

# GENERAL ORDERS



The Newsletter of the

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



MAY 8, 2014

### DAVID BASTIAN

#### Grant's Canal: The Union's Attempt to Bypass Vicksburg

*The canal don't amount to much. — William T. Sherman*

On June 27, 1862, a 3,000-man infantry brigade under the command of Brigadier General Thomas Williams began working on what would become known as "Grant's Canal." The goal of this endeavor was to create a channel that would bypass the Confederate batteries at Vicksburg; some also believed that the new channel could catch enough of the current's force to cause the river to change course and leave Vicksburg high dry. Soon after work commenced, disease began to spread through the ranks bringing with it dysentery, diarrhea, malaria and fevers to the men. Heat exhaustion and sun stroke also became the enemy. Williams would write:

*The labor of making this cut is far greater than estimated by anybody. The health of the troops has been much impaired by the absence of proper shelter. The quarters on board the transports are hot and crowded and those on shore are no protection against rain.*

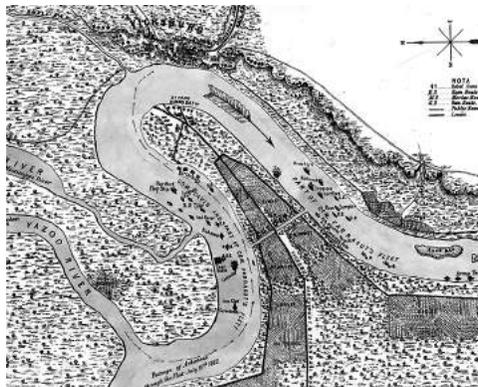
Williams would add to his dwindling workforce reporting:

*Between 1,100 and 1,200 blacks, gathered from neighboring plantations by armed parties, are now engaged in the work of excavating, cutting down trees, and grubbing up roots.*

Our speaker at our May meeting will be Dave Bastian, author of *Grant's Canal: The Union's Attempt to Bypass Vicksburg* (now out of print but available on Amazon and eBay). Dave has given his presentations to over 80 Civil War Round Tables. Dave's talk is based upon his book and will cover the two Union campaigns against Vicksburg focusing on the efforts to divert the Mississippi River away from Vicksburg by digging a canal across the narrow bend opposite the town. The evening's presentation will explore Vicksburg's geographical importance and the topographical characteristics that made it so defensible.

As a civil engineer who lived in Vicksburg, Dave understands the river and how close the Union came in succeeding. Had they succeeded, Vicksburg would no longer have been an important target. This was an engineering project — diverting the Mighty Mississippi — an engineering solution to a military problem.

Dave has a degree in civil engineering from Georgia Tech and a master's degree from Delft University in the Netherlands. Of interest, he was a delegate to the tri-national Commission for the Study of Alternatives to the Panama Canal that produced the feasibility study for the Canal's current enlargement. More recently, Dave has worked on the post-Katrina levee rebuild in New Orleans and co-authored a book that comes out this May: *New Orleans, Hurricanes from the Start*.



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May 2014

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#### MAY MEETING AT A GLANCE

David Bastian,  
"Grant's Canal: The Union's Attempt to  
Bypass Vicksburg"  
May 8, 2014

The Wisconsin Club  
9th & Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee  
(Jackets required for dining room)  
5:30 p.m. — Staff Meeting  
(Open to all members)  
6:15 p.m. — Registration & Social Hour  
6:45 p.m. — Dinner  
7:30 p.m. — Program

Dinner — **\$25 by reservation.**  
Deadline: Monday, May 5, 2014  
See page 11.

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

#### FINAL CWRT MEETING OF 2014

June 12, 2014  
Kenneth W. Noe  
"The War in Appalachia"

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

## CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE NEWS

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

In accordance with the Articles of Incorporation, the nominating committee of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee recommends the following slate of nominees for the upcoming election of members to the Board of Directors:

Michael K. Benton  
A. William Finke  
Major Van Harl, USAF Retires  
James J. Heinz  
Tom Thompson

The slate will be voted on at the election during the May meeting. Newly elected directors begin their duties upon election and typically serve three-year terms.

### 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.

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

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

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

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS • EVENTS • MEETINGS

### May 12, 2014

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

### May 14, 2014

Waukesha Civil War Round Table, 7 p.m.  
Citizens Bank of Mukwonago, Waukesha Branch  
Speaker: Erik Theissen, "The Navy/USS Minnesota"

### May 20, 2014

Prairieville Irregulars Civil War Round Table, 7 p.m.  
2nd Floor Boardroom, Campus Center Building,  
Carroll University  
Speaker: David Keller, "Camp Douglas"

### May 25, 2014

Service of Remembrance, 1 p.m.  
Soldiers' Home Section, Forest Home Cemetery  
[www.wssas.org](http://www.wssas.org) / (414) 427-3776

### May 26, 2014

Memorial Day Service, Wood National Cemetery  
9:10 a.m. concert, 9:30 a.m. observance

### May 26, 2014

Memorial Day Service, 10 a.m.  
Calvary Cemetery, 5503 W. Bluemound Rd  
Outdoor Mass followed by Patriotic Program  
(262) 787-3567 / (262) 782-0535 / [dcollins@wi.rr.com](mailto:dcollins@wi.rr.com)

### June 8, 2014

Week-long Civil War Class  
The Clearing, Ellison Bay, Door County  
Teacher: Pat Gardner  
[www.theclearing.org](http://www.theclearing.org) / (877) 854-3225

### 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, 2013, through April 10, 2014.

#### Major Contributor (\$500 and above)

James Wiensch

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

Crain Bliwas, Grant Johnson, Stephen Leopold

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

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

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

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

Map Detail on page 1: Library of Congress. View of Vicksburg and plan of the canal, fortifications & vicinity Surveyed by Lieut. L. A. Wrotnowski, Top: Engr. Drawn & lithogd. by A. F. Wrotnowski C.E.

## KENOSHA CIVIL WAR MUSEUM

### SECOND FRIDAY LUNCHBOX SERIES

**Uncle Billy's Boys: The 55th Illinois at Vicksburg**  
May 9, 2014, Noon

Dr. Laurence Schiller, Northwestern University, describes the actions of the Illinois 55th, under the overall command of Brigadier General William Sherman, during the Vicksburg Campaign and gives a picture of the tensions and problems of the civilian soldiers who made up the regiment.

**Who the Heck is Abner Doubleday? Baseball and the Civil War**  
June 13, 2014, Noon

Civil War soldiers spent more time playing baseball than they did fighting battles. Prof. Bruce Allardice takes a sometimes serious, sometimes humorous look at our national pastime and how it was played during the war.

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

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### GRANT VS. LEE

**Saturday, May 17, 2014, 1 p.m.**

Presented by Steve Acker

Virginia in 1864 saw Lee face off against Grant in the battles of the Wilderness, Spotsylvania, North Anna and Cold Harbor. Steve Acker takes a look at the leaders, the armies, the battles and the personal stories of the Overland Campaign. The class will end with a discussion of the best books on the topics and a travel recommendation for anyone going to tour the battlefields discussed. \$20/\$15 Friends of the Museum

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### A SOLDIER'S LIFE

**Saturday, May 17, 2014, Noon – 4 p.m.**

Check out these family friendly reenactors in character as Civil War soldiers. Ask them about their gear, Civil War battles and what it took to be a Civil War Soldier. An interactive presentation designed for families or for those who want to stop by and chat.

Future Dates: July 19, August 16, September 20

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### TRAIN EXTRAVAGANZA WEEKEND

**The First Front**

**Saturday, May 31, 2014, Noon**

When the Civil War began, the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad became the most important railroad in the nation by being the only direct rail link between Washington, D.C. and the loyal states. During the first three months of the war, the fate of the nation's capital was determined by the movement of Union soldiers on trains provided by the B & O Railroad. Dan Toomey explores this "First Front" concept as presented in his new book, *The War Came by Train: The Baltimore & Ohio Railroad During the Civil War*.

**The B & O**

**America's First Railroad**

**Saturday, May 31, 2014, 2 p.m.**

Dan Toomey presents a second lecture on the history of the B & O Railroad with illustrations of all time periods.

## KENOSHA CIVIL WAR MUSEUM

### MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY HIGH SCHOOL CIVIL WAR SUMMER INSTITUTE

**July 7 – July 10, 2014**

This new program is open to any 5th-9th grade boy interested in history. The program will:

- Explore local Civil War site locations and virtually tour Civil War sites in Boston, Virginia, and Charleston, South Carolina.
- Create a public display/exhibit at the Kenosha Civil War Museum. This exhibit will bring to life what we learned through the week.
- Unite passionate instructors with interested students to study this historical era through the following cross-curricular lenses: English, Mathematics, Physics, Biology, Technology and Art.

Student Art Contest: All students are encouraged to submit artistic ideas that will be used as the official MUHS CWI Logo! The winner will receive a discounted admission.

Cost: \$225.00/Student

For more information, email Mr. Chris Lese, lese@muhs.edu or visit [justdohistory.wordpress.com](http://justdohistory.wordpress.com)

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## MARK YOUR CALENDARS! UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE MUSEUM

### 5TH ANNUAL SALUTE TO FREEDOM

**June 21, 2014**

This year's event will feature an 1864 Encampment with Midwestern troops on leave and a lively impression of a Soldiers Aid Fair. The event is free and open to the public. *Sponsored by the West Side Soldiers Aid Society*. See flyer on page 10.

### LINCOLN'S AIR FORCE

**August 26, 2014**

**7th Annual Civil War Forum**

**1864: Hard and Total War**

**September 13, 2014**

\$60/\$50 Friends of the Museum

Registration for this popular event is now open.

Call the Civil War Museum at (262) 653-4140

For more information on Civil War Museum programs, exhibits,

and membership, call (262) 653-414

or visit the website:

[www.kenosha.org/wp-civilw](http://www.kenosha.org/wp-civilw)



# AND SO IT CONTINUES: May 1864...

## Marking the Civil War Sesquicentennial

May 1864 finds the South expecting action in Georgia, Northern Virginia and the Peninsula east of Richmond. Grant, in Virginia, would open his summer campaign but the Confederacy also expected the other Union generals to do the same. In the South, the economy worsened daily with the larger cities facing near-famine conditions.

**May 1, 1864** • Twenty-five hundred troops of Major General Ben Butler's force on the Peninsula were convoyed up the York River to West Point. In northern Georgia, contact between Sherman's forces and Johnston's forces was picking up.

In Richmond, President Davis buried his youngest son.

**May 2, 1864** • In Richmond, The Second Confederate Congress met for its first session. In his message Davis condemned the Federals in their...

*Plunder and devastation of the property of noncombatants, destruction of private dwellings, and even of edifices devoted to the worship of God; expeditions organized for the sole purpose of sacking cities, consigning them to the flames, killing the unarmed inhabitants, and inflicting horrible outrages on women and children.*

Skirmishing continued along the Red River as Confederates harassed the Federals. Lumberjacks from Maine and the Midwest had nearly completed the dam across the Red River at Alexandria. Admiral Porter hoped the water would raise high enough to get his marooned gunboats over the rapids.

**May 3, 1864** • Grant notified Meade to move the Army of the Potomac out of winter quarters and cross the Rappahannock River the following morning.

In Washington, Lincoln and his cabinet met to discuss the events at Fort Pillow and the alleged atrocities committed by the Confederates during the attack.

Joe Johnston telegraphed Richmond indicating that scouts in Georgia reported that the Federals were beginning to mass their troops for movement.

**May 4, 1864** • Grant wrote:

*Soon after midnight, May 3d-4th the Army of the Potomac moved out from its position north of the Rappahannock, to start upon that memorable campaign.*

By late in the day Grant had 122,000 men present for the campaign; Lee would have 66,000 men present for duty. Grant moved quickly around Lee's right; the Army of Northern Virginia was forced to move from Orange Court House and the Gordonsville area to meet him.

On the Peninsula, Major General Ben Butler moved his army towards Richmond. In Georgia, Sherman prepared to send his 98,000 men against Joe Johnston in the area of Dalton, Georgia.

**May 5, 1864** • At the Wilderness, in the tangled wooded area south of the Rappahannock, Meade's Army of the Potomac engages with Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. Gouverneur Warren's Fifth Corps faced Richard Ewell's Second Corps on the Orange Turnpike in the first battle between the two armies in 1864. In the afternoon, Hancock fought A.P. Hill. The end of the day would

find both armies entrenched in their positions east of the Germanna Plank Road and waiting for the morning.

Along the James River, General Butler landed some thirty-nine thousand Federals at City Point and Bermuda Hundred on the south side of river, aiming at Richmond via Petersburg.

**May 6, 1864** • In the Wilderness, on the Federal right, Sedgwick and Warren drove westward early in the morning. To the south, on the Federal left, Hancock and his men inched ahead on the Orange Plank Road. Sedgwick and Warren made little progress against Ewell; Hancock was in trouble as troops of Longstreet and another division of A.P. Hill's came up. Longstreet attacked the Federal line on its left flank and rear forcing Hancock's men back. Longstreet was severely wounded. Another attack by Longstreet's men in the late afternoon was halted at the Union breastworks. General John B. Gordon's brigade swept the Federal right flank making headway, but Ewell either could not or would not come to Gordon's support. By darkness the fighting had tapered off and the battle came to an end. At his headquarters, Grant coolly smoked a cigar and whittled. Charles A. Dana would say of Grant:

*He keeps his own counsel, padlocks his mouth, while his countenance indicates nothing ...that is, gives no expression of his feeling and no evidence of his intentions. He smokes almost constantly, and...has a habit of whittling with a small knife. He cuts a small stick into small chips, making nothing.*

Casualties were heavy for the North — 2,246 killed, 12,037 wounded, and 3,383 missing totaling over 17,000; Confederate casualties would total more than 7,500.

On the James River, within sight of Petersburg, Butler's 39,000 troops were opposed by no more than 10,000 Confederates. After some halfhearted scouting Butler's troops went into camp.

In Dalton, Georgia, Pvt. Jackman of "The Orphan Brigade" wrote:

*Beautiful day. All are expecting the "ball to open" soon. There is no telling these times what is going to take place. I don't think there will be much fighting for several days, and I doubt that we fight at all about Dalton. We may go out to "see" our neighbors.*

**May 7, 1864** • By midevening, Grant, long decided to continue towards Richmond and Lee, has his troops on their way towards Spotsylvania Court House to the southeast. Grant's army was jubilant to be moving forward and not to be retreating. Lee sent cavalry to cut trees to delay the Union advance.

In Dalton, Georgia, Sherman moved his men out of their camps and at Johnston's Rebel lines. Sherman's army of nearly 100,000 was divided into three armies and all were in readiness and facing Johnston's 60,000 men.

**May 8, 1864** • G. K. Warren's Union column approached Spotsylvania Court House to find Anderson's Confederate corps already there and entrenched. Other troops from both sides came in the late afternoon with the Federals of Warren and Sedgwick assaulting the entrenched troops of Anderson and Ewell. The at-

tack failed and by night both sides established new lines. Grant sent Sheridan around Lee to disrupt his rail communications and keep Stuart busy. A.P. Hill became ill leaving Lee without two of his usual commanders — Hill and the injured Longstreet.

Sherman's army in Georgia continued its movement with demonstrations against Rocky Face Ridge, Buzzards Roost and Dug Gap.

**May 9, 1864** • No heavy fighting occurred at Spotsylvania but there was skirmishing, sharpshooting and the establishment of lines. The Union lost Major General John Sedgwick today. Sedgwick was walking along the line near an artillery unit in clear site of the enemy. Sedgwick's men asked that he not expose himself in so careless a manner to which Sedgwick replied, "They couldn't hit an elephant at that distance." Sedgwick was killed by a rebel sharpshooter seconds later. Sheridan, drawing Stuart off, began a sixteen-day run around Lee and towards Richmond.

Federal engineers and soldiers under Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Bailey continued with their dam building effort on the Red River near Alexandria in order to raise the water level and allow Union gunboats to retire downriver.

Ben Butler on the Peninsula sent his army out to tear up railroad tracks south of the James River. Confusion would set in and Butler would order the army back to its original lines.

**May 10, 1864** • At Spotsylvania Court House three corps of the Army of the Potomac assault the Confederate "mule shoe" positions in the late afternoon. The attack temporarily breaches the Confederate line but the Union forces then fall back. On the far Federal left Burnside's corps moves closer to Spotsylvania Court House and entrench in front of Early's corps.

Sheridan and Stuart skirmish along the North Anna River near Beaver Dam Station. Sheridan is now within 20 miles of Richmond with Custer's brigade destroying railroad tracks and running equipment between the North and South Anna rivers on the Virginia Central.

In Georgia, demonstrations and skirmishes continue.

**May 11, 1864** • Sheridan's march on Richmond has reached the crossroads town of Yellow Tavern where his forces are attacked by Stuart's cavalry. In the ensuing fight, a dismounted Federal cavalryman shoots Stuart, mortally wounding him. When told of Stuart's mortal wounding Lee remarked to one of his staff: "I can scarcely think of him without weeping."

In Georgia, Sherman orders a swing towards Resaca to the southeast and completely behind the Confederate army. Johnston would be outflanked.

**MAY 12, 1864** • In one of the most murderous days of the war, Federals charged Lee's prepared lines at the "Bloody Angle of Spotsylvania." Federal killed, wounded and missing was about 6,800; Confederates lost 5,000 killed and wounded alone. One Federal would say, "This has been the most terrible day I have ever lived." A Southerner would write about Grant: "We have met a man this time, who either does not know when he is whipped, or who cares not if he loses his whole Army." In the Northern papers Grant would be accused of butchery.

JEB Stuart passes away from the injury sustained the prior day. Richmond went into mourning.

**May 13, 1864** • Grant, having failed to break Lee's line at Spotsylvania, continued his move to the south and east with Warren's

corps in the lead.

At Resaca Joe Johnston's army took up positions awaiting Sherman's arrival.

The Red River expedition's naval support was finally free from the rapids above Alexandria when the last three ships of Porter's fleet passed over the rapids and into the river below.

**May 14, 1864** • Sherman arrives at Resaca and immediately orders probing attacks, especially on the flanks, of Johnston's positions.

In the Shenandoah Valley, Federal General Franz Sigel, with about 6,500 men, moved south "up the valley" faced only by Confederate John Imboden's cavalry. Confederate Major General John Cabell Breckinridge entered the valley and was going north with about 5,000 troops. A skirmish ensues at Rude's Hill.

**May 15, 1864** • At Resaca, Sherman decides that Johnston's positions were too strong for a frontal assault and started another flanking movement. Johnston, afraid of being outflanked, evacuated his positions during the night.

The Confederate army under Major General John C. Breckinridge defeated the Union army under Major General Franz Sigel at New Market, Virginia. Sigel's 6,500 troops faced Breckinridge's 5,000 Confederate infantry along with anyone else he could get his hands on, including 247 students from the Virginia Military Institute. At the end, Sigel would retreat.

In Spotsylvania skirmishing at Piney Branch Church was the only fighting this day. The Federals were changing their positions and reestablishing their main lines. The battle front moved more to the east and south of Spotsylvania.

At Drewry's Bluff, Butler planned an attack but instead, was occupied with arranging his defensive lines. President Davis called to Virginia all troops he could from South Carolina, Georgia and part of Florida. Davis was particularly concerned about the threat to Drewry's Bluff and warned Lee not to expose himself to the enemy.

**May 16, 1864** • At Drewry's Bluff, Beauregard's ten Confederate brigades attacked in the early morning in dense fog. The Federal right under W.F. Smith was badly hurt. Heavy fighting on the Federal left under Q.A. Gillmore was indecisive. Union troops held the center. Smith and Butler decided to withdraw the Union forces due to the danger on the right. Butler pulled back in the rain toward Bermuda Hundred, failing in his attempt to take Petersburg and possibly Richmond.

Clean up was progressing at New Market with most of the public buildings and many private homes filled with the wounded.

**May 17, 1864** • Johnston's Army of Tennessee, withdrawing from Calhoun, Georgia, held briefly at Adairsville with General George Thomas in front and McPherson and Schofield coming around both flanks. Johnston once again ordered a withdrawal at night.

At Spotsylvania, things remained relatively quiet with just some slight movement of troops. On the Peninsula, Butler withdrew completely from Drewry's Bluff pushed by Beauregard. Butler was now pinned between the James River on the north, the Appomattox on the south, and the Confederates in front with his posi-

*Continued on page 6*

tion likened to "being corked in a bottle." The threat to Richmond had been stopped.

The Federal Congress passed measures setting up what would become the postal money order system.

**May 18, 1864** • Hancock and Wright's corps launch a dawn assault on Lee's left, mainly against Ewell's troops. The Federals charge several times with no success. Meade orders the drive abandoned. Farther to the Federal left, Burnside also attacked and failed. Grant, deciding the enemy was too strong to be defeated in its present position, moves toward his own left in an attempt to get around Lee's right flank.

President Davis expressed his disappointment to General Joe Johnston over his withdrawal from Resaca.

**May 19, 1864** • In the last engagement of Spotsylvania Lee ordered Ewell's corps on the left of his line to make a demonstration to determine whether Grant was once again moving to the Confederate right. Hard fighting ensued until late evening when Ewell pulled back. Grant was swinging to the east and south again, heading now for the Po River. Maneuvers would continue in the area for the next couple of days but the Battle of Spotsylvania Court House was over. For the battles that comprised the whole of Spotsylvania, the Federal loss was about 17,500 out of nearly 110,000 engaged. The Confederate loss was estimated to be about 6,000 from a total of 50,000 engaged. The South could not afford the loss.

60-year old Nathaniel Hawthorne would die in his sleep at Plymouth, New Hampshire, the night of May 18-19.

In Georgia, Johnston sent Hood to attack the Federals realizing that Sherman's army was now split. Hood wrongly thought that the Federals were on his flank and at his rear and fell back on the defensive. Johnston drew back into defensive positions south and east of Cassville.

**May 20, 1864** • Johnston left Cassville and pulled back through Cartersville, across the Etowah River to a strong position at Allatoona Pass. Federal troops of Schofield's army moved into Cartersville after a skirmish at the Etowah.

Grant issues orders for Meade's Army of the Potomac to move by its left and then cross the Mattaponi. Lee prepared to pull his army out to the south to block Grant once more. Butler is still bottled up at Bermuda Hundred.

**May 21, 1864** • Grant's army was shifting en masse to the east and south toward and around Guiney's Station following Hancock's advance. Lee planned to withdraw to the North Anna River and so ordered the move late in the day.

Sherman regrouped, repairing bridges and getting a short breathing spell in the Cassville-Kingston-Cartersville area.

**May 22, 1864** • In Virginia, Lee's Confederates reached Hanover Junction, just north of Richmond, only a short time before Grant's columns arrived from Guiney's Station. Lee had the advantage of interior lines.

**May 23, 1864** • Late in the afternoon Warren's Fifth Corps crossed the North Anna. A.P. Hill hit Warren near Jericho Mills gaining some ground but finally being stopped by the Federals. Wright's Sixth Corps began crossing the North Anna to Warren's aid, arriving the following morning. Farther east, Hancock's Second Corps pushed the Confederates out of their positions near

Old Chesterfield on the north side of the North Anna.

In Georgia, Sherman's entire army headed toward Dallas once again trying to turn Johnston's left flank, and crossed the Etowah River.

**May 24, 1864** • On the North Anna River near Hanover Junction, Meade's Sixth Corps moved to the right of the Fifth Corps and held. Hancock's Second Corps crossed at the Chesterfield Bridge further east. Burnside's Ninth Corps also crossed the river. Sheridan rejoined the army. The Army of the Potomac was divided into three parts due to the bend in the North Anna and Lee's protruding line.

In Georgia, Confederate General Joseph Wheeler and his cavalry were attacking wagon trains and creating havoc in Sherman's rear. The Union Navy comes to Butler's rescue at Wilson's Wharf on the James River. The wooden steamer *U.S.S. Dawn* used their guns to compel Confederates to stop their attack on a Union position.

**May 25, 1864** • The Federal right south of the North Anna moved forward only slightly on this day. At New Hope Church, Georgia, Johnston had his army in position. Sherman still advanced, with Schofield on the left, Thomas in the center, and McPherson on the right. Hooker drove toward New Hope Church but Confederates repulsed several attacks in a bad thunderstorm. Casualties were high. Sherman's forward move ground to a halt.

**May 26, 1864** • On the North Anna River near Hanover Junction confrontation was at a stalemate. Grant would not assault the strong Confederate positions and illness prevented Lee from conducting an offensive operation against Grant's divided army. As darkness fell, Grant and Meade began withdrawing the army across the North Anna. The army would then cross the Pamunkey River and head toward Hanover town.

In Georgia, McPherson, on the right of Sherman's advance, reached Dallas early in the day. Schofield also moved up to the area of New Hope Church-Dallas. Sherman's entire army pushed slowly forward with heavy skirmishing taking place. By evening the two armies were close to each other and entrenched.

**May 27, 1864** • Sheridan's cavalry occupied Hanover town, Virginia, south of the Pamunkey River, with little opposition. The infantry continued their march from the North Anna to the Pamunkey. Lee, outflanked again, began moving to get between Grant and Richmond.

On the New Hope Church-Dallas line in Georgia there was some shifting of position and fairly heavy fighting. Otis O. Howard's corps attacked the Confederates at Pickett's Mills through heavily wooded country and was repulsed after heavy losses.

**May 28, 1864** • Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia arrived north of the Chickahominy and Mechanicsville. Moving southeast toward Cold Harbor, Lee got in front of Grant's army, which was crossing the Pamunkey near Hanover town. Even though Lee was in front of Grant, both he and Davis had cause for concern.

Confederates under Hardee took heavy casualties when Johnston ordered a reconnaissance in force against McPherson near Dallas, Georgia.

**May 29, 1864** • Lee waits at Cold Harbor preparing his lines. At Good Hope Church and Dallas, Johnston opened his artillery against McPherson's corps with little damage to the Union troops.

**May 30, 1864** • Grant's main force arrived along Totopotomoy Creek and faced Lee's line north of the Chickahominy. At White

House on the Pamunkey W.F. Smith brought two corps of reinforcements to Grant.

In Georgia the lines still held around New Hope Church and Dallas while skirmishing and sharpshooting continued with action near Allatoona and at Burned Church, Georgia.

**May 31, 1864** • The month would end with Grant shifting part of his lines towards Cold Harbor, still moving to get around Lee's right. Lee responded by shifting his lines to stay in front of Grant. At the beginning of the month Grant had been north of the Rapidan and now was outside Richmond. In Georgia, Sherman had moved quite a distance during the month and now was nearing Atlanta. John Hunt Morgan was raiding into Kentucky again. November presidential elections were attracting a lot of attention in the North.

And so it continues.



In May 1951 Robert L. Kincaid talked to the Round Table on "O.O.Howard."

"The Civil War: A Lesson For All of Us" was the topic of Sam Fleming's presentation in May 1960.

Frederick Williams was our featured speaker in May 1970. The topic that evening was "Chancellorsville."

In May 1980 John Patrick Hunter visited our Round Table and talked to the group about "Civil War Spies in Hoopskirts."

"The Short Exciting Life of the Eb Brass Band" was the topic of Dan Woolpert's presentation in May 1990.

Bob Zeller talked about "The Civil War in Depth" at the May 2000 meeting.

"The Strange, Difficult Triumph of Southern Secession" was the subject of William W. Freehling's presentation at the May 2010 meeting.

At last year's May meeting the Round Table welcomed Ethan S. Rafuse who spoke on "Robert E. Lee, Gettysburg, and the Elements of Confederate Defeat."

## IN MEMORIAM



### STEVE DUGINSKI

Round Table member Steve Duginski of Cudahy, passed away on April 14, 2014. Steve was a dedicated history teacher and football coach for South Milwaukee High School. He was inducted into the Shanley Athletic Hall of Fame in 2011. Steve and his wife, Lori, also a Round Table member, were married for 42 years.

### JON PETER GENRICH

Round Table member Jon Peter Genrich passed away on Christmas Day last year. Jon graduated from the University of Wisconsin at Madison and after service in the Army returned to the University of Wisconsin at Madison to earn his law degree. Jon would end personal notes he wrote to his family, books he would inscribe to them, and Christmas cards he sent to them with the phrase Lincoln inscribed inside the wedding ring he gave Mary Todd Lincoln: *Love is Eternal*.

### JULIA GRANT DIETZ

The Grant Library announced that Julia Grant Dietz, mother of USGA board member and 2013 John Y. Simon Award winner Ulysses Grant Dietz, passed away in her sleep on March 20, 2014 at the age of 98.

Julia Grant Dietz was the last surviving great-grandchild of Ulysses S. Grant. Born in New York City to Major General Ulysses S. Grant III and Edith Root Grant, Julia was the youngest of three daughters. She was raised in San Francisco and Washington, D.C., following her father in his deployments in the Army Corps of Engineers.

A graduate of the Shipley School and Bryn Mawr College (class of 1938), Julia met her future husband, John Sanderson Dietz, in 1940. The couple would marry in August, 1945, after Dietz's return from the army.

Julia was predeceased by two of her four children, Edward Dietz and Edith Root Dietz. She is survived by two sons, John Edwin (Jed) Dietz and Ulysses Grant Dietz, their spouses and five grandchildren.

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

## WWAST COMING TO WAUKESHA THIS SEPTEMBER

The Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team (WWAST) will be coming to Waukesha the weekend of September 12 – 14, 2014. Time to mark your calendars.

Two Wisconsin boys play on this team: Robert "Bobby" McCardle from Hales Corners, Veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Josh Wege from Campbellsport, US Marine, Veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom and son of board member Dave Wege.

The mission of WWAST is to raise awareness, through exhibition and celebrity softball games, of the sacrifices and resilience of our

military, and highlight their ability to rise above any challenge. The athletes of this team have sustained severe injuries resulting in amputation while serving in the military/war, and through extensive rehabilitation, have become competitive athletes again and are true and inspiring models of their motto: *Life Without a Limb is Limitless*.

As further information becomes available it will be posted on our website as well as in the *General Orders* or, please visit: [www.woundedwarrioramputeesoftballteam.org](http://www.woundedwarrioramputeesoftballteam.org)



FROM THE FIELD  
*May 1864*

**Morganzie, La.**

**May 23, 1864**

Dear Minnie

It gives me grate pleasure to think that we are once more where we can communicate to dear and loving friends at Home. We have been in a Hard Place where all communication have been cut off by the Rebs. But after what we had accomplished, the grate work we had to do, we then fought our way through to the old Mississippi River. The Rebs had surrounded us and we thought they wer comeing Vicksburg on us, but by living on slim rations for some time we managed to get along very well. We had to lay over at Alexandria until we got gun Boats over the Rapids at Alexandria. Here the water was not three feet deep. Some 16 gun Boats wer above the Rapids which would of fallen into the Rebs hands if we could not get them down. So we went to work and built a Dam below the falls to raise the water on the Rapids some four feet higher or so so the Boats could come over. It was a grate undertakeing and hard work to be done. But the yankey soldiers can do most eny thing, and a Dam was built and worked well. Our Reg. was detailed for one to work on it some. Over a thousand soldiers wer at work on it night and day. The Dam was finished the 12<sup>th</sup> of May and the Boats all got over the falls. Our Reg. worked on it one week, and it was commenced a week before. It was made of timber, brush, brick, dirt and stone.

While we was doing this, a force of Rebs got below us on the River and planted their Batteries to prevent our boats coming up or going down. They had us in a rather tight spot. They captured four or five of our Boats that was on their way down and comeing up, and burned them up. They got a large mail of ours that was going down and one that was coming up so after that our communication stopped. They would come up and shell our camp now and then and then we would haf to go and drive them back. The day before we was detailed to work on the Dam, we wer out and had a sharp skirmish with them and drove them back some 6 miles. The rebs shells us to beat thunder. Only one man wounded in our Reg. But when we came back they would follow us back, so some of our troops wer fighting evry day. There had hardly been a day for the last two months but what we have heard the roar of cannon and the rattle of musketry.

We left Alexandria on the 14<sup>th</sup> of May, got our Boats all over and all ready to cut our way back through to the Miss. and we had to march slow on account of the train. The train was 9 miles long when closed up in their places so you know we had some work to get such a train through. The rebs tried hard to take some of the trains by dashing out to it, where they thought it was not very well guarded. But they did not make much at it. We fought them in the rear and the front about every day. We had to cross a good many Bayous where we had to lay down our pontoon bridges. We had a force in the rear and the front and along the trains so every thing worked well. Banks is good on retreat. He got us out of a well, but we had a good deal of fighting and marched night and

day. Hardly time to feed the mules let alone the troops. All, men and beast, wer worn out. This trip has been hard on the Cavelry, more so than the Infantry, for they have been on the go all of the time scouting around. On the 16<sup>th</sup> the Rebs thought they had us. They made a stand on the edge of a prairie called Hillside. We masted all of our forces and advanced acrost the prairie in lines of battle 5 or 6 lines deep and soon the roar of cannons commenced. The artillery plaid well and it was the heaviest cannonadeing I ever heard. The Infantry was not used much as the artillery done the work. It was a hard artillery fight. It was a splendid site to see the troops crossing the Prairie in lines of battle. It was smooth and we could see all what was going on. We was on the left wing ready for action if needed. The fight commenced in the morning and lasted until about 2 o'clock PM when the Rebs broke and run. We expected to do some hard fighting here, but the Rebs did not like the looks of us coming so strong acrost the Prairie. They say the Rebel General said there was a yankey springing up on every foot of the Prairie and there was no use of standing. The Rebs that night fell back in the rear and the next day came up on us in the rear, and we had some heavey skirmishing with them. The next day we had to cross a Big Bayou, and the Rebs tried their best to drive us, but we did not drive good. A fight lasted all day. We drove the Rebs back some 8 miles, took over 155 prisoners.

Our lost killed and wounded is some 200. They had two killed to our one. This was near the Atchafalaza river. The wounded was all taken care of that night and dead got buried and the next day we lay over in line of battle. But no Rebs showed themselves. They got enough the day before and drew back. The next day we crossed the Atchafalaza on pontoons and arrived here yesterday about noon where we went into camp. I tell you it seams good to get out of the sound of roaring cannon and musketry and have a days rest or so. Night and day marching and fighting has about played us out. Besides living on small rations. But I have stood it well and am in good health, and the rest of the C boys are all rite.

Min, I got 6 letters yesterday for the first mail we have had since April 26<sup>th</sup> and you may think was I pleased to hear from home. I got two from you dated April 21 and May 8<sup>th</sup> and nothing could have been more exceptable than those letters. I was pleased to hear you all wer well and I hope you will not worry about me as you have not heard from me in a long time. The last mail that was sent out was on the 1st of May and then I mailed 6 letters, one to you with my photograph in and one to Fred, one to Rosa, one to Fidelia, one to Father, one to D.W.T. and I expect they wer all in the mail which was captured by the Rebs. Well Min I will close for this time. We will probley stay here a few days and then take the boats to Carlton or some point on the river and go into camp to rest up. (Min, I like the check shirt the best. It will out ware two of the others, but both are good.)

Francis J. Tio  
Co. C, 29<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry

**Madison**

*Wisconsin State Journal*, May 2, 1864

A MARRIAGE — At Washington city on Wednesday morning last; at the early hour of five o'clock, at the Church of the Epiphany — Gen. Lucius Fairchild, Secretary of the State of Wisconsin, was united in matrimony by the Rev. Dr. Hall with Miss. Frank Bull, of that city. Besides the many city friends of the bride and groom, there were present Senator Doolittle, Go. Farwell, Major Hoed, Dr. Wolcott, W.T. Selleck, B.B. Holden and other citizens of Wisconsin. Hon. F. P. Stanton gave the bride away.

After receiving the congratulations of their friends, Gen. Fairchild and his bride left for Detroit, whither they were called by the illness of Mrs. Fairchild's sister, who we regret to learn has since died.

*Madison Wisconsin State Journal*  
May 2, 1864

The Veteran Reserves — On Saturday the four companies of the veteran Reserve Corps stationed here were reviewed and inspected by Asst. Provost Marshall Greene and mustered for pay. The men looked very well. Three of the companies belong to the 23d regiment, the other we believe is not yet assigned — This morning two squads of ten men each left to take charge of Camps Washburne and Utley at Milwaukee and Racine.

*Daily Milwaukee News*  
May 19, 1864

Wisconsin Regiments on the Rapidan

There were four regiments from Wisconsin engaged in the great battles in Virginia — the 5<sup>th</sup> and the regiments of the Iron Brigade the 2<sup>d</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> — and in addition one company of Berdan's sharpshooters.

The Madison Journal says it will be highly gratified to their many friends to know the effort is made on the part of the state authorities to care for those who are wounded.

Surgeon General E. B. Wolcott is on the ground, assisted by W. Y. Selleck and Wisconsin soldiers aid society of Washington and other Wisconsin residents at the capital, with ample funds and with carte blanche given him by Gov. Lewis for the purchase of needed supplies.

*Daily Milwaukee News*  
May 19, 1864

If any European doubters or sneerers still hug the delusion that the Americans are not fighting people, the record of the past week must suffice to dispel it.

The contests have been obstinate; the carnage appalling; and until the latest engagement of which we have tidings, unproductive of decisive results, the Federal and Confederate forces swaying to and fro in the Wilderness and around Spotsylvania Court House, as the tide of encounter ebbed and flowed.

*Daily Milwaukee News*

May 18, 1864

Hon. D. W. Lewis

Petersburg, April 10

My Dear Mary:

I got ready to come to Richmond, but was not permitted to do so. The Provost-Marshall refused to allow civilians to take the trains, saying that every inch of car room was required for the transportation of men and military stores; so I had to go home again. T. received a letter 1st Wednesday from Henry dated at Dalton. He writes that William Griffin died on the 27<sup>th</sup> of March.

Henry says that half of the Yankee troops in West Tennessee are negroes, and that Gen. Johnston is determined that if they fall into our hands, to show them no mercy, and if the Yankees retaliate upon our men who fall into their hands, to hoist the black flag at once. Henry said the question was put to a vote in his brigade, whether they preferred to give negroes no quarter and take the risk of being retaliated on, or to treat them as prisoners of war, and that every man voted to give them no quarter.

I hope General Johnston will keep his word, I would like to see the black flag hoisted at once. I love my husband as fondly as a wife can love, but I would rather he die under the black flag than that the insult of the detestable Yankees in sending negro soldiers against us, should not be repented by putting every one to the sword who may fall into our power. I do wish Mr. Davis and his cabinet would resign in favor of their wives and leave the direction of affairs for one year to the women, and my word for it, the pusillanimous Yankees would soon have no negroes, and would have to get some Hessians to fight for them, or give up the war. Wouldn't you and I make good Generals, Mary? If the wretches make an attack on this city, I will show you what I can do; you will hear of another Joan of Arc.

Colonel Owens was here last evening and he said the Yankees are making great preparations to take Richmond, and that equally extensive preparations are made to defend it, and, what is more, to take Washington. Gen. Stuart told him the other day that Gen. Lee was going to Baltimore, and then to Washington, and he therefore availed himself of a chance to visit his family before starting. Thank God, we know Gen. Lee never brags and never lies. If you regale our friends with this intelligence, do not mention that it came from Colonel Owens, for he gave it to me confidentially. But a word to my own sex. I want you to send me by the first mail after you receive this, six yards of white point lace, in a letter. Don't forget it, as I need it at once.

Affectionately,  
Carrie



Tim Hirthe • Carolyn Miller • Nicole Mitchell  
Kate Raab • Michel Thouati

# Civil War Museum

FREE FAMILY EVENT



WEST SIDE SOLDIERS AID SOCIETY  
HALES CORNERS, WISCONSIN

and the Civil War Museum  
present

## A SALUTE TO FREEDOM



5400 First Avenue  
Kenosha, Wisconsin

## 1864 ENCAMPMENT & SOLDIERS AID FAIR

Saturday, June 21, 2014 ★ 10 am - 4 pm

### INSIDE THE CIVIL WAR MUSEUM:

Living history interpreters present civilian impressions from Soldiers Aid Fairs held in the Midwest from 1863-1865. These events sparked with fanciful fund raising, games, displays and an abundance of red, white and blue.

Activities include:

- ★ 19th century fashion displays
- ★ Musical entertainment
- ★ Quilts display
- ★ A photo opportunity with Old Abe the War Eagle
- ★ Natural history and art exhibits
- ★ Hands-on family activities
- ★ Appearances by "President Lincoln," "General Ulysses S. Grant" and more

### OUTSIDE THE CIVIL WAR MUSEUM:

Reenactors portray an encampment of Midwestern troops at home on leave in 1864.

Activities include:

- ★ Cavalry and artillery demonstrations
- ★ Infantry firing demonstrations
- ★ Union soldiers in camp
- ★ Soldiers and their equipment



For more information,  
call 262-653-4141 or visit  
[www.thecivilwarmuseum.org](http://www.thecivilwarmuseum.org)

Fill the Wagon! In the spirit of the Soldiers' Aid and Sanitary Fairs of 1864-1865, the Civil War Museum is requesting visitors to this event to bring donations for the Milwaukee Homeless Veterans Initiative. Come, help fill the wagon with much-needed supplies for veterans and families in need. Visit the Civil War Museum website for donation details.

## THE ADDRESS

### A Review

I had the opportunity to see the Ken Burns' documentary, *The Address*, early on Saturday, April 19. To say that it was a moving experience for me would be an understatement. I found this 90-minute documentary to be *incredibly* moving.

The boys at Greenwood School face an array of social and educational barriers and learning the Gettysburg Address is not an easy task for any of them. The importance of this challenge to these boys and the dedication of their educators and therapists in helping them achieve this goal is remarkable. I found the use of the alternate techniques employed by the educators and therapists to be innovative and creative.

As the parent of a high functioning autistic son, perhaps I found this documentary to be close to my heart. I choose to see my son not as disabled but as gifted — in a different way. He travels to the beat of his own drummer as do each of the boys in this documentary. I was moved to tears many times while watching *The Address* particularly at the end when watching each of these young men recite Lincoln's moving words. The documentary is available for purchase for those of you who did not have the opportunity to see it. I highly recommend it and guarantee that you will view *The Address* in an entirely different light after viewing this program.

Just as Lincoln was faced with the challenge of creating and speaking these meaningful words at Gettysburg so have these young men faced the challenge of understanding the speech they worked so hard to learn and speak to proud parents and those who helped them on their journey. — Donna Agnelly

### IT'S A TRADITION!

Military and civilian attire of the 1860s is welcome at the May 9, 2013, meeting. Gentlemen, pull that frock coat out of storage, polish your buttons, freshen up that Hardee hat, wear your Iron Brigade pin and ribbon. Ladies, join the festivities in your best day or dinner dress. Let's do our Civil War heritage proud!



## Learn the Address



To celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Gettysburg Address, documentarian Ken Burns, along with numerous partners, has launched a national effort to encourage everyone in America to video record themselves reading or reciting the speech. Watch the film that inspired this initiative -- [THE ADDRESS](#) -- April 15th 2014 on PBS.

Did you know President Lincoln was not the keynote speaker on Nov. 19, 1863?

[Learn more](#)



Old Sturbridge Village



Elisa Villanueva Beard  
Teach for America

Did you know there are five versions of the Gettysburg Address? We asked President Obama to read the first, the 'Nicolay Version.'

[Learn more](#)



Wolf Blitzer  
Journalist

Share *\*your\** Gettysburg Address and we'll showcase it here for posterity

[How to do it](#)

*Classroom tips and activities for teaching the Gettysburg Address and an opportunity to upload your recitation video:* <http://www.learntheaddress.org/>

*The Address home page:*

<http://www.pbs.org/kenburns/the-address/home/>

## Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for May 8, 2014

Mail your reservations by Monday, May 5, 2014, 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 May 8, 2014, meeting of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee. (Please make checks payable to the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.)

Name of Member \_\_\_\_\_

*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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Yearly memberships available: Individual (\$40), Family (\$50), Non-Resident (\$25), attending an educational institution (\$20). Contact Paul Eilbes for information: (262) 376-0568.

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.

## FOR YOUR READING ENJOYMENT

John D. Beatty, longtime Round Table member and past editor of the *General Orders*, has a new book out.

JDB Communications, LLC and Booklocker, Inc., announce the availability of *Crop Duster: A Novel of World War II*.

From the ashes of the Great War of 1914-1918 arose a brotherhood of the air made of intrepid flyers in delicate machines who braved the odds and the skies. Between Germany and America there arose two different ideas of air power, and what it might mean to fight and win wars in the air, and how peace might be preserved.

From these ideas arose the new breed of air warriors: flyers of bombers that devastated cities, and flyers of fighters that tried to stop them. Still the odds and the laws of physics were against both. But still there was the brotherhood of the air, the kinship between flyers that united them against outsiders.

This is the story of two such men caught up in the First Bomber War; a war not of their making, but theirs to fight, and to survive if they could.

Available from Booklocker: <http://booklocker.com/books/7374.html> and other fine booksellers everywhere.