



# GENERAL ORDERS

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



MAY 17, 2012

## BRIAN HOLDEN REID The Strategy of the Civil War

*Here was the greatest and most moving chapter in American history, a blending of meanness and greatness, an ending and a beginning. It came out of what men were, but it did not go as men had planned. — Bruce Catton*

In his May 17 presentation to our Round Table, Brian Holden Reid will speak on the strategy of the Civil War applying Sir Basil Liddell Hart's definition of strategy which is "the art of distributing and applying military means to fulfill the ends of policy." Hart (1895-1970) drawing on his own wartime experiences, favored an indirect approach and emphasized the elements of mobility and surprise. Reid will apply Hart's definition of strategy and will focus on the grand strategy of the North and South.

When considering the North, Reid will explore the importance of the Union blockade, the "Anaconda Plan," the place of the Border States and the vexed issue of the war aims – what was the war really about? When looking at the South, Reid will center his focus on the feasibility of "cordon defense," the defense of slavery and the desire to "take the war to the enemy" and its defensive-offensive focus. Reid will then turn his focus on considering the first and most crucial error – "King Cotton" diplomacy.

The overriding theme of Reid's presentation will be the importance of good civil-military relations so that soldiers and civilians could work together in pursuit of a common aim.

Brian Holden Reid is a professor of American history and military institutions at King's College London, and since 2010 an academic member of College Council. A former head of the Department of War Studies (2001-2007), in 2007 he was awarded the Fellowship of King's College London, the highest honor the college can award its alumni and staff. Reid is an Honorary Vice President of the Society for Army Historical Research and served as a trustee of the Society for Military History, 2003-2011, and, in 2004-2010 a member of the Council of the National Army Museum, London. He is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, the Royal Geographical Society, the Royal United Services Institute, and the Royal Society for the Encouragement of the Arts, Manufactures and Commerce. In 2004-5 he was the first non-American to serve on the Lincoln Prize Jury Panel and in 2007 he was the first non-American to deliver the Elizabeth Roller Bottimer Lecture at the University of Richmond, Virginia, during the Lee Bicentenary. Reid's books include *The Origins of the American Civil War* (1996), *Robert E. Lee: Icon for a Nation* (2005) and *America's Civil War: The Operational Battlefield, 1861 – 1863*.

*Period attire is welcome  
at the May meeting.*



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**May 2012**

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### MAY MEETING AT A GLANCE

Brian Holden Reid  
"The Strategy of the Civil War"

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, May 13, 2012  
See page 7.

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

## CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE NEWS

### 2012 BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

At the April meeting the following board members were reelected: Frank Risler, C. Judley Wyant and Dan Nettesheim. In addition, new board members elected were: Grant Johnson and David Wege. The newly elected directors begin their duties upon election and will serve three-year terms.

### 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 April 13, 2012.

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

In Memoriam: Eugene and Caroline Jamrozy  
James Wiensch  
Bob Lieding

#### *Benefactor: (\$400 and above)*

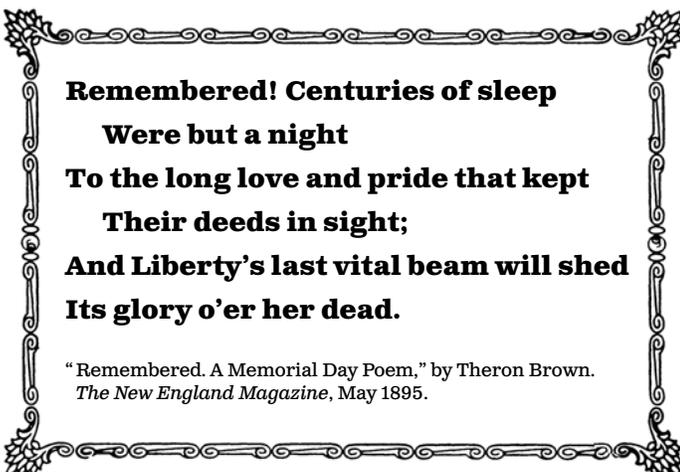
#### *Sponsor: (\$300 - \$390)*

#### *Patron: (\$200 - \$299)*

Eugene and Jane Jamrozy  
Dr. Crain Bliwas

#### *Associate: (\$100 - \$199)*

Richard Gross  
Dr. Bob Karczewski  
Allan Kasprzak  
Trudi Schmitt



## ANNOUNCEMENTS • EVENTS • MEETINGS

### May 14, 2012

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

### May 17, 2012

Prairieville Irregulars, 7 p.m.  
Board Room, Campus Center Building  
Carroll University  
Speaker: Dave Wege, "Showdown in the Shenandoah: 1862"

### May 27, 2012

Service of Remembrance & Decoration of Graves, 1 p.m.  
Forest Home Cemetery, 2405 W. Lincoln Ave.  
West Side Soldiers Aid Society: [www.wssas.org](http://www.wssas.org)

### May 28, 2012

Memorial Day Observance  
Wood National Cemetery  
Concert 9 a.m., Program 9:30 a.m.

### May 28, 2012

Memorial Day Service  
Calvary Cemetery  
See page 8.

### June 2-3, 2012

Reclaiming our Heritage  
Clement J. Zablocki Medical Center, Milwaukee  
[www.forohmilwaukee.org](http://www.forohmilwaukee.org) / 414-902-5599

## 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
<i>NEW!</i> Hooded Sweatshirt in Northern Blue .....	\$35.00
<i>NEW!</i> 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](mailto:dbcpmilw@execpc.com)  
In Person: Monthly Meeting at Book Raffle

## JUNE MEETING: JUNE 7, 2012

Dennis Frye – Antietam (*Country Club of the Wisconsin Club*)

## KENOSHA CIVIL WAR MUSEUM

### Friday Lunchbox Series

May 11, 2012, Noon – 1 p.m.

*Five Missing Pages, Ulysses S. Grant and The Battle of Belmont, Missouri* presented by Tom Arliskas

Arliskas will discuss the November 7, 1861 Battle of Belmont and some of the controversies and mysteries surrounding Grant's first battle as a field commander. *This free program is sponsored by the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee and the Iron Brigade Association.*

### Guided Tour of The Fiery Trial

May 12, 2012, Noon & 2:30 p.m.

Museum staff and volunteer tour guides will lead groups through the "Fiery Trial" to enhance your museum experience by highlighting artifacts and interesting stories while telling the history of the Civil War. Admission to "The Fiery Trial" is required to go on the tour, but advance registration is not required.

### Drum Taps: The Poetry and Life of Walt Whitman

May 19, 2012, Noon – 3:30 p.m.

Enjoy a day of reading and performances of the famous works of American poet, essayist, journalist, and caregiver Walt Whitman. Activities include a lecture at 1 p.m. by Donald Kummings, Emeritus Professor of English, UW-Parkside and a RG Radio Production of the Whitman-inspired program, "The Wound Dresser," at 2:30 p.m.

### The Black Hats From Bull Run to Appomattox

May 22, 2012, 7-8:30 p.m.

Join Lance Herdegen as he takes a pictorial look at the history of one of the most famous infantry brigades in the Union Army – The Iron Brigade of the West. \$15/\$10 Friends of the Museum



In May 1949 John G. Graf spoke about "The Battle of Gettysburg and George Meade."

Holman Hamilton was the featured speaker at the May 1952 meeting. Hamilton's talk was on "Old Rough and Ready in the Civil War."

"The Civil War: A Lesson for Us All," was the subject of Dewey Short's talk in May 1960.

In May 1970 Frederick Williams spoke to those assembled on "Chancellorsville."

John Patrick Hunter spoke about "Civil War Spies in Hoopskirts," in May 1980.

"James Longstreet and the Writing of Southern History" was the topic of William Garrett Piston's talk in May 1993.

Anne J. Bailey visited our Round Table in May 2001; her topic that evening was "Self-Destruction of the Confederacy after the Atlanta Campaign of 1864."

## CIVIL WAR NEWS

**Civil War Death Toll Re-estimated.** J. David Hacker, a demographic historian from Binghamton University in New York has recalculated the Civil War death toll and has increased it by more than 20 percent changing the long-held figure of 618,222 to 750,000. Hacker, using research from newly digitized census data from the 19th century reported his findings in *Civil War History*.

**Robert J. Wynstra** has won the annual Gettysburg Round Table Award for his book *The Rashness of That Hour*. The award is presented by the Round Table for the most original outstanding work on the Gettysburg Campaign.

"We have three criteria for a presentation," said Civil War Round Table president David Collins. "The book has to be about the Gettysburg Campaign, the Retreat, or the memorialization of the battlefield. It has to be published in the preceding year, and it has to contribute significantly to the existing amount of knowledge we know about Gettysburg. The book committee thought that this book was the most significant addition last year to our knowledge about the battle."

Wynstra's book is a deeply-researched brigade and battle history about the defeat of Iverson's brigade at Gettysburg on Day 1. *The Rashness of That Hour* also won the 2010 Dr. James I. Robertson Literary Prize for Confederate History as well as the Bachelder-Coddington Literary Award for the most original outstanding work on the Gettysburg Campaign.

Wynstra is currently finishing work on a study of Robert Rode's division in the Gettysburg Campaign.

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**Fifty-one acres at Resaca Battlefield** are now protected. The Civil War Trust announced the purchase of the 51 acres, scene of fighting during the Atlanta Campaign in May 1864. The Trust plans to deed the property to Gordon County, which will interpret the site and provide visitor services. Two local nonprofit groups, the Georgia Battlefields Association and Friends of Resaca Battlefield, also contributed towards the acquisition.

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**Deadline looming for Cotton Gin Park Project.** Local battlefield preservation group Franklin's Charge is within striking distance of acquiring the critical Domino's Pizza strip mall to begin work on the Carter Cotton Gin Interpretive Park, but they must still raise more than \$300,000 in less than 60 days to make it happen.

The Domino's strip mall, located at the epicenter of the Battle of Franklin, has a price tag of \$1.85 million. Franklin's Charge applied for and was awarded a \$960,000 grant from the Tennessee Department of Transportation, and the Civil War Trust has offered a matching grant of \$500,000 with a deadline of May 30. The matching grant would cover the remaining cost of the property. To date, Franklin's Charge has raised \$150,000 toward the matching grant.

"We are so close to having the funds in place to make the purchase and complete the project before the sesquicentennial of the Battle of Franklin," said Julian Bibb, board member of Franklin's Charge and local attorney. "We've gone from being known as one of America's most threatened battlefields to a national model for battlefield preservation in less than a decade, thanks to the help of some incredible partners and supporters."

Franklin resident, Mike Grainger who serves as the vice chair of the Civil War Trust and is a member of the Tennessee Sesquicentennial Commission noted, "It is exciting to watch this effort gain momentum in my hometown. What's happening in Franklin is unprecedented, and it's not easy work. As we mark the Sesquicentennial, Franklin has become one of the Civil War Trust's most important reclamation projects."

# AND SO IT CONTINUES: MAY 1862...

## Marking the Civil War Sesquicentennial

As Spring moved along things were looking decidedly grim for the South. Most of the Atlantic coast was either occupied or blockaded, the Gulf of Mexico ports were, for the most part, sealed. New Orleans was occupied by Federal forces. Richmond was threatened from the Peninsula by McClellan's forces, Banks was in the Shenandoah Valley and McDowell was near Fredericksburg. In the West, forces in Shiloh awaited action at Corinth.

**May 1, 1862** • Benjamin Butler and his troops assume control of New Orleans.

President Davis writes to Gen. Joseph E. Johnston at Yorktown, "accepting your conclusion that you must soon retire, arrangements are commenced for the abandonment of Navy Yard and removal of public property both from Norfolk and Peninsula."

President Lincoln wires McClellan on the Peninsula that McClellan's call for heavy guns "alarms me — chiefly because it argues indefinite procrastination. Is anything to be done?"

In Winchester, Virginia, twenty-five year old Laura Lee writes in her diary:

*We are also in a state of starvation here. No fresh meat for a fortnight and almost impossible to get eggs and butter, and what we do get is at fabulous prices. We can scarcely get wood enough to cook with and the country people as well as the merchants are charging an immense discount on Virginia money.*

**May 3, 1862** • General Joseph E. Johnston withdraws his Confederate forces from their Yorktown fortifications before McClellan can mount his major bombardment.

Even as the Confederate army retreats, McClellan is still calling for more manpower.

**May 4, 1862** • The Army of the Potomac enters Yorktown and continues towards Williamsburg. Brief skirmishes break out near Williamsburg as forward units of the Federals battle retreating Confederates.

In the Valley, Jackson's men board trains and head for Staunton arriving there in the late afternoon. Jackson takes quarters at the Virginia Hotel.

**May 5, 1862** • Heavy fighting takes place east of the old capital of Williamsburg, Va. Advancing units of McClellan's Army of the Potomac under Joseph Hooker and Phil Kearny clash with the rearguard divisions of Longstreet and D. H. Hill. As more troops move in the Federals are able to occupy part of the line. By evening, the last of the Confederates pull out as Johnston's army continues its retreat.

**May 6, 1862** • Federal troops occupy Williamsburg. At Corinth, Halleck's advance slows dramatically.

**May 8, 1862** • Stonewall Jackson's 10,000 men are attacked by Federal forces of about 6000 under General Robert Schenck at the Battle of McDowell, Virginia. The Confederates repulse the Federals and pursue toward Franklin.

**May 9, 1862** • Confederate forces evacuate Norfolk, Virginia. The loss of this base is a major blow to Confederate control of southside Virginia and northern North Carolina. Supplies and machinery are destroyed, but enough was left to give the Federals a good haul when they marched in the following day.

Flag Officer Foote is relieved of command due to injuries received at Fort Donelson.

In Mississippi there is heavy fighting between forward units of Halleck's forces advancing on Corinth and Confederates at Farmington.

Major General David Hunter at Hilton Head, South Carolina, orders the emancipation of the slaves in Florida, Georgia and South Carolina. The order, without the approval of Congress or Lincoln, was immediately denounced by Congress and was disavowed on May 19 by Lincoln.

**May 10, 1862** • The Confederates set fire to the Norfolk Navy Yard before evacuating it and moving west towards Richmond.

In New Orleans, Gen. Benjamin Butler seizes \$800,000 in gold from the Netherlands Consulate.

President Davis writes to General Johnston on the Peninsula, "I have been much relieved by the successes which you have gained, and I hope for you the brilliant result which the drooping cause of our country now so imperatively claims..."

**May 11, 1862** • The C.S.S. Virginia (Merrimack) is gone — scuttled by her Confederate crew after the crew realized that she would not be able to go up the James River. The Union fleet now had free access up the James toward Richmond up to Dewey's Bluff.

**May 12, 1862** • Natchez, Mississippi, surrenders to Farragut's fleet.

In Richmond, those who could afford to do so were leaving. At Nashville, there is a meeting of pro-Unionists.

**May 13, 1862** • In the Shenandoah Valley, Jackson leaves Franklin and heads back towards the main valley.

In Richmond, more families are leaving the city for western Virginia or North Carolina.

President Davis writes to his wife who has been sent out of the city, "If the withdrawal from the Peninsula and Norfolk had been done with due preparation and a desirable deliberation, I should be more sanguine of a successful defense of the city."

In Charleston, martial law is ordered. In Charleston Harbor the all-Negro crew of the steamer *Planter* sail out of the harbor while their captain is ashore and surrender the steamer to the U.S.S. *Onboard*.

**May 15, 1862** • General Joseph E. Johnston's army pulls back across the Chickahominy to within three miles of Richmond.

In Washington Lincoln approves congressional establishment of the Department of Agriculture as a branch of the Federal government.

In New Orleans, Major General Benjamin Butler issues General Orders, No. 28.

*As the officers and soldiers of the United States have been subject to repeated insults from the women (calling themselves ladies) of New Orleans in return for the most scrupulous non-interference and courtesy on our part, it is ordered that hereafter when any female shall by word, gesture, or movement insult or show contempt for any officer or soldier of the United States she shall be regarded and held liable to be treated as a woman of the town plying her avocation.*

New Orleans resident Sarah Morgan would write in her diary:

*A new proclamation from Butler has just come. It seems that the ladies have an ugly way of gathering their skirts when the Federals pass, to prevent contact, and some even turn up their noses — unladylike to say the least, but which may be owing to the odor they have, which is said to be unbearable even at this early season of the year...*

Other New Orleans ladies would have Butler's likeness painted in the bottom of their chamber pots.

**May 16, 1862** • Benjamin Butler suspends publication of the New Orleans *Bee*, and the *Delta* was taken over by Federal authorities.

**May 17, 1862** • General McDowell on the Rappahannock was ordered to march upon Richmond in cooperation with McClellan's Army of the Potomac.

**May 18, 1862** • Commander S.P. Lee, *U.S.S. Oneida*, submitted a demand on behalf of Flag Officer Farragut and Gen. Butler for the surrender of Vicksburg. The demand was refused. The city would be placed under siege.

**May 19, 1862** • President Davis writes to his wife of the threat to Richmond, "We are uncertain of everything except that a battle must be near at hand." No one knew if McClellan would make it to the city.

In the Valley, Jackson rouses his troops at 2 a.m. and has them on the road by 3 a.m. The North River was crossed using wagons planked to serve as a bridge. Camp was made just below Harrisonburg.

**May 20, 1862** • In Richmond, President Davis, responding to a resolution of the Confederate Congress, announces that the city will be defended.

In Washington, President Lincoln signs the Homestead Law which granted a free plot of 60 acres to actual settlers on land in the public domain who would occupy and improve it for five years.

Jackson moves rapidly in the Shenandoah. Reaching New Market he halts, crossed Massanutten Mountain to Luray in the Luray Valley of the Shenandoah. He then turns southward again. He is joined by Richard Ewell and his troops giving him a troop strength of 16,000 men and forty-eight guns.

**May 21, 1862** • Jackson's men were on the march heading toward Front Royal.

**May 22, 1862** • Federal General Banks was in the main part of the valley trying to find out where Jackson went.

President Lincoln travels to Fredericksburg to consult with General McDowell.

**May 23, 1862** • The Battle of Front Royal. Jackson and his forces enter Front Royal and easily defeat the Federal forces of about 800 under Col. John R. Kenly and capturing many of them. Although not a major battle, Jackson's seizure of Front Royal meant that Jackson and his men had a splendid opportunity to cut off Bank's main Federal force.

John Worsham would write of Jackson at Front Royal:

*After satisfying himself as to the location of the enemy, he quietly turned his horse and rode back at a walk. Arriving at the road in our rear he called for Taylor's brigade, led them in person to their position, and gave Gen. Taylor his orders. Taylor says he replied, and added, "You had better go to the rear; if you go along the front this way, some damned Yankee will shoot you!" He says that Gen. Jackson rode back to him at once and said, "General, I am afraid you are a wicked fellow, but I know you will do your duty."*

**May 24, 1862** • In the Valley, Jackson fails to trap the retreating Banks and most of the Federals escape towards Winchester. The advance of Turner Ashby's cavalry creates panic among the Federals, who abandon large quantities of provisions and equipment. Jackson, reaching Newtown, finds that Ashby's cavalry have given up the chase to plunder the abandoned supply wagons.

Lincoln orders McDowell to send 20,000 men towards the Shenandoah to capture Jackson. He also orders Fremont to enter the Valley to cut off Jackson's retreat south.

Thomas J. Davis, 18th Wisconsin Volunteers writes from near Corinth:

*Dear Wife:*

*I started this letter two days ago but I had to stop writing to go out on picket and did not get back until last night...I think our generals are trying to run breastworks clear around Corinth and cut off all their railroads and then starve them out or make them attack us in our own for-*

*tifications. I think we may manage to trap the whole caboodle of them here without having to follow them any further north before the weather gets too hot...*

The vegetation here now looks like midsummer in the north. Peaches and apples are now about half grown and the orchards are well-loaded with them. If we only had such orchards in Illinois and Wisconsin then fruit would be cheap...

**May 25, 1862** • At Winchester, Banks holds Jackson and Ewell for a while before his troops break and run for Harpers Ferry. Another haul of supplies and munitions falls into the Confederates hands. The citizens of Winchester are jubilant. Laura Lee would write in her diary:

*Thanks be to the Lord we are free!!!!!!*

*A great many of the colored fugitives have been brought back. The slaves are to be returned to their owners, and the free people are to be held as prisoners of war. Numbers of the free people fled in terror on Sunday and have lost everything. Many children have died from exposure and from being accidentally killed in the terror and confusion of the flight.*

Lincoln wires McClellan telling him it is time to make a decision – attack Richmond or come back to defend Washington.

**May 26, 1862** • Jackson occupies Winchester and prepares to go towards Harpers Ferry.

More skirmishing occurs around both Richmond and Corinth.

**May 28, 1862** • Skirmishing occurs in front of Corinth and at Charles Town, western Virginia, as part of Jackson's campaign. Confederate supplies at Ashland, Va., were destroyed, as was a bridge on the Virginia Central Railroad on the Santa Ana.

President Davis writes to his wife. "We are steadily developing for a great battle, and under God's favor I trust for a decisive victory."

**May 29, 1862** • Beauregard pulls out of Corinth. To cover his withdrawal, he has his frontline troops make loud noises to keep the Federal occupied.

Pvt. Jackman of "The Orphan Brigade," at Corinth writes:

*Have not moved today. Little skirmishing in front – very quiet. Have been suffering for water all day. The wagon trains have now been gone 2 days. A little after dark all of our troops fell back but we did not know it at the time.*

**May 30, 1862** • In the Valley, Jackson begins to fall back from Harpers Ferry to avoid the trap being laid by McDowell's troops commanded by Gen. Shields with Fremont's forces at Front Royal.

Heavy rains on the Peninsula deter any serious action.

**May 31, 1862** • The month would come to an end with one corps of McClellan's forces north of the Chickahominy and two south of the river. Joe Johnston's Confederate forces attack the two corps at Fair Oaks (Seven Pines). Several mistakes would cause delays and the Confederate attack would not pick up momentum until after 1 p.m. with spotty contact occurring after that. The Rebel drive was stopped when Gen. Sumner moved his corps into the battle.

General Johnston was severely wounded and was succeeded for a few hours by G.W. Smith. Robert E. Lee would be given command of the army the following day.

Union Brigadier General Oliver O. Howard was wounded twice in the battle and would have his right arm amputated. For his actions he was awarded the Medal of Honor.

Jackson left the Winchester area in a heavy rain and his "foot cavalry" hurried south to avoid being trapped just getting through the gap between Fremont's and McDowell's troops. Jackson also had the captured Federal trains to move south. Jackson escaped much to Lincoln's disgust.

And so it continues.

**FROM THE FIELD**  
*May 1862*

I returned to Falmouth May 7 and was assigned the next day to the brigade formerly commanded by Gen. King.

The same day I took command of it, I relinquished command of the battery with very great regret for it was in splendid condition and in the artillery service I felt very much at home. I did not know how I should feel with the infantry.

The brigade of which I now took command, and with which I was intimately associated for the next six months was composed of the 2nd, 6th, and 7th Wisconsin and 19th Indiana, the colonels in the order named being O'Connor, Cutler, Robinson and Meredith. I had already formed some acquaintance with these regiments and had been strongly impressed with the high character of the material composing them by observation of the men I had obtained from them the previous fall in manning my battery. From the character of these I was already impressed with the conviction that all they needed was some discipline and drill to make them first class soldiers and my anticipations were more than realized. In drill and discipline two of the regiments (the 2nd and 6th) had decidedly the advantage over the other two. The 2nd had for its colonel Edgar O'Connor, a graduate of West Point in 1854, and for its lieutenant colonel Lucius Fairchild (afterwards Governor of Wisconsin and U.S. Minister to Spain). O'Connor had an affection of the throat which prevented the use of his voice in drill, the result of which was that most of that kind of duty fell to Fairchild, who had great natural soldierly ability and being active, energetic and intelligent, soon mastered the tactics so that the regiment rapidly improved.

Cutler, the colonel of the 6th, was also a natural soldier though somewhat inclined to arbitrary and dictatorial measures. He soon became a good tactician and great emulation at once sprang up between these two regiments.

Each strove to become the "crack" regiment of the brigade.

John Gibbons



War Correspondence from the 2nd Regiment  
Camp outside of Fredericksburg, VA.  
May 21, 1862

Richard Lester and I were fortunate enough to obtain a pass to the city today, where we passed a few hours very pleasantly. In our rambles we came to the office of the *Christian Banner*, and procured two copies which I will send to you, presuming that you never before saw a brown paper newspaper, and because it purports to be a Union one. You will please hand one of them to the Northwestern and oblige me...

We also went through the Fredericksburg cemetery. It seems that only one Regiment from this state encamped there. 93 graves were in one row, reaching the whole width of the graveyard, they all died between the 12th March and 20th April, 1862...Have we not reason to be thankful when we compare this mortality with that of our Regiment? Only eight have died, by disease, since our enlistment. Many a citizen has remarked to me about the very healthy of our Wisconsin men...

Respectfully,  
W.M.P. Taylor

From the 7th Wisconsin  
Camp outside of Fredericksburg, VA  
May 15, 1862

Dear Times:

It is a rainy afternoon consequently no drill. I have not written you in a long while for we have been so busy and the conveniences for writing so poor that it is indeed a task to write even to our family and friends; but I knew you would be glad to hear some thing from the old honest 7th and I will try and make out a brief letter while it rains.

It would be very foolish for me to attempt to give you a detailed account of our movements and various encampments since April 4th, at which time we left camp "Smoky Hollow," near Alexandria but suffice to say of the path that we have traveled about 100 miles and encamped on about 30-40 divergent grounds since that time. Saturday night last we came on to our present camp ground, which is on a beautiful field directly opposite the city of Fredericksburg, Va. The Rappahannock River flows between us and the city, and there is a fine bridge constructed of canvas boats from Georgetown, D.C., yet we are not allowed to cross over...

Here let me inform you that "King's Old Brigade" — more recently commanded by Col. Cutler, of the 6th Wis., — changed hands again last Thursday and we are now commanded by Brig. Gen. Gibbon formerly Captain of Battery "B" of the regular army, which artillery now forms part of King's division. Gen. Gibbon is a young fine looking officer, and has the reputation of being a thorough disciplinarian and able commander...

Contrabands are flocking in by scores and hundreds every day. Oh, that the day may soon come when this cursed system of human bondage may be entirely wiped out. I sincerely hope that the rebellion that has been excited by these same slave dealers may result in the liberation of their slaves...

May 22

I have been delayed some days in finishing this epistle, for we have been very busy in attending to drill reviews... The pickets from our regiment and the rebel pickets shoot at each other across the river; we have lost none as yet though many of their shots have been very close. Our boys have killed and wounded as they suppose some three or four. But I need not make my letter lengthy for there is not enough of interest to write at present. I am sir,

Your county's Ob't Serv't  
Isaac Cooper



From the 6th Regiment  
Camp opposite Fredericksburg, VA  
May 18, 1862

Messrs Editors:

This Sabbath has been a day of rest to most of us on the Rappahannock, with the exception of Sunday morning inspection, and the detail of three hundred men, who are at work on the railroad bridge, across that beautiful river. It has been the most quiet Sabbath that we have enjoyed since we took up our line of march from Arlington Heights...

A week ago today there was a skirmish about two miles from us and in

full view of our camp just as parade was dismissed. Capt. Wood, aid to Gen. Gibbons, came into camp with orders for our Brigade to fall in, the long roll was beaten, and in ten minutes the brigade was in line and ready for the order to move on to action; but to our sorrow and disappointment, secesh again fell back as they have always done since this part of the army has been after them. — Capt. Miller, of the rebel army, came into our lines today with a flag of truce, but for what purpose I have

*Oh, I love to see that gray uniform once more, and soon. It made my blood boil to be obliged to listen to such blasphemous language.*

not heard. He rode through our lines blind folded between two mounted commissioned officers and two files of infantry. He was a young man of very fine appearance. His entrance into the city caused quite an excitement amongst the sympathizers of rebellion. In fact, never before since I have been in the Old dominion have I seen so much sympathy manifested as I witnessed this afternoon; boys running along the side-walks cheering for Jeff Davis, and ladies praying that God would bless that southern soldier, and

exclaiming — Oh, I love to see that gray uniform once more, and soon. It made my blood boil to be obliged to listen to such blasphemous language. The women here, I am sorry to say, are ten times worse than the men. I was in the city yesterday standing on the sidewalk talking with

Lieut. T.C.T. beneath the stars and stripes that were floating in the breeze from a window when about eight or ten ladies came walking down the street, and seeing that beautiful flag that had once been their pride and boast they turned away in disgust and walked in the middle of the street — that was more than we could stand and Lieut. T. said by — “we won’t stand that,” and today we have not only one but seven flags floating in the breeze — right across the street, so that they must either walk under the stars and stripes, or go around a whole square to avoid them. Poor dear ladies, I pity them for their zeal without knowledge — they have their sisters’ prayer meeting often for poor Jeff. If our sisters in the north are as zealous and prayerful for the cause of justice and right, and for our glorious Union, as our sisters in the south are for rebellion and disunion, we shall be well satisfied...

An order has just been brought into camp for all those who are not fit for immediate duty to be sent to Alexandria tomorrow morning at nine o’clock. I understand that H.A. Lee, Corporal Jones, W. B. Ryder and W. Groat will be sent from Co. A since my last Col., Cutler, has taken command of the regiment and Gen. Gibbons, of the U.S.A. has taken command of this brigade. This brigade now wears the regulation hat with a black feather, with shoes and white leggings, which give a beautiful appearance. We are the advance of this side of the river, being only about five hundred yards from the city. Before you receive this I presume that we shall be nearer Richmond than we now are, and if the rebels dispute the ground you will hear a good account of this brigade, as its discipline is equal to any in the service, and as the men have great confidence in their officers they will fight to the last. If anything happens that I think will be of interest to your readers you will hear from me.

## May & June Meetings

Our May and June meetings 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 May 17, 2012

Mail your reservations by Monday, May 13, 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 May 17, 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.

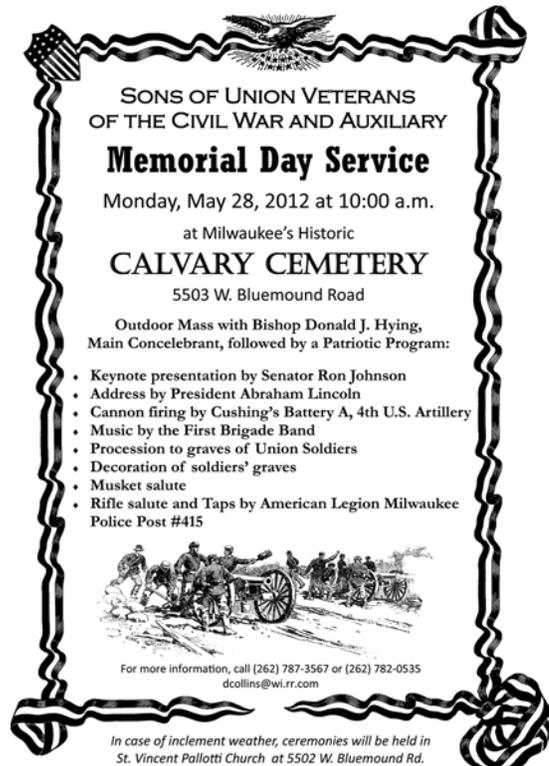
Send submissions to **Donna Agnelly, Editor**, 420 Racine St., Unit 110, Waterford, WI 53185 or email to **dagnelly@tds.net** with "Civil War Round Table" in the subject line of your message. All submissions must be received by the Editor no later than the 10th of the month prior to the next issue. The 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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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.



The poster is framed by a decorative border featuring an American flag in the top left corner, an eagle with wings spread at the top center, and a wreath in the bottom right corner. The text is centered and reads:

SONS OF UNION VETERANS  
OF THE CIVIL WAR AND AUXILIARY  
**Memorial Day Service**  
Monday, May 28, 2012 at 10:00 a.m.  
at Milwaukee's Historic  
**CALVARY CEMETERY**  
5503 W. Bluemound Road

Outdoor Mass with Bishop Donald J. Hying,  
Main Concelebrant, followed by a Patriotic Program:

- Keynote presentation by Senator Ron Johnson
- Address by President Abraham Lincoln
- Cannon firing by Cushing's Battery A, 4th U.S. Artillery
- Music by the First Brigade Band
- Procession to graves of Union Soldiers
- Decoration of soldiers' graves
- Musket salute
- Rifle salute and Taps by American Legion Milwaukee Police Post #415



For more information, call (262) 787-3567 or (262) 782-0535  
dcollins@wi.rr.com

*In case of inclement weather, ceremonies will be held in  
St. Vincent Pallotti Church at 5502 W. Bluemound Rd.*