Gettysburg Offensive, From Kelly's Ford to the Rapidan October 21 to November 20, 1863**

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

September 10, 2020 Ted Savas
*Lost and Found: The Archaeology of the
Battle of Payne's Farm*

October 8, 2020 Rob Girardi
Lincoln and the Common Soldier

November 12, 2020 John R. Scales
*The Battle and Campaign of
General Nathan Bedford Forrest*

December 10, 2020 Steven K. Rogstad
Stories from Among the Badgers

January 7, 2021 Christopher L. Kolakowski
Stones River

February 11, 2021 Doug Dammann
Benjamin Franklin White

March 11, 2021 Lawrence Desotell
Confederate Soldiers at Camp Randall

April 8, 2021 Ron Kirkwood
Too Much for Human Endurance

May 13, 2021 Michael Hardy
General Lee's Immortals

June 10, 2021 A. Wilson Greene
*We Have Done All That is Possible and Must Be
Resigned: The First Petersburg Offensive*

**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>
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**~ 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.

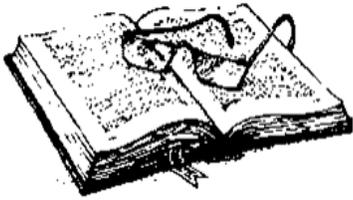
Milwaukee Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for February 11, 2021

Mail your reservations by Monday, February 8 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
February 11, 2021 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

The Vicksburg Campaign: Volume One

Vicksburg is the Key

Edwin C. Bearss

My review this time is on a classic series of books. I purchased the set in 2019 off an ad on eBay. I thought this was a must have for my book collection. Volume 1 is 734 pages and was published in 1985. Perhaps a bit of an extravagant purchase but having heard Ed Bearss talk, seeing him at the Kenosha Civil War Museum opening and being led on a battlefield tour, I felt it was something I had to have.

Stuck in a “shelter in place” time to guard against the Corona virus, I thought it would be a great time to wade into this series. The first volume covers the beginnings of General Grant’s efforts to capture Vicksburg. In this writing, Mr. Bearss divides this volume into various sections with the chapters of each section focused on a particular segment of the campaign. When reading other works on the Vicksburg Campaign authors generally provided general information on these segments of Grant’s plan. The information they provided gave the reader a good idea of the campaign and its various parts. For instance: Grant’s initial movements toward Vicksburg and the first invasion of Mississippi, Van Dorn’s raid on Holly Springs that derailed Grant’s first drive down into Mississippi, the Yazoo River attempt, and the canal that was attempted to bypass the Vicksburg guns and land the Federals below Vicksburg. In reading Mr. Bearss’ first volume on the Vicksburg Campaign, he follows each segment with details of the various makeovers by Grant’s forces and I think, in this way, he shows all the actions that took place and the variety of battles and counter maneuvers by the Confederate forces to stall Grant. In this way the reader gets all the information that led to the start and completion of each of the various attempts by Grant. I think this amount of detail provides the reader with a vivid understanding of why Grant was forced to develop another plan and it also helps to understand how Grant was determined to succeed in this mission.

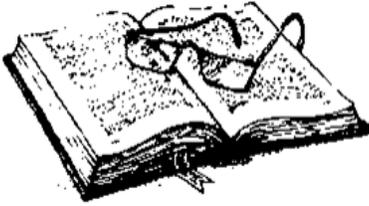
For instance, as Grant marshalled his forces and began moving south from Grand Junction there was plenty of maneuvering to force the Confederates out of Holly Springs and then push on to Grenada. Confederates fell back from Holly Springs then to the Tallahatchie, then the Yocona, to the Otuckalofa and finally to the Yalobusha Rivers. There was plenty of maneuvering by both sides during this period that many authors don’t cover in the detail that Mr. Bearss provides in this work. As a result, this gives the reader a much greater idea of what was going on in the theatre as Grant began his first drive into Mississippi.

Another area that Mr. Bearss covers in this volume is the raid on Holly Springs by Van Dorn and his cavalry. While this raid is discussed by most authors in the impact to Grant’s first drive on Vicksburg and the fact that it caused Grant to retreat and begin his search for another avenue to take Vicksburg, most authors end their discussion at this point. What I found especially interesting is that Ed Bearss goes to great length to describe what happened immediately after the raid with Van Dorn and his units. They went on to move deeper into Union controlled territory and into Tennessee. As a result, many Union units were put on alert and Colonel Grierson with his cavalry among others get into the picture trying to pin down Van Dorn before he manages to return to Confederate lines. Having recently read Tim Smith’s *The Real Horse Soldiers* I felt the raid by Van Dorn was a forerunner of Grierson’s raid into Mississippi and to Newton Station. While the objective was different for Grierson, it is possible that Grant saw that a raid deep into enemy territory could achieve a similar objection of derailing an enemy’s plans and disrupt their campaign plans, while creating opportunities for your own campaign.

Mr. Bearss also provides similar details on other aspects of Grant’s openings in his Vicksburg campaign. Mr. Bearss shows how Grant worked closely with the Navy to achieve his capture of Vicksburg. He shows how the Navy worked up and down the Mississippi and Red Rivers as well as trying to work in the back door to putting Grant’s army behind Vicksburg with The Yazoo Pass route and Steele Bayou maneuvers. He points out how vital the Mississippi and Red Rivers were to provide a critical supply line for both Port Hudson and Vicksburg and how the Navy managed to interdict that route as well as the Confederate actions to defend it.

While this set of books may be a bit much for the casual reader of Civil War actions, I believe it is a real classic that serious students should have in their libraries. I think the detail that is provided on this key campaign can give real insight into General Grant’s character and military acumen and why he is now viewed as the major player on the Union side for winning the war for the Union. I’m looking forward to reading the other two volumes in the trilogy and highly recommend it.

submitted by Bruce Klem



BETWEEN THE COVERS

The Vicksburg Campaign: Volume Two

Grant Strikes a Fatal Blow

Edwin C. Bearss

As the Corona virus drags on here is my review of Volume 2 of *The Vicksburg Campaign*. The 689 pages of Volume 2 concentrate on Grant's maneuvers to get across the Mississippi and then to close with the Confederates to establish a beachhead and then move inland to defeat the Confederate forces and eventually either force Pemberton's army out of the way or to confine his army in the Vicksburg fortress and put it under siege with the end goal of taking the city.

I suspect a large number of folks looking at the history of the Civil War, and particularly the Vicksburg Campaign, think that much of Grant's maneuvers were somewhat superfluous in that it was a forgone conclusion that Vicksburg must fall, a relatively simple task. Many who study the Civil War on the surface level miss the fact that, other than the naval superiority the Union had at that time on the Mississippi, the Confederates had enough troops in the theater of operation to consolidate for a one-time battle with Grant's Army of Tennessee. The larger force would have had a good chance to defeat Grant once and for all, ending Grant's career and Union hopes for capturing Vicksburg.

In this volume Mr. Bearss points this out at a couple of different times. Once when Grant is crossing the Mississippi at Bruinsburg and Port Gibson and again when Grant begins his march toward Jackson. Part of this reasoning, as put forth by Mr. Bearss, is that prior to the crossing, Grant had Pemberton and the Confederate leadership so confused as to Union intentions that the strength they possessed was spread out over a wide area trying to defend a lot of territory and misread Union intentions as to where the blow would fall. Grierson's raid, the move up the Yazoo, Sherman's attacks at Snyder's Bluff and others definitely put the Confederates off their game on intelligence interpretation. The end result was their failure to stop Grant from getting across the Mississippi and moving inland. Even when the Confederates attempted to send reinforcements to threatened areas at Port Gibson or Raymond things went awry and messages were delayed or units slow to get going and Confederate forces were defeated. There are always stumbling blocks that crop up in any battle plan but better intelligence analysis can allow a commander to plan for the occasional miscue. In the case of Pemberton that didn't occur and the battle was lost in the final outcome. I thought Mr. Bearss pointed that out in his writing in this volume. Overall, the Confederate leadership failed to use their best weapon and that was fighting on interior lines.

One thing I thought that would have been helpful in a few spots in this work was the addition of more maps to cover the movement of Union forces getting into position and on some of the key battles in this campaign. The maps that Mr. Bearss had in the volume on the movements were generally of an area of operation that was too large to provide the reader with a good picture of the routes of march and skirmishes that may have occurred. The reader was afforded an area map but, in some cases, when Mr. Bearss was mentioning actions that may have occurred while the Union forces went from point A to B for instance, he would mention certain plantations where a division would stop and it just wasn't on the map. The battle maps also had multiple places to which a unit would move during the battle, confusing the reader when trying to follow the flow of the battle. It would have been better to have multiple time phased maps depicting battles and more detailed maps for the marches he was describing.

I suspect considering when this book was published that was not something that was possible due to expense. In some of Mr. Bearss' later works I found that not to be the case. Anyone familiar with the author's style realizes, I think, that he provides the reader with a tremendous amount of information as to the unit's route of march and any fight they may have been involved in. The amount of detail he gives the reader is plentiful. In spite of the detail provided, Mr. Bearss has the time to put in some anecdotal soldier's humor like this passage:

Company C, 12th Iowa Infantry occupying a picket line on Confederate General Richard Griffith, plantation alert for signs of the enemy, saw nine grey uniforms in the bushes and promptly captured them. They turned out to be geese and at the drumhead court martial that followed it was decided to execute them on the grounds that they were quite obviously followers of the general. When Co. C returned to the unit their bellies were quite full.

This is a great volume for giving any student of this campaign a detailed look into the whys and wherefores of this phase of the capture of Vicksburg and how Grant overcame the variety of problems that he was presented to accomplish his mission. It clearly shows how he managed to orchestrate the various pieces to accomplish the task at hand and in many cases rewriting "the book" on how to operate an army. I highly recommend this set to any serious student of the Civil War particularly the Vicksburg Campaign and the war in the West. But if you are looking for a summary version of the campaign you may be overwhelmed by this 3-volume set.



Confounded COVID Chaos Crushes Creative Considerations?

We can't go anywhere. Can't do anything. Visitors Centers are closed. Restrooms are locked down. Restrictions! Rules! Oh, Ruin, . . . oh, Rubbish! **Ridiculous!**

Seriously, how can a *Wanderings* article exist in this climate? The answer is simple. In the digital age we can travel via the Internet, albeit vicariously, and through DVDs and videos. In this article, let's investigate some of those resources.

Step one for those of us in southern Wisconsin is the many offerings from the Kenosha Civil War Museum. As a Round Table support the museum because it is a high-quality source of accurate historical information. As individuals, we can access the museum's resources via our laptops.

Consider the following offerings, new on the list of topics at the museum. We can find **Reconstruction and Revolution**, **Electricity and Civil War Medicine**, **No Place for a Lady** and **Scotland and the Civil War** all available on the museum's Facebook page. For a fuller description of these presentations go to page 5 of this issue.

A quality **Facebook** page is that of Garry Adelman. Garry is dynamic speaker. As Director of History and Education of the American Battlefield Trust, he has not only access to but influence on many projects of the Trust. Unlike many blogs or podcasts, many of Garry's offerings are short, to the point, and visit unusual, out-of-the-way places. Other videos investigate specific topics like witness trees, and detailed studies of photographs. A Gettysburg Licensed Battlefield Guide, Garry describes himself as energetic, enthusiastic, hyper, and obsessed with the Civil War. Go to **Garry Adelman's Civil War Page** on **Facebook** to access his content.

Speaking of the American Battlefield Trust, this organization has an extensive selection of videos. **War Department** offers a long list of in-depth topics. **In4** videos offer quick hits in great topics. This series covers medicine, military organization, many important personalities, and much more. There is a series of videos on each state's contribution to the war effort, including one on Wisconsin's amazing impact on the war. There is a virtual reality experience that puts you on the battlefield in 1864. While the Civil War is a primary focus of the Trust's educational mission, there is also content related to both the American Revolution and the War of 1812. And, because these come from the American Battlefield Trust, the content is trustworthy. www.battlefields.org/learn/videos

A Wanderer can travel to almost any Civil War location via blogs from historians. John Banks has an informative, well-written site that includes many 360° views of Civil War sites. He does his homework, too, so is a trustworthy source as well. Go to **John Banks' Civil War Blog** on **Facebook**. When John describes his page he says, "*My Facebook page and blog focus on the Civil War, especially the Battle of Antietam, Western theater sites and stories of common soldiers.*" So, if your interest is the common soldier, this could be a site for you. John Banks has a special affinity for Connecticut troops.

Tired of hearing that the entire Civil War was fought in Virginia? Want some content related to operations in the western theater? Head to a **Facebook** page dedicated to exactly that! **The Western Theater in the Civil War** is dedicated to preserving the story of the "forgotten theater" of the war. When a person accesses this Facebook page, this welcome statement greets the reader. *A place to discuss the Western Theater of the Civil War. Articles, images, and general discussion are welcome! NOT a place for modern political discussion or self-promotion.*

Yes, the pandemic has slowed our ability to travel to places dear to our historical heart strings. Until things open, especially those visitors' centers and restrooms, we may have to visit sites via the internet. The good news is that there is a lot of excellent content awaiting the virtual traveler.

Should you come across a site that provides stirring stories and creative content, please share it with **General Orders**. Provide a little write up with both your impressions and your recommendations. Happy Traveling!

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!

Colonel Samuel McCartney Jackson



Samuel Jackson was born on September 24, 1833 in Apollo, Armstrong County, Pennsylvania to John and Elizabeth (McCartney) Jackson. He had a common school education, pursued farming and attended Indiana Academy.

Samuel enlisted as a drummer in the state militia at the age of twelve and received a captain's commission at the outset of the Civil War in Co. G "Apollo Independent Blues," 11th Pennsylvania Reserves (40th Pennsylvania Infantry Regiment). He retained his captain's rank, rising to major in July 1861, and lieutenant colonel by October 28, 1861.

On April 10, 1863, Jackson advanced to full colonel and commanded the 40th at Gaines Mill; Second Bull Run; South Mountain; Antietam; Fredericksburg; Gettysburg; the Wilderness; Spotsylvania Courthouse; and Bethesda Church. He was cited for gallantry at Gettysburg where Jackson, substantially outnumbered, charged down Little Round Top under the command of William McCandless, to the Confederate center, driving the enemy to the Wheatfield. He would receive a brevet general's commission for his action at Gettysburg. A monument honoring Jackson's unit stands at Gettysburg.

He was wounded twice during the war although neither wound proved serious. When mustered out at the end of the war, the officers and men of the 40th presented him with a gold encased and jeweled sword, together with sash and spurs.

Jackson survived the war and post-war pursued the oil business. He was elected to the state House of Representatives in 1869 and 1871. He was elected to the state Senate in 1872. Jackson would become federal collector of revenue under Chester Arthur. He was the president of the Apollo Bank in 1885 and was Pennsylvania State Treasurer in 1893.

Jackson was married twice. He married his first wife, Martha Byerly in 1860. The couple had two daughters; Martha died in 1864. Samuel would marry Mary E. Wilson in December 1869; they would have a son, Frank, and a daughter, Elizabeth (Bessie). Samuel passed away in 1906.

Bessie would marry Alexander Stewart who ran the family business, the J. M. Stewart and Company Hardware Store. The couple would have two daughters and a son, James Maitland Stewart.



James Maitland Stewart is best known to us as actor Jimmy Stewart. He would serve in the Air Force in World War II earning a 2nd Lieutenant commission in early 1942. Deployed to Europe in 1944, he spent the next 18 months flying B-24 Liberator bombers over Germany. By the end of the war he was one of the most respected and decorated pilots in his unit. But his service came at a price – he was grounded in the final months of the war for being "flak happy."

Stewart returned home a very changed man. He had lost weight and looked sickly. He had a hard time sleeping and when he did he would have nightmares of planes exploding. In one mission his unit lost 13 planes and 130 men, most of whom Jimmy knew personally. Depressed and unfocused, he refused to speak to anyone about his wartime experiences.

The first picture he would make upon his stateside return was "It's a Wonderful Life." The actors and crew knew that in many of the disturbing scenes where his character, George Bailey, is unraveling in front of his family and friends Stewart was not acting. His PTSD was captured for everyone to see in the film. Keep this in mind the next time you watch this movie. Watch George as he prays to God for help. Watch as George sinks into deep despair. Watch how he comes to realize how many lives he has touched in his life and how he was the "richest man in town."

And that, as the late Paul Harvey would say, is the rest of the story.

submitted by Donna Agnelly

Did You Know? February Trivia of the American Civil War

February 4, 1861 - Delegates from the seceded states meet to establish the Confederate government

February 15, 1861 - The Provisional Confederate Congress establishes a Peace Commission to prevent war with the United States

February 18, 1861 - Jefferson Davis inaugurated as provisional president of the Confederacy

February 23, 1861 - President-elect Lincoln arrives in Washington, D.C.

February 3, 1862 - President Lincoln declines an offer of war elephants from the King of Siam

February 15, 1862 - All-out Confederate counter-attack at Fort Donelson

February 16, 1862 - Fort Donelson surrenders unconditionally to Ulysses S. Grant

February 25, 1862 - Federal troops occupy Nashville, Tennessee

February 18-21, 1863- The Cherokee National Council meets at Cowskin Prairie to disavow Stand Watie's pro-Confederate faction and abolish slavery

February 3, 1864 - Union General William T. Sherman begins the Meridian Campaign in Mississippi

February 14, 1864 - Federal troops capture Meridian, Mississippi

February 17, 1864 - Confederate submarine *H.L. Hunley* sinks the USS *Housatonic*

February 20, 1864 - Battle of Olustee (Ocean Pond), Florida

February 22, 1864 - Engagement at Okolona, Mississippi

February 28, 1864 - Kilpatrick's Raid on Richmond begins

February 1, 1865 - Sherman's march through the Carolinas in "full swing"

February 5, 1865 - Battle of Hatcher's Run (Armstrong's Mill), Virginia begins

February 17, 1865 - Columbia South Carolina burned

February 17, 1865 - Evacuation of Charleston, South Carolina

February 22, 1865 - Wilmington, North Carolina captured

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

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