



GENERAL ORDERS

The Newsletter of the
Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.
Our 63rd Year
and The Iron Brigade Association



JUNE 7, 2012

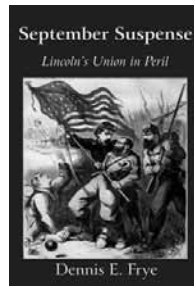
DENNIS E. FRYE

September Suspense: Lincoln's Union in Peril

In 1862, the United States had been ripped apart by a civil war entering its 18th month. Until now, few have understood how close this breach was to becoming a permanent fixture on the map of history.

In his June presentation to our Round Table, Dennis Frye will discuss September 1862 and how it was the nation's, and Mr. Lincoln's, most trying month, as General Robert E. Lee invaded Union soil, panicking entire cities, destroying fragile political alliances and causing all of the North to rethink the fight and question whether it was best to redouble its war efforts or give up and let the South pursue its own course. For three weeks in September, the air was electric, nerves were at the breaking point and the whole of the North held its breath.

Dennis Frye is the Chief Historian at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. Writer, lecturer, guide and preservationist, Dennis is a prominent Civil War historian. Dennis has made numerous appearances on PBS, The History Channel, The Discovery Channel, and A&E as a guest historian, and has helped produce award-winning television features on the Battle of Antietam and abolitionist John Brown. Frye served as an Associate Producer for the Civil War movie *Gods and Generals*, during which he recruited and coordinated nearly 3,000 reenactors for the film.



Dennis is also one of the nation's leading battlefield preservationists. He is co-founder and first president of the Save Historic Antietam Foundation, and he is co-founder and a former president of today's Civil War Trust, where he helped save battlefields in twelve states.

Dennis is a tour guide in demand, leading tours for organizations such as the Smithsonian, National Geographic, numerous colleges and universities, and Civil War Round Tables. He is also a well-known author, with 77 articles and six books to his credit. His newest books are *Harpers Ferry Under Fire* released in March of this year and *September Suspense: Lincoln's Union in Peril* scheduled for a June release to coincide with the anniversary of the first invasion of the North and the Maryland Campaign. Dennis has also written articles for Civil War magazines such as *Civil War Times Illustrated*, *America's Civil War*, *Blue & Gray Magazine*, *North and South Magazine*, and *Hallowed Ground* and is a guest contributor to the *Washington Post*.

Dennis and his wife Sylvia reside near the Antietam Battlefield in Maryland where they have restored the home that was used by General Ambrose Burnside as his post-Antietam headquarters.



Will You Be Wandering This Summer?

Are your wanderings taking you to a Civil War location this summer? If so, please consider sharing your travel experience with your fellow members by submitting an article to the *General Orders*.

Have you read a Civil War book you think everyone else should read? How about submitting a book review for publication in the *GO*? As we all know, we can't have enough books!

GENERAL ORDERS NO. 06-12
June 2012

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JUNE MEETING AT A GLANCE

Dennis E. Frye
"September Suspense: Lincoln's Union in Peril"

The Country Club of the Wisconsin Club
6200 W. Good Hope Rd., Milwaukee.
See map on page 7.

(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 – \$23 by reservation.

Deadline: Monday, June 4, 2012

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

A QUICK REMINDER REGARDING 2012-2013 DUES

As you know, our season runs from September through May or June. Our membership follows the same pattern, with all memberships due each year in September. For the last two seasons, we have incorporated our dues renewal form with the September *General Orders*. This has enabled us to gain some savings in printing and postage by not sending this out as a separate mailing. Please be on the lookout for a renewal notice in your September *General Orders* and send it back right away. The more responses we get immediately, the fewer reminders need to be sent later.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Paul Eilbes, Treasurer/Membership Committee Chair

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 May 11, 2012.

Major Contributor (\$500 and above)

In Memoriam: Eugene and Caroline Jamroz

James Wiensch

Bob Lieding

Benefactor: (\$400 and above)

Sponsor: (\$300 - \$390)

Patron: (\$200 - \$299)

Eugene and Jane Jamroz

Dr. Crain Bliwas

Associate: (\$100 - \$199)

Richard Gross

Dr. Bob Karczewski

Allan Kasprzak

Trudi Schmitt



In June 1959 Virgil C. Jones spoke to the Round Table members about "Mosby's Rangers."

Frank Vandiver was the featured speaker in June 1966. Vandiver spoke about "The Civil War as an Institutionalizing Force."

"White Opposition to Black Migration into Civil War Wisconsin" was the subject of Edward Noyes' talk in June 1974.

In June 1982 Karen Osborne spoke about "Mary A. Bickerdyke: A Female Hero of the Civil War."

In June 1993 Frances H. Kennedy was our featured speaker. The topic at that meeting was "The Dollars and Sense of Battlefield Preservation."

Lesley J. Gordon visited our Round Table in June 2001 to speak about "The Life and Legend of General George Pickett."

ANNOUNCEMENTS • EVENTS • MEETINGS

July 7, 2012

Wounded Warriors Softball Games

Fond du Lac, WI

July 21-22, 2012

Old Falls Village, Menomonee Falls

Civil War Encampment and Battle Reenactment

Adults \$5/Children ages 6-14, \$3

August 3-5, 2012

Muskets and Memories

20th Annual Civil War Era Reenactment

and GAR Heritage Encampment

Boscobel, WI

August 3-5, 2012

American Civil War Shooting Association Live Fire Meet

Hosted by the 1st USSS, 15th Wisconsin & 8th Wisconsin

Boscobel, WI

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.

Our Quartermaster has two new items for your consideration.

ITEM	COST
NEW! Hooded Sweatshirt in Northern Blue	\$35.00
NEW! 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

Mail: Roman Blenski, Quartermaster

4601 W. Holt Ave.

Milwaukee, WI 53219

Call: 414-327-2847

Email: dbcpmilw@execpc.com

In Person: Monthly Meeting at Book Raffle



Brian Mullins, Milwaukee, WI

KENOSHA CIVIL WAR MUSEUM

Second Friday Lunchbox Series

Friday, June 8, 2012, Noon

Lincoln's Union In Peril, presented by Dennis Frye, Chief Historian of the Harpers Ferry National Military Park. Frye will discuss the pivotal events of September 1862, including Lee's first invasion of the North, the Maryland Campaign, and the Battle of Antietam.

Friday, July 13, 2012, Noon

Small Arms For the Confederacy, presented by Charles Foster. Foster will discuss what firearms the Confederates used on the battlefield and how rare they are today.

Friday, August 10, 2012, Noon

Battle at Brawner's Farm: The Iron Brigade Earns its Name, presented by Bruce Klem. Klem details the events of the Battle of Brawner's Farm, part of the larger Battle of Second Manassas and how the Iron Brigade got one of their first encounters with the men of Stonewall Jackson's command.

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

A Salute to Freedom

June 9, 2012, 9am – 5 pm

June 10, 2012, Noon – 4 pm

Free Family Activities, Performances and Programs.

Civil War Media Club

Wednesday, July 25, 2012, 7 – 8:30 pm

The summer edition of the Civil War Media Club will read and discuss Kathleen Ernst's *Too Afraid to Cry: Maryland Civilians in the Antietam Campaign*. \$10/\$5 Friends of the Museum

Grant and Lee: Reflections of the Civil War

Saturday, July 28, 2012, 2 pm

Generals Grant and Lee meet again to reflect on the American Civil War from the perspective of the two leading commanders. Each will present their own unique perspective of the conflict and will interact with the other. *A free presentation sponsored by the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee and the Iron Brigade Association.*

Fifth Annual Great Lakes Civil War Forum: Antietam

Saturday, September 8, 2012

In commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Antietam the museum presents four lectures on the campaign:

Mr. Stephen Recker – *Rare Images of Antietam*

Ms. Leslie Goddard – *Civil War Nurse Clara Barton*

Dr. Gordon Dammann – *Islands of Mercy: Union Field Hospitals during and after the Battle of Antietam*

Dr. Mary Ambroe – *Saving Antietam: One Hundred Years of Challenges Met and Lessons Learned*

\$60/\$50 Friends of the Museum (includes lunch). Advance registration required.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: SEPTEMBER 29, 2012

James McPherson at the Museum

Details in September *General Orders*

For more information on the museum and its programs call (262) 653-4141 or visit their website www.thecivilwarmuseum.org

CIVIL WAR NEWS

Cedar Creek Battlefield App is the newest entry in the Civil War Trust's popular Battlefield App series. The app is a free multimedia and GPS-enabled smartphone tour of the Cedar Creek Battlefield and is available for iPhone and Android phones. The newest App was announced by the Trust in a May 4, 2012 press release.

Like its predecessors – Bull Run, Chancellorsville, Fredericksburg, Gettysburg and Malvern Hill, the new App includes video segments from top historians, period and modern imagery, and detailed topographical maps along with a wealth of resource materials that provide valuable background information. The Cedar Creek App includes two distinct tours – one covering the surprise Confederate attack that nearly routed the Union Army during the fighting's morning phase, and one covering the dramatic Union rally and counterattack that ultimately carried the day.

The Trust's ongoing Battle App project is made possible through the cooperation and generous support of the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT). The VDOT has committed to underwriting the project to encourage residents and visitors alike to explore the Commonwealth's outstanding historic resources.

To date, more than 50,000 people have downloaded the Trust's Battle Apps. Next in the development pipeline are Battle Apps for the Petersburg and Second Manassas battlefields.

1862 Commemorative Postage Stamps are now available. The U. S. Postal Service in its ongoing commemoration of the 150th Civil War Anniversary has issued this year's stamps featuring the 1862 Battles in New Orleans and Antietam.

Art director Phil Jordan created the stamps using images of the two battles. The Battle of New Orleans stamp is a reproduction of an 1862 colored lithograph by Currier & Ives titled "The Splendid Naval Triumph on the Mississippi, April 24, 1862" and depicts Admiral Farragut's fleet passing Fort Jackson and Fort St. Phillip on the way to New Orleans. The Battle of Antietam stamp is a reproduction of an 1887 painting by Thure de Thulstrup.

National Geographic releases its Top Ten Civil War sites. The sites selected are: Fort Sumter National Monument, Manassas National Battlefield Park, Shiloh National Military Park, Richmond, Virginia, Antietam National Battlefield, Gettysburg National Military Park, Vicksburg National Military Park, Andersonville National Historic Site, Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park and Appomattox Court House National Historical Park.

New Superintendent appointed for Shiloh National Military Park. John Bundy, superintendent of the Little River Canyon Preserve and Russell Cave National Monument, has been named the new superintendent of Shiloh National Military Park.

Bundy has more than 30 years of national park experience and has been superintendent at Little River and Russell Cave National Monument for 10 years.

Bundy replaces longtime Shiloh supervisor, Woody Harrell, who retired as Shiloh's superintendent after serving there for 22 years. Harrell's tenure is the longest in the park's 117-year history. Woody has visited all 397 of America's national parks and is now, in retirement, preparing for a 2,184 mile hike on the Appalachian Trail with his wife.

AND SO IT CONTINUES: Summer 1862...

Marking the Civil War Sesquicentennial

JUNE 1862

The month of June would continue to bring command problems to President Lincoln. McClellan continues to call for more men while making little progress toward securing the Confederate capital. Banks, McDowell and Fremont will fail to trap Stonewall Jackson. In the South Richmond is still in danger. Corinth is occupied by the Federals, New Orleans has been captured and the entire Mississippi River Valley is threatened. The days were getting hotter, the marches longer and the death tolls larger.

June 1, 1862 • The Battle of Seven Pines (Fair Oaks) ends. The second day of the battle found the Confederates faltering and the Federals reinforced. Joseph E. Johnston had been wounded and Robert E. Lee was the new commander. By midafternoon, Lee had ordered a retreat to the original positions.

McClellan was still near Richmond. Lincoln, waiting news from McClellan, wired the general three times including one message that said: "Hold all your ground, or yield any only, inch by inch and in good order."

In the Shenandoah Stonewall Jackson was at Strasburg with Fremont coming at him from Warrensville. Shields, of McDowell's command, was at Front Royal. Jackson, moving south up the valley pike between the two forces who meant to cut him off would evade both and remain safe while moving up the valley toward Harrisonburg.

June 2, 1862 • After two days of battling at Seven Pines the Army of the Potomac and the Army of Northern Virginia rested.

Dear Wife,

I take great pleasure in sitting down to write to you again...

The Rebels left Corinth on double quick badly panic-stricken and scared half to death. The Yankees had too many big guns for them. Corinth is quite a nice little place about half as large as LaCrosse. The inhabitants have all left the place except for two families. They burned several buildings together with the depo and quite a quantity of provisions. Generals Pope, Buell, and Mitchel are in hot pursuit of the Rebels...

Thos. J. Davis

Co. C 18th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry

Camp near Corinth, Mississippi, June 2, 1862

June 3, 1862 • Confederates at Fort Pillow threatened by the navy flotilla north of them begin evacuating.

Jackson continues his withdrawal southward in the valley.

Jefferson Davis, on his fifty-fourth birthday, writes to his wife: "It is hard to see incompetence losing opportunity and wasting hard-gotten means, but harder still to bear, is the knowledge that there is no available remedy."

June 4, 1862 • Southern troops complete their evacuation of Fort Pillow on the Mississippi. Southern planters burned large amounts of cotton on the Yazoo and Mississippi to prevent its capture.

June 5, 1862 • Northern troops find Fort Pillow deserted. Federal actions on the Chickahominy are hindered by heavy rains.

June 6, 1862 • The city of Memphis falls to Union forces. The Federal fleet under the command of Commodore Charles Davis engages the Confederate ships below the bluffs of the city. Memphis citizens line the bluffs to watch a Federal defeat. The fight would last for two hours and would end in a Confederate defeat; Memphis citizens returned home, many in tears. At 11 a.m. the mayor surrenders the city. The Mississippi is now open all the way to Vicksburg.

In the Shenandoah Valley, Jackson continues his retreat toward Port Republic. Jackson's cavalry chief, Turner Ashby, is killed in a rearguard action in the fields just south of Harrisonburg.

June 7, 1862 • General Benjamin Butler orders the hanging of William B. Mumford. Mumford is hanged for tearing down and destroying the United States flag which had been flying over the United States Mint Building located on the lower end of the French Quarter in New Orleans.

Federal troops shell Chattanooga. In the Shenandoah more skirmishing occurs near Harrisonburg. Skirmishing also continues on James Island in the Charleston Harbor area. Federal forces take Jackson, Tennessee.

June 8, 1862 • Beauregard's forces continue their move towards Tupelo, Mississippi. Pvt. Jackson of the Orphan Brigade writes: "Marched 12 miles to Tupelo, then 5 miles west, and bivouacked. Sore feet, mine. Tupelo is a small dirty-looking town on the Mobile and Ohio railroad. The war, I presume, has given it something of its dirty appearance."

Jackson, at Port Republic, Va, faces two Federal columns – one in the west commanded by Frémont and one to the north commanded by James Shields. Jackson is attacked on the west by Frémont at Cross Keys. The main Confederate fighting at Cross Keys is commanded by R. S. Ewell. Ewell successfully defends his position and forces Frémont to partially withdraw.

McClellan's Federal forces, having failed to defeat Jackson, are ordered to operate in the direction of Richmond.

June 9, 1862 • Jackson brings Ewell's troops across the river to Port Republic to assist in opposing James Shields' Federal forces. The Battle of Port Republic is the last battle of the Valley Campaign. In 38 days Jackson's "foot cavalry" had marched nearly 400 miles and kept thousands of Federal troops tied up and away from Richmond. Not only had Jackson kept reinforcements away from McClellan, his campaign had also made his name legendary as his actions helped to renew a sense of hope in the South.

June 11, 1862 • Under orders from Washington, Frémont pulls back from the Port Republic area to Mount Jackson in the Shenandoah. Jackson rests his troops near Port Republic while everyone speculates on what he will do.

Robert E. Lee gives Gen. J.E.B. Stuart his orders:

General: You are desired to make a secret movement to the rear of the enemy now posted on the Chickahominy with a view of gaining intelligence of his operations, communications, &c, of driving in his forage parties & securing such grain, cattle, &c for ourselves as you can make arrangements to have driven in...

The utmost vigilance on your part will be necessary to prevent any surprise to yourself & the greatest caution must be practiced in keeping well in your fronts and flanks reliable scouts to give you information...

Information received last evening, the points on which I sent you, lead me to infer that there is a stronger force on the enemy's right than was previously reported...Should you find upon investigation that the enemy is moving to his right, or is so strongly posted as to render your expedition inopportune, as its success in my opinion depends upon its secrecy, you will, after gaining all the information you can, resume your former position.

I am with great respect, your obt. serv't.

R. E. Lee, General

June 12, 1862 • "Gentlemen, in ten minutes every man must be in his saddle!" At 2 a.m. General J.E.B. Stuart mounted his 1200 cavalry and

begins his 4-day ride around the Army of the Potomac. The ride would serve to embarrass McClellan and give the South a great morale boost.

Lee sends reinforcements to Jackson in the Valley to give the impression that a major thrust would be made northward in that area.

June 13, 1862 • Stuart's cavalry makes a right turn from the South Ana River north of Richmond and moves around the right flank of McClellan's army on the Peninsula, passing through Hanover Court House. Stuart continues moving through the night and by morning is at Forge Bridge, which crossed the Chickahominy.

June 14, 1862 • Working feverishly, Stuart's troops rebuild the destroyed bridge on the Chickahominy at Forge Site fearful of being cut off behind the lines. After three hours the troopers proceeded. Stuart was only thirty-five miles from Richmond and had to go around the left flank of the enemy.

June 15, 1862 • Stuart arrives back in Richmond now a legend. On the positive side, he brought back information for Lee concerning terrain and roads. On the negative side, it alerted McClellan to the vulnerability of the Union flanks.

June 16, 1862 • Near Charleston the Federal troops of Brigadier General H. W. Benham assault the Confederate works at Secessionville. The attack fails and Benham, who disobeyed orders and advice, would eventually be relieved of his command. Benham's actions would seriously retard Federal operations aimed at controlling Charleston Harbor.

June 17, 1862 • Jackson is leaving the Shenandoah Valley and his force is being rapidly shipped east toward Richmond.

Major General Charles Frémont resigns his command in protest over having to serve under John Pope who is being brought east to command the new Army of Virginia which would consist of Frémont and Bank's command. Major General Franz Sigel is given Frémont's position.

General Braxton Bragg is named commander of the Western Department of the Confederate Army succeeding the ailing and unhappy General Beauregard. Bragg would now be facing Grant and Buell.

Flag Officer Foote, still recovering from wounds received at Ft. Donelson, is relieved of command of the river fleet. The command now went to newly promoted Flag Officer Charles H. Davis.

June 18, 1862 • Northern troops under Brigadier General George W. Morgan occupy Cumberland Gap.

At Vicksburg, the Confederate Army is repairing old emplacements and building new ones in anticipation of a future visit from the Yankees. Below the city, Farragut is assembling his gunboats and mortar boats in preparation of an assault on the city.

Lincoln asks McClellan when he could attack Richmond.

June 19, 1862 • Lincoln signs into law legislation prohibiting slavery in the territories of the United States.

June 21, 1862 • Jefferson Davis writes to his wife: "A total defeat of McClellan will relieve the Confederacy of its embarrassments in the East, and then we must make a desperate effort to regain what Beauregard has abandoned in the West."

Lee is bringing in Jackson from the Valley and organizing his own forces for an attack on McClellan.

June 22, 1862 • Thirty Sisters of Charity arrive at Fort Monroe to administer to the sick and wounded of the Army of the Potomac.

June 24, 1862 • Skirmishing increases at Mechanicsville, Virginia as Confederates probe the Federal lines. President Davis tells General Van Dorn at Vicksburg: "The people will sustain you in your heroic determination, and may God bless you with success."

June 25, 1862 • The Seven Days' Battle begins with McClellan ordering his forward units to advance on his left flank which, he said, was to be a general movement forward. The main attack by men of Samuel Heint-

zelman's corps is well met by the Confederates of Benjamin Huger. By evening there is little change in the lines a few miles east of Richmond.

June 26, 1862 • Day Two of the Seven Days' Battle begins with sharp fighting around Mechanicsville. After waiting for Jackson to turn up, General A. P. Hill attacked at 3 p.m. without Jackson. Hill's troops pushed through Mechanicsville, and the Federals fell back into strong prepared positions. Hill threw his men against the position in a frontal attack and the charge failed. Jackson was still not on the field; this would be the first of several delays charged to Jackson during the Seven Days. During the night, the Federals under Fitz John Porter withdrew to another position near Gaines' Mill. McClellan ordered supplies moved to the James in the vicinity of Harrison's Landing and asked for more troops.

On the Mississippi, the bombardment of Vicksburg begins.

At Corinth, Thomas J. Davis, 18th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, Camp No. 9, writes to his wife:

Dear Wife,

I received your letter last night dated June 15 was glad to hear that you was well... You wrote that you were afraid that we would be taken further down south this summer. I do not think that we will be taken any further south in the hot months. I am of the opinion that we will be kept here for sometime to come to do guard duty around Corinth. I am getting tough so that I can stand the hot weather quite well. You said you wanted me to send you a Secesh for you to kill. I could dig up plenty of dead Secesh that would save you the trouble of killing...

June 27, 1862 • The third day of the Seven Days' Battle begins with Fitz John Porter holding Gaines Mill. The Confederates attack at around 3 p.m. across ravines, fields and swamps against the strong semi circled defense positions. After dark, the Confederates under General John Bell Hood and George Pickett break the lines at Gaines Mill but the force is not sustained and they had to fall back. Fitz John Porter, amid the confusion, withdraws his battered troops across the Chickahominy River and rejoins the Army of the Potomac.

McClellan begins his withdrawal to the James River. Some would call his retreat a "great skedaddle."

In Washington, President Lincoln accepts the resignation of Major General Frémont from the army ending Frémont's military career.

June 28, 1862 • On the fourth day of the Seven Days' Battle things are fairly quiet. Long lines of wagons moving towards the James River mark McClellan's retreat. Lee is reorganizing his forces for another attack. McClellan sends a telegram to President Lincoln saying the battle was lost because his force was too small effectively blaming the President for the failure.

At Vicksburg, Farragut's fleet moves upriver at 2 a.m. in an attempt to pass the defenses. By 4 a.m. the battle was engaged. By 6 a.m. all but three vessels had made the passage.

June 29, 1862 • On the fifth day of the Seven Days' Battle Confederate forces north of the Chickahominy cross the stream and follow the retreating McClellan; Confederates south of the river also give pursuit. The Federal rear guard withstood the repeated attacks. Jackson is once again accused of being tardy. The Federals safely withdraw but leave 2500 sick and wounded at Savage's Station on the Richmond and York River Railroad east of Richmond.

June 30 • The month would end with the armies near Richmond fighting a confused battle at White Oak Swamp. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia tries to attack McClellan across a swamp. McClellan successfully counters the attack. Longstreet cannot break the line and Jackson is once again

Continued on page 6.

AND SO IT CONTINUES...*continued from page 5.*

late. By nightfall, McClellan has drawn his lines in tightly upon Malvern Hill just north of the James River. Lee has lost his last chance to cut McClellan's army in two. It was clear that Richmond was saved. A Northern officer felt that the army had been left to take care of itself "and was saved by its own brave fighting," with little help from "Little Mac."

In Washington, President Lincoln wrote to his Secretary of State about McClellan's position: "the loss of enemies does not compensate for the loss of friends."

JULY 1862

The month would begin with the 7th day of the Seven Days' Battle. Lee orders an attack on the Federals entrenched on Malvern Hill. Lee's attack is disjointed due to poor coordination and would be cut to pieces by Federal gunners and riflemen aided by the additional support of naval gunboats. It proved to be a costly mistake for Lee.

South of Corinth, Col. Philip Sheridan and his cavalry unit defeat a Confederate force. In Washington, Lincoln approves a federal income tax.

Pvt. John Jackman of the Orphan Brigade at Vicksburg would write about the shelling by Federal mortar boats:

There can be no dodging from mortar shells...First we would hear the mortars go boom, boom, boom away over the bend of the river and soon after could hear the shells whining high up in the air as they came circling over and then they would come shrieking down...I felt sorry for the inhabitants.

July 5, 1862 • In Richmond, conscripted soldiers were arriving to fill the ranks of the Army of Northern Virginia. In Kentucky, John Hunt Morgan was on the loose. He would call for the citizens to "rise and arm, and drive the Hessian invaders from their soil." Morgan would be on the move throughout the month capturing Tompkinsville and Lebanon, Kentucky and would cause panic along the Ohio. Cincinnati, Evansville and Louisville would ask for protection.

July 11, 1862 • Halleck is promoted to General-in-Chief of all U.S. land forces.

By mid-July Lee was moving more of his army away from the Peninsula and toward the west. Lincoln would be having serious doubts about McClellan's ability to get results from the Army of the Potomac.

July 16, 1862 • In Paris, Napoleon III receives Confederate commissioner John Slidell who requests France's formal recognition of the Confederacy and aid of France's warships in breaking the blockade in exchange for cotton. France declines.

Flag Officer David G. Farragut is appointed the first Rear Admiral in U.S. history.

July 17, 1862 • Grant assumes command of all western troops. Congress passes an act which establishes that: *...every officer, seaman, or marine, disabled in the line of duty, shall be entitled to receive for life, or during his disability, a pension from the United States, according to the nature and degree of his disability, not exceeding in any case his monthly pay.*

July 23, 1862 • Halleck assumes command of all Union army forces. John Pope, in northern Virginia, declares that any male who refuses to take the oath of allegiance to the Union would be sent south. If he was caught again in the area, he would be considered a spy. Any person violating his oath would be shot and his property confiscated.

July 24, 1862 • Farragut's river fleet departs the area around Vicksburg for Baton Rouge and New Orleans, leaving five gunboats to guard the river.

The month would end with the capture of Belle Boyd, accused Confederate spy. McClellan, under orders by Halleck, would move all his sick and wounded to Harrison's Landing for evacuation. Generals Stuart and Jackson would visit the Confederate War Department. President Davis would

issue an order that any commissioned officer captured from Pope's army be treated as a felon rather than a prisoner of war.

AUGUST 1862

August would start out with Halleck ordering McClellan to move his Federal Army of the Potomac from the Peninsula north to Aquia Landing near Fredericksburg and to Alexandria. McClellan was to aid in the defense of Washington. McClellan vehemently protested the order. Jonathan Letterman, Medical Director of the Army of the Potomac, had his plan approved for the establishment of the Army Ambulance Corps.

August 4, 1862 • Lincoln orders the draft of 300,000 militia to serve for nine months, unless discharged sooner; this draft was never put into effect. Lincoln also order the military to get rid of incompetent persons holding commissions, and to promote worthy officers.

August 9, 1862 • The Battle of Cedar Mountain would find Banks' corps of Pope's army driving sharply and successfully against two of Stonewall Jackson's divisions, until a third, under A. P. Hill, comes up to stem the tide and counterattack. Banks would pull back. The battle would be ill fought by both sides.

By mid-August McClellan would be free of the Peninsula and he was supposed to support Pope's Army of Virginia, which was heading towards a major clash with Lee. Lee's army was moving towards Culpeper and Manassas.

August 20, 1862 • Skirmishing between Pope and Lee was becoming more frequent and widespread. As Lee advanced, Pope withdrew and he still waited for reinforcements from McClellan's troops.

August 21 1862 • At the Kelly's, Beverly, and Freeman's ford crossings of the Rappahannock, Confederate cavalry clash with Federal pickets as Lee continues to move further north.

August 26, 1862 • Lee and Pope begin a battle that would become the Second Battle of Bull Run. Opening action was taken by cavalry under Fitzhugh Lee when he entered Manassas Junction and captured the rail depot and cut off the communication to Washington. Jackson was positioned at Bristoe Station. Pope was unaware as to where Lee and Jackson were. McClellan was still at Alexandria waiting for the remainder of his army from the Peninsula.

August 27, 1862 • Pope, outflanked by Jackson, leaves his lines and moves north towards the old Bull Run battlefield. Longstreet was coming up to support Jackson. Pope was in trouble. Half the Army of Northern Virginia was now between Pope and Washington.

August 28, 1862 • Pope arrives at Manassas to find that Jackson had withdrawn but Pope had no idea where Jackson had gone. Jackson is sitting along the Warrenton Turnpike just west of the old Bull Run Battlefield. Pope would meet up with Jackson's force at Brawner's Farm. Lee and Longstreet pass to the north of Pope undetected.

August 29, 1862 • At Manassas, Pope believes he has Jackson trapped and orders an attack on Jackson's positions. Jackson holds without difficulty. Lee and Longstreet arrive around noon and take positions near the old Confederate line of July 1861. Halleck urges McClellan to send troops immediately to support Pope but little is done. In Washington, Lincoln, cut off from telegraph communication, paces.

August 29, 1862 • At Manassas, Pope believes that the Confederates have retreated and attacks Jackson's line, the Confederate left flank. Longstreet attacks from the right flank and sends Pope's forces into retreat towards Centreville. Pope was beaten but his army did not panic. Lee won the battle but did not destroy the Union Army on the field.

The month would end with the clean up after the Second Battle of Bull Run. The wounded were evacuated and the dead buried. At Fredericksburg, Federal forces evacuate the city, leaving behind a considerable quantity of supplies. The shadow of South Mountain and Antietam loom ahead.

And so it continues.

FROM THE FIELD
*June, July,
August 1862*

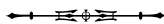
From the 2nd Wisconsin Regiment
Division of the Rappahannock
Opposite Fredericksburg, Va
June 13, 1862

Editors Witness:

Since my last letter, this division has been on a contended march, and have walked over two hundred miles. Had the weather and roads been good it would have been all right, and none would have complained, yet we had quite a conglomerated mass of hail, rain, sunshine and mud, which made it quite disagreeable. It was supposed by those in command that we would be of service to Banks and lend a helping hand in defeating Jackson, yet when we reached Warrenton we received orders to return and this brigade is again opposite Fredericksburg. Some complaint is made that this division has not a fair chance – and not a few censure McDowell for our continued inactivity but I think this is hardly fair. According to the agreement between the President, Secretary of State and McClellan, this portion of the army was to be, and to act as a reserve, to be used when necessary.

This agreement has in part been broken for McClellan has no inconsiderable portion of McDowell's command with him at Richmond, and may shortly call for the entire corps. Brigades are leaving here daily for Richmond, and though soldiers are proverbial for profanity, one prayer, I am confident, is continually being offered, "Pray send us McClellan."

Competent military judges pronounced this the best corps in the Army of the Potomac and partial judges say this division stands first in the corps – and friends say "the Wisconsin brigade is decidedly the superior brigade of the division." Let that be as it may, we have skillful officers, not shadows dressed cloth, gold lace and feathers, but regular army officers who know their duty and knowing it, dare do it. The Second and the Fifth Wisconsin regiments are on the best of terms yet there is a feeling of jealousy now pervading the Second that is quite natural and of which I am proud. The Fifth made its mark at Williamsburg, and nobly earned the compliment so gallantly paid them by McClellan – and that's the rub – not that we love the Fifth less but because we love the Second more is the case. Though this regiment "fought, bled and died" last July a Bull Run, they got no distinguished compliment – Bull Run we never inscribed on their banner. But, candidly, the Fifth may boast of their action at Williamsburg, and Wisconsin will feel proud that she has so gallant a regiment in the field. Though the Second may not again have an opportunity of distinguishing themselves, nothing loath will they be of "rendering unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's." We are proud of the Fifth...



From Col. Lucius Fairchild of the 2nd Wis
Written near Fredericksburg, July 1862

We have...a big half bull dog named McClellan, stolen from a secesh. He attends all drills...is always at Dress Parade, sometimes marches up and down in front of the Regiment with the band and always marches to the center with his officers and up to the Colonel.

All is done with becoming gravity.

2nd Wisconsin
Camp in sight of Battlefield
Virginia, August 12, 1862

Dear Father:

I take a few moments to let you know how King's division is getting along as I promised mother I would write as quick as we reached Pope. After today's marching we reached here in the night, about 8 o'clock, went into camp and slept well all night expecting to get up in the morning and have a big battle with Jackson who was in front of us last night. But Jackson left last night. I guess he thought that we had a larger force than he could cope with.

Before we got here we heard that Gen. Pope's command had been fighting all day and was fighting yet. We could hear heavy firing and our Division was pushed through as fast as we could go so as to be in time for a little fight before it was all over. But we did not get through in time. The fight commenced Saturday and ended Sunday night. Coming thro' to where we are now camped, we had to pass the Third Wisconsin Regiment which had been in the fight. The boys looked well and felt as if they had just come from a dance. I happened to be by when one of the boys told all the particulars of the engagement. It was Banks' Corps that did all the fighting...

Pope has some sixty thousand troops here. It is a grand site. One cannot see them all but can see enough to make his eyes open. We expect to have a fight in less than a week. Jackson has retreated and we are after him like bees.

You must watch the papers close every day because we will have a fight sooner than you expect and a big one too. If I fall, it will be with a musket in my hand and at my post. I will never allow my name to be disgraced or dishonored by turning my back on the enemy, only when ordered; and I hope when we do get at them we will give them such a licking that they will think and dream of us in their sleeps.

J.P.B.



August 28, 1862

...My brigade was now placed in a position on the ridge alongside the Pike where it climbed the hill near the Robinson House, the pieces of Battery "B" being unlimbered, were prepared for action. The sun was now just disappearing and the atmosphere so thick with smoke the eye could not reach to any great distance...

Whilst waiting in position I heard someone inquire in a short quick tone: "Whose command is this?" and turning to look I recognized General Phil Kearny. I walked up to him and told him I was directed to act as rear guard. He was a soldierly looking figure as he sat, straight as an arrow, on his horse, his empty sleeve pinned to his breast.

Turning toward me, he said in his curt way: "You must wait for my command, sir." "Yes," I replied, "I will wait for all our troops to pass to the rear. Where is your command, General?" "Off on the right, don't you hear my guns? You must wait for Reno, too," "Where is he?" "On the

Continued on page 8.

THE LAST MAN TO SEE LINCOLN

By Lance J. Herdegen

John Bowlus of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, was the last man alive to see the body of Abraham Lincoln in his coffin. It occurred during a little known event almost four decades after Lincoln died, and Bowlus recounted the story 90 years after the "Illinois Railsplitter" had been assassinated.

The tale is told in a yellowing dispatch in the files of the Milwaukee Bureau of the United Press International; the story was written in 1955. Bowlus was 68 at the time and died shortly thereafter.

Bowlus was present at Springfield, Illinois when the remains of Lincoln were unearthed for the last time before being permanently interred in steel and concrete at the base of the Lincoln Monument in Oak Ridge Cemetery at Springfield.

Bowlus said it was a cool evening that night of September 20, 1902, when a neighbor, a "Mr. Freeman," who was Illinois Superintendent of Education, asked him to drive "somewhere."

Lincoln's body had been moved several times to protect it from souvenir hunters who had raided his tomb. Bowlus said he drove through the gathering dusk to Oak Ridge where he and Mr. Freeman were met by a small group of Illinois officials. There he learned the body was to be uncovered for the last time and taken for permanent burial after the tamper-proof crypt had been made ready.

The party descended into the dark catacomb under a mausoleum where the remains of Lincoln lay hidden under a pile of loose boards. In silence, Bowlus helped remove the top of three lids on the coffin.

"I can see his face as if it were yesterday," Bowlus recalled. "Even in death he was an awe-inspiring figure." A boy of 14 at the time, Bowlus said he had stood on tiptoe and gazed, awestruck, on the majestic features of Lincoln, almost too afraid to peer into the glass-topped casket. "The body was almost perfectly preserved," Bowlus remembered. "The face was darker... he lay with his head and shoulders and tips of his hands visible where they were crossed on his chest." It was awe-inspiring, almost frightening," he said. "The beard appeared to have grown longer, but the dignity of the great man could almost be felt through the air-tight casket which had preserved his body," Bowlus said.

A short while later, the body was sealed in the monument to rest undisturbed forever.

From the Jan-Feb 1990 issue of *The Skirmish Line*, the newsletter of the NS-SA.

FROM THE FIELD...continued from page 7.

left – you hear his guns? He is keeping up the fight and I am doing all I can to help." Then in a short bitter tone he broke out with: "I suppose you appreciate the condition of affairs here, sir?" I did not understand the remark and only looked inquiringly at him. He repeated: "I suppose you appreciated the condition of affairs? It's another Bull Run, sir, it's another Bull Run!"...

It is impossible to describe the extreme bitterness and vehemence with which he uttered these words as he rode away towards his command. Two days afterwards, September 1st, General Kearny was killed at Chantilly. I have seen one of the last letters he ever wrote, dated the 31st, in which he there alludes to the Battle of Bull Run: - "The army ran like sheep, all but a General Reno and a General Gibbon.," and in the letter dated the next day (since published) he says: "On the 30th nine-tenths of the troops disgracefully fled. I held the entire right until 10 p.m., as Reno did the left, and Gibbon the main road."

John Gibbon

THE SHAM BATTLE

A valued correspondent, whose choice contribution should have appeared before, dilates upon the coming "Sham Battle," in the manner following: If we must have a "Sham Battle" during Reunion week, why, let us have one with all the connections. Let the breathless spectators, who want to see how a real battle looks, be treated to the genuine article, with nothing omitted which goes to make up "the pride, pomp and circumstance of glorious war."

In this view it will be eminently proper to have firing commence on the picket line at early dawn, when the men will fall in and shiver in line for two hours, while the general officers sit under tent flies and drink hot coffee.

A regiment of cavalry will be deployed through all the mud puddles in the vicinity....General officers will direct these movements and be refreshed with copious draughts of whiskey, meanwhile.

After the men have stood in line until they are thoroughly starved and mad enough to fight each other, the fight will be postponed for two days.

When the opposing forces are finally mustered for the fray and appearances indicate that there will really be a battle, several hundred wagons will be formed in the rear of each army. Then the most severe sufferings of a soldier's life will begin. In each company will be seen the dreadful work of disease. Strong men will suddenly be attacked with gripes. A shell from the enemy will burst within a mile and a half of the sufferers, who will be seized with the idea that they can get relief only under a wagon. The slam bang of a whole battery will develop the fever and ague, measles, cerebro spinal-come-and-get us, and milk leg in a number of victims in each command they will with one accord apply the wagon antidote. After the space under each wagon is filled with sick soldiers, the well ones will move under such inspiring orders as "Hell and damnation, men, why don't you dress up on the right."

A soldier will fall while eagerly pressing something to his lips; and the essential females will at once conclude that it is a girl's picture or a lock of her hair. Close inspection will demonstrate, however, that it is a chunk of musty bacon.

The surgeons will appear, and establish field hospitals. The old surgeons will quarrel over the question as to whether the "circular" or the "flap" operation is preferable in amputations, and the young saw bones will refuse to operate upon any one but real strong men, who seem to be able to sustain the amputation of a leg above the knee, in cases where a toe has been dislocated.

The wounded will be tenderly served on the ground with muddy water and hard tack, while the sanitary commission fellows will rest on spring mattresses a mile or two in the rear, and eke out a miserable existence on choice wines and home made jelly.

After the battle is over the dead will be robbed by such of the sick men under the wagons as have recovered sufficiently to crawl out. Most oft them will feel well enough to rob at least one corpse.

Each army will withdraw out of sight of the other, and claim a glorious victory. The next day, one of the fellows who crawled under a wagon, but who has a relative at home in high political favor, will receive a commission from the governor as captain for "bravery in action."

The Milwaukee Sunday Telegraph

May 9, 1880

Read more about Civil War veteran reunions in *Sing Not War: The Lives of Union and Confederate Veterans in Gilded Age America* by local historian James Marten.

**SWIFT U.S. GENERAL HOSPITAL EXHIBIT
PRAIRIE DU CHIEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

The Prairie du Chien Historical Society’s permanent exhibit on the Swift U.S. Army General Hospital at Prairie du Chien will be opened June 23, 2012. The program will include a history of the hospital and Civil War music performed by the Manitou Regimental Band. The exhibit is the result of a grant from The Earl and Alice Thayer Fund administered by the Wisconsin Medical Society. The Swift hospital was one of three hospitals in Wisconsin to care for wounded and ill Civil War soldiers. It opened the fall of 1864 and closed September 1865. It cared for more than 1,400 soldiers from Wisconsin and Minnesota. For more information contact Mary Antoine at antoine@mhtc.net or the Fort Crawford Museum www.fortcrawfordmuseum.com

CORRESPONDENCE

Donna,

As president of the Hiawatha Valley CWRT, (Winona, MN), I just want to commend you on the good work you do with the Newsletter and Website. You’re doing a great job!

Andy Straseske, Winona, MN

These kind words were acknowledged on behalf of the “team”: Donna Agnelly, editor; Patricia Lynch, designer; Jim Johnson, webmaster.

**SUMMER MAINTENANCE ON THREE
MONUMENTS AT GETTYSBURG**

The National Park Service has announced that three Gettysburg Monuments will be washed and polished in June. Maintenance will be performed on the New York State Memorial, the Vermont State Memorial, and the Pennsylvania State Memorial. The work on the three monuments will require a 150-foot lift. The Gettysburg Foundation is covering the cost of renting an aerial platform.

Work on the New York State Memorial in the Soldiers’ National Cemetery will be completed first, followed by work on the Vermont State Memorial located on Hancock Avenue.

By June 8 or 9, the park crew will move to the Pennsylvania Memorial; this project, which will take longer to complete, will begin with walnut-shell blasting and washing of the 7,500 pound bronze sculpture, the Goddess of Victory and Peace, at the top of the memorial to remove corrosion and grime. The crew will complete the work by steam cleaning the entire monument, waxing the lower figures, and waxing the interior rotunda bronze. During work on the memorial, the upper level observation deck may be closed to visitors for long periods of time. Temporary closures of the first level and access to the bronze plaques will also be required during this period. Work should be completed by the end of June.

June Meeting

Our June meeting will be held at the **Country Club of the Wisconsin Club**, formerly the Brynwood Country Club, located at 6200 W. Good Hope Rd., Milwaukee WI 53223 (414) 353-8800.

Valet Parking is highly recommended.

**THE COUNTRY CLUB OF
THE WISCONSIN CLUB**



Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for June 7, 2012

Mail your reservations by Monday, June 4, 2012, to:
Paul Eilbes
1809 Washington Ave.
Cedarburg, WI 53012-9730

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

Enclosed is \$ ____ (meal price \$23.00 per person) for ____ reservations for June 7, 2012, 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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General Orders design & layout by Patricia A. Lynch, Harvest Graphics. Yearly memberships available: Individual (\$40), Family (\$50), and Non-Resident (\$25). See also the article on page 2 of this issue of *General Orders*. Contact Paul Eilbes for information: (262) 376-0568.

The Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc., admits members of any race, color, national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges and activities of the Round Table.

2012 – 2013 SPEAKER SCHEDULE

September 13, 2012: Bjorn Skaptason

October 11, 2012: Edward H. Bonekemper III

November 8, 2012: Tom Clemens

December 13, 2012: Dale Phillips

January 10, 2013: Dave Powell

February 7, 2013: Dr. Mary Ambroe

March 7, 2013: TBD

April 11, 2013: John Fitzpatrick

May 9, 2013: Ethan Rafuse

June 13, 2013: Dr. Timothy B. Smith