

GENERAL ORDERS

The Newsletter of the

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

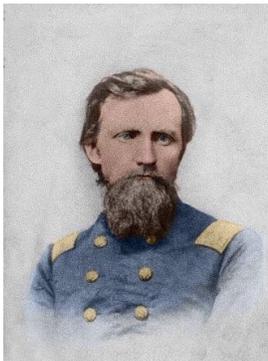


May 13, 2021

Kevin Hampton

Our Adopted Country is in Danger

*The Service of Hans Heg and the Scandinavians
of the 15th Wisconsin Infantry*



The 15th Wisconsin Volunteer Regiment was originally formed by Col. Hans Heg at Camp Randall, near Madison, Wisconsin. The majority of its members were Norwegian immigrants with the rest being mainly Swedish and Danish immigrants. Organized in Madison, the regiment mustered into federal service January 31, 1862. The motto of the regiment became: For God and Our Country. The regiment mustered out of service by company between December 1, 1864, and February 13, 1865.

Hans Christian Heg 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?

In October 1862, Heg led his regiment into their first big battle at Perryville. The regiment suffered few casualties and there were no fatalities for the regiment.

At the Battle of Stones River, the 15th suffered serious casualties losing more than 100 men. In response to Heg's leadership at Stones River, General Rosecrans placed him in command of the 3rd Brigade of the 1st Division, 20th Army Corps on May 1, 1863.

At the Battle of Chickamauga Heg was shot in the abdomen in the late afternoon and died the next morning from his wound.

The 15th Wisconsin went on to fight in the Battle of Resaca, the Battle of Peachtree Creek, the Battle of Atlanta and the Battle of Jonesborough.

This regiment suffered eight officers and 86 enlisted men who were killed in action or who later died of their wounds, plus another one officer and 241 enlisted men who died of disease, for a total of 336 fatalities.

At our May meeting Kevin Hampton, Curator of History at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum will talk to us about Hans Heg and the Scandinavians that made up the 15th Wisconsin.

General Orders No. 5-21

May 2021

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May Meeting at a Glance The Wisconsin Club 900 W. Wisconsin Avenue

[Jackets required for the dining room.]

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

6:45 p.m. - Dinner

[\$30 by reservation, please]

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 8.

www.milwaukeeecwrt.org



Civil War Round Table News

When Reservations are Cancelled

Please be aware that cancellations of dinner reservations within 48 hours of the meeting are subject to payment in full. The MCWRT is charged for these dinners whether they are used or not!

Your Cooperation is Appreciated

“Walk-in dinner” requests are sometimes difficult to honor. Remember, dinner reservations are to be made at least 48 hours prior to the meeting date. We are always happy to accommodate where possible, but we cannot always guarantee a dinner that evening if you have not called in or emailed your reservation. Thank you for your understanding.

Special Dietary Needs

We have quite a number of regular members who have opted for special entrees as options to the regular dinner being served. The Wisconsin Club and the Round Table will make every effort to meet any special dietary needs you may have. As a courtesy, **please give a reminder when making your reservations**, so we don't forget to serve you what you're expecting!

ELECTION: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As announced at the March Round Table meeting and in accordance with the Articles of Incorporation, the nominating committee of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee recommends the following slate of nominees for the upcoming election of members to the Board of Directors for a three-year term ending in May 2024.

- Grant Johnson
- Bruce Klem
- Daniel Nettesheim
- Frank Risler
- David Wege

The election will take place at the May 13, 2021 Milwaukee Civil War Round Table meeting.



FROM OUR SPECIAL WAR CORRESPONDENT.
 "CITY POINT, VA., April —, 8.30 A.M.
 "All seems well with us."—A. LINCOLN.
 (Harper's Weekly, April 15, 1864)

The Muster Roll: NEW MEMBERS

NUMBER	NAME	AGE	RESIDENCE	PLACE OF BIRTH	ARMY SERVICE	REMARKS
	Don Korte					
	Mary Korte					

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 12/30/2020 through 4/08/2021.

Major Contributor (\$500 and above)

Patron (\$200 - \$499)

Gerald Frangesch, Van & Dawn Harl, Eugene & Jane Jamrozy, Stephen Leopold

Associate (\$100 - \$199)

Tom & Terry Arliskas, Roger Bohn, Michael Deeken, Gary & Judy Ertel, A. William & Claudette Finke, Douglas Haag, Peter & Jean Jacobsohn, Bernard Jene, David Jordan, Bruce Klem, Kathy McNally, Dennis Rasbach, Jim & Ann Reeve, Laura Rinaldi, Dennis Slater, Justin Tolomeo, Bernard VanDinter, Gil Vraney

Contributor (up to \$99)

John Abbott, George Affeldt, Carl Backus, Dale Bspalec, Jim Blake, Crain Bliwas, Angela Bodven, John & Linda Connelly, Gordon E. Dammann, Bill De Lind, Tom Doyle, Lori Duginski, Paul Eilbes, George Geanon, Julian Gonzalez, Brian Gunn, Leon & Margaret Harris, Jim Heinz, Christopher Johnson, Rich & Barb Kallan, Ardis & John Kelling, Jay Lauck, Fredric Madsen; Steve Magnusen, Rod Malinowski, Jim & Monica Millane, Bob & Mary Lou Parrish, Tom Pokrandt, John Rodahl, Dr. James A. Rydlewicz; David & Helga Sartori, Sam Solberg, Dan Tanty, Justin Tolomeo, Paul Zehren

Speaker Enhancement Fund

John Abbott, George Affeldt, Donna Agnelly, Jeryl Anthony, Mike Benton, Dale Bspalec, Jim Blake, Roman Blenski, Angela Bodven, Roger Bohn, Ellen DeMers, Tom Doyle, Lori Duginski, Paul Eilbes, David Gapinski, Julian Gonzalez, Douglas Haag, Tom Hesse, Jim Heinz, Eugene & Jane Jamrozy, Bernard Jene, Rich & Barb Kallan, Allan Kasprzak, Bruce Klem, Jay Lauck, Stephen Leopold, Rod Malinowsky, Kathy McNally, Jim & Monica Millane, Paul & Susan Miller, Herb Oechler, David Perez, John & Susan Petty, Laura Rinaldi, Brad & Kathy Schotanus, Diana Smurawa, Dan Tanty



In May 1949, John G. Graf was our featured speaker. John spoke to the group on “The Battle of Gettysburg and George Gordon Meade.”

Holman Hamilton spoke at the May 1952 meeting speaking on “Old Rough and Ready in the Civil War.”

May 1962 had Richard Current speaking to the assembled members on “What the Shooting Was All About.”

At the May 1972 meeting John A. Diehl spoke about “The Saga of the Sultana.”

“Music and More Music” was welcomed at the May 1982 meeting with the music provided by the 1st Brigade Band.

Lawrence Hewitt visited in May 1992 and talked about “Port Hudson: The Best Photographed Battlefield.”

“The Strategy of the Civil War” was the topic of Brian Holden Reid’s presentation at our May 2012 meeting.

Last year’s June meeting was cancelled due to the pandemic. Our speaker was to have been A. Wilson Greene; he will now be visiting us next month at our June 2021 meeting.

NEW WORKSHOP ON ZOOM

Command Decision: Lee vs. McClellan at Antietam
Tuesday, May 11 | 6:30pm | Instructor: Dennis Frye
\$10 (\$15 non-member price)

We often laugh when we think of George McClellan. We enjoy making McClellan the Union’s whipping boy. McClellan himself brings little sympathy to his case. Full of bravado, often arrogant, self-righteous and sometimes insubordinate, he is the general we like to dislike. We chuckle when he claimed, following the first invasion of the North, that it was the second time he had saved the Union. Yet, when Robert E. Lee was asked after the war who was the best U.S. general he faced, he responded with George McClellan. Discover whether McClellan was incompetent and ineffective as history has branded him, or if he indeed out-generaled General Lee.

New Civil War Museum Facebook Lectures:

Decatur, Illinois’ Five Civil War Generals

Friday, May 14 | Noon | Presenter: Brent Wielt

Five Civil War generals called Decatur, Illinois, their home. They varied widely in age, background, military experience, fame and their postwar lives, but all answered their nation’s call to arms. Learn the life stories of these remarkable men, and discover which of the five generals served in Congress, led the effort to build Lincoln’s Tomb, has a statue in Chicago, was mayor of Decatur, was born in Switzerland, has no gravestone, owned a German language newspaper.

Kenosha Civil War Museum

YOUTUBE LECTURES

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLvOc_ZB2rAyxtp87iXTvPVkT1uAvzJWRj

The 29th Wisconsin at Vicksburg

Gettysburg Stories: Monuments and Iconic Locations

The Great Camel Experiment

Illinois Regiments at Gettysburg: July 1863

Medical Innovations of the Civil War

The Other Civil War in Mexico

The Petersburg Regiment in the Civil War: A History of the 12th Virginia Infantry from John Brown’s Hanging to Appomattox, 1859-1865

Recovering the Voices of the Union’s Midwest Irish

The Vicksburg Campaign: Grant’s Masterpiece

The War That Made Beer Famous

Lincoln and the Presidential Campaign of 1860

Sir Butternut Comes to Madison

Among the Badgers: Rediscovering Sites Associated with Abraham and Mary Lincoln in Wisconsin

Such Anxious Hours: Wisconsin Women’s Voices from the Civil War

FACEBOOK LECTURES

<https://www.facebook.com/CWMKenosha/>

Seceding the Secession

Arming Ohio

Scotland and the Civil War

Company K, 1st Michigan Sharpshooters

The Wounding of Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

NEW FACEBOOK LECTURES IN APRIL

Company K, 1st Michigan Sharpshooters

Presenter: Eric Hemenway

Friday, April 9 | Noon

Lincolnics: Why Lincoln Still Rocks the Global

Conversation on Progress

Presenter: John Wasik

Wednesday, April 14 | 3 pm

For Dennis Frye’s workshop:

Register prior to 5 p.m. the day before the workshop.

A Zoom link will be provided via email the day of the workshop.

Coming in June:

Envisioning Emancipation: Black Americans and the End of Slavery

Presenter: Dr. Barbara Krauthamer

Friday, June 11 | Noon



Thank you, Jim Johnson, for these great pieces
for our *From the Field* features!

The Confusion Before Fort Sumter

Madison Wisconsin State Journal **April 11, 1861**
Wigfall Promoted!

The mustering of troops at Washington
The Virginia Convention!

The President will have no communication with Jeff Davis
in regard to Southern Affairs!

Something decisive may be looked for about the close of the
Week!

Southern Commissioners leave Washington To-Morrow

Further Rumors of an attack on Washington

Virginia dictating to the Union!

More Troops landed at Key West!

More steamers going south!

The Charleston Floating Battery Ready

Arizona Declares Itself out of the Union!

Charleston, April 10 – Wigfall, Chestnut, Means, McGowan and Boylan have received appointments in Gen. Beauregard's staff. A large number of members of the Convention, after adjournment, volunteered as privates.

Washington, April 10 – Of the members of the "National Guard," only half consented to be mustered. The reason for this as in other similar cases was that some of the men were apprehensive that they would be ordered to some point beyond the limits of the District of Columbia, while others were unwilling to take the oath which might compel them to fight against Maryland and Virginia, or other Southern States. It is said they were informed that the oath must be taken unconditionally, and the infraction of which exposed them to punishment under the rules and articles of war.

Captain Cunningham's company of 80 men were mustered into service to a man.

The accepted companies have already been placed on duty. A new military department formed of Maryland and District of Columbia is to be established with Col. C. F. Smith commandant, and Capt. Talbot as adjutant. Sherman's Artillery, from Fort Ridley, Minn., and two companies of cavalry are expected here to-morrow. The President had appointed Geo. M. Beal, of Md., naval storekeeper Washington, and Elisha Whittlesey to his former position as First Controller of the Treasury. W. G. Coffey, of Pittsburgh, has entered upon his duties as Assistant Attorney General. Archibald Roane, till recently Chief Clerk of that Department, has gone to Montgomery, and the place thus vacated is filled by Richard Bates, son of the Attorney General.

Richmond, April 10, Convention.

The extreme Unionists in the Convention say they are not to be moved by telegraph dispatches and intimate that they will stand by the government if the steamers are attacked. The Convention amended the 18th resolution and passed it; it is as follows: In the opinion of this convention the people of Virginia will regard any action of the federal government or of the confederate states tending to produce a collision of forces pending the efforts to effect an adjustment of existing difficulties as unwise and injurious to the interests of both, and they would regard any such action of the part of either as leaving them free to determine their own future policy. Convention adjourned.

New York, April 11 – A Times dispatch from Washington says, it is understood on good authority that the government and Maj. Anderson will demand explanations from Gov. Pickens of his refusal to allow Lieut. Talbot to return to Ft. Sumter. South Carolina will be held responsible, as it is not the intention of the President to treat with Jeff. Davis or the confederacy officially.

The Southern commissioners leave tomorrow morning for the south.

The Tribune dispatch says, 3,000 or 4,000 men are known to be patrolled at Baltimore ready for any desperate design which may promise reward. Measures have been taken to break up this low organization.

The Herald's Washington dispatch says that the President told a visitor today that decisive events need not be looked for before the last day of this week. He remarked "We will then see whether they dare to fire upon an unarmed vessel to provision our starving soldier." He expressed but little hope of the preservation of peace, but evinced a decided determination to relieve Maj. Anderson and to hold the other southern forts at all hazards.

Dispatches from Montgomery say that Jeff. Davis is considering the propriety of going to Charleston.

President Lincoln says he has positive knowledge that an attack in Washington is in contemplation. He had communicated his information to several Governors of Northern and Western States. It is understood that he desires them to call out the militia and hold them in readiness at a moment's warning. It is understood that Gov. Curtin will call out the Pennsylvania volunteers on the least sign of danger for the occupation of the Capital.

A leading Ohio Democratic dispatch to the President as follows: "We are for you to the death, if you will hold Fort Sumter. The necessity of holding is absolute."



From the Field - continued

Richmond 10 Convention adopted resolution that Virginia will await reasonable time to answer her propositions, but with the indispensable condition that a pacify policy be adopted to seceded States, and not attempt to subject them to Federal authority, nor reinforce forts, arsenals, or exact the payment of duties, and that all forts in seceded States ought to be evacuated.

Charleston 10 Convention adjourned subject to the call of the president. Convention passed resolutions approving of Twigg's behavior. One thousand troops sent to the fortifications to-day.

Norfolk 16 The Pawnee sailed yesterday south with sealed orders.

Last Night's Report Plan for Supplying Fort Sumter

Washington, April 10. A special dispatch to the Evening Post states that it is now certain that the government has fully determined to reinforce Maj. Anderson's command at all hazards. I learn upon competent authority that the plan adopted for the relief of Fort Sumter is substantially as follows: In case of necessity supplies are to be thrown into Sumter by means of a number of small boats which, presenting smaller and scattered marks for the cannon of the rebels, will perhaps save much bloodshed.

The government has chartered a number of small schooners and other crafts which have been filled with sand bags; that they form part of the Charleston expedition appears probable from the fact that their charter does not bind them to go further south than Savannah. These schooners filled with sand bags will sail on, leaving boats on the side toward Sumter. The boats will of course be entirely protected from the guns of the rebels by the wall like side and solid contents of the larger vessels.

This plan will be adopted only in the event that the Charlestonians fire upon the small steamers loaded with provisions that are first set in. In that case, of course, the fort will receive not only provisions, but men and the plan above detailed is an admirable one by which to draw any requisite force into the fort without any probability of serious loss.

New York, April 10. There is a report that Jefferson Davis has telegraphed to Charleston not to fire on any vessel entering the harbor for the purpose of supplying Fort Sumter with provisions.

The brig Perry will be ready for sea in a few days, the work on the Wabash and Savannah goes on finely.

Those best informed in the government policy give no credence to the reports that there will be a fight in the Charleston harbor and declare that Sumter will be evacuated.

Charleston April 9. The floating battery was towed into position between Sullivan's Island and Fort Sumter. The fleet is not yet in sight but is expected off Stone to night.

Vicksburg is the Key



Saturday, October 23 - Friday, October 29

Civil War Time Travelers is again designing a coach bus trip to Fort Donelson, Shiloh, Corinth, and Vicksburg, with a stop at Springfield, IL on the way home.

Information should be available soon at the MCWRT registration table. Also check out the Civil War Time Travelers on Facebook or email wegs1862@gmail.com.

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 send an email to 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 (\$30), attending an educational institution (\$20).

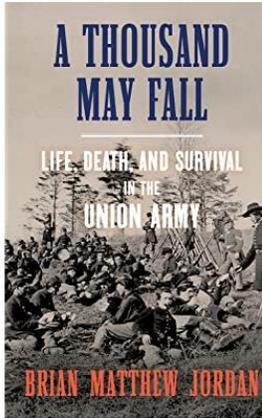
Contact Paul Eilbes for information: (262) 376-0568.

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.



Between the Covers A THOUSAND MAY FALL LIFE, DEATH, AND SURVIVAL IN THE UNION ARMY

by Brian Matthew Jordan



On a recent trip to the library I happened upon *A Thousand May Fall: Life, Death and Survival in the Union Army* by Brian Matthew Jordan. A quick peek at the jacket told me there was a Gettysburg connection as this book follows the journey of the 107th Ohio Infantry regiment. That was enough for me to take it home and give it a look. Well, I thought so highly of this work that I am writing this review! Rather than simply a “we marched here, we fought there” type of book, Jordan does an excellent job placing the men’s wartime experience within the greater context of the social, economic and political worlds in which they also lived. Jordan does a good job detailing the anti-war Copperhead movement that was strong back home in Ohio (think Clement L. Vallandigham) and how it affected the men in the front lines. The 107th was an ethnic German regiment assigned to the 11th Corps. We all know what happened to them at Chancellorsville and again at Gettysburg. Here we will see the men coming to grips with the abuse heaped upon them by both local and national press as they are made scapegoats for the defeat at Chancellorsville and for not holding back the Confederates on the first day at Gettysburg. This is something that would plague the men for the rest of their lives.

Now I have been reading about the Civil War for over fifty years and thought I knew my stuff but this book proved there is always something else to learn. I was well aware that after Gettysburg the 11th and 12th Corps were merged into the 20th Corps and sent west to join Sherman. What I didn’t know was that some regiments, like the 107th, did not make that journey. Instead the 107th along with a few others were sent to support the siege of Charleston and eventually to aid in an abortive invasion of Florida. Jordan does an excellent job detailing the struggles the men endured when they went back home to Ohio following their muster out. So many were plagued by wartime wounds, both physical and emotional. Others just could not adjust back to civilian life in any sort of meaningful way. The 107th Ohio has their Gettysburg monument on Blocher’s Knoll (now known as Barlow’s Knoll) where they suffered tremendous loss. That monument could just as easily have been placed on East Cemetery Hill where they helped turn back Harry Hays’ Louisiana Tigers on the night of July 2. I believe this book does much to keep their memory and sacrifice alive and is well worth a read.

respectfully submitted by Andrew Oren

PUBLISHERS AVOIDING CIVIL WAR BOOKS?

From: Theodore P. Savas
Savas Beatie Publications

University Presses: Dark Clouds Forming?

According to *Publisher’s Weekly*, university presses are facing some significant challenges – most notably, “a hot political climate” in which university administrators are beginning to view the financial support many presses receive “with more scrutiny than they have in the past.”

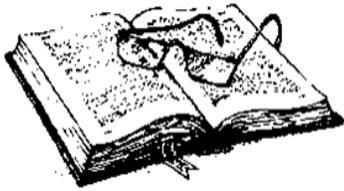
Other news claims that several university presses have asked their authors to forgo royalties in the future, and more than one claim their trustees “have initiated an independent review to propose direction for the press’s future amid significant financial challenges.”

According to Theodore P. Savas, director and founder of Savas Beatie press, “far too many publishers have decided what their customers SHOULD be reading, and are jamming it down their throats, rather than finding out what they want to read and own, and what they care about, and then providing those titles.”

“Many presses scoff at publishing micro-history or tactical studies,” explains Savas, or “God forbid more books on Gettysburg.” He scoffs at what he calls “an elitist mindset.” I was raised to believe the customer is always right. When did that change? He asks. “One assumes a book reader is smart enough to decide what he or she wants to read.” This is why, he continued, “many of the modern cultural studies sell a fraction of what strategic and tactical studies sell.” “Everything has its place,” he added, “and it is wonderful to have so much to read. But we are here, thriving and expanding because we love our customers, we treat them like family, and we offer good books at a fair price on what they want to read. For the most part, they are not getting them anywhere else.”

Ted concluded, “Many new authors are coming to us with canceled contracts or have pulled their manuscripts from other presses. We welcome you.”

Spread the word.



Between the Covers

BODIES IN BLUE

DISABILITY IN THE CIVIL WAR NORTH

by Sarah Handley-Cousins

This book is a relatively fast read of only 135 pages, but I think it offers the reader information on an area of the Civil War not often detailed and explored. The author has written a nuanced and meticulously researched history of disability and gender in the Civil War. The stories that she has uncovered in the archives and woven into her narrative are gripping – sometimes sad, sometimes cringe-worthy, and even sometimes funny.

Professor Handley-Cousins starts the book with the first chapter centered on a description of the Invalid Corps which later became the Veteran Reserve Corps. She shows how and why the Corps was created in part to help maintain Union troop strength numbers and provide a way to have those wounded, experienced soldiers heal up, rest, rehabilitate and then return to active service. Unfortunately, the soldier more often than not was not utilized with any forethought. While recovering many of the men were ordered to perform menial tasks and felt demeaned by such work. In reality, those that recovered with no ill effects were anxious to return to their own units instead of being kept in such service. Obviously those with amputations were for the most part unable to return to a combat unit. At the same time, keeping these men in service in the Invalid Corps did not generally help in improving their mental state. The author shows how soldiers in the Corps chafed at being unfit for active service, had to wear different uniforms and were labeled as disabled.

The author's discussion leads into the second chapter in which defining disability and who determines it and who had the power over those definitions results in some soldiers becoming what she called "walking sick." These were men who felt impaired but not enough for superiors to consider them disabled. These so-called walking sick actively sought designation as disabled because it might afford them benefits like medical care, rest or discharge. The author used court martial records as a means to highlight the tensions that existed between military masculinity, disability and power.

Chapter Three deals with the utility of the Army Medical Department utilizing soldier's bodies and their parts for the Army Medical Museum. The museum's curators argued that the parts were owned by the U.S. Government because the entire soldier belonged to the government by virtue of enlisting and by rights, the government could use various soldier's body parts for education of future military and civilian doctors training and preparation for the next conflict. The museum made visible to all the war wounds of the soldiers and provided visitors the opportunity to stare and perhaps ponder how the soldier's lives were impacted by such wounds.

The next two chapters deal with some specific soldiers' wounds and the fight they had to have to obtain pension relief through the Pension Bureau. Ms. Handley-Cousins uses as one example the wound of Joshua Chamberlain and how it radically changed his life after the war. Chamberlain's wounding at Petersburg, in which he was hit in the hips, forever left him in pain for his remaining years. Yet, because he managed to continue working and given the fact his wound was concealed made it very difficult for him to obtain relief in the form of pension. He was not alone in fighting with the Bureau to obtain a pension. Many soldiers whose injuries were something less than an amputation were too often turned away by the Bureau in many cases even with medical support of a claim. The author shows how initial sympathy for the wounded soldier gradually faded as the war moved into the rear-view mirror and the economy turned at various times. Supporting the wounded veteran fell from support. Politically times changed.

The final chapter deals with the mental illness issue that some soldiers and their families found themselves dealing with after the war. PTSD was not defined at the time and once institutionalized the soldier was left to handle the situation himself. This time in a soldier's life caused strain and, in many cases, tore family bonds. The author shows how in all the cases cited, the separation and trauma of the war did not end in 1865 with the war's end.

Professor Handley-Cousins, in this work, attempts to show how the bodies of disabled Union soldiers and veterans were sites of powerful cultural beliefs about duty, honor and sacrifice. "Yet these beliefs could be transformed to weapons to be used against men who failed to properly perform the role of wounded warrior".

This was an interesting book on a topic hardly given much press on the Civil War. While not the type of book for every student of the Civil War, I think it gives the reader insight into a problem that affects every soldier in every war. It highlights a cost of war that few give much thought to and how a disability can deeply affect the soldier, life after the war and the impact on family. I recommend this book to anyone who is interested in war's effect on the wounded warrior.

**MILWAUKEE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
2018-2019 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>Lincoln and the Common Soldier</i>
November 12, 2020	John R. Scales <i>The Battle and Campaign of General Nathan Bedford Forrest</i>
December 10, 2020	Steven K. Rogstad <i>Stories from Among the Badgers</i>
January 7, 2021	Christopher L. Kolakowski <i>Stones River</i>
February 11, 2021	Doug Dammann <i>Benjamin Franklin White</i>
March 11, 2021	Lawrence Desotell <i>Confederate Soldiers at Camp Randall</i>
April 8, 2021	Ron Kirkwood <i>Too Much for Human Endurance</i>
May 13, 2021	Kevin Hampton <i>Hans Heg: Our Adopted Country is in Danger</i>
June 10, 2021	A. Wilson Greene <i>We Have Done All That is Possible and Must Be Resigned: The First Petersburg Offensive</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
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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

**~ CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE NEWS EMAIL
NOTIFICATIONS ~**

Would you like to receive an email reminder before each meeting?
How about an email telling you about a special or upcoming Civil War
event in our area? If you are interested in receiving an email
reminder/notification please send your email address to Grant
Johnson at: grant.johnson@responsory.com

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

Milwaukee Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for May 13, 2021

Mail your reservations by Monday, May 10 to:
Paul Eilbes
1809 Washington Avenue
Cedarburg, WI 53012-9730

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

Enclosed is \$_____ (meal is \$30.00 per person) for _____ people for the
May 13, 2021 meeting of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee.
(Please make checks payable to the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.)

All But Forgotten Figures in the Great American Conflict: Sergeant Thomas H. “Boston” Corbett



The vastness and longevity of the American Civil War has created many heroes and folks who became famous because of it.

Arguably, many more folks are lost to the annals of history; their key contributions overlooked and lost in time.

Boston Corbett is one such individual.

He was born on January 29, 1832, in London, United Kingdom. When he was seven (7) years old his parents immigrated to New York City in 1840, moving often and settling in Troy, New York.

After working as a milliner (hatter) in Troy, Corbett returned to New York City. He later married, but his wife and child died in childbirth. Following their deaths, he moved to Boston. Corbett became despondent over the loss of his family and began drinking heavily. He could not hold down a job.

Methodist reformers persuaded him to swear off alcohol and join the Methodist Church. He joined the Church with typical enthusiasm, changing his name to Boston after being baptized, as it was the name of the city that he was saved in. He grew his hair long to imitate Christ.

Corbett became a street preacher, condemning sinners around the city. He would set up an impromptu pulpit on a street corner and offer his sermons to the passing parade. And when criticized or confronted, he put his brawling skills to use and took on all comers.

His rash tendencies exhibited themselves in strange ways. On July 16, 1858, while he was ministering, Corbett was ogled by a pair of prostitutes, and the lower half of his body responded invitingly. He went home, took a pair of scissors, snipped an incision under his scrotum, and removed his testicles. In order to avoid sexual temptation and remain holy, he castrated himself with a pair of scissors. He then ate a meal and went to a prayer meeting before seeking medical treatment.

Weeks after healing, the castrated hat maker moved to New York City and resumed his trade. He remained a zealot, often attending the lunchtime prayers of the YMCA’s Fulton Street meetings, where his enthusiastic behavior earned him the nickname “The Glory to God man.” He was a known local eccentric.

Corbett’s pious impulses were also what drew him into uniform. In 1861, amid the Confederate attack on Fort Sumter, Corbett enlisted in the Northern army. In April 1861, early in the American Civil War, Corbett enlisted as a private in Company I of the 12th Regiment New York Militia, telling the women at his church that when he came eye to eye with his gray-suited enemies, “I will say to them, ‘God have mercy on your souls’ – then pop them off.” Corbett was an ideal soldier. He carried his Bible with him and never missed an opportunity to scold his fellow soldiers – including superiors – for profanity or other sinful behaviors. He was court martialed for his conduct and expelled from military service. His actions were discharged. He rejoined in 1863.

Corbett would serve time in the Andersonville Prison in Georgia – the Confederate run prisoner of war camp. Nearly one third of the 45,000 Union soldiers sent to Andersonville died there. Corbett was fortunate. He survived. Barely.

Corbett was released in an exchange in November 1864 and was admitted to the Army hospital in Annapolis, Maryland where he was treated for scurvy, malnutrition and exposure. On his return to his company, he was promoted to sergeant. Corbett later testified for the prosecution in the trial of the commandant of Andersonville, Captain Henry Wirz.

Within a few months, the war was over. Lincoln was dead, his killer on the loose, and officials in Washington were apoplectic. During a church service several days into the dragnet, the head of the congregation asked Corbett to lead the flock in a blessing. “O Lord lay not innocent blood to our charge,” the 33-year-old sergeant prayed, “but bring the guilty speedily to punishment.”

Not long afterwards, volunteers from the 16th Cavalry regiment, prepared to go south into Virginia and hunt down John Wilkes Booth.

After Lincoln’s assassination, Lincoln’s Secretary of War Edwin Stanton sent 26 Union soldiers from the 16th New York Cavalry Regiment, led by Lieutenant Edward P. Doherty, in pursuit of John Wilkes Booth. Boston Corbett was in the regiment, which had orders to bring Booth and his accomplices back to Washington – preferably alive.

When the Union soldiers found Booth holed up in a barn, they flushed him out by setting it on fire. Boston Corbett shot the fleeing Booth in the neck. The shot paralyzed Booth and he died within two hours.

As Corbett explained it, "I aimed at his body. I did not want to kill him...I think he stopped to pick up something just as I fired. That may probably account for his receiving the ball in the head. When the assassin lay at my feet, a wounded man, and I saw the bullet had taken effect about an inch back of the ear, and I remembered that Mr. Lincoln was wounded about the same part of the head, I said: 'What a God we have...God avenged Abraham Lincoln.'"

He was taken to be court martialed (because Booth was not "taken alive"), but Edwin Stanton, Secretary of War would have none of it. He was popular and collected part of the reward for Booth due to his swift action.

Boston Corbett did not live happily ever after.

After his discharge from the army in August 1865, Corbett went back to work as a hatter in Boston and frequently attended the Bromfield Street Church. When the hatting business in Boston slowed, Corbett moved to Danbury, Connecticut to continue his work and also "preached in the country round about."

By 1870, he had relocated once again to Camden, New Jersey, where he was known as a "Methodist lay preacher". Corbett's inability to hold a job was attributed to his fanatical behavior; he was routinely fired after continuing his habit of stopping work to pray for his co-workers.

In an effort to earn money, Corbett capitalized on his role as "Lincoln's Avenger". He gave lectures about the shooting of Booth accompanied by illustrated lantern slides at Sunday schools, women's groups and tent meetings. Corbett was never asked back due to his increasingly erratic behavior and incoherent speeches.

R. B. Hoover, a man who later befriended Corbett, recalled that Corbett believed "men who were high in authority at Washington at the time of the assassination" were hounding him. Corbett said the men were angry because he had deprived them of prosecuting and executing John Wilkes Booth themselves. He also believed the same men had gotten him fired from various jobs. Corbett's paranoia was furthered by hate mail he received for killing Booth. He became fearful that "Booth's Avengers" or organizations like the "Secret Order" were planning to seek revenge upon him and took to always carrying a pistol with him. As his paranoia increased, Corbett began brandishing his pistol at friends or strangers he deemed suspicious.

Today, no one knows what happened to him. He said he planned to go to Mexico. Some theorize he perished in the Great Hinckley Fire in Minnesota in 1894. The search for his final history is clouded, however, because many imposters claimed to be "Lincoln's Avenger" after Boston Corbett disappeared.

Historians suspect Boston Corbett had mental problems to begin with, but they were probably exacerbated by his exposure to mercury while pursuing his trade as a hatter.

submitted by Grant A. Johnson

Sources:

- <https://www.newenglandhistoricalsociety.com/boston-corbett-mad-hatter-who-killed-john-wilkes-booth/>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boston_Corbett
- <https://www.americanheritage.com/boston-corbett>
- <https://www.washingtonian.com/2015/04/12/the-man-who-killed-john-wilkes-booth/>

Suggested Reading:

- The Madman and the Assassin: The Strange Life of Boston Corbett, the Man Who Killed John Wilkes Booth*
by: Scott Martelle
- The True Story of Boston Corbett: A Lincoln Assassination Mystery: Fifty Years After*
by: Francis Ellington Leupp

Wanderings



Next in the pipeline for *Wanderings* is a recap of **Campaign 2021: Waucousta Lutheran**.

Students from Dave Wege's classroom are traveling to Harpers Ferry, Antietam, and Gettysburg from April 25-30. The group's guides include John Michael Priest at Antietam and Garry Adelman at Gettysburg. On the final night at Gettysburg, final thoughts will be presented at the **Spangler Farm** by historian Carolynn Ivanoff. Her topic will be "Death and Dying at Gettysburg."

The trip home to Wisconsin will include a stop at the Flight 93 Memorial.

In the meantime, please keep this page in mind as you plan your own Civil War excursions!

WESTERNERS

You may laugh at western style and smile at western manners....

Since the opening of the present war we have watched with the closest eye and careful scrutiny the conduct of our Northern troops. Before the May battles began, the Western men were more than in advance of those in the East, and the events of the present month have faded the laurels for the East and brightened those of the West till the latter are truly entitled to the proud title of American Heroes. The battles fought lately in the West have been of terrific carnage. The victories Western men have successfully won have been at the bayonet point, after a display of courage and endurance like that of the ancient Romans who used the shield less for defense than to rest the heads of dying braves on. The troops under Grant – the divisions of Logan, Steele, Sherman, Quimby, McClelland, McArthur, and McPherson in the late battles before Vicksburg have covered themselves with glory enough for a lifetime, no matter what reverses in the Providence of the war may overtake them in the future. Where death held highest revel – where the bursting shell – screaming rifle ball and howling rifled shot dealt destruction the brave troops of Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, Illinois, Missouri, Indiana, Ohio and Kansas have with unflinching firmness and unflinching bravery beat back the pride of the rebel forces and made the rebel chivalry forces to acknowledge the superiority of Western pluck, muscle, bravery, and endurance.

When the full accounts of the battles of Jackson, Raymond, Edward's Depot, Big Black Bridge, Barker's Creek, Vicksburg and other fields are given, each one will be a chapter of bravery which will make Grant's army the envied of the war. All through this war, the entire record of Western troops is one of undaunted spirit. In defeat or victory they have never become demoralized, or given up in despair. Western men don't know the meaning of defeat. At Boonville, Carthage, Wilson's Creek, Springfield, Lexington, Frederickstown, New Madrid, Cape Girardeau [sic] – at Corinth, Fort Donelson, Columbus, Pea Ridge, Pittsburg Landing – at Boston Mountain, Fayetteville, Island No. 10, Bowling Green, Shiloh, and Murfreesboro our Western men have proved themselves. While the west has fought to win, with a life, pluck and energy to make us feel more than proud, the armies of the East have become demoralized, politicalized and manipulated that no one dare bet on them for fighting. The retreats, flights and foot races in and out of Washington have caused us to lose much of the respect once felt for the eastern troops. Had it not been for the Western troops, the forces on the Potomac, Rappahannock and about Washington would have been a mob long since. There is contagion in example. The pride of Western men has kept them from following the lead of Eastern army styles – we hope the pride of Eastern men will enable them to emulate the glorious example of Western soldiers from this time on. Hair-oiled Bostonians, black-coated New Yorkers and white-necktied Philadelphians may turn up their noses at the brusqueness of the Hoosiers, Badgers, Pukes, Buckeyes, &c. of the western prairies – they may laugh at western style and smile at prairie manners, but when it comes to making a country, to whipping rebels, or otherwise proving title to the name of MAN, the "uncouth" sons of the west take front seats.

From the La Crosse Democrat

Re-printed in the *Prairie du Chien* [Wisconsin] *Courier*, Thursday, June 17, 1864

submitted by **Lance Herdegen**

endorsed by **Dan Joyce**

Director of The Civil War Museum (ret)

Director Emeritus and Curator of Archaeology (Hon)

Kenosha Museum Campus





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!

Several years ago, Rick Gross attended a Round Table meeting where our speaker, Thomas Clemens, presented on his research and editing of Ezra A. Carman's manuscript about the Battle of Antietam. After conversing with the speaker, Rick received from Tom copies of four handwritten letters that Carman had received from Joseph R. C. Ward, the "unofficial historian" of the 106th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, 2nd Brigade, 2nd Division, 2nd Corps, Army of the Potomac. The letters detail the actions of the 106th Pennsylvania and the Philadelphia Brigade during the Battle of Antietam and the impetuous charge of Sedgwick's Division into the West Woods led by General Sumner. Rick Gross, great great grandson of J.W. Rathbone of Co. D, 106th Pennsylvania Infantry, generously shares these letters with us.

Antietam Letter From R. C. Ward to Ezra Carman

Here is the second of the four letters.

106th Pennsylvania, 2nd Brigade, 2nd Division, 2nd Corps Army of the Potomac

DR. JOS. R. C. WARD
COR. AUDUBON AND RUNNYMEDE AVS.
WAYNE, PA.

February 15, 1905

E. A. Carman Esq
Room 524 War Department
Washington DC

Dear Sir

I am in receipt of your letter of Dec. 19, 1904 also set of maps of the Battlefield of Antietam. I have carefully gone over the maps and am now ready to reply to your letter asking me to discover if any error exists in the positions of our Regiment and Brigade and submit this report on same. Maps one to five I can report nothing, except correct as far as I know. Map #6 shows first movement of our Division Sedgwick and is correct. Map #7 shows the Division moving in column of Brigades by the flank. This is wrong. As soon as the whole Division had crossed the Antietam Creek it was formed in line of battle, Brigade front, thus. 1st Brig. L _____ R 1st line Gorman 3rd Brig. _____

_____ 2nd " Dana 2nd Brig. _____ 3rd " Howard
72 Pa 69 Pa 106 Pa 71 Pa

Genl. Howard rode immediately behind our regiment the 106th Pa. and we still remember his words "Steady men, don't hurry." "Get over this fence carefully." "Be careful of your guns." "Keep the muzzles well up." etc. etc.

***** would suggest that this movement the map shows of by Division moving by the flank. Map 7 be left alone as showing the first movement of the Division, but that further to the front, say about four hundred yards the Division be again placed upon this map showing the above formation which was made before reached the "East Wood" through which we passed in formation thence over the Cornfield crossing the Hagerstown Pike and the open field into the "West Wood". Gorman's whole Brigade line passed through that wood until uncovering the enemy in another Cornfield at the bottom of the slope as the wood sloped down to that cornfield. Dana's Brigade followed close behind Gorman also into that wood the mistake being that Sedgwick formed his lines too close together only 30 paces between Brigades.

I have a very beautiful description of that advance of Sedgwick's Division by Mr. FH Schell then War Correspondent of Frank Leslies. I think ***** at the time from a position he had taken in the East Wood where he had a fair view. A copy is herewith enclosed.

Map #8 is all wrong as far as it applies to our Brigade and Division.

Gorman's Brigade should be in position thus ---- ---- ---- ---- at the Western edge of the West Wood with Dana's Brigade in same formation immediately behind in about the Center of the wood and Howard's Brigade just inside the wood formed thus ___72___ ___69___ ___106___ ___71___ and not as shown in the map with the 42nd N.Y. on the left of the 106th Pa. thus ___42NY___ ___106Pa___ ___71Pa___ or the 72nd Pa 100 yards to the rear and divided with the 69 Pa between their

right and left wings. The Brigade was intact and not broken up. The 42nd NY was part of Dana's Brigade and was with that Brigade until Gorman's men broke and came back through them and carried with them nearly the whole of Dana's Brigade leaving our Brigade alone in that wood. General Howard having made the men lie down and as soon as our front was uncovered by the retreating men of the 1st and 3rd Brigades opened fire and checked the advance of the enemy and remained there some 20 minutes or half an hour until General Sumner rode in front of us and waved us back with his hat. Our men thought he meant for us to charge and rose up and answered with a cheer and began fixing their bayonets when they caught his words "Back boys, for God sake move back, you are in a bad fix". Almost at the same time the enemy appeared in large numbers on our left flank and had doubled up the 72nd Pa our left regiment. The Brigade fell back in good order until clearing the wood and into that open field when a withering fire of the enemy's infantry and the concentrated fire from their batteries some just run into position on our flank broke up our whole line and each regiment shifted for itself – therefore. Map #9 should show the 106th Pa at a fence that ran at right angle to the Hagerstown Pike on the west side, a short distance to the right of the West Wood. It **** here near what this map shows "Patrick" at 10 a.m. As immediately after leaving the wood instead of retreating backwards across the Hagerstown Pike we moved off to the right.

Our Colonel (T.G. Morehead) had his horse shot from under him and was extricated by three of his men who rushed to his assistance. He followed the regiment for a short distance, when he found he had lost his sword, a handsome one that had been presented to him by his Regiment and he returned alone to where his horse lay and got it. By that time the enemy were almost up to the same spot and called upon him to surrender, but he rushed back to where his regiment formed at the fence above mentioned on which the Color Sargent (Sloanaker) had planted the colors and directed their fire and assisted by the batteries in our rear, checked the advance of the enemy in that direction. When we suppose thought they had stuck our second line did not press forward and the firing ceased. That was the last firing done at that point and there were none of our troops in our front so this map should have our regiment where it shows "Patrick". If Patrick was there it was after we had left and moved back and reported to General Meade who assigned us to a position to the left about 500 yards where.

Map #10 shows the 69th Pa and where we remained until near dark when we reformed the Brigade. To substantiate facts before writing you I attended the meeting of our Brigade Association on Thursday evening last taking the maps with me, addressed the meeting. Stating that my object was to have the matter right so I might reply to your letter. Each one of the regiments was there represented and every one agreed with me in the statements herein contained. Especially the separating of the Brigade and the 72nd being ***** with the 69th Pa ***** ***** as shown in Map #8. I am arranging a meeting of the 106th Pa Assn. to be called soon when I will go over this matter again and read this report and if I get any of further data from therein will at once advise you in the meantime I would be pleased when you go over this matter carefully and advise me if possible, of your authority for the formations and positions shown in the maps wherein they conflict with these above given so that steps may be taken to have them agree.

Awaiting your reply.

I am sir
Very respectfully yours

Great Lakes Civil War Forum: Immigrants and the Civil War

Saturday, September 11, 9am – 4pm

By the close of the Civil War, nearly 25% of the Federal Army was composed of foreign-born soldiers who immigrated to the United States. The 2021 Great Lakes Civil War Forum presents four programs that examine the experiences of some of these groups in the Union Army as well as Abraham Lincoln's official policies towards immigrants.

Please see the Kenosha Civil War Museum website for more details including costs and speakers.

**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
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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.

