



# 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 **September 11th, 2003** meeting is to be held at **Wisconsin Club**, Milwaukee

**Speaker:** Noah Andre Trudeau, Author of *The Last Citadel: Petersburg, Virginia 1864-1865*

### *Noah Andre Trudeau on Lee and Appomattox*

Noah Andre Trudeau, our September speaker, is the author of *Bloody Roads South*, *The Last Citadel*, *Out of the Storm*, and *Like Men of War*.

By February 1865, two federal armies, one under William T. Sherman and the other under John M. Schofield, were moving through the Carolinas. If not stopped, they could sever Virginia from the rest of the south, and if they joined with the Army of the Potomac at Petersburg and the Army of the James on the James River Peninsula, Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia would face four armies instead of two. Lee knew he would have to leave the Petersburg lines, the only question was when.

The retreat of the Army of Northern Virginia started on April 1, and was under constant Federal pressure. Tired and hungry, the men began falling out of the column, or broke ranks searching for food. Mules and horses collapsed under their loads. At Sailor's Creek nearly 8,000 men and 8 generals were lost in one stroke, either killed, captured, or wounded.

Blocked repeatedly by Grant's forces, Lee kept moving, hoping that he could be supplied. On the afternoon of April 8, the Confederate columns halted a mile northeast of Appomattox Court House. That night, artil-

lery fire could be heard from Appomattox Station, and the red glow from Union campfires foretold that the end was near. Federal forces, marching on shorter roads, had blocked the way south and west.

Lee consulted with his generals and determined that one more attempt should be made to reach the railroad and escape. At dawn on April 9, General John B. Gordon's Corps attacked the Union cavalry blocking the stage road, but after an initial success, Gordon sent word to Lee around 8:30 a.m. "...that my command has been fought to a frazzle, and unless Longstreet can unite in the movement, or prevent these forces from coming upon my rear, I cannot go forward."

Receiving the message, Lee replied, "There is nothing left for me to do but to go and see General Grant, and I would rather die a thousand deaths."

Trudeau has won the Civil War Round Table of New York's Fletcher Pratt Award and the Jerry Coffey Memorial Book Prize. An executive producer at National Public Radio, he lives in Washington, D.C.

—Based on <http://www.nps.gov/apco/campaign.htm>  
and <http://www.harpercollins.com/authorintro/index.asp?authorid=14148>, accessed 9 Aug 03

### **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** Friday, to accommodate Good Friday on the 9th.

#### *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 |

## 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 will be "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 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 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.

## Report of the July Board Meeting

The annual board meeting of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc. was held July 10, 2003. The Board elected Dale Brasser President and Gene Jamrozy Vice President. Paul Eilbes was retained as Treasurer, C. Judley Wyant as Secretary, and John Beatty as Editor/Publisher of the *General Orders*.

Among the items discussed were the state of the membership (261 members at the end of the season), the budget report (the Round Table had \$27,798.84 in cash, stock and Certificates of Deposit as of June 30, 2003), officer term expiration (see table below), the program schedule for the 2003-04 season (see Page 3), and other matters.

***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 of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc, as of July 2003

Name	Office	Contact	Term Expires
Dale Brasser	President	(920) 682-5478	2006
Gene Jamrozy	Vice President/Quartermaster	(414) 327-2811	2005
Paul Eilbes	Treasurer/Membership Committee Chair	(262) 376-0568; <a href="mailto:paul.eilbes@ipaper.com">paul.eilbes@ipaper.com</a>	2004
C. Judley Wyant	Secretary	(262) 634-1203	2006
John D. Beatty	Editor/Publisher. <i>General Orders</i>	<a href="mailto:jdbeatty@amcivwar.com">jdbeatty@amcivwar.com</a>	2004
Robert Braun	Past President	(920) 568-4530	2005
Robert Erffmeyer	Past President	(414) 354-7800	2005
Lance Herdegen	Past President	(262) 524-7198	2006
Dr. Peter Jacobsohn	Past President	(262) 242-0931	2004
Bob Parrish	Past President	(262) 786-2945	2004
Bill Upham	Past President	(414) 962-6440	2005
Jack Thompson	Past President	(414) 332-2065	2005
Ellen Kelling-Vukovic	Member	(262) 334-6265	2006

## *Shiloh: An Introduction, Part I*

**T**he April 1862 battle in south central Tennessee was a watershed in American history, in the war between the states, and in the evolution of the US Army. In two days more men fell than had in all of America's other conflicts since 1775 combined. One of the brightest hopes of the nascent Southern Confederacy was killed in the battle, the first of many "what ifs" of the war.

Furthermore, Shiloh showed both the combatants, in what Winston Churchill would later call "the last war between gentlemen," what the future of the conflict would be like: desperate fighting between determined men led by officers learning their trade as they went, and losing thousands of men in the process.

Finally, the US Army began a steady transformation from a farmer's and shopkeeper's provincial militia to a professional military organization.

But absolutely nothing was certain in the spring of 1862 in regarding the course of the year-old war be-



tween the states (no one just then was quite certain what it should be called). Both sides "green together," in Lincoln's words, were stumbling and fumbling at fighting a war for different goals and with different technical means, but still both fighting it on the longest hostile frontier in the history of warfare.

The Union was building a huge armed force of volunteers, so many that some had to be turned away. Most had survived the first winter of the war (though the death rates from disease were appalling); arms and equipment were flowing in from contractors good, bad and in-

different; officers were learning what to do or were leaving; and in general the Army and Navy on both sides were starting to believe that if there really was a war to be fought, it was to be a grand adventure.

*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.*

- October 9: Jerry Russell, "Battlefield Preservation... From the Beginning."
- 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: (open)
- 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: Arnold Schofield, "Forgotten Warriors, Allies & Adversaries: American Indians in the Civil War."

**Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for: September 11th, 2003**

***Mail your reservations by September 5th 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](mailto: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.