

GENERAL ORDERS



The Newsletter of the

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



SEPTEMBER 11, 2014

FRANK P. VARNEY

General Grant and the Rewriting of History

*How the Destruction of General William S Rosencrans
Influenced Our Understanding of the Civil War*

The least the historian can do with any historical fact is to select and affirm it. — Carl L. Becker

Like other memoir writers, Ulysses Simpson Grant set out to control how we would remember the Civil War, and in large measure he succeeded. As a result, our understanding of much of the war is flawed and should be rethought. Although there is much worth noting in his writings, we need to look again at our blind acceptance of certain historical "truths"...For us to uncritically accept his evaluations of the men with whom he served, and then to use those evaluations as the foundation upon which we develop Civil War history, does them, and us, a disservice. — Frank P. Varney

Our September speaker, Frank P. Varney, will be discussing the results of his research into General Grant and how it altered the way he viewed the Civil War. Varney will be looking at the truth behind some of the commonly-accepted myths of the Civil War, as well as how we got to the point where much of what we thought we know turns out to be wrong.

After 22 years in the non-academic world, including stints with three huge multi-national corporations, Varney returned to college to pursue his lifelong dream of becoming a teacher. The road wound up taking him to Cornell for his Ph.D., followed by a year in New Jersey at William Paterson University as a visiting Assistant Professor. He then moved to Dickinson State University in North Dakota, where he has been for the past six years. Varney teaches US and Classical history, and for the last two years was also the director of the Theodore Roosevelt Honors Leadership Program. He has recently stepped down from that post in order to spend more time in the classroom and less time in meetings. Varney was promoted to Associate Professor and granted tenure last year. He does a significant amount of public speaking and has been taking students to Gettysburg and other historical sites for the past 15 years. Varney is currently developing a course to be taught on-site at Gettysburg, and will be doing the same for an on-site course at Chickamauga.

MEMBERS



The annual renewal form for membership can be found on the insert. Please complete the form and

return it as soon as possible. By renewing right away, you will be able to use the postage-paid envelope. More importantly, you help save the Round Table the cost of mailing reminder notices. The money saved can be utilized for the programming we bring to you.

**GENERAL ORDERS NO. 09-14
September 2014**

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SEPTEMBER MEETING AT A GLANCE

Frank P. Varney
"General Grant and the Rewriting
of History"
September 11, 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, September 8, 2014
See page 11.

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

milwaukeeecwrt.org

CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE NEWS

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Please note that your membership renewal form is included in this issue of the *General Orders*. Please take a moment to fill out and return your renewal in the postage-paid envelope provided. Don't forget our Annual Fund, which enables us to add to what we do to support the Civil War community. Thank you, Paul Eilbes, Treasurer/Membership

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 through August 15, 2013.

Major Contributor (\$500 and above)

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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

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

CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE NEWS

2014 – 2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Name	Office/Position	Term Expires
Donna Agnelly	Editor, <i>General Orders</i>	2016
Thomas Arliskas	Member	2016
Michael K. Benton	Second Vice President	2017
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Crain Bliwas	Member	2016
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Tom Thompson	Member	2017
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David Wege	Member	2015
Terry Arliskas	Secretary	

2014-2015 SPEAKER SCHEDULE

October 9, 2014: Mark Bradley, "When East Meets West: Joe Hooker, Oliver O. Howard & the Atlanta Campaign"

November 13, 2014: Prof. Steven Towne, "Detecting Deserters and Disloyalty"

December 11, 2014: Jim Ogden, Nevins-Freeman Address, TBD

January 8, 2015: Father Robert Miller, "The Most Christian Nation in the World: Religion in American Culture on the Eve of the Civil War"

February 12, 2015: Leslie Goddard, "Gone with the Wind and Popular Culture"

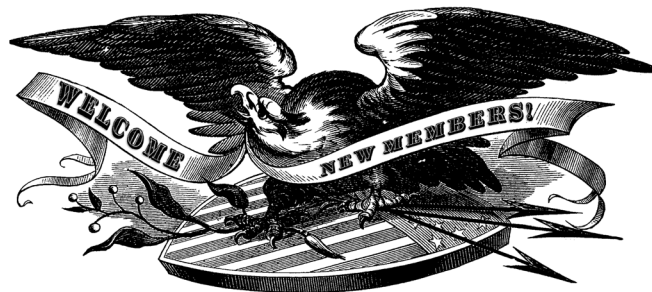
March 12, 2015: Thomas Huntington, "Searching for George Gordon Meade"

April 9, 2015: Prof. Michael Burlingame, "The Assassination of President Abraham Lincoln"

May 7, 2015: Eric Leonard, "Code and Consequence at Andersonville"

June 11, 2015: Gary Adelman, "4D Civil War Photography Extravaganza"

Speakers and topics are subject to change.



Ralph LaMacchia • Bruce Bowen • Michael Rosolino

ANNOUNCEMENTS • EVENTS • MEETINGS

September 8, 2014

Manitowoc Civil War Round Table, 7 p.m.

Manitowoc Historical Society Heritage Center

Speaker: Rob Girardi: "The Murder of Maj. Gen. William 'Bull' Nelson"

September 9, 2014

Waukesha Civil War Round Table, 7 p.m.

Citizens Bank of Mukwonago, Waukesha Branch

Speaker: Trevor Steinbach: "Medicine and the Lincolns"

September 13, 2014

7th Annual Great Lakes Civil War Forum, 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

September 16, 2014

Prairieville Irregulars Civil War Round Table, 7 p.m.

Citizens Bank of Mukwonago, Waukesha Branch

Speaker: Rob Girardi: "The Union High Command at Chancellorsville"

September 26 - 27, 2014

Chambersburg Civil War Seminar

Winchester, Fisher's Hill and Cedar Creek: The Shenandoah Valley

Campaign of 1864 with Ed Bearss, Jeffry Wert, Scott Patchan,

Dennis Frye, Eric Wittenberg and others. For information, contact

Lark Plessinger at 717-264-7101 ext. 206

September 27 - 28, 2014

24th Annual Wade House Civil War Weekend

Greenbush, Wisconsin

920-526-3271; wadehouse.wisconsinhistory.org/CivilWarWeekend

KENOSHA CIVIL WAR MUSEUM

Second Friday Lunchbox Series

September 12, 2014, Noon – Freedom Hall

The Story of Illinois Soldier Jennie Rodgers presented by Mr. Frank Crawford.

Wednesday, September 17, 2014 – 7 p.m.

Claiming Lincoln: Progressivism, Equality, and the Battle for Lincoln's Legacy in Presidential Rhetoric presented by Dr. Jadon Jividen. A free event sponsored by Carthage College History Department and the Jack Miller Center

Wednesday, October 8, 2014 – 7 p.m.

Dinner, booksigning, and program featuring Dr. James McPherson on his latest work *Embattled Rebel: Jefferson Davis as Commander and Chief*. First edition copies will be available for purchase and signing at the event. Advance registration is required for dinner but not for the program. Social Hour and Dinner at 5:30 p.m./Program at 7 p.m. Dinner and Program \$45/\$35 FOM. Program only: a suggested \$5 donation at the door.

7TH ANNUAL GREAT LAKES CIVIL WAR FORUM

1864: Hard and Total War

September 13, 2014, 8:30 a.m.

SPEAKERS: *International Views of Lincoln in 1864*, Dr. James Cornelius, curator of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum; *Life of a Late War Regiment: The 36th Wisconsin 1864-1865*, Steve Acker; *The Atlanta Campaign: From Dalton to Kennesaw*, Greg Biggs; *One Drop in a Sea of Blue: Liberators of the 9th Minnesota Infantry*, John Lundstrom. Pre-registration is recommended: 262-653-4141. \$60 / \$50 FOM

BETWEEN THE COVERS

The Battle Hymn of the Republic by John Stauffer and Benjamin Soskis was the most recent choice for reading by the Media Club at the Kenosha Civil War Museum. This book is fairly heavy reading in that it seems to read almost like a textbook. However, it was a book that elicited a lot of discussion by the group.

I think that in spite of the sometimes textbook-like approach the book contained a lot of interesting information about the history of the song. The authors point out the early development of the melody from a revival camp meeting from "Say Brothers". The melody was catchy and easy to follow along, considering at the time there were few books and many of the people could not read but everyone could remember the tune. I think that is one of the key elements that make the Battle Hymn one song that continues to live on and as the authors point out was used by many groups over the life of our country.

The book follows the change of the verse as the country grew and explains how the words for John Brown's body came into being and then morphed into the verse as written by Julia Ward Howe. She then becomes the darling of the Civil War and long after as a result of her development of the wording.

The song too becomes not only one to be used by the troops to defeat the Confederates but after the war it is found to be a somewhat unifying tune as well. It is used to help heal the wounds and bring the North and South back together. Interesting enough the song is picked up by various groups as our nation grows and this continuum is shown by the authors. What I found very interesting is how each of the diverse groups picked up the song to suit the thrust of their various organizations. The authors show how such a range of figures as John Brown, Julia Ward Howe, Teddy Roosevelt, Billy Sunday, Billy Graham and Martin Luther King Jr. managed to inspire their various causes through the use of the song. The authors take the time to show how each group advanced their cause and provided a history of the groups so the reader would have a basic understanding of each groups' point of view and history. I believe that while perhaps more information was given that was not necessarily part of the song, this history was very informative about the country's growth and shows some of the internal turmoil that was occurring as our country grew and why it was happening and the forces causing it to happen.

I believe that because the underlying theme of the song dealt with freedom every group that used the song was trying to develop freedom for their cause and followers. Since it was very catchy it was a natural fit for each group at some point to bring it to bear in the furthering of their cause.

While it is not necessarily an easy read I believe it is worth the effort and will provide the reader with a new perspective on how the song fits with the Civil War and has carried forward to modern times as well.

Submitted by Bruce Klem



Wisconsin State Journal
Madison, Wis. Saturday, August 27, 1864

*Negro Soldiers to be Treated as Prisoners of War
by the Rebels*

The following is from the *Richmond Examiner* of the 19th.

It shows that the rebels have receded from their position concerning colored troops, and will hereafter treat them as prisoners of war. We may conclude, therefore, that the exchange of prisoners will soon be resumed. We have in our hands ninety thousand rebels and there are about forty thousand Federal prisoners in the South. Whether this relenting towards colored troops has been brought about by the fact that by an exchange the rebels will be largely gainers, or by the scarcity of provisions in the South, or because DAVIS & Co. have concluded to do this to prove to foreign countries that the negro is not in the fight, with the view of removing impediments to recognition, remains to be seen. We quote from the chaste and amiable *Examiner*:

Negro soldiers, outside of the Confederacy employed to do the work of pillage and slaughter of the Yankee "ape" who sits in the usurped seat at Washington, are henceforth not to be considered fit subjects for the bullet, bayonet and knife after surrender, but are to be treated as prisoners of war.

Yesterday, an order from the Provost Marshall's office, sanctioned by the Secretary of War, was received at Castle Thunder. The purport was that the negro prisoner taken in Yankee uniform, whether free or bond, if they hailed from Maryland or Delaware, was not to be claimed as property in case they were slaves; but they were to be treated as negroes usually are in case they declared their freedom. A citizen of Maryland or Delaware cannot claim his — stolen or impressed property — stolen or impressed by "Abe the emperor," from the fact that Maryland and Delaware are within the limits of the "kingdom of the ape" and not within the limits of the Confederate States. This decision is taken as irrevocable, and as it emanates from the Provost Marshall's office, with the sanction of the War Department, we take it as final. Every negro who comes here as a prisoner of war proclaims himself as a free man. Consequently the order alluded to will save a great deal of litigation. But, be it remembered that slaves of Maryland and Delaware in the army of Grant are freedmen.

That's enough to make them freedmen forever.

Wisconsin State Journal
Madison, Wis. Monday, August 29, 1864

Lt. Col. Reynolds. We were shown a letter this morning, by Mr. Spencer, from John Reynolds, dated at Marietta, Ga., on the 29th. He writes that Lt. Col. Reynolds is getting along first rate, his wound having nearly healed, and it only remains for the bones to be thoroughly knit together again.

The Surgeon did not think he would be able to start home before the 1st. of September.

St. Charles, Ark.
September 17, 1864

Dear Mother

I once more sit down to write you a few lines. I am well and hope that these few lines may find you the same.

The weather has been some cooler than it had been. I believe that when I wrote to you last we was at White River Landing. We left there the next day and come up here. We are now in the best camp we have ever been in since we left Wisconsin. We are in a camp in a Fort; it is a nice place I tell you.

We have lots of picket duty to do. The boys has to go on every other day. We have got a nice house. It is 8 x ten with a board roof, a window in the north-east corner, and a door in the north. We have got a table big enough for six to eat on. There is six of us messes together. I will tell you who they are. They are: first, J.E. Sayles of Rubicon, George Sitts of Herman, George McDuffy of Iron Ridge, James H. Persone of Neosha, E.H. Alan of Iron Ridge and Henry Welsh of Iron Ridge. The last person I presume you have seen. He used to be around The Ridge once in awhile!

I heard there was lots aparting for Canada to get rid of the Draft. I hope they will ketch every one of them! I suppose that the Copperheads are in hot water now. I heard that Fat Clare of Horicon wanted the people to arm themselves around thare and fight against the Draft. I think they had better let that job out if they know when they are well off! There is too many Union men to let them have their way. I heard that the 9th Regt. was a going home to help enforce the Draft. If they do, the Copperheads had better look out and not to make too much disturbance for they are men that have fought the Rebels and had just as leave fought a traitor as not. I heard that our Regt. was going home to vote and keep down rows. I hope not, for I don't want to go eny further North until my time is out.

I don't know as we'll go home yet. We are getting good

news from Sherman now. He has done the bulley; haint he? I think that Grant will make a strike before long. It is getting cool weather now and almost time for them to be moving. I have got letters from folks up North saying "Why don't Grant and Sherman do something?" They did not believe that they would ever get Richmond. I can tell them why they haint done anything. It has been too hot weather for them to march. Soldiers can't stand it to march when it is so hot. You will hear news from them before long. The first thing you know Richmond will be in the hands of the Yanks. I tell you this war will soon be ended. They have been giving them fits in Mobile.

When you get this write and tell me who was drafted. We are anxious to know. I hope they will draft some of the Stock boys and make them go. I had a letter from Ceymour Taylor a few days ago. He was afraid he would be drafted. He did not know what his family would do if he was drafted; he did not know what they would live on for he had raised only enough to keep them one year. I told him that he need not be afraid of their starving to death for I did not think there had enybodys family starved that had enlisted. I told him he hadn't ought to have got married until this was over — he ought to have enlisted and come down here like a man — that soldiering was not as bad as it was to stay home and be afraid of getting drafted. I told him that us fellows just had lots of fun down here a hearing them take on. All I am sorry about is that they did not draft for three years instead of one.

Charles Merrill wrote home a while ago to his father and give the Copperheads fits and his father opened the letter and scratched out "Dear Father" and sent it back to him as much to say he did not own him as a son. Charley felt pretty bad about it, but said "Let him go — there is a here after coming when things will be different!" A man that will do that to a son of his when he is in the Army ought to be hung. He is worse than a Rebel. I would respect a Rebel — a real Butternut more than such a man. I tell you the Copperheads has got to look out for themselves when the soldiers get home or there will be a war in the North and maybe a few less Copperheads! They can have their way now, but the time is a coming when they will have to keep mum or suffer the consequences. I tell you the Army don't make Copperheads by any means. Men that have been down here and fought the Rebels for three years can't stand it to go home and have them praise up the South and say the North can't whip the South and all such things as that. You may think that I am a blowing but I can't help it — it is so! I am a Union man and am going to vote for Abe if I get to vote for all.

Well I guess I shall have to stop writing for it is ten o'clock. When you write tell me all the news you can think of. Tell Mr. Jones I would like to hear from him. I believe that I wrote the last letter to him. Has Albert gone home?

Please excuse poor spelling and writing and all mistakes. Right soon. Give my respects to all and tell them to write to

Henry Welsh

Co. I 29th Regt. Wis. Vol. Inf.

2nd Brigade 2nd Division 19 AC

St. Charles, Ark.

Sept. 15 1864

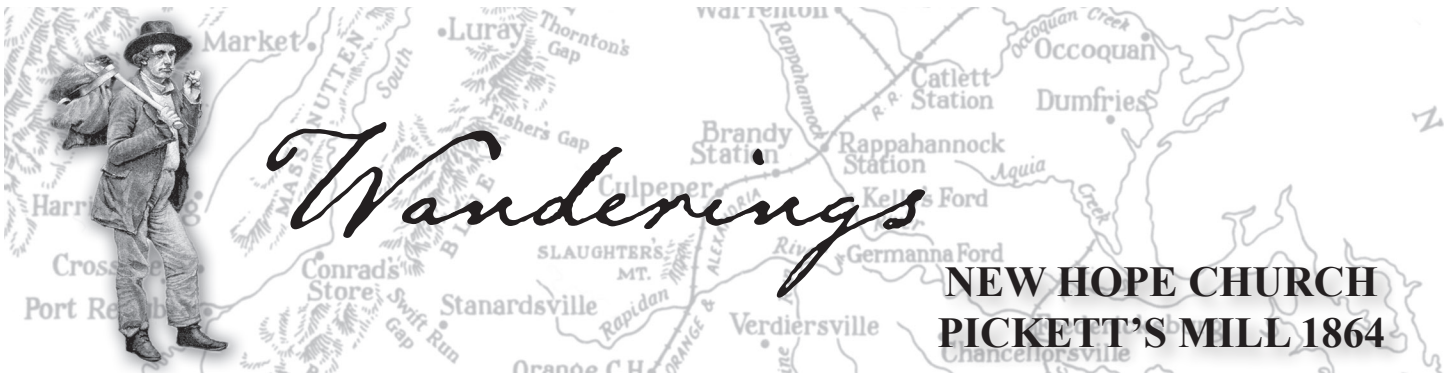
Friend Willard:

I received yours of the 28th ult. this morning before I got out of bed (that you may imagine don't occur very early when the whole thing is left to me). Bob (our colored boy) says "dat ob all de men in de army, dat Genemann (that's your most obt.) hates de wustetest to get up and eat his breakfast"; and I believe the boy is more than half right. I think we were at Morganzia, La. when I wrote you last. We left there on the 3rd of the month, arrived at the mouth of this creek on the 8th, left for this place after taking on rations and have been occupying the half finished works since. When I was here before in January of 1863 this was quite a nice little village, now the "blackness of ashes marks where it stood." You will probably remember that this is the place where the gun boat Mound City while attacking a battery had her stem pipes shot away, scalding a number of the crew and compelling the remainder to jump into the river where they were mercilessly shot by the lank, lousy louts on the bluff overlooking the stream, just above the main works where our Regt. is now camped. We have not got tools yet to finish up the works. So we have turned our attention to Guerilla hunting that you know is a kind of retail business, but one mus'nt be too particular about what branch of trade he engages in when times are hard. We are doing very well, sending small invoices of the reptiles to the other side of Jordan daily. If we stay here long we will exterminate the brew in this section, they are a good thing to lose. We are having beautiful weather here at present, it is tolerable and warm in the middle of the day. Smells a little of the north in the morning, but the evenings and nights are a treat to men who have broiled all summer in the gulf states.

I suppose you are having hot times politically in your section by this time. As you anticipated in your last letter, the "Young Napoleon" has received that which he commenced working for on the first day he assumed Command of the United States forces, viz the nomination for the Presidency by the pro-slavery party of the north.

Well I believe that he is the most available man in the party so far as votes are concerned, he will get all the votes of that no longer inconsiderable portion of the Northern electors who are inherently opposed to decency and progressive civilization while his despicable course of demagoguism with the Army of the Potomac (expressly played in anticipation of his nomination, or something of a shorter cut to power) will give him a heavier vote in the army than any other man whom the Copperheads would feel at all safe in running. There are men who will vote for him and claimed that they are war men, who have been ashamed to support the "peace on any terms" men although they really wanted to if it could have been possible to do so, and furnish a twentieth rate apology for their actions. So that taking all the little gleanings from the possible repairable morals of

continued on page 6



NEW HOPE CHURCH PICKETT'S MILL 1864

The fighting at New Hope Church and Pickett's Mill were part of the series of collisions that occurred in May of 1864 as General William T. Sherman and his three Union armies struggled through Georgia with sights set on capturing its capital. Among the lesser known battles of the Civil War, they are a part of what is commonly called the Atlanta Campaign. The Battle of Kennesaw Mountain was weeks in the future as Sherman sought to engage Confederates and General Joseph E. Johnston in decisive battle. Knowing that the Union forces outnumbered his own significantly, Johnston sought to fight defensive battles while waiting for an opportunity to launch an offensive stroke that would slow Sherman's advance or force him to retreat.

Seeking to bypass a formidable rebel defensive position at Allatoona, on May 22 Sherman cut loose from the railroad. As the railroad was his supply lifeline, this was a bold move. After all, he had an army of over 100,000 to feed and some rugged terrain to traverse. Moving such a mass of human-

ity, with its wagons and artillery, was impossible to conceal. So, as the Federal movement approached New Hope Church, the rebels were entrenched and waiting. Troops under Confederate General Alexander P. Stewart, Thomas C. Hindman, and Carter L. Stevenson had prepared strong positions. Sherman expected little or no resistance, confident that no enemy was near. He remarked, "There haven't been twenty rebels there today." How wrong he turned out to be! Union troops numbering 16,000 tripped and stumbled through thick underbrush in column formation. Just as rain began to fall, the boys in blue broke out of dense thickets and rushed straight at the Confederate lines, a mere 100 feet away.

Stewart's men were ready, and he had ordered his artillery to load double canister. When they opened up on their enemy, the Southerners inflicted over 800 casualties in the first ten minutes. After three hours of fighting both the Rebs

continued on page 11

FROM THE FIELD...continued from page 5

the country together with the great bulk of that which has long ago passed all possibility of ever rising about unmixed depravity he will, I believe run heavier, and get more votes than a good many of his opponents expect at present.

I wish there was a candidate in the field whom I could cordially endorse, as there is not I will have to vote for the least of noxious. Once more in regard to the ward being closed this year I am not at all sanguine, although no one can be more positive than it might practically be ended, wound up, done gone, with the available resources of the United States properly used. You must remember how fidgety and excited I used to get when war matters didn't go to suit me. Well a two years view of "how not to do it" has made me more philosophical in my manner. I intend seeing this thing played out whether it takes five months or five years (unless I get in less time) and whenever in my one horse way I get a chance to burst a Reb head, why there will be one less live Confed. But if my superiors don't see fit to sweep a thousand of them out of existence when a good opportunity is presented I have arrived at the conclusion that it won't pay me to throw myself into a fit fretting over it. We have the power to whip the south into a sense of duty and assert and maintain a first class nationality and if there is not honesty

and manhood enough to carry it out, dissolution and national death ought to be considered a blessing. I don't think we will stay here long from some hints I have received within an hour. Since I commenced writing a Private of Co. K has been drowned in the river just in the rear of my tent. His name is Peterson. I should suppose that the village of Milford was pretty well wed out of men now. By the bye I learned that Ab De Merit although too feeble (so his father said) to soldier for a few years has thrown himself away in the matrimonial line. I hope the poor fellows constitution will bear him through for a few months at least.

In a regard to my own health, I am positive I will never feel strong and tough, but where ever the 29th is, you will find your avuncular friend somewhere in the neighborhood. It sometimes takes considerable extra effort on my part, but I'm bound to be in at the death. I suppose you are still astonishing the natives with feats of muscular strength. Well Frank if we can't bite we can growl.

Respects to Mrs. W.

John B. Scott

(Captain, Co. F, 29th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry)

Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.

YOUR DUES FOR 2014-2015 ARE NOW DUE.

**To keep our roster and mailing lists up-to-date,
payment prior to September 30 would be greatly appreciated.**

The Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee is a Section 501(c)(3) organization. If you itemize, you may deduct as a charitable contribution on your federal and state income tax returns your dues and other contributions in cash and kind (but not the cost of dinners).

Your Name(s) _____

(PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF ADDRESS, IF ANY)

Fill in appropriate amounts:

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP – \$40 \$ _____

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP – \$50 \$ _____

(Two adults & children under 18 living at same address)

NONRESIDENT MEMBERSHIP – \$25 \$ _____

(Individuals living 100 miles or more from Milwaukee)

STUDENT MEMBERSHIP – \$20 \$ _____

(Attending an educational institution)

CONTRIBUTION TO ANNUAL FUND \$ _____

(To help finance Round Table civic/charitable contributions)

TOTAL REMITTANCE \$ _____

Make checks payable to:
Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee.

Mail to: Paul A. Eilbes
CWRT of Milwaukee, Inc.
1809 Washington Ave.
Cedarburg, WI 53012-9730

PLEASE RETURN TOP PORTION WITH PAYMENT.

.....
Retain this section for your Records.

CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF MILWAUKEE DUES, 2014-2015

\$40 Individual Membership	_____	Date Paid	_____
\$50 Family Membership	_____	Amt. Paid	_____
\$25 Nonresident Membership	_____	Check No.	_____
\$20 Student Membership	_____		
Contribution for CWRT Annual Fund	_____		

The Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee admits members of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all its rights, privileges, programs, and activities.

AND SO IT CONTINUES:

August and September 1864...

Marking the Civil War Sesquicentennial

AUGUST 1864

August would find Petersburg under severe partial siege with Richmond and the Confederate government also under serious threat. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia was outnumbered. Atlanta was under its own form of siege. Dissension was increasing in Southern political circles. In the North, Lincoln faced dissension from both the Radicals on one side and peace elements on the other. The cost of Grant's campaign was both a political issue as well as real concern over the cost in manpower. The North faced the prospect of another fall and winter of war.

August 1, 1864 • Grant appoints Major General Philip Sheridan as the commander of the Army of the Shenandoah. Sheridan left for Harpers Ferry by the first train. Sheridan's mission — rid the Valley of Jubal Early's threat once and for all.

August 2, 1864 • Jubal Early's cavalry under McCausland once again fought at Hancock, Maryland, as they sought to recross the Potomac after their Chambersburg raid.

August 3, 1864 • Federal land forces on Dauphin Island invested Fort Gaines at the entrance to Mobile Bay. The fort would remain in Confederate hands, guarding the entrance from the west, along with Fort Morgan on the east. McCausland escaped from Maryland to West Virginia. Lincoln, keeping an eye on the Valley situation, told Grant that something needed to be done immediately.

August 4, 1864 • At Mobile Bay, Admiral Farragut was impatient to get on with the battle. He would write to Captain Jenkins, the senior officer at Pensacola:

I can lose no more days. I must go in day after tomorrow morning at daylight or a little after. It is a bad time, but when you do not take fortune at her offer you must take her as you can find her.

Lt. J.C. Watson continued to take a boat crew into the bay at night to deactivate and sink Confederate torpedoes in the channel.

August 5, 1864 • In the morning, Farragut and his Union fleet of 18 ships enter Mobile Bay, passing between the two forts guarding the three-mile channel. The *C.S.S. Tennessee* awaited the attack. The *U.S.S. Tecumseh* strikes a torpedo and sinks in seconds, losing 90 of its 114 men, including the captain. Shortly after, Farragut, in the rigging of the *Hartford* is said to have shouted, "Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead." The rest of the Union fleet would pass the forts sustaining only minor loss. By 10 a.m., after a heavy pounding by Union boats, the *C.S.S. Tennessee* surrendered.

In Washington, the Radical Republican elements in Congress opened their campaign against President Lincoln.

August 6, 1864 • During the night of August 5th into the 6th, the Confederates evacuated Fort Powell after being bombarded by the *U.S.S. Chickasaw*. The *Chickasaw* would bombard Fort Gaines on the 6th.

Heavy fighting occurred at Utoy Creek for the third day as Sherman attempted to cut the railroads south of Atlanta. The Federals finally outflanked the Confederate line, forcing the Southerners to fall back.

August 7, 1864 • Colonel Charles D. Anderson, CSA, commander of Fort Gaines, proposed surrender to Farragut:

Feeling my inability to maintain my present position longer than you may see fit to open upon me with your fleet, and feeling also the uselessness of entailing upon ourselves further destruction of life, I have the honor to propose the surrender of Fort Gaines, its garrison, stores etc.

August 8, 1864 • The Union flag now flew over Fort Gaines following the surrender of its garrison by Colonel Charles D. Anderson.

August 9, 1864 • Brigadier General Richard L. Page refuses to surrender Fort Morgan at Mobile Bay until he had no means of resistance. Federals lay siege to the fort.

At City Point, two Confederate members of the Torpedo Corps, carried a box through the Union sentry lines and down to the wharf. The box is left on board an ammunition barge where it exploded an hour later killing 43, injuring 126 and causing great property damage. Grant, sitting in front of his tent, was showered with debris but was uninjured.

August 10, 1864 • Joe Wheeler with his Confederate cavalry begins a raid on Federal rail lines in north Georgia and east Tennessee. The raid would last until September 9.

August 11, 1864 • Jubal Early, faced with the advance of Sheridan's forces, pulls out of Winchester and heads south up the Shenandoah toward Cedar Creek.

President Davis tells Lee at Petersburg: "It is thought idle to attack your entrenchments but feasible to starve you out."

August 12, 1864 • Sheridan moves towards Early in the Shenandoah with a brief skirmish occurring at Cedar Creek.

August 13, 1864 • Fighting breaks out in the Shenandoah Valley at Berryville near Strasburg as Sheridan's forces meet resistance from Early's forces at Cedar Creek.

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

August 14, 1864 • Skirmishing occurs near Strasburg as Sheridan withdrew from Early's front towards Berryville. On the Atlanta front, skirmishing occurred near Dalton, Pin Log Church, and near Fairmont, Georgia.

August 15, 1864 • In the evening, Sheridan began his withdrawal from Cedar Creek toward Winchester. Sheridan believed he could not hold the line and could not properly supply his army. In Georgia, Sherman's men were moving slowly toward Utoy Creek. Confederate cavalry raid the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad in Tennessee. Federals raid the Florida Railroad near Gainesville, Florida through August 19.

August 16, 1864 • Commander John Taylor Wood, C.S.S. Tallahassee, captures and burns five United States merchantmen off the coast of New England.

August 17, 1864 • Early comes out of his entrenchments and heads north towards Winchester. Sheridan's cavalry held the Confederates at Winchester, keeping Early from joining the main Confederate column.

General John Bankhead Magruder is appointed commander of Confederate forces in Arkansas.

August 18, 1864 • At Atlanta, General Judson Kilpatrick starts his four-day raid on Lovejoy's Station south of the city to destroy the Macon and Western Railroad. The raid would fail due to strong Confederate resistance.

In the Petersburg lines, Warren's Fifth Corps moves to the left flank of the Federal lines occupying more than a mile of the railroad going to Weldon, North Carolina — one of the vital links for Richmond. Warren's corps heads towards Petersburg but are stopped by Henry Heth's Confederates.

August 19, 1864 • A.P. Hill's corps assault Warren's forces driving the Federals back but not off the railroad. Warren's troops hold but lose over 2,500 captured. Early attempts an advance against Sheridan on the Winchester Pike, but makes little progress.

August 20, 1864 • Confederates temporarily suspend their efforts to dislodge the Federals from Weldon Railroad. President Davis expressed his distress at the presence of Federal troops on the Weldon Railroad.

August 21, 1864 • In an early morning raid, two thousand men under Nathan Bedford Forrest, enter Memphis and hold it for part of the day, nearly capturing Major Generals Stephen Hurlbut and C.C. Washburn and then leaving with few losses. A. J. Smith's Federal column would pull back, leaving Forrest free reign to raid Sherman's supply lines.

A.P. Hill attacks Warren's forces again in his attempt to retake Weldon Railroad. The attack failed and the new Federal lines held.

August 23, 1864 • Fort Morgan at Mobile Bay surrenders after two weeks of heavy naval bombardment. Commander

Page was taken prisoner and held at Fort Delaware until July 24, 1865.

In Washington, President Lincoln asked his Cabinet members to sign, without reading, a memo:

This morning, as for some days past, it seems exceedingly probable that this Administration will not be re-elected. Then it will be my duty to so co-operate with the President elect, as to save the Union between the election and the inauguration; as he will have secured his election on such ground that he can not possibly save it afterwards.

August 24, 1864 • Federals realize that Confederate infantry is building up near the Union troops who were destroying large sections of the Weldon Railroad.

President Lincoln writes to politician and editor Henry J. Raymond suggesting that Raymond might seek a conference with President Davis to discuss peace, indicating that hostilities would cease "upon the restoration of the Union and the national authority."

August 25, 1864 • Striking against the Federal infantry at Weldon Railroad south of Petersburg, A.P. Hill's forces defeat Hancock's Second Corps in a surprise attack. Although victorious, Hill's attack did not stop the destruction or the build-up of the westward extension of the Union siege lines around Petersburg. In Atlanta, Sherman began his principal movement to cut off Atlanta completely.

August 27, 1864 • At Atlanta Sherman's army was ready to cut the final link to the city. Most of the army was in position southwest of Atlanta and were ready to push farther south and swing east to cut Hood's last railroads into the city.

August 28, 1864 • Sherman is advancing. Major General George Thomas's Army of the Cumberland reached the Atlanta and West Point Railroad at Red Oak. Otis O. Howard's Army of the Tennessee was on the same railroad near Fairburn. Schofield's Army of the Ohio was at Mt. Gilead Church and Major General H.W Slocum manned the Union lines immediately around Atlanta. The sealing off of the city was almost complete.

August 29, 1864 • The Democratic National Convention convened in Chicago determined to nominate a candidate who could defeat Lincoln.

August 30, 1864 • Sherman severs one of the last two railroads into Atlanta and marched quickly toward the Macon line.

August 31, 1864 • The Democrats ballot in Chicago and nominate George B. McClellan for President and George H. Pendleton for Vice-President. Schofield's Army of the Ohio cut the last rail link to Atlanta when the Macon-Atlanta line was crossed between Jonesborough and Atlanta. Hood sends Hardee to attack Howard's Army of the Tennessee near Jonesborough. The attack fails.

SEPTEMBER 1864

September would begin with Atlanta on the verge of yielding to Sherman and his army. The siege at Petersburg continued to tighten. Sheridan and Early continued to spar. Three candidates for President were in the field: Lincoln, McClellan and Frémont. Richmond's food supply was lower and prices higher. In the North, the fall harvest was abundant assuring no lack of provisions for the Union Army.

September 1, 1864 • Atlanta was being evacuated. The munitions dumps and railroad yards were blown up by Hood's departing Confederates. Fires broke out around the area of the explosions with very little attempt to put them out as the army hurried to make their escape.

September 2, 1864 • The city of Atlanta is surrendered to Union forces by Mayor James Calhoun. "Atlanta is ours and fairly won" Sherman wrote informing Washington that Atlanta had been taken.

Lee pressed Early to return troops loaned to him; Lee felt their absence at Petersburg. On the Petersburg line the Federals were again at work on the Weldon Railroad, securing more of the line and tearing up track.

September 3, 1864 • Sherman arrives in Atlanta. In the Valley, Sheridan was moving up the Valley Pike. In Washington, President Lincoln, by Presidential Order, declared September 5 a day of celebration for the victories at Atlanta and Mobile.

September 4, 1864 • Confederate raider and cavalry leader John Hunt Morgan is shot dead by a Federal raiding party as he tried to join his men. In Atlanta Sherman was making preparations to bring in his armies for a month of regrouping and rest. Hood was gathering his battered ranks near Lovejoy's Station. At Charleston, the third bombardment of Fort Sumter ended after 60 days.

September 5, 1864 • Voters in Louisiana who had taken the oath of loyalty ratified the new state constitution, which included the abolition of slavery.

September 6, 1864 • All was quiet on the battle fronts of Virginia, the Shenandoah, and Georgia. Maryland's convention adopted a new constitution abolishing slavery.

September 7, 1864 • Sherman orders the evacuation of Atlanta:

I have deemed it to the interest of the United States that the citizens now residing in Atlanta should remove, those who prefer it to go South and the rest North.

1,600 people, approximately 446 families, left the city between September 11 and 20, leaving behind not only their homes but nearly all their possessions. The mayor of Atlanta, General Hood and others protested to no avail. Sherman indicated he would have enough trouble feeding his own troops and would not feed the civilians. He wrote:

If the people raise a howl against my barbarity and cruelty, I will answer that war is war and not popularity-seeking.

September 8, 1864 • In Orange, New Jersey, Major General George B. McClellan formally accepted the Democratic nomination for President.

September 10, 1864 • Joe Wheeler returns to Confederate lines following a raid into North Georgia.

September 11, 1864 • At Andersonville prison, 1380 prisoners were loaded into railway cars, 60 men to a car, and transported from the prison. The heavily guarded train arrived in Macon the following morning with the final destination to be Charleston.

September 12, 1864 • Sherman began the second day of the civilian evacuation from Atlanta amid curses, pleas and threats from all sides. Sherman was unrelenting in his resolve.

The 1,380 Andersonville prisoners arrived in Charleston and were unloaded and marched to the fairgrounds, which would be their home until October 1.

Grant and Lincoln were displeased over the lack of decisive action in the Shenandoah by Sheridan.

September 13, 1864 • At Mobile Bay, small boats took on the job of clearing the torpedoes from the main channel. The boats would enter the mine field, dismantle and then sink the torpedoes one-by-one. Despite all their efforts, some torpedoes were missed and several Union ships would be sunk in the upcoming months.

In the Valley, light skirmishing took place between Sheridan's and Early's armies.

September 14, 1864 • In the Valley, Grant and Lincoln pressured Sheridan to do something about Early. Early was being pressured by Lee to return R.H. Anderson's corps to the Army of Northern Virginia. Early released Anderson to move his corps back to Petersburg to bolster Lee's thinning ranks.

September 15, 1864 • Grant heads north from the Petersburg lines to talk to Sheridan about future action in the Shenandoah. Secretary of the Navy Gideon Welles receives a letter from Admiral David Farragut dated August 27th requesting that he be relieved of command for health reasons.

September 16, 1864 • In an expedition that would last about a month, at Verona, Mississippi, Nathan Bedford Forrest started out with 4500 cavalry and mounted infantry to operate against Sherman's communications in northern Alabama and middle Tennessee. At Charles Town, West Virginia, Grant and Sheridan met. Sheridan learned that Anderson's corps had left for Petersburg, weakening the Confederate presence in the Valley.

September 17, 1864 • John Charles Frémont withdrew his name from the November ballot. Early moved down the Valley towards Martinsburg and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.

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AND SO IT CONTINUES...*continued from page 9*

September 18, 1864 • Early sends a portion of his force from Bunker Hill north to Martinsburg where they drove in the Federal cavalry and then pulled back to Bunker Hill. Sheridan moved directly upon Winchester hoping to hit Early's divisions separately.

September 19, 1864 • The Third Battle of Winchester. The main force of Sheridan's infantry drove up the Valley Pike around Berryville and strongly hit the Confederates. Confederate General Robert E. Rodes was mortally wounded during a drive into a gap in the Union line. The Federals held. Union cavalry drove General Breckinridge's division from north of the city to a new line east of Winchester. Late in the afternoon, Sheridan ordered a new advance — Early withdrew up the Valley.

September 20, 1864 • Sheridan's troops chase Early's retreating troops through Middletown finally stopping when the Confederates were south of Strasburg on Fisher's Hill. Federals entrenched north of the town. At Atlanta, Wheeler's Confederate cavalry was creating supply problems for Sherman.

September 21, 1864 • Sheridan was assigned to permanent command of the Middle Military District, including the Shenandoah Valley. Sheridan advanced on Early's position on Fisher's Hill. Sheridan sent General Crook to the right and around the left flank of the Confederates. In Middle Tennessee, Nathan Bedford Forrest was outside of Athens and threatening the city and its Federal garrison.

September 22, 1864 • Sheridan is poised to attack Early's forces as soon as Crook gets into position on Early's left flank. In late afternoon, Crook's Federals come over the Rebel entrenchments, taking them in the rear and the flank. Union troops in the front attack at the same time. Confederate Lt. Colonel Alexander Swift Pendleton was mortally wounded by a shot in the abdomen. Union troops chased the Confederate troops for four miles up the Valley. Early lost 1235 men.

September 23, 1864 • President Lincoln asks Postmaster General Montgomery Blair to resign; Blair tenders his resignation.

September 24, 1864 • In the Valley, Sheridan burned crops, barns and anything else usable to the Confederacy as he slowly advanced up the Valley towards Early.

September 25, 1864 • Sheridan's army moves towards Staunton and Waynesborough, Virginia, destroying railroads and other property in his path and forcing Early back to Brown's Pass in the Blue Ridge.

September 26, 1864 • Sheridan's cavalry clash with Early's horse and infantry around Port Republic, Weyer's Cave, and Brown's Gap before pulling out and leaving Early to restore his army.

September 27, 1864 • At Centralia, Missouri, a small guerrilla force under "Bloody Bill" Anderson, attack the town.

Among the force are George Todd and Frank and Jesse James. Twenty-four unarmed soldiers were murdered at Centralia. 116 Federal troops were killed when they came to rescue the town — ambushed by Anderson's men.

September 28, 1864 • President Davis wires Hood to relieve Lt. General Hardee from the Army of Tennessee and send him to command the Department of South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida.

September 29, 1864 • A two-pronged Federal drive begins on the Petersburg-Richmond line; one north of the James against the Richmond defenses and one west of Petersburg attempting to extend the lines and penetrate the South Side Railroad and the Appomattox River

September 30, 1864 • The month would end with Lee directing counterattacks after losing Fort Harrison north of the James the previous day. Federals would beat off the Southern assaults ending major Federal attempts against Richmond from north of the James. The Confederates would construct new outer works between the Fort Harrison line and Richmond; the Federals would build up and man siege lines east of the Confederate capital. The two-pronged Federal attack had strained the Confederates and forced a rapid shift of troops from one threatened front to the other.

And so it continues.

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WANDERINGS...continued from page 6

and the elements, the Federals had lost 1,600 men to about one-fourth of that number for themselves. Sherman had received a severe drubbing, but was determined to get around his numerically inferior foe and make for Atlanta.

His next movement was led by General Oliver O. Howard. Designed as a quick flanking maneuver, on May 27 Howard was sent with 14,000 to find the Confederate far right flank. To counter this movement, Johnston sent a force of 10,000 veterans under the magnificent Irishman Patrick R. Cleburne to bar the way. Fresh earthworks were constantly encountered by the Union and so three Union divisions kept moving east until, believing he had finally found the exposed enemy flank, Howard sent the following message back to Sherman. "I am now turning the enemy's right flank, I think." Forming into a narrow but deep front, a drive toward the Confederate position was launched. Miscommunication and, perhaps, willful neglect of duty, led to disaster. General William B. Hazen's 1,600 men brushed aside a cavalry screen and swept across an open wheat field towards what they believed was the Confederate's unprotected rear. Instead they found Texans under Hiram Granbury of Cleburne's division waiting for them. The Texan's galling musketry was supplemented by a two-gun battery under Captain Thomas Key. Refusing to retreat, but unable to advance, Hazen's men hung on and awaited reinforcements. Led by a political enemy of Howard's, those reinforcements have taken a wrong turn, however, and were unavailable. The general commanding later claims a want of rations kept his men out of the fight. Two more Union brigades then advanced to relieve the pressure on Hazen, but they, too, were destroyed as Confederate reinforcements are shuffled to meet trouble spots. Union losses for the day totaled about 1,700 men. The Confederates claimed to have lost just under 400. Union officer and postwar author Ambrose Bierce described the fight as a "criminal blunder." The two battles in the Georgia wilderness convinced Sherman to forgo his flanking movement and to return to the railroads. Could they also have contributed to his frustra-

tions and his decision to assault the Kennesaw Line with bloody frontal attacks in June?

The Pickett's Mill battlefield is a part of the state of Georgia's park system. While many Civil War sites purport to be pristine and to closely resemble their long-ago appearance, this site must be near the top of the list of those which actually fulfill that claim. Deep ravines and thick woods mask narrow trails along both Union and Confederate lines. Clearly recognizable trenches reveal the locations of earthworks dug in 1864. The site of the mill which gives the battle its name is quite evident. A lone hiker is haunted by the cry of raptors as he makes his way along the park paths through woods and cuts in the earth that haven't changed much from the way they looked to Sherman, Hazen, and Howard; to Stewart, Granbury and Cleburne. A small visitors' center has a very well done museum and short film to acquaint travelers with the events at Pickett's Mill. At about two miles through rugged terrain, the hike along the old battle lines isn't for the casual sightseer. For those who want to get a glimpse of what the boys saw in 1864, however, it's a hike well worth the time and effort. And, if one is extremely fortunate, or unfortunate depending on point of view, the sounds of the 1864 battle complete with musket fire and battle cries may resonate through the humid Georgia air. For the Pickett's Mill battlefield is said to still hold the spirits of those who departed this earth at what soldiers on both sides called the "Hell Hole!"

For an extremely readable account of the battles in the Georgia woods, Russell W. Blount, Jr. wrote a book appropriately titled *The Battles of New Hope Church*. Another good selection discussing just Pickett's Mill is one that is part of the Civil War Sesquicentennial Series. Written by Brad Butkovich, it is called *The Battle of Pickett's Mill: Across the Dead Line*.

Submitted by Dave Wege

Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for September 11, 2014

Mail your reservations by Monday, September 8, 2014, to: ALSO, call in reservations to:

Paul Eilbes

(262) 376-0568

1809 Washington Ave.

peilbes@gmail.com

Cedarburg, WI 53012-9730

Enclosed is \$ ____ (meal price \$25.00 per person) for ____ reservations for September 11, 2014, meeting of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee. (Please make checks payable to the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.)

Name of Member _____

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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.



In September 1951 Seymour Frank talked to the Round Table on "We'll Hang Jeff Davis from a Sour Apple Tree."

William A. Sutton was our featured speaker in September 1971. The topic that evening was "Carl Sandburg and Abraham Lincoln."

In September 1981 Dr. Kenneth A. Hafendorfer visited out Round Table and spoke to the group about "Perryville, the Battle for Kentucky."

"Major General James S. Wadsworth" was the subject of Wayne Mahood's presentation at the September 2010 meeting.

At last year's September meeting the Round Table welcomed John Michael Priest who spoke on "The Maryland Campaign from Leesburg through South Mountain."