

GENERAL ORDERS

The Newsletter of the

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



January 11, 2018

Bruce Allardice

These Charges Don't Pay: The Battle of Ezra Church

One of every three soldiers who attacked the defensive line at Ezra Church on July 28, 1864, was struck by a bullet...

At Ezra Church the American soldier fought for his cause; he fought for his country; he fought for his comrades; he fought for his president. In so doing, he also fought for an emblem that embodied all – his flag.

Gary Ecelbarger

Slaughter at the Chapel: The Battle of Ezra Church 1864

The Battle of Ezra Church was fought on July 28, 1864 near Atlanta, the third in a series of unsuccessful attacks by Hood's Confederate Army of Tennessee on Sherman's Union army. Sherman's army stretched in an inverted U around the northern defenses of Atlanta. Sherman decided to cut off the railroad supply lines into Atlanta, thus forcing the defending army to withdraw without a direct assault. To accomplish this goal, Sherman commanded his easternmost army, under Maj. Gen. Oliver O. Howard, north and west around the rest of the Union lines to the far western side of Atlanta where the railroad entered the city. Hood, anticipating Sherman's maneuver, moved his troops out to oppose the Union army. Hood planned to intercept them and catch them by surprise with a flank attack. The armies met on the afternoon of July 28 west of Atlanta, near Ezra Church. Unfortunately for Hood, his disjointed attacks hit Howard's troops head on. The Confederate army suffered heavy losses assaulting the Union army's line of improvised breastwork of logs and rails. The rebels were defeated, although they managed to stop Howard from reaching the railroad line. The discouraged Confederates blamed Hood for the defeat, lamenting that they "had just enough soldiers left for another killing." One Confederate general complained that his men "had been butchered" by the high command.

In his January presentation to our Round Table, Professor Bruce Allardice will discuss this battle, and in particular, he critiques John Bell Hood's management (or lack thereof) of the battle.

A professor of history at South Suburban College, Bruce S. Allardice is a past president of the Northern Illinois Civil War Round Table and the Civil War Round Table of Chicago. He has authored or coauthored six books, and numerous articles, on the Civil War. Among his publications is "It Was Perfect Murder: Stephen D. Lee at Ezra Church," an essay that appears in *Confederate Generals in the Western Theater* (vol. 3). His latest book is *Two Years Before the Paddlewheel: Charles F. Gunther, Mississippi River Confederate* (State House Press, 2012), the edited diary of Charles F. Gunther, a Confederate steamboat officer who later became Chicago's leading candy maker.

A graduate of the University of Illinois and a former Board member of the Illinois State Historical Society, Allardice has presented numerous lectures and presentations on the Civil War and genealogy for Civil War Round Tables, museums, and civil organizations. He is the recipient of the CWRT of Chicago's prestigious Nevins-Freeman Award for distinguished service in Civil War Scholarship and the CWRT movement.

An avid sports historian, Bruce currently heads up the "Civil War Baseball" subcommittee for the Society of American Baseball Research. He is a lifelong resident of the Chicago area.

General Orders No. 1-18

January 2018

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January Meeting at a Glance The Wisconsin Club 9th 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, January 8, 2018

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.

2017-2018 Speaker Schedule

Find the speaker schedule on page 6.

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!

COMING IN OCTOBER 2022



**OUR 75TH ANNIVERSARY
START THINKING ABOUT IT!**



Happy New Year to One and All!

The Muster Roll: NEW MEMBERS

| NUMBER | NAME | AGE | RESIDENCE | PLACE OF BIRTH | EDUCATION | PROFESSION | REMARKS |
|--------|------------|-----|-----------|----------------|-------------|------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 | Amos, John | 22 | White | Illinois | High School | Farmer | Has filed declaration of intention |
| 2 | Amos, John | 24 | White | Illinois | High School | Farmer | Has filed declaration of intention |
| 3 | Amos, John | 26 | White | Illinois | High School | Farmer | Has filed declaration of intention |
| 4 | Amos, John | 28 | White | Illinois | High School | Farmer | Has filed declaration of intention |
| 5 | Amos, John | 30 | White | Illinois | High School | Farmer | Has filed declaration of intention |
| 6 | Amos, John | 32 | White | Illinois | High School | Farmer | Has filed declaration of intention |
| 7 | Amos, John | 34 | White | Illinois | High School | Farmer | Has filed declaration of intention |
| 8 | Amos, John | 36 | White | Illinois | High School | Farmer | Has filed declaration of intention |
| 9 | Amos, John | 38 | White | Illinois | High School | Farmer | Has filed declaration of intention |
| 10 | Amos, John | 40 | White | Illinois | High School | Farmer | Has filed declaration of intention |

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, 2017 through December 7, 2017.

Major Contributor (\$500 and above)

Patron (\$200 - \$499)

Eugene & Jane Jamrozy, Steven Leopold, Robert Parrish

Associate (\$100 - \$199)

Michael Benton, Crain Bliwas, Bob Dude, Bill Finke, Douglas Haag, Dr. Peter & Jean Jacobsohn, David Jordan, Bruce Klem, Jerry & Donna Martynski, James & Ann Reeve, Laura Rinaldi, David & Helga Sartori, Dennis Slater, Paul Sotirin, Gil Vraney

Contributor (up to \$99)

George Affeldt, John Beatty, T. James Blake, Dale Brasser, John & Linda Connelly, Tom Corcoran, Dr. Gordon E. Dammann, Michael Deeken, John Durr, Thomas Eddington, Paul Eilbes, Gary & Judy Ertel, Van & Dawn Harl, Leon & Margaret Harris, Dr. Erwin Huston, Christopher Johnson, Allan Kasprzak, Ardis Kelling, John Kuhnmuensch, Jay Lauck, Dr. Rodney Malinowski, John (Jack) McHugh, Edward Newman, Herb Oechler, Tom Pokrandt, John Rodahl, Diana Smurawa, Dan Tanty, Michael Uihlein, Bernard VanDinter

milwaukeecwrt.org



Searching for more information about the
CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF MILWAUKEE?

Find us on Facebook. Current and upcoming events are posted there for our members or for others interested in what our group has to offer! Check it out, and tell an interested friend about us.



“The Cavalry of Gettysburg” was the topic presented to the Round Table membership by Max. H. Herriott in January 1948.

At the January 1958 meeting, Frederick Tilberg spoke to those assembled on “The First Day at Gettysburg.”

“Reading, Writing and Round Tables” was the topic of Ralph Newman’s talk to the Round Table in January 1968.

The January 1978 meeting was a rare cancellation due to that Midwest phenomenon known as a snowstorm.

James C. Vlazny spoke to the membership in January 1988 about “Robert Barnwell Rhett: Father of Secession.”

At the January 1998 meeting, Daniel McCarthy gave his talk on “The Eighty-Third Illinois Infantry.”

“The Southern Journey of a Civil War Marine” was presented by Edward T. Cotham at our January 2008 meeting.

At last year’s meeting, Richard Sommers spoke to those assembled about “Richmond Redeemed: Enduring Lessons from the Siege of Petersburg.”

FROM YOUR MCWRT PRESIDENT

One of the items I was working on as MCWRT Archivist was making available any past recorded presentations or videos of our Round Table speakers. I have been collecting discs of our presenters from Ken Walker, our videographer. You see him in the back of the room filming every word of our speakers. What I have discovered is that you can already see past videos of presentations from the Chicago Civil War Round Table. The previous year is placed on their Webpage. You can link there to YouTube and watch! We share speakers and so, if for some reason you could not attend our meeting, you can go to YouTube and catch up on past performances. You can also purchase copies of all the speakers going back to 1951 for \$9.00 plus \$3.00 postage. After some discussion, the MCWRT Board of Directors decided that the 2017-2018 videos will not be online until the close of this current season.

I want to thank Ken Walker for all of his hard work and dedication to the Milwaukee Round Table. Years and years from now, know that if you missed a great evening presentation you can never-the-less still see it thanks to Ken Walker and the others who videotaped before him.

Thomas Arliskas

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.

March, March, March and No Fight: The Story of the 13th Wisconsin Infantry

Friday, January 12, 2018 – Noon

Presented by: Pete Skelly

The 13th Wisconsin was the only infantry regiment trained in Janesville and solely recruited from the South Central Wisconsin Counties of Rock, Green and Walworth. Hear stories of the regiment as it served from the frigid winter plains of Kansas to the river crossings of Tennessee and Northern Alabama and to the severe heat of the Texas plains.

Glory and the United States Colored Troops

Friday, January 19, 2018 – Noon

Join the Civil War Museum for a free screening of the movie of the Academy Award winning motion picture “Glory” about Colonel Robert Gould Shaw and the African-American soldiers of the 54th Massachusetts. Before the showing of the movie, hear a presentation on the formation of other United States Colored Troop regiments – some of which were formed out of the communities of the Upper Middle West with local historian Jeff Kannel.

PUBLIC Education

Join the Education Staff and Kenosha’s PUBLIC Craft Brewing Company for fun adult “field trips” and lively discussion of science, history, and technology. Each session will meet at PUBLIC Craft Brewery in downtown Kenosha where the cost of the event (\$15/\$10 Friends of the Museum) gets you started with your choice of one of their fine craft brews.

PUBLIC Education: The Bone Collector

Thursday, January 18, 2018

6:30 – 8:30 pm

Presenter: Doug Dammann

Dr. Jacob Ebersole was a well-respected surgeon who operated on wounded soldiers from some of the largest battles of the Civil War such as Antietam and Gettysburg. Not only that, he often saved and collected the bones from those operations and bragged about it to his wife. Why would he do that? Come to this session of Public Education and find out more about Surgeon Ebersole and the fascinating topic of Civil War medicine.





*From the Second Regiment
Camp Tillinghast, Jan. 2, 1862*

Dear Father and Mother – I suppose you would like to know how I spent New Year's and I thought I would improve the present opportunity in telling you.

It is evening, and we have just come in from picket. We have to travel ten miles to do picket duty. We started on Tuesday morning on this business and arrived there about noon, relieving the 19th Indiana regiment. Two companies were left as a reserve and our company took one road and relieved the pickets that were on it, and the remainder of the company went on other roads.

We got posted by the middle of the afternoon –four men on a post-one man on the lookout all the while, while the other three would keep secreted a few rods off in the woods; we relieve each other every hour.

The post to which I belonged was on the edge of some big pine woods being the third from the last on the right wing of our picket lines. As it happened, I was on foot from half past eleven to half past twelve so I watched the old year out and the new one in standing behind a large pine tree right in the edge of the woods with my old musket by my side looking out for secesh.

In the morning we were relieved by the reserve and we then acted as a reserve ourselves. We remained there all New Year's Day the next night and part of the next day, when the 7th regiment came out and took our places. We had no roast turkey, mince pies, nor any of those nice fixings for New Year's which I suppose you had out there in Wisconsin. We don't get much of that fancy kind of living, I can tell you. But our New Year's will come pretty soon for we are to get our pay next week when I shall go over to Washington and will have a time.

We have been fixing up our tents so as to be comfortable although we have had no cold weather yet. A man is comfortable here with his coat off while you are freezing will all the clothes you can get on. I like Virginia on that account but for nothing else. We have our tents logged up five feet inside with a door in front so if cold weather comes we shall be prepared for it. The officers all have block houses which the boys built for them. We are all in good health and in good spirits and everything goes smoothly and nice. There is not much drilling now but we go on picket once in three weeks. There is not much prospect of our moving forward this winter.

At three o'clock on New Year's night we received orders from Gen. McDowell to double the pickets as he thought the secesh would make a break that night but did not dare to come. They fired on the pickets on the Potomac, but

were driven back. It takes twenty regiments to do picket duty; this is 20,000 men for picket every day so large is our army and so extended are its lines. Our pickets extend further than they ever did and we keep advancing all the time. "Mac" will keep crowding until the secesh will think that the Yankees, as they call us, are imposing on them when they will pitch into us, and try to drive us back but that will be a job for Jeff and his gentlemen, as he styles them, this driving back is played out. McClellan says we have made our last retreat and we all have confidence in him. We are waiting patiently for him to lead on for they think the more fighting they do the sooner the war will be ended. We are pretty near neighbors, we don't agree very well. They have heavy entrenchments about Centerville, and when the battle does take place, it will be the greatest one ever fought.

But I will bring my letter to a close as it is getting almost time for tattoo. I wish you would send me a few Janesville papers and I hope you will write soon.

From your son,
C.H. Cheney

*From the Second Wisconsin Regiment
Camp Tillinghast, Va., Jan. 12, '62*

Dear "Tribune:"

The Judge, for once, is really nonplussed for something of interest to jot down for the benefit of the reader. The Army of the Potomac furnishes nothing worthy of notice – quietly occupying the same routine of duty being theirs, undisturbed by the murmuring secesh.

The weather for a week past has been rather disagreeable. Monday it rained, Tuesday it snowed, Wednesday it rained and on Thursday we were blessed with a regular southern blow which for a time it seemed doubtful whether the tents would stand the pressure or not; in fact we should not have been disappointed had we awoke in the morning and found the canopy of heaven our only cover and us poor soldiers laying around loose.

The Rev. Mr. Richmond, the Chaplain of the Second, preached in camp to-day. The attendance at his meetings is rather slim; why, I know not, but so it is. The only wonder is that the man really undertakes to address the Second at all for I am sure that his labors are of little account; not because the men are not willing to rally around his standard but simply because they know not the good of a Chaplain as he generally suits his own convenience in visiting the Camp. Other Regiments have the full benefit of their Chaplains, but be it said of the Second that it is one of the wonders to see the Reverend with his flag in Camp. In most of the companies prayer meetings are held nightly and an occasional accession to the ranks is evident by the persevering endeavors of the few steady ever ready deserving the promised reward. It is these few men that never falter. Our company has samples and the merciless hand will assuredly be stayed and a just and happy verdict their reward.

On Friday our boys that for so long have been in “durance vile” at Richmond returned to Washington and last evening they joined the company. Some sixty in number returned to the regiment, all of whom were taken at the Battle of Bull Run. They received a hearty welcome by their comrades. The band played “Home Again” and cheer after cheer rent the air over their return. As soon as they are paid off they will return to their homes on a furlough for thirty days.

The boys all look well considering the hardships they have undergone in the tobacco houses of Richmond. Sergeant Gregory had a “chum” while in Richmond – an English “tar” and though uneducated he produced a song on the battle of Manassas of which the following stanza is a sample:

*Come all you Yankee heroes,
Come listen for a while,
And when that you have heard it
I will cause you for to smile,
Concerning of the Southerners
These verses are about –
They go, their legs fast in a trap,
And cannot get them out.
At the battle of Manassas,
I mean to tell you plain,
Although they gained the victor
They'd the greatest number slain.
The Yankees stood true to their guns,
And swore they'd never yield;
If it had not been for Patterson
They'd lick them off the field.*

This JOHN BELL is one of those prisoners held in custody to meet the fate of the pirates taken by our government – Sergt. Gregory also has a flag given him by a Union lady at Richmond, as there are in Baltimore, and that Richmond will never be taken by our forces for the reason that it will have been seized by her loyal citizens ‘ere our army could possibly reach it.

There had been a detail of captains and sergeants made to return to the State to recruit for the Regiment but Gen. McDowell has recalled them and it is presumed that this useless expedition will not be made. I should think there were enough interested persons left in Wisconsin that could take hold of the recruiting department without

interfering with the regiments in the field. We have no more officers than is necessary to man the gallant Second and consider it entirely complimentary that anything higher than a private be allowed to go on the recruiting. Right Bower, correspondent of the *Intelligencer*, is brought to account for his essay on the mitten question.

Now this whole matter arose simply by some erring friend at the Point writing here that the chances of the company receiving any favors for the Societies were slim indeed. But we are glad that the matter thus turned out – that Right Bower and Judge were really wrong and that the ladies are the dearest of angels. They will pardon us and await reinforcements. We feel confident that we have a number of steadfast friends in the Point and trust our labors will repay them for their pains.

The Philadelphia *Inquirer* contains the intelligence that Gen. Jim Lane has been granted the privilege of selecting what troops he wishes for the work of subjugation on the borders and that from Wisconsin he selects one regiment of cavalry and two of Infantry. We are in hopes our regiment may be one for LANE we would glory in following. The section of country is our choice yet the general impression is that Bull Run must first be wiped out and the man would be an assurance to us that no longer would we be permitted to play the soldier but do a godly share of duty.

Washington is densely crowded with visitors and shoulder-strapped gentlemen with sash and sword. In fact, there is scarcely a place – even the President’s mansion – that is free of these plumed gentlemen. I wonder sometimes at the differences that the gold bars make with the man; and the number of fair damsels that have vowed to love and obey shows plainly the impression their shoulder bars have on the hearts of the Washington ladies. A few of them should be imported West for our young misses to squint at.

It is growing late and having run about out of anything to say, I close, awaiting till something more exciting turns up which may prove more interesting than I fear this column of jottings will be apt to.

Yours as ever,
Judge

KENOSHA MUSEUMS HELP BOOST ECONOMY

As reported by James Lawson on October 9, 2017 in the *Kenosha News*, an independent study conducted by the Williams College Center for Creative Community Development has shown that visitors to Kenosha’s three public museums has impacted significantly on the local economy. The results of this independent study show that the museums create a \$12.2 million impact annually and account for about 200 jobs.

The three museums combined average is approximately 237,150 UNIQUE visits per year. 49% of the visits are from people outside of Kenosha County. A UNIQUE visitor is someone who may return to the museum more than once. Outside visitors spend more than \$7.3 million annually on a combination of food services, hotels, retail stores, real estate and wholesale trade; this also results in an additional 126 local jobs.

Have you visited the Civil War Museum lately? Taken a class? Attended one of the many free presentations offered? Wandered through the Fiery Trial or spent some time in the Antaramian Gallery on the second floor? If not, it’s time you did; both you and the museum will benefit from your visit.

**MILWAUKEE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
2017-2018 SPEAKER SCHEDULE**

September 7, 2017

Ed Bonekemper
*False Remembrance of the Civil War:
The Myth of the Lost Cause*

October 12, 2017

Dave Powell
Chickamauga

November 9, 2017

Tom Clemens
Special Order 191 and the Maryland Campaign

December 7, 2017

David Dixon
Lost Gettysburg Address

January 11, 2018

Bruce Allardice
Battle of Ezra Church

February 8, 2018

Larry Hewitt
Confederate General Richard Anderson

March 8, 2018

Robert D. Jenkins
Peachtree Creek

April 12, 2018

John Marszalek
Lincoln Topic
Nevins-Freeman Award Winner

May 10, 2018

Joseph Rose
Grant Under Fire

June 7, 2018

Dennis Rasbach
Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain at Petersburg
Speakers/topics remain subject to change.

**Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.
2017 – 2018 Board of Directors**

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Office/Position</u> | <u>Term Expires</u> |
|-------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Donna Agnelly | Editor, General Orders | 2019 |
| Thomas Arliskas | President | 2019 |
| Terry Arliskas | Secretary | |
| Michael K. Benton | Second Vice President | 2020 |
| Roman Blenski | Quartermaster | 2019 |
| Crain Bliwas | Member | 2019 |
| Paul A. Eilbes | Treasurer/Membership | 2019 |
| A. William Finke | Member | 2020 |
| Van Harl | Past President | 2020 |
| James J. Heinz | Member | 2020 |
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| Bruce Klem | First Vice President | 2018 |
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| Frank Rislér | Program Chair | 2018 |
| Tom Thompson | Member | 2020 |
| 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

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.

Milwaukee Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for January 11, 2018

Mail your reservations by Monday, January 8 to:

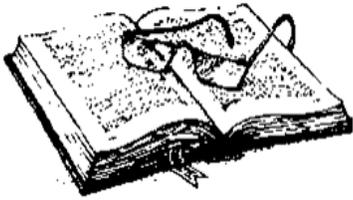
Paul Eilbes
1809 Washington Avenue
Cedarburg, WI 53012-9730

Call or email reservations to:

(262) 376-0568
peilbes@gmail.com

Enclosed is \$_____ (meal is \$30.00 per person) for _____ people for the
January 11, 2018 meeting of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee.

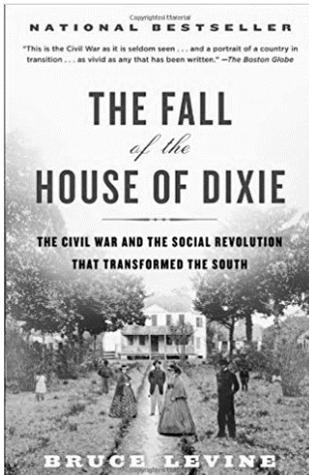
(Please make checks payable to the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.)



BETWEEN THE COVERS

The Fall of the House of Dixie: The Civil War and the Social Revolution that Transformed the South

by Bruce Levine



In his book, Bruce Levine weaves the various ties of the Old South – the economic, political and social life - and shows how the war destroyed those interlocking veins to end the Old South lifestyle. In his writing, Levine uses plenty of quotes from the people of the time who owned and didn't own slaves as well as many other players in the saga of the Civil War. He uses a volume of information from diaries, letters, newspapers from the time, and government documents.

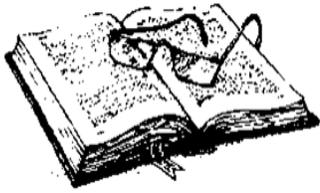
The 1850s – 1860s South was a wealthy, imposing region where a small minority had amassed great political power and an enormous fortune through the system of slavery. Mr. Levine shows how, over time, slavery came to be accepted by all of those in the South and was even supported by the non-slave holders. The author quotes from the then governor of Georgia, Joseph E. Brown: *with us, every white man feels and knows that he belongs to the ruling class and it is in the interest of the poor white laborer to sustain and perpetuate the institution of Negro slavery.* Governor Brown went on to say that, if released, the slaves will leave the plantations and head to the hill country of cooler climes and that this will prove to increase lawlessness in the land. This was the type of talk that kept the system in place.

The author shows how the institution began in the early times of the colonies but eventually died out in the northern states where large plantation-like farms were not in place and the fact that farms generally in the northern regions had perhaps only one growing season. It was unlike the South where the weather was more favorable to multi-growing opportunities and, as a result, a standing work force could be kept working. What made this more viable for the region was the fact that the labor force was unpaid. Levine shows how the political power structure in the South worked to maintain their hold on the power needed to insure their “particular institution” could be maintained and the wealth associated with the workings of the system could continue and grow. When it became obvious to the South that their culture was in danger of ending as a result of the election of 1860, they moved to secession.

The information provided in this work gives the reader a lot of detail and the thought processes the Southern leaders had regarding their unique system. Levine's argument shows how closely the Southern cause for war and slavery were linked and what “states' rights” was all about. Levine again uses quotes from that time to show how, perhaps out of touch, the power brokers of the South were in relation to the attitudes of the slaves towards the institution. He quotes the *Richmond Dispatch* shortly after the Emancipation Proclamation was issued: *No proclamation which the Yankees have issued or may issue will have the slightest effect upon the slave population of the South.* Levine uses various examples to show how the Southern slave holders were surprised as their slaves started to leave the plantations when Union forces came close and seemed shocked that their slaves' loyalty disappeared.

I found this to be an interesting work. It helped provide information to fill in some gaps about the whole issue of slavery, the South and secession. You can get a feel for the attitudes that the typical Southerner embraced and how the issue grew to one that would eventually split the Union. One point I found interesting was that so many of the quotes from various diaries and newspaper editorials were in complete disbelief that slaves would go against the master. Given the troubled times of today's political scene one can imagine how the 1860s would be in everyday life. I would recommend this book to anyone who is looking for more information about the internal political and social feelings that led up to the Civil War and what those feelings did to cause secession.

submitted by Bruce Klem

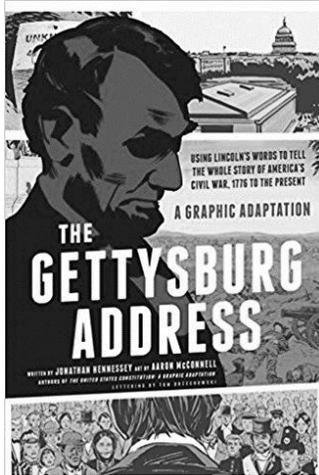


BETWEEN THE COVERS

The Gettysburg Address

by Jonathan Hennessey

art by Aaron McConnell



This review is perhaps a bit unusual in that it is not about a standard book on a Civil War topic. The review is on a graphical adaptation of the Gettysburg Address. The book was chosen for the Kenosha Civil War Museum’s Media Club. The Media Club meets about once a quarter at the museum to discuss a book on the Civil War.

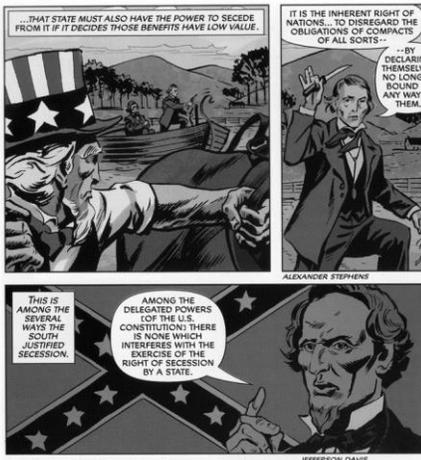
I found this book to be a very interesting presentation on the Gettysburg Address. Going back a few years (quite a few) I liken it to reading a comic book version of the old *Classics Illustrated*, but in a much more detailed presentation. I would judge the level of the book to be at least for middle schoolers in the comprehension of the subject matter. It took me a little bit of reading to get into the format but once there, I believe the authors did an excellent job of putting together the story behind Lincoln’s writing of the Address.

The book is divided into segments not unlike chapters by breaking up of the words and phrases of the Address itself. For example, the first chapter is “Four Score and Seven Years Ago”. The authors then proceed to develop the story of how the United States got to the point of Civil War by going back and detailing the facts of the development of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. The authors take the time, over the

course of the book, to show the various compromises that were made in the phrasing of both documents and how the various sections of the then thirteen colonies had influence on the documents and what each region’s attitudes were toward government size, type, trade and slavery; these various factors all led into the Union that was formed. Unfortunately, these attitudes carried forward as the nation grew and continued to have a greater and greater impact on the nation with each state that was added.

I think the authors’ graphical presentations of these facts really help in telling the story of how the nation gradually moved toward Civil War in very clear and concise terms. The way Hennessey and McConnell tied the various sections of the Gettysburg Address, together with the story line of the developing nation and how the political inner workings impacted that development, were very easily understood and very clear.

The research seems to be solid and the use of the graphics that explain the phrasing is very good. I believe any young or old student will be interested in reading this book. I think that the presentation provided by the book helps to spark a real interest in looking into history. While its comic book type presentation may be somewhat off-putting to a history purist, I think this is a fresh approach to tying the reasoning that Lincoln may have used when he wrote the Address and gave this important speech. While the Address, in its simplicity, conveys a very deep meaning and, in a few words, highlights the importance of the conflict itself, much of the meaning in today’s world may be hard to grasp. The format used by these two authors, I believe, gives a fresh new look at the interpretation of the Address.



While I was skeptical, at first, when the Media Club selected this book I am very glad we did. I would recommend this book to any student of the Civil War. It is a very practical read for young students and I think even older, more traditional readers of Civil War history will gain some real insights into the Civil War and the Gettysburg Address from this book. It is a quick read and a relatively short one at 221 pages that you should add to your Civil War library.

submitted by Bruce Klem

Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, and Spotsylvania

This year's Civil War Museum sponsored tour was from October 22 – 25. The tour focused on the Eastern Theatre, viewing the battlefields of Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville and Spotsylvania. As with the previous tours, we provided our own transportation to the tour area. Accommodations were at the Country Inn and Suites in Fredericksburg, Virginia.



My wife and I chose to drive to Fredericksburg, stopping about half way at Cranberry, Pennsylvania, just outside of Pittsburgh. Some of the tour participants flew into D.C. and either rented a car or took a shuttle to the hotel. We chose to drive so that we could visit a site or two on the way and then plan for a stop on the way home. We planned to tour Mt. Vernon on the way in but by the time we got to the site it was extremely crowded. The weather was near perfect in the D.C. area and apparently, there was some special going on at Mt. Vernon which resulted in the large crowd. We decided to head to the hotel. Traffic on 95 was at its worst taking us nearly two hours to go about 40 miles. We decided that on our next trip to D.C. we would book a tour of Mt. Vernon. The drive along the George Washington highway has very nice views and the leaves were changing colors, so the side trip wasn't a total disaster.

Sunday evening the group met for a buffet dinner at the hotel and heard a talk about the build up to the Fredericksburg battle by our guide for the first day of the tour, Eric Mink, who is an employee of the Park Service and a ranger on the Fredericksburg battlefield.

After a complimentary breakfast at the hotel, we started out with the bus pulling out at 8:30 and headed to the Union headquarters at Chatham. We got to see what the Union forces saw looking across the Rappahannock River at Fredericksburg. We had time to walk the area where the Iron Brigade camped in July 1862, which was on the Chatham plantation. The area has mostly been converted into soccer fields and tennis courts for the local community. However, we did get to walk over terrain that soldiers of the Iron Brigade trod back in 1862.

We boarded the bus and crossed back over the river to walk on the grounds where the first Union troops landed in December 1862. The action was the first riverine assault under fire in the US Army history. We traced the steps of the 7th Michigan and 19th Massachusetts up from the river into the town. These troops moved through the streets and fought a battle that evolved into house-to-house fighting as the Union forces pushed Barksdale's Mississippi brigade down the streets and out of the town.

After this vigorous fighting it was time for lunch. We boarded the bus and headed to the campus of the University of Mary Washington. We ate at the university cafeteria among the students. I have to say that the selection of choices was fantastic and the food was great – prepared well and very tasty.

After lunch we headed out to the Slaughter Pen farm area and walked part of the ground where Meade and Gibbon's divisions attacked Jackson's forces. Most of this end of the battlefield is roughly the same as it was during the battle with a couple of exceptions. It really helped being able to walk the field to get an excellent appreciation of how the battle progressed and what impact the terrain had on the flow of the fight. We then got back on the bus to drive up to the area that Jackson's forces defended and to view the Slaughter Pen from the Confederate side. Many of the earthworks in this defensive area were still visible. We had the opportunity to explore the area where Meade's troops achieved a brief breakthrough but were then pushed back due to lack of support and forced back to the railroad embankment.



Our final stop was the Sunken Road along Marye's Heights where General Burnside's main attack came to grief. This area is fairly well preserved with the exception that the vast open area at the time of the battle has been filled in with housing as the town expanded out towards the stone wall. The main visitor's center is located near the wall. Viewing the direction from the Confederate position, some of the folds in the terrain can still be noticed. That gives you an opportunity to figure out how close the Union forces could have made it with some protection, but 100 yards to me appeared to be the maximum. As the battle played out no Union soldier could make the wall and the attack failed miserably.

The discussion and tour ended at about 5 p.m. We had a brief opportunity to check out the museum gift shop and then proceeded to dinner at

Brock's Riverside Grill. The meal was buffet style and the food was excellent. I recommend that, if you make a trip to Fredericksburg, Brock's is worth a stop for lunch or dinner. The menu is reasonably priced and my wife and I went back for dinner on Wednesday evening.

"Wanderings" continues on page 12.



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 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!

Charles William Rothe - First Wisconsin Cavalry



**First Wisconsin Cavalry Monument
Chickamauga**

Charles (Carl) Rothe enlisted in the First Wisconsin Cavalry. According to the Roster of Wisconsin Volunteers, he enlisted on November 12, 1863. Other sources, however, place his enlistment in April of 1861. He was severely wounded on May 9, 1864 in a skirmish three miles south of Varnell, Georgia, just south of the Tennessee-Georgia border.

Charles came to Oak Creek, Wisconsin in 1852 from Germany as a child of nine years. After landing in New York with his parents and his older sister Wilhemine, the family took a train across the country to Racine. A land purchase on Nicholson Road became the family farm.

Fast-forward to Georgia in 1864. Carl suffered on the battlefield unattended for two days. The stretcher-bearers who were searching for wounded mistook him for one of the slain, as he lay unmoving. Finally, as the last man took one last walk among the casualties, he saw movement from this man who was supposed to be gone. Carl had been shot in the head, with the bullet going through the right eye before exiting the left ear. Rothe spent over a year in a Louisville, Kentucky hospital before going home. The family says that at one time there was a picture of Carl and President Lincoln on one of his visits to wounded Union soldiers.

Home again, Carl returned to farming. His wounds led to unexpected difficulties. For quite some time he was unable to see clearly through his good eye. During those years, his wife Katherine would help him by guiding the direction of the plow in the field. She claimed she had to do this to keep the furrows straight. Katherine also assisted him in completing the never-ending chores in the life of a nineteenth century farmer. Eventually his eyesight improved, and Carl was able to do more of the farm work on his own.

For his service in the cause of the Union, Rothe received a pension of \$24 per month. This he saved for special things for the family. Among those special things were beer and soda. A delivery man brought some of each, and Carl would buy two cases of beer for the summer months and one case for winter, and the same number of cases of soda for Katherine.



Carl belonged to the Grand Army of the Republic. He attended the 1880 Soldiers Reunion held on the Milwaukee lakefront. Rothe also attended the celebration at Camp Randall on June 8 and 9, 1898, and a later reunion held in Chicago. For this event, three of his children traveled on the North Shore train to the Windy City with him.

Charles William Rothe became one of the prominent citizens and prosperous farmers of Milwaukee County. His farm started at thirty-five acres, but then grew to fifty-eight acres. He was active in his community, and took great delight in receiving his newspapers, especially the *Milwaukee Germania-Herald*. He farmed until his death in September of 1895 at age 76. Katherine lived until she was ninety-seven, passing away in 1906. Together Carl and Katherine Rothe had fourteen children, all raised on the family farm in Oak Creek.

**submitted by Dave Wege
on behalf of Leroy Last,
descendant of Carl Rothe**

Transportation to be furnished Prisoners released on taking the oath.

The Quartermaster's Department will furnish all prisoners of war, and citizen prisoners, who have been, or may be, released from confinement, by reason of their taking the oath of allegiance to the United States, with transportation to their homes, or to the nearest points thereto which it may be practicable to reach by the usual routes of water and railroad transportation.

All officers of the Quartermaster's Department who may be called upon to provide transportation under this order, will require the parties applying for the same to produce satisfactory evidence that they were released upon the condition specified, and for this purpose such prisoners will at the time of their discharge from custody, be given, by the commanding officers, a written statement, setting forth that they are entitled to transportation to their homes.

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL GRANT:

E. D. TOWNSEND,
Assistant Adjutant General.

submitted by Peter Jacobsohn

CARTER FARM HOUSE OPENS



As reported by USA Today Network, the farm office of the Carter House opened to visitors on November 28, 2017, the first time the office has been open to the public in 173 years.

The restoration of the farm office was part of the overall master plan for the Carter House. A \$3.2 million upgrade is scheduled for the master plan in the coming years.

Prior to the opening of the farm office it was used for storage. The Battle of Franklin Trust, The Tennessee Historical Commission, Centric Architecture and Rock City Construction worked together to fully rehabilitate the office.

Eric Jacobson, CEO of the Battle of Franklin Trust, indicated that he wanted tourists to see what he saw when he first stepped into the building during the restoration process. The north and south walls of the structure will remain exposed, showing the damage that occurred to the building during the Battle of Franklin. Jacobson believes it was the most damaged structure still standing from the Civil War.



Jacobson said, "In a sense, I think The Carters knew what this building could mean some day, and it could be why they never completely fixed it themselves. It feels great to have this done. Of all the projects we've done throughout the years, this is the one I am most proud that we were able to do."

"I am 82 years of age. My grandfather served the Confederacy under Johnson Pettigrew and died at the Battle of Gettysburg."

With these simple, yet sobering words, a descendent of a Confederate veteran who gave his life for his country offers another look at the reasons Civil War soldiers went off to fight. Their reasons for fighting are often more simple than we are led to believe. Without the blinders of 21st century emotion and hindsight, his beliefs are very straightforward.

Confederate's Letter Home

My lovely wife, I do miss you so, and the life we have there on that small plot of land God has given us. More and more, it seems that my thoughts are drifting back there to reside with you. Yet, as badly as I desire to be back home, it is home for which I deem it best for my presence here with these other men. The proclamation by the Lincoln administration six months prior may appear noble. Were I here in these conditions, simply to keep another man in bondage, I would most certainly walk away into the night and return unto you. God knows my heart, and the hearts of others here amongst me. We know what is at stake here, and the true reason for this contest that requires the spilling of blood of fellow citizens. Our collective fear is nearly universal. This war, if it is lost, will see ripples carry forward five, six, seven or more generations. I scruple not to believe, as do the others, that the very nature of the country will be forever dispirited. That one day, our great great grandchildren will be bridled with a federal bit, that will deem bow and if they may apply the gospel of Christ to themselves, their families, and their communities. Whether or not the land of their forefathers may be deceitfully taken from them through taxation and coercion. A day where only the interests of the northern wealthy will be shouldered by the broken and destitute bodies of the southern poor. This my darling wife, is what keeps me here in this arena of destruction and death."

from a letter to the editor in Charlottesville, VA

Wanderings - continued

Day 2: We were going to concentrate our focus on the Battle of Chancellorsville. Departure was again pegged at 8:30 am, so we did not have to get up with the sun. Our guide for this phase of the tour was Frank O'Reilly, another Park Service historian. Weather was a near perfect mid 60s-70 with a bit of a breeze. We headed for the opening site of the Chancellorsville battle where Sykes Union Regulars met with the first Confederate forces set up to halt the Union advance. The area is still open and the Park Service has an area for interpretation just north of the Turnpike. Again, not far to the east of this spot the city is coming out to meet the site. After discussing the opening phase of the battle and Hooker's orders for the Union to fall back to Chancellorsville and dig in, which was met with much consternation by the Union Corps commanders, we proceeded to the Catherine furnace site for further discussion. Along the way we stopped at a site where Lee met with Jackson to hammer out Jackson's famed flanking movement on the Union forces which resulted in the assault on Howard's XI Corps.

At the furnace site Mr. O'Reilly pointed out the area of fighting that Sickles troops engaged in around this area with McLaw's Confederates. Sickles eventually became convinced that the rebels were retreating. This misinformation was passed on to Hooker and the incorrect interpretation set up the Union for the potential disaster that Jackson's assault would later create. We then took a break for lunch at Harry's Ale House, which was in a small shopping area about 1 mile from the Chancellorsville visitor center. A fine lunch was had by all at this casual, sports type eating place. After our repast we climbed aboard our chariot and proceeded to the famed site of Howard's XI Corps, where Jackson's lads broke from the woods and routed the Corps of "those damned Dutchmen."

As we walked the relatively open terrain that was occupied by Howard's troops, Mr. O'Reilly pointed out that perhaps a number of factors led to the XI Corps demise that day. First, while Hooker warned Howard of the possible attack on his flank, Hooker had pulled a division, Howard's reserve, to send to Sickles. The impression was also left that there soon would be a pursuit of the retreating Rebel forces. This, in turn, caused the XI Corps troops to be preparing rations for this upcoming pursuit. Sources talk about the fact that the Union forces of the XI Corps were preparing food for dinner, but they were also working on rations for the next three days. Mr. O'Reilly also pointed out the fact that there were some defenses set up but many of the troops were preparing to move out and close to the road. Nonetheless, the Corps was ill-prepared for an all-out attack by Jackson and that comes back to fall on the shoulders of the Corps commander. I found this discussion provided me with new food for thought on this phase of the fight. From this location we proceeded to the Hazel Grove area to continue our discussion on the Jackson assault and how the Union gave up the Grove to hunker down around the Chancellorsville area.



We wrapped up our day of battlefield touring at the site of Jackson's wounding. Mr. O'Reilly pointed out that perhaps, in fact, Jackson was already sick with the onset of pneumonia in that the initial treatment of Jackson's wounds has documented that a number of layers of clothing as well as Jackson's rain slicker had to be cut through to get to the wound. Seems a bit of an odd number of clothes to wear on a day that was in the 90s and very humid, unless maybe he was suffering from chills? So, perhaps the illness that led to his death was already present and, coupled with the loss of blood, was too much for the body to handle. We ended the day with dinner at an Italian family restaurant in town with ample amounts of lasagna, spaghetti and a bit of vino.

Our third and final day of the tour was led by Mr. Greg Mertz, one of the Park Service's supervisors of the areas battlefield sites. We were going to the Spotsylvania Court House fighting. We arrived at the spot where first contact was made between Warren's Corps and elements of Anderson's Confederate division in the vicinity of Laurel Hill and the Brock road. We got the opportunity to walk the fields around this site to examine how the two forces fought to a standstill in the opening phases of what developed into the Spotsylvania battle of Grant's Overland Campaign. As we walked through the Union lines up to the Confederate position and back again we got the opportunity to observe the section of the Union positions from which the Iron Brigade attacked and was pushed back.

After a brief stop to see the Sedgwick monument we stopped for a picnic style lunch. After lunch, we drove over to the Mule Shoe site and Bloody Angle. Mr. Mertz and the group discussed the Union dispositions as well as General Upton's style of attack and how it was expanded by General Hancock to make the bigger assault on the Bloody Angle. We finished up the days' activities by looking at Lee's new positions around the Harrison House. From this last stop we headed back to the hotel, calling the tour complete.

While many of the participants were headed back to Wisconsin we, along with a few other couples, opted to spend at least one more night in the area. Our plan was to go home via Appomattox and visit that site and then come back via West Virginia, up through Ohio, Indiana and then Illinois. We left early the next morning and headed across country toward Appomattox. I found the drive interesting in that we took a number of back roads and state highways as opposed to the Interstate. Going by the Interstate would have added more miles to the trip as there is no direct route, so mileage wise it made sense and gave us the chance to see some of the state.

We found Appomattox very interesting and well worth the visit. We ran into some couples from the tour who were doing the same thing. We spent a couple of hours walking around the site. There are a number of reconstructed buildings on the site made to recreate what the village looked like in 1865. There also were a number of reenactors giving presentations as well. Of course, there is a gift shop and we bought a couple of books and a few souvenirs before proceeding to West Virginia. I think a future visit might be worthwhile in that there was a large Civil War museum in town and a couple of other battlefield sites to visit. It was the right time to travel through West Virginia with the leaves all changing color. Part of the drive took us through the mountains on two lane state highways up and down winding mountain roads, which made for interesting but very scenic driving.

We stopped for the night in Beckley, West Virginia. Up early the next morning and back on the road to home. We really enjoyed this tour as the weather was near perfect and the guides extremely knowledgeable. Our group was a fun bunch so everyone had a good time. I believe next year's museum trip will be to Chickamauga. Time will be about the same – maybe the third week in October but that is yet to be determined.

submitted by **Bruce Klem**

Hear ye, hear ye! Be it known to one and all, all further meetings and assemblies of the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table occurring during the 2017-2018 season shall henceforth occur at the Wisconsin Club, located at 900 W. Wisconsin Avenue.



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

