

# GENERAL ORDERS



The Newsletter of the

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



October 8, 2015

Dennis Frye

## “John Brown: The Spark That Ignited the War”

*I, John Brown, am quite certain that the crimes of this guilty land will never be purged away but with blood. I had as I now think, vainly flattered myself that without very much bloodshed, it might be done.*

November 12, 1859

Letter to his brother Jeremiah

Martyr or madman? Saint or the devil? Terrorist or Freedom Fighter? Dramatic and divisive words have always defined John Brown.

There is no doubt that John Brown was a driven man – a man in total opposition to slavery and filled with fiery abolitionist zeal. Brown would ultimately turn to violence in his pursuit to end the institution he so despised.

Frederick Douglass would write of Brown:

*Though a white gentleman, he is in sympathy a black man and as deeply interested in our cause as though his own soul had been pierced by the iron of slavery.*

Brown would settle his family in the black community of North Elba located in the New York Adirondacks in 1849. He would move to the new territory of Kansas in 1855; the territory would very soon become a battleground.

On May 24, 1856, Brown would lead a party of militant abolitionists to Pottawatomie Creek where five pro-slavery settlers would be slaughtered. In January 1858, raiders under his leadership would liberate twelve slaves in Missouri and deliver them to Canada and freedom.

October 16, 1859 would be Brown’s last raid – the assault on the federal armory in Harpers Ferry. Although Brown initially took control of the armory, within 36 hours, U.S. Marines under the leadership of Robert E. Lee and J.E.B. Stuart would storm the armory regaining control, killing several of Brown’s band and capturing Brown.



Our October speaker and Nevins-Freeman recipient, Dennis Frye, will discuss how few individuals have stirred America like John Brown. His attack on Harpers Ferry – designed to launch his war to end slavery – proved a media sensation. No one, North or South, ignored Brown. No one could predict what he had

wrought. Brown’s attack ended in failure. But did John Brown fail? Frye will discuss this and more at our October meeting.

**More about our October speaker may be found on page 8.**

## General Orders No. 10-15

October 2015

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### October Meeting at a Glance

**Wisconsin Club 9<sup>th</sup> and Wisconsin**  
[Jackets required for the dining room.]

6:15 p.m. - Registration/Social Hour

6:45 p.m. - Dinner

**[\$30 by reservation, please]**

Reservations are accepted until

Monday, October 5, 2015

7:30 p.m. - Program

**Speaker and topic are subject to change. In case of inclement weather, listen to WTMJ or WISN for meeting status.**

### 2015-2016 Speaker Schedule

November 12, 2015 – Philip Leigh  
“Trading with the Enemy”

December 10, 2015 – Dave Keller  
Camp Douglas

January 7, 2016 – David Moore  
William S. Rosecrans

February 11, 2016 – Don Doyle  
“The Cause of All Nations”

March 10, 2016 – Bruce Kraig  
“Why the Civil War Made Our Modern Food”

April 7, 2016 – Greg Biggs  
“Nashville: Siren’s Song of the Confederacy”

May 12, 2016 – Glenna Schroeder-Lein  
“The Soldiers’ Home in Civil War America”

June 9, 2016 – Dale Phillips  
“Ben Butler and the Federal Occupation of New Orleans”

# Civil War Round Table News

## When Reservations are Cancelled

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

## Your Cooperation is Appreciated

“Walk-in dinner” requests are sometimes difficult to honor. Remember, dinner reservations are to be made at least 48 hours prior to the meeting date. We are always happy to accommodate where possible, but we cannot always guarantee a dinner that evening if you have not called in or emailed your reservation. Thank you for your understanding.

## Postal Service Changes

Please be aware that due to changes in the sorting and routing procedures of the U.S. Postal Service, mail is taking as much as **three business days** for local deliveries. If you are mailing in your reservations for dinner, you may want to send them a day or two earlier than you have in the past. As an option, call or e-mail me that you have put your reservation in the mail, so I can look for it.

## Special Dietary Needs

We have quite a number of regular members who have opted for special entrees as options to the regular dinner being served. The Wisconsin Club and the Round Table will make every effort to meet any special dietary needs you may have. As a courtesy, **please give a reminder when making your reservations**, so we don't forget to serve you what you're expecting!

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Milwaukee Civil War Round Table Board of Directors is listed in this issue of your General Orders. Feel free to speak to any of them about suggestions for and/or concerns about the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table.

## From Your Treasurer

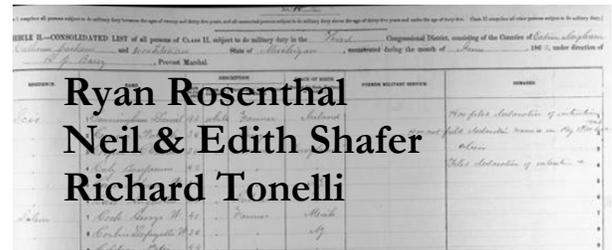
The September *General Orders* included your dues renewal notice along with a postage paid envelope. Our membership year runs from July 1 to June 30, and all memberships come due at that time. If you have not already done so, now is the time to renew. By returning dues promptly, you save the Round Table the cost of sending out further reminders. Thank you for being a member of your Round Table.

## CHANGE IN DINNER PRICE

Due to an increase in costs, please be aware that the price of dinner will be increasing to **\$30.00 per person**. **This change will be effective with our next meeting on October 8<sup>th</sup>**. Thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation.

Paul Eilbes  
Treasurer

## *The Muster Roll: NEW MEMBERS*



## MCWRT Annual Fund

The following members have made a generous commitment to the MCWRT by investing in that fund. This list reflects those donations made from July 1 through September 12, 2015.

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

#### *Patron (\$200 - \$499)*

Crain Bliwas, Robert Parrish

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

Paul Eilbes, Bill Finke, Jim & Ann Reeve,  
David & Helga Sartori, Dennis Slater,  
Paul Sotirin, Wisconsin Civil War  
Sesquicentennial Commission

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

George Affeldt, John & Linda Connelly, Tom  
Corcoran, Dr. Gordon Dammann, Bob Dude,  
Lori Duginski, Gary and Judith Ertel, Ted  
Fetting, Richard Gross, Richard Heaps,  
Dr. Erwin Huston, Eugene and Jane Jamrozy,  
Dr. Robert Karczewski, Allan Kasprzak, Ardis  
Kelling, Jerome Kowalski, Jay Lauck, Fredric  
Madsen, Jerry & Donna Martynski, Kenneth &  
Mary Ellen Nelson, Herbert Oechler, Chet Rohn,  
Dan Tanty, Gil Vraney, Fred Wendorf



In his famous Cooper Union speech on February 27, 1860, Lincoln made sure to distance himself and the Republican Party from the acts committed by John Brown.

*You charge that we stir up insurrections among your slaves. We deny it: and what is your proof? Harpers Ferry! John Brown!! John Brown was no Republican; and you have failed to implicate a single Republican in his Harpers Ferry enterprise.*



In October 1953, Robert B. Browne talked to the Round Table on “Nathan Bedford Forrest.”

Gilbert C. Govan was our Round Table speaker in October 1963 speaking on “The President & the General.”

“Lincoln and the Blacks” was the topic of Richard H. Sewell’s presentation to the Round Table in October 1973.

Robert K. Krick spoke to the Round Table in October 1983 about “William Barksdale: Flamboyant Politician and Soldier of the South.”

In October 1993 our featured speaker was Robert A. Braun speaking on “An Incident at a Gettysburg Hospital.”

“Lee After Chancellorsville” was presented by our October 2003 speaker Jerry Russell.

At last year’s October meeting we welcomed Mark Bradley who spoke on “When East Meets West: Joe Hooker, O.O. Howard and the Atlanta Campaign.”

## **COMING ATTRACTIONS**

**October 12, 2015, 7 p.m.**

Manitowoc Civil War Round Table  
Manitowoc Historical Society Heritage Center

**October 13, 2015, 7 p.m.**

Waukesha Civil War Round Table  
Citizens Bank of Mukwonago Waukesha Branch  
“Escaped Slaves and Their Journey with the 108th Black Infantry”

**October 22, 2015, 7 p.m.**

Prairieville Irregulars Civil War Round Table  
Citizens Bank of Mukwonago Waukesha Branch  
Jim Heinz: “Third Man on the Monument: The Life of Howard Bass Cushing, the Forgotten Cushing”

## **SPECIAL EVENTS AT THE SHEBOYGAN COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM 3110 Erie Avenue, Sheboygan**

### **The Lincoln Series**

Steven Rogstad will present a series of four lectures on the mysterious and slightly odd parts of the Lincolns’ lives. The series is free of charge and open to the public.

*These lectures are made possible by funding from the John and Hilda Holden Memorial Fund*

Please see page 8 of the *General Orders* for more details about Steve’s lecture series.

## **Kenosha Civil War Museum**

**Saturday, October 3, 2015, 1 – 3 p.m.**

**Black Hats in the Corn Field: The Iron Brigade at Antietam and Thereafter**

**Instructor: Lance Herdegen**

The famous Iron Brigade of the West played a key role in the opening Union attack at Antietam in Maryland in 1862. It was one of the bloodiest and most significant periods in American history. This is the story of the sacking of George McClellan as commander of the Army of the Potomac and how the Emancipation Proclamation came to be. \$15/\$10 Friends of the Museum

### **Second Friday Lunchbox Series**

**John Brown: The Spark That Ignited the Civil War  
Friday: October 9, 2015, Noon**

**Presented by: Dennis Frye**

John Brown is one of the most polarizing figures in American history. Saint or madman? Murderer or liberator? Terrorist or freedom fighter? Dennis Frye, head historian at Harpers Ferry National Historic Park will discuss Brown.

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

**Civil War Movie Night: The Searchers  
Friday, October 16, 2015, 6:30 p.m.**

Advance ticket purchase encouraged.

\$10/\$5 Friends of the Museum – includes popcorn & soda

**Hollywood and Civil War Medicine**

**Wednesday, November 4, 2015, 6:30 – 8 p.m.**

**Presented by: Dr. Gordon Dammann**

The class will discuss how Hollywood has treated the subject of Civil War medicine through the years. Clips from well-known films will be used to illustrate the Hollywood version of Civil War medicine and what they got right and wrong. \$15/\$10 Friends of the Museum

**Remembering OUR FALLEN**

**November 4-12, 2015, Civil War Museum Lobby**

A display of military and personal photos of Wisconsin’s fallen soldiers 2001-present.

Courtesy of Piasecki-Althaus Funeral Services

**Hollywood Presents: The Civil War and Post-Civil War Westward Expansion**

**September 12, 2015 through January 3, 2016**

**Antaramian Gallery**

Original movie posters, lobby cards, inserts, and window cards of famous Civil War films from 1939-1969.

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

## The Lincoln Funeral

by Ardis Kelling



An undertaking of historic proportions took place May 2-3, 2015 in Springfield, IL to commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the funeral and burial of Abraham Lincoln in that city, and to close the observance of the Civil War Sesquicentennial.

Several years ago, a dedicated group of people – a prominent locomotive engineer, historians, countless Lincoln and Civil War organizations, re-enactors, military bands, and the Springfield community joined together to plan, finance, and execute this tremendous historical experience.

In 1865, the United States Military Railroad delivered a private railroad car, named the *United States*, to Abraham Lincoln. He never used it in life. Rather, it delivered his body, the body of his son, Willie (died 1828), mourners Robert Todd Lincoln (Mary was too ill to travel) and selected government officials to Springfield. It was a long, winding route from Washington, D.C. through ten mid-eastern states. At each stop, the casket was opened for public viewing, as the nation mourned.

Sadly, the original engine and funeral car are long gone. However, blueprints and pictures were available. David Kloke, a master mechanic and owner of Kloke Locomotive Works, decided to build a replica of the Lincoln engine, named the *Leviathan*, and a funeral car, matching the rich details of the originals.

At first, this twelve day, 1700 mile trip across the country was to duplicate the original journey. But the expenses of side-lining the busy routes of today between New York and Chicago made it impossible. So many good ideas explored, so little time, it seemed, to prepare and deliver them.



At last, in May 2015, the engine and funeral car were united outside Springfield and slowly chugged into the station at 10 a.m., its bell signaling its arrival. The wooden casket, glistening with many sterling silver nails, was lifted to a horse-drawn hearse, with windows and back draping on all sides. On the roof were high plumes made of ostrich feathers. A Civil War band led the procession to the Old State Capitol for the opening ceremonies, and was left there through the night with a heavy vigilance of armed guards and torch lights.

In the audience, were many Springfield residents and members of visiting Civil War encampments, carrying their rifles backwards and upside down to denote the end of the War. Men in top hats and vests, ladies in hoop skirts, bonnets and parasols. Some impersonated well known people. I met Lincoln's undertaker, Frank T. Sands, and the Civil War photographer Matthew Brady!

That evening, the Crowne Plaza Hotel took dinner reservations and displayed about 28 authentic Civil War dresses – from simple to extravagant, all owned by one woman. The bonus of the evening was the private viewing and walk-through of the replica funeral car. One was quietly transported back to those sad days.

Sunday morning, visitors could attend church services at the First Presbyterian Church, where the Lincolns attended – though Lincoln himself never belonged. The family pew has been preserved.

Promptly at noon, all the church bells began to toll. A Civil War band led the procession, with sad sounding drums for cadence, to Oak Ridge Cemetery, about 35 blocks north. No cars were allowed through the main gates because of probable congestion, but bus service was provided for a small fee, directly to the receiving vault area. The procession entered the original main cemetery gate and marched to the old receiving vault for gravesite ceremonies. By this time, hundreds of people, of all ages, were sitting along the green hillsides. Many Illinois State dignitaries, including the new governor, were present on the podium. In the hot sun, water was a welcomed commodity.

The funeral service followed the exact wordage of the original in 1865, as did the music by the band and several choirs. Lincoln's casket was carried by 11 pallbearers, several of whom were chosen because they were direct descendents of an "original" one.

The cave-like vault was dug into the side of the hill – not very "presidential", but time was needed to design and build the present monument, dedicated in 1874. A 36 cannon salute brought the solemn activities to a close. It took a few moments for all present to wake up, to the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**Author's Note:** This event had poor public announcement outside of Springfield. It was said that state, city and committee leaders did not work well together. With an estimated crowd of 50,000 to relive history, it still was a beautiful, but sad, day of reflection for Springfield and our nation.

*"Now he belongs to the ages."*

As a grand finale of the American Civil War Sesquicentennial, dedicated citizens and historians re-enacted key portions of the Lincoln funeral. MCWRT Ardis Kelling provided these photos that depict the grandeur of that series of events memorializing our assassinated 16<sup>th</sup> President.

On April 21, 1865, a train carrying the coffin of assassinated President Abraham Lincoln left Washington, D.C. on its way to Springfield, Illinois, where he would be buried on May 4. The train carrying Lincoln's body traveled through 180 cities and seven states on its way to Lincoln's home state of Illinois. Scheduled stops for the special funeral train were published in newspapers.

At each stop, Lincoln's coffin was taken off the train, placed on an elaborately decorated horse-drawn hearse and led by solemn processions to a public building for viewing. In cities as large as Columbus, Ohio, and as small as Herkimer, New York, thousands of mourners flocked to pay tribute to the slain president. In Philadelphia, Lincoln's body lay in state in the east wing of Independence Hall, the same site where the Declaration of Independence was signed. Newspapers reported that people had to wait more than five hours to pass by the president's coffin in some cities.



Lincoln's funeral train was dubbed "The Lincoln Special." (His portrait was fastened to the front of the engine above the cattle guard.) Approximately 300 people accompanied Lincoln's body on the 1,654-mile journey, including his eldest son Robert. Also on the train was a coffin containing the body of Lincoln's son Willie, who had died in 1862 at the age of 11 of typhoid fever during Lincoln's second year in office. Willie's body had been disinterred from a plot in Washington, D.C. after Lincoln's death so he could be buried alongside his father at the family plot in Springfield.





Wisconsin State Journal

October 5, 1862

### Review of the 29th Regiment –

Yesterday was a proud day for the 29th Regiment, for they had an excellent opportunity to show what good progress in preparation for the field they had made in the few short weeks since they have been in camp, and to receive the praise of the Governor, the Adjutant General, and a large number of spectators of their movements. In complete marching order, with guns, knapsacks, haversacks and canteens, under the direction of Col. GILL, and their other efficient field officers, they went through battalion drill and exercised in the manual of arms in a manner worthy of high commendation.

At the close of their drill they were formed in line, and then in column by divisions, and drawn up before the Colonel's quarters, where GOV. SALOMON addressed them from on horseback substantially as follows:

*Officers and Soldiers of the 29th Regiment:* — You, too, are called to leave your State and your homes. To-morrow is the day fixed for your departure. As you are the 29th in number, so you are actually the 29th regiment of infantry that leaves Wisconsin to take part in the bloody struggle to restore the Union and compel obedience to the constitution and laws. — As thousands have gone from this State, so thousands have gone from other loyal states, and there is presented such a spectacle as no country ever before witnessed, of a people rallying by hundreds of thousands around an endeared flag, to protect it from dishonor by traitors, and to sustain their Government. We have heard and have read of heroes. When you come to the field of active service, you will see heroes — men who have endured hardships — men who have bravely fought and conquered the foe. Remember their gallant deeds, and seek to emulate them.

You are going forth, perhaps, to spill your best blood in defence of your country. You have rallied voluntarily, and taken upon you the yoke of military command, because as freemen, you desire to remain free, and not to be trampled on by aristocrats and slaveholders. From your firm and steady tread — from the stern and earnest expression of your faces — saddened though they be with the thought that you are soon to part from those who are dearest to you — I take the assurance that Wisconsin will look with pride on your conduct.

To-day I received the original order of Gen. McClellan — to which you have seen reference in the papers — where he says of the three Wisconsin regiments in Gibbon's Brigade that "they are equal to the best troops in any

army in the world." You must have been in the field to comprehend and understand what those few words mean. You must have seen the great armies and the splendidly trained soldiers of Europe to know how high praise that is. And yet I believe that you and every regiment from our State will be found equal to the soldiers of any army in Europe, notwithstanding their long service, perfect drill and discipline.

I should like to have been able to present to you your colors, which have been ordered, and which I had the promise should be here before your departure. I hoped till to-day that they would arrive, that I might place them in your hands, but they will be sent after you, and whether they are present or absent I know that you will remember the old flag under which you have rallied.

The State will follow you into the field, and into the hospitals—though I hope not many of you will have to be sent to them. Though it is true that you will be removed from the immediate supervision and care of the State authorities when you join the Grand Army of the Union, and are called on to obey the orders of its superior officers and of the President, yet the Executive will keep a watchful eye over you, and if any well grounded cause of complaint should arise, I will try to get it righted.

In saying farewell to you, I feel that you are not going alone, or to join an army inadequate for the work it has to do. The army of the Union is now sufficiently large that it ought not, as has so often been the case heretofore, to have to meet superior forces of the enemy. This government is now for the first time really gathering up and bringing into use its military resources. Hundreds of thousands have flocked to its standard within the last few months. Many under the new call have already left this State and more will follow. I hope this will be the last call and that the force now in the field will be sufficient to suppress the rebellion, but if it is necessary to bring into the field yet more men, more will be ready to go.

Trusting that ere long you will return victorious, I bid you now — FAREWELL.

At the close of these remarks, Col. GILL called out, "I propose three cheers for Governor SALOMON, who will join," whereupon the regiment lustily cheered.

The Governor acknowledged the compliment, and in response called for "three cheers for the Union," which were enthusiastically given.

Someone in the regiment then called for "three cheers for our Colonel," which were given with a will.

Madison

Sept. 1st 1862

My Dear Mother

As I now have an opportunity I will improve by writing you a few lines to let you know where and how I am. I have not got to camp yet nor don't know when I shall get there. They have put me in the 29 regt instead of the 27th. Our Col. and surgeon is appointed. Our surgeon is a good hearted man from the City of Watertown and will look out for the boys. We drill here in the town of Medina but have got no guns or uniforms yet. I don't know how I shall stand the hardships of a soldiers life; but if I can't they will discharge me from service. We expect to go into camp in Madison or Watertown, I don't know which. Our drill sergeant is a patient, kind and obliging man. I hope all of our officers will be as good as he is. Our chaplain is not yet appointed. I don't think we shall go south for a month or more. I wrote to Cordelia to come and I would pay for her fare out here. When I wrote at that time I did not expect Father out here; but as he has come I think it will be best for her to stay if she has not started. I will get my photograph when I get a chance and send it to you. I am well now and so are Uncle Elisha's folks. I came from there this morning. The thoughts of going to war have worn upon me some and I am afraid my strength will not hold out. If it does not they will give me an honorable discharge. But I will do as well as I can. My spirit is willing but my flesh is weak, (this is truly a line that tries mens souls) but I hope and pray that God will give me strength to bear trials and sorrows that I am about to encounter. I feel sometimes when I lie down at night as though I never wanted to wake up again to behold the sin and sorrow and distress of this cold and heartless world but I must keep up good courage and by the spirit of grace and truth tread the appointed path however rough and thorny it may be. I don't expect to live a great while in this world, but if I was only prepared I should be willing to die any time.

Do not blame yourself on my account for I should not have been here if it was not so ordered. I must go now, they keep me busy night and day.

Your Affectionate Son, Henry (William H. Parks)

William Henry Parks

Co. A, 29th Wisconsin

Died in the rear of Vicksburg, July 3, 1863 from disease



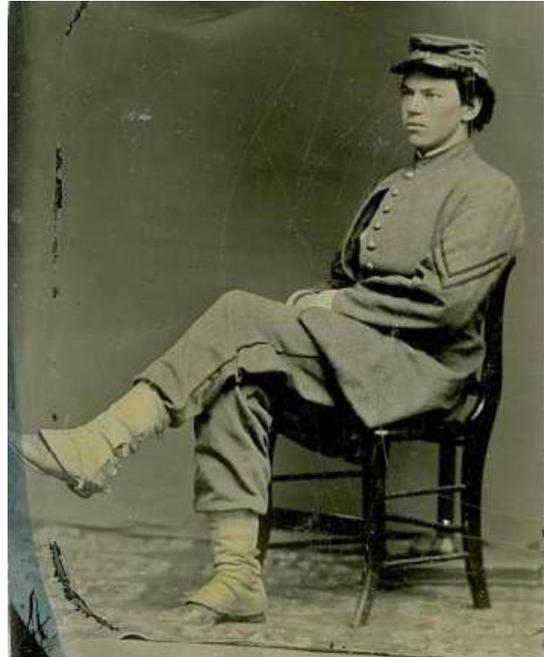
***"See what a lot of land these fellows hold, of which Vicksburg is the key. The war can never be brought to a close until that key is in our pocket."***

**A. Lincoln**

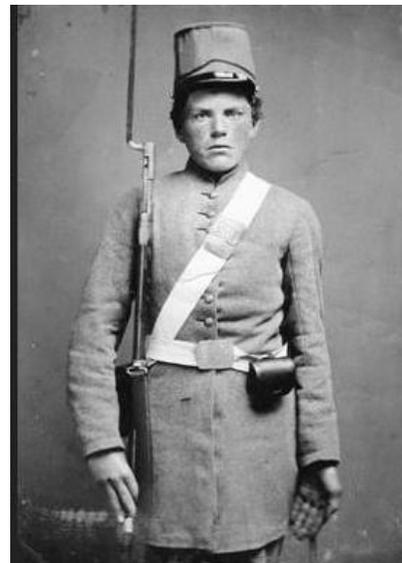
## The Civil War and Material Culture

The photos printed below were intended to appear in last month's *General Orders*, but were inadvertently left out. The following paragraph explains their significance.

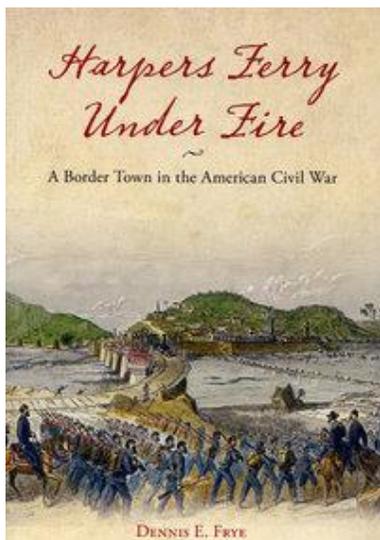
"More photos of Wisconsin soldiers will be forthcoming. These two are to accompany the last article on Civil War material culture and show the type of clothing worn by some of the members of the early 2nd Wisconsin Infantry. Gray frocks and trousers were the garments used commonly in the early Wisconsin Regiments. The State Governor wanted all this needed clothing and equipments to be made locally."



Corporal S. Walker, Co E 2<sup>nd</sup> WI in grey



Private Frederick Lythson Co H 2<sup>nd</sup> WI in grey  
(Our thanks to Lance Herdegen for this photo)



## More About Our October Speaker

Dennis E. Frye is the Chief Historian at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. Writer, lecturer, guide, and preservationist, Dennis is a prominent Civil War historian. He has made numerous appearances on PBS, The History Channel, The Discovery Channel, and A & E as a guest historian. He helped produce Emmy award-winning television features on the Battle of Antietam, abolitionist John Brown, and Maryland during the Civil War. Dennis is one of the nation's leading Civil War battlefield preservationists. He is co-founder and first president of the Save Historic Antietam Foundation, and he is the co-founder and a former president of today's Civil War Trust, from whom he received the Trust's highest honor – the Shelby Foote Award.

Dennis is also a well-known author, with 95 articles and nine books. *Harpers Ferry Under Fire* received the national book of the year award from the Association of Partners for Public Lands.

Dennis resides near the Antietam Battlefield in Maryland, and he and his wife Sylvia have restored the home that was used by General Burnside as his post-Antietam headquarters.

Our speaker will be bringing his book *Harpers Ferry Under Fire* with him to the meeting. He will be selling the book for \$20 – a 10% discount at the meeting. The book can only be purchased from either Dennis or at Harpers Ferry. He will accept cash or a check as payment.

## SPECIAL EVENTS AT THE SHEBOYGAN COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

3110 Erie Avenue, Sheboygan

October 7, 2015, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

### Abraham and Mary Lincoln's Psychologies of Death

Both had their own methods of dealing with grief. Abraham carved out a psychological method of survival, while Mary's inability to cope led her down a path of mental instability. This lecture focuses on the trial of a tragic marriage.

October 10, 2015, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

### Spiritualism and Seances in the Lincoln White House

This lecture focuses on Lincoln's attendance at spiritualistic séances and sessions with psychic mediums in the White House and private residences around Washington.

October 14, 2015, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

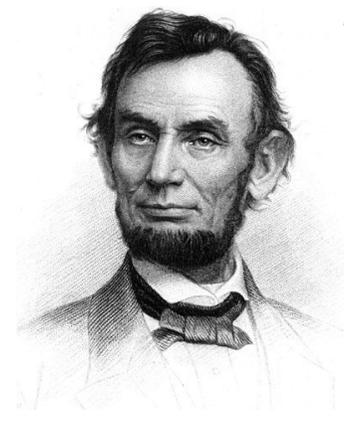
### Lincoln's Dreams, Omens and Portents of Impending Death

This lecture focuses on Lincoln's dreams, his ghost, and spirit sightings connected with his murder.

October 21, 2015, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

### The Plot to Steal Lincoln's Corpse

In 1876, an attempt was made to steal Lincoln's body and hold it for ransom. This lecture tells the story of the Lincoln corpse during the 36 years after Lincoln's death.



## Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for October 8, 2015

Mail your reservations by Monday, October 5, 2015 to:

Paul Eilbes

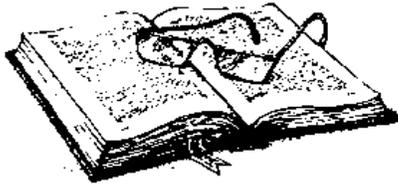
1809 Washington Ave  
Cedarburg, WI 53012-9730

ALSO, call in reservations to: Paul Eilbes (262) 376-0568

[peilbes@gmail.com](mailto:peilbes@gmail.com)

Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_ (meal price \$30.00 per person) for \_\_\_\_ reservations for October 8, 2015, 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 \_\_\_\_\_



# BETWEEN THE COVERS

## John Bell Hood and the Fight for Civil War Memory

by Brian Craig Miller

I recently finished reading Brian Craig Miller's work, *John Bell Hood and the Fight for Civil War Memory*. Hood has long been the subject of writings that questioned many of his actions during the latter part of the Civil War and which suggested that his thought processes and decision making abilities were perhaps the direct result of medication Hood took. In this new work on Hood, Mr. Miller sets out to reexamine the situation and in reviewing the evidence that is available, hopes to shed new light on General Hood and the war he fought.

Miller's book deals with the entire life of General Hood and, as a result of his research, presents a new and original perspective. His research has led to a direct challenge to previous works that portray Hood as overwhelmed by pain killers.

I found that the evidence Mr. Miller cites in his writing seems to indicate that, at the time he made some fateful decisions for his army, Hood was not under any medication. It appears that, quite to the contrary, he was not suffering any undue pain that required any type of medication. I think the information presented on Hood's battle plans is relatively straight forward. I think that, in some cases, it was more his planning that led to failure in the attack rather than being over-medicated.

It appears that in some of his attack planning and orders Hood simply failed to allow proper time for units to get into position to make an attack. In other cases subordinates did not execute the plan and in some cases failed to make proper coordination with supporting commands, which resulted in disjointed attacks and no success. I would say however, that a large part of Hood's problems were a result of poor choices in utilizing the forces he had available and not using them in a manner where the chance of success was good.

I felt that Mr. Miller presented his information well and left it to the reader to decide whether all the criticism of Hood's generalship was justified or not. The author also followed Hood's development as an officer from his early days in Kentucky, at West Point and his assignment in the West. My read on the information presented by Mr. Miller leads me to believe that Hood's injury situation left him somewhat at a disadvantage in that his mobility in the field was limited. Given the subordinate commanders in the Army of Tennessee, any commander needed to be out overseeing his command as much as possible and that was something Hood could not do. As a result, there were many failures in leadership.

This book is a short read that I would highly recommend for anyone with an interest in General Hood, especially with the Army of Tennessee. I would also recommend *The Confederacy's Last Hurrah* by Wiley Sword, one of Hood's biggest critics. The two books offer readers the opportunity to draw their own conclusions as to factors that impacted General Hood's effectiveness in command.

*submitted by Bruce Klem*

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## Fort Macon, North Carolina

Fort Macon State Park is located on the tip of an island along the Atlantic Beach Causeway near Morehead City, North Carolina. I found it quite accidentally while exploring Cape Lookout National Seashore by car and ferry.

This is another site that is more than a little bit out of the way but once you are there you are glad you did. Locating Fort Macon was a rare find. The state of North Carolina has restored the fort, developed some fine interpretive exhibits and runs an excellent museum and well maintained park. There is a sizable parking lot most likely for summer beach goers.

Originally built in 1826 as a coastal defense fort, Fort Macon guarded the Beaufort Inlet. The fort was designed by Brig. Gen. Simon Bernard of the Army Corps of Engineers. On April 12, 1861 North Carolina militia arrived to seize the fort for the state of North Carolina and the Confederacy. There was no battle.

The move to capture the fort began when a federal force of 15,000 soldiers under the command of Ambrose Burnside set sail from Hampton Roads on January 11, 1862 to capture Roanoke Island, North Carolina. Scattered about Roanoke Island, a small Confederate force of 1,400 awaited the Federal attack. The small Confederate force of 1,400 surrendered on February 7, 1862. After the fall of Roanoke, Burnside was in a position to move on New Bern. On March 13th, he began to march on the city. His command was divided into three columns under the command of Generals John G. Foster, Jesse I. Reno and John G. Parke. The land force was supported by gunboats. By the end of the day New Bern was in Federal hands and the Confederates under General Lawrence O'Brien Branch retired toward Kingston.

After the capture of New Bern, Parke's Federal force was preparing to move on Fort Macon. Parke moved cannon and mortars to within 1,400 yards of the fort and rifle pits were dug about 2,000 feet from the Confederate fort. When Parke felt he was strong enough to capture the fort he offered Col. Moses J. White the opportunity to surrender. The colonel politely refused, despite the fact that he had fewer than 300 men fit for duty.

On April 25, Federal troops began an eleven hour bombardment. Union gunboats off the coast also joined in the bombardment. Although the Confederates kept the navy at bay, without mortars they were unable to seriously damage the land gun emplacements. The Federal bombardment was accurate. Like the bombardment at Fort Pulaski, Fort Macon's stone walls were unable to withstand the shot and shell of rifled cannon. It was reported that out of 1,100 Federal shots fired, 560 hit the fort. By late afternoon, realizing that further resistance would be futile, Colonel White asked for a truce and surrendered the next day.

You can easily spend 2-3 hours exploring the fort and museum, much more if you explore the seashore and park grounds. A small book entitled *North Carolina as a Civil War Battleground 1861-1865* by John Gilchrist Barrett and published by the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources will provide a brief historical background.

For more information on Fort Macon visit <http://www.ncparks.gov/Visit/parks/foma/main.php>.

*submitted by Dave Gapinski*

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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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In the April 2015 issue of General Orders our editor Donna Agnelly previewed a new feature of the newsletter. **“Through the Looking Glass”** will take a look at citizens and soldiers of the American Civil War who weren’t among the well-known names of the times.

Gottlieb Torke and his brothers Wilhelm and Gottfried were drafted into the army at Fond du Lac on October 18, 1864. They traveled to Camp Randall in Madison on November 17 and were there assigned to Company E of the Wisconsin 6<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Infantry. The brothers and other replacement troops were sent to Petersburg, Virginia on November 27, 1864. They took part in the siege of Petersburg and the final days of the war. After Lee’s surrender, the Torke brothers were mustered out at Jefferson, Indiana on July 14, 1865, and returned home.

Gottlieb’s letters to his wife Elizabeth were written between December 20, 1864 and February 9, 1865. These documents were preserved by Bertha Torke and translated by Leona Torke Kane. Special thanks to Bill Breitzman of Campbellsport for sharing them.



20<sup>th</sup> December, 1864



The grace of our Lord Jesus and the communion of the Holy Ghost be with me and you also. My heartfelt beloved wife Elizabeth, with great joy I have received your letter about 8 o’clock in the evening of Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>, with which I have been so glad this whole day. I have been of such good cheer as long as I’ve been here as on this day when I received your letter. Brothers William and Gottfried had each received their first letters the day before and William Borkenhagen and I each got a letter the day after. Then was the joy for each great that we each received news from our abandoned families. Then at night we lit a candle and crawled in our tent where us four can only sit or lie, so small it is, and so one letter after the other was read aloud, and so we shed also many tears.

Dear wife, your letter has made me glad and confident that you are so steadfast, and leave all your cares to dear God. Only keep on doing that. He will certainly not let us go unheard. We can only think about our past, how wonderfully our dear God brought us together, but now has separated us. We should stay steadfast.

Dear wife, it is much easier for me now that I have received your letter. I am so glad that you are still in good health. Clothe yourself and your two dear children good and warm and don’t save money for clothes. I would much rather spend ten dollars for clothes than give one dollar to a doctor. If you don’t have money, then borrow some at the store until I send you some money again. We think that we will be getting some money soon.

Manage your housekeeping as well as you think and I will be satisfied also. About the turnips, when you think they will not keep, give them up and feed them all away before they rot; and with the potatoes pull them out if there should be a little snow and before the ground has frozen hard, then take the potatoes out and carry 10 or 15 bushels into brother Wilhelm’s cellar. That you should do on a nice warm day, so that you don’t freeze on the way. If there is heavy snow on them, let it go.

And with the cattle I send you a warning yet. See that each rope is fastened with a strong string. Be careful with the straw also that none of it gets tramped in the manure around the strawstack, but every night rake up the straw, so that you have enough to keep the cattle dry the whole winter . . . Also put the boxes in the fruithouse so that the mice don’t make holes. Put stones on top of them. Dear wife Elizabeth, take care of your house that it doesn’t catch fire on top. It could happen perhaps at night when you are sleeping.

Dear brother-in-law William – Take care of your work as good as you can. When it is fine weather, then cut firewood diligently, so that when it is cold you can stay inside. But don’t freeze your feet or anything else; you can put on my old Sunday pants and my old everyday coat so that you are warm also. Water the cattle good. I am happy when all is well at home and all is in order. When I come home again once more, then I will give you a nice reward also. Water the sheep too.

I greet the parents-in-law many thousand times and the in-laws. I send greetings to godfather Seider and also godfather Hilbert and their whole families. I greet all friends and acquaintances.

I remain your true husband until death. Write to me again.

Gottlieb Torke

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You may also see Roman in person at the Monthly Meeting at the Book Raffle table.

