



GENERAL ORDERS



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



General Orders No. 05-09

September, 2005

The **September 8th, 2005**, meeting is to be held at **WISCONSIN CLUB**, Milwaukee

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Richard McMurry: “Forty Years to a New Framework for the Civil War”

Our September speaker, Richard McMurry is one of the nation's leading Civil War scholars. He has spoken in Milwaukee several times over the years. His emphasis on Western Civil War historiography has brought that theater out into full view. He received the B. A. degree in history from the Virginia Military Institute, and his M. A. and Ph. D. degrees from Emory University.

He has taught history at Valdosta State College (Georgia) and North Carolina State University. Since 1988 he has been a freelance writer and speaker and has served as a guide/historian for many tour and cruise groups. He has written more than one hundred articles on various facets of the war, and he is the author of *Two Great Rebel Armies; Fourth Battle of Winchester*, and *Towards a New Civil War Paradigm; VMI Alumni in the Civil War* and *Atlanta 1864*. He is a member of numerous historical societies and is active in such organizations as the Civil War Preservation Trust and the Blue and Gray Education Society.

New Officers for 2005-6 Season

The Board of Directors at their 14 July meeting elected Gene Jamrozky President, Ellen Kelling Vukovic Vice-President, and William Finke as Secretary. Officers serve terms of two years.

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

Lincoln Memorabilia Auction 15 September

The Rail Splitter, a national organization of Lincoln and Civil War collectors, is now hosting a huge auction of Lincolniana and Civil War memorabilia that concludes on September 15th. With more than 1,200 lots, this represents the largest sale of historical artifacts, documents and material related to Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War since the Oliver Barrett Collection was dispersed by Parke Bernet Galleries in 1952.

For more information or to obtain a catalog for the September 15th auction in New York, contact: The Rail Splitter, P.O. Box 275, New York, NY, 10044 or telephone (212) 691-1224. Information can also be found at the website: www.railsplitter.com

Sunset Gun — Summer 2005

This has not been a good summer for the Milwaukee Round Table, and for Civil War scholarship in general. June alone claimed Brian Pohanka, Shelby Foote, and Mike Marinelle.

The organizations we study accepted death as a matter of routine. We do not.

Brian C. Pohanka, 50, a Civil War historian who advised filmmakers, preserved battlefields, reenacted troop movements and dressed the part, died of cancer 15 June at his home in Alexandria.

As an adviser and military coordinator on major motion pictures, including *Glory* (1989) and *Cold Mountain* (2003), he ensured the historical accuracy of films that would be seen by millions in theaters and on television.

So immersed was he in the Civil War era that he trimmed his beard in a style called the Imperial, popular in the 1860s. One of the legions of Civil War reenactors in the area, Mr. Pohanka served as captain of the 5th New York Infantry. When he donned its red-and-gold trimmed Zouave, or French-style, uniforms, the dapper historian looked as if he had stepped out of history.

Novelist and historian **Shelby Foote**, whose Southern storyteller's touch inspired millions to read his multivolume work on the Civil War died

27 June, his widow Gwyn, said. He was 88.

Foote, a Mississippi native and longtime Memphis resident, wrote six novels, but is best remembered for his three-volume, 3,000-page history of the Civil War, and for his appearance on the PBS series *The Civil War*. He worked on the book for 20 years, using a flowing, narrative style that enabled readers to enjoy it like a historical novel.

"I can't conceive of writing it any other way," Foote once said. "Narrative history is the kind that comes closest to telling the truth. You can never get to the truth, but that's your goal."

Foote's soft drawl and gentlemanly manner on the Burns film made him an instant celebrity, a role with which he was unaccustomed and, apparently, somewhat uncomfortable.

Michael Marinelle was a member of the Round Table since 1997, a veteran of the "forgotten" Korean conflict, and an active voice of the membership to the Board. According to his widow, Barbara, M² (his e-mail signature) died of leukemia-related causes on 6 June. His quick wit, boundless energy and endless supply of jokes will be missed by this correspondent. As his wife said, maybe he just went skiing.

Maybe they all did.

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

Name	Office/Title	Contact	Term Expires
Gene Jamroz	1st Vice President/Quartermaster	(414) 327-2811	2008
Ellen Kelling-Vukovic	2nd Vice President	(262) 334-6265	2006
Paul Eilbes	Treasurer/Membership Committee Chair	(262) 376-0568; paul.eilbes@ipaper.com	2007
William Finke	Secretary	(262) 634-1203; jwyant@wyantlaw.com	2008
John D. Beatty	Editor/Publisher, <i>General Orders</i>	jdbeatty@amciwwar.com	2007
Jim Johnson	Webmaster	secondwi@earthlink.net	2006
Dr. Robert Karczewski	Member	(920) 563-4824	2007
Michael Benton	Member	(414) 962-3767	2008
C. Judley Wyant	Member	(262) 351-2629	2006

Shiloh — The Hornet's Nest I

The April 1862 battle of Shiloh was a line of departure for the US Army. At the encircled salient called the Hornet's Nest, the US Army began a long transformation from a frontier constabulary and citizens militia to a unified, professional army, and set the tone for American resilience under fire.

Powell and his patrol engaged the Confederates at the Frawley Field in the early morning hours. To the north and west of this action, troops of William Sherman's Fifth Division fell into line at about 0700, two hours into the battle, just outside their camps in the northeast corner of the Rea field, when Sherman suddenly realized he was under heavy attack.

Some fifteen minutes after this Ulysses Grant, commanding the army, heard the guns



while eating breakfast on his headquarters at Savannah nine miles downriver. He ordered William Nelson, commanding a division from the Army of the Ohio, to march upriver to a landing opposite the Pittsburgh Landing so they could be ferried across. Nelson's troops were under the command of Don Carlos Buell of the Army of the Ohio, but Nelson agreed to get his men moving as soon as he could.

To the east, a colonel rode through a camp on a foam-flecked horse shouting that the fighting on the right for over an hour. The regiment quickly assembled and nearly as quickly was firing at Confederates coming through the woods. This was the first that Benjamin Prentiss, commanding the Sixth Division, knew for certain of a general attack.

2005-06 Schedule

- October 13: Ed Bearss—*"The Most Forgotten, Misunderstood, & Least Appreciated Civil War Battles and Soldiers"*
- November 10: Edward Bonekemper III—*"A Victor, Not a Butcher – U.S. Grant's Overlooked Military Genius"*
- December 7 [ITALIAN COMMUNITY CENTER]: Stephen Fratt—*"Civil War Tactics and Technology"*
- January 12, 2006: Stephen Servais—*"As if We Were Foreigners Suddenly Coming into a*

Strange Country; New Englanders in Tidewater Virginia, 1861-1865"

- February 9: James McPherson—*"Abraham Lincoln as Commander-in-Chief"*
- March 9: Gail Stephens—*"Lew Wallace"*
- April 20: Horace Mewborn—*"The Battles of Manassas"*
- May 11: George Rable—*"Fredericksburg in the Larger Civil War Universe"*

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

Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for: September 8th, 2005

Mail your reservations by September 2nd 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.