



# GENERAL ORDERS

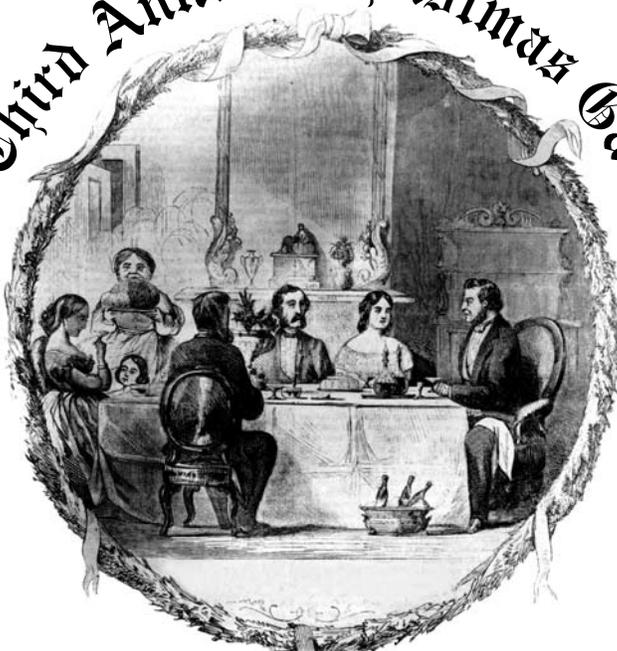
The Newsletter of the  
Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.

## Our 61st Year

and The Iron Brigade Association



### Third Annual Christmas Gala



*Sunday, 7 December 2008*

**4:15 p.m**

**COCKTAILS & SILENT AUCTION**

**5:45 p.m.**

**DINNER**

**HOLIDAY & HISTORIC MUSIC**

**7:00 p.m.**

**CIVIL WAR HOLIDAY TRADITIONS & DANCE**

Civil War attire is encouraged, but not required.  
The cost of this holiday event is \$25 per person.  
RSVP with Choice of Roast Pork Loin or Roast Tom Turkey  
by 1 December 2008 to (262) 376-0568.

See page 5 for details.

#### GENERAL ORDERS NO. 08-12 December 2008

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##### DECEMBER GALA AT A GLANCE

December 7, 2008 (Sunday)  
 Wisconsin Club  
 9th & Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee  
 (Jackets required for dining room)  
 4:15 p.m. – Social Hour & Silent Auction  
 5:45 p.m. – Dinner  
 7:00 p.m. – Program  
 Dinner – \$25 by reservation.  
 Deadline: Monday, December 1  
 See page 5.  
 In case of inclement weather, listen to  
 WTMJ or WISN radio.

## Posthumous Color Guard Announced

The Color Guard of the Iron Brigade Association shows recognition for those who have remained “with the colors” of the organization for forty years or longer. One posthumous member will be added to the Color Guard annually. This year’s inductee, voted on by the Round Table membership, is Dr. Frank Klement.

## Donations Requested for December 7 Silent Auction

Tom Arliskas, chairperson for the December 7 Christmas Gala, is looking for donations of artifacts, memorabilia, collectibles, Civil War or nineteenth-century themed baskets – anything for the silent auction table. All proceeds go to the mission and activities of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee. Some items have been donated already: wines from Adams County Winery, PA; an extensive collection of postcards of Gettysburg; first edition books. Contact Tom at csuniforms@hotmail.com or 414-810-3182.

## Iron Brigade Flag Fund

Donations to the Iron Brigade Flag Fund continue to be accepted.

## 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.

In related news, on October 4, 2008, a cannon rededication ceremony took place at Camp Randall Memorial Park for the replica cannon carriage for one of Camp Randall’s historic Civil War cannons. The ceremony, organized by Camp #2 of the Sons of Union Veterans, included Civil War reenactors in period uniform. Dale Brassler, former Round Table president, was present at the ceremony acting as chaplain for Camp #2.

The old carriage, in disrepair, was replaced by an all-aluminum replacement. Funds for the replacement were raised, in large part, through the efforts of Camp #2 of the Sons of Union Veterans. The new carriage was created by Paulson Bros. Ordinance of Clear Lake, Wisconsin. The company makes replica carriages that are used by the National Park Service and are known for their historic authenticity.

In a June 19, 1891, article on the fourth annual reunion of the 14th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry published in *The Waupaca Republican*, the history of the Shiloh cannon is discussed:

*There is a bit of interesting history connected with this old gun, of special interest to Wisconsin. The gun is an ordinary brass field piece and constituted part of a rebel battery that did its work of destruction in a number of battles and ended its career for the Confederacy at the terrible battle of Pittsburg Landing, April 7, 1862...*

*The battery occupied a commanding position. The battle opened about 9 o’clock in the morning, the Confederate forces making the assault and meeting with a sharp repulse, but the battery was well manned and mowed great swaths through the columns of brave Union troops. The Fourteenth Wisconsin regiment, temporarily attached to Smith’s brigade, Gen. Crittenden’s division of Gen. Buell’s command, occupied a position on the right of the brigade and held the main road leading from Pittsburg Landing to Corinth. Gen. Grant ordered Col. Smith to take the battery. Col. Smith ordered the Twenty-sixth Kentucky to capture it. The regiment made a gallant charge and was repulsed with terrible slaughter in their ranks. Gen. Grant and staff had ridden up in the rear of the Fourteenth Wisconsin and witnessed the charge. Turning to Gen. Buell and pointing with his sword to the Fourteenth, he said, “General, that regiment can take that battery.”*

*The charge was made, the horses killed and Lt. Staley spiked this gun, but reinforcements not being brought to the support of the regiment they were driven back with a loss of eighty-five men killed and disabled. Col. Wood and Lt. Col. Messmore were both disabled and carried from the field. Major Hancock took command of the regiment, rallied its broken lines, made a second charge, capturing the battery, driving a strong infantry force of Texas troops who were supporting it from the field up the road towards Shiloh church, and captured many prisoners...*

*After the battle, Gen. Halleck sent a member of his staff to learn what regiment had captured the battery, and the result was the presentation of this gun to the Fourteenth Wisconsin in recognition of its valor in capturing the battery. The regiment presented it to the State, whose property it now is.*

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### ☆☆☆☆☆ IN THIS MONTH • DECEMBER 1862 ☆☆☆☆☆

The year 1862 would come to an end in bloody fashion. On December 13, the Union would suffer 12,653 casualties, more than double the Confederate total of 5,309 at the Battle of Fredericksburg. Although the Southerners were outnumbered, 130,000 to 75,000, they were well entrenched on Marye’s Heights. It was a bloodbath. Ambrose Burnside, commander of the Army of the Potomac, retreated, and in little more than a month was relieved of his command by Lincoln. In his memoirs, Maj. Frederick Hitchcock, 132nd Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry Regiment wrote of Fredericksburg:

*We were now exposed to the fire of their three lines of infantry, having no shelter whatever. It was like standing upon a raised platform to be shot down by those sheltered behind it. Had we been ordered to fix bayonets and charge those heights we could have understood the movement, though that would have been an impossible undertaking, defended as they were. But to be sent close up to those lines to maintain a firing-line without any entrenchments or other shelter, if that was the purpose, was simply to invite wholesale slaughter without the least compensation. It was to attempt the impossible, and invite certain destruction in the effort... We were evidently in a fearful slaughter-pen. Our men were being swept away as by a terrific whirlwind.*

## On The Web

If you haven't visited the website for the Wisconsin Veterans Museum, you should. You'll find a wealth of information here along with a terrific newsletter, *The Bugle*. The September 2008 issue of the newsletter is filled with Civil War related articles including a terrific archived article on *Revisiting Battles: Veterans at Gettysburg and Vicksburg Reunions*. The article includes a wonderful photo of the emergency contact card carried by Wisconsin veterans at the 1913 Gettysburg reunion. Another article focuses on the 10th Annual "Talking Spirits" Forest Hill Cemetery Tour that was held on October 5 and which showcased the contributions of Wisconsin Civil War veterans. The newsletters can be found under the news and events section at [www.wvmfoundation.com](http://www.wvmfoundation.com)

If you want to get a good look at the Wisconsin battle flags, you'll want to visit the Wisconsin Veterans Museum's newly created website: [www.wisconsinbattleflags.com](http://www.wisconsinbattleflags.com). In addition to the flags, you'll find short histories of the regiments along with flag conservation efforts and the battle flag display schedule.



In December 1950 Bell Irvin Wiley spoke to the Round Table on "Johnny Reb and Billy Yank."

In December 1984 our speaker was David Finney. The topic that evening was "The Final Days of Stonewall Jackson."

In December 1986 Alan Nolan visited our group and spoke about "Robert E. Lee – A Historical View."

Karen Kehoe spoke to the Round Table in December 1988 on "The Civil War Christmas."

In December 1997 our own Dr. Peter Jacobsohn spoke to us about "Dr. Edward Maynard, Surgeon, Dentist and Inventor."

On December 7, 2000, Gordon Rhea visited and talked about "Lee in the Overland Campaign of 1864."

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS • EVENTS • MEETINGS

#### December 8, 2008

Annual Christmas Party, 5:30 p.m.  
Manitowoc Civil War Round Table  
Manitowoc County Historical Society Heritage Center

#### December 13, 2008

Wreaths Across America, 11 a.m.  
Wood National Cemetery

#### December 16, 2008

Prairieville Irregulars, 7 p.m.  
Student Center Building, Carroll University  
Speaker: Lance Herdegen

## Lincoln Re-election Speech to Be Auctioned

Christies Auction House, as announced in their press release, will be auctioning a handwritten copy of the November 10, 1864, speech Lincoln delivered at the White House after being re-elected.

The manuscript, four pages in length and in excellent condition, will be sold on the bicentennial of Lincoln's birth on February 12 of next year. Christies is anticipating that the manuscript will sell for more than \$3 million.

The manuscript remained in the family until 1916. At that time, Lincoln's son, Robert Todd Lincoln, presented the manuscript to New York Congressman John A. Dwight as a thank you for his efforts in securing funding for the construction of the Lincoln Memorial.

In 1926, Dwight's widow gave the manuscript to the Southworth Library Association in Dryden, New York. Proceeds from the sale of the manuscript will be used towards building a new wing for the library and its operation, maintenance and programming.

## Latschar Submits Resignation

On November 7, 2008, Gettysburg National Military Park Superintendent John Latschar announced his resignation effective March 1, 2009. Latschar will become the new president of the nonprofit Gettysburg Foundation. Acting Foundation president Robert C. Wilburn is resigning at the same time to pursue other endeavors. Latschar was selected as the new Foundation president by a unanimous vote of the Board of Directors for the Foundation.

"It has been a pleasure to work with the dedicated park staff, our partners, and the community to create the new museum and implement battlefield rehabilitation to restore Gettysburg's historic integrity and enhance visitor understanding of the battle. I'm also proud of our combined efforts with Main Street Gettysburg and others to develop the Wills House, a National Park Service museum opening February 2009 in downtown Gettysburg about the aftermath of battle and Lincoln's Gettysburg Address," said Latschar about his tenure as park superintendent.

Remarking on his new position as president of the Foundation, Latschar stated, "I'm excited about the opportunity to continue to work towards the preservation and care of Gettysburg NMP and Eisenhower NHS from a new perspective. My goal will be to ensure that we continue our momentum, and to move the organization forward into a new era of philanthropy for the benefit of this and future generations."

Latschar has been the superintendent at Gettysburg National Military Park since 1994 and is a 31-year veteran of the National Park Service. Prior to Gettysburg, Latschar served as the first Superintendent of Steamtown National Historic Site in Scranton, PA, and in various capacities at the NPS Denver Service Center. He was named Superintendent of the Year for the Northeast Region of the NPS in both 1991 and 2001.

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Note: John Latschar is the featured speaker at the March 12, 2009, meeting of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee.



On Saturday, October 18, 2008, Tom and I were privileged to attend the 11th Annual Civil War Symposium, a daylong Civil War event held at the First Division Museum at Cantigny, Wheaton, Illinois. The symposium was hosted by several groups, including the National Archives and Records Administration's Great Lakes Region Office, the Salt Creek Civil War Round Table, and the First Division Museum. This year's topic was "Abraham Lincoln as War President."

This is an annual symposium, held every October. We can't say enough about the quality of this event. To start, the location is fabulous. Cantigny was the home of Robert R. McCormick, Editor and Publisher of the *Chicago Tribune* for 44 years. McCormick served as a colonel in the Illinois National Guard and 1st Infantry Division during World War I. In addition to vast formal gardens and grounds, Cantigny offers two history-rich museums: the Robert R. McCormick Museum and the Cantigny First Division Museum. The First Division Museum is one of the finest military museums in the country and is known for its realistic exhibits and immersing galleries.

Presenters included noted historian and legal scholar Paul Finkelman, who spoke on *The Emancipation Proclamation as a War Measure*; Chief Justice of the Rhode Island Supreme Court and President of the U.S. Grant Association Frank J. Williams who gave a presentation on *The Relationship Between Lincoln and Grant* and Trevor Plante of the National Archives and Records Administration who talked about the *Lincoln Records in the National Archives*. Noted Lincoln scholar, Harold Holzer, gave an excellent presentation on Lincoln as President-elect (based upon his new book, *Abraham Lincoln and the Great Secession Winter of 1860-1861*). Thomas Schwartz of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library closed out the day with a talk on *Lincoln and the Copperhead Movement in Illinois*. Every presentation was absolutely top-notch, and there was plenty of time throughout the day to talk individually with each of these fascinating historians.

In addition to the presentations, the museum hosted a variety of living history activities both in the lobby of the museum and outside on the grounds, including music by the Battlefield Balladeers, a cannon demonstration by Taylor's Battery, musket firing demonstrations, a medical display, appearances by Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln and various children's activities. During an extended lunch break, we were able to enjoy these activities, as well as participate in the unveiling of the newly restored flag of the 36th Illinois, which will be displayed at the First Division Museum for the next two years.

The absolute highlight of the day however, was a demonstration by the Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard from Fort

Riley, Kansas. Troopers from this unit are detailed from the ranks of Regular U.S Army units assigned to Fort Riley, and all were veterans of either Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom. They and their horses are outfitted in uniforms, accoutrements and equipment of the Civil War period, and are fully trained from Civil War era cavalry manuals. Their full time mission is to represent Fort Riley and the U.S. Army in a highly professional and polished display of cavalry horsemanship and military tradition.



To see these regular U.S. Army soldiers perform the intricate mounted drill and weapons demonstrations exactly as they were performed during the Civil War was one of the most stirring Civil War experiences I have ever had. Believe me, you will not see a demonstration of that caliber performed by reenactors!

I really can't say enough about the quality of this symposium and the cost is very, very reasonable — \$30.00 per person for the entire day, which includes admission to the museum and grounds. Mark your calendars now for the 12th Annual Civil War Symposium scheduled for October 17, 2009!

*Submitted by: Terry Arliskas*

## A Christmas Day Letter, 1862

Mead Holmes, Jr., of the 21st Wisconsin Volunteers wrote letters to his hometown newspaper, the *Manitowoc Tribune*. On Christmas Day 1862, from his camp outside of Nashville, he wrote:

*We are now in a beautiful wooded slope; fronting south is our parade ground, forty acres, bounded on the south by a small creek, which affords plenty of good water for man and beast. This is in delicious contrast to some parts of Kentucky, where we drank water covered with slime so thick that a strong wind would not ruffle its surface, and water too, full of 'wrigglers,' went down the same channel...It is Christmastime; the grass is green, the birds are flitting from bough to bough, the squirrels are chirping, and so it is a 'merry Christmas' even in our camp. We march tomorrow a.m. Bragg's army is near, and we go to meet them with 'war's stern strength upon our souls' and the God of battles on our side. More anon.*

## Christmas Gala: A Program of Holiday Traditions & Dance

How often should you dance with your spouse in the course of an evening? How should you ask a stranger for a dance? How many pairs of gloves should you bring to a ball? Where should you position yourself in a quadrille set if you are not sure of the figures? How do you refuse a request for a dance?

Hear the answers to these questions and more when members of the West Side Soldiers Aid Society present a program of Civil War holiday traditions and dance at the December 7 Christmas Gala.

Established in 1862 and reincorporated in 2006, the West Side Soldiers Aid Society, Inc., is a non-profit, research-based living history organization and a modern-day soldiers' aid society. The work of the Society is supported by members throughout Wisconsin and in several states: Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Indiana and Colorado.

The Society began offering free Civil War dance lessons in 2005 at the Stahl Conrad Homestead, Hales Corners, moving to a larger hall at the Hales Corners Library in 2007. It also offers a six-week course of instruction each summer through Greendale Park and Recreation Department. Beginning in January 2009, classes at the Hales Corners Library's Ben Hunt Room will be offered on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

The West Side dance group was featured at the June 14, 2008, opening weekend at the Kenosha Civil War Museum and has performed and taught at Trimborn Farm, Old Falls Village, other living history events and community meetings. Members have also served as callers and floor managers for public dances and private events.

In 2007, the Society revived a simple Memorial Observance at Forest Home Cemetery to remember Union soldiers who died in the care of the Lady Managers of the downtown Milwaukee Soldiers' Home. Another facet of the organization is the Soldiers Home Sewing Circle, guided by CWRT member Donna Agnelly. This group creates Civil War reproduction quilts as well as functional quilts for homeless and hospitalized veterans. The Society is also a member organization of VA Voluntary Service at the Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center, Milwaukee, and a partner organization of the newly incorporated Friends of Reclaiming Our Heritage.

Pianist Eileen Beamish, Milwaukee, has been rehearsal accompanist for the Milwaukee Ballet for 25 years. She will provide holiday and history music during dinner and will accompany the dancing.



*West Side Soldiers Aid Society members celebrate after packing 50 boxes for shipment to Marines serving in a remote area of Afghanistan. The Society has been supporting the 217 Marines since summer 2008. In 2007 they sent care packages to Marines serving in Iraq and gift cards to these same Marines when they returned to the United States.*



*West Side S.A.S. dancers: Lee and Joan Herriges, Sharon and Jerry Rabe, Karen and Gary Alexander. Other members: Rebecca Anderson, Tom and Terry Arliskas, Lura Asby, Ron and Florencia Balzer, Patrick and Patricia Lynch, Michael and David Rabe.*

*Gary Alexander, an accomplished vocalist, will offer a Civil War era Christmas song as part of the program on December 7.*

## Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for December 7, 2008

Mail your reservations by Monday, December 1 to:

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

ALSO, call in reservations to:

**(262) 376-0568**  
Please indicate choice of Roast Pork Loin  
OR Roast Tom Turkey for each person

Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (meal price \$25.00 per person) for \_\_\_\_\_ reservations for the December 7 gala 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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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. • 2008-2009 Meetings

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##### **December 7, 2008 (Sunday)**

See pages 1 and 5.

##### **January 8, 2009**

Frank O'Reilly:  
Fredericksburg/Spotsylvania

##### **February 12, 2009**

Bruce Allardice:  
Lincoln as War Leader

##### **March 12, 2009**

John Latschar: Gettysburg

##### **April 16, 2009**

Steven Wise: TBA

##### **May 7, 2009**

James Ogden: Chickamauga  
Period attire welcome

