

# GENERAL ORDERS

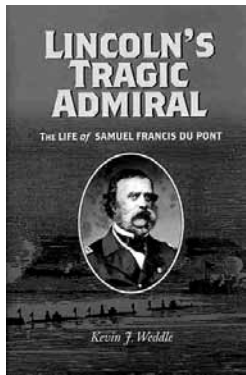


The Newsletter of the  
**Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.**  
and The Iron Brigade Association



DECEMBER 12, 2013

## COL. KEVIN WEDDLE (RETIRED US ARMY) Lincoln's Forgotten Admiral



Samuel Francis Du Pont, born in New Jersey, was the nephew of Eleuthère Irénée du Pont, founder of E. I. du Pont Nemours Company, which began as a gunpowder factory and today is a multinational chemical corporation. Du Pont's father was unable to fund his education and encouraged his son to enlist in the U.S. Navy. With the help of Thomas Jefferson an appointment as a midshipman was secured by President James Madison when Du Pont was twelve years old. Thus would begin his long naval career.

Once revered as one of the finest officers in the U.S. Navy, Rear Admiral Samuel Francis Du Pont is now, when remembered at all, criticized for resisting technological innovation and for halfheartedly leading the disastrous all-ironclad Union naval attack on Charleston, South Carolina. Although his reputation seemed secure after he won the first major Union victory of the Civil War at Port Royal, the failed attack on Charleston in April, 1863 brought

his career to an abrupt end. Relieved of his command, he was also maligned in the press.

In his talk, our December speaker, Colonel Kevin Weddle, argues for a new assessment of Du Pont's career and will discuss some of the major episodes in his exciting life, both before and during the Civil War. Civil-military relations, military strategy and planning, military reform, and the integration of new technology into military organizations are just a few of the topics he will discuss. The talk, drawn from Weddle's award-winning biography of the admiral, will just scratch the surface of the eventful life of one of the finest officers ever to serve in the United States Navy.

Kevin Weddle is Professor of Military Theory and Strategy at the US Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania. He is a native Minnesotan, graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York, and served over 28 years as a combat engineer officer. Throughout his career he worked in a variety of command and staff positions in the United States and overseas and is a veteran of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Colonel Weddle's assignments included service as a platoon leader, assistant battalion operations officer, company executive officer, company commander and tours of duty at West Point, Germany, the Defense Intelligence Agency, and the Pentagon. He also served as operations officer for the 555th Combat Engineer Group, battalion commander of the 299th Engineer Battalion, 4th Infantry Division, and was selected for brigade command before joining the US Army War College faculty. At the War College he was the director of the Advanced Strategic Art Program, served as the Deputy Dean of Academics, and held the General Maxwell D. Taylor Chair in the Profession of Arms.

Colonel Weddle holds masters degrees in history and civil engineering from the University of Minnesota and a Ph.D. in history from Princeton University. He has written numerous articles for popular and scholarly journals and his first book, *Lincoln's Tragic Admiral: The Life of Samuel Francis Du Pont* (University of Virginia Press, 2005), won the 2006 William E. Colby Award, was runner up in the Theodore and Franklin Roosevelt Naval History Prize competition, and won the Army War College's faculty writing award. He is currently writing a strategic history of the Saratoga campaign for the Oxford University Press. He is also a licensed professional engineer.

He is married to the former Jean Buechner of St. Paul, Minnesota; they have one daughter, Anne.

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December 2013

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### DECEMBER MEETING AT A GLANCE

Col. Kevin Weddle  
"Lincoln's Forgotten Admiral"  
December 12, 2013

#### The Country Club of the Wisconsin Club

6200 W. Good Hope Road., Milwaukee  
See map on page 7.

(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, December 9, 2013  
See page 9.

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

[www.civilwarwi.org](http://www.civilwarwi.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 November 10, 2013.

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

Crain Bliwas, Grant Johnson, Stephen Leopold

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

Tom Corcoran, Paul Eilbes, David Gapinski, 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, A. William Finke, Richard Gross, Lance Herdegen, Dr. Erwin Huston, Gene & Jane Jamrozy, Christopher Johnson, David Jordan, Dr. Bob Karczewski, Ardis Kelling, Fred Madson, Dr. Rodney Malinowski, Bob Parrish, Ann & James Reeve II, Chet Rohn, David and 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 or see him in person at the Monthly Meeting at Book Raffle.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS • EVENTS • MEETINGS

### **December 9, 2013**

Manitowoc Civil War Round Table, 7 p.m.  
Manitowoc Historical Society Heritage Center

### **December 10, 2013**

Waukesha Civil War Round Table, 7 p.m.  
Citizens Bank of Mukwonago, Waukesha Branch  
Speaker: Lance Herdegen

### **December 14, 2013**

Wreaths Across America, 11 a.m.  
Wood National Cemetery

### **December 17, 2013**

Prairieville Irregulars Civil War Round Table, 7 p.m.  
2nd Floor Boardroom, Campus Center Building, Carroll University  
Speaker: Lance Herdegen

## CONGRATULATIONS

The Round Table extends its congratulations to board member, Dave Wege and his wife Kay, on the birth of their new grandson, Sawyer James Wege. Sawyer came into the world at 8:59 p.m. on November 6, 2013 weighing in at 7 pounds, 9 ounces and measuring 20 inches. Congratulations to the doting grandparents!

## KENOSHA CIVIL WAR MUSEUM

### **December 13, 2013, Noon**

#### *Civil War Paper Currency*

The Civil War caused a great deal of financial uncertainty and had a profound effect on the nation's coin and currency system. In both the North and the South, emergency measures were implemented in order to provide some means of exchange during these years. Neil Shafer will discuss and illustrate what are considered to be the most important of these measures and the examples of paper currency that resulted.

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

### **December 14, 2013, 11 - 4 p.m.**

#### *Victorian Christmas*

Enjoy an afternoon of songs, crafts, and activities as you explore how soldiers and civilians celebrated the Christmas holiday during the Civil War. The afternoon events include: Soldiers in the Winter Camp, Celebrating Christmas in the Army, Sending a Christmas box via the Adams Express Company, Naval Nursing Demonstrations, Holiday Crafts and Songs and Winter Fashions and Food ways.

*A Free Family Program*

### **December 15, 2013, 1-3 p.m.**

#### *A Dickens Christmas*

The day's programs include: *A Christmas Carol* radio play by RG Productions, "Dickens' Women" by Jessica Michna, Dickens Chorus by Southeast Wisconsin Performing Arts and Victorian Food Demonstration by Ray Forgianni. Non-perishable donations will be accepted for the local food pantry.

*A Free Family Program*

# LONGFELLOW'S CHRISTMAS BELLS

Most of us in the Round Table are of the age where we can remember listening to Bing Crosby or Frank Sinatra singing "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day" in their wonderful, melodious voices. Most of us will also know that the words to the song were taken from the poem written by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow on Christmas Day 1864 although it was not published until 1872. Yet, everyone may not be aware of the story behind this poem.

The story starts out in 1861 in the Craigie House where the Longfellow family lived. On July 10, Fanny Longfellow, after trimming her seven-year-old daughter Edie's hair, decided to keep some of the clippings. Fanny proceeded to melt a bar of sealing wax with a candle; some wax fell onto her dress and a breeze coming through the window immediately ignited the dress. Fanny ran from the room in an attempt to protect Edie and her sister Allegra and into Longfellow's study. He attempted to put out the flames with a small throw rug and failing that wrapped himself around Fanny to smother the flames. Longfellow would suffer severe burns to his face, arms and hand. Fanny Longfellow would die the following day from her burns. Longfellow's trademark long beard came about from his inability to shave after the fire.

On the first Christmas after Fanny's death, Longfellow would write, "How inexpressibly sad are all holidays." A year later he would write, "I can make no record of these days. Better leave them wrapped in silence. Perhaps someday God will give me peace." His journal entry for December 25, 1862, would read: "A 'merry Christmas' say the children, but that is no more for me."

In early 1863, Longfellow's oldest son, 17-year-old Charles Appleton "Charley" Longfellow, enlisted in the army against his father's wishes. In mid-March Charley would write to his father, "I have tried hard to resist the temptation of going without your leave, but I cannot any longer. I feel it to be my first duty to do what I can for my country and I would willingly lay down my life for it if it would be any good."

On November 27, 1863, Lt. Charles Longfellow was severely wounded in the Mine Run Campaign. A bullet entered his left shoulder, traveled down his back, nicked his spine and exited his right shoulder. He was sent to a hospital in Washington. Longfellow learned about Charley on December 1, 1863 and traveled to Washington with his son, Ernest, not knowing whether he would find Charley dead or alive.

Charley survived and by December 8, 1863, was back in Cambridge recovering from his wounds. He was mustered out of his unit on February 15, 1864. Longfellow's journal would be silent the Christmas of 1863.

Finally, on Christmas Day 1864 he would write the words to his poem, "Christmas Bells."



Charles Appleton Longfellow, 1863

*I heard the bells on Christmas Day  
Their old familiar carols play,  
And wild and sweet  
The words repeat  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!*

*And thought how, as the day had come,  
The belfries of all Christendom  
Had rolled along  
The unbroken song  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!*

*Till, ringing, singing on its way,  
The world revolved from night to day,  
A voice, a chime  
A chant sublime  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!*



*Then from each black accursed mouth  
The cannon thundered in the South,  
And with the sound  
The carols drowned  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!*

*It was as if an earthquake rent  
The hearth-stones of a continent,  
And made forlorn  
The households born  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!*

*And in despair I bowed my head;  
"There is no peace on earth," I said;  
"For hate is strong,  
And mocks the song  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"*

*Then pealed the bells more loud and deep;  
"God is not dead; nor doth he sleep!  
The Wrong shall fail,  
The Right prevail,  
With peace on earth, good-will to men!"*



**Hartford Home League  
From the 29th Regiment  
New Iberia, La., December 7, 1863**

Mr. Editor: — I presume that it is the duty of a “Regular correspondent” to be punctual in his recording the events, which are supposed to occur in his vicinity. At all times, but when times are too monotonous, as a soldier’s life in camp always is, a man must be ingenious who can find matters of interest even those having our welfare at heart. The same routine always characterizes such existence. Company drill and inspection with a “Press Parade” each evening, beside picket and camp guard duty, only intervenes in making ours a life of idleness. But it is not always so, for we may reasonably expect to be on the move again soon, and then none but a veteran could endure the difference. I have spoken before of how different the western was from the eastern soldier, and will quote a paragraph that occurs in a letter written by the New York Tribune’s “Special Correspondent” to that paper, and who is evidently an eastern man, to show how we are looked upon by the other side: “Gen. Washburne’s headquarters are about ten miles below. The enthusiasm of the troops is astonishing. The Western boys are particularly fond of manifesting their delight by deafening yells. A single shout will be extended miles along the column. It is always easy to ascertain what troops are in hearing. A war-whoop for a test is convincing.”

I presume that this disgust at our “yells” came principally from the fact that when they first heard it, they suspected the rebels were upon them and stood in line of battle one cold night for more than an hour. Every man shivering from the double cause of apprehension and the night air. Since that time you cannot excite the wrath of the 19th Corps so quickly as to remind them of the above incident. A recruiting party has gone home from our regiment to get men to increase our numbers to the maximum. The party consists of three commissioned officers and eight non-commissioned officers. Lieut. Col. Green and Lieuts. Scott and Willard are the first part of the mission, and are all of them well qualified for the work. Orderly Sergeant Julius P. Gould of Company “I” will canvass Hartford and vicinity for recruits, and if he proves himself half as successful there as he proved himself with us, our company at least will be filled up. Orderly Gould was severely wounded while bravely doing his duty at Champion Hills, and has not been able to join the regiment since. Should our regiment be filled up, Lieut. Col. Green and Maj. Hancock will be promoted and thus leave a vacancy in the position of Major. Capt. Charles A. Holmes is a prominent candidate for the office, and none that know him can doubt if thus promoted, he would do honor to the service and to himself. Capt. Holmes is the son of the late Lieut. Gov. Holmes of our State who died in the army and was himself badly wounded in the battle of Champion Hills, on the 16th of May last. A member of the 29th, Robert Tompkins, late editor of the Jefferson County Republican has in preparation and nearly completed a history of the regiment from its date of muster into the United States’ service, to the present time. It will be neatly printed and bound in a volume of 200 pages, and will make a readable book. Every person having friends in the 29th will find it of special interest to them, for the variety of personal experience, and anecdotes it relates.

—Random  
(Lloyd V. Nanscawen, Co. I, 29th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry)

**Hartford Home League  
December 26, 1863  
From the 29th Regiment**

We extract the following from a private letter.

“Last Friday our regiment was out as a guard for a forage train. Very strange orders against individual foraging, but the order was practically very near a dead letter as sheep, hogs, and chickens were brought in in large quantities. Our men secured some 40 to 50 pounds of sugar, and as a consequence we sugar off two or three times a day. Candy and warm sugar are the order all through the camp. It is time for the Paymaster to be around again, but we hear nothing from him. You may feel a little interest in regard to the order we got Thanksgiving morning which reads as follows:

“The chaplains of the several Regiments will hold Divine service at 11 O’clock A.M. An extra issue of whiskey is hereby ordered for this command.”

By order of Maj. Gen. Franklin.”

That is the talk, Divine service and whiskey, an order that would suit the million — those that did not like the one could take the other.

**Algiers, Opposite New Orleans  
December 28, 1863**

Friends at Home:

We are now in the same camp as when I last wrote and by what I can hear we shall be apt to stay for a month or more. I should like to home very much this week but I will tell you what I done Christmas. On Christmas Eve I was detailed to go over the River to guard Commissary Stores and was relieved early the next morning. I then came back to camp and got a pass and went back to New Orleans to spend my Christmas. I went all around until I got most tired and then I went and got a first rate dinner and then traveled again till night — I wish you could have been with me, I went all day and saw but very little of the place but I saw a great deal and everything was rigged up for Christmas, most of them being Catholic there was a great deal of attention paid to it. In the evening I went into two or three Churches. It was quite a sight, taking it all around I had as good a time as could be expected, not being at Home where I hope I shall be next Christmas. They have a Chime of Bells in one of the Churches which sounds splendid. There was a steady ringing of bells all day and about the same Sunday morning. There are a great many Ocean boats at this place now and several French and English Vessels here. The train just came in with the prisoners of the 23rd Wisconsin that have been exchanged that were taken at Carrion Crow Bayou. I don’t know any other news at this time but thought I would write as often as I get a chance. We was paid off day before yesterday and will be paid again in about a week. I want you to give James B. Gardner’s wife ten dollars, \$10.00, for me if you can do it as well as not. I have been trading watches and I want to let him have that and let me know about it next time you write you can keep the receipt if you are a mind to.

I tried to send Reggie a Christmas present but it is so hard to send anything up the river but I will do it some time certain.

Give my best Respects to every one in Hartford.

Yours Forever  
Lloyd V. Nanscawen, Co. I, 29th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry

**La Crosse Democrat**  
**December 2, 1863**

Rebels say that they have almost nothing where with to feed the Union prisoners at Richmond yet the Common Council of that city has just voted \$60,000 to buy a house for Gen. Lee.

**La Crosse Democrat**  
**December 2, 1863**

The next draft

We last week copied a short statement from an exchange in regard to the next draft to the affect that it would be “exclusively from the second class — composed of married men between the ages of 35 and 45 years.” This was an error. Solicitor Whiting defines the matter as follows:

“Those of the second class shall not be called out until those of the first class shall have been exhausted.”

As between the first and second classes, the law (Sec. 3) requires “that the second class shall not in any district be called into the service of the United States until those of the first class shall have been thus called in.”

**La Cross Democrat**  
**December 2, 1863**

The Arlington estate is advertised for sale for the payment of taxes.

**The Milwaukee Sentinel**  
**Friday, December 25, 1863**

Wisconsin’s Civil War Christmas

The Post Office will be open on Christmas Day from 2 to 3 p.m.

Afternoon mails close at 3 p.m.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL! — To Croesus J. Smith, who lives in the splendid large mansion on the corner, and drives along Spring Street in such magnificent style; to Lazarus Baggs, who dwells in the humble cot and eats his bread in the sweat of his brow; to young Napoleon B. and Grace Evangeline, children of the above Croesus, who are riding their new hobby horse or displaying their new toys of costly materials; and equally to the juvenile offspring of the above Lazarus, who is this morning blowing frantically his tin trumpet and “waking the echoes far and near;” — to all classes and conditions we wish a Merry Christmas, indeed. But if there’s a rich man who has sat down to his holiday feast without doing something to make easier the lot of the poor, and in doing it voluntarily and unostentatiously, we hope his turkey may be tough, his meats unsavory, his Christmas pudding scalding hot, and his wine sour and stale.

To the soldier, especially as merry a Christmas as their rough life can afford them, and many of them will have it merry wherever they are, for after all we carry the materials for enjoyment within ourselves, and are indebted more to the inner than the outer world for whatever of cheer or gloom we experience throughout life. Go ahead, boys, make the best of it, as you have already well learned how to do, and rest assured you are not forgotten at home to-day. Every family, almost, has a “vacant chair” at its table, placed for some absent one; absent, alas! Perhaps ‘in that land from whose bourne no traveler returns!’

But sorrow must not be the prevailing emotion to-day — pleasure must abound. Sleigh bells must jingle, the voice of laughter ring out from the merry riders; skates must ring on the glare ice; music must sound to the measured motion of flying feet.

Tomorrow we go plodding on as usual; let us have a MERRY CHRISTMAS!

**La Crosse Democratic Journal**  
**December 30, 1863**

Another Female Soldier

Lizzie Compton, a bright young lady of sixteen arrived in the city yesterday from Barnstown where she had been encamped with her regiment, the 11th Kentucky cavalry, of which she had been a member for several months past. Her history during the past eighteen months is strange and romantic. She has served in seven different regiments and participated in several battles. At Fredericksburg she was seriously wounded but recovered and followed the fortunes of war which cast her from the Army of the Potomac to the Army of the Cumberland. She fought in the battle of Green River Bridge on the Fourth of July last and received a wound which disabled her for a short time. She has been discovered and mustered out of the service seven or eight times but immediately reenlisted in another regiment. She states that her home is in London Canada West and that her parents are now living in that place. This young girl has served a term of eighteen months in the army and were it not that she spreads the annoyance of being detected and mustered out she would enter the service again.

She was sent to this city by the officer in command at Bardstown to be again mustered out, and is now at Barrack No. 1, awaiting orders – Louisville Journal

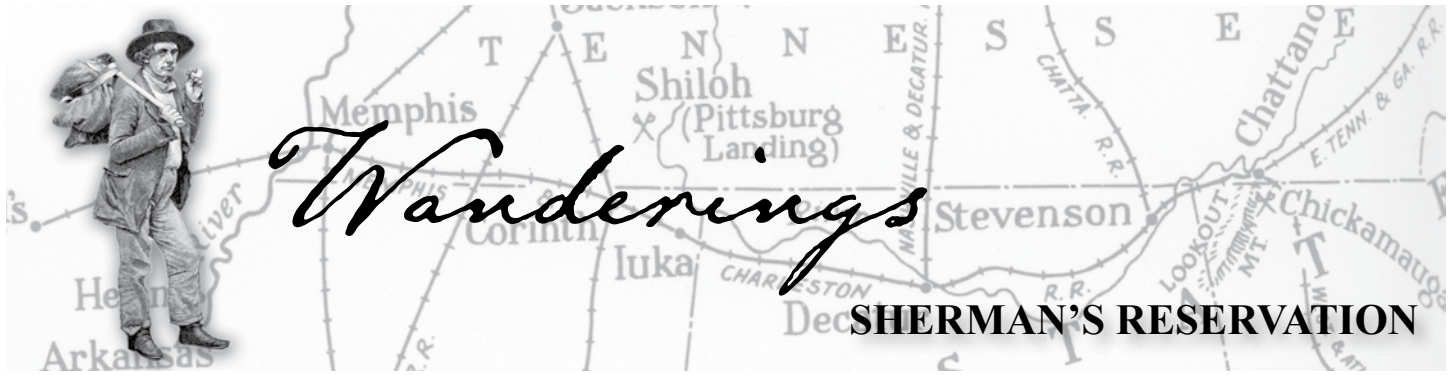
**La Crosse Democratic Journal**  
**December 30, 1863**

A Rebel taken at Chickamauga said of our artillery that he “didn’t think the Yanks would use them big guns much longer.” Why not? Inquired the Feds. “Because” said he. “The Confederacy is getting so narrow that you’ll fire clear over it and hit your men on the other side.”



*“Furlough,” from “Christmas 1863”  
Harper’s Weekly*





It is way at the north end of Missionary Ridge, a forgotten and unvisited location on the Chattanooga battlefield. The site is unvisited because it sits at the end of a dead end road, with a quarter mile hike along a sometimes unkempt path with little if any parking available. Adding to the difficulty of visitor access to the area is action taken by the City of Chattanooga. The city cordoned off the site several years ago after it received unsubstantiated reports of illegal activity there. To top it off, the ground is christened after the loser of the fight here, rather than after the gritty Irishman and his feisty division who held off a horde of boys in blue in November of 1863. Sherman's Reservation – it is rather inappropriately named.

The fighting at what both sides called Tunnel Hill involved two brigades of Cleburne's Division of the Confederate Army of Tennessee. They were augmented by troops of Walker's Division and Kentucky's Orphan Brigade. These rebels were defending the far end of Braxton Bragg's "impenetrable" line which was intended to besiege Union troops bottled up in Chattanooga after the Battle of Chickamauga. Bragg's ultimate goal was to force the Union troops into a choice of starvation or surrender. Facing the boys in butternut on the north end of the line were the troops of William T. Sherman's Union Army of the Tennessee attacking from their position atop Billy Goat Hill.

Sherman's bungling of his assignment here is often overlooked in telling the story of the Battle of Chattanooga. With that omission, the heroics of Cleburne's men is also bypassed by default.

Cleburne's men repulsed assault after assault against their strong position through dogged determination and some darned good leadership by Old Pat. Sherman, who as Ulysses Grant's protégé was given the seemingly easy task of rolling up Bragg's right flank, found his hands full and his talents over-matched. In order to relieve some pressure on Sherman, Grant sent General George Thomas' Army of the Cumberland to "make a demonstration" against the ridge across Chattanooga Valley. It is that action which led the Union sweep of the ridge, where Federal troops experienced dizzying success except for against Cleburne's position. This event, known as the Miracle of Missionary Ridge, occurred just as the weary soldiers of Cleburne's command were finally sitting down to eat and to analyze their victory.

In the midst of their well-deserved dinner, Cleburne received orders to cover the retreat of the entire Army of Tennessee, which had broken and run in disorganized retreat. Ordered to fight a delaying action even at the cost of his entire command, Cleburne retreated stubbornly until he reached Ringgold Gap in Georgia, where he turned and mauled his pursuers by devising an ambush that stopped the Union army in its tracks.

Sherman's Reservation offers a banquet for the palate of any student of the Civil War. In addition to its forgotten significance in military history, the site has a view that can't soon be forgotten. From the crest of the hill a glance to the south is breath-taking. One stands among the cannons and plaques describing the action on that November day with Lookout

Mountain brooding over the southern horizon. It's quiet. With very few visitors, Sherman's Reservation is a place of contemplation of the action that took place there. A ghostly breath of wind and faint sounds of civilization serve as muted background noise.

Bring an account of the battle as you investigate the ground over which the soldiers struggled. Understand the difficulties Sherman's men faced as they struggled to drive the Confederates from their position. Imagine the consternation Union troops felt as they took an unoccupied Billy Goat Hill, thinking it was their objective, only to see the distinctive Hardee flag flying defiantly atop the next ridge, their true objective. Let your mind's eye visualize their trepidation as they knew that under the Hardee flag waited the "Best of the West," the "Stonewall Jackson of the West" and his men who had never been driven from any position they held. Take time to honor the bravery and sacrifice of the Americans engaged in that titanic struggle on that forgotten end of Missionary Ridge.

— Submitted by Dave Wege



In December 1949, Robert B. Browne spoke about "Brice's Crossroads." William Lamers spoke to the Round Table in December 1959. The topic at that meeting was "Iuka."

"The St. Alban's Raid" was the topic of Robert P. Ashley's presentation to the Round Table in December 1969.

Henry A. Pomerantz was our featured speaker in December 1979. The topic that evening was "Aldie, Middleburg and Upperville, Prelude to Gettysburg and Aftermath of Brandy Station."

At the December 1988 meeting, Karen Osborne spoke about "The Civil War Christmas."

Cullom Davis visited our Round Table in December 1999. His talk that evening was on "Lincoln's Law Practice."

In December 2008 the Round Table celebrated their Third Annual Christmas Gala complete with a silent auction, holiday and historic music, Civil War holiday traditions and dance.

At last year's December 2012 meeting, our featured speaker Dale Philips spoke on "The Red River Campaign."

# AND SO IT CONTINUES: December 1863...

## Marking the Civil War Sesquicentennial

The last month of the year would begin with Union victories at Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge. In the South, things were becoming more desperate with the distribution of food a major concern. At Knoxville Federal forces were holding against Longstreet; at Chattanooga Grant was beginning to build a base for future operations in Georgia. The major armies in both North and South were settling into their winter quarters where they would remain until spring. The South had survived another year.

**December 1, 1863** • In Virginia, Meade decided he was not going to make it around Lee's flank at Mine Run and pulled back across the Rapidan and into winter quarters. In Washington, Confederate spy Belle Boyd, ill with typhoid, was released from the Old Capital Prison and sent to Richmond and told not to come back.

**December 2, 1863** • At Knoxville, Longstreet was threatened by a fast moving Union force coming up on his rear from Chattanooga to relieve the siege of Knoxville. At Dalton, Georgia, Bragg was leaving the Army of Tennessee, turning command over to Hardee. Hardee would command for a short time before General Joseph Johnston arrived to assume command.

**December 3, 1863** • At Knoxville, Longstreet begins to move his army east and north toward Greeneville, where he will take up winter quarters. The withdrawal marked the end of the fall campaign in Tennessee.

**December 4, 1863** • At Charleston seven days of bombardment ends after 1307 rounds have been fired by the Union.

**December 6, 1863** • Sherman and his staff enter Knoxville, Tennessee formally ending the siege of Burnside's Federal troops. Parts of Sherman's old Fifteenth Corps were close behind and coming up fast.

**December 7, 1863** • In Washington the first session of the Thirty-eighth Congress convened. In Richmond the fourth session of the First Congress convened.

**December 8, 1863** • President Lincoln issued his Proclamation of Amnesty and Reconstruction, pardoning those who "directly or by implication, participated in the existing rebellion" if they took an oath to the Union. There were exceptions: high-ranking military officers, members of the Confederate government, all who resigned commissions in the U.S. Army and Navy to join the Confederacy, and those who treated Negroes or whites "otherwise than lawfully as prisoners of war." If at least one tenth of the citizens who voted in the election of 1860 so wished, a state government would be recognized in any seceded state. Citizens would also have to take an oath to support the United States, and slavery would be barred.

**December 9, 1863** • At Knoxville, Major General John G. Foster replaced Major General Ambrose E. Burnside as commander of the Department of the Ohio.

**December 10, 1863** • President Davis expressed concern over the disposition of troops for the Confederate armies.

**December 11, 1863** • Light bombardment of 220 rounds at Fort Sumter exploded a magazine, killing 11 and wounding 41. This would be the last bombardment of the year.

Confederate Secretary of War Seddon's annual report admitted serious defeats and reduced military effectiveness because of desertion, straggling, and absenteeism. Seddon recommended repeal of the substitute and exemption provisions of the draft law.

**December 12, 1863** • The North had been sending rations to Richmond to feed the 13,000 Union prisoners held there because the Confederate government did not have the means. This would change today when

orders were given in Richmond that no more supplies from the North should be received by the Federal prisoners.

**December 13, 1863** • Emily Todd Helm, Mary Lincoln's half sister and widow of Confederate General Benjamin Hardin Helm, was visiting the White House.

**December 14, 1863** • Longstreet attacked Federal troops at Bean's Station, Tennessee. Federals, under Brigadier General James M. Shackelford, were driven back, and then held for a while before withdrawing the following day.

President Lincoln announced that his sister-in-law, Emily Helm, had been granted amnesty after taking the oath to the Union as provided by his December 8th proclamation.

At Charleston, General Beauregard directed Lt. Dixon, CSA, to take the submarine *H.L. Hunley* to the mouth of the harbor and sink any Union vessel he could reach.

**December 15, 1863** • Major General Jubal A. Early was assigned to the Shenandoah Valley District.

**December 16, 1863** • General Joseph E. Johnston was named to command the Department and Army of Tennessee succeeding Lt. Gen. Hardee. General Polk was left with the Army of Mississippi, to which he was formally assigned on December 22.

In Washington, Brigadier General John Buford was promoted to Major General just hours before he died of typhoid.

A million-dollar fire destroyed a regimental hospital, an arsenal, and a bakery in Yorktown, Virginia.

**December 17, 1863** • President Lincoln forwarded to Congress a plan by the Freedmen's Aid Society to set up a Federal Bureau of Emancipation to assist freed Negroes; nothing would come of the plan until the Freedmen's Bureau was established in March, 1865.

**December 18, 1863** • In a letter to Secretary of War Stanton, President Lincoln said he believed that General Schofield must be relieved from command of the Department of the Missouri, but promoted to major general at the same time. Lincoln suggested Rosecrans for the command post.

Chaplains of Lee's army met at Orange Court House, where reports indicated a "high state of religious feeling throughout the army."

**December 19, 1863** • President Davis wrote to General Johnston, new commander of the Department of Tennessee: "The difficulties of your new position are realized and the Government will make every possible effort to aid you..."

In Washington the Lincolns held a reception for congressmen, other officials, and the officers of Russian warships visiting the United States.

**December 20, 1863** • President Lincoln told an official of the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society: "I shall not attempt to retract or modify the emancipation proclamation..."

**December 21, 1863** • Federal scouts operated from Rossville to La Fayette, Georgia; from Rocky Run toward Trenton, North Carolina; and from Bealeton to Luray, Virginia.

**December 22, 1863** • Captain Semmes, *C.S.S. Alabama*, moved his base of operations from the East Indies back to the Cape of Good Hope, Africa.

*continued on page 8*

AND SO IT CONTINUES...continued from page 7

**December 23, 1863** • President Davis wrote to General Johnston, new commander of the Department of Tennessee, that he hoped the general would “soon be able to commence active operations against the enemy.”

**December 24, 1863** • President Lincoln wrote to Major General Banks, commander of the Department of the Gulf, “I have all the while intended you to be master, as well in regard to re-organizing a State government for Louisiana, as in regard to the military matters of the Department...” Lincoln reassured the general that the new state government was to help, not thwart, the military authorities.

**December 25, 1863** • On John’s Island, South Carolina, the Confederate batteries opened early on the *U.S.S. Marblehead*. The Federal ship sustained some 20 hits, while the *U.S.S. Pawnee* and the mortar schooner *C.P. Williams* fired on the shore battery. The firing lasted for about an hour and then the Confederates withdrew.

Pvt. Jackman, “The Orphan Brigade,” from Dalton, Georgia, writes:

*A cold, cloudy, disagreeable day. Went to church in Dalton in forenoon and to night. Have just written a letter home to send by flag of truce. Set in raining late at night. My Christmas dinner was bean soup without bread. The boys who are out see a great deal of fun — some tipsy.*

**December 26, 1863** • Federals scout for three days from Salem, Missouri, and for eight days from Forsyth, Missouri to Batesville, Arkansas. *C.S.S. Alabama* took two prizes near the Straits of Malacca.

**December 27, 1863** • President Lincoln and Secretary of War Stanton visited Confederate prisoners at Point Lookout, Maryland. General Joseph E. Johnston assumed command of the Department of Tennessee at Dalton, Georgia.

**December 29, 1863** • Confederate congressional acts abolished substitution for military service and authorized changes in the tax in kind. Other methods of increasing manpower for the army were under consideration.

**December 30, 1863** • Martha Glover, an enslaved woman in Missouri, would write a letter to her soldier husband, who had escaped slavery and joined the Union army:

*My Dear Husband: I have received your last kind letter a few days ago and was much pleased to hear from you once more. It seems like a long time since you left me. I have had nothing but trouble since you left. You recollect what I told you how they would do after you was gone. They abuse me because you went & say they will not take care of our children & do nothing but quarrel with me all the time and beat me scandalously the day before yesterday — Oh I never thought you would give me so much trouble as I have got to bear now. You ought not to have left me in the fix I am in & all these little helpless children to take care of. I was invited to a party tonight but I could not go. I am in too much trouble to want to go to parties. The children talk about you all the time. I wish you could get a furlough & come to see us once more. We want to see you worse than we ever did before. Remember all I told you about how they would do me after you left — for they do worse than they ever did & I do not know what will become of me & my poor little children. Oh I wish you had staid with me & not gone till I could go with you for I do nothing but grieve all the time about you. Write & tell me when you are coming.*

**December 31, 1863** • On the last day of the year, Pvt. Jackson of The Orphan Brigade would write:

*Pouring down rain all day. The wind blowing and other disagreeable things. Today, one year ago, we were on Waynes Hill, Murfreesboro listening to the music of shells.*

The year would end with Secretary of the Navy Gideon Welles writing in his diary:

*The year closes more satisfactorily than it commenced...The War has been waged with success, although there have been in some instances errors and misfortunes. But the heart of the nation is sounder and its hopes brighter.*

The *Richmond Examiner* would sum up the year thusly:

*To-day closes the gloomiest year of our struggle.*

And so it continues.

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## WE WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER

We may think of a luminary as merely a paper bag with a lit candle inside — at one time, that is how my daughter viewed a luminary — until we went to Antietam. As members of the Civil War community, we know that each and every luminary means so much more. Each and every candle remembers and reminds us of those men, blue and grey, who were killed, wounded or missing at a particular battle site. There are two luminary events coming up in December. If you have never attended one of these events, put it on your bucket list — you won’t regret it and will be forever changed by the experience.

### December 7, 2013

23,000 candles will be lit in honor of those soldiers who fell during the Battle of Antietam. In the event of poor weather, the illumination will be rescheduled for December 14, 2013.

The illumination opens to the public at 6 p.m. The main entrance to the event is Richardson Avenue off Maryland Route 34. From Boonsboro, travel west on Route 34 and a line will form on the westbound shoulder for entrance to the illumination. From Hagerstown or West Virginia, travel to Sharpsburg and head east on Maryland Route 34 and make an appropriate turnaround at some point to access the line on the westbound shoulder.

The driving tour through the park is approximately 5 miles long. Vehicles are to use parking lights only, to the extent technology permits this, and continue through the event without stopping. Visitors are prohibited from walking the tour route. Event brochures will be distributed at the event entrance and contributions will also be accepted.

Please remember that the line of cars to enter can be up to two hours long. There are no bathrooms along the route. The Visitor Center closes at 3 p.m.

### December 14, 2013

2,539 candles will be lit at the 10th Annual Memorial Illumination Ceremony at the Wilson’s Creek National Battlefield.

Travel west on the James River Freeway (Hwy 60) to exit Hwy M. Go south on M for about ¾ mile to Wilson’s Creek Blvd. (Hwy ZZ). Turn south on Wilson’s Creek Blvd., go one mile to Farm Rd. 182. Then, turn east on Farm Rd 182 and the first right is the entrance to the park.

4:30 p.m. Opening Ceremony at the Visitor’s Center  
5:00 p.m. Volunteer Procession through Illumination  
5:15 p.m. Memorial Illumination Tour Opens to the Public

Over 2,000 people are expected to tour the Illumination from 5:15 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Living history volunteers, carolers, and re-enactors at the Ray House will bring the past to life. Visitors are encouraged to tour the Ray House. Music, refreshments and information will be provided at the Visitor Center.



## VETERANS DRIVE 2013

For some veterans, returning home can be just as hard as fighting battles overseas. We know many veterans struggle with unemployment, addiction and stress, but did you know an alarming number of veterans experience homelessness? The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development estimates that more than 62,619 veterans are homeless on a given night. These national figures represent an encouraging decrease over the years, but in Wisconsin, veteran homelessness has actually increased by 1.6%.

Furthermore, when a veteran is able to get an apartment through the Veterans Administration, HUD or another program, they are often given the keys and little else. The veteran often has no furniture — not even a bed — no household items, and no resources to purchase them. A pantry may provide food, but the veteran may not even have a can opener or a saucepan.

Milwaukee is fortunate to have a number of excellent veterans' service organizations, including the Milwaukee Homeless Veterans Initiative (MHVI). County Executive Chris Abele and Mayor Tom Barrett kicked off the 7th Annual Holiday Drive on Monday, November 18, 2013, at Milwaukee City Hall. This year's donation drive will benefit returning soldiers and the MHVI.

"For six years, Milwaukee businesses, government workers, and residents have demonstrated amazing generosity in our annual holiday donation drive. This year, with County Executive Abele on board, we will amplify the response and make a real difference in the lives of deserving veterans," Mayor Barrett said.

The MHVI is looking for donations of basic household items like toothpaste, dental floss, dish soap and toilet paper. Donation bins will be set up inside City Hall, the Courthouse and other facilities across Milwaukee County from November 18 – December 18.

"The people of Milwaukee County have shown time and time again they are extremely generous and I know they will rise to the occasion this holiday season," said County Executive Abele. "We are aiming for a goal of 250 donations for each item. Any help people can give to the veterans who have given so much is appreciated."

*from milwaukee.gov/veteransdrive*

County Executive Chris Abele and Mayor Tom Barrett invite you to support the 7th Annual Holiday Collection Event:

# VETERANS DRIVE 2013

62,619 veterans were HOMELESS on a single night in 2012

to benefit **MILWAUKEE HOMELESS VETERANS INITIATIVE**  
**NOV. 18 – DEC. 18**

Take your donations to:

- City Hall Mayor's Office  
200 E Wells St., 2nd Floor  
Milwaukee, WI 53202
- Milwaukee County Courthouse  
901 N 9th St  
Milwaukee, WI 53233
- Marcia P. Coggins Human Services Center  
1220 W Villet St  
Milwaukee, WI 53205
- Milwaukee County House of Correction  
8885 S 68th St  
Franklin, WI 53132
- Milwaukee County Veteran's Service Office  
6419 W Greenfield Ave  
West Allis, WI 53214
- Northwest Health Center  
7630 W Mill Rd  
Milwaukee, WI 53218

For more information, visit:  
[www.milwaukee.gov/veteransdrive](http://www.milwaukee.gov/veteransdrive)

**Individually Wrapped, NEW Items needed:**

- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Dental Floss
- Flg. Razors (3 or more)
- Shaving Cream
- Deodorant
- Bar of Soap
- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Hand Cream
- Comb
- Mouthwash
- Can Opener
- Peeler
- Flg. Cleaning Sponges/Scrubs
- Pan
- Dish Soap
- Flg. Dish Towels
- 2 Wash Cloths
- Shower Curtain Liner
- Set of Shower Curtain Rings
- Toilet Paper
- Tissue
- Hot Pads
- Salt
- Peppercorns
- Foil
- Plastic Wrap
- Box of Raggies
- Sportswear

**GOAL: 250 OF EACH ITEM**

## December Meeting

Our December meeting will be held at the **Country Club of the Wisconsin Club**, formerly the Brynwood Country Club, located at 6200 W. Good Hope Rd., Milwaukee WI 53223 (414) 353-8800.

Valet Parking is highly recommended.

**THE COUNTRY CLUB OF THE WISCONSIN CLUB**



## Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for December 12, 2013

Mail your reservations by Monday, December 9, 2013, to: **Paul Eilbes**  
 1809 Washington Ave.  
 Cedarburg, WI 53012-9730

ALSO, call in reservations to:  
 (262) 376-0568  
 peilbes@gmail.com

Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_ (meal price \$25.00 per person) for \_\_\_\_ reservations for December 12, 2013, 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 \_\_\_\_\_

*General Orders*, the official publication of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc., is produced September through June and upon request of the Board of Directors.

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.

## 2013 – 2014 SPEAKER SCHEDULE

**January 9, 2014**

Robert I. Girardi  
"The Murder of Major General William 'Bull' Nelson"

**February 13, 2014**

Harold Knudsen  
"General Longstreet"

**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"