

GENERAL ORDERS



The Newsletter of the

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



March 8, 2018

Robert D. Jenkins, Sr.

The Battle of Peach Tree Creek

The First Nail in the Coffin of Atlanta

Hood is a bold fighter. I am doubtful as to the other qualities necessary.

Robert E. Lee when asked whether John Bell Hood should succeed Joe Johnston.

The morning of Wednesday, July 20th, 1864, broke warm, promising another sultry summer day. It would spawn the first offensive action for the new Southern Commander, John Bell Hood and his gray forces as he took over the defense of Atlanta for the Confederate States of America in the fourth summer of the war. What began as a golden opportunity to repel Northern General William Tecumseh Sherman and his blue legions from the gates of the Gate City, as Atlanta had been called, became a day of missed chances, broken dreams, and for a number of the Rebel leaders' soldiers, a grave.

The Battle of Peach Tree Creek marked the beginning of the end for the Confederacy, for it turned the page from the patient defense displayed by General Joseph E. Johnston to the bold offense called upon by his replacement, General John Bell Hood. Until this point in the Georgia Campaign, the Southern Army had fought primarily in the defensive, from behind earthworks, forcing Sherman to either assault fortified lines, or go around them in flanking moves. At Peach Tree Creek, the roles would be reversed for the first time, as Confederates charged Union lines.

At our March meeting our speaker, Robert D. Jenkins will discuss the importance of Peach Tree Creek, how it was the last planned battle for Joe Johnston and was the first for the new Southern Commander, John Bell Hood. Jenkins will review how this battle was the beginning of the end for the Deep South and the Confederacy looking at Peach Tree Creek as the first in a series of defeats and set-backs from which the South would not recover; it was the first nail in the coffin of Atlanta and the Confederacy.

Robert D. (Bob) Jenkins, Sr. is an attorney practicing in Dalton, Georgia, where he has maintained a general and civil trial practice since 1990. Bob graduated from Georgia Southern University in 1987 with a B.B.A. degree in Business Management with Minors in History and Geography. He received his Juris Doctor degree from Mercer University in 1990 and regularly practices in the courts throughout Northwest Georgia.

A native of Chamblee, Bob began pursuing his biggest hobby, the study of the Civil War, while he was in fourth grade when he chose War in Georgia as his Social Studies project. He was hooked, so much so that by high school his teachers would ban the Civil War as a topic for any further research projects or book reports. During the past twenty years, he has meticulously researched the Western Theater of the War, and he has uncovered many letters, diaries, articles and accounts which have remained out of the public's eye for over 100 years. (continued page 2)

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March 2018

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March 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, March 5, 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.



Robert D. Jenkins, Sr.

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!

More About Robert D. Jenkins, Sr.

In 2013, Bob completed a book titled *The Battle of Peach Tree Creek, Hood's First Sortie*, the first of its kind which incorporates biographical information about the participants and previously unpublished photographs, maps, and diagrams. In 2014, he completed his second book, *To the Gates of Atlanta*, which focuses on the events in the Georgia Campaign between the Confederate victory at Kennesaw Mountain and the Federal triumph at Peach Tree Creek. Both books were published by Mercer University Press.

Bob has given numerous tours and has lectured on several battles in Northwest Georgia during the Atlanta Campaign, including Dalton, Resaca, Peach Tree Creek and Ezra Church.

Bob also has extensive knowledge of the Battle of Franklin. He has traveled to study the battlefield for over 20 years and has done extensive research on the battle. He was a pioneer in the 1980s and 1990s in expanding the community's understanding of the importance of events on the right portion of the battlefield where his ancestors fought in Loring's Division.

The Muster Roll: NEW MEMBERS

[illegible]

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 February 8, 2018.

Major Contributor (\$500 and above)

Patron (\$200 - \$499)

Eugene & Jane Jamroz, 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.



Frank Welcher spoke at the March 1948 meeting of the Round Table about “The Atlanta Campaign.”

At the March 1958 meeting, U.S. Grant III gave a talk on “Comments on the Strategy of the Civil War.”

George R. Currie was our Round Table speaker in March 1968 speaking on the “Dred Scott Decision.”

“Eli Metcalf Bruce: Napoleon of Commerce of the Confederacy” was the subject of Frank G. Rankin’s talk at the March 1978 meeting.

Mark E. Neely Jr. was the speaker at the March 1988 meeting. Mr. Neely spoke about “The Confederate Image.”

“The Battle of Bentonville” was the subject of Mark Bradley’s presentation to the Round Table in March 1998.

Brian S. Wills was our featured speaker at the March 2008 meeting speaking on “The Civil War in Cinema.”

At last year’s March meeting, Paul Kahan spoke to the assembled members on “Simon Cameron: Lincoln’s First Secretary of War.”

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 be online after 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.

Faith of the Fathers – the Courage, Humor and Dedication of Catholic Civil War Chaplains Friday, March 9, 2018 – Noon

Presented by: Rev. Robert Miller

The more than 100 Catholic priests who served as chaplains in the Civil War were NOT your usual priests and bishops. They were a unique group of priest pioneers: adventuresome, courageous, outspoken, ground-breakers and apologists as well as Catholic churchmen in “foreign land.” This presentation focuses on the role of these Catholic chaplains in the war, their numbers, impact, and some stories of some colorful and interesting characters among them. Being an antebellum Catholic was not an easy task due to a lack of priests as Catholic immigrants flooded the country, a strong anti-Catholic culture, and a Vatican that didn’t get American democracy. We will put flesh on the long-ignored topic of religion in the war and introduce a group of Catholic clergymen who changed the country and became legends because of their service – Corby, Cooney, Sheeran, the Jesuits, Irish Catholics and many more.

CIVIL WAR EXPO

Saturday, March 10, 2018 – 11 am - 3 pm

Living history, heritage groups, and Civil War Round Tables from around the Midwest will present samples of their programming and have informational tables set up throughout the Museum to introduce visitors to their Civil War interpretation. Modern makers influenced by trades and crafts of the past will be set up with demonstrations and goods to sell.

CIVIL WAR TRIVIA DAY

Saturday, March 10, 2018

1 pm, 1:30 pm, 2 pm and 2:30 pm

Gather your team of two or three Civil War buffs for an afternoon of free Civil War inspired trivia games. The games will be run using an online platform, so bring your smart phone or tablet to play.

**See even more Kenosha Civil War Museum
events on pages 5, 9, and 12.**





Army Correspondence
Camp Tillinghast, VA

March 2, 1862

Since the recent decisive victories achieved by the Union forces there has been a marked difference in the tone in a large number of the southern press as well as a number of the political leaders. Occasionally an editor speaks out in meeting, telling some plain truths without mincing the words either. Jeff Davis and his manner of conducting the governmental affairs of the so-called confederacy is hauled over the coals and remarks indulged are not very complimentary to him or his administrative ability, but one of the most important admissions yet come to light is made by an officer writing to the *Richmond Examiner* who gives the Southern chivalry, as displayed in the battles of Roanoke Island and Fort Henry, a terrible rebuke. He says: "At Fort Henry, a Brigadier General, unwounded, having a garrison almost intact, lowers the flag over a dozen guns of the largest caliber and with a hackneyed compliment yields up his bloodless sword. How withering and humiliating to our southern manhood was the sorrowful reply of the Yankee commander."

On those engaged in the battle of Roanoke Island he was particularly severe using the following plain language: "The Roanoke affair is perfectly incomprehensible. The newspapers are filled with extravagant laudations of our valor; the annals of Greece and Rome offer no parallel; whole regiments were defeated by companies and we yielded only to death. Our men finally surrendered with no blood on their bayonets and what is the loss? Richmond Blues, two killed and five wounded; McCulloch Rangers, one killed and two wounded; the other four companies lost, in all two killed and eleven wounded. Comment is needless. The whole army had better surrender at once for it will eventually come to it."

I set the last sentence down as sound and the writer of the article shows that the Great Moguls of the bogus confederacy have not fired his heart to the extent sought. Straws thrown up into the air will show which way the wind blows and the publication of plain truths like the above shows that reason is returning to some of the Southern people. All that is wanted now is a continuance of the same line of policy heretofore adopted by the Administration of Mr. Lincoln. The conservative policy is winning bloodless victories in every part of the South where the presence of our armies makes it known and I much mistake the southern character if a large majority of those now in arms against the Union forces do not themselves give the final death blow to rebellion by bringing the leading spirits to the punishment they so richly deserve.

~ Badger

Army Correspondence
Camp Tillinghast, VA.

March 5, 1862

One of the most important features connected with the present war is the new position in which it is causing the Northwestern States to appear to the people of the other sections. Hitherto this section of the country has been looked upon by the politicians of the Northern and Middle States as very good for raising grain &c; but when her representatives asked that a portion of the public monies should be appropriated for the improvement of their lake and river harbors it was a bird of a different color. The lamented Douglas with his great wisdom and forethought years ago saw the true position the Northwest held to the balance of the country and exerted his mighty intellect and oratorical powers to impress it upon the nation at large. He was foiled in this principally through the jealousy of the Empire and Keystone States; and, had it not been for this war, the Northwest would have remained in the background for years to come. Now it is acknowledged by all that the public service demands that some fortification and depots of arms and munitions, with harbor and navigation improvements at well selected points upon the great rivers and lakes should at once be made and that it is necessary to foster these States if they would reap all the benefits their wealth and glory will bring to the Union hereafter.

To carry out this fostering principle, the Representatives of Northern and middle states who have heretofore ignored the rights and importance of the great Northwest signify their willingness to vote appropriations for the establishment of a National foundry at some favored point, for the enlargement and extension of the Illinois and Michigan Canal by which the Great Lakes would be connected with the Mississippi; the election of a Fort on Lake Superior commanding the Sault St. Marie Canal; a military road on Lake Superior from Green Bay to Marquette and other internal improvements necessary to place that section in position for a successful defense.

The importance of the above measures have been long known and the Northwest, through their representatives, have labored with untiring zeal to bring about the proper legislation to secure them. But it was reserved for a time when the hardy sons were freely shedding their blood to put down an internal war and the prospect of a conflict with England and France appeared to be imminent for the Middle and Northern States to vote to give "to the Northern States that protection they deserve."

The importance of the above measures have been long known and the Northwest, through their representatives, have labored with untiring zeal to bring about the proper legislation to secure them. But it was reserved for a time when the hardy sons were freely shedding their blood to put down an internal war and the prospect of a conflict with England and France appeared to be imminent for the Middle and Northern States to vote to give "to the Northern States that protection they deserve."

John W. Forney in his *Philadelphia Press*, thus speaks of the report of the “Select Committee on the defense of Great Lakes and Rivers,” and the claim of the great Northwest, which he says are “Presented to the country as they never have been presented before.” In alluding to the resources of this rich and fertile region the *Press* says: “As we look upon the pyramid of figures representing his arguments, and see calculation after calculation showing the population, the wealth, the tonnage, the commerce, the manufactures, the real estate and personal property and the political power of the Northwestern States, we feel humbled. And when we remember that those things have come to pass almost in the span of a single generation, that the first white man born in the State of Illinois is hardly old enough to be a grandfather, we stand aghast at the power and strength still to come and see the glory of the Empire and Keystone State pass away to the shores of the Great Lakes and Upper Mississippi. The Western States have been neglected children of the Union. They were turned out into the prairies and forests to hew timber and dig soil, to navigate broad streams in rude boats and fight the Indians and they attain the years of manhood strong, burly, uncouth, honest and affectionate sons. During the generation in which their petted Southern brethren conspired to destroy the Union, they have added to that Union an Empire greater than the Republic itself fifty years ago. And now, when our good mother is menaced by fratricidal hands, they are enduring privation and death to vindicate her honor and punish her unnatural foemen.

There is something imposing in the power of this great empire. There are immense inland seas covering eighty thousand square miles of surface and surrounded by five thousand miles of coast. On these coasts a vast population has come together.”

Camp Tillinghast, Virginia

March 5, 1862

Editors: Tribune:—

On the morning of 22nd, Washington’s Birthday, the Second were notified that their presence was wanted at Gen. McDowell’s Head Quarters to hear Washington’s Farewell Address and fire a salute of ten rounds of blank cartridge. As usual, the Second turned out *en masse*, prepared to do their might in paying respect to the Father of his

country. The drill was splendid and eclipsed all other regiments in the brigade. Captain Hathaway read the Farewell Address – cheer upon cheer rent the air at the conclusion and the brave troops evince the true spirit of the noble chieftain.

On the 25th we were again ordered to appear at headquarters to drill in Brigade. On this day too we made a grand appearance and won laurels. A number of regular officers and men were present and quite a congregation of ladies. At the conclusion of the drill, and at the request of Gen. King, the Second remained and had a dress parade. Adjutant Dean formed the battalion and the troops being ordered to be played (the regiment stands at parade rest, every eye to the born, hands in proper place, not one moving, every officer and man actually appearing more like statues than mortals) – the band passed up and down the front of the battalion dispensing sweet music to an admiring assembly. Lieut Col. Fairchild then put the regiment through the manual of arms and the efficiency they displayed in this particular is worthy of the men. At the hands of an unbiased public they have more than once been the recipients of applause as the enclosed slips will show:

The Wisconsin Band – On Wednesday afternoon Gen. King’s Wisconsin brigade was told to be in readiness for an advance; earnestness followed the announcement among the troops. The brave boys considered it quite a notice to quit playing soldier and enter upon the dash and earnestness of real campaigning and they were jubilant there at. As the order was read, cheer after cheer was given; and our reporter says that he never saw exhibited so strong a desire to be let loose upon “secesh” as on this occasion. The Second Regiment was peculiarly alive in the desire and they have good reason. This is one of the oldest regiments in the field having entered Washington and crossed into Virginia early last June and took an active part in the battles of Centreville and Bull Run, in the former losing three, in the latter about 160 men killed, wounded and prisoners. Col. Edgar O’Connor and Lt. Col. Fairchild are regular army officers and the regiment they command, in drill and discipline, approaches as near the army regulations as any volunteer corps in service and has received many compliments from our best officers. We shall expect to hear a good report from the Wisconsin brigade and particularly from Col. O’Connor’s Second Regiment when the advance takes place.

Sunday Chronicle

MEET THE AUTHOR

***Friends of the Wigwam* by John Huelskamp**

Friday, March 23, 2018 – Noon

Local author John Huelskamp discusses the inspiration behind his Midwest based historical fiction novel *Friends of the Wigwam* about six teenage friends from Northern Illinois whose innocence is stripped from them seemingly overnight in the brutal setting of the American Civil War. The story profiles Lincoln and Grant as well as unsung Illinois patriots like Colonel Elmer Ellsworth and Private Albert D. J. Cashier, a young woman patriot who mustered into the 95th Illinois Volunteer Infantry. The novel also reveals previously unpublished letters sent home to wives and families bringing to life a volatile nation at war.

THE CIVIL WAR
MUSEUM
UPPER MIDDLE WEST EXPERIENCE

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

Name	Office/Position	Term Expires
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
Grant Johnson	Past President	2018
Bruce Klem	First Vice President	2018
Daniel Nettesheim	Member	2018
Frank Risler	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 March 8, 2018

Mail your reservations by Monday, March 5 to:

Paul Eilbes

1809 Washington Avenue

Cedarburg, WI 53012-9730

Call or email reservations to:

(262) 376-0568

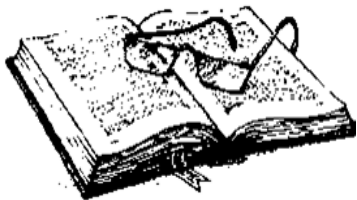
peilbes@gmail.com

Enclosed is \$_____ (meal is \$30.00 per person) for _____ people for the

March 8, 2018 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

William Tecumseh Sherman in the Service of My Country: A Life
James McDonough
Fierce Patriot, the Tangled Lives of William Tecumseh Sherman
Robert L. O'Connell

My review features a special bonus – two books instead of just one. In this review, I will compare and contrast the books.

McDonough's book weighs in at 721 pages vs. O'Connell's at a mere 352 pages with an 11-page introduction. Dr. O'Connell's approach to the subject was to break down Sherman's life into three main sections: military strategist, Sherman and his army and Sherman and his family.

In his writing O'Connell utilizes the three sections to organize his information on Sherman as it relates to each of the three major sections of his book. He shows how Sherman developed into a strategist from his early beginnings as a 2nd lieutenant on up to general. O'Connell shows how Sherman mentally filed away many of the things he saw during his career to be able to reference those early encounters and mold those points into a comprehensive strategy later in his career.

For instance, Sherman was one of the few that, after witnessing tremendous losses in frontal attacks at Shiloh and other battlefields, developed a strategy of maneuver to defeat Joe Johnston and the Confederate forces in his drive to capture Atlanta. He continuously uses this strategy and maneuvered the Confederate forces out of strong defensive positions in Georgia with minimal loss of life. This particular strategy was not lost on the soldiers in his army. They grew to love Sherman because he attempted to minimize casualties whenever possible and still prosecute the war.

Both authors in their different styles point out how Sherman managed to mold his army into a force that could handle any challenge, be it amphibious assault, joint operations, operations without a supply line or siege operations. His army operated as today's modern army would fight and could be said that his tactics and operations were a forerunner to the modern army.

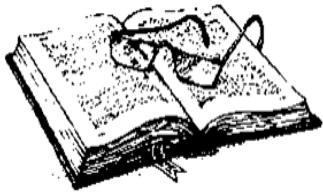
McDonough's approach was to develop his story by tracing Sherman's early childhood and his association and link with the Ewing family. McDonough then follows Sherman through his time at West Point, then into the army and his initial development as a lieutenant and captain. He provides plenty of detail on Sherman's time as a banker both in California and New York and his eventual job as head of the military school, Louisiana State Seminary (forerunner to LSU) until secession began.

McDonough's approach was a more traditional type of historical biography in that it follows Sherman's life in a time sequence.

In either case, both authors bring out the unique qualities of Sherman's life and point out he had a lot to do with strategy development both in the Civil War and in the settling of the West. Both authors show how intense he was in his search for finding fame and his place in history. They show Sherman's desire to safeguard his troops in minimizing combat losses. He was always leading from the front and his troops took notice of where he was and loved him for his ability to share the danger with them. They affectionately called him "Uncle Billy" and they were his boys.

It was pointed out that Sherman took notice of pretty women and they of him. In fact, in later life he had at least two affairs and perhaps more than a couple of liaisons in his early career, both before and after his marriage. Facts that I never had read about before. Another area that was pointed out was that Sherman played a large part in developing a strategy to eliminate the Indians as a factor in the development of the West. Sherman identified that the buffalo enabled the Indians to move about and always have a food source. By utilizing buffalo hunters to overkill the buffalo while supporting railroad expansion in the West, Sherman managed to hold the Indians at bay and eventually put them out as a threat to railroads and settlers. He was able to identify that the key to the strong Indian presence was their prime food source, the buffalo, and he developed a strategy to destroy their "center of gravity" – the buffalo.

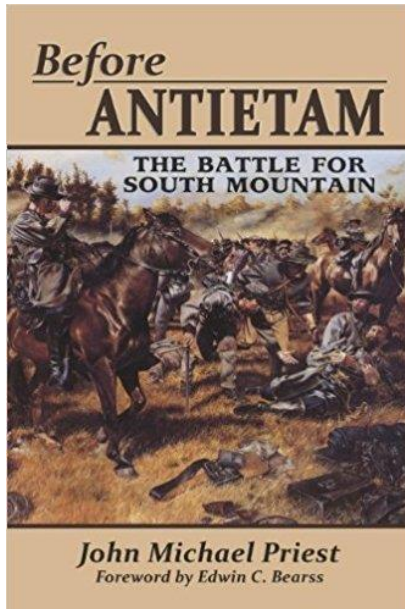
I enjoyed reading both books. I think O'Connell's book is a good one for anyone who wants a quick read on Sherman. It is the type of book that, if you are interested in Sherman's life, then more reading on Sherman could be done. In McDonough's book, the reader will find an in-depth easy to read book. I really enjoyed his book and thought it to be the better of the two in spite of its length. In any case, either one would be a great addition to your Civil War library.



BETWEEN THE COVERS

Before Antietam: The Battle for South Mountain

by John Michael Priest



John Michael Priest's book was one I picked up on the first Kenosha Civil War Museum sponsored tour which covered the battlefields of South Mountain, Harpers Ferry and Antietam. On this trip Mr. Priest was our guide for the part of the tour that covered the South Mountain sites – Fox's Gap, Turner's Gap and Compton's Gap.

In this book, Mr. Priest covers the lead up to Lee's invasion of Maryland beginning with September 5, 1862, setting up the initial troop positions and ending in the evening of September 15, 1862 with Union Cavalry hitting the Confederate rearguard at Boonsboro, Maryland. Priest traces the opening moves of the forces as the Confederates begin their advance into Maryland and attempt to search out countermoves of the Union forces. Much of the opening chapters of the book involve plenty of small cavalry action as the various elements of both sides are colliding with each other. Mr. Priest covers the various charges and countercharges as Union and Confederate cavalry mix it up as both sides search for the main enemy force.

As the Confederates march into Maryland various units are placed to block prying Union eyes by defending the three key gaps – Fox, Turner and Crampton. The Confederates did this by placing mixed commands of cavalry, infantry and artillery at these sites to screen Lee's main forces and prevent Union cavalry from getting through to observe the Confederates movements. The stage is thus set for

battle as Union forces of the Army of the Potomac attempt to break through the three gaps to strike a blow against the scattered elements of Lee's army.

Priest is meticulous in his following of each side's troop movement at each of the gaps. He accomplishes this by providing ample detail in his written descriptions and gives the reader some of the best situational sequenced maps that allow the reader to visualize how each side moved units during the respective fights at all three gaps. I found this a refreshing approach in that the maps were sequential and not just a map with an arrow indicating a general line of advance.

Many of the participants' diary descriptions of each gap battle are utilized to provide the reader with a real flavor of each uphill fight and how confusion impacted the fight due to the mountainside terrain that in parts was heavily wooded. I probably made a tactical error by not reading this book before the tour because it would have been a great help in following along with Mr. Priest's tour discussion and terrain walk over the area. It would have given me a much better picture of the whys and wherefores of the action. I had read very little on the fighting of the gaps on South Mountain and most of my reading was of a general nature. Mr. Priest follows each of the units engaged at each gap so you get a better understanding of the unit maneuvers as you walk the terrain.

I found this to be a great book for study of the South Mountain battle, especially after seeing the Gaps and walking some of the terrain. As with most battlefields, trees and vegetation have taken over part of the field compared to what the site looked like at the time of the battle.

I did find a few problems with the book that should be pointed out. While the book had plenty of detailed maps, the maps were not necessarily the type of maps typically found in books. The maps were of a hand sketched type and the terrain symbols were not of a standard format. The same can be said for unit symbols, but once I understood the maps and symbols being used it was not too difficult to follow the action. Again, this book is based only on the tactical level of the battle and that in itself can be somewhat confusing, so some care is needed when tracing the troop movements on the field.

Overall, I definitely recommend this book to any serious student of the Civil War. It is a good addition to anyone's library and I enjoyed reading and studying the material.

Submitted by: Bruce Klem



Offerings from the Chambersburg Civil War Tours

The Chambersburg Civil War Tours is a nonprofit organization with a portion of the proceeds from their events given to battlefield preservation. The organization has raised over \$200,000 since its founding in 1989. A special Round Table discount of 10% is given when three or more members from the same Round Table register for a complete weekend package. This year's tours are:

5th Annual National Ed Bearss Symposium on Military Leadership & Combat

April 4-8, 2018

Roads to Gettysburg: Brandy Station and Second Winchester

July 24-29, 2018

Mr. Lincoln's City & John Wilkes Booth Escape Tour

October 10-14, 2018

Further information on these tours can be found at: www.civilwarseminars.org.

Information on the Chambersburg tours, this year's Kenosha Civil War Museum tour, and for the Civil War Time Travelers tour can also be found at the registration table at the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table meetings.

HOME FRONT SEMINAR

Saturday, April 7, 2018

Registration: 8:30 – 9:30 am. Programs begin at 9:30 am

\$50/\$40 Friends of the Museum – fee includes all programs, museum admission and catered lunch.

To register call the museum at 262-653-4140

Speakers:

Dr. Jennifer Bridge – *Libby Prison Comes to Chicago*

Russ Horton – *Brave and Enduring Soldiers: The Civil War Service of the Green Bay Tribes*

Ms. Kathryn Harris – *First Person Presentation of Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker*

Bruce Klem – *The 1st Wisconsin Cavalry Trains at Kenosha's Camp Harvey*

SAVE THE DATE!

The Great Lakes Civil War Forum

Conquer or Perish – The Shiloh Campaign

Saturday, September 15, 2018

Registration 8:30 – 9:30 am. Programs begin at 9:30 am

\$60/\$50 Friends of the Museum – fee includes all programs, museum admission and catered lunch.

To register call the museum at 262-653-4140

Speakers:

Tim Smith – *Anatomy of an Icon: The Hornet's Nest*

Larry Daniel – *Shiloh – What Did it all Mean*

Bjorn Skaptason – *Wisconsin and Shiloh*

Tom Arliskas – *Shiloh – A Soldier's Battle*

On-Going Exhibit at the ANTARAMIAN GALLERY

Through British Eyes: The Illustrated London News Sketches the American Civil War

January 13 through April 8, 2018

England's leading illustrated newspaper provided extensive coverage of the war through articles and sketches for its readers.



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!

A Pennsylvania Volunteer



Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Rathbone 1916

Joseph Wilson Rathbone was born February 10, 1840 in Lawrenceville, Pennsylvania as the 5th child of Clarendon and Mary Rathbone. The Rathbone ancestors first came to America from England in 1654 and initially settled in Massachusetts. Several years later they were to become one of the first settlers of Rhode Island. Clarendon's great-grandfather, John Rathbone, was a well-known Connecticut Patriot during the Revolutionary War. By 1860, Clarendon was a respected lawyer and farmer in Liberty in north central Pennsylvania. His son, Joseph Wilson (he preferred Wilson or J.W.) helped to work the family farm. In August of 1861 Wilson, responding to the call for volunteers, struck out for Canton, Pennsylvania where a company of volunteers from the area was being recruited. From Canton they were taken to Philadelphia. While in Philadelphia these volunteers voted to join the 5th California Regiment of General Edward Baker's California Brigade. On August 27, 1861 Joseph Wilson Rathbone was mustered as a private into Company D, 5th California Volunteer Infantry. There were 3 officers and 85 men in this Company at that time. During the war, Company D would receive 16 additional recruits to make a total of 3 officers and 101 men.

Edward Baker, a good friend of President Abraham Lincoln, was a U.S. Senator from Oregon. A group of prominent citizens and politicians of California, wishing to contribute to the Union's war effort, enlisted Baker to form a brigade to be funded and represented by California. General Baker recruited most of the volunteers from his home city of Philadelphia. Company D of the 5th California would be one of only a few of the companies in the brigade not from Philadelphia. The other regiments in the California Brigade were the 1st, 2nd and 3rd infantry and the 4th cavalry and artillery. On September 30, 1861 the 5th California left Philadelphia for western Maryland to join the rest of the brigade already there. On October 21 General Baker crossed the Potomac River with the 1st California and several other regiments on an ordered advance into Virginia. There they were surprised by a large Confederate force resulting in the Battle of Ball's Bluff. In this engagement, General Baker was killed.

With the death of Edward Baker, Pennsylvania reclaimed his brigade as Pennsylvania volunteers. The 1st became the 71st PVI, the 2nd became the 69th PVI, the 3rd became the 72nd PVI and the 5th became the 106th PVI. The 4th was broken up into a cavalry unit and an artillery battery. Since most of the members of the brigade were from Philadelphia, it became known as the Philadelphia Brigade. This was the only brigade in the Union Army named after a city.

The history of the 106th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry is one of distinction. The muster rolls of Company D shows that private J.W. Rathbone was present with the regiment from August 1861 through November 1863 and therefore is assumed to have participated in all the battles and actions of this regiment during this period.

While not engaged at Ball's Bluff, this was the regiment's first exposure to the aftermath of a battle. For the remainder of 1861 the Philadelphia Brigade remained in western Maryland. Colonel Turner Morehead commanded the 106th PVI regiment and the command of the brigade went to General William Burns of the regular army and a graduate of West Point. At first the men of the brigade resisted the discipline and rigorous training imposed by General Burns but later came to appreciate and respect his leadership. In the spring of 1862 the brigade relocated to the Harpers Ferry area. From there the brigade was ordered to Washington D.C. where it was assigned as the 2nd Brigade, 2nd Division, 2nd Corps, Army of the Potomac.

At Alexandria, Virginia the Philadelphia Brigade was loaded onto transports and moved to join the rest of the Army of the Potomac on the Virginia peninsula, east of Richmond. The 106th's first experience under fire was at Yorktown where they were advanced as skirmishers to uncover the Confederate line and artillery positions. They suffered their first casualties in this action. On June 1, 1862, at the Battle of Fair Oaks, they came to the support of the III and IV Corps south of the Chickahominy River and held the right flank of the threatened Union line while protecting the bridges across the river. In the subsequent Seven Days Battles they were the rear guard at Savage Station, holding back the Confederate advance, as the Army of the Potomac crossed the White Oak Swamp in McClellan's change of base movement. At Glendale the regiment again played a key role in stabilizing the Union line against a heavy Confederate attack. On Malvern Hill the regiment and brigade were in reserve and acted as support for the line of Union artillery. Having arrived back in northern Virginia after the Battle of 2nd Bull Run, the brigade acted as the rear guard as the Union Army of Virginia retreated towards Washington.

During the Battle of Antietam, the Philadelphia Brigade was a part of the ill-advised charge of the 2nd division into the West Woods, led by General "Bull" Sumner, where they were nearly surrounded. General Oliver O. Howard, who commanded the Philadelphia Brigade in that battle, was impressed by the disciplined and orderly retreat of the brigade while being heavily pressed. (There is a monument to the Philadelphia Brigade in the West Woods on the Antietam Battlefield.) At the Battle of Fredericksburg, the 106th was in the 3rd wave of the assault on Marye's Heights. They spent the night on the battlefield close under the guns of the Rebel line. The Brigade saw little action during the Battle of Chancellorsville where they were assigned to hold Banks Ford.

It was at the Battle of Gettysburg where the Philadelphia Brigade gained wide notoriety. The brigade, placed at the center of the Union line, was now commanded by General Alexander Webb and the 2nd Division was under the command of General John Gibbon. During Longstreet's attack on July 2nd, the 106th PVI along with the 72nd PVI charged Wright's Georgia Brigade sending it back across the Emmitsburg Road. Together they re-took Brown's abandoned Rhode Island guns, then the 106th alone advanced to the Codori Farm where they captured most of the 48th Georgia regiment. That evening General Oliver O. Howard, who commanded the 11th Corps, specifically requested the 106th as a reinforcement on Cemetery Hill. As they arrived, he told his Chief of Artillery "Major, your batteries may be withdrawn when that regiment runs away," which was taken as a great compliment by the regiment. Not the entire regiment went to Cemetery Hill. Companies A and B, along with 50 soldiers from other companies of the 106th, were positioned as skirmishers along the Emmitsburg Road. It is unknown whether private Rathbone was sent to Cemetery Hill or remained on the Emmitsburg Road line. The 106th skirmishers remained at Emmitsburg Road on July 3rd during the cannonade prior to Pickett's Charge. As the Confederate infantry charge began, the skirmishers of the 106th withdrew and formed on the left of the 72nd PVI on Cemetery Ridge. They joined in the charge led by General Webb to stop the Confederate breakthrough and re-established the Union line. On the morning of July 4th, the 106th PVI on Cemetery Hill was sent into Gettysburg to drive out the remaining Confederates and thus became the first regiment to enter the town after the battle. There are two monuments to the 106th PVI on the Gettysburg battlefield; one near the Codori Farm and the other at The Angle. J.W. Rathbone's name is on the Pennsylvania monument.

For the rest of 1863, the 106th PVI participated in the pursuit of Lee, the Bristoe Campaign and the Mine Run Campaign. On December 24th private Rathbone was detailed as teamster at 2nd Corps Headquarters and on February 6, 1864 as teamster at 2nd Division (2nd Corps) Headquarters, Major General John Gibbon commanding. From March to June 1864 he was detached for service in Department. On July 20, 1864 near Petersburg he was transferred by special orders to 2nd Corps Headquarters. Due to these assignments he was not on the front lines during Grant's Overland Campaign and the battles around Petersburg all in which the brigade was heavily engaged.

On September 10, 1864, private J.W. Rathbone, along with 1 officer and 19 other men, were mustered out of Company D, 106th PVI in Philadelphia. This was all that remained (out of 3 officers and 101 men) of Company D after 3 years of service.

On May 2, 1865, Wilson married Christena Schoonbacker at Liberty, Pennsylvania. Together they had 6 children, 5 of whom survived into adulthood. By 1870 Wilson was working as a Huckster, which at that time referred to a seller of produce from a horse drawn cart. The Colorado Silver Boom of 1879 drew Wilson to Colorado. The 1880 census reveals that he was living in a boarding house in Fremont, Colorado along the Arkansas River with a group of miners. For several years he was laboring as a driller in the mines of Colorado, Arizona, and New Mexico. His wife, Christena was still in Pennsylvania with their children and the 1880 census lists her as a widow. By 1885 he had returned to his family and had moved to Bolivar, New York where he was a driller of oil wells in the area. Within a year they relocated to Lima in northwest Ohio. In the late 1800's the area around Lima had the largest natural gas and oil fields in the country. J.W. was employed to drill many of the oil and natural gas wells around Lima. Wilson and Christena would spend the rest of their days in the Lima area except for a brief period in the early 1900's. A short article in the June 3, 1908 edition of the Wellsboro, Pennsylvania newspaper reads: "Mr. and Mrs. Wilson Rathbone of Lima, Ohio who were residents of Blossburg about 40 years ago were visiting friends and relatives in this section. Mr. Rathbone has just returned from Egypt where he has been drilling oil wells for an Ohio firm of contractors." J.W. had drilled some of the first oil wells in the Middle East. Wilson was also a member of a Grand Army of the Republic post in Lima. After Christena passed away in 1919, he moved in with his daughter Emma's family where he resided until his death on January 2, 1928 at the age of 87. He is buried alongside Christena in Saint Matthew Cemetery in Lima, Ohio.

Information on the history of the 106th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry can be found at this website:

<http://www.pacivilwar.com/regiment/106th.html>

*Submitted by: Richard Gross, Round Table member
J.W. Rathbone was his great-great-grandfather*

REMEMBERING THOSE CALICO BOYS

Lance Herdegen remembers

January 27, 2018 11:17 a.m.



Thinking today of days long gone and how a score of young Wisconsin boys gathered to form a team for the North-South Skirmish Association. We signed the roster 100 years to the day the 6th Wisconsin Volunteers mustered at Camp Randall in 1861 in Madison. The uniform adopted was the one prescribed by General Gibbon: dark blue frock coats, Model 1858 hats, white leggings and gloves and light blue trousers. We always wore the long coats in hot weather and cold, wet days and dry. A friend from those days just sent me a photo of our time together and it brought back a flood of memories. Some of those boys – those now grizzled, dim-eyed yet glorious boys – have crossed the dark river. The team is long gone, but when we come together one or two at a time these days, we nod and give quiet smiles of how we marched with such a light step so long ago to the sharp and profane cadence of our corporal who learned his duties as a drill instructor in the Marine Corps. My, my, the new and unusual words we did learn in those drill sessions. Take care you Calico boys...

CIVIL WAR MEDIA CLUB

The Myth of the Lost Cause by Edward Bonekemper

Wednesday, March 7, 2018 – 7 – 8:30 pm

Instructor: Doug Dammann

\$10/\$5 Friends of the Museum

The former Confederate states have continually mythologized the South's defeat to the North, depicting the Civil War as unnecessary, or as a fight over states' Constitutional rights, or as a David v. Goliath struggle in which the North waged "total war" over an underdog South. In *The Myth of the Lost Cause*, historian Edward Bonekemper deconstructs this multi-faceted myth, revealing the truth about the war that nearly tore the nation apart 150 years ago. Curator Doug Dammann will lead a discussion of this work. It is recommended that participants read the book before the discussion group meets.

FIGURE DRAWING

Sunday, March 11, 2018 – 1 – 4 pm

Instructor: Dan Simoneau

\$35/\$30 Friends of the Museum

During the Civil War, artists were present on the battlefield capturing images in their drawings which would then be printed in newspapers around the world. An attempt will be made to do the same thing in a safer environment – in the displays at the Civil War Museum. Let Master artist Dan Simoneau show you how to quickly capture the gesture of the images and then use techniques to draw the image proportionately. Start with pencil to lay in the gestures and shapes and finish the drawings using Sharpies. Materials needed: clipboard or rigid board large enough to support your sketch pad, 11 x 14 inch sketch pad, pencils, white drafting eraser, Black Sharpies (fine and medium).

RANK DISCORD

Wednesday, March 21, 2018 – 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Instructor: Robert Girardi

\$25/\$20 Friends of the Museum

An examination of the interpersonal relationships between a number of generals and how these relationships shaped the events of the war. Among those Union generals discussed will be Grant, Sheridan, Gouverneur K. Warren, Rosecrans, Hooker, O.O. Howard, Burnside and Meade. On the Confederate side, Bragg, Lee and Johnston along with some of their chief lieutenants, Longstreet, Hardee and Polk. The professional distance between these men borne of rank often gave way to personal animosities or friendships, which affected not only army performance but also morale. Some of these men were able to overlook personality differences, others never did.

THE CIVIL WAR
MUSEUM
UPPER MIDDLE WEST EXPERIENCE

The Milwaukee Civil War Round Table's president Tom Arliskas strongly encouraged our membership to get out on Civil War battlefields if at all possible. With that thought in mind, and reiterating that both the **Kenosha Civil War Museum** and the group **Civil War Time Travelers** have tours heading to Tennessee sites in October 2018, a suggested reading list and an inspirational D. H. Hill quote are considered appropriate!

Daniel Harvey Hill



From Peter Cozzens' ***This Terrible Sound***:

"There was no more splendid fighting in '61, when the flower of the Southern youth was displayed in those bloody days of September '63. But it seems to me that the elan of the Southern soldier was never seen after Chickamauga- that brilliant dash which had distinguished him was gone forever. . . He fought stoutly to the last, but, after Chickamauga, with the sullenness of despair and without the enthusiasm of hope. That 'barren victory' sealed the fate of the Southern Confederacy."

Chickamauga/Chattanooga

Chickamauga and Chattanooga: The Battles That Doomed the Confederacy by John Bowers

This Terrible Sound: The Battle of Chickamauga by Peter Cozzens

The Shipwreck of Their Hopes: The Battle for Chattanooga by Peter Cozzens

The Chickamauga Campaign: A Mad Irregular Battle by David A. Powell

The Chickamauga Campaign: Barren Victory by David A. Powell

Mountains Touched with Fire: Chattanooga Besieged 1863 by Wiley Sword

Six Armies in Tennessee: The Chickamauga and Chattanooga Campaigns by Steven E. Woodworth

Franklin

The Widow of the South by Robert Hicks [Historical Fiction]

For Cause and Country: A Study of the Affair at Spring Hill & the Battle of Franklin by Eric Jacobson

The Battle of Franklin: When the Devil Had Full Possession of the Earth by James Knight

Let Us Die Like Men: The Battle of Franklin, November 30, 1864 by William Lee White

This list reflects personal preferences, of course, but also books that have proved quite readable and accurate in their retelling of events. While not an exhaustive one, the reading list should serve our attendees very well.

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.

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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General Orders design & layout by Dave Wege.

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

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

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

MILWAUKEE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE QUARTERMASTER'S REGALIA

What better way to show off your pride in our organization! All items are made of first-rate, quality materials, modestly embroidered with the Round Table/Iron Brigade log, along with your name or initials.

ITEM	COST
Hooded Sweatshirt in Northern Blue.....	\$35.00
Baseball Hat.....	\$10.00
Blue Brief Case.....	\$25.00
Blue Light-Weight Sweatshirt.....	\$30.00
Blue Izod Polo Shirt.....	\$40.00
Blue Dress Shirt.....	\$40.00
Blue Fleece-Lined Jacket.....	\$60.00
Iron Brigade Pin.....	\$5.00
CWRT Pin.....	\$5.00
Bugle Pin.....	\$5.00
Iron Brigade Medal.....	\$25.00
Red River Medal.....	\$25.00
CWRT 60 Year Medal.....	\$10.00

Contact Roman Blenski, Quartermaster

4601 W. Holt Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53219

(414) 327-2847, dbcpmilw@execpc.com

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

