



# GENERAL ORDERS

The Newsletter of the  
**Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.**  
**Our 62nd Year**  
and The Iron Brigade Association



NOVEMBER 12, 2009

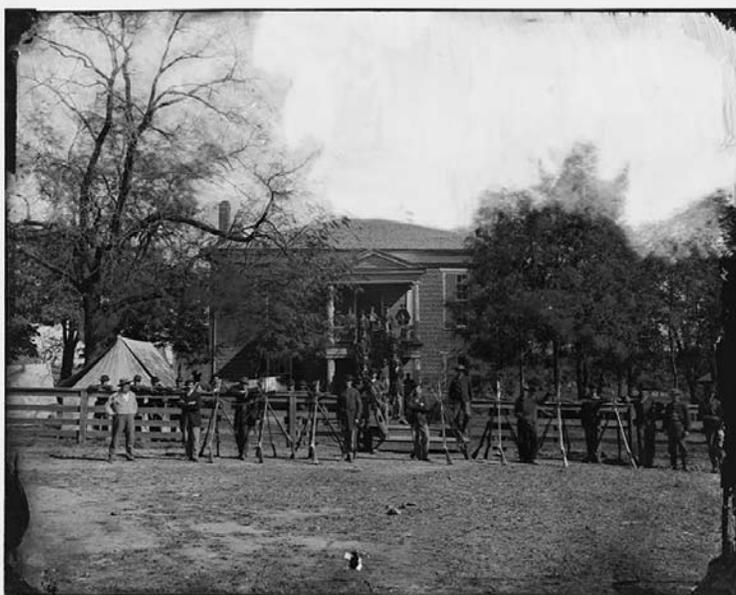
## PATRICK A. SCHROEDER

### Myths about Lee's Surrender

What really happened at Appomattox? Our November program will look at some of the most interesting aspects presented in *Thirty Myths About Lee's Surrender* and *More Myths About Lee's Surrender*, separating myth from fact. Our speaker, Patrick A. Schroeder, will discuss the details of the Apple Tree meeting, the stacking of arms ceremony, the battles of Appomattox Station and Appomattox Court House, civilian casualties at Appomattox and the last casualty at Appomattox. Who first asked Lee to surrender will be addressed as well as what became of the McLean house. All this and much more will be part of an entertaining and enlightening November program.

Schroeder was born in 1968 at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, and raised in Utica, New York, until the age of 13. He attended high school in Virginia and graduated *cum laude* with a Bachelor of Science degree in Historical Park Administration from Shepherd College in West Virginia. Schroeder has an M.A. degree in Civil War History from Virginia Tech. He worked as a seasonal living history interpreter at Appomattox Court House National Historical Park from 1986 to 1993 and was employed at Red Hill, the Patrick Henry National Memorial, from 1994 to 1999. He has written, edited and/or contributed to more than twenty Civil War works including: *More Myths About Lee's Surrender*; *The Confederate Cemetery at Appomattox*; *Recollections and Reminiscences of Old Appomattox*; and *Civil War Soldier Life: In Camp and Battle*.

Schroeder resides in Lynchburg, Virginia. He has worked as an independent researcher, historian, and author, and has been the Historian at Appomattox Court House National Historical Park since 2002. In an effort to protect sites relevant to the Appomattox Campaign, he has set up the "Appomattox Fund" with the Civil War Preservation Trust, to save land important to the climactic events of April 1865.



*Appomattox  
Courthouse,  
April 1865.*

*Photograph by  
Timothy H.  
O'Sullivan.*

*Library of  
Congress,  
LC-B817-7169*

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### NOVEMBER MEETING AT A GLANCE

November 12, 2009

"Myths about Lee's Surrender"  
Patrick A. Schroeder

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

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

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

6:45 p.m. – Dinner

7:30 p.m. – Program

Dinner – \$23 by reservation.

Deadline: Monday, November 9, 2009

See page 5.

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

## Donations for Camp Randall Guns

The Awards and Donations Committee is asking members to consider making their Civil War related donations to the Camp Randall Guns Fund. "The project is local, the effects are real, and we're grabbing a piece of history," John Beatty has said. "One of these guns was captured at Shiloh. Can't get much more authentic than that."

Sadly neglected over the years, the old artillery pieces are literally disintegrating in place. Think of the Camp Randall guns next time you want to give of your hard-earned money.

John Beatty, Awards and Donations Committee chair,  
at [jdbeatty@amcivwar.com](mailto:jdbeatty@amcivwar.com)

## Quartermaster's Regalia

Christmas is approaching, making it the perfect time to consider ordering one of the regalia items for the gift-giving season. All items are made of first-rate quality materials, modestly embroidered with the Round Table, Iron Brigade logo, along with your name or initials. A great way to show your pride for our organization!

Mail: Roman Blenski, Quartermaster  
4601 W. Holt Ave.  
Milwaukee, WI 53219

Call: 414-327-2847  
Fax: 414-543-8289  
Email: [dbcpmilw@execpc.com](mailto:dbcpmilw@execpc.com)  
In Person: Monthly Meeting at Book Raffle

ITEM	COST
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



Joseph Eichers, Grafton, Wisconsin  
Maurice L. Young, Fort Hood, Texas  
Bob Dude, New Berlin, Wisconsin  
Tom Klas, Beaver Dam, Wisconsin

## ANNOUNCEMENTS • EVENTS • MEETINGS

### November 7, 2009

46th Annual Milwaukee Veterans Day Parade, 11 a.m.  
For parade route and event details visit:  
[www.veteransdayparade-milw.org/](http://www.veteransdayparade-milw.org/)

### November 7, 2009

22nd Annual Harvest Ball  
Memorial Hall, Racine  
For information and tickets call 608-527-4222  
Or visit the 1st Brigade Band website at [www.1stBrigadeBand.org](http://www.1stBrigadeBand.org)

### November 9, 2009

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

### November 16, 2009

West Side Soldiers Aid Society, 7 p.m.  
Wadsworth Library, VA Grounds  
Speaker: Emy Demuth Ishida  
Optional potluck begins at 6 pm..

### November 17, 2009

Prairieville Irregulars, 7 p.m.  
Student Center Building, Carroll University  
Speaker: Dan Nettesheim

### December 6, 2009

Civil War Round Table Christmas Gala  
Wisconsin Club

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## ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ IN THIS MONTH • NOVEMBER ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

### November 11, 1861

Near Fort Monroe, Professor Thaddeus Sobieski Lowe was making history by raising his hot air balloon from the deck of the balloon boat *G. W. Parke Custis*. Lowe reported: "We had a fine view of the enemy's campfires during the evening, and saw the rebels constructing new batteries at Freestone Point."

Lincoln appointed Lowe chief of army aeronautics in 1861. By the time he resigned his post in 1863, Lowe and his crew had made more than 3,000 flights over enemy territory.

### November 9-10, 1862

On November 9, Ambrose E. Burnside assumed command of the Army of the Potomac. On November 10, Maj. Gen. George McClellan took his emotional farewell of the Army of the Potomac.

### November 9, 1863

President Lincoln attended the theatre and saw John Wilkes Booth perform in *The Marble Heart*.

### November 11-12, 1864

On November 11, Federal forces at Rome, Georgia, destroyed bridges, foundries, mills, shops, warehouses, and other property useful to the Confederacy and started off for Kingston and Atlanta. The railroad in and about Atlanta and between the Etowah and Chattahoochee was ordered destroyed.

On November 12, in Georgia, Sherman sent a last message to Grant and began concentrating his force toward Atlanta where Federal forces were at work destroying the city except for houses and churches. Sherman's 60,000 men and 5,500 artillery were ready to march.

# A Thanksgiving Letter

Thursday, November 26, 1863, Franklin, Kansas

Dear Caroline,

President Lincoln has declared today, the fourth Thursday in November, to be a national day of Thanksgiving. I hardly see reason to give thanks with all the problems in our state and nation. But perhaps we should just be grateful to be alive, to have the right to speak and print what we want, to come and go as we please. Although this war is horrible, we should be thankful that it is giving four million more people these same rights.

This fall continues to be a constant stress to us. There is a fifty-mile strip of empty desolate prairie along the borders because Quantrill released an issue saying he was going to raid Kansas again. All companies of the state militia practice their drills on Saturday afternoons if they are not already on patrol. Sightings of Quantrill since September have pushed the militia to the state of exhaustion as they chase all over two states trying to find him. Fields have gone unharvested because the men are gone from home. Once again the women are left to fend for themselves.

Last month General Blunt's staff was attacked by Quantrill and several hundred guerrillas near Baxter Springs, which is in the far southeast corner of our state. The group killed over eighty men and also attacked the small post of Fort Blair.

At this rate we're going to run out of able men to fight the enemy. It is getting hard for the Union to find soldiers because so many have already served time in the war or are too old. Besides the Union offering a \$300 bounty if a man volunteers for three years of service, they are trying to get slaves from border states to enlist if they have their owners' permission. Some young men of means are paying \$300 for substitutes to take their place.

People here are disillusioned with the war. They were willing to fight for the Union in the beginning but now just want the war to end and don't really care which side wins. The cost of living has risen so high and the South is starving. How is that going to help our nation?

The owner of the *Kansas State Journal* started printing the newspaper again last month. It's a small hand-press edition because the office and printing press were destroyed in the raid. Before the town's destruction, the newspaper was full of store ads. Now there are only accounts of Quantrill's raid and war news.

The telegraph line to Lawrence was finished last month, so we know about the fighting in Tennessee that has dragged on for months. We pray that Grant will finally win that campaign.

We heard about President Lincoln dedicating a soldiers' cemetery at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, last week. Last July, when I read about the battle at Gettysburg that killed over 10,000 soldiers, I couldn't fathom thousands of men and horses littering the countryside. But after seeing the destruction of Lawrence, I knew exactly how it looked.

Christmas will be upon us soon, but with no joy or celebrations. There are no theaters left standing, no social halls to hold holiday parties in, and no one in the mood anyway.

I will be thinking of you, dear sister, and I pray you will be thinking of us. I cannot wish you a happy New Year because I'm afraid one is not looming in our future next year.

Sending love to all,  
Maggie

*This letter was sent by Maggie Kennedy Pieratt to her sister, Caroline Perkins, in Ohio and is reprinted here with permission by Linda K. Hubalek, Maggie's great-great granddaughter. Linda's Trail of Thread publications can be viewed at [www.butterfieldbooks.com](http://www.butterfieldbooks.com)*

## Lincoln Fellowship of Wisconsin

The Lincoln Fellowship of Wisconsin was founded in 1940 and incorporated in 1950. Its objectives are:

“to unite admirers of Abraham Lincoln in a common bond of interest through membership in a common organization; to encourage a larger interest in scenes associated with Lincoln's life and work; to preserve Lincoln landmarks in Wisconsin; to promote research in Lincolniana; to observe each anniversary of the death of Lincoln and to pay tribute to his name on other suitable occasions; and zealously to encourage the youth of our state to embrace the ideals he exemplified for all who follow.”

Annual membership dues for the Fellowship are \$25. A Life Membership is available for the one-time fee of \$200. All members receive annual meeting invitations and the *Historical Bulletin*. To date, 62 bulletins have been issued to members.

Long-time Civil War Round Table member and past president, Dale Brassler, has recently been appointed to the Fellowship board.

If you are interested in joining, membership applications will be available at the November meeting. See Donna Agnelly or contact the Lincoln Fellowship of Wisconsin at: PO Box 1863, Janesville, WI 53547-1863.



**CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE  
OF MILWAUKEE, INC.**

*The honor of your company is requested at the Wisconsin Club,  
Sunday afternoon, 6 December 2009*

4:15 p.m. Cocktails & Silent Auction

5:00 p.m. Civil War Dance Presentation, West Side Victorian Dancers

6:00 p.m. Dinner accompanied by Historic and Holiday Piano Selections, Eileen Beamish

Dinner: \$29 per person. See December *General Orders* for Reservation Information.  
Civil War attire is encouraged, but not required.



**NORTH WOODS SALAD**

Spinach and field greens topped with dried cranberries and white cheddar  
dressed with lingonberry vinaigrette

**ENTRÉE (SELECT ONE)**

Sauterne Chicken

Boneless breast roasted with lemon herb rub  
then nestled into sauterne wine reduction  
with shallots and mushrooms  
accompanied by calico rice, steamed broccoli,  
maple carrots and red pepper julienne

Angus Sirloin Steak

Five ounces of top sirloin steak dusted in California  
garlic pepper, then char-grilled, served with  
garlic mashed potatoes with field mushroom sauté,  
sauce Bordelaise finished with steamed broccoli,  
maple carrots and red pepper julienne

**DESSERT**

Classic over-stuffed apple pie baked in the Dutch style  
with frozen vanilla bean custard on the side

## Civil War Soldier Reburied in Franklin, Tennessee

As reported by the Associated Press, a Civil War soldier, whose body was accidentally unearthed from a shallow grave by construction workers this past May, was reburied in Rest Haven Cemetery in Franklin on October 10, 2009. The soldier's name and which side he fought on are unknown.

The coffin was draped in both Confederate and Union flags and was transported, after a service at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, which served as both a barracks and hospital during the battle, to the cemetery in a horse-drawn carriage accompanied by Union and Confederate re-enactors.

Also attending the services were two men whose fathers had fought in the Civil War – on different sides.

James Brown's father, James H.H. Brown, served in the 8th Georgia Infantry. Brown's father was not present at the Battle of Franklin but fought in several other engagements including Shiloh, Bull Run and Gettysburg. He was also present at Appomattox when Lee surrendered. James Brown is 97.

Harold Becker's father, Charles Conrad Becker, served in the 128th Indiana Infantry and later was part of Sherman's March to the Sea. The Battle of Franklin was Becker's first battle after he joined up in 1864. Harold Becker is 91.

To view a slide show of the services, visit <http://awphotos.zenfolio.com/p496066309/h196573fc#h5bd866>



Frank L. Klement spoke to the group in November 1957 on "Knights of the Golden Circle – Fact or Fantasy."

In November 1963, Shelby Foote spoke to the Round Table about "Grant's Seven Failures Above Vicksburg."

Dr. James A. Ramage spoke to our group in November 1987 on "John Hunt Morgan: Folk Hero of the Confederacy."

"1861 in Missouri" was the subject presented by our own C. Judley Wyant in November 2001.

## Preserve and Protect

Senator Jim Webb, (D-VA) has sent a letter to the Chairmen and Ranking members of the Senate Appropriations Committee and Subcommittee on Interior Appropriations requesting that the Civil War Preservation Program be funded at the House-supported level of \$9 million in the fiscal year 2010 Interior-Environment Appropriations Bill.

The Civil War Battlefield Preservation Program has exhausted its entire fiscal year 2009 appropriation; there are 15 funding application requests for more than \$4.6 million in grant money already under consideration for fiscal year 2010.

In **Springfield, Illinois**, the Civil War Preservation Trust, in a late September ceremony, recognized three Illinois preservation advocates with the organization's Chairman's Award for Achievement in Historic Preservation. The award recipients were: Illinois State Historian Thomas F. Schwartz and philanthropists Don and Janis Barnes.

According to Civil War Preservation Trust Chairman, John L. Nau, III, the awards are given to "personally thank committed individuals who have made it their lives' work to promote the physical and conceptual protection of our nation's heritage."

**Franklin's Charge**, a local coalition of local nonprofit groups, is negotiating to buy the Domino's Pizza restaurant and Four Star Market at the corner of Cleburne Street and Columbia Avenue in Franklin, Tennessee, and convert them into a new park, where a replica of a cotton gin that once stood there would be built. If the deal can be sealed, it would be another reclamation of land where hundreds of soldiers died on November 30, 1864. Previously, in 2005, city officials paid \$300,000 for a quarter acre of land where a Pizza Hut stood. The Pizza Hut was demolished and a park built commemorating where Maj. Gen. Patrick Cleburne was killed.

Orange County officials, on October 13, 2009, asked a judge to dismiss an attempt by preservationists to block Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., from building a supercenter near the endangered **Wilderness Battlefield**.

The preservationists' legal challenge asks that a judge declare the supervisors' vote "unlawful and invalid" and block any further county action on Wal-Mart's site plan. Construction has not begun on the site. The Board of Supervisors contends that preservationists and concerned residents who filed the challenge have no standing on the issue. To date, a judge has not scheduled a hearing on the motion.

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## Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for November 12, 2009

Mail your reservations by Monday, November 9, 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 the November 12 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 May 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 and layout by Patricia A. Lynch.

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Yearly memberships available: Individual (\$35), Family (\$45), and Non-Resident (\$20).

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.

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## **CWRT of Milwaukee, Inc. • 2009 - 2010 Meetings**

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### **November 12, 2009**

Patrick Schroeder, NPS, Appomattox Court House  
Myths about Lee's Surrender

### **December 6, 2009**

Christmas Gala (See page 4.)

### **January 7, 2010**

Robert Girardi, Topic TBD

### **February 11, 2010**

Paul Finkelman, Albany Law School  
Lincoln and Emancipation

### **March 11, 2010**

Eric Jacobson, Carnton Historic Plantation, Franklin, TN, Topic TBD

### **April 8, 2010**

David O. Stewart, Trial Lawyer, Ropes & Gray, Washington  
The Impeachment of Andrew Johnson

### **May 13, 2010**

William W. Freehling, Virginia Foundation for the Humanities  
The Strange, Difficult Triumph of Southern Secession

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