

GENERAL ORDERS



The Newsletter of the

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



April 12, 2018

John Marszalek

The History of the Memoirs of Ulysses S. Grant

But my later experience has taught me two lessons: first, that things are seen plainer after the events have occurred; second, that the most confident critics are generally those who know the least about the matter.

Ulysses S. Grant
Personal Memoirs of U.S. Grant

Grant's two-volume memoirs were sold door-to-door by former Union soldiers; the memoirs have never gone out of print.

At our April meeting, John Marszalek will be talking to our members about how Grant's memoirs came to be written, and its history up to and including the Belknap Press of Harvard University Press publication of (eds.) John F. Marszalek with David S. Nolen and Louis P. Gallo, *The Personal Memoirs of Ulysses S. Grant, the Complete Annotated Edition*. This edition was published in October 2017.

Born July 5, 1939 in Buffalo, New York, our speaker is the first of five children of John and Regina Sierakowski Marszalek. John married Jeanne Kozmer in 1965; the couple have three sons and eight grandchildren.

A graduate of Canisius College, 1961, he received his masters and Ph.D. from the University of Notre Dame, 1963, 1968. He participated in ROTC at Canisius and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Intelligence branch upon graduation. He was on active duty from 1965-1967, serving at Fort Benning, Fort Holabird, and in a psychological operations battalion in Vietnam.

Since that time John has been a historian, educator, writer and administrator:

1967-1968 - instructor of history at Canisius College, Buffalo, New York

1968-1973 - assistant and associate professor at Gannon College, Erie, Pennsylvania

1973-2002 associate professor, professor, William L. Giles Distinguished Prof. of History; Giles Distinguished Professor Emeritus, 2002-present

2008 to present - executive director of the Ulysses S. Grant Association's Grant Presidential Library at Mississippi State University

2014 to present - co-editor with Timothy B. Smith of The World of Ulysses S. Grant book series at Southern Illinois University Press.

Our speaker is the author or editor of fifteen book and over three hundred articles and book reviews. Three of John's books (*Sherman, A Soldier's Passion for Order*, *The Petticoat Affair: Manners, Mutiny, and Sex in Andrew Jackson's White House*, and *Commander of All Lincoln's Armies: A Life of General Henry W. Halleck*) have been History Book Club selections.

John continues to lecture widely throughout the nation and has appeared on the major television networks. He serves on the board of advisors of the Lincoln Forum and the Lincoln Prize. The Mississippi Historical Society presented him its highest award, the B.L.C. Wailes Award for national distinction in history.

General Orders No. 4-18

April 2018

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April 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, April 9, 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!

ELECTION: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As announced at the March Round Table meeting and in accordance with the Articles of Incorporation, the nominating committee of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee recommends the following slate of nominees for the upcoming election of members to the Board of Directors for a three-year term ending in May, 2021.

- Grant Johnson
- Bruce Klem
- Daniel Nettlesheim
- Frank Risler
- David Wege

The election will take place at the May 10, 2018 Milwaukee Civil War Round Table meeting.

The friend in my adversity I shall always cherish most. I can better trust those who helped to relieve the gloom of my dark hours than those who are so ready to enjoy with me the sunshine of my prosperity.

Ulysses S. Grant

The Muster Roll: NEW MEMBERS

MCWRT Annual Fund

The following members have made a generous commitment to the MCWRT by investing in that fund. This list reflects those donations made from July 1, 2017 through February 8, 2018.

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, Jeryl Anthony, John Beatty, T. James Blake, Dale Brassler, 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.



At the April 1958 meeting, Bell I. Wiley gave a talk on “Recent and Current Writings on the Civil War.”

Edward Noyes was our Round Table speaker in April 1968 speaking on “The Negro in the Wisconsin Civil War Effort.”

“Wilkes Booth Came to Washington” was the subject of Larry Starkey’s talk at the April 1978 meeting.

Michael Snyder was the speaker at the April 1988 meeting. Mr. Snyder spoke about “The Battle of Seven Pines.”

“Keeping History Alive Through Art” was the topic of Keith Rocco’s talk to the Round Table in April 1998.

At the April 2008 meeting, Jennifer Weber spoke to those assembled on “Copperheads.”

At last year’s April meeting, Diane Monroe Smith gave her presentation on “Command Conflict in the Overland Command.”

Appomattox Campaign: The End Game

Wednesday, April 25, 2018 – 6:30 pm

\$25/\$20 Friends of the Museum

Presented by: Dan Nettesheim

For ten months Richmond endured an ever-tightening siege as the symbol of southern resistance transformed from the capital to Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia. By Spring 1865 the fall of the city became inevitable, thus casting the fate of the Confederacy to Lee’s ability to withdraw and evade Grant’s pursuit. Our discussion will focus on the generalships of the adversaries in the final campaign examining such topics as what they learned of each other’s generalship in their previous year of combat, dealing from a position of strength vs. weakness and the implementation of the war’s most decisive pursuit.



Although a soldier by profession, I have never felt any sort of fondness for war, and I have never advocated it, except as a means of peace.

Ulysses S. Grant

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.

Private John C. Fleming of the Chicago Board of Trade Battery

Friday, April 13, 2018 – Noon

Presented by: Blaise J. Arena

Over 3 million soldiers fought in the Civil War. You will learn about the everyday experiences of one of them: Private John C. Fleming of Chicago. In 1862 a young Fleming joined the newly formed Chicago Board of Trade Artillery Battery and served in the Union Army throughout the war. Fleming was a prolific letter writer to his family, and his letters are now archived in Chicago’s Newberry Library. Blaise Arena has been transcribing these letters and will give an illustrated presentation sharing what he has learned. Using images and transcriptions of Fleming’s letters he will describe Fleming and his day-to-day army camp life, and the Board of Trade Artillery Battery.

Join the Education Staff and Kenosha’s PUBLIC Craft Brewing Company for fun adult “field trips” and lively discussions. Each scheduled session meets at PUBLIC Craft Brewery. The cost of the event gets you started with your choice of one of their fine craft brews.

Old Fashioned Lincoln: What Happened to People Associated with Lincoln’s Murder

Thursday, April 12, 2018 – 6:30 – 7:30 pm

\$15/\$10 Friends of the Museum

Presented by: Steven Rogstad

Mr. Rogstad’s program at PUBLIC Craft Brewing Company will talk about the conspiracies surrounding the Lincoln assassination, the strange happenings of those associated with the President’s murder, and even a John Wilkes Booth mummy.

The Life, Clothing, and Equipment of the Union Infantry in the Civil War

Saturday, April 21, 2018 – 1 pm

\$20/\$15 Friends of the Museum

Presented by: Andy Ackeret

Join living historian Andy Ackeret as he interactively displays uniforms and equipment of the Union Infantry, and shares stories of the daily experience of Northern troops during the Civil War.



*Letter from the Second Regiment
Correspondence of the Sentinel
Camp, Near Fairfax Seminary
Thursday, April 3, 1862*

You see we are still in the same camp. All sorts of rumors as to our destination and when we move are going the rounds. There are no more indications of our leaving at present than there were ten days ago, and many begin to express doubts of King's Division "shipping" at all. We are encamped about two miles from Fairfax Seminary and four from Alexandria on one of the highest of the numerous hills that overlook Washington from the south. From the summit of our encampment we have a fine view of the surrounding country. Directly in front, the capitol and the city of Washington are distinctly visible while to the right, left and before us, the intervening space is one large semi-circle of camps, resembling a beautiful panorama. On a dark cloudy night, the scene is very picturesque. The camps of three divisions are before us, in each of those camps are hundreds of lights, glittering fires, the shouting and hum of thousands of voices, rumbling of wagons and the red glare of those thousands of camp fires makes one think he is standing on the outskirts of some vast city.

On the 25th of March there was a review of the first Corps by Maj. General McDowell. I was not present at this review but understand that General McClellan, Lord Lyons, and Mr. Russell of the *London Times* were present. The boys appeared highly amused at Lord Lyon's style of "bumping the saddle" – One expressed his criticism by saying he could shoot partridges under him as he rode. Mr. Russell, or Bull Run Russell as he is called, was hooted and hissed by some of the New York Regiments.

On the 27th, two divisions of McDowell's corps, King's and Franklin's were again reviewed by McDowell. It was again reviewed by McDowell. It was just the day for a review – a warm, sunny spring like day. At half-past one, the various roads leading to the review ground were lined with troops. The scene was unusually brilliant. The different bands pouring forth melodious and inspiring strains of martial arts, the glistening bayonets of the infantry, the bright sabers of the cavalry, the glittering of the howitzers and the black workman-like appearance of the rifled cannon, the galloping to and fro of the field and staff officers, all mingled with the red, white and blue of the glorious Star Spangled Banner and handsomely caparisoned horses made it a spectacle of great splendor – a gala day of soldier. There were hundreds of spectators. Lord Lyons, W. H. Russell and some officers of the English Guards now stationed in Canada were present

and rode around with McDowell during the inspection before marching in review. Gen. McClellan was not with them when our division was inspected or, if he was, it was not known.

When Gen. McDowell came by at a hard gallop, he turned around to the English officers and said pointing to us, "The Second Wisconsin a gallant Regiment!" Pointing us out and calling attention to us was indeed a compliment even had he said nothing. When Gen. McDowell was passing down the second line of Division, a cheer was on the right of the line when – "yes, there's McClellan" rose from thousands of lips – and there he was bowing low to the enthusiastic throats of the men. I fancy he looked somewhat more worn and intense "thought was written on his countenance." He certainly looked older than when I saw him last. The day after review, an order from McClellan was read to us, the substance of which was "that the review yesterday was everything that he could wish."

The English officer expressed great admiration at our efficiency, discipline and appearance. Our "material" was better than anything they ever had seen, that our steadiness in marching equaled the best troops in Europe and our discipline, as they had learned from being in our camp, was excellent; and when they returned to Europe, they would be able to tell their countrymen that America really has an army.

I have learned some particulars in regard to our advance on Manassas. Gen. Carney's brigade of N. Y. troops were on the advance and took possession of Fairfax Court House after a skirmish. While the skirmish was going on, Gen. Carney rode up to a lieutenant in command of a squad of Lincoln cavalry and said, "Lieutenant, can you place confidence in your men?" The lieutenant answered that he could. "Well," said the General, pointing to a knot of about one hundred and fifty rebels, "disperse them." The lieutenant told his men that he would shoot the first man who showed the "white feather." They charged right into them, hewing right and left, wounding several and killing three or four and taking thirteen prisoners. One of the killed secesh was completely decapitated. The lieutenant was the only man killed of the cavalry. Gen. Carney is an old one-armed veteran of the Mexican War, a thorough soldier and good general.

I was in conversation the other night with a corporal of the color guard of a regiment of our brigade who gave me an account of an interview he had with Mrs. Lincoln. The corporal was in town and determined to call upon the President for the purpose of finding out, as he expressed it, "Whether Old Abe was a common man or not" I suppose he meant whether a "live President" was like any other man.

I cannot give you a detailed account of his reception and exit; it would occupy too much time; but suffice it the corporal was cordially received by the President, took a glass of wine with him in the famous East Room and became so familiar as to call him "Old Abe," Old Rail Splitter &c. He was introduced to Mrs. Lincoln and after a conversation with Mr. and Mrs. L. of about two hours, came away fully satisfied that the President was a common man. The corporal was evidently pleased and impressed with the formality and dignity of his reception. I believe from what I have heard this afternoon, we shall leave here this week. Our brigade is on drill, but I have remained "at home." Our company has not changed its letter – only number.

Direct as before, Company A
A.L.

***From the Second Wis. Regiment
On Broad Run near Manassas Junction Virginia
April 8, 1862***

Dear Tribune: Some time has passed since I made my last scribble for the Tribune and now at leisure, let me indict a short letter noting events of a three week's campaign spent amid difficulties on the shores of the Potomac and in the recesses of seceshendom. On the 15th of March we left Fairfax Court House for Alexandria under the impression that we were to go on board of ships down the Potomac. Arriving at Alexandria after a fatiguing march thro' the rain, drenched and considerably "worse for wear" we encamped for the night. Here we found the 5th Wisconsin. Paid a short visit to Col. Cobb, who by the way, looks hearty and well. Saw Dr. Wilbur who looks fat and hearty, besides numerous other old friends. Lieutenant Walker of Co. A, 5th Wis., declared me his bed-fellow so after partaking a little stimulus, the soldiers relief, we rolled inside of one of those roomy shelter-tents and snoozed till the wee small hours of morn. At noon pm, the 16th, we were ordered to return to the old camp which we reached at nightfall. We were glad to once more set eyes on Fort Tillinghast and occupy again the old log cabins, considering the rough time we had experienced on a six days cruise to Fairfax Court House and vicinity. On the 19th we were ordered to Alexandria. At 2 o'clock, P.M. we started and arrived on Seminary Hills about 4 miles east of Alexandria where we encamped until the 4th of April when we were ordered to Warrington Station – Until this time we were under orders to go on board ships. We knew not where we were to go but supposed that we were bound for some point below Acquit Creek. However, all our ideas of a sail on the water were suddenly vanished by orders to march to Warrington. On the 4th inst. we marched to Annandale, a distance of ten miles from Alexandria, where we camped till the morning of the 5th when we marched to Blackburn's Ford and there camped for the night. The next morning we resumed the line of march passing through Manassas Junction and crossing Milford Creek about eight miles from the Junction where we are at

present encamped. Here we remain until further orders. Blackburn's Ford is near the battle field of the 18th of July last. We passed through Fairfax and Centerville but had no opportunity of going over the Bull Run battle field. We were disappointed in this as we had high hopes of once more reviewing the ground on which a mighty contest raged for nearly nine hours. We are within a mile of Bristol Station. The railroad is now completed to Warrington Station. Of Centerville but little need be said. It has the appearance of once having been quite a soldierly site. The fortifications around the town are not what I expected to see. The whole does not compare to Fort Smith near Chain Bridge. The forts could be easily scaled, and though erected on high eminences commanding a large scope of country, could have been taken at any time. These fortifications are roughly built and appear to have been erected more for a scare than for standing a siege which, to me, appears entirely incredible. The barracks erected are comfortable and would easily accommodate 60,000 troops which is more than I believe they have had at the town at any one time. On the whole it was a slim defense of a position considering the advantages given for fortifying. Manassas Junction is pretty well destroyed. The rebels seem to have delighted in burning and destroying all that was possible...Carpenters and Blacksmiths are going in on repairing and the loose rubbish is to be gathered up. In a few weeks it will be quite a town. It is destined to be a large one. A great many contrabands are here and are employed on repairing the railroad, and in arranging Quartermaster Stores. So much for Yankee enterprise. At the crossing of Milford Creek we found a family of the colored population who appeared quite happy over the arrival of the Union forces. Also an Irish family was here quite delighted over the advance of our army to find all families to be Union if only for the protection of their property but it is seldom we meet with the head of the family as his best hope is to keep in the advance of us. It is supposed that several guerrilla bands are about, as a lieutenant of a New York regiment and a colonel's orderly were taken and shot night before last. This is a report, the truth of the affair I know not. Several of the regiments have been out foraging and returned with any quantity of mutton, chickens, &c. Consequently, we are bound to have a good supper...Our Company is in good condition, well provided for, enjoying good health...Dinner is just announced and the boys are piling into the pork and beans and the mutton and chicken is fast disappearing. The mail is about to leave for Washington therefore I must close hoping the next time to chronicle at least a skirmish if not a battle with secesh. Bidding a kind adieu to friends and asking a kind remembrance for a short missive,

I am yours,
L.B.

Thank you, Jim Johnson, for these fascinating memories for our From the Field features!

**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 |
| Grant Johnson | Past President | 2018 |
| Bruce Klem | First Vice President | 2018 |
| Daniel Nettesheim | Member | 2018 |
| 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 April 12, 2018

Mail your reservations by Monday, April 9 to:

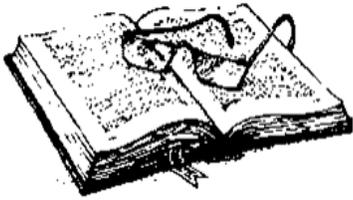
Paul Eilbes
1809 Washington Avenue
Cedarburg, WI 53012-9730

Call or email reservations to:

(262) 376-0568
peilbes@gmail.com

Enclosed is \$_____ (meal is \$30.00 per person) for _____ people for the
April 12, 2018 meeting of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee.

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

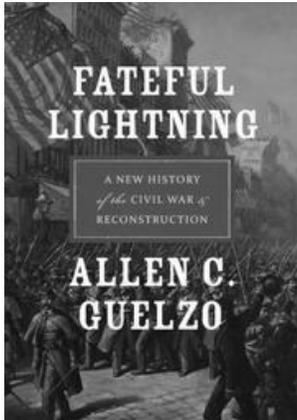


BETWEEN THE COVERS

Fateful Lightning

A New History of the Civil War and Reconstruction

Allen C. Guelzo



I purchased this book in 2016 while attending the Civil War Institute's program on Reconstruction. The program was offered through Gettysburg College and is an annual event offered in June. The subject for the program is different every year and typically lasts five days with two days devoted to battlefield tours. One of the tours is usually on the Gettysburg battlefield and the other is on one of the other nearby battlefields e.g. Chancellorsville, the Valley, Antietam or others.

I bought a number of books on Reconstruction, one of which is the book I am reviewing. As I got into reading this book I discovered that Mr. Guelzo was covering the entire period of the Civil War. Mr. Guelzo starts at the very beginning of our nation outlining the development of the institution that was the main cause of the war – slavery.

The author shows how the development of the two cultures, North and South, grew and how each grew in different directions. His approach in this book was to show a complete picture of the history of how and why the tremendous conflict came about. I was somewhat surprised that it was a complete history of the war and while dealing with the Reconstruction era it covered much more. Mr. Guelzo provides plenty of detail on how each side grew in opposite directions and how the political and economic climate developed during this period of our history. One item he points out is at the time, since there was no Civil Service, the president had the discretion to fill every position, some 900, from cabinet to the lowest postmaster, with people of his choosing. Guelzo points out that until 1860 tradition was that usually half of the positions were given to Southerners. However, since Lincoln was a Republican and in spite of Lincoln's comments, Southerners were very concerned about radical Republicans getting the lion's share and taking complete control of the Federal government.

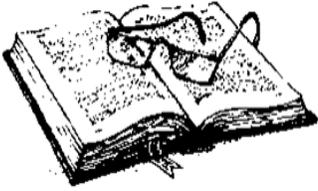
The politicians of the day carefully crafted a delicate balance of power so that each side could not counter and end the other. So, control of the power of government continued to remain in a delicate balance. Each expansion of the country demanded additional manipulation to ensure each side was satisfied with its position whether through the Wilmot Proviso, Missouri Compromise of 1850 or the Kansas-Nebraska Act.

The balance was finally shattered by the 1860 election and the attack on Fort Sumter. Guelzo carefully moves onto the war itself, spending most of his time showing how each side reacted to leading their governments through the war. Again, each side had political agendas and goals as well as providing for the material and manpower support to conduct a war and define objectives. He deals with the politics on both sides of the ocean and provides plenty of detail on the European views toward the war and the ebb and flow of that possible source of support.

Mr. Guelzo covers every possible facet of the war and its causes and shows how it impacted economics, religion, politics, international thinking, the military, the home front and individuals and the soldiers who fought it. It was a book that contained a lot more than I thought would be in it. It is a book that, if you wanted to really understand the Civil War, this is it. I'm not sure it is a book for everyone, for at times I felt I was reading a textbook. Having said that, I found many interesting pieces of information throughout the book and felt it was a worthwhile book to have in my Civil War library.

A particularly interesting section in the portion on Reconstruction, given the current storm over the Confederate flag and monuments, deals with a quote from the last GAR 71st Encampment in Madison, Wisconsin: "90 yr. old veterans were adamant that no displays of the Confederate battle flag be permitted." "No rebel colors" they shouted. What sort of compromise is that for Union soldiers but hell and damnation to show those colors as a matter of acceptance?

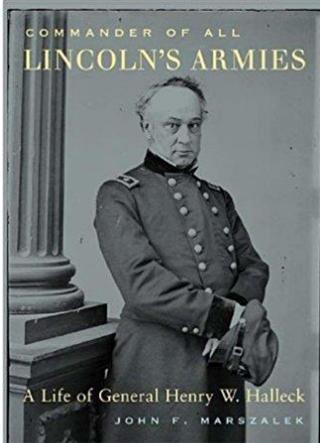
submitted by: Bruce Klem



BETWEEN THE COVERS

Commander of All Lincoln's Armies A Life of General Henry W. Halleck

by John Marszalek



I heard Mr. Marszalek present this book at the June 2017 Civil War Institute's seminar at Gettysburg College. His presentation and discussion peaked my interest and I decided to pick the book up. My initial thought before the presentation was how much could I learn about Halleck that I didn't already know? As it turned out, there was much to learn.

As Mr. Marszalek pointed out in his book, Halleck (called "Old Brains" by compatriots), was perhaps at the pinnacle of his career when the war started. He had outstanding credentials as a published military theorist, legal scholar, California entrepreneur, brave soldier and even acting Secretary of State of California. How could such a man fail our nation in its time of greatest crisis?

In this book, Marszalek traces Halleck's life from his early beginnings in which he ran away from home at 17 after an argument with his father over going away to attend school. It was an argument that broke Halleck's relationship with his father forever and they never reconciled. He ended up living with his grandfather, Henry Wager who, along with his uncle David Wager, lent him financial support.

After four years of private college education, in which he excelled at math among other subjects, Henry Halleck obtained an appointment to West Point in 1835 through his uncle.

Marszalek points out that Halleck did not develop many friendships at West Point and his 16 demerits over four years ranked him as one of the most straight-laced cadets at the academy. He also noted that Henry's comments about West Point seemed to indicate Henry had assimilated his father's stern and judgmental nature and found it hard to accept the vices of others. Marszalek shows how these traits impacted Halleck's ability or lack thereof to deal effectively with others in later life. He was definitely not a "people" person.

What I found particularly interesting was Halleck's time spent in California during and after the Mexican War. He fought as an independent commander in the Baja area and proved himself under fire. He made the journey from the East Coast by ship – the same ship with Sherman. He developed an on-again, off-again relationship with Sherman as a result.

Marszalek points out the various civilian endeavors Halleck got involved with while in California from the time of the Mexican War until the start of the Civil War. One important one was part ownership of a mercury mine which became a vital part of the gold mining industry. It is speculated that the techniques used in the mining operation may have resulted in exposure to mercury poisoning which could have helped explain Halleck's medical problems and personality issues during later years, particularly during the Civil War.

The author accurately states that many of Halleck's accomplishments while in California, becoming one of the founding fathers of the state, makes it all more shocking that a man so accomplished could fall so short as Commander of all Union forces. His reputation sinks to that of a "mere clerk." Halleck had shown himself to be a top-notch administrator previously but an abject failure as an Army commander. He was incapable of issuing an order at this point of his life becoming indecisive and powerless.

I believe that Mr. Marszalek has written a must have book for anyone's Civil War library as he helps readers understand the inner workings of the top command in the Union Army and provides real insights into the make-up of one of the key leaders in that war, General Henry Wager Halleck.

submitted by: Bruce Klem

Wanderings



Please consider writing up an account of your Civil War travel adventures for the **MCRWT General Orders**. Readers seem to really enjoy the *Wanderings* feature of our newsletter.

If you need an adventure to consider, Garry Adelman and Tim Smith are leading a 5-mile walking tour on April 22. Billed as *Hiking Gettysburg's Western Front*, the tour will begin at about 9:30 am and end at about 4:00. A lightly-edited write-up on this tour follows.

Most Gettysburg tourists visit the first day's battlefield, but their experiences are usually limited to a few key auto tour stops. How many people actually walk the fields where the attacks took place or see the banks of Willoughby's Run? How many visit John Burns' house site, step inside the Thompson house (known as Lee's Headquarters) or contemplate the bloody fight south of Herbst Woods? We will do all of this and much more on this hike while also standing at the site of nearly every July 1863 image created at Gettysburg. Unparalleled camaraderie, meaningful engagement, great accounts from the battle and battlefield, and cool perspectives all around!

Civil War Trust National Teacher Institute



The annual National Teacher Institute brings together educators from all over the world. This four-day event includes workshops, lectures, and tours from some of the leading experts in the history and education fields. Educators will be immersed in a friendly, fun, and engaging learning environment, where they will be able to network with other educators while learning new and innovative teaching methods. This year's Institute will be held in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. Many teachers attend this conference every year, as it is one of the premiere history conferences in the United States. The event is free, but a refundable deposit is required. That deposit will be returned or may be turned in at the end of the conference as a donation to the Civil War Trust.

For more information: teacherinstitute@civilwar.org

Civil War Nuggets

An official report stated that 3,559 units took part in land-based Federal military action during the war. Of these, all but 86 were state groups whose officers were chosen by elections held in the ranks or were appointed by governors.



Authorized by Congress in 1907 as an adjunct to the coveted Medal of Honor, the Civil War Campaign Medal was claimed by only 554 veterans.



While records of Union activities are comparatively complete, those of the Confederacy are not. It is anyone's guess as to how many volunteers and conscripts from the South died of disease during the war.

It is well established that members of the regular US Army fared remarkably well in this respect, with 3,000 of them succumbing to tuberculosis, yellow fever, malaria, camp fever, dysentery and other common maladies. Among the volunteers, however, the death toll from disease was nearly one hundred times as great, with the final count being around 221,000.

Thank you, Bruce Klem, for these interesting bits of Civil War Trivia!



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!

John F. Prosser - 14th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry

John F. Prosser was born January 17, 1833 in Oswego County, New York. His parents moved to Wisconsin in October of 1855, settling in Fond du Lac County, Town of Forest. When President Lincoln called for volunteers to put down the rebellion in April 1861, Prosser signed the muster roll of the 14th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry on September 11, 1861.

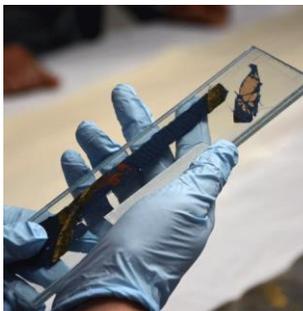


Prosser was a member of Company H of the 14th Regiment, and at its organization was elected sergeant. The 14th fought at Shiloh, Iuka, Corinth, Vicksburg, Tupelo, and Nashville. John Prosser stood in the ranks at those battles. He was involved in the Red River Expedition and the siege at Spanish Fort in Arkansas.

During his term of service, Prosser received promotion to 2nd Lieutenant, then 1st Lieutenant, and had command of the company for a time. He was then promoted to captain, but was never commissioned. While home on furlough, Prosser married Martha Chase. Prosser re-enlisted as a veteran volunteer and served until June 13, 1865, when he was honorably discharged by reason of expiration of time of service.

The Prossers moved to Delaware, Iowa in 1867. The family returned to Wisconsin in 1873, settling in Colby in Marathon County. Martha Chase Prosser died in August of 1877. He then married Francis Oviatt. To this union were born four children: Walter, Annie, Myrtle, and Dollie. He was a proud member of Isaac N. Earl Post 112, G.A.R. Prosser died in March 1901. His obituary read: "John Prosser was a man highly respected by all who knew him, a man of strong ideas and could only be swerved from those ideas when thoroughly convinced he was wrong. He was scrupulously honest in all his dealings with his fellow man; had held several offices in his town to the entire satisfaction of his constituents."

Descendants of John F. Prosser were the caretakers of mementoes of his time in service. A trunk contained his sword, a pistol, uniforms, and important papers. Unfortunately, Prosser's Civil War items were distributed to family members who may not have recognized their historical value, and some were lost. Found inside a book of pictures were tattered remnants of silk which turned out to be pieces of the regimental flag of the 14th. The fragments were passed down through the family, along with four diaries that traced Prosser's day-to-day life in service to his country. To authenticate the flag remnants, they were taken to the Wisconsin Veterans Museum. After careful research, the staff of the museum stated, "The blue silk pieces retain bits of gold and red paint in a distinctive pattern, but too little of the 14th's regimental flag remained to pinpoint where the fragments originated."



Further research revealed that the flag was a part of a group of six matching flags ordered for the 12th and the 15th-18th Regiments on October 29, 1861. By looking at one of these essentially identical flags, museum staff were able to fit the fragments onto a photograph of the 12th Wisconsin's "sister flag," confirming the fragment's original location on the regimental flag of the 14th.

This Through the Looking Glass article illustrates some very important truths for us all. For one, hidden treasures still await discovery! Diaries, papers, and other items may well be sitting in trunks and boxes in attics all over the country. A second truth is that not everyone recognizes their historical significance. This underscores the importance of organizations like our Milwaukee Civil War Round Table in educating the next generation of amateur historians about the value of artifacts.



Sincere thanks go to Wayne Rimmel of rural Campbellsport, great grandson of the subject of this article. Wayne undertook the investigation of the scraps of blue silk that were discovered in John Prosser's old books. He also recognized that the two Prosser diaries and discharge papers that came into his possession via John's old trunk properly belong in a setting where they can not only be maintained, but also enjoyed by the public. Therefore, these precious historical artifacts are now held at the Marathon County Historical Society in Wausau, a fitting repository for such valuable documents.

COMING FROM SAVAS BEATIE PUBLICATIONS THIS YEAR!

“Too Much for Human Endurance”: The George Spangler Farm Hospitals and the Battle of Gettysburg

By: Ronald D. Kirkwood

The floorboards remain, but the bloodstains are gone. The doctors, nurses, and patients who toiled and suffered and ached for home at the Army of the Potomac’s XI Corps hospitals at the George Spangler Farm have long since departed. Noted journalist and George Spangler Farm expert Ronald D. Kirkwood brings these people and their experiences to life.

The Petersburg Regiment in the Civil War.

A History of the 12th Virginia Infantry from John Brown’s Hanging to Appomattox, 1859 – 1865

By: John Horn

The 12th Virginia has an amazing history. Its remarkable story is told here for the first time. Horn’s definitive history is grounded in decades of archival research that uncovered scores of previously unused accounts.

Challenges of Command in the Civil War:

Generalship, Leadership, and Strategy at Gettysburg, Petersburg, and Beyond

By: Richard J. Sommers

Sommers distills six decades of studying the Civil War into two succinct, thought-provoking volumes. This first installment focuses on “Civil War Generals and Generalship.” Each chapter is a free-standing essay that can be appreciated in its own right without reading the entire book.

The 7th Georgia Volunteer Infantry Regiment, 1861 – 1865: A Biographical Roster

The 8th Georgia Volunteer Infantry Regiment, 1861 - 1865: A Biographical Roster

The 9th Georgia Volunteer Infantry Regiment, 1861 – 1865: A Biographical Roster

The 11th Georgia Volunteer Infantry Regiment, 1861 – 1865: A Biographical Roster

Compiled and Annotated by: Richard Michael Allen

Compiler and author Richard Allen spent nearly two decades researching scores of archives and other sources to prepare these rosters. He utilized primary sources such as the *Official Records*, Compiled Service Records, newspaper accounts, diaries, letters, census information, burial records, and a variety of documents from both published sources and private collections.

The Real Horse Soldiers: Benjamin Grierson’s Epic 1863 Civil War Raid through Mississippi

By: Timothy B. Smith

The last serious study of this raid was published nearly four decades ago. Since then other accounts have appeared but are not deeply researched full-length studies of the raid and its more than substantial (and yet often overlooked) results.

Union Command Failure in the Shenandoah:

Major General Franz Sigel and the War in the Valley of Virginia May 1864

By: David A. Powell

The Battle of New Market in the Shenandoah Valley suffers from no lack of drama, interest, or importance. The ramifications of the May 1864 engagement, which involved only 10,000 troops, were substantial. Previous studies focused on the Confederate side of the story. Powell’s book provides the balance that has so long been needed.

Holding the Line on the River of Death: Union Mounted Forces at Chickamauga, September 18, 1863

By: Eric J. Wittenberg

This volume focuses on the two important delaying actions conducted by mounted Union soldiers at Reed’s and Alexander’s bridges on the first day of Chickamauga. Wittenberg brings his expertise with Civil War cavalry operations to bear with vivid and insightful descriptions of the fighting and places the action in their full and proper historic context.

New titles also coming in the Emerging Civil War series and the first two titles in the new Emerging Revolutionary War series.

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*

Ending SOON 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.

The Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee

2018-2019 Speaker List

It looks like another great year of programming is ahead for next season's Milwaukee Civil War Round Table!

Tim Smith

September 13, 2018

Ted Karamanski

October 11, 2018

Ethan Rafuse

November 8, 2018

David Hirsch & Dan Van Hafen

December 13, 2018

Bjorn Skaptason

January 10, 2019



Rob Girardi

February 7, 2019

Horace Mewborn

March 7, 2019

Bradley Gottfried

April 11, 2019

John Horn

May 9, 2019

Greg Biggs

June 13, 2019



FROM THE FILES OF PETER JACOBSON

GENERAL ORDERS

No. 108

WAR DEPARTMENT

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

Washington, D.C. June 2, 1865

SOLDIERS OF THE ARMIES OF THE UNITED STATES: By your patriotic devotion to your country in the hour of danger and alarm – your magnificent fighting, bravery, and endurance – you have maintained the supremacy of the Union and the Constitution, overthrown all armed opposition to the enforcement of the laws, and of the Proclamation forever abolishing SLAVERY – the cause and pretext of the Rebellion – and opened the way to the rightful authorities to restore order and inaugurate peace on a permanent and enduring basis on every foot of American soil.

Your marches, sieges, and battles, in distance, duration, resolution, and brilliancy of result, dim the lustre of the world's past military achievements, and will be the Patriot's precedent, in defense of Liberty and Right, in all time to come.

In obedience to your country's call, you left your homes and families and volunteered in its defense. Victory has crowned your valor and secured the purpose of your patriot hearts; and with the gratitude of your countrymen, and the highest honors a great and free nation can accord, you will soon be permitted to return to your homes and families, conscious of having discharged the highest duty of American citizens.

To achieve these glorious triumphs, and secure to yourselves, your fellow-countrymen, and posterity, the blessings of free institutions, tens of thousands of your gallant comrades have fallen, and sealed the priceless legacy with their lives. The graves of these a grateful nation bedews with tears, honors their memories, and will ever cherish and support their stricken families.

U.S. GRANT,
Lieutenant General

OFFICIAL:

In Memoriam

Elizabeth T. Davis, mother-in-law of Board member Dan Nettesheim, passed away on February 16, 2018 at the age of 91. Elizabeth was the daughter of the late John and Elizabeth McDonald Sheeran; she was born November 26, 1926 in New York City. A retired LP nurse, she was preceded in death by her husband William F. Davis.

And flights of angels guide her to her rest

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.

