

GENERAL ORDERS



The Newsletter of the

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



MARCH 13, 2014

CHARLES “CHUCK” TEAGUE

How Lincoln Came to Be “under God” at Gettysburg

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war: We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate — we can not consecrate — we can not hallow — this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us — that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion — that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain — that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom — and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth. — Bliss copy of the Gettysburg Address

At our March Round Table meeting, our speaker, Charles “Chuck” Teague, will look at the Gettysburg Address and examine how God entered into Lincoln’s speech.

Abraham Lincoln grappled for days to come up with the few appropriate remarks he might speak at Gettysburg for the dedication of the Soldiers National Cemetery. On formal occasions he always read verbatim from a prepared text. But inspired on this occasion, he extemporaneously added that we are a nation “under God” and dependent upon Him. According to Mary Todd Lincoln, two things he experienced transformed his view of faith: the death of their son Willie in 1862 and Gettysburg the following year. Lincoln’s attitude toward religion had changed strikingly, for earlier he could not countenance the teachings of the Bible and balked at even referencing God in public speeches. But in the aftermath of Gettysburg he often spoke of his need for divine guidance. His subsequent Second Inaugural Address reads like a sermon. Though Lincoln has been the focus of many studies, the astounding story of his religious transformation is unfamiliar to most.

Chuck Teague has been a seasonal NPS Interpretive Ranger at Gettysburg since 2003. He holds a Bachelors degree from Gettysburg College, a Master of Divinity from Southern Seminary in Louisville and a Doctor of Law with Specialization in International Affairs from Cornell. He is a retired LTC, USAF. Chuck is the former president of the Gettysburg Civil War Round Table as well as a board member and past historian of the Lincoln Fellowship. He is a speaker for the Civil War Trust, Gettysburg Foundation, Civil War Institute, and many organizations.

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March 2014

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MARCH MEETING AT A GLANCE

Charles “Chuck” Teague,
“How Lincoln Came to Be ‘under God’
at Gettysburg,”
March 13, 2014

The Wisconsin Club
9th & Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee
(Jackets required for dining room)

5:30 p.m. – Staff Meeting
(Open to all members)

6:15 p.m. – Registration & Social Hour

6:45 p.m. – Dinner

7:30 p.m. – Program

Dinner – **\$25 by reservation.**

Deadline: Monday, March 10, 2014

See page 11.

Speaker and topic are subject to change.
In case of inclement weather, listen to
WTMJ or WISN radio.

www.milwaukeeecwrt.org

CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE NEWS

CWRT ANNUAL FUND

The following members have shown their generous commitment by making an investment in the CWRT Annual Fund. This list reflects donations received from July 1, 2013, through February 4, 2014.

Major Contributor (\$500 and above)

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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 logo, along with your name or initials.

| ITEM | COST |
|---|---------|
| Hooded Sweatshirt in Northern Blue..... | \$35.00 |
| Baseball Cap | \$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 or see him in person at the Monthly Meeting at Book Raffle.

2014 CWRT SPEAKER SCHEDULE

April 10, 2014

Scott Bowden, "Last Chance for Victory: Robert E. Lee and the Gettysburg Campaign"

May 8, 2014

David Bastian, "Grant's Canal"

June 12, 2014

Kenneth W. Noe, "The War in Appalachia"

CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE NEWS

WHEN YOU CANCEL YOUR RESERVATION

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

YOUR ASSISTANCE IS APPRECIATED

Please remember that our dinner counts are due at least forty-eight hours before the dinner meeting. We are always happy to see you and welcome you to the meeting and *will make every attempt to accommodate everyone who comes*, but we cannot always guarantee a dinner that evening if you have not called, emailed or sent in your reservation. If you do find yourself suddenly free the evening of our presentation, you are always welcome to come and hear the speaker after dinner, at no charge. Thank you for your understanding.



John Busch
Bill and Sue Graham
Fran and Steve Korthof

ANNOUNCEMENTS • EVENTS • MEETINGS

March 10, 2014

Manitowoc Civil War Round Table, 7 p.m.
Manitowoc Historical Society Heritage Center
Speaker: Don Shawhan

March 11, 2014

Waukesha Civil War Round Table, 7 p.m.
Citizens Bank of Mukwonago, Waukesha Branch
Speaker: Alan Block on the U.S. Patent Office

March 18, 2014

Prairieville Irregulars Civil War Round Table, 7 p.m.
2nd Floor Boardroom, Campus Center Building,
Carroll University
Speaker: Dave Wege, "When Johnny Came Marching Home"

March 27, 2014

Wisconsin Veterans Museum, Madison, 7 p.m.
Speaker: Dr. Alison Efford, "Wisconsin Germans, the Question of Slavery, and the Civil War"

March 29, 2014

National Civil War Show and Sale
Wheaton Fair Grounds, Wheaton, IL
chicagocivilwarshow.com

KENOSHA CIVIL WAR MUSEUM

SECOND FRIDAY LUNCHBOX SERIES

Wisconsin's Black Civil War Company

March 14, 2014, Noon

Jeff Kannel takes a look at Company F of the 29th U.S. Colored Troops – maybe the least known of Wisconsin's Civil War soldiers. With little training, they served near Petersburg, Virginia, participating in the siege and the Battle of the Crater. After the war ended, they remained on active duty and served along the Mexican border. Hear and see the stories of these unknown Badgers and why their service was important to them and to Wisconsin's history.

Sponsored by the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee and Iron Brigade Association

GREAT LAKES HOMEFRONT SEMINAR

Saturday, March 15, 2014

\$60/\$50 Friends of the Museum (includes lunch)

4TH ANNUAL CIVIL WAR EXPO

Saturday, March 29, 2014, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Living history and heritage groups from around the Midwest will have informational tables set up throughout the Museum to introduce visitors to their programs and interpretations.

General Impressions of the Civil War, 1 p.m.

Robert Girardi will examine what Civil War generals wrote, said and thought about each other.

REVIEW: SEEING THE ELEPHANT

The Kenosha Civil War Museum's new, 10-minute high-tech digital movie opened on January 11, 2014, making the Museum one of just a handful of venues nationwide using 360° movie technology. I was able to see this movie on January 23 along with our newsletter designer, Patricia Lynch. We were both moved to tears as you will be when you visit the museum and see this wonderful presentation. And you will come back again because it is truly impossible to take it all in at one viewing. Over 200 people, in a variety of roles, were involved in the making of this production gathering together for five days at Old World Wisconsin. The setting is perfect — the use of the buildings and terrain excellent in creating this film. Well-known broadcast journalist Bill Kurtis is the perfect voice for the narration. We have this wonderful jewel of a museum right in our proverbial backyard, and we now have this beautifully done movie to enhance your visit. Go. Absorb. Then take the time to thank the museum for their vision and for making your museum experience that much richer.

The film shows on: Sundays at 1, 2, 3 and 4 p.m.; all other days at 11 a.m., noon, 1, 2, 3 and 4 p.m. General admission to the museum's *The Fiery Trial Gallery* is required to see the movie.

Submitted by Donna Agnelly

INAUGURAL GREAT LAKES HOMEFRONT SEMINAR
Exploring the Civilian Experience During the Civil War Era

Saturday, March 15, 2014

Seminar #0420776107
Registration 8:30am-9:30am
Last lecture ends at 3:30pm
Cost: \$60 (\$50 FOM) includes Lunch

"We're All In It Together: The War at Home and the Creation of Community in Wisconsin"
Presented by Dr. Kerry Trask

"The Most Christian Nation in the World: Religion in American Culture on the Eve of War"
Presented by Father Robert Miller

"Maryland Civilians in the Antietam Campaign"
Presented by Kathleen Ernst

"Why the Northern Home Front Matters"
Presented by Brett Barker

Preregistration by March 1, 2014 is strongly recommended

FROM THE MILWAUKEE HOMEFRONT

Members and friends of the West Side Soldiers Aid Society have been working with the Kenosha Civil War Museum to create a Soldiers' Aid Fair during the annual Salute to Freedom on Saturday, June 21, 2014. Activities will be drawn from fairs held throughout the midwest with special attention to the fairs held in Chicago in 1863 and 1864 and to the Soldiers' Home Fair staged in Milwaukee, June-July 1865. The fair at the Salute to Freedom will include Jacob's Well (a lemonade stand), Tangle's Feature (Old Abe and other curiosities), a Colonial Kitchen (doughnuts and coffee), a quilt exhibit by MCWRT member Donna Agnelly, Sibyl's Cave (fanciful fortune telling), the Wool Department with new MCWRT member Fran Korthof, a fish pond, and a collection for several modern-day soldier and veteran relief organizations.

AND SO IT CONTINUES: March 1864...

Marking the Civil War Sesquicentennial

Spring was coming to the winter camps of both armies where the men were becoming restive after a long winter of inactivity. Grant, in Chattanooga, was preparing for his offensive against Joe Johnston. In Louisiana, Banks was organizing the Red River expedition with Admiral Porter. In the North, elections were on people's minds while the grim perseverance of the Southern people appeared to show signs of weakening.

March 1, 1864 • The Federal cavalry raid on Richmond fails. Judson Kilpatrick approached Richmond with the larger Union force but decided against assault finding the outer fortifications too well manned. Colonel Ulric Dahlgren, riding strapped to the saddle, approached from the west and was within two miles of Richmond by nightfall. Facing stiff resistance from Custis Lee and recognizing that Kilpatrick had failed, Dahlgren withdrew and attempted to escape with his men.

President Lincoln, as expected, nominates Grant for the newly created rank of lieutenant general.

March 2, 1864 • The U.S. Senate confirms the nomination of Grant as lieutenant general.

Fitzhugh Lee's cavalry pursues Kilpatrick's cavalymen through the night and into the morning. Kilpatrick is headed to a junction with General Benjamin Butler's men on the peninsula. Colonel Dahlgren with his detachment move north and east of Richmond. Fitzhugh Lee's cavalry division under Captain Fox and Lieutenant Pollard get ahead of Dahlgren and prepare an ambush. During the night Dahlgren falls into the trap and is killed. Over 100 of Dahlgren's men are captured. The threat to Richmond is over in a dramatic and conclusive manner.

March 3, 1864 • Major General Grant is ordered to Washington to receive his commission as lieutenant general. The Federal Treasury is authorized by Congress to issue \$200,000,000 in ten-year bonds.

March 4, 1864 • The bulk of Sherman's forces return to Vicksburg after their expedition to Meridian, Mississippi, which they destroyed.

Admiral John A. Dahlgren calls on President Lincoln in Washington to try and learn the fate of his son, Ulric Dahlgren, whose death was not yet known in Washington.

The U.S. Senate confirmed Andrew Johnson as Federal Military Governor of Tennessee. In New Orleans, the pro-Union government of Governor Michael Hahn took office.

Longstreet calls for reinforcements from Lee's army to be sent as quickly as possible indicating that he is facing an overwhelming force.

March 5, 1864 • The Confederate government ordered every vessel, inbound and outbound, to give one half of its freight capacity to government shipments. The move was an effort to cut down on private profit from blockade-running and to help bring in badly needed supplies and weapons to the government.

Major General John C. Breckinridge of Kentucky, former Vice President of the United States, assumed command of the Confederate Department of Western Virginia.

Commander John Taylor Wood, CSN, leads another daring raid against the Federals at Cherrystone Point, Virginia.

March 6, 1864 • In a failed attempt, Confederate torpedo boat, the "David" attacks the *U.S.S. Memphis* in the North Edisto River near Charleston. The two vessels collide, damaging the "David" but it is able to retreat and make way under heavy fire.

Sherman sends Brigadier General Andrew J. Smith with a portion of Sherman's army going on the Red River expedition. Sherman directs Smith to "...proceed to the mouth of the Red River and confer with Admiral Porter; confer with him and in all the expedition rely on him implicitly, as he is the approved friend of the Army of the Tennessee, and has been associated with us from the beginning..."

March 7, 1864 • President Davis presses Longstreet to take the initiative writing to him at Greeneville in east Tennessee: "It is needless to point out to you the value of a successful movement into Tennessee and Kentucky, and the importance — I may say necessity — of our taking the initiative." Longstreet had already asked for reinforcements, and would not move without them.

President Lincoln wrote to Representative John A.J. Creswell of Maryland that he preferred gradual emancipation in Maryland but would not object to immediate emancipation.

March 8, 1864 • Grant arrives in Washington. Lincoln, hearing that Grant had arrived, requests his presence at the White House. Grant arrives in his battered uniform and is ushered into a hall filled with people who were there for the President's weekly reception. Lincoln asks Grant to stand on a sofa in the East Room so everyone could see him. Embarrassed, Grant complies as the crowd cheers.

March 9, 1864 • Grant is officially handed his commission by President Lincoln in the presence of the Cabinet. Grant and Lincoln hold a private conference before Grant leaves for the Army of the Potomac and a visit with General Meade.

Admiral Porter, eager to get the Red River expedition assembled, orders that a close watch be kept for the arrival of transports carrying Sherman's troops downriver.

March 10, 1864 • Grant meets with General Meade. The generals discuss the position, condition and future of the Army of the Potomac and work out their relationship since Grant will be in the field with Meade during the coming campaign.

Major General Franz Sigel supersedes Brigadier General Benjamin F. Kelley in command of the Federal Department of West Virginia.

March 11, 1864 • Grant returns to Washington from Virginia. In the evening he leaves for Nashville to confer with Sherman, now to be commander in the West.

March 12, 1864 • Major General Halleck, at his own request, was relieved as General-in-Chief and named Chief of Staff to Grant. Sherman is named as Grant's replacement in the west while Major General J.B. McPherson replaces Sherman as commander of the Department and Army of the Tennessee.

On The Mississippi, General Banks, his army, and the gunboats start up the Red River into the heart of Louisiana as the Red River Campaign gets underway.

March 13, 1864 • Admiral Porter's gunboats cover the landing

of the Union army troops at Simmesport early in the morning. The troops then advance, driving the Confederates back towards Fort De Russy.

March 14, 1864 • A combined Federal naval bombardment and land assault on Fort De Russy on the Red River succeeds — the fort surrenders. Porter would write of the action:

The surrender of the forts at Point De Russy is of much more importance than I at first supposed. The rebels had depended on that Point to stop any advance of army or navy into rebeldom. Large quantities of ammunition, best engineers and best troops were sent there...

March 15, 1864 • Leaving ironclads *U.S.S. Benton* and *Essex* at Fort De Russy, Admiral Porter convoys the main body of troops upriver towards Alexandria, Louisiana.

March 16, 1864 • Nine Union ships are at Alexandria. A landing party commanded by Lt. Commander Selfridge occupy the town without resistance. Admiral Porter comes up during the day and the Union force now awaits the arrival of Major General Bank's army working its way to Alexandria through mud and heavy rain.

Nathan Bedford Forrest begins an expedition into Tennessee and Kentucky that would last until mid-April. In Tennessee, Confederates raid the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad near Tullahoma. Major General Sterling Price takes command of the Confederate District of Arkansas succeeding Lieutenant General Theophilus Holmes.

March 17, 1864 • Grant, now in Nashville conferring with Sherman, formally assumes command of the armies of the United States and announces that "Headquarters will be in the field, and, until further orders, will be with the Army of the Potomac." Grant and Sherman board a train for Cincinnati.

Lincoln, pushing for emancipation in Maryland, wrote Representative Creswell, "It needs not to be a secret, that I wish success to emancipation in Maryland. It would aid much to end the rebellion."

March 18, 1864 • In Cincinnati, Grant and Sherman huddle in a hotel room, plotting the destruction of the Confederacy. Sherman officially assumes command of the armies of the west.

Arkansas voters ratify a pro-Union constitution which ended slavery in that state.

At the close of the Sanitary Fair in Washington, President Lincoln's closing would include praise for the contribution of women to the war saying, "If all that has been said by orators and poets since the creation of the world in praise of woman applied to the women of America, it would not do them justice for their conduct during this war."

March 19, 1864 • The Georgia legislature resolved that the Confederate government should, after each victory, make an offer of peace to the North based on independence of the South and self-determination by the border states.

March 20, 1864 • Fighting occurs at Bayou Rapides on the Red River of Louisiana.

March 21, 1864 • President Lincoln approves an act of the Federal Congress enabling the territories of Nevada and Colorado to become states.

March 22, 1864 • Federal Major General Lewis Wallace supersedes Brigadier General Henry H. Lockwood as commander of the Middle Department which included Maryland and occupied Virginia; headquarters would be in Baltimore.

Heavy snow falls in Richmond. Pvt. Jackman of "The Orphan Brigade" would write:

Last night the snow fell three or four inches deep and continued snowing, not very hard though, through the day. We have seen more fun today than at any time during the war. Early in the morning the 4th Ky, whose camp is near Tyler's brigade of our division, got up a snow fight with Tyler's men, and all the other regiments in our brigade went to reinforce the camp...

March 23, 1864 • From Little Rock, Arkansas, Union troops under the command of Major General Frederick Steele moved south to join Banks' expedition coming up the Red River. Steele was to occupy the Confederate troops and keep them away from Banks' campaign.

Grant leaves Cincinnati and returns to Washington; Sherman heads for Nashville to coordinate his movement into Georgia. Major General G.K. Warren supersedes Major General George Sykes as commander of the Fifth Corps of the Army of the Potomac.

March 24, 1864 • Nathan Bedford Forrest's forces, now in west Tennessee, capture Union City. High winds and heavy seas prevent a Union expedition sailing from Beaufort, South Carolina, from capturing and destroying two Confederate blockade runners.

Admiral Porter reports that since entering the Red River his boats had captured over 2000 bales of cotton and quantities of molasses and wool, all of which had been sent downriver or destroyed. Lincoln and his new General-in-Chief confer at the White House.

March 25, 1864 • Federal outposts at Paducah, Kentucky, are attacked by Forrest's cavalry. Although the cavalry would occupy part of Paducah, two attacks by Forrest's men at Fort Anderson were repulsed. The Confederates would withdraw in the morning. Although the raid failed, it had alarmed the Ohio Valley.

At Alexandria, Louisiana, Major General Banks arrived with the main force for the Red River expedition having been delayed by a week due to heavy rains.

March 26, 1864 • Grant is now in Virginia establishing his permanent headquarters with the Army of the Potomac at Culpeper Court House. Major General James B. McPherson assumed command of the Army of the Tennessee under Sherman.

March 28, 1864 • In Charleston, Illinois, a group of about 100 Copperheads attack Union soldiers on leave from their units and visiting the town. By the time the fighting was ended by troop reinforcements, five men were dead and more than twenty wounded.

March 29, 1864 • The rapids at Alexandria gave Admiral Porter problems in getting all of his gunboats and other vessels up for the advance on Shreveport. All the army transports got safely above the rapids, but several of the gunboats had to remain below. The hospital ship *Woodford* was so battered that she sank. Low water in the river was an issue and would become a bigger problem later on.

March 30 – 31, 1864 • The month would end with fighting at Greenton, Missouri, the capture of a Confederate outpost at Cherry Grove, Virginia, and Federal reconnaissance from Look-out Valley, Tennessee.

Skirmishing at Natchitoches, Louisiana, marked the Red River Campaign.

And so it continues.



FROM THE FIELD
March 1864

Algiers, Louisiana
March 3rd 1864

Friends at Home:

Still at the same old place, but I think we shall leave tomorrow. We have got orders to go out on the same march that we went before, out through the Teche country again. There is a very large Expedition going. I think very likely we shall go through Texas by land this time. It will be a long march if we do. I received your letters of February 14th. I am very glad you write often. I get all of your letters and I shall answer all of them you may be sure. This afternoon we are to be reviewed by Major General McClelland and General McGinnis. I wish you could see. General Banks is going to take the field in this Expedition. He is a splendid looking officer but is not liked very well by the western troops. I am glad that Will and Addie are having such nice times at dances. It rather surprised me when you told me they had a dance at Mr. Thomson's but when we get back I guess there will be gay times, if there is any such thing. Has father sold his land yet? When I first got your last letter I could not think where it came from for it was post marked at Milwaukee and I did not know the writing but soon found out. I should have got my picture taken and sent home before I left this place if I had had the money, but we have not been paid off in five months and there is hardly a man in the Reg. that has got a cent but we are just as well off without it.

I will give you the names of all the boats that we have been on since we have been in the service. The first two "New Uncle Sam" and from Cairo to Helena, "Tecumseh" up White River, "Luel-la" crossed the river, "Sunshine" from Helena to Fryars Point, "Emma" came back to Helena. On the second White River trip the regiment was on three boats, the "Evensville", "Moderator", and "Brazil", on the "Chessman" down the Yazoo Pass, came back on the "Hamilton Belle" from Helena to Milikens Bend, on the "Lavina Logan", on the "Forest Queen" Perkins Landing to Grand Gulf, crossed the river on the gunboat "Lafayette", from Vicksburg to Natchez on the Marine boat "Diana", from Natchez to New Orleans on the "Iatan" from Carrollton to Algiers on the "North Western". Crossed Burwick Bay on the "JW Thomas," came back on the propeller "El Cid". Isn't that quite a list of boats. I guess this is all I will have time to write this time. I will try and write a longer letter next time.

Yours forever,
Lloyd Vinton Nanscaswen
(Co. I, 29th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry)

I send home my warrant and that old furlough that I got in Camp Randall for you to keep for I should like to see how long I can keep them.

Alexandria, Louisiana
March 27, 1864

Friends at Home:

It is now over two weeks since I have written Home but it was not because I did not want to but because I could not, for I have been on the march. We started from Burwick City the 13th and marched 190 miles in twelve days as we passed through Centerville, Franklin, Iberia, Vermillion, Opelousas, Washington and Cheneyville, so if you look on the map you can see our route. If you can get one of the army maps of Louisiana and Texas you can see just where we go. We will start tomorrow for Shreveport, one hundred and fifty miles farther up the river, and most of the officers think we will go to Galveston from there, which is over four hundred miles farther, which will be quite a long march, don't you think? I tell you I wish you could have been with us on this march. We passed over four hundred sugar houses with from 500 to 7000 hogs head of sugar and about as many barrels of molasses. Nearly all the sugar was very white. We passed one plantation which had twenty five cisterns full of rum made from the poor molasses. All the buildings are the very best kind and you can't think what splendid sets of Evergreens in every shape and form. They make them grow in the shape of chairs, summer houses, center tables, fences and everything you can think of. We generally pick out one of the nice places to camp in. We camped in the Secesh governors place the other night and when we left in the morning we burnt his house. Very polite, wasn't it? After the 13th Corps has been through a place it does not look like anything extriary. I guess some of the secesh will find out that war is nothing so nice after all. A great many of the soldiers are deserting and joining our army. We find a great many union men that have been living in the woods to keep out of the way of the Rebs until ours come up and now they are taking guns and going with us. You can't think how those rebels use the negroes. They are trying to get them all to Texas before we can get there. They tie them together with chains and drive them with dogs and if they won't go they either shoot, hang or burn them. There was one here this morning that had been nearly burnt to death. He was covered all over with scars and whenever they catch one of the negro soldiers they kill him. They have all manner of stories about us saying that we were coming to kill them but the negroes know better.

When we came to this place we found the 16th and 17th Army Corps here. They came up the river when we came across. There is a very large army here now. There is 15,000 cavalry ahead of us. What would you think if you could see a string of men fifteen miles long, four ranks deep and our wagon train is over ten miles long. We will be apt to do something, won't we, if we try!

You say that Will is going to learn to telegraph. I would have him by all means. If you want money for him, take mine for it will be the best use it can be put to. Then when he gets plenty of money he can pay it back if he wants to and if he don't, he needn't. I

guess I will be able to do a little something when I get back. You ask about the small pox. I have not heard anything of it here for there has not been any around us.

You ask what the next soldiers vote will be for President. I think that nearly every man will vote for Lincoln for certain.

You must excuse this writing for I am in a great hurry and writing out in the wind. It is very hard to hold my paper.

Give my love to all that inquire.

Yours forever,
Lloyd Vinton Nanscawen
(Co. I, 29th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry)

La Crosse Democratic Journal
Dec. 30, 1863

ANOTHER FEMALE SOLDIER

Lizzie Compton, a bright young lady of sixteen arrived in the city yesterday from Barnstown where she had been encamped with her regiment, the 11th Kentucky cavalry, of which she had been a member for several months past. Her history during the past eighteen months is strange and romantic. She has served in seven different regiments and participated in several battles. At Fredericksburg she was seriously wounded but recovered and followed the fortunes of war which cast her from the army of the Potomac to the army of the Cumberland. She fought in the battle of Green River Bridge on the Fourth of July last and received a wound which disabled her for a short time. She has been discovered and mustered out of the service seven or eight times but immediately reenlisted in another regiment. She states that her home is in London Canada West and that her parents are now living in that place. This young girl has served a term of eighteen months in the army and were it not that she spreads the annoyance of being detected and mustered out she would enter the service again.

She was sent to this city by the officer in command at Bardstown to be again mustered out, and is now at Barrack No. 1, awaiting orders —

(First published in the *Louisville Journal*)

Janesville Weekly Gazette
March 11, 1864

Col. Harrison C. Hobart, of the 21st Wisconsin
At the Capitol in Madison

The great occasion of the present session took place last night, when Col. Harrison C. Hobart, of the 21st Wisconsin, recently escaped from the Libby Prison at Richmond, was honored with a public reception by a joint convention of the two houses, and delivered an able and interesting address. The meeting was attended by the largest audience that ever assembled in Madison, and the address was listened to, throughout, with the deepest and most absorbing interest. Col. Hobart, it will be recollected, has formerly been a prominent politician in this State — was Speaker of the Assembly during the session of 1859, and was the opponent of Governor Randall during his last race for the Governorship... After thanking the legislature for the honor conferred upon him he gave a graphic description of the battle of Chickamauga, and the manner in which he was taken prisoner.

AFTER THE BATTLE, Col H., as he was taken to the rear, saw the rebel dead, and learned that they had suffered terribly, and that their troops were broken and scattered. Yet they had succeeded in defeating us. The conduct of Gen. Thomas and his troops that day deserved the high commendations bestowed on them. But it was his impression that it was not Gen. Thomas alone that saved our army. It was Gen. Thomas and sundown together.

Col. Hobart and his companions were that night taken ten miles to the rear, without food. The prisoners had no clothes except those worn when they were captured. In the morning about 2,000 of the prisoners were gathered together, of whom several hundred were officers. The next day they were marched twenty-five miles to Tunnel Hill. There they were given a little raw Indian meal and a very little meat. From thence they were taken in cattle cars, via Atlanta, to Richmond. In passing through Georgia, the Carolinas and Virginia, he kept his eyes open. The country was one wide scene of desolation — far greater than he suspected. The farms were uncultivated. Where men were engaged in labor, it was in connection with the military operations of the country. All other business was suspended. The whole country had given all its energies to the war...

The minor officers taken prisoners were treated well till they reached Richmond, but the private soldiers had indignities heaped upon them that he had never heard of being practised on our prisoners. At Tunnel Hill they had their rubber blankets taken from them. At Atlanta they were put in an enclosure and their other blankets and overcoats were taken from them, (cries of shame). That night, which was cold, the men slept on the naked ground, with nothing to protect them from the inclemency of the elements. On reaching Richmond the officers were put in Libby Prison; 1,100 officers were confined in six rooms. These rooms were low and dingy, and 100 feet by 30, in dimensions. Thus nearly 150 men were shut up in each room. They were not allowed to go out, they slept on the floor. No cots were allowed. Scarcely a man had a blanket to lie on. He shared a ragged old horse blanket with Dr. Dixon, of this State. The stench was such that sometimes he wrapped his blanket about his head to avoid the odor. It was sickening and horrid in the extreme. They were treated by the rebel officials with every species of indignity...

The rations of the prisoners were half a loaf of tasteless, unbolted corn bread, and sometimes a little rice or soup, and the muddy water of the James river. When the officers received boxes of provisions from the North, they threw out their tasteless rations through the windows and the poor women and children that crowded around the prison to receive them. The situation of the privates on Belle Island was far worse, of course, than that of the officers at the Libby prison. They received comparatively little from the North, and it was a fact that they had killed and eaten every cat and dog that came within their reach. This fact told more in regard to their famishing condition and suffering than could be given in an equal number of words. After detailing the mode of exit from Libby prison, substantially as published by us in a previous article, the Colonel thus gives the history of the latter portion of their journey...

After six nights they approached our pickets. The danger now was in being shot by them. They now changed their style and took the middle of the pike, walking leisurely and irregularly. At

continued on page 8

length, as they came into a thick wood at about 4 o'clock in the morning, they were startled and brought to a stand still by a sharp and sudden command. "Halt!" Looking in the direction whence the command proceeded, they discovered the dark forms of a dozen of cavalymen drawn up in the line of battle, who seemed to have risen from the ground. Neither knew whether they were friends or foes.

His heart sunk in his breast, as in the shadows of the night he saw the gray Confederate uniform, while sickening visions of Libby prison, and despairing thoughts of another exile from home and still worse durance vile than he had yet endured passed over his brain — "Who are you?" was the next question. "Citizens!" they answered. Col. Hobart thought he could see distinctly that their uniforms were gray, he had "gray" on the brain about that time. They were immediately surrounded. One of the fugitives then ventured to inquire — "Are you Union troops?" "Well we are!" was the reply. The answer, the tone, the dialect of the reply, told them at once that they were in the hands of their friends. Col. H. said the gray uniforms turned to blue in a moment. He and his comrades, without stopping to make explanations, lifted their hats and gave one long, exultant shout of joy, which at once assured the soldiers who they were. The party proved to belong to the 11th Pennsylvania and they were but twelve miles from Williamsburg. Here their sufferings and perils ended.



Richmond, Virginia. View of Belle Isle. Library of Congress, Civil War Photograph Collection, LC-DIG-cwpb-02378.



In March 1950, Frank Welcher spoke about "Antietam."

James I. Robertson spoke to the Round Table in March 1960. The topic that evening was "James Longstreet."

"Civil War Dissent and Some War Dissenters, Especially Clement L. Vallandigham" was the topic of Frank Klement's presentation in March 1970.

John G. Barrett was our featured speaker in March 1980. The topic that evening was "From Glory to Disrepute: Sherman and the Carolinas."

At the March 1990 meeting, our own Dr. Peter H. Jacobsohn spoke about "Medicine – Anesthetics – Dentistry 1861 – 1865."

James S. Pula visited our Round Table in March 2000. His talk that evening was on "The Sigel Regiment: The 26th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry."

In March 2010 the Round Table was visited by Eric A. Jacobson. The subject that night was "The Battle of Franklin."

At last year's March 2013 meeting, our featured speaker was none other than our own Lance Herdegen. Lance spoke about "The Iron Brigade in Civil War and Memory."

UNCOVERING A CIVIL WAR PRISON

As reported by the Associated Press, South Carolina archaeologists are in a race against time in their attempt to uncover the remnants of a Civil War prisoner-of-war camp. The site, located in downtown Columbia, is slated to be cleared for a future mixed-use development.

Researchers are excavating a small portion of the 165-acre site of the former South Carolina State Hospital in an attempt to locate the remains of what was known, during the war, as "Camp Asylum." The camp held 1,500 Union Army officers during the winter of 1864-1865; conditions at the camp were said to be so dire that soldiers dug and lived in holes in the ground to get shelter from the cold.

Chester DePratter, the chief archaeologist for the project indicated that researchers are digging through soil to locate the holes — the largest being 7 feet long, 6 feet wide and 3 feet deep. "Almost everybody lived in holes, although the Confederacy did try to procure tents along the way, as they could obtain them," said DePratter.

The researchers have uncovered buttons, combs, remnants of clothing and utensils so far. One hole contained hand-made bricks which the prisoners stacked to get protection from the elements.

DePratter commented on the diaries of camp survivors as well as letters written by the prisoners saying, "It's hard to imagine. They all talk about their clothing being threadbare, many of them had no shoes... They wrote about how every prisoner in the camp would walk about at night to keep from freezing to death." Yet, only one officer died there.

DePratter and his researchers have until the end of April to complete the dig.

BROKEN BUT UNBOWED

The cost of war isn't measured in just dollars and deaths. That price tag can also be seen in the shattered bodies that returned home from any conflict. It can be counted in the stories of broken bodies who picked up the pieces of their lives, refusing to be broken human beings. What challenges lay ahead as they returned to civilian life, seeking to become productive members of society once again!

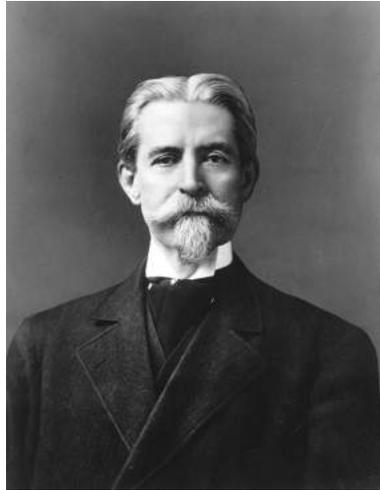
The photographs are stark. Unsmiling men missing limbs and carrying ghastly effects of wounds stare off in a carte de visite or wet plate photo. They look grim and hard, perhaps seeing a future that stretched many rough years ahead of them. "How will I earn a living?" "How will I support my family?" "Will friends and family accept me as I am now?" "What is my new normal?"

James Edward Hanger was a raw recruit in June of 1861. Of course, so were most of the men in blue and gray. He went off to war as a member of the Churchville Cavalry, a Confederate unit that already listed two brothers and four cousins on its roster. An ambulance corps carrying supplies for the Confederacy passed through town, and Hanger joined with the group, traveling to Philippi, Virginia (now West Virginia). He arrived on June 2, 1861, and spent the night in a nearby stable with a small group of other untrained and badly equipped Confederates. While on guard duty the next morning, Hanger heard gunfire, and ran into the stable. At that moment, a Union cannonball ricocheted inside the stable, striking his left leg below the knee. This was among the opening shots of the Battle of Philippi.

The cannonball that mangled Hanger's leg necessitated an amputation. Hanger himself described the event as follows, as told by Robert J. Driver in his book *The 14th Virginia Cavalry*.

The first two shots were canister and directed at the Cavalry Camps, the third shot was a 6 pound solid shot aimed at a stable in which the Churchville Cavalry Company had slept. This shot struck the ground, ricocheted (sic), entering the stable and struck me. I remained in the stable til they came looking for plunder, about four hours after I was wounded. My limb was amputated by Dr. James D. Robinson, 16th Ohio Volunteers.

His war over, Hanger returned home in August, 1861 after a prisoner exchange. He probably holds the dubious distinction of surviving the first of an estimated 50,000 amputations performed during the Civil War. With his leg amputated to within seven inches of his hip, James Hanger made his way up the stairs of his boyhood home and shut himself away for a long time. His family was concerned. What dark thoughts were possibly occupying the mind of their loved one? Strange noises came from the room, but Hanger wished to remain undisturbed. Imagine the family's joy when, one day Hanger walked down those same stairs, walking unassisted on two legs! Dissatisfied with his clumsy prosthesis, Hanger had designed a new leg constructed of whittled barrel staves and metal. His design was patented in 1871 and it has received numerous additional patents for improvements. The Virginia state government commissioned Hanger to manufacture the



J.E. Hanger

"Hanger Limb" above-knee prosthesis for other wounded soldiers. Manufacturing operations for J.E. Hanger Inc. were established in Virginia at both Staunton and Richmond. The company eventually moved to Washington, D.C.

James Edward Hanger turned his personal tragedy into an invaluable service to mankind. His ingenuity and desire to help other wounded veterans set an unmatched standard for nearly 150 years, touching an untold number of lives.

Hanger's story should resonate with Americans of today. His story of success following unimaginable tragedy is reflected in the lives of thousands of wounded veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. Hanger's perseverance was not a quality limited to those of the Civil War generation. While not wearing prostheses crafted from barrel staves and metal, the men and women of our times also have stories of sacrifice that will make you weep for their loss, but

also for their courage. Amputees ski and sky dive, play multiple sports, hunt, fish, swim, and dance.

As the father of a combat wounded marine, I have been privileged to meet many wounded vets both as my son recovered at Bethesda and at Walter Reed, and as he lives life to the fullest since he left the hospital. I can only marvel at the lives these heroes have chosen to lead. They face adversity on a daily basis, yet remain shining examples of the human spirit. Having a bad day? Check their stories on the internet. Follow the players on the Wounded Warriors Amputee Softball Team, whose motto is "Life without a limb is limitless." See these heroes as they walk among us, but don't offer pity, as they will refuse it with a steely-eyed smile. Go to YouTube and type in any topic related to wounded veterans. You will find yourself amazed and uplifted, but be sure to have a box of Kleenex handy.

Submitted by Dave Wege



For more information, visit Hanger's sesquicentennial page:
www.hanger150.com/.

NEW FROM SAVAS BEATIE PUBLICATIONS IN THE EMERGING CIVIL WAR SERIES

Bloody Autumn:

The Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1864

by Daniel T. Davis and Phillip S. Greenwalt

Sweep the Shenandoah Valley “clean and clear,” Union General-in-Chief Ulysses S. Grant ordered in the late summer of 1864.

His man for the job: Maj. Gen. “Little Phil” Sheridan, the bandy-legged Irishman who’d proven himself just the kind of scrapper Grant loved. Grant turned Sheridan loose across Virginia’s most vital landscape, the breadbasket of the Confederacy.

In the spring of 1862, a string of Confederate victories in the Valley had foiled Union plans in the state and kept Confederate armies fed and supplied. In 1863, the Army of Northern Virginia used the Valley as its avenue of invasion, culminating in the Battle of Gettysburg. The Valley continued to offer Confederates an alluring backdoor to Washington, D.C.

But when Sheridan returned to the Valley in 1864, the stakes jumped dramatically. To lose the Valley would mean to lose the state, Stonewall Jackson had once said — and now that prediction would be put to the test as Sheridan fought with Confederate Lt. Gen. Jubal Early for possession.

For the North, the fragile momentum its war effort had gained by capturing Atlanta would quickly evaporate; for Abraham Lincoln, defeat in the Valley could very well mean defeat in the upcoming election. For the South, more than its breadbasket was at stake — its nascent nationhood lay on the line.

Historians Daniel Davis and Phillip Greenwalt, longtime students of the Civil War, have spent countless hours researching the Valley battles of ’64 and walking the ground where those battles unfolded. *Bloody Autumn: The Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1864* shifts attention away from the Army of the Potomac and the Army of Northern Virginia to the campaign that ultimately determined the balance of power across the Eastern Theater.

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PREVIOUS TITLES IN EMERGING CIVIL WAR SERIES

Simply Murder: The Battle of Fredericksburg, December 13, 1862, by Chris Mackowski and Kristopher D. White

The Last Days of Stonewall Jackson: The Mortal Wounding of the Confederacy’s Greatest Icon, by Chris Mackowski and Kristopher D. White

Bushwhacking on a Grand Scale: The Battle of Chickamauga, September 18-20, 1863, by William Lee White

A Season of Slaughter: The Battle of Spotsylvania Court House, May 8-21, 1864, by Chris Mackowski and Kristopher D. White.

SAVAS BEATIE INTERVIEW

Daniel T. Davis and Phillip S. Greenwalt, authors of *Bloody Autumn*

SB: Why did you decide to write your book on this particular subject?

DD: The ’64 Valley Campaign seems to be overshadowed by the ’62 Campaign. I think this has a lot to do with the fact that the ’62 Campaign is the beginning of “Stonewall” Jackson’s military rise. The ’64 Campaign had a profound effect on the country on both a military and political level. From a military perspective, if the Federals can take control of the region and destroy crops and supplies, the Army of Northern Virginia would have been severely affected from a logistical standpoint. By the same token, the campaign begins only a few short months prior to the 1864 Presidential Election. The re-election of Abraham Lincoln weighs heavily on the success of the campaign. A Northern victory ultimately helps guarantee that Lincoln will have a second term and that the war will be carried to a military end.

PG: To me, the Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1864 is like a microcosm of the American Civil War in general. In a smaller geographic area, one sees a highly important military campaign that directly affects the political realm of the presidential election of 1864. If the Confederates are successful again — in an arena where they have known nothing but success — the sting of losing Atlanta could be assuaged. If they lose, one of the last nails in the coffin that is the Southern Confederacy will be hammered in. Besides the political and military ramifications of this campaign which takes place so close to both capitals, the level of expertise and experience in command of units in both armies is remarkable — from John Gordon to Rutherford B. Hayes, from Fitzhugh Lee to George Custer, some of the major players in Civil War iconography are here. Lastly, but not least, is the civilian aspect, once again the Valley residents find themselves on the front lines; and this time the destruction is devastating. With all these factors, this campaign is critical to a successful conclusion to the war for the North.

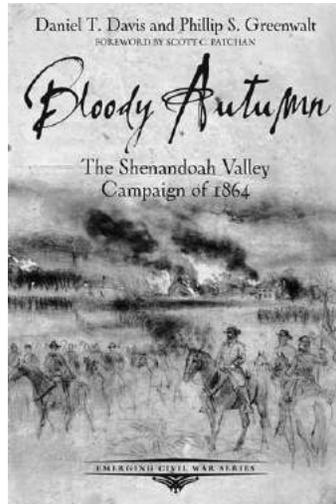
SB: What was the most exciting part of writing the book?

DD: The driving tour. We approached the stops by asking ourselves one question: “If I were here with a group, what information would I want to convey?” This allowed us to add depth to an already fascinating story. It also gives the reader the feel of being on the field at that moment in time when the events took place.

PG: Echoing Dan, I enjoyed being able to share such a passion with the reader. It’s a great feeling to create and share driving tours in which we lead the reader and Civil War enthusiasts to the exact spots that determined the campaign. One can really appreciate what happened during the campaign when standing in the same places as the participants.

SB: What was the most enjoyable aspect of writing?

DD: Getting out and visiting the battlefields. Phil and I have been visiting Civil War battlefields and historic sites for years. To fully understand the story, you have to put yourself in the shoes of the people who lived it. The best way to



do that was to walk the ground itself. It helps add perspective to what you are trying to convey.

PG: Besides having the chance to make multiple trips back to battlefields with Dan, which is always a good experience, I enjoyed the scope of what the Emerging Civil War series is accomplishing. I liked sharing the passion I have for Civil War history, bringing some of the human element into the text, and matching that with appendices and a driving tour that allows readers to really “emerge” themselves into this all-important time in American history. Knowing that this book will be used on tours of the area and to introduce more people to our shared history is a great feeling.

SB: What makes this book unique from others on the same topic?

PG: I think this book really opens the door for further exploration in the Shenandoah Valley. Besides being overshadowed by the Valley Campaign of 1862, the battlefields today are protected by different entities and with the urban sprawl of Winchester, it can be hard to find a starting point to uncover the history. The goal of this book is to introduce people to the history that surrounds this campaign and the geographic area it encompasses. With a “Suggested Reading” section and appendices, the book also lays out a blueprint for further exploration and readings on the topic.

DD: I tend to agree with Phil on this. The Civil War in Virginia in 1864 is focused on the Overland Campaign and the Siege of Petersburg. What happens in the Valley that autumn tends to be glossed over. I think the book serves as a wonderful start to reinvigorating the Civil War community’s interest in the campaign.

SB: Do you have any plans after this project?

DD: Yes. Phil and I are working on two more books for the Emerging Civil War series. The next is on Cold Harbor and is titled *Hurricane from the Heavens: The Battle of Cold Harbor, May 26-June 5, 1864*. After that, we are planning on writing a book on Forts Henry and Donelson.

PG: From there, we have a few other ideas brewing; both collectively and individually.

SB: Thank you for your time, we appreciate it.

DD: You’re welcome.

PG: Thank you, our pleasure.

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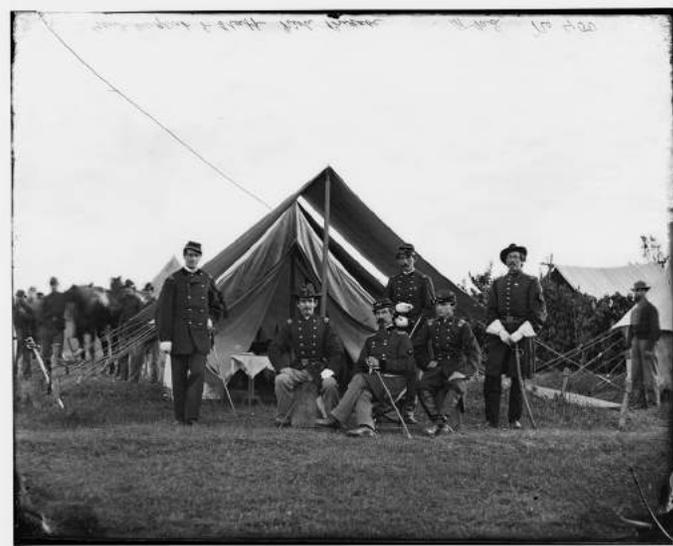
saint patrick’s day 1864

*Now if the traitors in the South
should ever cross our roads,*

*We’ll drive them to the devil,
as Saint Patrick did the toads.**

According to Joseph G. Bilby in *The Irish Brigade in the Civil War*, March 17, 1863, was a “rollicking, memorable Saint Patrick’s Day in the Irish Brigade...the most significant non-combat event that the army ever experienced.” The day began with a Military Mass celebrated by Father William Corby and included a “Grand Irish Brigade Steeple Chase” witnessed by 10,000; mule, sack, and foot races; a feast; a rum ration; and visiting dignitaries including Maj. General Joseph Hooker.

After Gettysburg, the Brigade was deemed combat ineffective, but in January 1864 the remaining members reenlisted and were sent home to recruit new troops. By Saint Patrick’s Day that year, the Brigade was back in the field under the command of Col. Thomas Smythe (Fermoy, County Cork). Bilby writes that the day was celebrated with the usual spirit with mule, sack and foot races, and a feast prepared by the sutler of the 28th Massachusetts.



General Robert Nugent and Staff (Irish Brigade) photographed by William Morris Smith, June 1865. Library of Congress Civil War Photograph Collection. LC-DIG-cwpb-04348.

*From “The Irish Volunteer” as originally sung by Joe English and recorded by David Kincaid on “The Irish Volunteer: Songs of the Irish Union Soldier 1861-1865.”

Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for March 13, 2014

Mail your reservations by Monday, March 10, 2014, to:
Paul Eilbes
1809 Washington Ave.
Cedarburg, WI 53012-9730

ALSO, call in reservations to:
(262) 376-0568
peilbes@gmail.com

Enclosed is \$ ____ (meal price \$25.00 per person) for ____ reservations for March 13, 2014, 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 _____

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.

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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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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.



This month's speaker, Chuck Teague (far left) with members of the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table at the Civil War Round Table of Gettysburg, Spring 2006. To the right of Mr. Teague: Patrick Lynch, Laura Rinaldi, Becky Jarvis, Sarah Jarvis, J. David Petruzzi (that evening's speaker), Charlie Jarvis, Al Ferranto and Dale Molina (of Gettysburg), and Patricia Lynch. The CWRT of Gettysburg meets the fourth Thursday of each month, September to May, in the G.A.R. Hall on East Middle Street. Summer meetings are held in the field. cwrgettysburg.org