

GENERAL ORDERS



The Newsletter of the

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



November 12, 2015

Philip Leigh

“Trading with the Enemy”

Clandestine commerce did occur between North and South. Cotton was so important to the Northern economy that the North began growing it on the captured Sea Islands of South Carolina. The neutral port of Matamoras, Mexico, would become a major trading center where nearly all the munitions shipped to the port – much coming from Northern armories – went to the Confederacy.

Our October speaker, Philip Leigh, will look at the inter-belligerent commerce between the North and South during the Civil War, excluding the minor trade among fraternizing enemy soldiers.

Such commerce was large and scandalous. About twice as much cotton went to the Northern states as was shipped through the blockade to Europe. Aside from gold, cotton was the best international exchange medium available in America. Although Civil War shipment tonnage dropped sharply, cotton prices soared over ten-fold thereby sustaining a robust dollar volume.

Even in private transactions, when traders bought cotton with specie, the gold invariably found its way into markets where it bought weapons for the Confederacy. The markets were not necessarily international. Sherman complained that rebels purchased weapons in Cincinnati from the cotton they sold for gold to Memphis traders.

Evidence suggests a number of notable Civil War individuals were involved in dubious – perhaps treasonous – conduct. Examples of these individuals include Treasury Secretary Salmon P. Chase, Major General Benjamin Butler and Rhode Island Senator William Sprague. One trader became the largest shareholder of New York’s National City Bank. His great-grandson was the bank’s Board Chairman, now known as Citicorp, as late as 1967.

An 1865 joint Senate-House investigation led by Illinois Congressman Elihu Washburne concluded: “[The trade] is believed to have led to a prolongation of the war, and to have cost the country thousands of lives and millions of treasure.”

Philip Leigh has contributed twenty-four articles to *The New York Times Disunion* blog, which commemorated the Sesquicentennial. To date, Westholme Publishing has released three of Leigh’s Civil War Books: *Lee’s Lost Dispatch and Other Civil War Controversies*, *Trading With the Enemy* and *Co. Aytch: Illustrated and Annotated*. Phil has lectured at various Civil War forums and assorted Civil War Roundtables. He is currently writing a fourth Civil War book.

Phil holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from the Florida Institute of Technology and an MBA from Northwestern University.

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November 2015

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November Meeting at a Glance Wisconsin Club 9th 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, November 9, 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

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”

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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 was effective as of our last meeting on October 8th**. Thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation.

Paul Eilbes
Treasurer

The Muster Roll: NEW MEMBERS

NAME	REGIMENT	COMPANY	DATE OF ENLISTMENT	DATE OF DISCHARGE
Carol Lynn Hale				
Rev. John Kelling				
Stephanie Kelling				
The Lese Family				
Chris, Kim, Aidan, Nathaniel, Audrey				

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, Stephen Leopold, Robert Parrish

Associate (\$100 - \$199)

Paul Eilbes, Bill Finke, Van & Dawn Harl
David L. Jordan, Jim & Ann Reeve,
David & Helga Sartori, Dennis Slater,
Paul Sotirin, Wisconsin Civil War
Sesquicentennial Commission

Contributor (up to \$99)

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



Every Day is Veterans Day!



In November 1953, W. T. Duganne talked to the Round Table on “The Confederate Navy.”

Shelby Foote was our Round Table speaker in November 1963 speaking on “Grant’s Seven Failures Above Vicksburg.”

“Reflections of the Civil War in Wisconsin” was the topic of Fred I. Olson’s presentation to the Round Table in November 1973.

Dr. William R. Anderson spoke to the Round Table in November 1983 about “Colonel Lawler and the Lawless 18th Illinois Infantry.”

“Little Phil: A Critical Assessment of the Civil War Generalship of Philip H. Sheridan” was presented by our November 2003 speaker Erick Wittenberg.

At last year’s November meeting we welcomed Stephen Towne who spoke on “Detecting Deserters and Disloyalty: U.S. Army Intelligence Operations in the Midwest During the Civil War.”

COMING ATTRACTIONS

November 7, 2015, 11 a.m.

52nd Annual Veterans Day Parade and Day of Honor
Downtown Milwaukee

November 9, 2015, 7 p.m.

Manitowoc Civil War Round Table
Manitowoc Historical Society Heritage Center

November 10, 2015, 7 p.m.

Waukesha Civil War Round Table
Citizens Bank of Mukwonago Waukesha Branch
“Mourning for the President”

November 17, 2015, 7 p.m.

Prairieville Irregulars Civil War Round Table
Citizens Bank of Mukwonago Waukesha Branch
Donna Agnelly: “Robert T. Lincoln”

Every two years the State of Wisconsin publishes the Wisconsin Blue Book, which is a collection of information about Wisconsin. The current 2015-2016 edition includes a 70 page history of Wisconsin in the Civil War. It can be read and downloaded online at this address:

http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/misc/lrb/blue_book/2015_2016/300_feature.pdf

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Kenosha Civil War Museum

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**

The Grand Army’s Grand Legacy

Wednesday, November 11, 2015, Noon

The Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) was the first modern veterans’ organization, formed in 1866 and lasting for the next 90 years. Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Past Commander-in-Chief Steve Michaels describes the patriotic activities of the GAR, its political initiatives, and what these mean for our society today.

Second Friday Lunchbox Series

***Gone With the Wind* & Construction of Civil War Memory**

Friday: November 13, 2015, Noon

presented by Leslie Goddard

This slide presentation will consider both the accuracy of the movie’s portrayal of the American Civil War and its lasting influence in shaping popular understanding of Civil War history. Does *Gone With the Wind* still matter in scholarly and popular conversations about the Civil War?

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

**The Army of the Cumberland
from Louisville to Atlanta**

Saturday, November 14, 2015, 1 – 3 p.m.

presented by David Powell

David Powell, author of *The Chickamauga Campaign*, *Maps of Chickamauga*, and *Failure in the Saddle*, explores the history, development, and commanders of the force, first known as the Army of the Ohio, later the Army of the Cumberland, from 1861 to 1864. **\$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.

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FROM THE FIELD

Louisville Democrat

Thursday, April 6, 1865

The times have already come when we can sigh over the days of the "Old Public," for no matter how this war may result, those days are gone, never to return again. In long summer evenings, years hence, the scarred veterans will talk, under the shade of tavern porches, of the days that were, and lament over the degeneracy of the times. It will be called the times that tried men's souls, and as the reviving earth throws its verdure over stricken fields, jewelizing the sod where squadrons wheeled and met in the terrible shock of civil butchery, covering its horrors with a kindly hand, so time will hide the sufferings, the terrors, the disasters of this awful time, and green it over with many a song and story of the great war of the rebellion. Men will talk of the old Washington republic of 1776, and of the days of peace and prosperity that it gave. Quaint, kindly old stories of that era of good feeling will be as familiar in their mouths as household words, and attentive listeners will wonder if such days of Utopian felicity ever did exist. In the wars which are hereafter to be a necessity, they will wonder at the excitements we got over township elections, and all the minor matters that used to stir the blood of their fathers.

How strange it will seem to them that their fathers were interested in, that they had no war to carry on; no taxes to pay; no grinding poverty to endure. What pictures will be drawn on the broad plantations with their comfortable little villages for their negroes, when the slave and master worked together, and the fiddle sang, and the evening echoed to the music in hall and cabin in the dear old days. How ridiculous to think that there was no standing army, and a few holiday soldiers who hurried home to keep from strutting their jaunty regimentals in the rain, which was all we knew of the military.

What stories of Arcadian simplicity those days will seem to be — the unsubstantial fabric of vision; the dreaming idealism of some poetic philosopher, telling not of things that were, but as his imagination would have them back. How our old pleasures and old troubles will ripen and sweeten under the kindly touch of time, until our children wonder that we ever deserted such fruit of paradise for the Sodom apples with ashes at the core.

Even now the days and years before the war seems a story of the long, long gone past. Was the battle of the Wilderness fought one or two years ago? — did we live when Vicksburg was captured and Sumter fired on, or is that some story our fathers told us of, which happened when they were young? Has the corn ripened but four times since this war began?

It seems as if fold on fold and strata on strata had covered and covered them again, so much that what was real is now a memory, buried but with the story of the terrible convulsion written on our hearts as nature tells her story in the rocks.

Time at last will smooth the rough and broken edge, and soften the harsh and terrible picture before us, but it will be a long time; the centuries will be of age, and number twenty-one cycles or more, before the unsightly picture of burned and desolated homes will be forgotten, or faintly recover some slight resemblance of their former serene prosperity.

For generations, the children and children's children of many parents of the present day will carry to their graves a brooding sense of wrong, an inherited debt of hostility to the Government which is over them, and which is to rely upon them for protection and defense. Whether this will ever die out or remain to all eternity, as in the case of Ireland — a deep-seated, wearing, burning sore — is a question of time.

If the South is restored by a fair, honorable, just compromise, as Scotland was united to England, like Scotland it will be a union in which both sections are proud of the past; and, as Scotland is proud of Bannockburn and mourns over Flodden Field, and still is faithful to the British Government, so the South can exult over Bull Run and Fredericksburg, and still be true to our common national government.

But if, as in the case of Ireland, it is conquered by the sword, it must be ruled by the sword, and remain forever a dead body, bound to a living creature. In that bright past, before the war, to which we all look back, there is nothing to mar the beauty and serenity of the picture. Calling it up we unite in love of its glory, its might, and in its infinite peace. It will remain forever a unique period in history as beautiful as extraordinary and as extraordinary as beautiful.

A living contradiction to all past examples of history; a bright reality to be striven for by mankind in the future, but never to be attained again, its isolation will increase its splendor as one star alone in the heavens shines brighter when its fellows are hidden. To us of the generation will be the pride of having lived at such a time; upon us will rest the humiliation of having lost it by our own deep folly and crime.

Oct. 2d, 1862

My Dear Father – No doubt your heart rejoiced at the news of our unquestionable victory over the main body of the rebels on the banks of the Antietam – a creek about two thirds the size of the La Crosse river. On the afternoon of the 16th we forded the above named creek and went gloriously forward to the line of the enemy which was about two miles ahead.

Soon we halted and lay down for the night which was dark. We were not long halted when bang, bang, went volley after volley of musketry immediately in front and close to us. We supposed that our sharpshooters fell into a rebel trap but it turned out to be a good joke on secesh – they having shot each other through mistake. Next morning at day break and with a vigorous outburst of shot and shell they commenced another mistake which, thank God, ended in the death of thousands of the poor rebel rabble who persistently followed in the footsteps of the rich and cultivated political robbers who are, as time will show, the direct and indirect agents of British national jealousy sent or transported here for the purpose of destroying our national republican prosperity, this is not all; but by the absence of McDowell and the magic inspiring influence of McClellan's presence we blackened the heart and soul of Lee, Jackson, Longstreet and Hill. The entire rebel army could not help being smashed to pieces in the bed of the Potomac if we could but follow them up. You may ask me why we could not follow them up? Because as the national recognized civilized party was bound to respect a flag of truce which was presented us that the rebels might bury their dead, did they do it? No. They fled and left their putrid dead for us to inter. And these are the fellows who claim to be chivalrous! And who, by that dirty "tub of gut," England, are called gentleman. They are so gentle that they will not handle the corpse of their fallen comrades. They are so Christian as to

renounce the "corporal works of mercy" on every battle field. It would not astonish me if the civilized nations of the earth took Jeff. Davis and his principal companions and put them to death for the shameful abuse of that universal sacred emblem a "flag of truce."

When the battle was most fierce on the right of our line, I had occasion to go with an ambulance beyond our artillery front to take off some wounded men. – When there I met some wounded rebels with whom I had brief conversation. One of them, a captain, told me that at South Mountain Pass they run short of ammunition and they were afraid that we would capture them at night. He said also that the ammunition which they were using at present was captured at Harpers Ferry by Jackson who immediately evacuated that place and came here to help Lee. All that he told me turned out to be too true, notwithstanding the conflicting reports on that bloody but glorious day.

When a battalion of any size enters battle, the enemy, very naturally, fire at the centre of the mass hence the right and left wings are not so apt to suffer as much as the centre. My company, being the right of the 2d Wis., did not suffer as much as others because of the above cause. I know of no other. The resident was here to-day. E.C.



"All intercourse between the territories occupied by belligerent armies, whether by traffic, by letter, by travel, or in any other way, ceases. This is the general rule, to be observed without special proclamation."

Lincoln's General Orders Number 100, Section V

Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for November 12, 2015

Mail your reservations by Monday, November 9, 2015 to:

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

**Paul Eilbes
1809 Washington Ave
Cedarburg, WI 53012-9730**

Enclosed is \$ ____ (meal price \$30.00 per person) for ____ reservations for November 12, 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

Shiloh and the Western Campaign of 1862

by O. Edward Cunningham

edited by Gary Joiner & Timothy Smith

Shiloh, Conquer or Perish

by Timothy Smith

This review is a dual review of two books that deal with the Battle of Shiloh. The first book is O. Edward Cunningham's *Shiloh and the Western Campaign of 1862* and the other is Timothy Smith's *Shiloh, Conquer or Perish*.

I purchased Cunningham's book last year and then the Kenosha Civil War Museum had Timothy Smith speak about his book this past December. Mr. Smith is also one of the editors of Cunningham's book. Afforded with the opportunity to get an autographed copy I purchased Mr. Smith's book too. Since I now had two different books on Shiloh I decided to read them one after the other and compare information.

Dr. Cunningham's book was actually published long after his death. His writing was a dissertation on the battle that he had completed when he was a doctoral student in the early 1960's. His work was the first to challenge the idea that the Sunken Road was "sunken." It was actually a track that was not too deep at all. Cunningham managed to develop his thesis by quoting numerous soldier letters and diaries and came to the conclusion that it wasn't so much the nature of the road that gave the Union forces a decided advantage. Rather, he postulated, it was the open fields of fire on the flanks and the impenetrable thicket at the Hornet's Nest that made the Sunken Road position almost impregnable.

Cunningham emphasized places other than the famous sites often cited by previous writers of the battle. His discussion of the fighting at the Crossroads is a prime example. He spends as much time on the western side of the battlefield as he does on other parts.

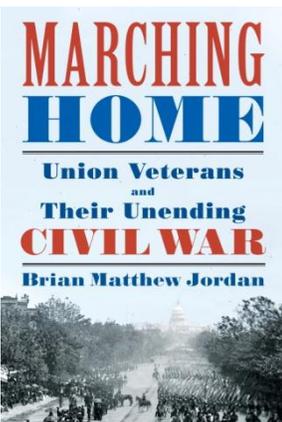
The question then becomes, what does Smith's work have to offer? Smith, in his work, shows how the Union position and camp layout, while not fortified with entrenchments and breastworks, was land that was fairly defensible terrain. It was broken by narrow streams which left limited access to the attacker.

Smith also provides plenty of detail on the opening hours just before the battle. He shows how Union reconnaissance discovered and somewhat disrupted the Confederate attack and as the battle begins, Sherman's regiments far from being swept aside, conduct an organized fighting withdrawal in most cases. The Union army manages to effectively trade space for time and builds a final impregnable defense line; this line halts the Confederates and with reinforcements in the form of Wallace's division and Buell's troops, enables Grant to launch a crushing counterattack in the morning.

Smith points out how completely disorganized the Confederates were and how they inexplicably did nothing to reorganize their army, thus leaving themselves wide open to defeat. Smith devotes a substantial part of the book to the second day, something other authors previously had not done.

I would recommend both books as good reads on this crucial battle. Both books have numerous maps which help the reader follow and understand the action. I also find that attending one of the various book presentations by the authors is both interesting and informative and of course, provides you with the opportunity to obtain a signed copy of the book.

submitted by Bruce Klem



Marching Home

by Brian Jordan

The book that was chosen for the June, 2015 Kenosha Civil War Museum Media Club was Brian Jordan's recent work *Marching Home*. This was the story of what happened to Union soldiers after the war ended. The Media Club has tried to pick books that, over the course of the 150th anniversary, followed a similar time line of the war - from events that led up to the war to those events that occurred each year during the war. Jordan's book deals with the aftermath of the war on Union soldiers and the post-war effects on some of the veterans.

The reader gets to examine the feelings of individual soldiers on May 23, 1865 when they marched in the big parade through Washington, D.C. before their discharge and travels home. The general feeling of the individual troops was, "Why must we wait, the war is ended, we just want to go home." Men were restless and now that this long war had ended it was time return home.

I think for most of us the opinion held was that the Union veterans were celebrated as heroes and were owed a debt that could never be repaid. In this work Mr. Jordan brings to light that this was not the general feeling of the Northern populace. I think the story that he brings to light is somewhat similar to some subsequent wars in that once the shooting stopped in both World War I and World War II, the soldiers were anxious to “just go home” and try and resume the life they had left behind. It turned out that the problem was, returning to that life was not as easy as it was assumed to be.

In the case of the Union veteran just the trip home was fraught with some danger. Grifters waited along the way trying to separate the veteran from his hard won pension through a variety of schemes and ploys. With the advent of checking accounts and direct deposits that is not necessarily a problem in modern times, but back when cash was given to the departing soldier, that soldier became a mark to various criminals.

Jordan points out that in many cases once the veteran reached home he found out the Northern populace just wanted to forget the war and move on. The veteran’s adjustment to civilian life was for the most part left up to the veteran. While I think Mr. Jordan identifies early cases of PTSD, the Civil War era vet did not receive any help with this issue. While some were fortunate to find a place in the newly established veteran’s homes, these places were not necessarily a big help to veterans who truly needed a large amount of help.

The author also points out the inadequacies of the bonus program provided to veterans. The money for most was not enough to support a family and was barely enough to supplement a civilian income. As a result, veterans with families had a hard time making a life if they had to depend on the pension as a sole source of income.

While Mr. Jordan’s work brings to light the fact that the Union veteran had perhaps more problems after the war than previously identified, many of these issues are very much the same that today’s veteran has and is dealing with.

I found this book an interesting short read into veterans’ issues and recommend it to anyone interested in exploring and understanding the history of our veterans’ support systems.

submitted by Bruce Klem



Greetings! With winter approaching and the threat of inclement weather, which could result in a no-show for our guest speaker, we are working on two solutions. One, we will have available a selection of videos of old presentations as a substitute. Two, we would like to see a number of Round Table members attend said meetings with all they need in hand to give a presentation if necessary. You will be required to have with you, in your car, notes, power-point, lap top etc., ready to go! We need as many registered as we can who are willing to stand-by in case the need arises.

I would like from you, your commitment, reasonably, to be available for such an emergency. We did have names and numbers in the past of those who were willing to speak, but an update is needed. Send me your e-mail, phone number, and Civil War topic, and if you can attend, even during bad weather. My e-mail address is CSuniforms@hotmail.com. A new list will be presented and hopefully we will never have to call on anyone. Things do happen though, as we all know from past history and could happen again. A cadre of Round Table members ready and able will be our goal.

Thank you in advance for your help.

Tom Arliskas
Archives Chairman
Milwaukee Round Table Board

Wanderings



This edition of *Wanderings* was submitted by Tony Blackbeard, a teacher from New Zealand. Tony and fellow teacher Graham Kitchin first traveled to the United States in 2012 to see sites related to the Old West and the Eastern Theater of our Civil War. On their return trip in the summer of 2015, Tony and Graham saw more of the Old West, plus multiple additional sites related to our War Between the States.

Tony was more than happy to write a special *Wanderings* article detailing his trip. His impressions of our country, our preservation efforts, and the reception he was given in America make most interesting reading. Enjoy!



As far back as I can remember I had a fascination with "Cowboys and Indians." To start with it was comics and movies and toys and then my father bought me "The Cowboys" from the Time-Life series "The Old West". I was hooked. In my early twenties I picked up a book called "The Civil War" by Winston Churchill and I was hooked again: Robert E Lee, "Stonewall" Jackson, and JEB Stuart were the most fascinating to me. At the beginning of 2012 my oldest brother paid for me to go to America to see the sites for myself. I talked a fellow teacher Graham Kitchin into coming with me. We spent three weeks in America and I was blown away at how amazing it was. My first Civil War Battlefield was Gettysburg.

I had read a lot about Gettysburg but as we drove in on the Emmitsburg Road we did not realize that we were driving along in the middle of the fighting on the last two days of the battle. That and my experience at every other battlefield has impressed upon me that to understand any battle you have to visit the actual site. The other battlefields that we visited were Antietam, Harpers Ferry, Manassas, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Spotsylvania Court House, Petersburg, City Point and the Mariners' Museum, where I met Dave Wege, which was an amazing meeting, a real blessing to me. I have found all the Americans that we met amazing people, incredibly helpful and polite. Dave sent me a number of fascinating books and he has influenced my interest in "The Iron Brigade" and Pat Cleburne as well as helping me plan my second trip to America.

The Civil War highlights for me were "the Dunker Church" and "the Sunken Road" at Antietam, the Angle at Gettysburg, Jackson's position at First Manassas where he got his name "Stonewall", Marye's Heights at Fredericksburg, Lee and Jackson's final meeting at Chancellorsville and where Jackson got his fatal wound and the Mule Shoe at Spotsylvania. It was also pretty special seeing the turret of the Monitor at Newport News. Every place was amazing. Every day was a highlight.

I applied for a sabbatical for 2015 and was fortunate enough to get it. This enabled me to spend six weeks in America visiting battlefields. Graham again accompanied me. In the Old West we saw the Fetterman Monument, the Little Bighorn (again),

Fort Abraham Lincoln, Wounded Knee, Fort Robinson, War Bonnet Creek, Beecher Island, Sand Creek, the Washita, the Alamo, and San Jacinto.

For the American Civil War we saw The Laura Plantation, Vicksburg, Shiloh, Franklin, Nashville, Stones River, Chattanooga (Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge, Orchard Knob, and Brown's Ferry), Chickamauga, Ringgold Gap, The General, Kennesaw Mountain, The Atlanta Cyclorama (The Texas), Appomattox Court House, Sailor's Creek, New Market, Lexington (Lee Chapel and Jackson's Grave), Port Republic, Cedar Creek, Antietam and Gettysburg (again), The Civil War Museum (Harrisburg) and finally West Point. Again each day was highlight upon highlight for me. I can't mention all of the highlights so I will point out a few:



- 1) The Carter House at Franklin - I did not appreciate it at first and went back later to compare it with the Don Troiani painting of Opdyke's Tigers. It was truly amazing and the monument where Pat Cleburne was believed to be killed near the Cotton Gin was moving.
- 2) The spot where Longstreet broke through at Chickamauga.
- 3) "The Hornet's Nest" at Shiloh was spectacular.
- 4) "The Field of Lost Shoes" at New Market was incredibly moving.
- 5) Miller's Cornfield trail was amazing - The Iron Brigade and the Texas Brigade and what they did was phenomenal, as was "The Bloody Lane" from the Union side. Again the Don Troiani paintings are superb and help greatly in understanding what it might have looked like.

6) George Armstrong Custer has long been a favourite of mine. After reading "Custer Victorious" by Gregory Urwin every site where he participated was special (Sailor's Creek, Appomattox Court House, Cedar Creek and especially East Cavalry Field at Gettysburg).

7) The First Minnesota at Gettysburg was moving, knowing what they sacrificed.

8) I have to hand it to The National and State Parks and The Civil War Trust for placing those information boards - they are invaluable in understanding what happened and it has enhanced my understanding of the events of each battle.

9) My latest trip has shown me how important the Western Theatre of the War was.

Every battlefield was a highlight and I would encourage everyone who has a slight interest in The Civil War to get out there and walk the fields where those brave men of both sides fought so courageously. I believe we need to continue to honour those amazing men and remember their deeds.

The Rangers at all of the Battlefields were really good but I want to single out those at Sailor's Creek as being really helpful. I teach History to a Year 10 Class and I am honoured to introduce them to America's rich history in The Civil War and The Indian Wars and events. I have to thank the Civil War Trust for their amazing resources. I regularly use "In4" and the "Animated Maps" in the classroom. Those maps are worth a million words. Any bit of Civil War Land that can be preserved is truly precious and The Civil War Trust needs to be congratulated on what they have done and what they are going to do.

*To all those amazing people of America who made our stay so memorable,
I thank you and may God bless you and your amazing Country.*



WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

DECEMBER 12, 2015



Once again, the West Side Soldiers Aid Society is sponsoring Wreaths Across America. This year's Nationwide Remembrance ceremony will take place at 11 a.m. (CST) at Wood National Cemetery. For every 2 wreaths purchased an additional wreath will be given to be placed on a veteran's grave. The cut off date for sponsorships (wreath purchases) is November 30, 2015. The ultimate goal of Wreaths Across America is to have a wreath on every veteran's grave.

In 1992, Morrill Worcester, owner of Worcester Wreath Company in Maine, had a surplus of wreaths left at the end of the holiday season. Looking back at his visit to Arlington when he was 12 years old, he decided that he had an opportunity to honor our veterans. Arrangements were made to place wreaths in one of the older sections of the cemetery – one which received an ever-declining number of visitors with each passing year. A number of individuals and organizations stepped in to lend a helping hand to Worcester's mission.

In 2005, a photo of the wreath decked graves appeared on to the internet garnering national attention to Worcester's mission. Requests began to pour in from all over the country with people eager to help and expand the mission. In 2006, simultaneous wreath laying ceremonies took place in over 150 locations across the country.

In 2007, the Worcester family with the support of veterans, groups and individuals, formed Wreaths Across America. Their mission: **Remember. Honor. Teach.**

Last year over 700,000 memorial wreaths were laid at 1,000 locations in the United States and beyond. Their goal of covering Arlington National Cemetery was met last year with the placement of 226,525 wreaths.

If you would like to sponsor a wreath – or two – you can do so at the Wreath website: www.wreathscrossamerica.org/

Please make sure you are filling in the Group ID and Locations ID:

Group ID number is: W10001

Locations ID is: WIWNCM

Sponsorship forms will also be available at the November Round Table meeting at the Registration Table. In the spirit of the mission, the delivered wreaths can be placed on graves by any person attending the ceremony.

Following the Remembrance Ceremony there will be refreshments served at the Library on the VA grounds.





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 6th Regiment of Infantry. 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.



Beloved wife Elizabeth,

9th February, 1865

I can not neglect to write a few lines to you so soon again. Your letter which you wrote on 26th January I received on February 6th, when I was still healthy and lively. And I must say that I now still, God be thanked, am healthy. Sunday, the 5th of February, at 6 o'clock, we all had to be ready to march to go into battle. Dear wife, you can well think how we were troubled. I could only think of you a little. I directed my thoughts to the heavenly Father above, to whom many thousand prayers were rising. Then we marched that Sunday 20 miles, then we stayed in the woods over night, and Monday early about 5 o'clock we marched again to the right about twelve miles back. Then we made a halt, and so we were making something to eat when I received your letter, which I rejoiced in. But in my great grief I had no thoughts but that were waiting all the hours for the order that we must go into battle. It was Monday, the 6th of February about 3 o'clock in the afternoon that we had to go into battle. At which point we all looked at the world through tears, and I have given myself over completely to dear God. Then we had to attack the Southerners, and had driven them back a piece, while many thousand shots were falling. So we had driven the Southerners into their trenches. But then they fired against us, so we had lain ourselves on the ground and were firing from there. It was the best luck that we were in the woods, and we could hide behind the trees, and so we were firing for half an hour. Then we withdrew again and the Southerners were always firing against us. Then we laid ourselves on the ground again, and so we fought very hard with them, until the sun was setting, when the shooting was so heavy as if a great thunderstorm were thundering an hour long. The Southerners were twice as strong as we. The bullets always flew past by my head, I thought to myself that here I must die, but the dear God has protected me. But Jacob Haag is wounded twice, one on the leg and one on the arm. So again we withdrew in a small area. There were several fallen of our people, several wounded and several dead, and so now it was night. Then we went again to our beds, where I thanked God many times for his great protection that we were luckily all together again. Then on the next day, the 7th of February, it was raining and freezing all day, so we thought we could stay in our trenches. But at noon we were going to have to go back into our battleline, so I spent the time in sorrow and prayer. We had to fight the Southerners again, and we had driven them back a piece again. There we made a good trench while the bullets would always fly over our heads. We went out against the Southerners and came very close to them. But the Southerners stayed in their trenches, and we stayed in the woods. We had been firing a half-hour, then we sprang up again and ran back again in our trenches, as we wanted to draw the Southerners out of their trenches. And so we tried to decoy them, but they wouldn't come. They were firing very much at us with cannons. Then one broke into pieces, and one piece struck me over the left ear. I fell down on the ground and my brothers Wilhelm and Gottfried came and lifted me up and carried me to the hospital. Dear good wife, the wound is not big, since the piece from the cannonball did not have much force left, otherwise it would have torn me to pieces. Dear God had surely placed his almighty arm on my head and so the bullet couldn't go any farther. I must write if my brothers and comrades are still alive, then it is a great wonder because they still had a great battle ahead of them. Dear good wife, pray diligently that dear God will give us peace soon. I send to you and to your two dear children many thousand greetings, and also to my parents-in-law, and many thousand greetings to my father.

I remain your faithful husband,
Gottlieb Torke

**Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.
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Send submission to **Donna Agnelly, Editor**, 420 Racine St. Unit 110, Waterford, WI 53185 or email dagnelly@tds.net or donnaagnelly@gmail.com with "Civil War Round Table" in the subject line of your message. All submissions must be received by the Editor no later than the 10th of the month prior to the next issue. The Editor reserves the right to select articles and to edit submissions for style and length.

All address changes or problems receiving your *General Orders* should be directed through Membership Chairman Paul Eilbes.

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Yearly memberships available: Individual (\$40), family (\$50), non-resident (\$25), attending an educational institution (\$20).

Contact Paul Eilbes for information: (262) 376-0568.

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

Remembrance Day at Gettysburg National Cemetery

Several months after the battle at Gettysburg, the citizens of the small town continued the struggle to recover from the aftermath of the three-day battle. David Wills, a prominent Gettysburg attorney, was appointed as the state agent to oversee the establishment and construction of the Soldiers' National Cemetery, a final resting place for the Union dead at Gettysburg. David Wills was also responsible for the dedication ceremony, inviting President Lincoln to provide "a few appropriate remarks." On November 18, 1863, President Lincoln arrived in Gettysburg. Staying with Wills, Lincoln is believed to have completed his final draft of the immortal Gettysburg Address in Gettysburg. On November 19, Mr. Edward Everett served as the main speaker of the dedication, with Lincoln delivering his very short message, but those two minutes of powerful words remain a lasting testament to the events of July 1863.

There is a special day in Gettysburg every November. Called Remembrance Day, it commemorates President Lincoln's visit to dedicate the National Cemetery. The ceremony is held on the closest Saturday to November 19 as the calendar permits. On that Saturday there is always a parade, reminiscent of the first parade held on November 19, 1863 when the President and Union troops made the journey from the center of town to the cemetery. A costume ball is often held the Friday evening before Remembrance Day, with a "Remembrance Illumination" of the National Cemetery graves (instead of on Memorial Day) held during the Saturday event. Other events during the festivities promote tourism to Gettysburg.

On November 19, 1949, the date was formally designated as "Dedication Day" by a joint resolution of Congress. This year's ceremony will be held on November 21. It is, as always, free of charge.

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

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ITEM	COST
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Blue Fleece-Lined Jacket.....	\$60.00
Iron Brigade Pin.....	\$5.00
CWRT Pin.....	\$5.00
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Red River Medal.....	\$25.00
CWRT 60 Year Medal.....	\$10.00

Contact Roman Blenski, Quartermaster
4601 W. Holt Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53219
(414) 327-2847, dbcpmilw@execpc.com

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

