

GENERAL ORDERS



The Newsletter of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc. Since 1947 and The Iron Brigade Association



The **October 9th, 2003** meeting is to be held at The **Wisconsin Club**, Milwaukee

Speaker: Jerry Russell, Chairman of Civil War Round Table Associates

Jerry Russell on Lee After Chancellorsville

Our October speaker plans to give a talk based on a communication from General Lee to President Davis written a few days after Lee's great victory at Chancellorsville in May 1863. The letter reflected Lee's thoughts regarding the future conduct of the war. At this mid-war stage, Lee was not sanguine about the South's ability to achieve victory. There is no record that Davis ever responded to Lee's letter.

Jerry L. Russell is a Little Rock communications executive who has been involved since 1958 in public relations, advertising, association management, newsletter publishing, and political campaign counseling. A 1958 journalism graduate of the University of Arkansas, he has remained in the communications field in Arkansas since graduation.

He was the charter president of the Civil War Round Table of Arkansas in 1964, and founded

Civil War Round Table Associates in 1968, becoming national chairman, a position he still holds. He has edited the CWRT of Arkansas monthly CWRT Digest newsletter since 1964, a record among Round Table newsletters. He was dubbed "The War Correspondent" for the Civil War Round Table movement in 1999.

Jerry Russell was the only non-historian on the 50th anniversary program of the Chicago Civil War Round Table, of which he is an Honorary Life Member. In November 2000, he received a Distinguished Service Award from the Chicago Round Table at its 60th anniversary commemoration.

Russell is a past president of the Arkansas Advertising Federation and of the Arkansas Chapter, Public Relations Society of America. He is presently a member of the Arkansas Chapter, American Society of Association Executives, and was a long-time member of the American Association of Political Consultants.

Schedule of Events

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

April 2004 Meeting

Members should take note that the April 2004 meeting of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee is on 15 April, the **THIRD** Thursday, to avoid conflict with Good Friday on the 9th.

Klement Lecture set for October 27

Joan Waugh, a professor of history at the University of California at Los Angeles, will deliver the eleventh annual Frank L. Klement Lecture on Monday, October 27, 2003.

The title of her talk is "U.S. Grant's Memoirs: A Tribute to the Union Cause."

Prof. Waugh is the author of *Unsentimental Reformer: The Life of Josephine Shaw Lowell* (Harvard University Press, 1998) and of a forthcoming book on the memorialization of U. S. Grant in American culture, and is the editor of an encyclopedia for high school and college students on the Civil War and Reconstruction. She teaches one of the most popular courses in the UCLA

history department—on the Civil War, of course—and each summer leads a class of students on a study tour of Gettysburg, Antietam, Washington, and other Civil War sites.

At the lecture, Secretary Judley Wyant will present the annual check for the Klement Donation. The Donations, named in honor of the late founding member Frank L. Klement, are used by the Graduate program at

Marquette to defray expenses of budding American History scholars presenting papers at symposia and to otherwise jump-start their careers.

The lecture will be held in Ballroom C of the Alumni Memorial Union. Parking is available in the parking structure at 16th and Wells. For more information, please contact James Marten at Marquette University at (414)288-7591.

Ellen Vukovic Named 2nd Vice-President

At the September meeting the Board of Directors elected former Treasurer Ellen Kelling-Vukovic 2nd Vice President.

Display Materials Sought

Calling all collectors of weapons, clothes, shoes, books, records, dolls, doorknobs, toy soldiers, trains, tin cans, and other memorabilia and artifacts related to the Civil War era in America: You are invited to show off your collections at a meeting of the Round Table. A 6-foot table is made available every month for just that purpose. Contact Gene Jamrozy to schedule

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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Board of Directors, Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc., as of Sep., 2003

Name	Office	Contact	Term Expires
Dale Brassler	President	(920) 682-5478	2006
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Shiloh: An Introduction, Part II

The troops may have been preparing for a grand adventure, but at that time no one really knew what it was going to look like. For decades since the advent of the rifled musket and the gun-howitzer, arguments had raged in Europe and in the Americas about the appearance of the modern battlefield. Some authorities held that the rifled musket made artillery obsolete, others that shrapnel made infantry a thing of the past, yet others that cavalry had seen its day, and still others that a return to the pike and shield as auxiliary to the ammunition-wasting rifled musket was just around the corner.

Through all this, American infantry doctrine and tactics in the mid-19th century were based almost entirely on the French drill manuals of the early 1850s. Their foundation was the French infantry experience in Algeria in the 1840s, which emphasized rifle marksmanship that depended on range estimation (to set the rear sights) and athletic close-order drill to transform marching columns into firing and skirmish lines, and close quickly with the enemy to minimize losses to rifled muskets and artillery.

But by 1860 these tactics were called into serious question, and by spring 1862 training and indoctrination were in a state of confusion, with no one quite

sure what should be taught to the new recruits. This was because in the Piedmont War of 1859 (France and Austria fighting over Italy) the bayonet had been decisive on the battlefields, and the rifle had not. The bayonet-and-smoothbore advocates crowed that all the theories of the past decade based on the rifled musket were wrong, while the rifle-and-artillery promoters argued that the Piedmont experience was a fluke.

This argument led, rather than to conflicting training, to practically no tactical training at all for most of the infantry. Range estimation was not systematically taught (indeed, only a few got to fire their weapons before battle) and physical training was non-existent (walking close-order drill did not require the stamina, nor did it deliver the impact, of striking the enemy at a dead run).

Add to this the plethora of small-arms calibers, from just under half an inch (0.45) to over three-quarters of an inch (0.79) in diameter, and the admixture of smoothbore and rifled musket weapons, shot-guns and sporting arms in the infantry ranks, clearly most of the infantry was anything but ready to fight.

Author's Note: Any comments on this feature would be greatly appreciated —JDB.

2003-2004 Schedule

All meetings are at the Wisconsin Club unless otherwise noted. *Speakers and topics are subject to change without notice.*

- November 13: Eric Wittenberg, "Little Phil: A Critical Assessment of the Civil War Generalship of Philip H. Sheridan."
- December 11: Hans Trefousse, subject to be announced.
- January 8: Arnold Schofield, "Forgotten Warriors, Allies & Adversaries: American Indians in the Civil War."
- February 12: Larry Hewitt, "The Confederacy's Best Chance for Victory: Robert E. Lee and the Battle of Annihilation."
- March 11: Thomas Schwartz, "Crazy folks... 'Why must I only take my chances?' —Abraham Lincoln and Death Threats." Announcement of Elections.
- April 15: James Ogden, subject to be announced. Election of Board Members.
- May 6: Bruce Tap, "Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War." Period costumes invited.
- June 10: (open)

Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for: **October 9th, 2003**

Mail your reservations by October 3rd to:

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

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

Enclosed is \$_____ (meal price \$20 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: _____

Meet the New Members

GERALD AND KATHLEEN CRAWFORD, Racine, WI. Interest, Jefferson Davis.

TIM AND JEANNE CRAWFORD, Racine, WI. Interest, Gettysburg.

RAY GIBBS, Milwaukee, WI. Interest, Iron Brigade, Union swords.

FRED AND JUDITH PETERSON, Racine, WI. Interest, the Confederacy.

GERALD AND NANCY STERN, Waukesha, WI. Interest, Milwaukee and Wisconsin in the war, Iron Brigade.



GO 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, Paul Eilbes.

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 winter storms. Listen to WTMJ or WISN radio for news of meeting cancellations if the weather turns on us.

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 dining room. Please contact club management if you have any questions.