# General Orders



The Newsletter of the

# **Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.**



## and The Iron Brigade Association

### OCTOBER 10, 2013

# DOUG DAMMANN Elmer Ellsworth and the United States Zouave Cadets

Another military character, a sort of pet of Mr. Lincoln, was Colonel E. E. Ellsworth, who, though a mere youth, of small but broad figure, curly black head, and handsome features, had achieved considerable local notoriety as a captain of a crack 'Zouave' militia company in Chicago. There has been no more noted character in Springfield, next to Mr. Lincoln himself than Colonel E. E. Ellsworth, commander of the celebrated corps of the United States Zouave Cadets, of Chicago. He is now studying law with the law partner of Mr. Lincoln. I found the colonel to be very thoroughly posted on military matters and, in my opinion, his love for the military will override his intention to become a lawyer. — Henry Villard, Journalist, February 1861

In the summer of 1860, Elmer Ellsworth and a civilian militia company of 50 men from Chicago set out on a twenty city tour to prove the value of their Zouave training. The tour was a success beyond their wildest dreams. When war started and their training was needed on the battlefield rather than on the parade ground, the men who had accompanied Ellsworth found themselves in positions of leadership within the Union Army.

Our October speaker, Doug Dammann, will explore Elmer Ellsworth's widespread influence on the northern army despite his death early in the conflict.

Despite all of his drills and military training, Ellsworth's death, ironically, did not come in battle but rather inside the Marshall House hotel in Alexandria, Virginia. Ellsworth succeeded in re-

moving the Confederate flag raised by the building owner only to be shot and killed by the owner, James W. Jackson, as he descended the stairs from the building roof.

Ellsworth's body would lie in state at the White House before being taken to his home state of New York for burial. Lincoln would call Ellsworth "the greatest little man I ever met." John Nicolay, private secretary to Lincoln, would write to Ellsworth's fiancé: "I had supposed myself to have grown quite indifferent, and callous, and hard-hearted, until I heard of the sad fate of Col. Ellsworth. I have been quite unable to keep the tears out of my eyes whenever I thought, or heard, or read, about it, until I have almost concluded that I am quite a weak and womanish sort of creature. I know the whole nation will



mourn for him, yet I am grieved also to feel that they do not half appreciate his worth or their loss..."

Ellsworth's memory lived on throughout the war as "Remember Ellsworth" became a rallying cry for supporters of the Union. His death would spur even more volunteers to don the flashy Zouave attire.

Doug Dammann is the curator and site coordinator of the Kenosha Civil War Museum. A native of Lena, Illinois, Dammann received a BA in history from Kalamazoo College in 1996 and earned his Master's Degree in historical administration from Eastern Illinois University in 1999. Prior to coming to Kenosha, he worked at The National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick, Maryland, and The National Air and Space Museum in Washington, DC.

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#### **OCTOBER MEETING AT A GLANCE**

Doug Dammann "Elmer Ellsworth and the United States Zouave Cadets" October 10, 2013

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, October 7, 2013 See page 11.

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

#### **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

In recent months we have experienced a larger than usual number of "walk-in" dinner requests. 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 September 15, 2013.

Patron: (\$200 - \$299) Crain Bliwas, Stephen Leopold

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

Paul Eilbes, David Gapinski, Dr. Raymond Pahle, Laura Rinaldi, Paul Sotirini, Gil Vraney

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

George Affeldt, Robert Christie, Dean Collins, John & Linda Connelly, Bob Dude, A. William Finke, Richard Gross, Dr. Erwin Huston, Gene & Jane Jamrozy, Christopher Johnson, David Jordan, Dr. Bob Karczewski, Ardis Kelling, Bob Parrish, Ann & James Reeve II

#### 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	
Blue Light-Weight Sweatshirt	\$30.00
Blue Izod Polo Shirt	
Blue Dress Shirt	
Blue Fleece-Lined Jacket	\$60.00
Iron Brigade Pin	\$5.00
CWRT Pin	\$5.00
Bugle Pin	\$5.00
Iron Brigade Medal	
Red River Medal	
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**

#### October 5, 2013

16th Annual Civil War Symposium 1863: The Tide of War Turns First Division Museum, Catigny, Illinois

#### October 6, 2013

Talking Spirits Cemetery Tour XV Madison, WI, Noon – 4 p.m. More info contact: Kevin.Hampton@dva.wisconsin.gov

#### October 7, 2013

2013 Klement Lecture, 7:30 p.m. Raynor Memorial Library, Marquette University Speaker: Joseph Glatthaar, "Robert E. Lee: Revolutionary Commander in the American Civil War"

#### October 8, 2013

Waukesha Civil War Round Table, 7 p.m. Citizens Bank of Mukwonago, Waukesha Branch Speaker: Dr. Trevor Steinbach, "Medicine in the Civil War"

#### October 14, 2013

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

#### October 16, 2013

Prairieville Irregulars Civil War Round Table, 7 p.m. Boardroom, Campus Center Building, Carroll University Speaker: Dr. Mary Abroe, "Observing the Civil War Bicentennial: Rhetoric and Reality of a Commemoration"

#### October 18-19, 2013

American Sheet Music Conference, Irish Fest Center Milwaukee "The Civil War as Understood Through Music"

#### October 26, 2013

26th Annual Harvest Ball, 1st Brigade Band, 7:30 p.m. Memorial Hall, Racine, 1stBrigadeBand.org or (608) 527-4222

### **CIVIL WAR NEWS**

#### Gettysburg

As reported in *The Evening Sun*, after 40 years of service with the National Park Service, Bob Kirby, Superintendent of the Gettysburg National Military Park, is retiring at the end of the year.

Kirby made the announcement at the semi-annual meeting of Gettysburg National Military Park's Advisory Commission.

Kirby, a 64-year-old Freedom Township resident, indicated that he intends to stay around an area he loves. "This place has everything I'm looking for and I've lived all over the country," said Kirby.

Kirby is still hopeful that the federal government can find a way to pass legislation that would bring the Lincoln Train Station on Gettysburg's Carlisle Street within the boundary of the national park by November 19, 2013, the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. "It's hard to say what's going to happen," said Kirby. "Congress is always distracted but it's a noncontroversial piece of legislation supported by Pennsylvania Congressman Scott Perry and Senators Pat Toomey and Bob Casey."

Since the park service intends to appoint Kirby's successor as soon as he leaves at the end of the year, the process of finding a new superintendent is already underway. The appointment will be made by the regional director of the National Park Service.

#### **KENOSHA CIVIL WAR MUSEUM**

#### October 16, 2013, 7-9 p.m.

Curator's Tour & CWM Theatre Program

A special tour of the exhibit *Campaigns of '63: Gettysburg & Vicksburg* will be led by a museum staff member and will be followed by a museum theatre presentation on James P. Sullivan's war experience including the Battle of Gettysburg. Preregistration is required. \$10/\$7 Friends of the Museum

#### October 20, 2013, 6:30 p.m.

*The Red Flags of the Rebellion: Confederate Flags of the Gettysburg Campaign, a* free program presented by Greg Biggs, President, Clarksville, Tennessee Civil War Round Table

#### November 2, 2013, 3 p.m.

*The Demise of Mary Lincoln: an Artistic Conspiracy*, presented by Barry Bauman, Founder and owner of the Chicago Conservation Center and Dr. James Cornelius, Curator, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum and Library

In an illustrated presentation, Bauman and Cornelius will explain how the Illinois State Historical Library acquired what they thought was a portrait of Mary Todd Lincoln from a direct descendent of the 16th President. After three decades of display at the Governor's Mansion in Springfield, Library officials sent the portrait to conservator Bauman for treatment. During his work, he discovered the painting was not what it appeared to be. *This presentation is made possible by the generous support of Carthage College and Snap-on.* 

#### November 3, 2013, 1 p.m.

*Eternal Bivouac: Union Veterans at Milwaukee's Forest Home Cemetery,* presented by Margaret Berres and Tom Ludka

Berres and Ludka highlight their most recent collaborative research project: the identification of Civil War veterans buried in Milwaukee's historic Forest Home Cemetery. They share some background on the project, the process involved, and stories of the veterans they have found.

#### November 5, 2013

An Evening with Ed Bearss The Significance of Gettysburg and Vicksburg

Dinner and Program: 6:00 p.m. \$35/\$30 Friends of the Museum; Program Only: 7:30 p.m. \$15/\$10 Friends of the Museum

What better way to spend Veterans Day than with Ed Bearss at the Civil War Museum as he discusses the lasting importance of the Gettysburg and Vicksburg campaigns? Mr. Bearss, a nationally-known author, lecturer, and battlefield guide returns to the museum to share his encyclopedic knowledge of these two campaigns in a style that is truly unique.

#### November 9, 2013 – 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Veterans Heritage Day To honor those who serve and have served

Memorabilia display from all branches of service in the Civil War, WWI, WWI, Korean War and Vietnam War with Soldiers and Veterans Brick Dedication Ceremony, Veteran's Terrace, 11 a.m. *Free family event sponsored by Southern Wisconsin Airborne Chapter 82nd Airborne Division* 



# merican Sheet Music Conference

# The Civil War as Understood through Sheet Music

The Ward Irish Music Archives will host this year's American Sheet Music Conference, October 18-19, 2013. Original published sheet music, a frequently overlooked and neglected primary historical source, actually affords a unique fresh,



and fascinating window into the thoughts and feelings of past generations. Practically every aspect of the Civil War is richly documented in sheet music, and the cover images that adorned many pieces provide a vivid, and sometimes the only, visual record.

The conference begins on Friday evening with a Sheet Music Show and Tell. On Saturday, Larry Zimmerman, a recognized collector of 19<sup>th</sup>century American sheet music, will present "The Spirit of the American Civil War in Sheet Music: The North," and Robert Curtis, formerly of the University of Georgia and specialist in Confederate sheet music, will offer "The Spirit of the American Civil War in Sheet Music: The South." Jeff Ksiazek, archivist of the Ward Irish Music Archives, will give a persentation on the archive's Sheet Music Collections and the opening of its new website.

The Conference will be held at the Irish Fest Center, 1532 Wauwatosa Avenue, Wauwatosa. Admission is \$5 per day. Vendor tables are available for \$30 by calling (414) 476-8899.

Established in 1992, the Ward Irish Music Archives houses the largest public collection of Irish music in America. The archive currently consists of more than 40,000 Irish recordings and pieces of music memorabilia ranging from rare 78 rpms, LPs and sheet music to song books, instruments, and concert memorabilia. Many of the archives items are extremely difficult to find today.



Some recent historical musings suggest that John Wilkes Booth did not break his leg when he leapt from the President's box at Ford's Theater on that fateful night in April of 1865. Instead, the assassin injured his leg when his horse slipped and fell during his escape south. Interesting conjecture, to be sure, but witnesses who saw him leap onto the stage shouting *Sic semper tyrannis* record his limping off the stage after his bloody deed with an obvious injury to his leg. Regardless of the cause of Booth's bad leg, the story that unfolded in the weeks to follow kept the nation's attention riveted on rural Maryland.

In its present incarnation, Ford's Theater maintains an aspect of thespian charm. Productions are held there on a regular basis. Mary Lincoln's chair and a portrait of Washington are all that remain of the original theater. Tours of the theater, the Peterson House across the street where our Mr. Lincoln died, and an adjacent museum of Lincoln's impact on the fabric of American history are must-see stops for an interested visitor to Washington, DC. For those truly touched by Civil War fever, however, the John Wilkes Booth Escape Trail might be worth one's time and patience.

A leisurely auto tour follows the trail of America's most infamous actor from his shouted defiance after he shot the President to his final moments in a burning barn at the Garrett Farm. A very nice website called the Civil War Traveler plots your own escape into 1865 and takes you along the route Booth and several companions followed. One can find everything needed for this day trip by accessing the site and clicking on this link: *Maryland Civil War Trails — John Wilkes Booth: Escape of an Assassin & War on Chesapeake Bay.* 

Consider these highlights of such a tour. Upon exiting the theater, Booth clambered about his waiting horse and made his way through a back alley towards what he hoped were the open arms of Southern patriots. That back alley survives, brooding in the shadows of Ford's Theater and contemporary structures. The next stop on this jaunt would be the Surratt House and Tavern in Clinton, Maryland. John Wilkes Booth and David Herold stopped here briefly the night of the Lincoln assassination to retrieve guns and supplies stashed there earlier. Visitors enter the Surratt Tavern through the same door Booth used and into the small room in which he may have had a beverage to calm his nerves and allay his pain. A short program tells the story of the Surratt family and the history of the house. A very minimal entrance fee helps support this program.

Union pursuit dogged Booth. At Bryantown, Federal troopers made a tavern their headquarters, unaware that Booth was within four miles of their location at the home of Dr. Samuel Mudd. The Mudd home, a large house behind an imposing fence line and gate, was closed when we arrived. Future travelers are wished better luck! Southward Booth and Herold headed to Rich Hill, the home of Samuel Cox. After a brief stay, Cox told the fugitives to conceal themselves in a nearby pine thicket to await developments. It was while awaiting those developments that Booth learned that the assassination of Lincoln was receiving universal condemnation on both sides of the Mason-Dixon Line. After several days lying in hiding in the pines, the pair made their way across the

Potomac River, though not until after a confusing trip in which they doubled back and landed for one more night in Maryland.

After being given a rude welcome in Port Royal, and granted an even quicker exodus from town, Booth and Herold were cornered at the Garrett Farm. Herold surrendered, to be subsequently tried, convicted, and hung for his crimes. The assassin was assassinated. Nothing remains today of the Garrett Farm. Its existence is noted with a state historical marker. Hard to find, the marker is located on a one-way portion of U.S. 301 about three miles from Port Royal.

The country a modern traveler covers is much the same as that which covered Booth's escape and stymied pursuers in 1865. Rural in nature, dense with trees and undergrowth, the landscape helps one imagine Booth's final days. What was he envisioning lay ahead of him, a hero's welcome in a defeated but unbending Confederacy? How his dreams must have shattered when he heard the news of the nation's condemnation of his deeds! Given our modern day transportation complete with a required GPS device, one must be amazed by the amount and difficulty of the ground covered by the crippled actor. Did a sense that he was playing a great and noble part upon the stage of history drive him through his suffering and, finally, into the barn on the Garrett Farm?

Travel the Booth Escape Trail if you are looking for an unforgettable experience following the footsteps of one of America's most infamous characters.

Stay tuned for the continuing adventures of "Dave and Friends"

- Submitted by Dave Wege



The Alfred Whital Stern Collection of Lincolniana, Library of Congress, American Memory Project



#### Letter to the *Hartford Home League* Brashear City, La. October 2, 1863

Mr. Editor: Tomorrow we take up the line of march towards Texas, and it may be a long time before you hear from the 29th again. Before the lapse of two months, we may be camped by the waters of the Rio-Grand, or we may be engaged in bringing marauders to terms at Galveston. And, again, perhaps he may try to bring us to terms before we have completed the first half of the move. One thing is certain, however, if he defeats us, he will have the tallest fighting a Texas ranger, even, ever enjoyed. The 19th Army Corps is already in the advance under the command of Maj. Gen. C. C. Washburn, of our own State. Many suppose that a strong union sentiment exists in the country through which we will have to pass, and consequently strict orders have been issued to the different regiments, against foraging of any kind. Company commanders are made responsible for the men in their companies, and should they allow any straggling are to be mustered out of the service. And as our boys have not been in the habit of receiving and obeying such orders, all the discipline an officer may try to exercise will not be lived up to, so you may expect to see some fine afternoon, one or more shoulderstrapped individuals step off the cars, with an ignominious dismissal in his pocket. The 13th Army Corps will forage when in a rebel country for they have seen too many of the fruits of rebellion to be at all lenient, and I cannot blame them. I have, like them, seen too many of my comrades lie bleeding on the battlefield, to have any for those who were the cause of it all. No man who had seen another shot dead upon the field, and who was willing to look dispassionately at the matter, would ever again be wheedled by such traitors as Sgt. Clark. I do not believe there is a sane and sensible man in the North, but believes our cause to be just. The only reason they oppose us is because they hope for political or pecuniary capital, but let the meanest of them be place where we have been, and I hope there would be enough manhood left to transform them from the poor God-forsaken copperheads to good union men. I do not know but that such a change would be little less than a miracle, but I base my opinion upon the fact that I have never yet saw a person who had been in the army six months, who was not sound for the right sides. Traitors may call what I say false, but I ask them, especially their leaders, to wait until the soldiers return, where their influence can be felt at the ballot box, if nowhere else. And, although I would by no means counsel moblaw, they may see no great difference between Butternuts they have shot down in Dixie, and those they will meet at home.

We are prepared to roll up a vote in the 29th the 3rd of next month, that shall be only nine or ten of unanimous for Lewis and the Union. Every man in the regiment at the present time is feeling well, and confidently expecting the war to end before many months. All are now anxiously awaiting news from Rosecrans, but the Western boys out this way consider him to be next to Grant invincible.

-Random (Corporal Lloyd Nanscawen, Co. I, 29th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry)

#### Letter to the *Hartford Home League* Camp New Iberia, La. October 9, 1863

Mr. Editor: The army to invade Texas is this far on its way, and now only await the arrival of supplies to continue the journey. The advance of the 19th corps came to this place a week ago and found but little opposition, there being occasionally a little skirmishing between our cavalry and the mounted infantry of the enemy. This arrangement has for the first time in its history, left the "old 13th Army Corps" in the rear, a thing to which the boys decidedly object, not so much that they wish to be first in the fight should one occur, but because the head of the column is likely to secure the forage. Our immediate destination after leaving this place we understand will be Opalousas, where our forces will be increased by the Divisions under the command of Gen. Herron and Sand. After arriving at that place we shall know of no more of where we are going until we bring up somewhere. The object of our expedition may be simply to clean out Magruder and Taylor, or it may have as its principal object the work of watching the ambitious Louis Napoleon in his designs upon Texas. At any rate we have a crowd around us who are equally ready and willing to fight southern copperheads and frog-eaters. In my first letter I spoke of orders having been issued directly forbidding foraging, and the fears I had they would not be quite lived up to. Events have proved that I was correct in my surmise. Scarcely had we pitched our present camp when two members of the 29th, whom I shall here call Orange and Joe "for short" from force of habit started out for a scout. While they were reconnoitering an old secesh's barnyard, Maj. Morgan of Gen. Washburn's staff came along and finding Orange's head first in a chicken coop, suspected something and began:

"What are you doing in there, my boy?"

"After water sir," was promptly answered, despite the questionable position he was in for procuring the article.

"And you have been after water too?" continued the Major of Joe, who held a large goose under one arm and a rooster by the legs in the opposite hand.

Joe, after casting a doleful glance at the multiplied evidences of his guilt, said he was, but saw "these things lying 'round loose, so he took 'em."

Military etiquette could not be satisfied by such explanations, however plausible they seemed, and so he took them before the general. After sitting by the General an hour or more they were permitted to bear off their prizes in triumph, and supped on chicken pot-pie and roast goose that night.

We were all made sad to hear of the death of Capt. C.C. Ammack of Company "H". He was one of the best men and a good soldier. One of those few whose influence was always on the right side, and who can be so illy spared at this time. He was a resident at home at Trenton in Dodge County, and I understand leaves a wife to mourn his loss. In my next I will speak of the country through which we will have passed.

-Random (Corporal Lloyd Nanscawen, Co. I, 29th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry)

continued on page 6

#### Washington October 30th 1863

Gentlemen:

The reception of your very cordial letter, which was handed me as I was parting from you on Tuesday last, has afforded me more pleasure than I have words to express. After more than two eventful years passed with you through fire and flood, through death and great suffering, it has been one of the most painful acts of my life to part with the "Old 2nd."

If I have been as good an officer as you deserve, I am more than content.

My ambition has ever been to do my duty to the best of my poor ability, and where ever I have failed it has not been from lack of zeal - I know that many of my official acts could have been improved upon but such ability as I have been given has been faithfully used to promote the good of the regiment, and great Cause in which we are fighting.

I hope and trust that you, or the regiment, may never regret that I have had the honor to be your commanding officer, and I hope that we may all meet again when this cruel war is over, as friends and comrades in arms, and fight over our battles around the peaceful fireside.

You are pleased to say that I have won some reputation – What ever reputation I have, has been won for me by yourselves and the brave men under our command, to you and them is due all the glory. I am entitled only that share due me as your comrade through all our campaigns. That you will win new honors, I am confident, and when you shall return to your homes you will receive the applause of the whole state.

To yourselves, and to the rank and file, I bid an affectionate farewell.

May each of you receive the honors and rewards you are entitled to, and may you ever kindly remember your comrade.

Lucius Fairchild,

To the Commissioned Officers of the 2nd Reg. Wis. Vol. Infy.

#### Arrival of Gen. Cutler

We announced on Friday that Gen. Cutler would arrive here on Saturday. The General arrived on the noon train from Chicago and was met at the depot by a committee from the Chamber of Commerce who had proceeded there in carriages...On his arrival there he was welcomed by a band of music, and on entering the rooms, was greeted by enthusiastic cheers by a large throng which had assembled to do honor to the gallant soldier. He stopped in the centre and was welcomed by Mat H. Carpenter with the following eloquent and thrilling address!

I am here sir on behalf of the chamber of commerce to welcome you home. Not that we think we can confer honor upon you. Honor is won by deeds not conferred by words; and you have taken good care not to leave your laurels to be offered by friendly hands at home; you have snatched them, in the deadly strife, earned them dearly and well in the noblest cause for which a patriot ever unsheathed his sword...

We desire that you should know and that all the world should know that when our armies march in the path of duty and danger, we watch their course follow them with our best wishes and glory in their achievements and are waiting patiently and in good hope for the time when we can welcome them back again as our brothers and friends to the employments of peace and the enjoyments of home. From such a way in such a cause they return not polluted and stained with blood unjustly shed; they may come back to the bosom of our society...

The people of this State have watched your course with a just pride. You led away our Sixth Regiment. They went rollicking in the freedom that

characterizes our volunteer gradually gently but with steady firmness as you sobered and disciplined that regiment...You then took command of the Iron Brigade. In the late severe battle of Gettysburg, this brigade was first to receive the fire of the enemy; and out of eighteen hundred of its men twelve hundred were killed and wounded. After such a terrible proof of its military power steadiness and bravery, we feel that our emotions would seek manifestation not in words, but in tears of thankfulness to the survivors and sorrow for its bravely departed. ...

The Iron Brigade needs no hirelings of the New York press to chant its praise; it has written its name upon the history of its country; the track of our army whether in victory or defeat is marked by its blood; and wherever it has been necessary for brave men to lay down their bodies as a rampart to stay the tide of treason there lie her brave boys by the hundreds – over them wave green grass and the gaudy followers of a southern clime; and there to the latest years shall the lovers of liberty make their pilgrimage and pour their tears of thankfulness and joy – thankfulness, honoring the brave dust beneath joy that with such monuments upon earth liberty will not again be assaulted. ...

Tell our brave boys that we have not deserted them; if the love of some has grown cold they are a minority growing beautifully less; and the great American liberty loving heart beats louder and warmer day by day for the Union and the brave army that supports it. Tell them that we pray for them morning and evening as the ancient church prayed for the soldiers of the cross. Tell them when their good work is well done to return – they will find the throng of people to welcome them intense and enthusiastic. Tell them that at their peaceful coming traitors in the North will flee more rapidly than ever rebels in the south ran before them in the day of battle.

In the name of the audience and our whole people, its loyal and bravehearted men. Its beautiful and kind-hearted women, I give you thanks and bid you welcome.



In October 1948, Robert L. Kincaid spoke about "The Cumberland Gap in the Civil War."

Ralph Newman spoke to the Round Table in October 1958. The topic at that meeting was "Resurgence of Interest in the Civil War."

"First Bull Run" was the topic of Frank Klement's presentation to the Round Table in October 1968.

Robert E. Krick was our featured speaker in October 1978. The topic that evening was "E.P. Alexander: Peerless and Insightful Cannoneer."

At the October 1988 meeting, William J. K. Beaudot presented "Go to Hell: The Attack on the Railroad Cut at Gettysburg" to our group.

Kathleen Ernst visited our Round Table in October 1998. Her talk that evening was on "Tales of Civilians and the Battle of Antietam."

'Ford's Theatre Secrets Revealed! Museum Objects Tell All!" was presented to the Round Table by Gloria Swift in October 2008.

At last year's October 2012 meeting our featured speaker Edward H. Bonekemper III spoke about "Lincoln and Grant: The Westerners Who Won the War."

# AND SO IT CONTINUES: October 1863... Marking the Civil War Sesquicentennial

The month begins with the armies, North and South, in camp. The Confederacy had won at Chickamauga but the North was in Chattanooga with troops rallying to their relief. East Tennessee had fallen to the Federals along with Little Rock. Bragg faced continuous bickering by his generals. Both North and South had good crops, so the worry of short food supplies was abated although food distribution still remained a problem in the South.

**October 1, 1863** • Joe Wheeler's cavalry was now behind Rosecrans, capturing a large Federal wagon train. The entire Eleventh Corps and part of the Twelfth Corps from the Army of the Potomac passed through Nashville en route to Chattanooga.

President Lincoln advised Gen. John M. Schofield, in command in Missouri: "Your immediate duty, in regard to Missouri, now is to advance the efficiency of that establishment, and to so use it, as far as practicable, to compel the excited people there to leave one another alone."

**October 2, 1863** • Wheeler's cavalry continue to spread havoc behind Rosecrans's lines. At Bridgeport, Alabama, just south of Chattanooga, Gen. Hooker arrives with about 20,000 men and 3,000 horses having traveled 1159 miles in seven days. Confederates controlled the Tennessee River to the city, leaving a mountainous trail over Walden's Ridge as the only open road to Chattanooga from Bridgeport.

**October 3, 1863** • General Banks, on the Gulf Coast near New Orleans, attempts once again to gain a foothold in Texas following the failure at Sabine Pass.

The six-day secondary bombardment of Fort Sumter from Morris Island ends. The Federal War Department ordered enlistment of Negro troops in the slave states of Maryland, Missouri, and Tennessee.

President Lincoln issues a proclamation of thanksgiving, calling for observance on the last Thursday of November in gratitude for the blessings of the past year. President Davis, writes to General Bragg, trying to smooth over the controversy between Bragg and General Polk over Polk's actions at Chickamauga. Davis would write, "The opposition to you both in the army and out of it has been a public calamity in so far that it impairs your capacity for usefulness..."

**October 4, 1863** • Wheeler's cavalry are raiding the countryside creating havoc and disruption.

The Confederate cavalry invasion of Missouri, led by Jo Shelby, pressed northward from the southwestern part of the state.

President Lincoln tells Rosecrans at Chattanooga, "If we can hold Chattanooga and East Tennessee, I think the rebellion must dwindle and die. I think you and Burnside can do this..." Lincoln will also suggest that Rosecrans harass or attack Bragg's besieging Confederate army.

**October 5, 1863** • Wheeler's cavalry burn an important railroad bridge over Stones River near Murfreesboro, temporarily breaking the vital supply line to troops near Chattanooga. More Federal troops were being sent from Memphis towards Rosecrans in addition to the two corps coming in with Hooker, and the Fifteenth Corps divisions from Grant's old army.

**October 6, 1863** • President Davis leaves Richmond on a trip to South Carolina and onward to north Georgia and Bragg's army besieging Chattanooga. Davis hopes "to be serviceable in harmonizing some of the difficulties" in Bragg's command.

**October 7, 1863** • U.S. Navy men burn two steamers on the Red River. President Lincoln asks Governor Andrew Johnson of Tennessee, "What news have you from Rosecrans' Army?" **October 9, 1863** • Lee's Army of Northern Virginia is on the move. After crossing the Rapidan, the troops move west and northward trying to turn Meade's right flank and head toward Washington. Meade, alerted some days before, takes immediate action to cover his own flank.

Wheeler's raiders end their operations against Federal communications between Nashville and Chattanooga by recrossing the Tennessee River at Muscle Shoals, Alabama.

**October 10, 1863** • In the west the Tennessee River is low hampering larger gunboat support of General Sherman's activities towards Chattanooga.

President Davis arrives at Bragg's headquarters and surveys the scene. Davis talks to Braggs' corp commanders hoping to quell the dissention among the officers.

Lee tries to get around Meade's right flank with no success. Meade's cavalry are probing heavily trying to locate Lee's main force.

**October 11, 1863** • Heavy skirmishing continues between the Rapidan and Rappahannock as Lee's army gains momentum. In the west, Shelby's Confederates capture Boonville, Missouri on the Missouri River.

Lee's army is moving west and north of Meade in the direction of Manassas and Washington.

**October 13, 1863** • The Army of Northern Virginia with A.P. Hill's corps in the lead, close in toward Manassas and Washington. Meade, withdrawing, heads towards Manassas and Centreville.

Ohio voters decisively defeat Clement L. Vallandigham. Governor Andrew Curtin, a staunch Union supporter, was reelected in Pennsylvania. Union candidates also won in Indiana and Iowa.

President Davis, in northern Georgia, authorizes Bragg to relieve Lt. Gen. D.H. Hill from command. Hill, always critical of his superiors, made the mistake of criticizing first Lee and then Bragg, two favorites of Davis. He would serve in no meaningful capacity for the rest of the war.

**October 14, 1863** • Near Bristoe Station, Virginia, Lt. Gen. A.P. Hill's forces strike the retreating rear units of Meade's Army of the Potomac. Hill's force was not sufficient to dislodge the strongly entrenched Federals. The Confederates fail to strike the center of the Union column as it retreats giving Meade time to prepare his lines around Centreville and the old Manassas battlefields. Lee had no chance to disrupt the Federal army, but he did succeed in forcing them back near the Potomac.

Davis sends a message to the Army of Tennessee: "Though you have done much, very much remains to be done. Behind you is a people providing for your support and depending on you for protection. Before you is a country devastated by your ruthless invader..."

**October 15, 1863** • The Army of Northern Virginia and the Army of the Potomac face each other in the area along Bull Run with skirmishes occurring at McLean's, Blackburn's, and Mitchell's fords, and at Manassas and Oak Hill. Each army tries to ascertain the other's strengths and intentions.

In Charleston Harbor the Confederate submarine *H.L. Hunley* sinks for a second time during a practice dive. Horace Hunley, the inventor, and seven men die. The submarine is once again raised and a third crew volunteers to man her. The new captain would be Lt. George Dixon, CSA.

**October 16, 1863** • A new Military Division of the Mississippi, combining the Departments of the Ohio, the Cumberland, and the Tennessee was created with General Grant in command. Grant was ordered from

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#### AND SO IT CONTINUES...continued from page 7

Vicksburg to Cairo; Secretary of War Stanton was on his way west to confer with Grant.

President Lincoln writes to General Halleck: "If Gen. Meade can now attack him (Lee) on a field no worse than equal for us, and will do so with all the skill and courage, which he, his officers and men possess, the honor will be his if he succeeds, and the blame may be mine if he fails."

**October 17, 1863** • Grant arrives at Cairo and is ordered to Louisville to receive his instructions. Grant meets Stanton, also en route to Louisville, in Indianapolis. On the train to Louisville, Grant receives his orders creating the Military Division of the Mississippi under his command. There were two versions of the orders—Grant chose the one relieving Rosecrans from command of the Department of the Cumberland and the army at Chattanooga and placing Maj. Gen. George H. Thomas in command. Sherman was to lead the Department of the Tennessee while Burnside would continue in command of the Department of the Ohio.

Lee begins to pull back from Bull Run toward the Rappahannock. The Confederates were not prepared to wait for an attack by Meade.

**October 18, 1863** • Grant assumes command of the Military Division of the Mississippi. Thomas, having replaced Rosecrans, was told that he must hold Chattanooga at all hazards. Thomas replied, "We will hold the town till we starve."

**October 19, 1863** • Jeb Stuart's cavalry routs Gen. Kilpatrick and the Federal cavalry at Buckland Mills, Va., in what is known as the "Buckland Races." The race would mark the last major clash of the Bristoe Station campaign.

**October 20, 1863** • The Confederate cavalry retires across the Rappahannock and into Lee's lines ending the campaign toward Bristoe and Manassas.

General Grant leaves Louisville after conferring with Secretary of War Stanton and heads for Chattanooga.

**October 21, 1863** • Grant meets with Rosecrans at Stevenson, Alabama, to discuss the situation at Chattanooga. Grant remained on crutches still recovering from his accident a few weeks ago in New Orleans.

**October 22, 1863** • Grant moves slowly over muddy roads en route to Chattanooga where Thomas is resisting the Confederate siege.

**October 23, 1863** • President Davis relieves Gen. Leonidas Polk from command of a corps in the Army of Tennessee. Polk was assigned to organizational work in Mississippi, replacing Gen. Hardee.

Grant arrives in Chattanooga at dusk where he is briefed on the situation of the Army of the Cumberland and the defenses of the city.

**October 24, 1863** • In central Tennessee Sherman assumes command of the Army of the Tennessee, replacing Grant.

Grant inspects the defenses of Chattanooga and the state of the troops. Grant orders a supply line—the "Cracker Line" to be opened at Brown's Ferry on the Tennessee River. The line involved gaining control of the Tennessee River frontage which was held by the Confederates; when accomplished, supplies could then be brought in by boat.

**October 26, 1863** • The operation to reopen the Tennessee River route into Chattanooga gets underway. Guns roared once again at Charleston as the second bombardment opened from land and sea. Guns and mortars fired on into the night. Fort Sumter's defenders hold despite the heavy bombardment.

**October 27, 1863** • The second major bombardment of Fort Sumter continued.

A pontoon bridge was thrown across the Tennessee River below Chattanooga at Brown's Ferry. Hooker advances from the west to the Wauhatchie Valley at the western foot of Lookout Mountain. Opening the "Cracker Line" from Lookout Valley to Bridgeport relieved Chattanooga and within a few days full supplies were getting through.

**October 28, 1863** • During the night and into the next day, Confederates under Longstreet, concerned over the attempts to relieve Chattanooga, attack Brig. Gen. John W. Geary's troops of Hooker's force at Wauhatchie in Lookout Valley. The Confederates fail in their attempt. The "Cracker Line" to Chattanooga was safe for the rest of the campaign.

The Union troops of Hooker attack the Confederates at Raccoon Mountain and secure the route for the "Cracker Line" to begin operations. Supplies would land at Brown's Ferry—out of Confederate artillery range—and then would shuttle overland to Chattanooga. The first supply wagons would arrive in Chattanooga two days later.

President Davis approves a request from Brig. Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest to separate his forces from Bragg's and to go raiding in northern Mississippi and west Tennessee.

**October 30, 1863** • For the last three days of October, Fort Sumter will receive the heaviest fire of the prolonged bombardment.

**October 31, 1863** • The month would end with Fort Sumter still under tremendous fire but with the Confederate flag, often replaced, still flying. President Davis notifies Gen. Bragg that Davis had assigned Gen. Hardee, and possibly two brigades, to Bragg's command. Hardee was to report to Bragg without delay.

And so it continues.

#### WISCONSIN VETERANS MUSEUM AUTUMN CIVIL WAR EVENTS

#### October 24, 2013, 7 p.m.

African American Faces of the Civil War: An Album, Ron Coddington, Lecture and Book Signing

More than two-hundred-thousand men of color served in the Union army and navy during the Civil War after the Emancipation Proclamation was issued. Some were free men; others were escaped slaves or slaves released by their owners to join the military. All stood up to fight for their freedom and the future of their people. Historian Ronald S. Coddington spent four years collecting original, unpublished portraits of a representative sample of these men, and researching their compelling stories.

#### October 30, 2013, 7 p.m.

John Reynolds and the Iron Brigade, Lance Herdegen, Author and Chair of the Wisconsin Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission

The death of General John Reynolds as he led the 2nd Wisconsin into action at Gettysburg on July 1, 1863, turned him into an American military hero. But his relationship with the famous Iron Brigade of his First Army Corps was distant those days before the epic battle. This is the story of how that all changed that morning 150 years ago and how Reynolds found fame only after he had been killed in battle.

#### November 14, 2013, 7 p.m.

*Wisconsin Germans, Abolitionism, and the Civil War,* Dr. Alison Efford, Assistant Professor, Department of History, Marquette University Wisconsin's large German population has always been a major feature in the State's history. Through examples of some of Wisconsin's Germanborn Civil War soldiers, like Bernhard Domschke, editor of the *Milwaukee Atlas* and Milwaukee's most vocal German opponent of slavery. Alison Efford will explore the role of Wisconsin's German population during the Civil War, their attitudes toward the war, and their impact on its outcome.

All events are held in the Dr. Richard H. Zeitlin Education Center, located on the  $2^{nd}$  floor of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum in Madison. Free Admission. For more information call: 608-267-1799 or visit the website: www.wisvetsmuseum.com.

# TOM AND TERRY'S MOST EXCELLENT ADVENTURE



Tom and Terry Aliskas with guest Annabel. Photo by Elaine Masciale

It all started when Terry sold some jewelry to a lady in France — the kinship and interest shared by these French American Civil War (ACW) reenactors led to them coming to America for the 150<sup>th</sup> Gettysburg events. We were happy to set up all the necessaries such as hotel, travel arrangements, and itinerary.

We met up with the "Frenchies" (that's what they call themselves!) our first evening in Gettysburg at the Farnsworth House for dinner. No ghost tours! We laid out our plans and headed out to the Blue Gray Alliance Gettysburg event the next day. The BGA was sponsoring a "Gettysburg Town" of vetted civilian living historians who would authentically portray the actual townspeople who lived there in 1863, and we were accepted as towns people. We would have the unique opportunity to interact with soldiers of both sides as the various battle scenarios played out over the course of the event.

We set up our home, a tent with a board front with a door and a window, built by master carpenter John Mark and his able assistant Marlene Mirr, who were part of our group. Annabel, our French guest, would stay with us in our "house," while her husband, Bertrand, fought in all the battles with the other Frenchies and the Belgians, Germans, and Englishmen that they usually reenact with.

We spent four days in that tent in the heat and rain and had a memorable experience that is very difficult to put into words – you really had to be there to comprehend all that was going on around us. Because we were THE town of Gettysburg for the 1st day's Battle, the Army of the Potomac, some 5,000 men, horses and wagons, marched right through the center of our town as the 1st then the 11th Corps went to meet the Rebels. We merely set up our chairs at the back of the tent and watched—offering water to the thirsty soldiers as they passed.

Of course the Army of the Potomac was pushed back through town on the first day and as civilians we were to play our part as witnesses to a rout of the Federal Army. The women carried the wounded to their "homes" for care, and generally wept and stood aghast at the spectacle of defeat. Terry confronted General Lee telling him that "he was not welcome here and to head back to Virginia!" Lee smiled, tipped his hat and rode on. Confederate infantry flooded into Gettysburg, helped themselves to cookies and lemonade, and had their pictures taken in the coffin we had set up as part of our "enterprise" in the town. Our business was coffins made to order and French lessons.

The second and third days' battles were even better, as the Armies marched in and fought "Little Round Top" and "Culp's Hill"—all within

yards of our town. We saw ox drawn wagons, and mule drawn trains take out the wounded and bring in supplies and ammunition. The Battle scenarios were as close to the original actions as possible. The Frenchies loved it! Although they suffered in the heat to the extremes and slept outside on the ground with only their ground cloths and blankets as cover—and it rained!

In the Town of Gettysburg, the highlight of the event for us was the "town social" that we had on the last night. Everyone had to participate —poetry readings, dancing, dramatic interpretations and singing were enjoyed by all!

The next morning we took down our tent, packed our gear, and had four days to show our French guests around America. Washington, DC. was the first stop, with a visit to the Air and Space Museum, then the Smithsonian American History Museum with its great Civil War exhibit, then on to the Library of Congress, where we saw the Thomas Jefferson Library on display. They had a magnificent special collection of Civil War documents from their collection that I had never seen anywhere else, including Longstreet's order to General Pickett for the assault on the third day of Gettysburg, Lincoln letters, and much more.

The next day we went to the Antietam Battlefield for a tour. One of the best Civil War experiences we have ever had was there with a licensed guide – the whole Antietam campaign and Battle was spelled out for us from A to Z. We had been to Antietam a few times before but never like this. We met some descendents of the folks who lived in Sharpsburg during the Battle and Tom was able to talk Civil War uniforms with our Guide! A stop at Harpers Ferry was next—you can't go to Antietam without stopping at Harpers Ferry for a sandwich and a beer.

We spent the next day in Gettysburg doing a "Ladies of Gettysburg" tour with Joann Lewis, a licensed battlefield guide. If you ever get to Gettysburg, be sure to take advantage of the licensed guide service. It costs a few dollars more, but what you get out of it and the detail is worth every penny. The tour covered many of the ladies, from Anna Etheridge to Jennie Wade. Question—who was in the ranks of the 7<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin on

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Becky Anderson relaxing on the front porch of the Arliskas "home." Photo by Bill Osborne

#### TOM AND TERRY'S MOST EXCELLENT ADVENTURE...continued from page 9

the 1<sup>st</sup> day's Battle of Gettysburg, even wounded? Yes, a woman who enlisted in 1861 and remained undetected until she went home on furlough in 1864 and was robbed while changing trains in Chicago! Research on these women continues.

It was off again to the next 150th event sponsored by the Gettysburg Anniversary Committee (GAC), the same who have been doing the Gettysburg reenactment for years. Our Frenchies and Germans left us to fight the SESH' and we agreed to come visit and tour the sutlers for this one. It was a circus! Tens of thousands of people and the heat was unbearable, but we went all dressed up anyway. We spent some time with "Lee's General Staff and Jefferson Davis" which was fun. The ladies went shopping and the men sat in the shade sipping lemonade. Did not get to see the Battles up close as you had to pay something like \$30 to sit in the bleachers. The French said the Battles at the BGA event were better done, but they did enjoy the sheer numbers and the action of the second event. Had a tintype of the group taken as a memento of our time together. The ladies were dying though in the heat, and all of us were ready for a cool shower back at the motel.

Finally, it was time to head home. We both felt we had been in Gettysburg for a month, yet It was only 12 days. We did the two 150th events with vigor, as for those who have been Civil War aficionados for all these years, we just had to go! The Frenchies want to come back to the States again as they enjoyed their Civil War trip to no end! We'll be letting them reciprocate with hospitality in two years when we go there for the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo. We've been promised a stay in a castle and a special tour by one of our new Belgian friends who is a licensed tour guide at the Waterloo Battlefield site! The Adventure continues!

-Submitted by Tom and Terry Arliskas



#### HORSES AT GETTYSBURG

For the most part, when we talk and read about Gettysburg it is about the men, North and South, who fought there those three days in July, 1863, and the battles fought—Little Round Top, Devil's Den, the Railroad Cut, Culp's Hill, Cemetery Ridge, Pickett's Charge and more. What about the horses?

Between the two armies there were approximately 72,243 horses present at Gettysburg. Of these, nearly 3,000 to 5,000 horses were killed.

Each horse required about 10 gallons of water per day or about 722,430 gallons per day and about 2,889,720 gallons for the three days.

Each horse would normally eat twelve pounds of grain per day (preferably oats) for a total of 866,916 pounds per day and 3,467,664 pounds for the three days.

The horses would also require, per horse, fourteen pounds of hay per day, which would equal 1,011,402 pounds per day, and would total 4,045,608 pounds for the three days

The average horse would produce twelve to fifteen pounds of manure per day. If we use an average of 13  $\frac{1}{2}$  pounds for our estimate that would be 975,281 pounds per day for a whopping 2,925,843 pounds for the three day period. And, let's not forget the urine these animals would produce—about 2 gallons per each horse per day for a total of 144,486 gallons per day and 433,458 gallons for three days.

Add this to the discharges of the 180,000 men present and Gettysburg was quite the smelly place! And this is not even taking into consideration the conditions after the battle.

At the end of the three days 7,000 slain men and 3,000 to 5,000 dead horses—an estimated 6 million pounds of slain men and animal carcasses—would lay across the field in the July summer heat. Many of the citizens who had remained in Gettysburg during the battle had to leave the town, the stench was so overwhelming.

Lydia Lyster, who owned the small farmhouse used by George Meade as his headquarters found 17 dead horses in her yard. Lydia's only compensation for the damage to her property was selling the bones of the dead horses at a half cent per pound.

The story and fate of our four legged "soldiers"—another facet to consider in our understanding of the conditions during and after this momentous battle.



# Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for October 10, 2013

Mail your reservations by Monday, October 7, 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 October 10, 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

November 7, 2013 Lawrence Hewitt "Civil War Myths"

December 12, 2013 Kevin Weddle "Lincoln's Tragic Admiral"

December meeting is at the Country Club of the Wisconsin Club

January 9, 2014 Robert I. Girardi "Civil War Logistics"

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"