



GENERAL ORDERS



The Newsletter of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc. Since 1947

and The Iron Brigade Association

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The **November 10th, 2005**, meeting is to be held at **WISCONSIN CLUB**, Milwaukee

Visit Us on the World Wide Web: WWW.CIVILWARWL.ORG

Edward Bonekemper: Grant: A Victor, Not a Butcher

Our November speaker, Edward Bonekemper, holds that Civil War hero General Ulysses S. Grant won the Civil War. He was responsible for virtually all major Union victories in the West, the "Middle," and the East. Bonekemper ably silences Grant's critics and restores Grant to the heroic reputation he so richly deserves. He takes us into those decisive campaigns to show that, far from being a crude butcher (as he has been characterized not only by Southern partisans, but by historians), Grant's casualty rates actually compared favorably with those of other Civil War generals.

Grant has been maligned because of the bloody 1864 campaigns he conducted against Robert E. Lee to secure final victory for the Union. Grant was an inspired military leader with a genius for issuing lucid orders, maneuvering his troops adroitly, and making use of his staff. His perseverance, decisiveness, moral courage, and political acumen place him among the greatest generals the United States has ever produced.

Bonekemper traces Grant's record of success that include Forts Henry and Donelson, Shiloh, Iuka, Corinth, Raymond, Jackson, Champion's Hill, Vicksburg, Chattanooga, the Overland Campaign, the James River crossing, Five Forks, Petersburg, and Appomattox. He shows how Grant won his victories through expert execution of carefully planned military strategies, not the meat-grinder tactics of myth.

Bonekemper identifies the key elements of Grant's success as a general. He even demonstrates that as a military strategist and leader, Grant outshone his

Schedule of Events

- Staff Meeting (when required;
open to all members) 5:30 PM
- Registration and Social Hour 6:15 PM
- Dinner 6:45 PM
- Program Begins 7:30 PM

Times subject to local conditions

much-lionized rival, Robert E. Lee. He examines casualty records that prove that Grant lost fewer men in his successful effort to take Richmond and end the war than his predecessors lost in making the same attempt and failing. Bonekemper proves that it was no historical accident that Grant accepted the surrender of three entire Confederate armies—at Fort Donelson in 1862, Vicksburg in 1863, and Appomattox Court House in 1865. His tactics are studied carefully by American military personnel to this day.

Bonekemper received his B.A. cum laude in American history from Muhlenberg College, his M.A. in American history from Old Dominion University, and his J.D. from Yale Law School. He is the author of *How Robert E. Lee Lost the Civil War*, and *A Victor, Not a Butcher: Ulysses S. Grant's Overlooked Military Genius*. Currently, he is a visiting lecturer in military history at Muhlenberg College and an adjunct history professor at American Military University. He lives in Fairfax Station, Virginia.

—Based on <http://www.cw-book-news.com/release%20info/04-04/victor.html>, accessed 15 Oct 05

Mansfield Battlefield Organization Wants Members

The Friends of the Mansfield (LA) Battlefield is looking for new members, and the Board is considering an institutional membership.

Mansfield was a battle in the ill-fated Red River Campaign that took place on 8 April 1864. The battle was also known as Pleasant Grove or Sabine Cross Roads. The battle routed the Federal troops and ended the Federal advance up the Red River.

To raise funds for the battlefield they are selling commemorative bronze medallions for \$20.00 plus shipping. The Round Table will be taking pre-orders for these medals when logistics are worked out. Any interested parties should contact the Quartermaster, Roman Blenski.

Individual memberships start at \$25. For more information contact The Friends of Mansfield Battlefield, PO Box 44144, Shreveport, LA., 71134-4414.

18th Annual Harvest Ball 5 November

The 1st Brigade Band's annual event is at Memorial Hall in Racine on Saturday, 5 November from 7:30 to 11:30 PM. Admission is \$30, and includes hors d'oeuvres. Call 608-845-9341 for more information.

The 1st Brigade Band is an affiliate of the Wisconsin Historical Society, and is supported and sponsored by Heritage Military Music Foundation, Inc., a non-profit, educational, historical, and patriotic organization. For more information on the 1st Brigade Band:

- See www.1stbrigadeband.org;
- Write Heritage Hall, 504 S. Fourth Street, Watertown, WI 53094;
- e-mail cwband@1stbrigadeband.org;
- Call (920) 262-1864.

New Recruits

James Agans, Madison. Interests; General.

Mrs. Hawley and Maryellen Smith, Wauwatosa. Interests, General.

Gregg and Geri Faust, Germantown. Interests; touring battlefields.

James Lynch, Hales Corners. Interest; Gettysburg.

Joe Peroutka, Mequon. Interests; General.

Bob Rotgers, Wauwatosa. Interests; General.

Betty and Winfield Scott, Wauwatosa. Interests; 23 MA, and New Hampshire in the Civil War.

Deborah and James Quirk, Watertown. Interests, General

Timothy Walker, Milwaukee. Interests; General.

Our Round Table thrives and improves by adding new members. Invite friends and family to join us.

Gettysburg Cyclorama to Get Two-year Restoration, New Quarters

The last day visitors can see the Gettysburg Cyclorama painting in Gettysburg before it closes for a two-year restoration will be Nov. 20. Other exhibits in the building housing the painting will reopen in spring 2006, but the 120-year-old painting will be off-limits to the public until November 2007, when a new visitors center will also open.

The Cyclorama, entitled "The Battle of Gettysburg," is a huge circular oil painting -- 359 feet long and 27 feet high -- depicting the charge of Confederate infantry led by Gen. George Pickett. The painting was created by French artist Paul Philippoteaux and a team of 20 in 1883-1884. The \$9 million Cyclorama restoration is being organized and paid for by the Gettysburg National Battlefield Museum Foundation.

— From <http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/05286/586581.stm>, accessed 15 Oct 05

Officers of the Board of Directors, Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc., as of July 2005

| Name | Office/Title | Contact | Term Expires |
|-----------------------|---|--|--------------|
| Gene Jamrozy | President | (414) 327-2811 | 2008 |
| Ellen Kelling-Vukovic | 1st Vice President | (262) 334-6265 | 2006 |
| Paul Eilbes | Treasurer/Membership Committee Chair | (262) 376-0568; paul.eilbes@ipaper.com | 2007 |
| William Finke | Secretary | (414) 221-2764 bill.finke@we-energies.com | 2008 |
| John D. Beatty | Editor/Publisher, <i>General Orders</i> | jdbeatty@amcivwar.com | 2007 |
| Jim Johnson | Webmaster | secondwi@earthlink.net | 2006 |

Shiloh — The Hornet's Nest III

As the battle increased in intensity, a brigade of Sherman's division collapsed at the Rhea Field sometime around 0930, unhinging the right flank of Grant's army. By 1000 those of Prentiss's men who had survived the first five hours of battle had fallen in along the Sunken Road. Eventually a total of eight field artillery batteries and troops from fifteen regiments from three divisions joined the position. On the Federal right flank Sherman's remnants joined McClellan's fresher brigades along the Hamburg-Purdy Road. Braxton Bragg ordered one of his brigades to attack the Cotton Field at the Hornet's Nest. This assault failed to get within a hundred yards of the Federal line.

Prentiss, the senior brigadier in the Hornet's Nest yet the one with the least number of intact units, was somewhat dazed by the fury and speed of the Rebel attacks. He suggested that the regiments fight their way back to their camps which at that time, were being looted by the Confederates. As more reinforcements arrived he recovered his reason somewhat.

By this time all 16 Confederate brigades had been committed to combat. Two had been practically destroyed, two others fragmented. Most Confederate troops had not eaten an organized meal since the night before, and some even earlier. As the Federals fell back out of their camps they abandoned ammunition, dress

uniforms and even stands of arms and, more important, large medical and food stores. Many Confederate soldiers stopped to eat or to loot the Federal camps. Although it was not as rampant as some accounts had it, the looting cost the Confederates valuable time and troops.

Sherman and McClellan on the Federal right could not hold their position on the Hamburg-Purdy Road much past 1100, and fell back a half mile north to the Jones Field. This withdrawal laid bare the right flank of the Hornet's Nest, leaving it a blue island in a surging sea of butternut.

At about 1130, Sherman and McClellan counterattacked from Jones Field with some success. This took much of the impetus out of the Confederate attack, but only really served to shift Confederate energies to the Hornet's Nest. At about this time Grant appeared at the Hornet's Nest. He told Prentiss that he must maintain his position at all hazards.

Grant's main concern at the time was that the Hornet's Nest position blocked the most direct route to the Pittsburgh Landing. If Grant's army were to survive at all the Landing had to remain out of danger. Prentiss, Wallace and Hurlbut held the key to the survival of the Army of the Tennessee.

2005-06 Schedule

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • December 7 [ITALIAN COMMUNITY CENTER]: Stephen Fratt—<i>"Civil War Tactics and Technology"</i> • January 12, 2006: Stephen Servais—<i>"As if We Were Foreigners Suddenly Coming into a Strange Country; New Englanders in Tidewater Virginia, 1861-1865"</i> • February 9: James McPherson—<i>"Abraham Lincoln as Commander-in-Chief"</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 9: Gail Stephens—<i>"Lew Wallace"</i> • April 20: Horace Mewborn—<i>"The Battles of Manassas"</i> • May 11: Mark Nell—<i>"How the Bible Helped Start the Civil War"</i> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Meetings are at the Wisconsin Club unless otherwise noted. <i>Speakers and topics are subject to change without notice.</i></p> |
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Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for: November 10th, 2005

Mail your reservations by November 4th to:

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

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

Enclosed is \$_____ (meal price \$20.00 per person) for _____ reservations for the next 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: _____

In the Event of Inclement Weather...

Since we live in a part of the Union that has such wonderful weather, the President will decide if there is to be any change in a meeting due to weather. Listen to WTMJ or WISN radio for news of meeting cancellations if the weather turns on us.

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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A Gentle Reminder

The Wisconsin Club and the Board of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee would like to remind our members that jackets are required for the Club's dining room. Please contact club management if you have any questions.

General Orders Submissions and Editorial Policy

All submissions to the *GO* are used on a space-available, date-required basis. Electronic submissions are preferred over paper. The Editor/Publisher reserves the right to edit all submissions for length, propriety, content, and house style. Submissions with a direct Civil War interest, or those that are date-sensitive, will be published first.

All submissions must be received by the Editor/Publisher at jdbeatty@amcivwar.com no later than the 10th of the month before the next *GO* (for example, submissions for the January *GO* must be received by 10 December). All address changes, or problems receiving the *GO*, are handled through the Membership Chairman.