

# GENERAL ORDERS



The Newsletter of the

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



November 10, 2016

Dave Connon

## *The Propaganda Campaign in Iowa and ... a Couple of Stories about Confederates from Iowa*

While troops fought in the South, Republicans waged a propaganda campaign in Iowa. They expertly demonized Democrats. Republicans were so successful that they controlled the state government for decades after Appomattox.

In the first part of his November presentation, our speaker, David Connon, will share the story of the propaganda campaign, focusing on one Iowa Democrat whose name became a byword for traitor.

In the second part of his presentation, Connon will share the story of a former Iowa state legislator who became a colonel of Missouri troops. After each soldier's story, our speaker will invite Round Table members to share their observations and questions.

David Connon is a historical researcher, speaker, and writer. He stumbled on the Confederates from Iowa while researching the Iowa Underground Railroad. He has spent the past six years documenting seventy-six Iowa residents who left that state and served the Confederacy. Their existence (in a strongly pro-Union state) represents a scarlet ribbon of political dissent.

Mr. Connon shares some of those stories in his blog,  
**Confederates from Iowa: Not to Defend, but to Understand.**  
[www.confederatesfromiowa.com](http://www.confederatesfromiowa.com).



Mr. Connon is an Illinois native and a great-great-grandson of two Union veterans. He has spoken to audiences across Iowa as part of the Humanities Iowa Speakers Bureau. During the season, he works as a historical interpreter at Living History Farms. has a master's degree in education Northern Illinois University.

Dave is in the process of writing a book about Confederates from Iowa.

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

## **General Orders No. 11-16**

**November 2016**

### **IN THIS ISSUE**

MCWRT News .....	page 2
In Memoriam .....	page 2
Kenosha Museum .....	page 3
From the Field .....	page 4-5
Round Table Correspondence .....	page 5
Round Table Speakers 2016-2017.....	page 6
2016-2017 Board of Directors .....	page 6
Meeting Reservation Form .....	page 6
Between the Covers .....	page 7
Lincoln's Thanksgiving Proclamation ...	page 8
Wanderings .....	page 9
Through the Looking Glass .....	page 10-11
Quartermaster's Regalia .....	page 12

### **November Meeting at a Glance**

#### **Wisconsin Club**

**9<sup>th</sup> and Wisconsin Avenue**

**[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 7, 2016

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.**

### **2016-2017 Speaker Schedule**

**Find the speaker schedule on page 6.**

### **Union Thanksgiving Service**

Union Thanksgiving service will be held at the N.E. Church on Thursday of this week, at half-past 10 o'clock A.M. Rev. Mr. Sampson, of this place, will preach the Thanksgiving sermon. This meeting is in accordance with a custom long kept up in Waukesha and we hope to see a large attendance of the members of all the churches and the citizens generally.

**Waukesha Freeman Nov 1861**

# 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.

## 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!

## Iron Brigade Flags on Display

The Iron Brigade flags usually present at our meetings have been loaned to the Kenosha Civil War Museum for their exhibit, “Faces of the Iron Brigade: A Social Network of Soldiers.” The exhibit will be on display at the museum until November 1, 2016.

## Historic Milwaukee Soldiers Home Will Once Again House Veterans

The facilities that once housed Iron Brigade veterans will be refurbished in a \$40 million project to house homeless veterans and their families.

Under a leasing deal between the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the city of Milwaukee, and a Madison developer, six vacant buildings in the Milwaukee Soldiers Home District will be renovated into 100 apartments and duplexes. One of the six buildings includes the prominent Old Main.

## The Muster Roll: NEW MEMBERS

NAME	REGIMENT	PLACES OF SERVICE	POWER RECEIVED	REMARKS
Carol Maudie				
Jack McHugh				
Charles McVay & Michele Levandoski				
Justin, Stacy, Gemma & Tessa Tolomeo				
Michael Uihlein				

## 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, 2016 through October 13, 2016.

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

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

Crain Bliwas, Eugene & Jane Jamrozy,  
Stephen Leopold, Robert Parrish

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

Tom Corcoran, Robert Dude, Paul Eilbes, Bill Finke,  
Randall Garczynski, Van & Dawn Harl, Dr. Peter &  
Jean Jacobsohn, David Jordan, Jerome Kowalski,  
Dr. Ray Pahle, Jim & Ann Reeve, Laura Rinaldi,  
Dennis Slater, Paul Sotirin

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

Darwin Adams, George Affeldt, T. James Blake,  
John & Linda Connelly, Dr. Gordon Dammann,  
Michael Deeken, Tom Doyle, Lori Duginski,  
John Durr, Gary & Judith Ertel, Doug Haag,  
Dr. Erwin Huston, Allan Kasprzak, Christopher E.  
Johnson, Ardis Kelling, Jay Lauck, Fredric Madsen,  
Jerry & Donna Martynski, Kathleen McNally,  
James Melchior, Herb Oechler, John Rodahl,  
Chet Rohn, Dan Tanty, Fred Wendorf

## In Memoriam:

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

Round Table member, John Smurawa, passed away on Monday, September 12, 2016, at the age of 83. John and his wife Diana have been members of the Round Table since 2001. John was a U.S. Army veteran. He was a volunteer for the St. Hyacinth's Food Bank and was at his happiest when he was with his children and grandchildren.

Round Table member, Joseph Peroutka passed away on October 10, 2016, at the age of 66. Joseph is survived by his wife, Sarah, and two daughters, Leah and Julia. Joe was a history major and enjoyed attending Civil War meetings. He was a very civic minded man, and enjoyed participating in the Rotary Club and the Milwaukee Zoological Society.

Well-known historian Michael B. Ballard passed away in his home library in Ackerman, Mississippi, on October 11, 2016. He was a retired Ulysses S. Grant Association (USGA) editor. His last book, *Grant at Vicksburg: The General and the Siege*, was a study of Grant as an administrator during the Vicksburg campaign. He was working on another book concerning Grant during the Virginia campaigns.

Michael's wife, Jan, is setting up a “Michael B. Ballard Memorial Fund” within the Mississippi State University Foundation. The funds will be used toward the existing USGA travel program which will now include a “Michael B. Ballard Lecture” by a visiting scholar.



In November 1956, Clement Silvestro talked to the Round Table on “The Union League in the Civil War.”

Allen P. Julian was our Round Table speaker in November 1966, speaking on “John Bell Hood.”

“The Other Jeff Davis,” was the topic of Gordon Whitney’s presentation to the Round Table in November 1976.

A. Wilson Greene spoke to the Round Table in November 1986, about “The Bloody Angle at Spotsylvania.”

In November 1996, Philip Shaw Paludan discussed “Abraham Lincoln and The Uses of Propaganda” at the Round Table meeting.

“P.S.G. Cooke and His Impact on Civil War Cavalry Leaders,” was the topic of Bob O’Neill’s talk to the Round Table in November 2006.

At last year’s November meeting, our Round Table speaker was Philip Leigh who spoke about “Trading with the Enemy.”

### **NEW AT THE ANTARAMIAN GALLERY**

**Changing America: The Emancipation Proclamation, 1863 and the March on Washington, 1963**

**November 16, 2016 through January 13, 2017**

*Changing America* examines the events leading up to the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863 and the March on Washington in 1963. Both grew out of decades of bold actions, resistance, organization, and vision. One hundred years separate them, yet they are linked in the larger story of a struggle for liberty which brought together different races, classes, and ideologies and had a profound impact on the generations that followed.

The dramatic story of how these two pivotal events came into being – a century apart – and how each helped put the nation on a course toward fulfilling its commitment to liberty and justice for all, is one that can inspire all Americans. Decades of work, struggle, and sacrifice by many dedicated individuals and groups preceded both of these events. The exhibition tells the story of these struggles and their impact on American history and on the extension of equal rights to all Americans.

The exhibit and programs are presented by the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture and the National Museum of American History in collaboration with the American Library Association Public Programs Office. The tour of the traveling exhibition is made possible by the National Endowment for the Humanities: Exploring the human endeavor.

## **Kenosha Civil War Museum Second Friday Lunchbox Series**

The series is a free program sponsored by the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table and Iron Brigade Association.

### **150 Years of the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.)**

**Friday, November 11, 2016, Noon**

**Presenter: Mike Wozny**

The Grand Army of the Republic – first organized in Decatur, IL, in 1866 – was among the first advocacy groups in American politics. Its membership supported voting rights for black veterans, promoted patriotic education, helped make Memorial Day a national holiday, and lobbied the United States Congress to establish regular veterans’ pensions. The program covers the G.A.R. from inception to its final muster in 1956.

### **Make Way for Liberty:**

**Wisconsin African Americans in the Civil War**

**Friday, December 9, 2016, Noon**

Hundreds of African American Civil War soldiers served representing Wisconsin, and many of them lived in the state before and after the war. Relative to the total number of Badgers who served in the Civil War, African Americans were few but they made up a significant number of soldiers in at least five regiments of the United States Colored Infantry. They served in several artillery regiments and in the most famous black regiments, the 54th and 55th Massachusetts. Their pre- and post-war lives in rural communities, small towns, and cities form an enlightening story of acceptance and respect for their service but rejection and discrimination based on their race.

### **Other Kenosha Civil War Museum Events**

#### **Masons at Gettysburg – North vs. South**

**Saturday, November 5, 2016, 1:30 pm**

Mr. Trevor Steinbach and Mrs. Parker Dow, Past Masters of the Armistead-Bingham Civil War Lodge 1862—Grand Lodge of Wisconsin, elaborate on all of the masons that held roles in this critical battle in July, 1863.

#### **Commanders of the Iron Brigade**

**Sunday, November 6, 2016; 1 pm-2:30 pm**

**Instructor: Lance Herdegen**

Rufus King, John Gibbon, Solomon Meredith, William Robinson, Lysander Cutler, Edward Bragg, John Kellogg and Henry Morrow. All these officers at various times served as commander of the fabled Iron Brigade over the four years of the Civil War. Who were they, and what kind of leadership did they provide? The Black Hats were all quick to judge the man they called “The Boss Soldier.”

Friends of the Museum \$20/non-members \$25

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



## Nov 1861

*The army teamster – Charley Robinson who is writing some very pleasant letters from Washington over the signature of Konemik, in the Green Bay Advocate gives the following sketch of the army teamster:*

The army teamster is of a separate nationality from all the world. His costume is a pair of brown trousers, a red flannel shirt, a military cap picked up from the debris of some encampment, and a canteen. He generally hails from Pennsylvania. He drives with the inevitable single line, sits on the near wheel horse of mule and observes to the members of his team at short intervals through the day that if they don't hump and hey and go long he will send them to hell endways.

He never knows where he is going to and I have very grave doubts whether he has a clear idea where he came from. He lives in his wagon and his horses live beside it. He is at home wherever night overtakes him, unhitches his horses, ties two of them to the rear box at the rear end and two at the fore end, eats his supper, has a good comfortable swear at everything and everybody and goes to bed. He gets drunk singly by squads, by platoons and by companies.

I wanted twelve wagons the other day to haul ammunition and failed because the whole available train of thirty was having its tri-weekly drunk.

## Patriot War Correspondence

### From the Second Regiment

#### A rainy day in camp

**Fort Tillinghast, Arlington, Va., Nov. 2, 1861**

I am seated in my tent upon a bundle of knapsacks and blankets keeping time with my pen to the music of the roaring wind and dashing rain without. It is one of the wild exciting stormy days that wakes a man up, puts life and strength in his nerves and makes him feel like a true son of the War God – Mars; or a fierce bald eagle ready and anxious to rush forth and battle with the stormy winds just for the glorious joy of warring. I love the storm. I was born upon the stormiest day of the stormiest month of all the year on the far off eastern shore beaten rough and rocky pine crowned hills of New Brunswick; and from the time that I first heard the wind roaring in the groves of pine and hemlock or the river on whose banks I stood and watched the sea gulls and fish hawks dashing its white waves upon the rocky shore lashed into foamy fury by the energetic storm king until the present moment I have delighted to hear the mad wind howl and the rain dash in fury upon the roof whether of shingles or canvas.

The storm commenced about midnight and rose gradually higher and higher until the stakes that held the guy-ropes of our tent gave way and our house swayed to the wind and would have fallen had not the hand of man interfered. We righted our half-fallen mansion and again lay down and slept until roll call at which time we rose and though we did not go out to answer to our names, we had to go to the cook-tent in order to get our breakfast. It is now 3 o'clock in the afternoon and still the storm is raging. We have remained in our tents all day reading, writing and chatting upon the various topics of the day. Stormy as it was, the newsboys found their way into our camp and supplied us with papers in which we find the resignation of the brave old Gen. Scott who has led our victorious armies for so many years. It may be true and if so we have younger and more active men who can take his place. The cause of Liberty will not perish nor the tyrants prosper who are striking at the heart of our nation while such men as McClellan and Fremont are left us. I doubt it not. Freedom shall triumph and we shall yet see in America what I have always hoped we would see – A Republic. The South may not be with us for no one can tell how or when this war will end but if we have only the wild young state of Wisconsin, let it be a Republic.

We have talked this matter over and a thousand other things since this stormy day dawned upon but now we are differently occupied and all is still in our hitherto noisy and uproarious tent. I am driving the pen, as I before said, to the music of the storm. The sun has not shone upon us today but Moon sits at my right shining as brightly as he ever shines, for he is engaged writing poetry in which he excels. Williams is at my left reading a paper while beyond him Packard, noisy as a magpie when awake, is quietly napping; Brown has just come in (he has been bringing wood for the cooks) and has not yet taken any fixed position. Dustin, a friend from the Seventh regiment and a man from Company C, with whom I am not acquainted, complete the picture. They occupy the only seats we have in our tent as we can only afford a few chairs for visitors. In this manner we pass away the time every rainy day; of course we get wet sometimes but that is nothing to the fun we have. We occupy our old ground behind Fort Tillinghast and I cannot even give a guess when we shall leave but we are tired of this place and anxious for a move.

R.K.B.

## U.S. Christian Commission

***Sends this as the Soldier's message to his home. Let it hasten to those who wait for tidings.***

Near Petersburg, Va.

Tuesday eve Dec. 27th/64

Cousin Mary

I have first come in off of picket & have seated myself for the purpose of answering your welcome letter which I received last Saturday. What do you think of that? Don't you think I am as punctual as you was or even a little more so? Mary I was right glad to hear from you again but very sorry your throat was so sore. Also that Lanle was so bad off you both have my sympathy & I hope you are better and fully recovered by this time. You asked what I thought when I received your first letter. I thought no such thing as you said but rather that you had taken compacion on a poor \_\_\_\_\_ boy way down here in Dixie & concluded to answer his letter received long ago if it was a miserable thing & not worth answering. Was I not right here? I am right glad to hear James Hutchings has got home all safe & sound. I'll bet you was glad to see him. I know I should be. I went to his regt twice last summer to see him but he was not there either time. I'll bet he is glad his time is out. If I had served my three years & come out all right I should be as happy a boy as there is on top of dirt. I knew that Albert was in Elmira & I too hope he will have the luck to stay there this winter where he can enjoy the society of his wife & have the privilege of visiting his friends occasionally, but how is his health is it any better then it was last summer? Yes there was a great deal of talk about the 109th going to Elmira & at one time I thought there was a little hope of their going but it has all blown over now. I guess it was more talk than cider anyhow.

Mary I thank you for the invitation you gave me to accompany you to your Christmas tree & should have been very happy indeed to have done so but circumstances which was beyond my power to control prevented. I spent the day in camp nothing more than usual was going on here. There was a ball over in Petersburg last night but we had no invitation to attend so we thought it best to stay away. The way we knew of it was there was five or six Johns came into our lines & told of it. The Johnnies are coming quite fast now days. Six or eight comes in in front of our Brig. every night & some times more. One night last week 36 came in in front of our Div. They are tired of fighting & say that the confederacy cannot hold out much longer. I think if we have as good success next summer as we have had this it will wind up this war. We have cheering news again from Sherman. He has captured Savannah with eight hundred prisoners, 150 guns, 3300 bales of cotton & etc. There was 100 guns fired here yesterday morning in honor of this last victory but enough of this Mary. I agree with you in thinking that Sal is a real good girl & I should enjoy a visit at her school very much. I think some of trying to get a furlough this winter if I do & succeed we will go up & make her an all day visit. Yes and not having had a sleigh ride in nearly three years I think I should enjoy one hugely now especially if I could have the company of a certain person that I know of who is not far from your size. What is going on around Speedsville this winter are they having any very big times there or is it all quiet and what is Frank Perry driving at. Well Mary I have no news to write that I know of. All is as quiet here as usual. The weather is fine for the season of the year. We have had only one snow storm this winter & that didn't last long.

I think I have written as much trash as you will care to study out so I will summer plans. Please excuse mistakes also paper for it is all I have.

Hoping to hear from you soon. I am as ever your cousin Char. Norwood

Yes Mary I have written to Cattie sometime ago but have received no answer yet. Tell \_\_\_ I am looking for a letter from her. A happy new year to you Mary. C.D.N.

**submitted by Peter Jacobsohn**

### ROUND TABLE CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee:

We would like to thank you for the donation of the Michael D. Goca (Co. C, 1st Wisconsin Infantry) letter to the Civil War Museum. We greatly appreciate your generosity.

It is always special to have a resource such as this letter. We look forward to the research and exhibit possibilities.

Again, we thank you very much for this donation to the Civil War Museum and for your continued support and friendship.

Sincerely,  
Dan Joyce, Director

Dear Members of the CWRT of Milwaukee,

The Brassler family of Manitowoc would like to express our sincere appreciation for all the expressions of sympathy from the CWRT of Milwaukee during this time of our sorrow, including the flowers at Judy's funeral, the memoriam in the *General Orders*, and the sympathy messages from members.

All this is much more than I ever expected. Good friends are greatly appreciated!!

Sincerely,  
Dale Brassler

**MILWAUKEE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE  
2016-2017 SPEAKER SCHEDULE**

**September 8, 2016**

David Eicher  
*Tales of the Civil War High Commands*

**October 13, 2016**

Lance Herdegen - Nevins-Freeman Award Winner  
*"And the baby had red hair." Music of the Iron Brigade*

**November 10, 2016**

Dave Connon  
*Iowa Copperheads*

**December 8, 2016**

Bjorn Skaptason  
*Ambrose Bierce at Shiloh*

**January 12, 2017**

Richard Sommers  
*Lessons in Leadership in the Petersburg Campaign*

**February 9, 2017**

Bob O'Neill  
*Stuart's Christmas Raid of 1862*

**March 9, 2017**

Paul Kahan  
*Simon Cameron, Lincoln's First Secretary of War*

**April 20, 2017**

Diane Smith  
*Command Conflict in the Overland Campaign*

**May 11, 2017**

Reverend Robert Miller  
*Faith of the Fathers*

**June 8, 2017**

Donald Sender  
*Untold Facts of the Custer Debacle*

**Speakers remain subject to change.**

**Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.  
2016 – 2017 Board of Directors**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Office/Position</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
Donna Agnelly	Editor, General Orders	2019
Thomas Arliskas	First Vice President	2019
Terry Arliskas	Secretary	
Michael K. Benton	Second Vice President	2017
Roman Blenski	Quartermaster	2019
Crain Bliwas	Member	2019
Paul A. Eilbes	Treasurer/Membership	2019
A. William Finke	Member	2017
Van Harl	President	2017
James J. Heinz	Member	2017
Grant Johnson	Past President	2018
Bruce Klem	Member	2018
Daniel Nettesheim	Member	2018
Frank Risler	Program Chair	2018
Tom Thompson	Member	2017
David Wege	Layout, General Orders	2018

**~ CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE NEWS EMAIL  
NOTIFICATIONS ~**

Would you like to receive an email reminder before each meeting? How about an email telling you about a special or upcoming Civil War event in our area? If you are interested in receiving an email reminder/notification please send your email address to Grant Johnson at: [grant.johnson@responsory.com](mailto:grant.johnson@responsory.com)

Grant will be creating a database with email reminders set to go out a week before the scheduled event. This is a purely optional choice on each member's part. If you have any questions please talk to Grant at a Round Table meeting or email him at the listed email address.

**Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for November 10, 2016**

Mail your reservations by Monday, November 7, 2015 to:

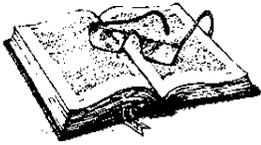
ALSO, call in reservations to: Paul Eilbes (262) 376-0568

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

Paul Eilbes  
1809 Washington Ave  
Cedarburg, WI 53012-9730

Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_ (meal price \$30.00 per person) for \_\_\_\_ reservations for November 10, 2016, 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 \_\_\_\_\_

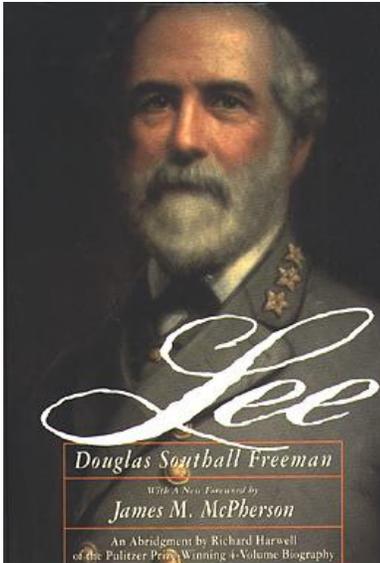


## BETWEEN THE COVERS

### Lee

Douglas Southall Freeman

abridgement by Robert Harwell



This review is a continuation of my reviews of books on Robert E. Lee. I've cheated a bit with this review; it is an abridgement of the 4-volume biography written by Douglas Southall Freeman, published in the mid-1930s and the winner of a Pulitzer Prize. This book is simply titled *Lee*, by Freeman and abridged by Robert Harwell. Freeman, according to some historians, did much to create the Lee legend; this was accomplished with his 4-volume work and *Lee's Lieutenants*. Freeman's portrait of Lee is almost without blemishes or warts. The abridged version by Harwell also contains a new forward by noted Civil War author James M. McPherson.

Harwell manages to pare down the 4-volume work into 1 volume by eliminating the footnotes and all of the appendices but not the broad story of Lee's life. Harwell provides the basic story of Lee's father, Henry Lee's life, and how it had an impact on Robert's development. He provides details of Robert's early education – both civilian and at West Point. He follows Lee through his early assignments and details his involvement in the Mexican War with General Scott and shows the vital role Lee played in the successful execution of that campaign. Lee's actions, as Scott's key staff officer, were an early indication of his decisiveness and keen eye for tactical employment of forces for achieving victory.

Lee's life between the Mexican War and the Civil War are covered as well. His service in the Army and trials that arose in his civilian life is detailed, including his actions in the John Brown Raid and Harpers Ferry and his decision and conflicts with the choice to serve with the Union or the Confederacy.

Mr. Harwell covers Lee's career with the Confederacy from its humble beginnings as commander of Virginia troops, to his move as advisor to Davis, to commander of the West Virginia campaign and finally, to commander of the Army of Northern Virginia.

Obviously, a large portion of the work deals with Lee's role as commander of the Confederacy's prime army and tracing the development of the strategy Lee used to fight the campaign against the Union. The work provides details of his dealings with his subordinate commanders, coordination meetings and communications with President Davis and his cabinet and Lee's own vision for victory over Union forces. Harwell includes some of the development of the intangible side of Lee with the men of his command. He shows how Lee went from a title of "King of Spades," to a commander whose troops felt "he was superior to the best general the enemy had and that their lives and their cause were safe in his hands."

Each major campaign is discussed and Lee's actions detailed and analysis provided. As the war continued, certain shortages begin to have an impact on operations. The lack of adequate foodstuffs, clothing and horses begin to limit operations and troop movements. Casualties become harder and harder to replace and the abilities of the army and combat power can be seen to suffer.

The question posed by McPherson in his forward is: "How well does Freeman's scholarship stand up today?" Freeman's version of Lee is of a Virginia gentleman, a brilliant commander who might have won for his cause had it not been for General Longstreet's lack of cooperation at Gettysburg. The Lee portrayed by more recent scholarship paints a different picture and gives rise to discussion over the controversy today. And so it will continue.

I highly recommend this book to any student of the Civil War and understanding the leadership of the Confederacy. I would also recommend that reading some of the newer books on Lee will help give a more balanced view of Lee's capabilities, personality and failings which will help to find who the real man was and the cause he supported.

submitted by Bruce Klem



# THANKSGIVING PROCLAMATION

Washington D.C.

October 3, 1863

By the President of the United States of America.

A Proclamation.

The year that is drawing towards its close, has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are so extraordinary a nature that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever watchful providence of Almighty God. In the midst of a civil war of unequalled magnitude and severity, which has sometimes seemed to foreign States to invite and to provoke their aggression, peace has been preserved with all nations, order has been maintained, the laws have been respected and obeyed, and harmony has prevailed everywhere except in the theatre of military conflict; while that theatre has been greatly contracted by the advancing armies and navies of the Union. Needful diversions of wealth and of strength from the fields of peaceful industry to the national defense have not arrested the plough, the shuttle or the ship; the axe has enlarged the borders of our settlements, and the mines, as well of iron and coal as of the precious metals, have yielded even more abundantly than heretofore. Population has steadily increased, notwithstanding the waste that has been made in the camp, the siege and the battle-field; and the country, rejoicing in the consciousness of augmented strength and vigor, is permitted to expect continuance of years with large increase of freedom. No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy. It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American People. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens. And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility and Union.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington, this Third day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the Independence of the United States the Eighty-eighth.

By the President: Abraham Lincoln

William H. Seward  
Secretary of State

## Down the Mississippi and Along the Gulf Coast



Civil War history immersion adventures are a way that I help students understand this critical period of American history. Each summer a handful of fellow Marquette University High School faculty and I pack approximately 20 students in vans and we hit the road looking to experience the war in a variety of ways. This summer's adventure took our school group down the Mississippi River and along the Gulf Coast. Battlefield visits included stops to Columbus, Fort Pillow, Vicksburg, Grand Gulf, Port Gibson, Shiloh, Collierville, Holly Springs, Fort Pickens, New Orleans and Mobile Bay. These summer trips provide more than military history tours, however, and one guiding rule is that the group never sleeps in a hotel but rather on battlefields, in Civil War era related buildings or college dorms. I will share a few of the highlights of the trip below.

One benefit of traveling south is to hear different historical perspectives on the war. Our battlefield hiking tour of Fort Pillow State Park with the Confederate-clad president of the Nathan Bedford Forrest Historical Society provided a unique Southern interpretation on that battle. We were also guided to the Forrest monument in Memphis where we heard rationale why the monument should remain where it currently stands, in part, because Forrest "was actually a friend" to African Americans. Throughout the afternoon, students listened intently, and asked questions and felt this was an extremely invaluable experience to discuss history with someone with such a different perspective. This visit served as an excellent counterpoint to our visit with Professor Wyatt Moulds of Mississippi's Jones County Community College who was one of the historical consultants for the movie, "Free State of Jones." Professor Moulds spoke unabashedly about slavery as the root of the war and how the Jones County rebels were heroes. Moulds provided an excellent backroads tour of Jones County sites, which included family cemeteries of Newt Knight and Jasper Collins. These southerners' loyalty was without question when we saw the gravestone of Collins' son who was born in 1866 and names Ulysses Sherman Collins.

A tour of the campus at Ole Miss provided another excellent perspective of the war and its legacy. We saw the campus's controversial Confederate memorial and a new plaque nearby with an "updated" interpretation of the war and the South's role in it. We even learned of archaeology taking place on campus to learn more of the slaves owned by both students and faculty. The university banned students from bringing their own slaves in the 1850s but still offered to rent the university slaves to anyone in need!

Our overnight stays on historical ground really help immerse students into history. This year we spent a somewhat comfortable night in the 1854 Cavalry stable's hay loft at the Jefferson Barracks Military Post in St. Louis. We also camped in downtown Collierville, Tennessee, on ground where Confederates retreated after that brief battle where General Sherman was moments from capture aboard a train. To better understand the Vicksburg Campaign, we camped an evening at Grand Gulf Military Park before a 2-day, 45-mile canoe ride to Natchez. Along the river we also slept on a beautiful island across from Bruinsburg where Grant finally made a successful crossing from Louisiana to Mississippi. Another memorable evening was camping on a sandy dune within eyeshot of Fort Pickens, Florida. Two nights in Holly Springs rustic slave cabins along with slave dwelling historian, Joe McGill, introduced students to local history seen through the eyes of slaves.

Civil War home tours of Lincoln, Grant and Davis were excellent experiences as well. Lincoln's Springfield home helped students relate better to Lincoln while his presidential library museum impressed others with its technology; one student even commented the museum was "Disneyesque." Grant's home, White Haven, at The Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site in St. Louis provided interesting interpretations of Grant's in-laws who were slave owners, the plantation slaves themselves and also a very positive view of Grant the president. Finally, our visit to Jefferson Davis' Beauvoir prompted the most emotion from our students. Run by the Sons of the Confederacy, our tour guide attempted to rationalize the merits of slavery, explain how his family was "kind" slave owners and that Northerners forced slavery on the South. Our group was polite in rebuttals but still resisted these attempts to justify slavery. As a teacher, to see students take a stand and back up their argument with examples from class or previous site visits in a public forum was awesome to experience.

Given the wide range of visits and guides, our nightly bonfire group discussions were outstanding. We take time to discuss what we saw and heard each day and then relate it to the previous day's visits. History truly becomes a living experience for these students.

**submitted by Chris Lese**



*Through the Looking Glass* features are intended to tell the stories of common folks of the Civil War, whether they are civilians or military personnel. If you have access to the story of an ordinary Wisconsin citizen of this war-torn era, and are willing to share it with our Round Table, please consider submitting it to Donna Agnelly, editor of our **General Orders**. Thank you!

## Louis P. Harvey

### Ninety-Four Day Wisconsin Civil War Governor

by Matt Murphy



Wisconsin Governors have been in the news lately following Governor Walker's presidential run. However, this article focuses its attention to a different, lesser known Republican Governor of Wisconsin, Louis P. Harvey, who is otherwise known as the "Ninety-Four Day Governor" as he only held the office for ninety-four days. However, that nickname does him a disservice as this article will show that he led a rather remarkable life which then ended tragically in the middle of the Civil War.

Louis Powell Harvey was born on July 22, 1820, in the New England town of East Haddam, CT. Like many other New England "Yankee" families at the time, the Harvey family left their home for western land in the Upper Mississippi Valley in 1828. They settled in Strongsville, OH, and Louis lived there until he left to study at Western Reserve College in Hudson, OH, at age 17 in 1837. However, Louis soon left college to teach as a tutor due to health problems. A few years later, he would gain his first experience in politics as he campaigned on behalf of Whig presidential nominee William Henry Harrison. After the election, he moved to Southport (now Kenosha), WI, where he did a

number of things, including starting a school, becoming the editor of the local Whig newspaper the "Southport American" and even served as postmaster after having been appointed to that position by President Tyler. In 1850, Harvey moved to the town of Waterloo (now Shopiere) in Rock County, with his wife of three years, Cordelia Perrine, a fellow Yankee migrant. In Waterloo, Harvey opened a general store and soon established himself as a leading citizen within the community. During those years in Waterloo, he helped to establish the local Congregationalist church and expanded his business to include a second general store in the area.

After the Whig Party had been dissolved in 1854, Harvey helped to organize the new Republican Party in Rock County. Bolstered by his own personal popularity within the local community, Harvey was elected to the State Senate as a Republican. He served in the State Senate for two terms and, during that time, became the President Pro Tempore. As a reward for his services to the local Republican Party, Harvey was selected as one of Wisconsin's delegates to the 1856 Republican National Convention, where John C. Fremont was nominated for the presidency. The Party further expressed their gratitude for his work when, in 1859, he was nominated for Secretary of State by the Republican Party. He was elected that year and he served under Governor Alexander Randall, who was, like Harvey, both a Republican and abolitionist. The following year, he campaigned on behalf of the Republican presidential nominee, Abraham Lincoln, which helped to cement his status as one of Wisconsin's leading Republicans. In addition to all this, Harvey was also well liked by many Wisconsin politicians, both Republican and Democrat, as he garnered a reputation for being both honest and very hard-working. In 1861, a grateful Republican Party nominated Harvey for Governor, and both he and Edward Salomon (a German-born former Democrat who was nominated by the Republicans as part of a Union ticket) won their respective races for Governor and Lt. Governor. Upon his election to the Wisconsin governorship, Harvey's ascent to the top of the Wisconsin political ladder had been completed.

Governor Harvey took office on January 6, 1862, by which point the Civil War was well underway. One of the pressing issues of the time, then, was concern about the welfare of soldiers from Wisconsin and their families. Acutely aware of this issue, Governor Harvey informed the State Legislature that he intended to be the "Soldier's Friend" and called upon the State Legislature to amend the Soldier Volunteer Aid Act in order to provide more funds to soldiers and their families. The problem was, however, that the State had run out of money with which to pay the soldiers the previously agreed upon \$5 a month, preventing many soldiers' families from receiving their payment. The State Legislature agreed to provide the fund with another half loaf, but the fund soon ran out again. Governor Harvey called upon legislators to take special action.

He informed them that the soldier's fund was empty but that there were still 3,100 Wisconsin eligible soldiers who had not yet received the payment. The Governor declared that it was embarrassing not only for the legislators that the fund had run out of money but that it was also embarrassing for all of the soldiers whose families depended on these funds. Even though the Legislature moved very slowly in resolving this matter, an additional \$50,000 had been transferred to the soldier's fund by April 5, 1862.

While Governor Harvey continued to work at being the "soldier's friend" and managing the rest of Wisconsin's affairs, exciting news poured in from the war front as General Grant captured Forts Henry and Donelson in Tennessee in February, and as the ironclad *Monitor* forced the famous Confederate ship *Merrimac* to retire during a naval battle off of Hampton Roads, VA. The excitement of Wisconsin residents was further inflamed as it was soon revealed that four Wisconsin infantry regiments (the First, Fourteenth, Sixteenth and Eighteenth) had entered under General Grant's command as he continued to move through Tennessee. These regiments fought with General Grant's troops during the Battle of Shiloh on April 6-7, 1862. The Fourteenth was particularly singled out for praise by General Grant himself due to their role in capturing a Confederate battery. However, the intense fighting produced a large number of casualties from Wisconsin. The Fourteenth reported 14 dead and 79 wounded or missing, and the Sixteenth lost a quarter of its men. Similarly, the Eighteenth reported 24 dead, 82 wounded, and 174 missing.

When news of these great losses reached Wisconsin, Governor Harvey became very concerned. In a public address, he asked citizens of the state to donate medical supplies to help the soldiers. To ensure that the donation reached the soldier, he even offered to deliver the supplies to the soldiers himself. Many Wisconsinites responded to the Governor's request and more than 90 crates worth of medical supplies were collected. After organizing a group of volunteers to accompany him on his "mission of mercy," the Governor visited many military hospitals and camps in search of Wisconsin soldiers, distributing the medical supplies as he continued. A letter written by the Governor himself on April 17 to his personal secretary in Madison shows that he did not regret his trip at all. In that letter, he wrote that "I am doing a good work and shall stay as long as I am profitably employed."

Unfortunately, the Governor's good work was not to continue for much longer. On April 19, 1862, Governor Harvey slipped and fell into a flood-swollen Tennessee River while crossing from one steamboat to the next. By the time that Governor Harvey's body was recovered ten days later, news of the Governor's death had already reached Wisconsin. Not unexpectedly, his death was met with great sadness. Governor Harvey had proven to be a popular governor due to his concern for the welfare of Wisconsin soldiers and their families. His many years of dedicated service to Wisconsin and the Whig and Republican parties had left many Wisconsinites of all political views with a lasting, favorable impression of the Ninety-Four Day Governor.

submitted by Jud Wyant

*General Orders*, the official publication of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.  
is produced September through June and upon request of the Board of Directors.

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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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*General Orders* design & layout by Dave Wege.

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

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