



# GENERAL ORDERS

The Newsletter of the  
**Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.**  
**Our 64th Year**  
and The Iron Brigade Association



FEBRUARY 7, 2013

**MARY ABROE, Ph.D.**

## Grosvenor of Ohio: Saving Chickamauga From Horseshoe Ridge and Back

It is a truism that the Civil War casts a long shadow over our history, and this was uniquely so for the men and women who endured it. As veteran and future Supreme Court Justice Wendell Holmes Jr. famously noted, "The generation that carried on the war has been set apart by its experience...in our youth our hearts were touched with fire." For Charles Henry Grosvenor, who vowed soon after Fort Sumter to give the secessionists "thunder," that memory of the Civil War included standing with other defenders of Horseshoe Ridge in the heat and blood of a northern Georgia battlefield on his thirtieth birthday. So maybe it is not surprising that he later used his legal and oratorical skills and political clout to help spearhead Chickamauga's preservation as our first national historical park. Eventually then, the old soldier returned to the battlefield as head of the commission of veterans that administered Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park; it was a position he held, his life coming full circle, on the day he died.

In her February presentation to our group, Dr. Mary Abroe will discuss how Grosvenor's life came full circle — from defending Horseshoe Ridge to his post war congressional career and back to Chickamauga.

After his war-long affiliation with the Eighteenth Ohio infantry, which Grosvenor commanded at Chickamauga, he returned to his law practice in Athens and soon entered politics. As a charter member of the Society of the Army of the Cumberland and popular Republican representative from southeastern Ohio's Eleventh District, he exploited his formidable connections — both personal and partisan — to benefit constituents, elect presidents, and codify federally funded battlefield preservation into existence. After his congressional career of twenty-plus years came to an end, Grosvenor briefly went back to the law before moving on to steward "his" battlefield for the Department of War. Like other members of his exclusive veterans' fraternity, he needed to ensure that no one forgot what happened to him and to the nation between 1861 and 1865; his way was through debating, lobbying, legislating, and saving the ground where he and his brothers had struggled. Journalist Whitelaw Reid offered one useful measure of the man and his exploits when he observed the following of Charles Grosvenor: "He was in service from the beginning to the end, and...proved himself worthy of the fighting stock from which he came."

Mary Abroe (like Charles Grosvenor, a proud Buckeye) holds a B.A. in history from St. Mary's College, Notre Dame, Indiana and a PhD from Loyola University, Chicago. Currently she teaches Western Civilization and American history at the College of Lake County in Grayslake, Illinois.

Dr. Abroe has commented on and given presentations related to her interest in the Civil War era and historic preservation at professional gatherings and cultural institutions, including the Kenosha Civil War Museum and meetings of the Illinois State Historical Society, Ohio Valley History Conference, National Council on Public History, and Organization of American Historians. Her articles and reviews have appeared in *Civil War History*; *Mid America: An Historical Review*; the *Journal of Southern History*; and *Cultural Resource Management* (now *CRM: The Journal of Heritage Stewardship*), a publication of the National Park Service. In 2011-12 she was project scholar for "Let's Talk About It: Making Sense of the American Civil War," co-sponsored by the NEH and American Library Association, at the Wilmette (Illinois) Public Library.

Dr. Abroe is a trustee of the Civil War Trust, director of the Save Historic Antietam Foundation, and member of the National Advisory Board of the National Museum of Civil War Medicine. She is also a past president of the Civil War Round Table of Chicago.

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#### FEBRUARY MEETING AT A GLANCE

Mary Abroe, Ph.D.

"Grosvenor of Ohio: Saving Chickamauga From Horseshoe Ridge and Back"

#### The Wisconsin Club

900 W. 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, February 4, 2013

See page 7.

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

**www.civilwarwi.org**

## CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE NEWS

### 2012-2013 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NAME	OFFICE/POSITION	TERM EXPIRES
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### 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 through January 15, 2013.

#### **Major Contributor (\$500 and above)**

In Memoriam: Eugene and Caroline Jamroz  
James Wiensch  
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#### **Benefactor: (\$400 and above)**

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Robert and Linda Mann  
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### 2013 SPEAKER SCHEDULE

**March 7, 2013:** Lance Herdegen, The Iron Brigade  
in Civil War and Memory

**April 11, 2013:** John Fitzpatrick, Lincoln at Gettysburg

**May 9, 2013:** Ethan Rafuse, Lee and Gettysburg

**June 13, 2013 (at the Country Club):** Timothy B. Smith,  
Battle of Corinth

## ANNOUNCEMENTS • EVENTS • MEETINGS

### February 11, 2013

Manitowoc Civil War Round Table, 7 p.m.  
Manitowoc Historical Society Heritage Center  
Panel Discussion

### February 19, 2013

Prairieville Irregulars Civil War Round Table, 7 p.m.  
Board Room, Campus Center Building, Carroll University  
Speaker: Jim Heinz, "In Peace As In War: The Life, Death, and Rebirth  
of the First *USS Milwaukee*"

### February 19, 2013

Annual Meeting of Friends of Reclaiming Our Heritage, 7 pm.  
American Legion Post 416, 6351 W. Grange Ave., Greendale

### 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](mailto:dbcpmilw@execpc.com) or see him in person at the Monthly Meeting at Book Raffle.

## IN MEMORIAM



### MILTON WEGE

The Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee extends its sympathy to board member Dave Wege on the loss of his father, Milton Wege. Milton served in the U.S. Army from 1946 through 1947. Before retiring, he worked at Koehring Corporation in Milwaukee and Bucyrus-Erie in South Milwaukee.

### KATHRYN EILBES

The Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee extends its sympathy to our Treasurer and Membership Chair, Paul Eilbes on the loss of his mother, Kathryn Eilbes. Kathryn, mother of Paul, Mary Therese and the late Allen Eilbes is further survived by 7 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

*And flights of angels sing thee to thy rest.*



For more information on programs and events taking place at the Civil War Museum and the Kenosha Public Museums please call (262) 653-4140 or visit [www.thecivilwarmuseum.org](http://www.thecivilwarmuseum.org)

The Civil War Museum now has an official Facebook Page!

Learn about special up-to-the-minute features and activities on [www.facebook.com/CWMKenosha](http://www.facebook.com/CWMKenosha) and be sure to hit the "like" button.

#### **CIVIL WAR MEDICAL WEEKEND**

**Saturday, February 16, 2013, 11am – 4 pm**

**Sunday, February 17, 2013, Noon – 4 pm**

Weekend events include:

*The History of the Milwaukee Soldiers' Home*, presented by Patricia Lynch, Saturday, 1 pm  
*Artifacts from the Collection of Surgeon Benjamin Franklin White* presented by Museum Curator Doug Dammann, Saturday, 3 pm

*Clara Barton, First Person Presentation*, portrayed by Leslie Goddard, Sunday, 1 pm

#### **FRIDAY LUNCHBOX SERIES**

**February 8, Noon**

*Cass County, Missouri & General Order No. 11*

Presented by Tom Rafiner

Rafiner will explore the impact of General Order No. 11 issued by the Union Army. The order forced the evacuation of 2,200 square miles of western Missouri and led to widespread destruction of civilian property.

**March 8, Noon**

*Freeman Conner: The Chicago Colonel of the 44th New York*

Presented by Museum Curator Doug Dammann

The program will examine Conner's life, and how this Chicago man came to command a New York regiment at Little Round Top.

*Lunchbox programs are free and are sponsored by the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee and the Iron Brigade Association.*

#### **FRIDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES**

**February 22, 6:30 – 8:30 pm: *Abe Lincoln in Illinois***

\$5 admission includes the movie, discussion and bag of popcorn and beverages. Lincoln historian Steven Rogstad will provide an introduction to the movie, make comments during intermission, and answer questions concerning its historical accuracy.



## **Lincoln in the Movies**

**Images and artifacts from many of the 200+ films and television productions that have depicted the 16th President of the United States.**

On display through May 31, 2013 in the CWM 2nd Floor Hallway Cases



#### **NEW TRUST PRESERVATION CAMPAIGN**

The Civil War Trust is starting 2013 off with a boom by taking advantage of a \$4.19- to -\$1 match to save 112 acres of key battlefield land at Gettysburg.

The Trust is targeting three tracts, described by Trust president James Lighthizer, as “the forgotten flanks” of the Union and Confederate armies at Gettysburg.

These tracts — the first 3-acre parcel is near Spangler's Spring, the second 36-acre tract is near the two Round Tops, and the third 73-acre expanse across the battlefield is adjacent to South Cavalry Field (as well as the Eisenhower National Historic Site) — have all been defined by officials at the Gettysburg National Military Park as high-priority sites that need to be protected.

The total cost of these 112 acres is \$1,048,000 but through a combination of land acquisition funds from the Park (\$100,000), a generous bequest from a New York Photographer and Trust member, Robert J. Glass (another \$100,000), an anticipated anonymous conservation buyer (\$333,000), and a generous donation from a former member of our Board of Trustees, Frank Bracken, and his wife Judy (\$265,000) the Trust has \$798,000 (fully 76%) of the total amount committed, leaving \$250,000 to go.

To contribute to the current campaign please visit [www.civilwar.org](http://www.civilwar.org).



**Wisconsin State Journal**  
**March 2, 1863**

**From the Twenty-Ninth Regiment**  
**Camp Gill, Near Helena, Ark**  
**February 16, 1863**

*Editors State Journal* — The question is asked by many of our Northern friends why we don't do something. I answer give us men like Colonel Gill for commanders, take away the cotton speculators and men who are placed only in command to make themselves rich, give us a chance to fight the traitors and give the secesh their deserts before we are all killed off by sickness, caused by exposure.

Here is our history.

After being cooped up on steamboats during our White River expedition, including bad air, and living on crackers and coffee for over two weeks, we landed at Helena and marched here, in the wet and mud, a distance of five miles, camped or rolled ourselves in our blankets, and slept as best as we could in the rain and mud. In course of time, our tents came. Then came guard and picket duty. Then came sickness. We are out on duty every third day, and sometimes men who come off one day go on the next.

Give the 29th a chance in the field at the traitors before we are all cut off by sickness, and good news will gladden the hearts of our friends in the Badger State. Since the 23d of January, the day we arrived here, we have buried 13 of our boys and also filled the hospitals with sick. The sick, I am sorry to say, receive little attention.

I should like to ask the ladies one question, also the young people of Wisconsin: Do you not think you would be doing more good, if you would give what money you spend at dances and oyster suppers to some poor widow whose husband died fighting for your homes, or some aged couple whose son has died or is in the field enduring hardships for your sakes? I only ask the young people, before they give their \$2 for a few hours amusement to remember "every little helps."

I would plainly tell the people of Wisconsin their boys have endured much and are willing to endure much more. All we ask for is, give us a man to lead us on. We want men of Northern principles. Sweep our half way, two-sided men out of the way. Then secesh look out.

We are now on a fine camping ground, high and dry, covered with fine beech trees, with running water within a few rods of us. The boys have built log shanties, with mud fire places in, using our tents for cover, and are as comfortable as can be expected. Very little swearing or profane language is now heard in camp. Our Colonel can be seen always looking after his boys — both sick and well. He is loved by us all. He has proved himself worthy of his position.

*Volunteer*

**February 1863**  
**War Correspondence — 2D Regiment**

We have received a letter from our old correspondent in Co. E. dated Bell Plain, VA., Feb 17. As it is quite long we are obliged to omit the first part after speaking of the weather, his officers, &c., he proceeds:

The "old Second still lives."

We now turn out something over two muskets. The reputation of the "Iron Brigade" is still above par in army circles. We were unfortunate enough to be rear guard in the late fruitless effort at another demonstration against Fredericksburg, which is one of the most unenviable positions in which a regiment can be placed although it is considered a place of honor.

The storm (more severe than any which I ever experienced) commenced

the first day. The roads were never worse and men and teams suffered fearfully. The first night, from being compelled to wait, the movements of artillery, teams, &c., which stuck in the mud in advance, it was 12 o'clock at night when we camped, the rain falling in torrents, accompanied by a severe Nor'easter. The storm continued three days which put an effectual check upon any further movement at that time.

The troops were ordered to return and take up their old positions. It was some time, however, before all the artillery, wagon, &c., could be got back, so bad were the roads, which for miles were completely blocked up with army wagons, artillery, dead mules and horses.

T'was a sad failure to say the least, and venture the assertion that government lost as much by it in men (through desertion, sickness, &c.) and material, and that esprit-d'-corps, so essential to success, as when we failed to take impregnable batteries at the point of the bayonet in Burnside's first attempt on Fredericksburg. Since then we have been doing picket and fatigue duty — such as building "corduroy roads, bridges, docks, &c." so that the men are on duty almost every day...

We now have a Brigade band composed mostly of the old members of the 2d's Band that was discharged last summer. They met with a most hearty welcome from the boys who had never forgiven our venerable Uncle Samuel for depriving us of the only source of pleasure ever afforded them. The present band is a good one, and under the direction of their gentlemanly leader, Mr. Fischal, discourses most excellent music...

*Yours W.S.R.*

**Feb 8, 1863**  
**From the Seventh Regiment**  
**Camp near Bell Plaine**

Messrs Editors:

SUNDAY, Feb 8 — I resume my Journal again. I cannot make it so interesting to your readers as I could if we were on the march, the most I can do is to give a statement of the weather, the changes of officers, promotions, affairs of our camp life and the feelings of the soldiers.

I said the Pennsylvania Reserves were shipping. I went down to see how it was conducted; it was a tedious job; the men are stowed on the boats about as thick as they can conveniently sit; the boats are open canal boats. They got on the boats in the morning and were taken out into the channel and anchored there and there they were when I left which was near night. I presume they were left there for the night. The reserves are in good spirits; they are on their way to Washington.

The 9th Army Corps were expected to go to New Bern, North Carolina.

MONDAY, Feb 9th — weather continues fine. Gen. Meredith has gone to Washington. We are ordered there; he will look out for a chance to get his brigade where they can have easy times. Col. Robinson is in command of the brigade, and Capt. Finnican is in command of the regiment. We had dress parade this afternoon, the first dress parade we have had since we came here.

The boys are to have furloughs now, two out of every one hundred; two line officers and one field officer can be absent at a time. Fifteen days is the length of the furloughs granted to Wisconsin boys. There are but few that will want to go, to be gone so short a time; only those who have business that requires their presence will be apt to go. The boys as a general thing don't want to go home till they go for good.

TUESDAY, Feb 10th — Muddying up fast — very pleasant. Our boys are getting anxious over the report that we are to go to Washington. This Brigade is about the only old troops in the Division now. Most of the

old troops are doing provost duty. It looks quite reasonable to me that we will not be kept here or in active service when there are posts which must be filled and which old regiments that have had it rough and tumble so long are entitled to, and the new troops put in the field. Get them sobered down — give them a chance to distinguish themselves. The Col. of the 24th Michigan (a new regiment that joined our brigade after the battle of Antietam) wants to keep in the field; all the other Cols. of the brigade want to go to Washington. I guess the Col. of the 24th wants to distinguish himself, and if he has the opportunity he will do it too; he is a good officer and brave man. We all feel that it is no more than our just dues to take us to Washington. We feel that we have earned the rest that such a programme would afford us.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 11 — Weather has been quite moderate to-day; commenced to rain this afternoon and continued all evening. We drew soft bread and grain to-day much better quality than the last was. Our brigade bakery is nearly completed; the bakers tell us they will get to baking this week then we will get bread regularly; good bread will be an excellent change.

The 2nd and 6th have orders to be ready with two days rations in their haversacks. They expect to go on some secret expedition; I have not learned much about it yet; in fact they do not know their destination or the purpose of the expedition themselves.

THURSDAY, Feb. 12 — The storm that was threatening last night passed off and this morning opened clear and bright. The 2d and 6th started on the expedition this afternoon; they went to the landing took a boat and went off down the river. Some say the expedition is to break up a gang of smugglers; others that the expedition is for the purpose of dislodging some rebels that have constructed some works and planted some guns with which they fire on the passing boats; they will be back in a few days then I will find out the object of the expedition.

FRIDAY, Feb. 13th — clear and warm. The board, or more properly the medical board, to examine applicants for discharges has convened and our boys went before the board to-day. It will be some time before we know how many will get their discharges. Some of them were not examined on account of their papers being incorrect, a cast of the negligence of our regimental surgeon, but thank the Lord, is now discharged for incompetency. These men will have to wait till the board convenes again, which may be in a month and perhaps not before two months. Some of them may never have to appear before that board again; their forms may be laid in the cold and lonely grave.

There is a heavy responsibility resting on him who thus neglects the calls of humanity. It costs him nothing but a little exertion to administer to the wants of these poor weak men yet they are frequently abused because they are so unfortunate as to be sick. We hope to see things different now. Our present Surgeon is kind and considerate and has rectified many errors of the former surgeon.

SATURDAY, Feb. 14th — weather continues to be fine. To-day is St. Valentines day, yet I do not see any difference between this and any other pleasant day. Our boys have not sent many valentines because they were not to be had in season. There was a peddler around with some a few days ago but he only had a few and they went off like hot cakes.

We expect to hear great doings in Carolina or some other place. Foster is in motion with a large fleet. We hope to hear good news from him soon. Our forces are gaining a little on the Mississippi too. That was a daring undertaking of the ram Queen of the West to pass the works at Vicksburg. She has done great mischief to the rebels and will do more. It is a wonder the boat was not blown to pieces.

I hope we will not be taken away from here at least not to be sent to another army. I think we have done our share. Let others try their hands. There has been no more changes so far as shipping troops is concerned since the 9th Army corps, the Pennsylvania Reserves, left and from present appearances I do not think there will be immediately.

*S.J.M.*

## **From the 6th Regiment**

A few days ago we were drawn up in front of Gen. Meredith's quarters to hear read the resolutions I send you. Gen. M. made a few prefatory remarks explaining the reason of our being assembled, and desired us to lay aside for the moment the character of disciplined soldiers listening to an order from a superior officer, in which as such, we would readily acquiesce but with the freedom of American citizens...

"Whereas, certain evil-minded persons in the army and at home have circulated basic and slanderous reports concerning the Army of the Potomac, it is with pain and regret we have noticed the unfounded but too universal belief of the demoralization of this army; a report put in circulation by a set of Northern traitors to justify their own wicked designs laying to our charge the imputation that we are in favor of peace on any terms. For the purpose of refuting so base a slander alike insulting to our character as soldiers and citizens we members of the 4th Brigade, 1st Division, 1st Army Corps do therefore resolve:

1st. That we denounce all such reports and agitations and declare most emphatically that there are no men to be found in our ranks who would not blush at a dishonorable and inglorious peace, or would not rather sacrifice their all for the maintenance of the constitution, the integrity of our country, and the crushing out of this rebellion.

2d. That wearisome and toilsome as the profession of a soldier's life may be, and as we long for the society of our families and the endearments of home we feel it our duty to carry on this war to the bitter end and what ever the consequence to ourselves may be, the army of the Potomac will be true to its flag, and does not desire peace until the last rebel in arms has vanished from our soil.

3d. We warn our friends at home to beware of traitors in their own midst wolves in sheep's clothing and never forget that the first duty of a good citizen and patriot is the maintenance of his rightful government and submission of all little personal political or social interests to the great common cause. The blood of thousands of our friends and comrades already sacrificed upon the altar of our country cries aloud to you to follow their glorious example and to fill the thinned ranks of army which will never submit to an inglorious peace.

4th. It is our sincere belief that the safety of our country lies in rallying around the Government in a hearty co-operation of all the branches of civil life in a vigorous prosecution of this war the stern resolution to fight until the last rebel is subdued and the stars and stripes are again floating over every inch of the territory belonging to the United States. We invite our friends at home and abroad to join with us in the motto: High the flag of our country, death to traitors south of North, East or West."

5th. We fully endorse the spirit of the last Congressional Militia law and are in favor of enforcing the same throughout all the states and parts of the states now under control of Government. The grumblers and fault finders at home; the heroes of the quill and the thundering public orators after having seen the fruitlessness of the attempts to crush the rebellion with their long range guns, may yet have the opportunity to show their metal to correct errors, and to prove their so often pledged devotion to the country in shouldering to musket and joining their brothers in arms. Let it be truly understood that in the present struggle no neutrality can exist and that they have either to fight pay or emigrate."

6th. That we recognize in the present Administration the Government de facto and cheerfully endorse it, or any subsequent one in all acts or measures having for their object a vigorous prosecution of the war and the effectual crushing out of this rebellion.

The spontaneous and unanimous shout that went up at the close of the reading carried the conviction of everyone present that the General was right in his judgment and sentiments of this brigade. That shout would have cheered the heart of every loyal Wisconsin man making him feel that all the hardships and dangers experienced, all the slights of friends at home, all the foul aspersions of Copperheads and grumbles, have but added to the firm determination of their troops in this department to stand by our Government to the end and prove true to the state from which they came...

# AND SO IT CONTINUES: February 1863...

## Marking the Civil War Sesquicentennial

It was a quiet time in the war in February 1863. There was little activity as the armies wintered in their respective camps, trying to stay warm and waiting for spring and the start of a new campaign. A new Northern commander, Hooker, was shaping the Army of the Potomac while Lee tried to strengthen his Army of Northern Virginia. In the west, Grant was constantly probing for a way to get into Vicksburg.

**February 1, 1863** • Commander Worden with the mortar schooner *C.P. Williams* and gunboats *U.S.S. Seneca*, *Wisahickon*, and *Dawn* made a second attempt on Fort McAllister south of Savannah. The attack was unsuccessful. Colonel Robert H. Anderson, commander of the fort, would say of the attacking flotilla:

*The enemy fired steadily and with remarkable precision. Their fire was terrible. Their mortar fire was unusually fine, a large number of their shells bursting directly over the battery. The ironclad's fire was principally directed at the VIII-inch columbiad, and...the parapet in front of this gun was so badly breached as to leave the gun entirely exposed.*

**February 2, 1863** • The *Queen of the West* commanded by Colonel C. R. Ellet, ran past the Vicksburg batteries in broad daylight. She was struck twelve times, but not seriously. Ellet had been instructed to pass the city and attempt to ram and sink the Confederate steamer *City of Vicksburg*. Ellet would report:

*Her position was such that if we had run obliquely into her as we came down, the bow of the Queen would inevitably have glanced. We were compelled to partially round to in order to strike. The consequence was that at the very moment of collision the current, very strong and rapid at this point, caught the stern of my boat, and, acting on her bow as a pivot, swung her around so rapidly that nearly all momentum was lost.*

**February 3, 1863** • In Washington, French minister, M. Mercier, met with Secretary of State Seward. Mercier offered French mediation of the war but was turned down.

North of Vicksburg, Federals blew up the levee, creating a gap almost 75 yards wide. The Mississippi rushed through flooding the Yazoo Pass. The hope was that gunboats and transports could go over this flood to attack Vicksburg from the rear.

**February 4, 1863** • Major General John Sedgwick succeeded W.F. Smith in command of the Sixth Corps of the Army of the Potomac.

**February 5, 1863** • In England Queen Victoria addressed the British Parliament. In her address she stated that Britain abstained from attempting to “induce a cessation of the conflict between the contending parties in the North American States, because it had not yet seemed to Her Majesty that any such overtures could be attended with a probability of success.”

In Virginia Hooker eliminated the grand divisions of the Army of the Potomac. Corps commands were given to J.F. Reynolds, Darius N. Couch, Daniel E. Sickles, George G. Meade, John Sedgwick, Wm. P. Smith, Franz Sigel, and H.W. Slocum. The cavalry was placed under the separate command of George Stoneman.

**February 6, 1863** • The Federal Ninth Army Corps under W.F. Smith was transferred from the Army of the Potomac to Newport News, VA., to increase the threat to Richmond from the east.

**February 7, 1863** • Three blockade-runners successfully broke through the Federal cordon and arrived at Charleston.

Major General S.P. Heintzelman assumed command of the re-created Federal Department of Washington.

**February 8, 1863** • Circulation of the *Chicago Times* was suspended by military order for allegedly disloyal statements. The order was later rescinded.

**February 10, 1863** • The Federal *Queen of the West* below Vicksburg, steamed down the Mississippi for the Red River in response to orders from David D. Porter.

**February 11, 1863** • James M. Mason, Confederate commissioner to Great Britain, addressed a Lord Mayor's banquet in London in his continuing drive to attain British recognition of the Confederacy.

**February 12, 1863** • Colonel Ellet and the *Queen of the West* ran up the Red River and ascended the Atchafalaya with a landing party where he destroyed a train of twelve Confederate Army wagons plus seventy barrels of beef and ammunition and stores from another wagon train.

**February 13, 1863** • In Washington, Mrs. Lincoln entertained General Tom Thumb and his wife.

**February 14, 1863** • The *Queen of the West* came under heavy fire from the shore batteries at Gordon's Landing on the Black River. Attempting to back down the river, she ran aground directly under the guns of the shore batteries. The ram was abandoned and fell into Confederate hands. The crew escaped by floating downriver on cotton bales – they were picked up by the Army steamer *De Soto*.

**February 16, 1863** • In a landmark decision, the U.S. Senate passed the Conscription Act.

**February 17, 1863** • Admiral D.D. Porter optimistically told Secretary of the Navy Gideon Welles about the conditions at Port Hudson:

*I have reason to believe that the enemy's troops at Port Hudson are in a strait for want of provisions and if pushed by Gen. Banks' troops that fort will fall into our hands. It is situated in a swampy, muddy region 60 miles from any railroad, and the rains, which have exceeded anything I ever saw in my life, have rendered hauling by wagon impossible. Our vessels above them cut off all hope of supply or aid...*

**February 18, 1863** • General Beauregard, in command at Charleston, warned Confederates against anticipated attacks on either Charleston or Savannah and cried, “To arms, fellow citizens!”

A Democratic convention at Frankfort, Kentucky, was broken up by Federal authorities, as members were said to be pro-Confederate.

**February 19, 1863** • There was heavy skirmishing along the Yazoo River as Grant's army continued reconnaissance in attempting to get to the Vicksburg defenses.

**February 20, 1863** • The Confederate Congress act providing for issuance of bonds for funding treasury notes was approved.

**February 21, 1863** • General Pickett's division had passed through Richmond on the 19th and today, Hood's division marched through the city. Both divisions were headed towards the Peninsula to counter the corps sent there by Hooker from the Army of the Potomac.

**February 22, 1863** • Ground was broken at Sacramento, California, for the Central Pacific Railroad.

Along the Manchester Pike between Murfreesboro and Manchester, Tennessee, Bragg's pickets and Rosecrans's pickets exchanged a few rounds.

**February 23, 1863** • Simon Cameron, former Secretary of War, tendered his resignation as Ambassador of Russia to Lincoln.

**February 24, 1863** • James K. Boswell, aide-de-camp to Jackson for one year wrote in his diary:

*During the year I have been present in ten hard-fought and bloody battles, besides a number of skirmishes...I have seen the field strewn with thousands of corpses, both of friend and foe. I have heard the groans of the wounded and dying. I have seen the fairest portions of the Old Dominion desolated by the ravages of war. I have seen towns ransacked, and hundreds, nay thousands, of helpless women and children thrown homeless upon the world...O war, why art thou called glorious when such are thy fruits? How long must our dear land be desolated by the ravages and our bravest sacrificed upon thy altars? One year ago I was full of life and animation, hope dressed the future in "couleur de rose," all my dreams were cherished as though I were sure of their realization.*

**February 25, 1863** • The Federal Congress completed passage of the Conscription Act. President Lincoln signed an act setting up a national bank system and national currency. A Currency Bureau of the Treasury was established with a Comptroller of the Currency.

An act to prevent correspondence with the "present pretended rebel government" was approved.

In Charleston, the price of bread per half-pound went to twenty-five cents and flour sold at sixty-five dollars a barrel.

**February 26, 1863** • The Cherokee Indian National Council repealed its ordinance of secession, abolished slavery, and proclaimed for the Union.

**February 27, 1863** • President Davis called for a day of fasting and prayer on March 27.

Confederate Major General Sterling Price was ordered to the Trans-Mississippi Department.

**February 28, 1863** • The month would end with the Federal monitor *Montauk*, under the command of J.L. Worden, moving up the Ogeechee River south of Savannah. Aided by other vessels she would destroy the *C.S.S. Nashville* near Fort McAllister. She was struck several times and set afire.

And so it continues.

## CIVIL WAR TRUST SETS RECORD FOR ACRES SAVED DURING ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR

In a press release issued at the beginning of January the Trust noted that twenty five years after the beginning of the modern Civil War preservation movement, the Civil War Trust has completed the most successful year in its history, permanently protecting 3,735 acres of hallowed ground in 2012. Cumulatively, the group and its predecessor organizations have now helped save in excess of 35,700 acres at 120 historic sites in 20 states.

"I am confident that 2012 will long be remembered as one of the greatest years in the history of the modern battlefield preservation movement," said Trust president James Lighthizer. "The ongoing commemoration of the Civil War's sesquicentennial and our own silver anniversary proved to be a powerful combination, allowing us to leave a meaningful and permanent legacy of this profound period in American history."

In 2012, the organization closed 39 separate transactions at 26 individual battlefields in eight states. The battlefields where land was preserved in 2012 are: Resaca, Ga.; Mill Springs, Perryville and Rowlett's Station, Ky.; Mansfield, La.; Aversborough and Bentonville, N.C.; Gettysburg, Pa.; Fallen Timbers, Franklin, Johnsonville and Shiloh, Tenn.; Appomattox Court House, Cedar Creek, Cedar Mountain, Chancellorsville, Cool Spring, Cross Keys, Gaines' Mill, Kelly's Ford, Middleburg, Mine Run, Petersburg, Tom's Brook and the Wilderness, Va.; and Summit Point, W. Va.

Not only was the Trust's preservation track record in 2012 notable for the total number of acres saved, but also for the incredible historic significance of the battlefield land protected in perpetuity. For example, a \$1.3 million campaign at Cedar Creek, announced in February, preserved for the first time land associated with the dramatic Union rally and counter-attack that carried the day on October 19, 1864 — as well as the site of the 8th Vermont Monument, one of only three memorials on the battlefield. In November, the Trust completed what Lighthizer declared one of the organization's three greatest achievements: preservation of 285 acres at Gaines' Mill, effectively quintupling the amount of preserved land, thanks to member donations and a \$1.5 million matching grant from the Commonwealth of Virginia's transportation enhancement program.

Throughout the year, the Trust strove to coordinate preservation initiatives with sesquicentennial commemoration events. Sometimes — as at Mill Springs in January, Cedar Mountain in August and Perryville in

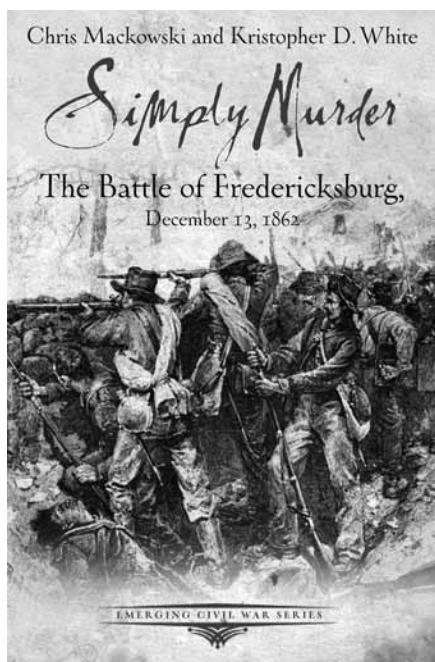
October — this meant announcing a new fundraising campaign to preserve land for that battle's 150th anniversary. Other times — as at Fort Donelson, Tenn., in February — it meant holding ceremonies to transfer land previously preserved by the Trust to the National Park Service. At Shiloh in April, the Trust did both simultaneously, transferring 167 acres to Shiloh National Military Park and beginning a new effort to protect 504 additional acres — the largest single acquisition of land at Shiloh since the establishment of the park in 1894...

"While the protection of battlefield land where the Civil War was fought will always remain at the heart of our mission," said Lighthizer, "we also seek to promote appreciation and understanding of American history through a variety of advocacy, education and interpretation projects. We hope that these efforts will help inspire the future generations of Americans to study their heritage."

The Trust also continues to lead the field when it comes to using 21st century technology to bring 19th century history to life. In 2012, the group's flagship website [www.civilwar.org](http://www.civilwar.org) received in excess of 2.4 million unique visitors and 9.5 million page views, with both categories experiencing a more than 70 percent increase over the previous year. Moreover, more than 137,000 people follow the Trust's activities and updates on Facebook. All of this is proof positive that, thanks to ongoing sesquicentennial commemorations, public interest in the Civil War era is on the rise...

The modern Civil War Trust traces its origins to the founding of the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites in 1987 and, throughout its silver anniversary last year, the organization honored many of the individuals responsible for the creation of that pioneering group. From its beginnings in response to the rapid development experienced at many Northern Virginia historic sites, particularly Chantilly in Fairfax county, the battlefield preservation movement has grown and matured significantly, without losing the vision of its creators. While the ensuing 25 years — and 2012 in particular — brought many successes, the Civil War Trust is eager for the milestones that 2013 will undoubtedly bring, including sesquicentennial commemorations of some of the war's most significant battles, like Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Vicksburg and Chickamauga.





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

Paperback, \$12.95

ISBN: 978-1-61121-146-7; Ebook: 978-1-61121-147-4

Authors Mackowski and White have worked for years along Fredericksburg's Sunken Road and Stone Wall, and they've escorted thousands of visitors across the battlefield. Their book not only recounts Fredericksburg's tragic story of slaughter, but includes invaluable information about the battlefield itself and the insights they've learned from years of walking the ground.

The book is the first release in the new *Emerging Civil War Series*, which offers compelling and easy-to-read overviews of some of the Civil War's most important battles and issues.

**THE BATTLE OF FREDERICKSBURG**

*Total Forces Engaged..... 172,504*  
*Union..... 100,007*  
*Confederate..... 72,497*

*Total Estimated Casualties..... 17,929*  
*Union..... 13,353*  
*Confederate..... 4,576*

*The sacking of Fredericksburg marked the first time in history that an American town was sacked by an American army.*

**SAVAS BEATIE INTERVIEW WITH CHRIS MACKOWSKI AND KRISTOPHER WHITE**

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

**KW:** The Battle of Fredericksburg is a greatly misunderstood battle. We learned this by working at Fredericksburg together as Ranger/Historians. Most visitors focus on the Battle for Marye's Heights, while also focusing their attention on the faults and failures of Union General Ambrose Burnside. We were really drawn to the compelling story of the campaign. The story of the battle and campaign is how Burnside had the cards stacked against him from day one. He took over leadership of the Union Army of the Potomac from a popular general and close friend, George McClellan. He was tasked with engaging in a winter campaign with a strict January 1, 1863, deadline for victory. Burnside was not a great general, but he was not as bad as he has been made out to be. Unfortunately, everything that could go wrong for the Federals did. Therefore, we really wanted to tell the story of a misunderstood battle and campaign in a fair and balanced way.

**CM:** Visitors to the battlefield come with so many preconceived misconceptions, particularly about Burnside, as Kris mentioned. The chance to invite visitors – and now readers – to rethink what they know about the battle is a nice treat.

Folks who do know something about this battle typically know Sunken Road, Stone Wall, and Marye's Heights. It's a dramatic story that has shown up a bit in Civil War-related pop culture, but there is SO much more to the battle than that. In fact, the fighting in front of Stone Wall was really a sideshow that took on a horrible life of its own. The main event was supposed to take place at the south end of the field, at what's now known as the Slaughter Pen Farm. Fortunately, our friend and mentor Frank O'Reilly shed a lot of light on that story, and recent preservation efforts by the Civil War Trust have done a lot to bring further attention to that sector of the battlefield.

We hope our book gives due justice to that fuller story of the battle.

**SB:** What makes your book unique from other books on the same topic?

**CM:** There are really only a couple of good books on the Battle of Fredericksburg. Frank O'Reilly's *The Fredericksburg Campaign* is a stunning, detailed, micro-tactical study, and George Rable's *Fredericksburg! Fredericksburg!* situates the military action within a complex, sweeping context. Both books are for serious students of the war, though. We hope our book will serve as a good way to hook readers' interest about the battle and then lead them to something more in-depth like Frank's or George's book. There's also a nifty collection of newspaper stories called *War So Terrible* by our friend Don Pfanz.

**KW:** Our book gives the reader the entire story of the battle in a condensed version. We have worked the book to be a guidebook that can be used on the field, while at the same time, those not reading on the field can sit at home, read, and follow along with the story and see the sites with the vast array of pictures included in the work. A reader that has little knowledge of the battle will be able to pick up this work and understand the battle and its effect on the war. Those seasoned buffs will be able to pick up the book and take away a better understanding of the campaign, while also learning some interesting facts not found in other works on the same topic.

**SB:** What most interested you about writing on this topic?

**CM:** I've spent a lot of time on a lot of battlefields, and I've told stories about those battlefields to thousands of visitors. Fewer battlefields give me greater satisfaction, though, than walking Sunken Road and hearing the crunch of gravel under my boots. The story there always feels so real and present. I know it sounds cliché, but I still literally get shivers imagining what it must've taken for those Union soldiers to stand shoulder



to shoulder and charge that position. You hear so much about the élan of Southern soldiers, but THAT is guts.

**SB: What kind of “invaluable” information is included in the book?**

**CM:** As with all the books that will be included in the Emerging Civil War Series, we hope to offer a fresh perspective on the story. People malign Burnside, for instance. He was brilliantly mediocre, but he’s not really the dolt history has made him out to be (at least not for anything he did at Fredericksburg). At the south end of the field, Stonewall Jackson performed less than brilliantly, but history has generally given him a free pass and shifted blame from the Federal breakthrough to his subordinate, A.P.Hill – even though Jackson and Lee both approved Hill’s troop dispositions. We spend a lot of time looking at how and why these stories and others have been cemented in memory, and we invite readers to challenge those assumptions.

**SB: Can you tell me about Burnside’s Folly?**

**CM:** If you don’t really know the story, it’s easy to look at the Battle of Fredericksburg and dismiss Ambrose Burnside as a fool. After all, who would be foolish enough to send thousands of men uphill over hundreds of yards of open ground against a fortified position?

**KW:** Robert E. Lee at Gettysburg

**CM:** Exactly! And that’s why those Federal soldiers who repulsed Pickett’s Charge yelled, “Fredericksburg! Fredericksburg!” Pickett’s Charge was Fredericksburg in reverse.

**KW:** Lee does it and gets immortalized. Burnside does it and gets called an idiot.

**CM:** See, it’s so convenient for people to write off Burnside like that. But think about it critically for a moment: A man does not get chosen to command the largest army on the planet if he’s a dolt. So let’s assume then, for a minute, that Burnside is at least competent if not brilliant. If you accept that, then you have to start asking some interesting questions about what he was doing and why he was doing it.

**KW:** Burnside had success along the North Carolina coast earlier in the year, so he’d certainly proven himself in battle.

**CM:** He was no rock star, but he was no rock head either.

**KW:** You have to understand the larger context of the war, too. With the final Emancipation Proclamation coming out at the first of the year, Burnside was operating in a highly politicized environment. Washington, not Burnside, was really driving the entire campaign. As a result of that, it was like Burnside was set up for failure from the beginning.

The ground in front of Stone Wall tells a story that seems so obvious, so people just accept it, but that’s hardly the full story. You have to ask some questions.

**SB: How did you both conduct your research?**

**CM:** Kris does all the heavy lifting when it comes to research. That man can pull so many needles from any haystack, it’s amazing. (If you want to see some heavy lifting with research, wait until people see our upcoming micro-tactical study on Second Fredericksburg and Salem Church, *Chancellorsville’s Forgotten Front*, due from Savas Beatie in the spring of 2013). As the storyteller, I take all that great research Kris does and craft it into a catchy, easy-to-read narrative.

**SB: What are some features of *Simply Murder* that you think readers will really enjoy?**

**KW:** Readers will be able to use a specially designed driving tour of the high points of the battle. The work also includes numerous pictures – modern and historic – of the city, park, and battlefield. Civil War photography buffs will find some seldom-seen wartime photos and many rarely seen post war photos of the area. We also went out of our way to include the story of the civilians caught in the crossfire of war. Readers at home or on the field can use the book to explore the Pre-Revolutionary City of Fredericksburg.

**CM:** I had a tremendously good time tromping around the battlefield taking pictures! We have a lot of original photography in the book, so people who can’t come to the battlefield will still get a good idea of what a visitor might see.

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

*This interview is printed in its entirety with permission of the publisher. This and other author interviews are available online at: [www.savasbeatie.com](http://www.savasbeatie.com)*

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## RECLAIMING OUR HERITAGE ASKED TO TAKE A YEAR OFF

Out of consideration for several major construction projects on the grounds of the Zablocki VA Medical Center, the Reclaiming Our Heritage Steering Committee and Friends of Reclaiming Our Heritage have been asked to take a break from the popular veteran tribute event in 2013.

Event organizers are exploring ways to continue their efforts to honor and serve veterans in the interim and are already planning for 2014. Members of Friends of Reclaiming Our Heritage and anyone interested in supporting the group's efforts are invited to attend the organization's annual meeting on Tuesday, February 19, 2013, 7 p.m., at American Legion Post 416, 6351 W. Grange, Greendale.

For updates, please visit the Reclaiming Our Heritage website at [www.forohmilwaukee.org](http://www.forohmilwaukee.org) or call Patricia Lynch, president of the Friends of ROH, at (414) 427-3776.

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## Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for February 7, 2013

Mail your reservations by Monday, February 4, 2013, to: **Paul Eilbes**  
1809 Washington Ave.  
Cedarburg, WI 53012-9730

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

Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_ (meal price \$25.00 per person) for \_\_\_\_ reservations for February 7, 2013, 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.

Send submissions to **Donna Agnelly, Editor**, 420 Racine St., Unit 110, Waterford, WI 53185 or email to **dagnelly@tds.net** 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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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.



In February 1951, A.C. Hansen spoke to the Round Table. The topic at that meeting was "Mr. Lincoln Writes a Letter."

"Lincoln Emerges December 3, 1861" was the subject of Fred Schwengel's presentation in February 1962.

Gordon E. Parks spoke about "Lincoln's Changing Reputation" at the February 1972 meeting of the Round Table.

Robert C. Douglas was our featured speaker at the February 1983 meeting. The topic that night was "General George H. Thomas: Time and History Will Do Me Justice."

The Round Table was visited by Brian Pohanka in February 1993. "Custer and the Little Big Horn" was the subject of our speaker's presentation.

"Union Generals as Patients" was presented by our February 2001 speaker Jack Welsh.

At last year's February meeting member Dave Wege gave a rousing talk on "Pugnacious and Pertinacious Patrick Cleburne."