

# GENERAL ORDERS



The Newsletter of the

## Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc. and The Iron Brigade Association



FEBRUARY 13, 2014

### HAROLD KNUDSEN General Longstreet



*By the soldiers he is invariably spoken of as the best fighter in the whole army. — Lt. Col. Arthur Freemantle*

*He was brave, honest, intelligent, a very capable soldier; subordinate to his superiors, just and kind to his subordinates, but jealous of his own rights which he had the courage to maintain.— Gen. Ulysses S. Grant*

James Longstreet, the man Robert E. Lee called his “old war horse,” was the Confederacy’s senior Lieutenant General and perhaps its most controversial general. His service with Lee, his alleged “slowness” at Gettysburg, his actions while under Braxton Bragg at Chattanooga, all sparked postwar criticism as did Longstreet’s backing of the Republican Party and Reconstruction.

*I cannot help but think that great results would have been obtained had my views been thought better of, yet I am much inclined to accept the present condition as for the best. — James Longstreet*

At our February Round Table meeting, our speaker, Lt. Col. Harold Knudsen, will examine Longstreet’s performances in the battles of Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chickamauga and Petersburg and will use these performances to illustrate how Longstreet developed both his tactical and strategic abilities during the war. Knudsen will look at Longstreet objectively and discuss why he determined that Longstreet was the best combat soldier of the Civil War.

Lt. Col. Harold Knudsen is an Illinois native. His career spans twenty five years of active duty service, and includes seven resident career artillery, command and staff Army schools and colleges. He has many years of tactical experience in the integration of fire support into maneuver plans and fire control computation for cannon units. He spent nine years in Germany training tactics offensive armored warfare, as well as peace-keeping and counter-insurgency training. A combat veteran of Desert Storm, he performed extensive artillery fire planning and execution in support of the US breakthrough of the Iraqi line and penetration into Iraq. He also served in Iraq and Kuwait during the Iraq campaign as a Force manager, fielding new equipment to units in Iraq. His years of staff work at the Corps, Army and Pentagon levels give a strong understanding of operations from the lowest to the highest levels. Lt. Col. Knudsen has a Masters of Liberal Studies from Georgetown University. His interest in James Longstreet began as a child, and expanded in Germany when applying and comparing Longstreet’s tactics and troop disposition in the training areas. His book *General James Longstreet: The Confederacy’s Most Modern General* draws heavily from the 20th Century Army doctrine, field training, staff planning, command, and combat experience.

*Portrait of Gen. Longstreet from the Civil War Photograph Collection of the Library of Congress. Image LC-DIG-cwpb-0608.*

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February 2014

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#### FEBRUARY MEETING AT A GLANCE

Harold Knudsen,  
“General Longstreet,”  
February 13, 2014

The Wisconsin Club  
9th & Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee  
(Jackets required for dining room)

5:30 p.m. – Staff Meeting  
(Open to all members)

6:15 p.m. – Registration & Social Hour

6:45 p.m. – Dinner

7:30 p.m. – Program

Dinner – **\$25 by reservation.**

Deadline: Monday, February 10, 2014

See page 7.

Speaker and topic are subject to change.  
In case of inclement weather, listen to  
WTMJ or WISN radio.

[www.milwaukeecwrt.org](http://www.milwaukeecwrt.org)

## CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE NEWS

### WHEN YOU CANCEL YOUR RESERVATION

Please be aware that cancellations within 48 hours of the dinner meeting are subject to payment in full for the reservation amount. The Round Table is charged for these reservations whether the dinners are used or not.

### YOUR ASSISTANCE IS APPRECIATED

Please remember that our dinner counts are due at least forty-eight hours before the dinner meeting. We are always happy to see you and welcome you to the meeting and **will make every attempt to accommodate everyone who comes**, but we cannot always guarantee a dinner that evening if you have not called, emailed or sent in your reservation. If you do find yourself suddenly free the evening of our presentation, you are always welcome to come and hear the speaker after dinner, at no charge. Thank you for your understanding.

### CWRT ANNUAL FUND

The following members have shown their generous commitment by making an investment in the CWRT Annual Fund. This list reflects donations received from July 1 through December 12, 2013.

#### **Patron (\$200 - \$299)**

Crain Bliwas, Grant Johnson, Stephen Leopold

#### **Associate (\$100 - \$199)**

Michael Benton, Tom Corcoran, Paul Eilbes, David Kaminski, Dr. Raymond Pahle, Christine Plichta, Laura Rinaldi, Paul Sotirini, Gil Vraney

#### **Contributor (Up to \$99)**

George Affeldt, Robert Christie, Dean Collins, John & Linda Connelly, Dr. G.E. Dammann, Bob Dude, Ted Fehing, A. William Finke, Richard Gross, Lance Herdegen, Dr. Erwin Huston, Gene & Jane Jamrozy, Christopher Johnson, David Jordan, Dr. Bob Karczewski, Ardis Kelling, Frank Kosednar, Fred Madsen, Dr. Rodney Malinowski, Tom Olsen, Bob Parrish, Ann & James Reeve II, Chet Rohn, David & Helga Sartori, Dan Tanty, Bernard VanDinter

### MILWAUKEE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE QUARTERMASTER'S REGALIA

What better way to show off your pride in our organization! All items are made of first-rate, quality materials, modestly embroidered with the Round Table/Iron Brigade logo, along with your name or initials.

ITEM	COST
Hooded Sweatshirt in Northern Blue.....	\$35.00
Baseball Cap .....	\$10.00
Blue Brief Case .....	\$25.00
Blue Light-Weight Sweatshirt.....	\$30.00
Blue Izod Polo Shirt.....	\$40.00
Blue Dress Shirt .....	\$40.00
Blue Fleece-Lined Jacket.....	\$60.00
Iron Brigade Pin.....	\$5.00
CWRT Pin .....	\$5.00
Bugle Pin.....	\$5.00
Iron Brigade Medal .....	\$25.00
Red River Medal .....	\$25.00
CWRT 60 Year Medal.....	\$10.00

Contact Roman Blenski, Quartermaster, 4601 W. Holt Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53219, (414) 327-2847, [dbcpmilw@execpc.com](mailto:dbcpmilw@execpc.com) or see him in person at the Monthly Meeting at Book Raffle.

## CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE NEWS

### NEW ROUND TABLE WEBSITE ANNOUNCED

At the January 2014 meeting, President Grant Johnson announced that the Round Table website has been updated and can be found at: <http://www.milwaukeeecwrt.org>. Archival material can still be found at the original website: [civilwarwi.org](http://civilwarwi.org).

### MEET OUR PRESIDENT



Grant A. Johnson lives in Franklin, Wisconsin. He has been married to his wife, Maria, for 23 years and has 4 children. Grant loves history and has always loved the Civil War. His interest was awoke when Ken Burns did his now famous work on the great conflict for PBS. He is also the founder and owner of Johnson Direct, a measurable marketing and advertising firm

based in Brookfield, Wisconsin. Additionally, he is the Board President of the Greendale Education Foundation and serves as a board member for Interfaith in Milwaukee County.

Besides his interest in history, Grant loves all kinds of music and during college he was a jazz radio host on WUWM and also served as a Jazz Critic for the Milwaukee Journal. When not working he enjoys attending concerts and watching his children play sports and volunteering.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS • EVENTS • MEETINGS

#### **February 10, 2014**

Manitowoc Civil War Round Table, 7 p.m.  
Manitowoc Historical Society Heritage Center  
Topic: Cemetery Talks

#### **February 11 and 24, 2014**

Civil War Era Dancing, 6:00 p.m.  
Ben Hunt Room, Hales Corners Library  
Free and open to the public  
Information: 414-427-3776

#### **February 12, 2014**

Waukesha Civil War Round Table, 7 p.m.  
Citizens Bank of Mukwonago, Waukesha Branch  
Speakers: General and Mrs. Grant  
Stories from the last part of 1863 through the first part of 1864

#### **February 18, 2014**

Prairieville Irregulars Civil War Round Table, 7 p.m.  
2nd Floor Boardroom, Campus Center Building, Carroll University  
Speaker: Tom Arliskas  
"Five Missing Pages: U.S. Grant and the Battle of Belmont"

#### **March 6, 2014**

"The USS Milwaukee"  
Presented by Jim Heinz  
Italian Community Center, 6:30 p.m.  
For further information contact Jim at: [potentialretiree@hotmail.com](mailto:potentialretiree@hotmail.com)

## KENOSHA CIVIL WAR MUSEUM

### SEEING THE ELEPHANT

The museum's new, 10-minute high-tech digital movie opened on January 11, 2014. The museum is just one of a handful of venues nationwide using 360° movie technology. The film shows on: Sundays at 1, 2, 3 and 4 p.m.; other days at 11, noon, 1, 2, 3 and 4 p.m. General admission to the museum's *The Fiery Trial Gallery* is required to see the movie.

### SNEAK PREVIEW: CIVIL WAR: THE UNTOLD STORY

February 12, 2014, 7 p.m.

On Wednesday, February 12 (Abraham Lincoln's 250th birthday) the Civil War Museum of Kenosha will host a special sneak-preview showing of a single episode of a new five part series produced for public television entitled *Civil War: The Untold Story*.

The chosen episode, *With Malice Toward None*, follows a Union army commanded by General William Tecumseh Sherman as it battles its way from Chattanooga, Tennessee, to Atlanta, Georgia, in the summer of 1864. Interwoven with this military story is the Presidential Campaign of 1864 pitting Republican Abraham Lincoln against the Democratic candidate George B. McClellan.

*Civil War: The Untold Story* is a visually stunning and absorbing new 5-hour documentary series that examines the war through the lens of the Western Theater — battles in the strategic lands between the Appalachians and the Mississippi River. Narrated by Elizabeth McGovern (Downton Abbey) the series is set to premiere nationally on public television beginning in April 2014. It is produced and directed by Chris Wheeler of Great Divide Pictures. For more than 20 years, Great Divide has been producing award-winning historical documentaries and National Park Visitor Center films.

A question and answer period with Producer Chris Wheeler and Civil War Museum staff will follow the viewing of the episode. The event is offered free and open to the public.

### SECOND FRIDAY LUNCHBOX SERIES

*The Underground Railroad at Wheaton*

February 14, 2014, Noon

Dr. David Maas, through circumstantial and documentary evidence, explores whether Wheaton College was a stop on the underground railroad and if there was an underground tunnel for slaves in the basement of Blanchard Hall.

*Sponsored by the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee and Iron Brigade Association*

### CIVIL WAR MEDICAL WEEKEND

February 15, 2014, 11 – 4 p.m.; February 16, 2014, Noon – 4 p.m.

A weekend of living history, programs and exhibits commemorating the role of physicians, nurses, and caregivers during the Civil War. A free event.

### CIVIL WAR MEDIA CLUB

*Fire Within: A Civil War Narrative from Wisconsin*

Tuesday, February 25, 2014, 7 – 8:30 p.m.

Civil War Museum Curator Doug Dammann leads a discussion of Dr. Kerry Trask's book which blends the experiences of several young Wisconsin men who fought in the Civil War with the course of events back home in Manitowoc. Using the letters and diaries of both soldiers and civilians, he recounts military campaigns on several fronts, as well as the travails of civilians on the home front. \$10/\$5 Friends of the Museum

**INAUGURAL GREAT LAKES  
HOMEFRONT SEMINAR**  
Exploring the  
Civilian Experience  
During the Civil War Era

**Saturday, March 15, 2014**

Seminar #0420776107  
Registration 8:30am-9:30am  
Last lecture ends at 3:30pm  
Cost: \$60 (\$50 FOM) includes Lunch

**"We're All In It Together: The War at Home  
and the Creation of Community in Wisconsin"**  
Presented by Dr. Kerry Trask

**"The Most Christian Nation in the World:  
Religion in American Culture on the Eve of War"**  
Presented by Father Robert Miller

**"Maryland Civilians in the Antietam Campaign"**  
Presented by Kathleen Ernst

**"Why the Northern Home Front Matters"**  
Presented by Brett Barker

Preregistration by March 1, 2014  
is strongly recommended

## 2014 CWRT SPEAKER SCHEDULE

**March 13, 2014**

Charles "Chuck" Teague, "Lincoln's Gettysburg Address"

**April 10, 2014**

Scott Bowden, "Last Chance for Victory"

**May 8, 2014**

David Bastian, "Grant's Canal"

**June 12, 2014**

Kenneth W. Noe, "The War in Appalachia"



*Fox Lake Gazette*  
*From the 29th Regiment*  
*Pass Cavallo, Texas, Feb. 3d, 1864*

Friend Fitch:

Thinking that a word or two from the 29th and more especially from Co. E would not prove unwelcome to the readers of the GAZETTE, I will write a few lines and let you know where we are. We left New Orleans on the 6th of Jan., embarked on the Ocean Steamer Bellvidere, and arrived, after five days tossing about on the Gulf, at Matagorda Bay. We landed on the peninsular which separates the Gulf of Mexico from Matagorda Bay, and pitched our tents here. The peninsular is nothing more than a long narrow sandbank, utterly devoid of vegetation, except a few bunches of short wiry grass. For fire wood we have to burn flood-wood which has washed up onto the beach and dried in the sun. Water can be had by digging a few feet in the sand, but it is not the best kind as it tastes rather brackish. Only two Regiments of our Division are here, the rest have gone into the interior of Louisiana. The 4th Division is here and a few eastern troops, a part of the 4th Division in which is the 23d Wis., started out on a scout on the 17th, they went about 25 miles up on the bay, and captured and burned one blockade runner, but did not encounter any rebels of any account. They captured 8 or 10 rebs and a few mules and horses. They were gone for four days.

The 11th Wis., which is in the First Division is across the bay at Indianola, about fifteen miles from here. I understand that they are going home shortly, as they intend to join the Veterans. The 11th is a first rate Regt., and receives the praise from all in their Division.

Our Regt. never enjoyed better health than at the present time. There is no one in the Hospital, and we have only one man in the Co., but what is fit for duty.

We receive mail here about once a week, and here permit me to tender you the thanks of the company for your paper which we receive every mail, it is like taking a look at old Fox Lake to read over the Local Column, and when the paper comes all crowd around to hear the news from home.

Gen. Dana is in command of the forces here; he is the commander of our Army Corps., and is an able commander, and is well liked.

Yesterday our Regt. obtained a seine, and a detail from each Company went down to the Bay and by working about three hours procured fish enough for the whole Regiment. They are an agreeable change from salt pork and beef. Some of the fish caught weighed 40 pounds.

The weather here is quite warm and we can hardly realize that you have had such a cold time in Wisconsin. The boys enjoy a bath in the Gulf every day, and in the middle of the day we are glad to get into the shade.

Well, it is most time for Dress Parade, and I will close for the present by wishing you more agreeable weather in the future.

Yours &c. Co. E

*Watertown Democrat*  
*February 16, 1864*

PERSONAL — Lieut. Col. William A. Greene has been appointed Colonel of the 29th Wisconsin Regiment, in place of Col. Gill, resigned. This is a well deserved promotion and we are glad Col. Greene has so far succeeded in filling his gallant Regiment as to entitle him to the full rank of its commanding officer, the duties of which has long and faithfully discharged.

*Madison State Journal*  
*February 13, 1864*

WHEN THE THIRTEENTH IS COMING

The Janesville Gazette publishes a letter from Col. Lyon that the Thirteenth Regiment, to the number of nearly 400, had reenlisted and had orders to report at Janesville for the usual veterans furlough. He hoped the Regiment would reach there by the 16th or 17th. We learn that the Adjutant General has received information to the same effect. The Janesville people calculate to give these veterans a rousing reception. The Regiment will necessarily have to come here, and it will be officially welcomed and warmly greeted.

THE ELEVENTH RE-ENLISTED

By private letters from Texas, we learn that this gallant veteran Regiment, so largely composed of citizens of Dane County, has re-enlisted. It will be most warmly welcomed home whenever the exigencies of the service will permit of furloughing its men.

*Daily Milwaukee News*  
*January 30, 1864*

ORPHAN CHILDREN OF SOLDIERS

Another movement has been started at Madison for the benefit of soldiers. Unfortunately for the reputation of the democracy, the credit in this instance is due to a republican — Senator Cameron. His proposition is to erect an asylum for educating the children of the gallant men now defending our country's flag. We cannot doubt that the patriotic members of the legislature will hasten to secure the adoption of a proper plan and the immediate commencement of the proposed work.

Wisconsin has sent nearly fifty thousand men to battle. They and their families, wives and children, have a right to consider themselves the dearest adopted children of the state. They have been made so by baptism of blood and fire. Between twenty and thirty

thousand of these men already lie moldering in the dust, or are destined to early death from disease contracted in the field or on the march. To leave their orphan children to perish from want or to grow up in ignorance and crime, would be the refinement of cruelty and base ingratitude. Let the sacrifices of the fathers be remembered in a liberal care for the children left behind. Let this asylum, then, be built. With stately columns and burnished dome, let us rear a monument to the patriotic dead — a monument like that which Horace sings, “more durable than brass.”

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*Madison Wisconsin State Journal*  
January 7, 1864

#### GALLANT BOYS AT HOME

We had the pleasure of meeting with Quartermaster Sergeant S. H. Fernandez of the 21st regiment formerly well known as a courteous assistant in the book store of BLISS, EBERHARD & Co. He is direct from Lookout Mountain where his regiment is stationed, and tells us some very instructive and interesting reminiscences of his stay there. When he left, deserters from Bragg's army, lying thirty miles distant, were coming in very freely, especially on foggy mornings, and while traveling North two wounded soldiers were frozen to death in one of the cars of the same train. It appears that they were wounded so badly as to be unable to pull their blankets around them, and the intense cold of New Year's morning, felt severely down there, soon finished them in their wounded condition, as no one, at the critical time, was at hand to do for them what they could not do for themselves. Sergeant Fernandez has furlough of twenty days — from Nashville, which he will undoubtedly enjoy among his numerous friends here.

Commissary Sergeant Hanson of the same regiment, is also detailed here to attend to drafted men, and has for some time been stationed at Camp Randall. His last daily issue of rations amounted to 2,250, which were required for the soldiers at Harvey Hospital and at the camp.

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*Madison Wisconsin State Journal*  
January 7, 1864

#### SOLDIERS CLAIM AGENCY MADISON, WISCONSIN

Collects Back Pay for Discharged Soldiers, Bounty Money and Back Pay for Heirs of deceased soldiers.

Pension certificates secured. Bounty claims settled at prices established by Law (five dollars), No charge unless successful.

George Jarvis, Attorney  
Office over Post. Office

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## FROM THE MILWAUKEE HOMEFRONT

The West Side Soldiers Aid Society is pleased to announce approval for a Wisconsin Historical Marker for the location of the first Civil War Soldiers' Home in Milwaukee on Plankinton Avenue just north of Wisconsin Avenue (formerly 207 West Water Street). Nearly a decade of research by the Patricia Lynch and members of the Society and months of documentation by John

## IN MEMORIAM



JANE V. LYNCH

It is with a great deal of sadness that we report the passing of longtime member Jane Lynch, mother of board member Patrick Lynch and mother-in-law of *General Orders* layout artist Patricia Lynch. Jane passed away surrounded by her loving family on January 10, 2014, at the age of 96. Jane was a founding member of the West Side Soldiers Aid Society and loved by all. Those of us who were privileged to know her and count ourselves among the “friends of Jane” mourn her passing and celebrate her wonderful life. There is indeed one vacant chair at the table now. Until we meet again, Jane, may God hold you in the palm of his hand.

*And flights of angels sing thee to thy rest.*



In February 1950, Louis A. Warren spoke about “Legendary Lincoln.”

Max H. Herriott spoke to the Round Table in February 1960. The topic at that meeting was “Lincoln: Commander-in-Chief.”

“Myths about Abraham Lincoln” was the topic of Joseph Eisen-drath's presentation in February 1970.

James Lee McDonough was our featured speaker in February 1980. The topic that evening was “The Last Day at Stone's River.”

At the February 1990 meeting, Dr. Richard A. Sauers spoke about “Ambrose Burnside's 1862 North Carolina Campaign.”

Thomas Cartwright visited our Round Table in February 2000. His talk that evening was on “The Tennessee Campaign of 1864.”

In February 2010 the Round Table was visited by Paul Finkelman. The subject that night was “Lincoln and Emancipation.”

At last year's February 2013 meeting, our featured speaker Mary Abroe, Ph.D., spoke on “Grosvenor of Ohio: Saving Chickamauga From Horseshoe Ridge and Back.”

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Thielmann and Linda Hanig allowed the application to receive prompt attention. Now that the marker has been ordered, the West Side Soldiers Aid Society expects delivery within a few months. Planning will soon be underway for an unveiling and dedication event on or near the 150th anniversary of the opening of the Home in April 2014.

For more information, please visit the Society websites ([wssas.org](http://wssas.org) and [historicmilwaukeeva.org](http://historicmilwaukeeva.org)) or call 414.427.3776 to be placed on the mailing list.

# AND SO IT CONTINUES: February 1864...

## Marking the Civil War Sesquicentennial

February 1864 would find things relatively quiet in Virginia with neither Lee nor Meade stirring. Economically, the state of the South continues to worsen. In the North, Grant sends Sherman to Vicksburg to begin preparations for the Meridian, Mississippi Campaign. The blockade around the Southern coastline continues to tighten. While the North increases small patrols the South counters with guerilla activities, forays and sniping attacks at river vessels.

**February 1, 1864** • President Lincoln orders 500,000 men be drafted on March 10 to serve for three years or for the duration of the war. After some debate, the U.S House passes a measure reviving the rank of Lieutenant General.

Confederate General Pickett moves his troops from Kinston, North Carolina, toward New Berne in an attempt to recapture the latter. Pickett attacks along Batchelder's Creek. The Union commander withdraws to the inner defenses. At around midnight, Pickett begins to withdraw.

In Richmond, Commissary-General Northrop is appointing ladies to clerkships along with old men and disabled soldiers freeing all able-bodied men to be sent to the Army. This measure is met with strong resistance by those who had previously hired substitutes to serve.

**February 2, 1864** • Confederate navy men in small boats capture the U.S. gunboat *Underwriter* near New Berne but are forced to set fire to her and flee. Sherman, preparing for the Meridian Campaign requests a diversionary expedition be undertaken up the Yazoo River to confuse the enemy and draw off enemy troops from his front. In Chattanooga, 129 Confederate deserters took the oath of allegiance to the United States.

**February 3, 1864** • Sherman, with over 26,000 men, leaves Vicksburg and begins the Meridian Campaign. 7600 Cavalry in support of Sherman and under the command of William Sooy Smith are delayed in starting.

President Davis recommends to the Confederate Congress that the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus be suspended as a "sharp remedy" but a necessary one to combat the evils of spying, desertion, associating with the enemy, and disloyal gatherings and activities.

**February 5, 1864** • Corporal Barber, Co. D, 15th Illinois Volunteer Infantry would write about marching through Mississippi:

*Our route lay through a splendid looking country, remarkably level, rich soil and well watered and timbered...The country through which we passed was bountifully supplied with bacon and cured hams, and the citizens, in order to put them out of the reach of the soldiers, secreted them in swamps, but it was impossible to get them out of the reach of the soldiers...The Southern people surpassed the North in curing hams. I never ate so sweet meat as in the South. They use a great deal of saltpeter and molasses in curing them and smoke them but little...*

**February 6, 1864** • Union forces under Sherman leave Jackson for Meridian, about 100 miles away. General Sooy Smith's cavalry finally leaves Memphis on their way to support Sherman but were still many miles away and of no immediate help.

The Confederate Congress approves a ban on the importation of luxuries and the circulation of U.S. paper money. No cotton, tobacco, naval stores, sugar, molasses, or rice could leave ports unless the government received half the tonnage.

**February 7, 1864** • Pickett, unable to capture New Berne, North Carolina, falls back towards Richmond where an alarm had been given that General Benjamin Butler's troops were approaching the city from the Peninsula. The alarm was later proved false.

**February 9, 1864** • Tunneling their way out of Libby Prison in Richmond, 109 Federal officers make their escape. 59 would reach Federal lines, 48 were recaptured and 2 drowned. The escape was engineered and led by Colonel Thomas E. Rose of Pennsylvania.

Major General Schofield, former commander in Missouri, assumes command of the Department of the Ohio, replacing Major General John G. Foster.

**February 10, 1864** • Six horses and ponies die in a fire in the White House stables. In an unsuccessful attempt, President Lincoln tried to remove the animals from the barn.

**February 11, 1864** • President Davis tells General Joseph E. Johnston that the Federal advance in Mississippi "should be met before he reaches the Gulf and establishes a base to which supplies and reinforcements may be sent by sea."

Confederate raiders under Major H. W. Gilmor attacked the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad near Kerneysville, West Virginia, throwing a train off the tracks and robbing the crew and passengers.

**February 12, 1864** • Sherman and Sooy continue their advances in Mississippi meeting steady but light resistance.

**February 14, 1864** • Troops under Sherman enter Meridian, Mississippi, and General Polk's Confederates continue to fall back. Union troops will stay in Meridian until February 20, destroying railroads and supplies in the area. Sherman would say of the destruction: "For five days 10,000 men worked hard and with a will in that work of destruction...Meridian, with its depots, store houses, arsenals, hospitals, offices, hotels and cantonments no longer exists." Confederates worried that the Federals were headed for Mobile, Alabama.

**February 16, 1864** • President Davis, still concerned over supplies of food and other material to the armies, solicits suggestions to remedy the situation.

Two blockade runners are halted near Wilmington, North Carolina. The *Pet* was captured by the blockaders and the *Spunky* was chased ashore and destroyed.

**February 17, 1864** • At about 8:45 p.m. the *U.S.S. Housatonic* was struck by a torpedo near the magazine. The *Housatonic* sunk rapidly, stern first. All but five of the crew were saved. The attacker, *C.S.S. H.L. Hunley*, was an experimental semi-submersible. It too sank killing its commander, Lt. George E. Dixon and his six man crew. Lt F. J. Higginson aboard the *U.S.S. Canandaigua* described the attack:

*About 8:45 p.m. the officer of the deck, Acting Master J.K. Crosby, discovered something in the water about 100 yards from and*

*moving towards the ship. It had the appearance of a plank moving in the water. It came directly towards the ship, the time from when it was first seen till it was close alongside being about two minutes. During this time the chain was slipped, engine backed, and all hands called to quarters.*

*The torpedo struck the ship forward of the mizzenmast, on the starboard side, in a line with the magazine. Having the after pivot gun pivoted to port we were unable to bring a gun to bear upon her. About one minute after she was close alongside the explosion took place, the ship sinking stern first and heeling to port as she sank...*

**February 18, 1864** • President Lincoln wrote Governor John A. Andrew of Massachusetts that if “it be really true that Massachusetts wishes to afford a permanent home within her borders, for all, or even a large part of the colored persons who will come to her, I shall be only too glad to know it...”

**February 20, 1864** • The only major battle in the state of Florida takes place at Olustee, Florida. 5500 Federals are attacked by about 5000 Confederates. Two of the Union regiments, the Seventh New Hampshire and the Eighth U.S. Colored Troops broke in the confusion of battle and fell back. The Confederates would keep up the pressure until nightfall, when the Federals fell back and withdrew.

Sherman turns his army back toward Vicksburg destroying the railroad as they go. Once Sherman’s forces are clear of Meridian, the Confederates begin rebuilding the railroads.

**February 21, 1864** • In Richmond it was reported that hundreds of dollars per month were being taken by the individuals responsible for forwarding mail through the “flag-of-truce” system.

**February 22, 1864** • Nathan Bedford Forrest’s cavalry mounts a charge of great fury against Federal positions near Okolona, Mississippi. William Sooy Smith’s Federal forces were retiring towards Memphis after a less than successful attempt to join with Sherman’s Meridian campaign. During the often hand-to-hand combat, Forrest’s younger brother, Jeffrey, was killed. The engagement at Okolona also known as Ivey’s Farm or Ivey Hills, would be one of Forrest’s greatest victories.

Union troops of Thomas’s Army of the Cumberland move out to investigate J.E. Johnston’s Confederate positions around Dalton, Georgia.

**February 23, 1864** • Federal troops of Thomas’s Army of the Cumberland drive toward Johnston’s Confederate position near Dalton, with fighting at Catoosa Station and Tunnel Hill. Johnston was not sure whether the advance was an attack or a demonstration.

**February 24, 1864** • Braxton Bragg was appointed by President Davis as Chief of Staff of the Confederate forces. Although Bragg enjoyed the president’s trust, he had lost much of the people’s confidence due to his defeat at Missionary Ridge and his never-ending battles with his generals.

The U.S. Senate passed a measure to revive the rank of Lieutenant General with Grant clearly in mind.

President Lincoln approved an act of Congress to compensate every Union master whose slaves enlisted in the Army, the sum not to exceed \$300.

Fighting continued in the area of Tunnel Hill and Rocky Face Ridge, Georgia, as Thomas pushed at Joe Johnston’s lines.

**February 25, 1864** • Thomas sends Union troops under Major General J.M. Palmer in a probing attack against the Confederate positions near Buzzards Roost. The rebel position turned out to be too strong and Palmer returned to his old position with the Army of the Cumberland.

**February 26, 1864** • Sherman’s troops skirmish near Canton, Mississippi, as their withdrawal after the Meridian Campaign nears its completion. To the north, William Sooy Smith’s part of the expedition reaches Memphis after severe harassment by Forrest.

President Lincoln orders that the death sentence for all deserters be commuted to imprisonment during the war, continuing his policy of leniency.

**February 27, 1864** • Near Americus, Georgia, Federal prisoners of war begin arriving at an unfinished prison camp. Although officially known as Camp Sumter, history will know it as Andersonville. Insufficient food, shelter, clothing and accommodation will soon make the camp notorious.

February 28, 1864 • General Judson Kilpatrick leads a force of 3500 Federal cavalry on a raid to crash through the weakened defenses of Richmond and free the Union prisoners being held there. Kilpatrick crosses the Rapidan accompanied by Colonel Ulrich Dahlgren.

**February 29, 1864** • The month would end with Lincoln approving the congressional act reviving the grade of lieutenant general. Kilpatrick’s cavalry are pushing south from the Rapidan. Kilpatrick splits his command and sends a detachment of 500 men toward Goochland, C.H. under Colonel Dahlgren while keeping the main force with him. By evening Confederates are aware of the impending raid and are taking steps to resist.

And so it continues.

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## Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for February 13, 2014

Mail your reservations by Monday, February 10, 2014, to: **ALSO, call in reservations to:**  
**Paul Eilbes**  
**1809 Washington Ave.**  
**Cedarburg, WI 53012-9730**  
**(262) 376-0568**  
**peilbes@gmail.com**

Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_ (meal price \$25.00 per person) for \_\_\_\_ reservations for February 13, 2014, 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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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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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.

## **ALONZO CUSHING MEDAL OF HONOR UPDATE**

It now appears that Alonzo Cushing is on the verge of receiving the nation's highest honor for valor.

Tucked inside the defense bill passed in mid-December, is a provision to posthumously award the Medal of Honor to Cushing. "I didn't think it would take this long. I thought it would go much faster because he was a real hero," said Margaret Zerwekh who started her campaign on behalf of Cushing back in the 1980s.

There are still a few roadblocks to get through — Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel must recommend Cushing for the medal and President Obama must agree. In 2010, the secretary of the Army approved the request, but in 2012, House-Senate negotiators dropped the provision from the final defense bill.

The provision approved in December's defense bill was authored by Representatives Ron Kind and Jim Sensenbrenner with support from Senators Ron Johnson and Tammy Baldwin.