



GENERAL ORDERS



The Newsletter of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc. Since 1947 and The Iron Brigade Association

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General Orders No. 03-04

April, 2003

The **April 11th, 2003** meeting is to be held at The **Wisconsin Club**, Milwaukee

Speaker: Kenneth Noe, Author of *Perryville: This Grand Havoc of Battle*

Kenneth Noe on the Battle of Perryville

Perryville was one of the bloodiest battles of the Civil War. Fought at the end of the 1862 Confederate campaign in Kentucky, it matched Braxton Bragg and the Army of Tennessee against Don Carlos Buell and the Army of the Cumberland. The opposing armies met in battle on October 8, 1862.

There were nearly 40,000 men directly involved in the fighting; casualties exceeded 7,500. One Union general described the action as "the bloodiest battle of modern times."

At the end of the battle, the Confederates had done very well. Bragg, however, realized that only a portion of the Union Army had seen battle, so he retreated. Buell permitted the Confederates to withdraw unmolested, which resulted in his being replaced.

The Battle of Perryville was the only important Civil War engagement fought in Kentucky. Some historians believe that this battle, because it marked a fatal loss of initiative for the South, was as decisive as any other during the entire four-year conflict.



A native of Virginia, Kenneth W. Noe is Draughton Professor of Southern History at Auburn University. He holds degrees from Emory & Henry College, Virginia Tech, the University of Kentucky, and the University of Illinois. He did his doctoral work in Champaign-Urbana under the direction of the eminent Civil War era scholar, Robert W. Johannsen.

In addition to his most recent *Perryville: This Grand Havoc of Battle*, he is the author of *Southwest Virginia's Railroad*, the editor of *A Southern Boy in Blue*, and the co-editor of *The Civil War in Appalachia*. Recent articles have appeared in *Civil War History*, *North & South*, and *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*.

— Sources include <http://www.danville-ky.com/BoyleCounty/perryenh.htm>, accessed 16

Mar 03

Election of Board Members to be Held at April Meeting

In accordance with the by-laws, four members of the Executive Board will be elected at the April meeting. The nominees are Dale Brasser, Lance Herdgen, Judley Wyatt, and Ellen Kelling-Vukovic. Board member terms are three years.

Any five members may nominate candidates for the board. All nominations must be received by the Secretary by 1 April.

Schedule of Events

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|---------------------------------------|---------|
| • Staff Meeting (open to all members) | 5:30 PM |
| • Registration and Social Hour | 6:15 PM |
| • Dinner | 6:45 PM |
| • Program Begins | 7:30 PM |

Union Reenactors Needed in Virginia in June

The Flowerdew Hundred Foundation is currently seeking Union reenactors, civilians, and sutlers to participate in the inaugural anniversary reenactment of Grant's 1864 crossing of the James River and the ensuing Battle for Petersburg. The reenactment will be held June 14th-15th, 2003, at Flowerdew Farm in Prince George County, VA.

The event will consist of two days of encampment, with reenactments of the action at Battery 5 on Saturday the 14th, and Hancock's assault on Sunday the 15th. The host unit, the 15th NY Engineers, will also attempt to reconstruct an 80-90 ft. section of the pontoon bridge at the site of the crossing.

Participants may arrive and set-up Friday the 13th between 8:30 AM and 7:00 PM. They will have 24-hour access to water, rest rooms and straw. A Saturday evening meal provided by the Flowerdew Hundred Foundation. No fee is required to participate, but all registered units will be reviewed for authenticity.

The Flowerdew Hundred Foundation is a non-profit historical organization and 1,400 acre James River plantation located in Prince George County, VA. All proceeds benefit the Foundation.

For more information contact Dennis Pickeral, Administrator, Flowerdew Hundred Foundation at (804) 541-8897 or dennispickeral@hotmail.com



UK Fundraiser

The American Civil War Round Table-United Kingdom commissioned Keith Rocco to produce an oil painting as part of the group's 50th anniversary celebrations.

The painting will depict the 2nd Brigade, 2nd Division, XIX Corps, commanded by English-born Col. Edward L. Molineux, at the Battle of Cedar Creek, 19 October, 1864.

In addition to raffling the original painting, the Round Table will make artist's proofs and limited edition prints available. The painting will be shown at the 50th anniversary seminar in May. The winner will be drawn in October.

Proceeds will go towards the Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation's purchase of the XIX Corps trench line. For information contact Round Table president Peter Lockwood, Acwrtuk@aol.com; or Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation director Suzanne Chilson, suzanne@shentel.net.

—From *CivilWarNews.com*, accessed 15 Feb 02

Tribute Fund for Ed Bearss

The friends and family of Ed Bearss, our March speaker, have been putting together a commemorative video and accompanying pamphlet of the life and times of Ed Bearss. Proceeds from the sale of the 50-minute video, which will contain vignettes of Bearss entire life, will go to the Civil War Preservation Trust.

To help pay for the video and booklet, the Edwin C. Bearss Tribute Fund is accepting donations from \$500 up. For more information, contact The Edwin C Bearss Tribute Fund, c/o William W. Vodra, Arnold and Porter, 555 12th St NW, Washington, DC 20004-1206, or HistoryAmerica at (800) 628-8542.

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.

Executive Board as of June 2002

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Committee Chairs

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paul.eilbes@ipaper.com

What If: Jackson Survived Chancellorsville

Idea

The idea that Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson, had he not died of his wounds incurred at Chancellorsville in May 1863, would have been able to defeat the Union almost single-handedly is yet another counterfactual idea that has taken on the cachet of fact, even among scholars, almost equal to that of the Gettysburg thesis of Confederate victory.

Description

The theory runs something like this:

- Jackson survives his wounds (or is not wounded at all) at Chancellorsville.
- At Gettysburg, Jackson is in the lead and pushes the Union off Cemetery Ridge on 1 July.
- Gettysburg becomes a Confederate triumph.
- The Union sues for peace.

From there, the usual collection of world-changing scenarios follows, at least one ending with German-Japanese victory in WWII.

To begin with, just surviving his wounds (his left arm was amputated) would probably not have provided his services in June and July, scant weeks later. Recovery from amputations in the period usually took at least three months for teenagers, and Jackson was 39.

Next, Jackson leading his corps at Gettysburg is hardly a guarantee of stellar performance. Jackson's performance could be erratic at times when in subordinate roles (His actions in the Seven Days were only occasionally brilliant). Even in independent command he was not consistently successful. (He *was* bested by Nathaniel Banks, one of the most competency-challenged generals in the Union, at Kernstown.) And, as dis-

cussed earlier, the course of the Gettysburg Campaign was not at all predestined, and the outcome was not certain at any time to be decisive.

Further, it can be argued that, given both Jackson and Longstreet on hand in June, Lee might have been compelled to send one or the other west to help relieve Vicksburg (as Longstreet was sent later to Tennessee). One reason that Lee invaded Pennsylvania in the first place was to keep his army from being split up and part sent west.

Finally, even with his army intact, the loss of Jackson was certainly on his mind when he decided to move north. The Gettysburg Campaign may not have come off at all, but perhaps some other adventure, such as a thrust at Baltimore, might have been tried.

Conclusion

Jackson's mythical status as the salvation of the Confederacy lies mostly in the fact that he died just before one of the most popularly-attributed "decisive battles." While occasionally stellar his performance was also occasionally poor, and there is no reason to believe that he would have been brilliant in a campaign that might not have even happened had he lived.

A much less-studied "what if" proposition has for many years been the Confederacy breaking the blockade. That will be next.

Note: *The author does not endorse or use counterfactuals as historical tools.*

2003 Schedule

All meetings are at the Wisconsin Club Ballroom unless otherwise noted. *Speakers and topics are subject to change without notice.*

- May 8: William Beaudot on 24th Wisconsin. Period costumes invited.
- June 12: {Carroll College} John Michael Priest, topic to be announced.

Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for: April 11th, 2003

Mail *and* call in your reservations by April 4th to:

Paul Eilbes, 1809 Washington Ave. Cedarburg, WI 53012-9730

ALSO, call in reservations to (262) 376-0568

Enclosed is \$_____ (meal price \$20.00 per person) for _____ reservations for the next meeting of the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table. (Please make checks payable to the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table.)

Name of Member: _____

Meet the New Members

JOHN AND GAIL CHELIUS —
Cedarburg, WI. Interest: General



GO Submissions and Editorial Policy

All submissions to the *GO* are used on a space-available, date-required basis. Electronic submissions are preferred over paper. The Editor/Publisher reserves the right to edit all submissions for length, propriety, content, and house style.

Those submissions with a direct Civil War interest, or those that are date-sensitive, will be published first.

All submissions must be received by the Editor/Publisher at jdbeatty@amcivwar.com no later than the 10th of the month before the next *GO* (for example, submissions for the January *GO* must be received by 10 December). All address changes, or problems receiving the *GO*, are handled through the Membership Chairman, Paul Eilbes.

In the Event of Inclement Weather...

Since we live in a part of the Union that has such wonderful weather, the President will decide if there is to be any change in a meeting due to winter storms. Listen to WTMJ or WISN radio for news of meeting cancellations if the weather turns on us.

A Gentle Reminder

The Wisconsin Club and the General Staff of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee would like to remind our members that jackets are required for the dining room. Please contact club management if you have any questions.