

GENERAL ORDERS

The Newsletter of the

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



June 7, 2018

Dennis A. Rasbach

Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain at Petersburg

There is no dispute Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain led his brigade in an attack on Petersburg on June 18, 1864. There is also no doubt that Chamberlain suffered a severe wound during that assault that nearly killed him.

Bryce A. Suderow

Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain had no idea that the failed attack he led at Petersburg on June 18, 1864, an attack that nearly took his life, would spark controversy more than a century later. According to his own accounts, written decades after the event, he led his brigade against the permanent fortifications of the Dimmock Line at Rives' Salient, in an attack that originated from the future site of Union "Fort Hell." His line of battle advanced along the Jerusalem Plank Road through a murderous flank fire from what was soon to become Confederate-held Fort Malone. Our June speaker, Dennis Rasbach, in his study, indicates this is not true.

At our June meeting, Dennis Rasbach will present his view that Chamberlain's actual attack was nearly one mile north of where nearly everyone else believed it took place. Dr. Rasbach's work and research led to his successful petitioning the state of Virginia to relocate the marker commemorating Chamberlain's attack to a more suitable location.

Dennis A. Rasbach, MD, is a graduate of the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. As a busy practicing surgeon, he is an unlikely author of a micro history of the Civil War experience at the Front of Petersburg on June 18, 1864. The inception of his book was pure serendipity. While investigating the movements of his great-great-grandfather's regiment, the 21st Pennsylvania Cavalry, his focus was suddenly and unexpectedly diverted to Joshua Chamberlain and his famous charge. Glaring contradictions emerged as the popular narrative of that event was

compared with the historical record. Those inconsistencies prompted an intense search for clarification and resolution, which, over the course of a year and with help from a network of new Civil War friends, grew into the present work.

Dennis is a member of the Civil War Round Table of Southwest Michigan. The father of two sons, he resides with his wife Ellen in St. Joseph, Michigan. Coincidentally, his birthday is June 18, the day of the Petersburg charge.



DON'T FORGET!

When you come to the Round Table meeting remember to stop by our Quartermaster's table and get some raffle tickets for the monthly book raffle. You can't win if you don't play!

General Orders No. 6-18

June 2018

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June 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, June 4, 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.

BOOK PICK-UP REMINDER.

We are still holding paid copies of David Dixon's *The Lost Gettysburg Address: Charles Anderson's Civil War Odyssey* for the following individuals:

Doug Haug Will Hochschild

If you are listed above and cannot make the meetings, please let us know who you authorize to pick up the book for you. Contact Paul Eilbes at peilbes@gmail.com or Donna Agnelly at donnaagnelly@gmail.com.

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!

Editor's Note: Once again, as we wrap up another Round Table season, I would like to take the opportunity to thank the membership and the board for the privilege of editing the *General Orders*. The newsletter, as it should be, is a collaborative effort made possible by your contributions and with the help of a very trusty band of dedicated helpers. A very special thank you to Dave Wege, my newsletter partner who takes the material I send him and makes it fit in the layout as well as providing input and additional material. Jim Johnson provides us with wonderful material in our From the Field section every month. Bruce Klem is our very prolific bookworm and reviewer. Peter Jacobsohn regularly shares documents from his personal collection. Others have provided book reviews, Through the Looking Glass features and assorted articles. Dave and I will now be taking a very brief hiatus before starting work on the September newsletter. Are you wandering this summer? Are you reading a Civil War book (I know you are). Please consider sharing your wanderings or book reviews in the *General Orders*. Thank you everyone!

The Muster Roll: NEW MEMBERS

NUMBER	NAME	REGISTRATION	PLACE OF BIRTH	FORMER MILITARY SERVICE	REMARKS
1500	Doug Arnold	Chicago, Ill.	Illinois		Has filed declaration of intention
1501	Peter Keepman	Chicago, Ill.	Illinois		Has filed declaration of intention
1502	James A. Rydlewicz	Chicago, Ill.	Illinois		Has filed declaration of intention

MCWRT Annual Fund

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

The Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee has an opportunity to donate to save land where the Iron Brigade did great fighting at great cost on July 1, 1863. Along with a donation of \$200 from our general fund, we are seeking member donations to save a tract of land on Seminary Ridge. Donations may be brought to the June Round Table meeting or mailed to Paul Eilbes at 1809 Washington Avenue, Cedarburg, WI 53012-9730.



At the June 1948 meeting “The Battle of Champion’s Hill” was the subject of Paul S. Brant’s presentation to the membership.

At the June 1958 meeting, Rucker Agee gave a talk on “The Streight-Forest Campaign.”

E.L. Perry and William Gallagher were the speakers at the June 1968 meeting speaking on “Medicine and Surgery in the Civil War.”

“Co. E, 12th Wisconsin in Pictures and Story” was the topic of Dennis K. McDaniel’s talk at the June 1978 meeting.

John M. Priest was the featured speaker at the June 1998 meeting speaking on “Pickett’s Charge.”

At last year’s June meeting, David Wege gave his presentation on “When Johnny Came Marching Home.”

Kenosha Civil War Museum Second Friday Lecture Series

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

What is a Zouave?

Friday, June 8, 2018 – Noon

Presented by: Terry R. Dyer

Where did they come from and how was it and by whom did their name, uniforms, and tactics of drill come to America, and especially to the city of Rockford, Illinois? Ten days after the Civil War broke out, the Zouaves of Rockford left for Springfield, making them the first military contingent to be mobilized in the State of Illinois.

**NOW AT THE ANTARAMIAN GALLERY
FOR HONOR AND FAMILY:
THREE FAMILIES IN THE CIVIL WAR**



Civil War Museum’s 10th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday, June 23, 2018

Come and celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Civil War Museum with a day of musical and theatrical performances, a living history encampment, and hands-on family activities and games that are based on the science of the Civil War. There will be free admission to the Civil War Museum’s Fiery Trial gallery.

10:15 – 11 am - You Are a Soldier

Reenactor Steve Acker will show off the uniform, equipment, and gear of the Union Soldier. He will challenge the audience to decide what they would need to survive 8 months of camping, marching, eating and soldiering while not overburdening themselves.

11:15 – Noon -The Battlefield Balladeers.

The Balladeers will perform the songs and music of the Civil War.

12:10 – 1 pm - Cordelia Harvey

During the war, Cordelia Harvey decides to become a Sanitary Agent for the state. She travels up and down the Mississippi River visiting the sick and wounded. What she sees convinces her of the need for military hospitals in Wisconsin. This first person narrative ends with her attempt to persuade President Lincoln to allow it.

1:10 – 2 pm - Harriet Tubman

My Untold Story is performed by Kathryn Harris. Linking the past with the present, Harris portrays the former slave.

2:10 – 3 pm - My Little Red Canoe

My Little Red Canoe is Keryn Moriyah & Lia McCoo. These 2 accomplished singers, musicians and presenters celebrate the voices of women and people of color in the melodies of the Civil War era.

Sing Along

Come join the band! Tap your feet to the dance; or float on down the river, to yesterday. Come, take a trip with *My Little Red Canoe*.

3:30 – 4:30 - The Kenosha Pops

The Kenosha Pops plays traditional military, patriotic, and big band favorites during this festive indoor concert.



Beloit, June 3rd '61

Mr. Editor:- C.C. has backed out – His patriotism – pluck – courage or whatever you call it has “gin out”

Thus, I imagine, some think if they don't say so in so many words. Now I don't propose to enter into a discussion to prove the facts, the case does not warrant such a statement or charge though.

I am quite sure that a battle of words and pens is a very safe method of warfare compared with a real battle with Powder and Ball.

No! I don't propose to engage in such a useless battle for though such a one might be safer than a real one. I think I should get soundly whipped or traitors, as they ought always to be called on the field of battle. I propose simply to give no explanation – a vindication of my conduct in not enlisting since our company broke up. This, in my private opinion, is sufficient – yes is the same as “owning up” the coin that I am a little afraid of getting hurt.

Well it will have to be so then. Can't help it.

After our company disbanded several of the College Boys and myself visited other companies and even went to Camp Scott at Milwaukee for we had heard that, besides there being vacant places, they were to leave for the south the next day. When we arrived in M. we learned from prominent citizens that the First Regiment would not probably leave the state until their term of service (3 months) expired; when they would be discharged or kept at the expense of the State till there should be another call. This was enough.

We did not enlist to fool away time. When we enlisted we expected to be in a situation to do justice to our southern brethren before this time. (When I say 'we' so bravely I mean my comrades, not I, the coward). We all concluded that under the circumstances we had better come back to College for the present. After Commencement if there is a prospect of seeing any fighting we are ready to go.

With sorrow for leaving the camp and exhibiting cowardice in fight I shall remain a warm friend and champion of the American idea of Liberty and free government.

Yours in vindiofon. C.C.-

Return of the Beloit Cadet Rifles

We announced a short time since the departure of the Beloit Rifles for Camp Randall and we seek to announce their return from that famous rendezvous. The fact of the company's return is already a matter of general information but the causes which led to their return, we regret to say, are

not so generally known as they should be and opinions were hastily formed here and elsewhere with regard to the matter which as now appears were not warranted by the facts in the case.

We publish herewith a statement from Capt. Slaymaker which thoroughly unfolds the particulars of the affair and places the matter in such a light as in our opinion fully justified him in his refusal to serve under Col. Coon who, as appears from the statement, was manifestly guilty of the grossest double-dealing and perfidiousness of conduct toward the Beloit Company with a view of covertly ousting them from the Regiment in order for reasons political or personal or both to give their place to another company.

As a matter of course our citizens deeply regretted the return of the company. But we have the most implicit confidence in Capt. Slaymaker's integrity and are far from believing that we would do anything that would in the least compromise his own honor or that of the city with which he was entrusted.

His action was unqualifiedly endorsed by a majority of the company and also by several disinterested individuals at Madison and elsewhere from whom we have heard. In view of the interests involved, Capt. Slaymaker felt that it was due to himself and to the public that the particulars of the affair should be published, the statement to which we have referred.

To Editor Beloit Journal & Courier:

Dear Sir:- I wish to submit, through your columns, a statement of the causes and circumstances which led to the sudden withdrawal from Camp Randall and the ultimate disbanding of the Beloit Cadet Rifles.

The first difficulty which beset our path was the change of the term of enlistment from three months to that of the war, or three years. This, however, was quickly and definitely settled by taking the sense of the company on the evening of Saturday, 11th inst. which resulted in the withdrawal of about one-half of our number against those withdrawing there was no demonstration of displeasure on the part of those remaining.

Their right to withdraw, and for an honorable discharge, seemed to be conceded...I took my stand with those agreeing to enlist for the war and never altered my determination until the occurrence which I am about to relate took place. I did not ask them to make that determination until I found I could not be transferred to another regiment, which I asked only after I could no longer have confidence in the commanding officer of the 2d Regiment in which we once held a place...

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

But now, for the real cause, which being fairly related will show where the blame should rest – who it was had the “ax” to grind. On the morning of Thursday last about one half hour before the morning parade, which had been ordered the evening previous, being at the regimental headquarters I was called aside by the Colonel who, approaching me in a friendly manner, mentioned the object of that parade which was not known to me before nor was it generally known, if known at all, by the men in the company – that it was preparatory to taking the oath to service three years, or the term of the war – that he intended to address the men who should assemble at that parade in such terms as were intended and he calculated would stir their military ardor and awaken enthusiasm. He went on to say that some of my men being young might get hasty in assuming the obligation and perhaps it would be well not to bring them forward then as time enough would be afforded but concluded his remarks by saying that this was merely a suggestion to be suggested to be acted upon or not, as I thought proper. If I thought fit to act upon it he would excuse us from that parade...

In the afternoon I called at the office of Adjutant General to obtain passes home for those unwilling to take the oath for three years. Upon presenting the list of names, he inquired if that included all the men. I informed him that it did not. He wished to know what I was about to do with those who remained. I told him that active steps were being taken to recruit the company to the required number and, suspecting nothing, said that they would remain in their present quarters as heretofore. Whereupon he informed me that he had ordered to rendezvous immediately a company from Milwaukee, which had not previously been assigned a place in any other regiment adding to my amazement that we no longer held a place in the 2d Regiment and that he had been informed that I fully understood the whole thing and that all this matter had been fully prearranged between the Colonel and myself.

This I here emphatically deny. I had entered into no arrangement with that officer or any one else relative to the company. But I may here say that I committed an error in not setting myself right at once with the Adjutant General by exposing, in round terms, that duplicity which belongs to the Colonel of the 2d Regiment but which is now fastened upon me...

Accordingly, on Friday morning last, I assembled the Company and, by instructions, marched them to headquarters where they were addressed by Col. S. Park Coon, the burden of which was that they should have nothing to fear from him should they remain in his regiment; should be well taken care of under all circumstances &c. Those declining to take the oath to serve under Col. Coon, although willing to go for the war if an honorable place could be secured in another regiment, stepped to the rear leaving twenty-five men or thereabouts in a line.

Now the end was accomplished...

I attempted to interfere with the exercise of no man’s judgment in that matter. I certainly did not dissuade, either by word or example, any one from enlisting, nor didn’t attempt, nor would I allow, any man to be bullied or forced into doing so... For what am I condemned? Was it for heeding the suggestion of a senior, the chief officer of the regiment – my superior officer? Was it because I had declined to say more against that officer than that I misunderstood him? That the whole was a result of a misunderstanding? So it was, I admit now, not of the facts but of the man...

Yours truly, S.H. Slaymaker

In Memoriam

It is with sadness that we report the passing of past Round Table member Trueman “True” Farris on March 10, 2018 at the age of 91. Trueman also served as editor of the *General Orders* from 1991 – 1994.

Farris spent more than four decades as a reporter and editor for the Milwaukee Sentinel, retiring in 1989 as a managing editor.

Born in Sedalia, Missouri, in 1926, Trueman and his family moved to Milwaukee in 1938 when his father bought a Standard Oil franchise. Before graduating from Juneau High School he would get his first paying newspaper job covering high school football as a stringer.

He graduated from Marquette University with a degree in journalism in 1948. Farris said: “I worked the night I graduated from Marquette, and I went over to the ceremony on my lunch hour.”

He served on the board of directors of The Associated Press Managing Editors, was a Pulitzer Prize nominating juror and president of the Milwaukee chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists and the Milwaukee Press Club.

Trueman is survived by his son Jim.

And flights of angels guide him to his rest

**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
Grant Memoirs
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	2021
Bruce Klem	First Vice President	2021
Daniel Nettesheim	Member	2021
Frank Risler	Program Chair	2021
Tom Thompson	Member	2020
David Wege	Layout, General Orders	2021

**~ 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 June 7, 2018

Mail your reservations by Monday, June 4 to:

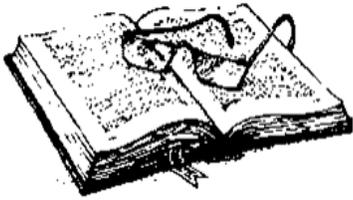
Paul Eilbes
1809 Washington Avenue
Cedarburg, WI 53012-9730

Call or email reservations to:

(262) 376-0568
peilbes@gmail.com

Enclosed is \$_____ (meal is \$30.00 per person) for _____ people for the
June 7, 2018 meeting of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee.

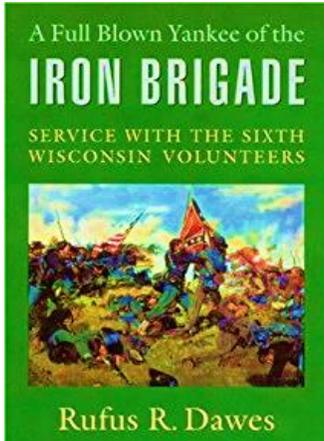
(Please make checks payable to the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.)



BETWEEN THE COVERS

A Full Blown Yankee of the Iron Brigade Service with the Sixth Wisconsin Volunteers

Rufus R. Dawes



I thought it was about time to jump into one of the prime books on the Iron Brigade – *A Full Blown Yankee of the Iron Brigade*. This is a book that was the published memoir of Colonel Dawes on his Civil War service with the Iron Brigade. It isn't often that published journals provide as much detail and personal observations for such intense combat as this one does. I'm sure many members of the Round Table have read this book but it was one that had slipped by me until the Civil War Museum focused on the Iron Brigade at its 2016 Annual Symposium. There were numerous books on the Iron Brigade available for purchase and naturally, I picked up a couple including this one.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book. Dawes chronicled his entire career in the war with the Iron Brigade and provided great observations and details on his feelings both toward the war and how the leaders of both the Iron Brigade and various division commanders functioned in the war.

Dawes uses letters he wrote as well as notations in his daily journal for his source material. He puts down his base feelings on enlistment when he states, "It is pleasant to remember that day that few questions were raised as to the rates of compensation for service and so remote a contingency as realizing the promise of a pension." Men were enlisting to save the Union. In Dawes' case, he was an abolitionist and believed "the peculiar institution" was a pox on the nation and was the prime cause of the war that was about to be fought. Through Dawes' notations and letters you can follow the progress of the company, how the various companies were grouped and formed the 6th Wisconsin Infantry and how the Wisconsin and Indiana regiments grew together and formed the Iron Brigade. Dawes comments enable the reader to follow his men as they assimilate into military service. He highlights the feelings and tensions of the men and the reactions to their first combat. For anyone unfamiliar with the military, the formation of a unit and how a unit is changed into a living entity, Dawes provides what I think is a great window to that development.

The book follows the 6th and the Iron Brigade through the terrible period when they "see the elephant" and fight the Battles of Brawner's Farm, South Mountain and Antietam. They get a chance to somewhat recover and then, through Dawes' eyes, meet their final destiny at Gettysburg. It is along the way to that pivotal battle that Dawes shares how in seeing comrades killed and maimed he is changed forever by the crucible of combat. His firsthand accounts allow the reader to see the inner strength of the unit's members and how they became closer as the war dragged on.

Dawes covers the Battle of Gettysburg in tremendous detail. Again, he is covering the area that he can see and where he is in action with his men. It seems a near miracle that he survives leading the charge against the railroad cut, while at the same time maintaining his composure to lead his men. The 6th is successful and takes many prisoners but in the end, the unit and the entire Brigade must retreat to Cemetery Hill and the final position. When he takes the evening roll he is astonished at the few men who can answer muster. The Brigade maintains its position on Culp's Hill and makes it through the fierce battle although it will never be the same.

Dawes continues to describe how the Iron Brigade moves on to the Overland Campaign and eventually becomes a veteran force at the expense of consolidation. Wilderness, Spotsylvania, Cold Harbor and finally Petersburg. The fight continues and Dawes shows how the gallant Brigade gets whittled down. While this is going on Dawes learns that his brother is terribly wounded with Sherman's army, losing part of his jaw. Included in this work is a description of how his brother is mended and some unique surgery performed on him to help him survive the war. Dawes finally mustered out prior to the war's end and is able to return home. He is reunited with his wife and goes on to have a productive civilian career.

The book has a suggested list of follow up works that can be read to further enhance the story of the Iron Brigade as well as Lance's fine works on the Brigade. I found this to be a very interesting read and would say if you haven't read it and have any interest in the Iron Brigade and how it fought in the war this is a must read and should be added to your bookshelf.

submitted by Bruce Klem

BELLE BOYD AND THE THIRTY-SIXTH WISCONSIN

Tuesday, April 1, 2014



This is a warm story about Confederate girl spy Belle Boyd and a forgotten Wisconsin monument in Virginia.

The rectangular granite stone stands on a slight rise of ground near what is the Richmond-Henrico Turnpike in Hanover County. The marker is 10 feet tall and is overgrown with weeds, brush and honeysuckle vines. The inscription reads: "This monument has been erected by one of their comrades, Charles A. Storke, in memory of the members of Companies B, E, F and G of the Thirty-sixth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry who fought here on the first day of June 1864." Around its sides are carved the names of the 137 soldiers who were captured, wounded or killed in the battle. Storke's name is one of the 137. He was 18 when he was captured during an attack on the Confederate lines. He was a member of Company G and later wrote an account of the attack in his memoirs. He

remembered 44 men were killed or mortally wounded. 60 suffered from serious wounds and 33 were captured. Storke was captured and spent time in various Confederate prisons before being released in 1865.

Storke moved to Santa Barbara, Calif., after the war where he was district attorney and mayor. He later started the *Santa Barbara News-Press* newspaper. In the early 1900s, Storke revisited the site of his capture and began to make arrangements to buy the land. "I tried to look up their graves and could not find a trace of them," he said. "I determined then to put up a monument where they had received their wounds." The project was completed in October 1924 and the plot deeded to Hanover County. County officials said later they knew nothing of the deed and that it was apparently lost in the files. The monument stood mostly forgotten.

Then in the 1930s, something changed. A neighbor, Lucile Luck, said in a newspaper interview in 1987 that a group of ladies would come out every year on June 1 and had some sort of service. She identified them only as an "auxiliary."

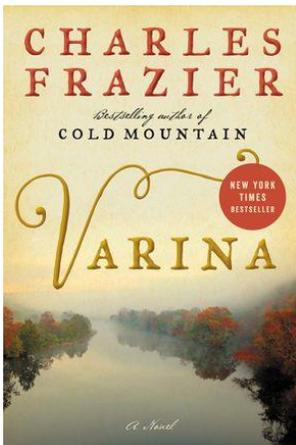
While touring battlefields near Richmond in 1956, I was taken to the Thirty-sixth Wisconsin monument by a contingent from the United Daughters of the Confederacy. The lead was Mrs. T.J. Nelson of Richmond, a kind gentlewoman with a keen sense of the past. She proudly proclaimed her chapter of the UDC placed flowers at the Wisconsin stone each year after learning that a Grand Army of the Republic chapter had taken up the task of annually marking the grave of Belle Boyd, the famous spy of the Confederacy who is buried in the cemetery at Wisconsin Dells. She had died there while on a speaking tour about the turn of the century.

Mrs. Nelson also told of how she and several other UDC members traveled to Wisconsin one year to take part in the Wisconsin memorial for Belle Boyd and how much she was moved by the ceremony. The UDC delegation brought a container of Virginia soil to be spread over the gravesite so Belle would be buried beneath ground from home.

Is it not curious how the past can tie us together?

My, my...

The Iron Brigade and Kindred Matters by Lance Herdegen
ironbrigadememory.blogspot.com



BOOK NEWS

If you read Civil War fiction and are a fan of Charles Frazier of *Cold Mountain* fame take note that a new Frazier book was released on April 3, 2018. Frazier goes back to the Civil War with his new tome, *Varina: A Novel*.

Publishers Weekly says of the book: "Frazier's interjection of historical detail is richly informative, and his descriptions of the natural world of the South are lyrical...A sharp, evocative novel."

If you do pick the book up and read it in between all the wonderful non-fiction Civil War literature out there, please consider doing a book review for the *General Orders*.

Shiloh Battlefield Tour: April 5 – 6, 2018



We have an old friend and acquaintance, David Woodbury, who for many years set up and conducted tours for the Netscape Civil War Forum, which was a collection of Civil War folks like us, who just enjoyed Civil War history. David's groupies every year would take tours from Pea Ridge, Arkansas, to Mobile, to Appomattox under David's careful planning. He retired two years ago after twenty-some years of operating Civil War touring at its best. The last official meeting of the group was two years ago in Gettysburg, which Terry and I attended. After a short hiatus David said he wanted to do a tour of Shiloh and Corinth for April 2018, so we were in. I wanted to visit Shiloh anyway and being a chosen presenter for the Kenosha Civil War Museum's Fall Forum on the Battle of Shiloh, now I really wanted to go!

We left on Wednesday, April 4th. We picked up an old friend, Ann Kalata, in Chicago, another Forum member and we were off. It takes about 8 or 9 hours driving to get down to Southern Tennessee. Ann was amazed at the flatness of Illinois. She lives in Pennsylvania in the hill country and commented often on how she could see across Illinois for miles with no mountains to get in the way.

We spent the first night in Union City, Tennessee. During the early days of the Civil War, General Polk chose Union City as a mobilization center and camp for his volunteers. From there he moved to occupy Columbus, Kentucky, just miles away. We saw the signs for Columbus/Belmont State Park, but we were headed south for Shiloh and our tour. If you have never been to Columbus/Belmont go, but don't expect to see much. Columbus is now a Kentucky State Park and for picnics and gatherings, yet the view of the Mississippi from the Columbus plateau is awesome. It was called the "Gibraltar of the West" and you can understand why looking down and across the river. The Confederates had a commanding position with heavy cannon and trenches. Belmont, or a part of it, is on the western side of the river directly across from Columbus. Belmont has a small Visitor Center and a few markers, but I believe is more well used as a campground and there is a large building for rent for weddings and family gatherings. Hopefully, someday Belmont will be given the attention that it deserves. It was General U.S. Grant's first fight in command of an army as General. A hard-fought battle in which one in five men became casualties.

We did stop in Union City, Tennessee, to see the oldest and first Confederate Monument put up by that state. It was located in a small park in a residential neighborhood next to an old grave yard. It was an odd structure made of bricks and mortar covered in stucco painted white. Kind of a stacked pyramid done up to remember the Confederate unknowns from Tennessee and those who never came back. The year erected was 1869. The monument itself was surrounded by a cemetery of "Unknown Confederate Dead," whose identities have been lost having died while in Camp Brown, Tennessee, and other places nearby. It was interesting and sad at the same time. The site is on the Blue and Gray Trail guide for places to see in Tennessee.

We then left for Corinth where our motel and designated tour headquarters were located. It was nice to see old faces. We spent the evening visiting and were given a private tour and introduction at the Corinth Visitor Center by our guide, Chief Ranger Stacy D. Allen, Shiloh Park Historian. Ranger Allen has had a long history with Shiloh starting in 1989 when he first arrived on the scene. Since that time he has done some major work in conservation and re-marking the battlefield of Shiloh. His collective knowledge is amazing. He can list regiments, northern and southern by brigades, as well as all the generals and colonels involved. He has done some major research on the battle itself, the terrain and the fighting. We were lucky to have him. He told us he has not done a private group tour since 2008! I think he had the change of heart because I was there, but no one can confirm that. We watched the new Shiloh Park movie done in 2012, co-written and done under the guidance of Ranger Allen. It was awesome! As each historical event was portrayed on the screen, of course the arrival of Albert Sidney Johnston was a big part of the history of the Battle of Shiloh. Something looked familiar to us all. General Johnston looked just like Ranger Allen! It was Ranger Allen! Leading the Confederates to victory right up to his death near Duncan field. The identification was confirmed in the movie credits. I asked Ranger Allen if he would conduct the rest of the tour in his A.S. Johnston uniform and he said he could not, park regulations would not let him, but I believe he wanted to. It would have been spectacular having A.S. Johnston leading our tour on and off the bus, clinking the tops of our umbrellas with a small tin cup. Think about it.

We started early on the morning of the 6th, first stop of course at Fraley field, where the first shots were fired under Peabody's command. The story: against orders not to engage the Confederates that could bring on a battle before General Buell or Halleck arrived at Pittsburg Landing, Colonel Peabody sends out a patrol - his pickets, having observed Confederates milling about some distance from his camps. Those Confederates were the advanced pickets of the entire CS Army - 44,000 strong. A skirmish erupted and the Battle of Shiloh was on.



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!

Annie Wittenmyer

Tireless Campaigner and Reformer

No soldier on the firing line gave more heroic service than she did.

Ulysses S. Grant



Sarah “Annie” Turner was born in 1827 in Sandy Springs, Ohio. Annie’s parents were strong believers in education and ensured that Annie and her sister, as well as her brothers, received a good education. When she was twenty, she married William Wittenmyer, a merchant from a nearby town and a man who was 12 years older than Annie. Despite the age difference, the marriage was a happy one. In 1850, the couple moved west to Keokuk, Iowa.

In March 1853, Annie started a tuition-free school for underprivileged children. The classes were first held in Annie and William’s home but as more children were enrolled the school moved to a warehouse. Local citizens and visitors gave their support to the school.

While her professional life thrived, Annie did experience sadness in her personal life. Of her four children, only one, a son named Charles, lived past early childhood. Annie would lose her husband in 1860. A short while after Williams’s death the Civil War began – a war that would challenge Annie on both a professional and personal level.

During the war, Keokuk was one of the centers for the Iowa war effort. Men came to Keokuk to volunteer, companies were formed, supplies came through the area and wounded soldiers, northern and southern, were brought there for medical attention. Annie volunteered her time caring for soldiers at the Estes House, a converted hotel.

Annie became active in the Keokuk Ladies’ Soldiers’ Aid Society formed in 1861. Annie became the society’s corresponding secretary and, in that capacity, traveled to the Army camps and wrote long letters describing the conditions and needs of the Union soldiers. During one visit, Annie found her brother, David, ill with dysentery and typhoid fever being fed inedible rotten food. Annie wrote: “It was an inside view of hospitals that made me hate war as I had never known how to hate it before.”

Annie’s devotion was reported in the local newspapers and helped encourage other Iowa women to donate time, money and services. The Keokuk Society would become the depository and forwarding agent for all the other societies in Iowa.

In September 1862, the Ninth General Assembly of Iowa appointed Annie to the Iowa State Sanitary Commission. Annie continued to report unclean conditions and request supplies, but she now had the support and sanction of the Union government behind her. As an example of Annie’s relentless zeal, she threatened bad press in order to force a general to allow her to move four steamer boats full of wounded and ill soldiers from a marshy, mosquito-infested area.

1863 found Annie working at taking care of the children left orphaned by the war. By February 1864, a board had been organized in Des Moines and contributions from civilians and soldiers poured in to support the cause. The first Orphan’s home opened in the summer of 1864 in Farmington, Iowa, followed by a second home built in late 1865 in Cedar Falls. In 1865, the original home in Farmington moved to a larger facility located in the barracks of the deserted Camp Kinsman in Davenport; 150 orphans would live in the Davenport home.

Annie, while she campaigned for the war orphans, also worked with the United States Christian Commission to set up a special dietary kitchen system. The system, still used today, gave each patient his own prescribed diet, organized by his own dietary slip. Annie established several new kitchens and hired women to supervise them. She would face criticism from some surgeons for letting women “meddle” in hospital affairs; these doctors would often give the kitchen orders that went against the rules and policies of her dietary system. Annie would resign from the State Sanitary Commission in May 1864 and would run the kitchens until April 1865, the end of the war.

Annie’s life did not slow down after the war. She became involved in the Temperance Movement and in 1874 was elected the first president of the National Woman’s Christian Temperance Union. She believed that alcoholism was both a moral and economic problem. She would serve as president of the organization for five years.

In 1889, Annie became the national president of the Woman's Relief Corps. In this capacity, she caused homes to be built for retired nurses and for the widows and mothers of veterans. She would serve as the director of the homes. Annie, in the early 1890s campaigned for pensions for retired army nurses. The result of her campaign saw the bill pass in 1892 with Annie immediately helping nurses take advantage of the new law. In 1898, Annie was granted a pension by Congress for her work on behalf of the Union.

Annie died on February 2, 1900 after suffering an asthma attack. She was buried in Edgewood Cemetery in Sanatoga, Pennsylvania.

Quite a story about quite a remarkable woman- one who, in the words of Lucy Sheldon Stewart, spoke of her unselfishness and dedication.

To see the need, for her, was to see the remedy.

submitted by Donna Agnelly

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*

This talk will examine the famous Hornet's Nest throughout its history, not just on April 6, 1862, but also how it is perceived in the American memory. It will also examine whether the attention showered on the Hornet's Nest is appropriate or whether it has been overemphasized.

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

This program will not examine the tactics, but rather the meaning of it all. Daniel's thesis is that while later battles eclipsed Shiloh in body count, there was a uniqueness to Shiloh that has not always been appreciated.

Bjorn Skaptason – *Wisconsin and Shiloh*

This program will consider the ways in which the Battle of Shiloh affected the State of Wisconsin and how it is remembered today. The lecture will cover the pre-battle history and operations of the three Wisconsin regiments – the 14th, 16th and 18th – who fought at Shiloh. The story of Governor Louis P. Harvey will also be relayed in the program.

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

This program, using a collection of notes and memories of the men, offers perspectives and research on the uniforms, clothing, and firearms of both the Confederate and Union Armies that fought at Shiloh. The program will explain how these soldiers actually looked on the field of battle, what weapons they used, and how these factors helped determine the outcome of the Battle of Shiloh.

Now at the ANTARAMIAN GALLERY FOR HONOR AND FAMILY: THREE FAMILIES IN THE CIVIL WAR

One of the three families in the new display is that of James Livingstone of the 25th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry. Livingstone was featured in our *Through the Looking Glass* series in March and April of 2016.

In Memoriam

It is with sadness that we report the passing of longtime member Dr. Erwin S. Huston on April 11, 2018 after a long illness. Dr. Huston was a member of the Round Table since 1976 and was also a Color Guard member. Erwin was married for 56 years to the late Alice Huston (Seybold).

Born in Ann Arbor, Michigan, Erwin grew up in Milwaukee and graduated from Milwaukee Country Day. He prepared for his medical career at DePauw University and the Medical School at the University of Wisconsin –Madison. In World War II he was ordered to active duty in the U.S. Navy V-12 program at DePauw. He was called to serve in the Korean War as a Medical Officer on a Navy troopship making eight round trips between Bremerton, WA and Japan and Korea.

Following his military service, he completed his residency in Internal Medicine at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He then came to Milwaukee in 1956 and practiced medicine with his father for the next 18 years. During that time, he joined Wisconsin Electric as a Staff Physician and became the company Medical Director in 1966. His career at WE spanned 35 years until his retirement in 1991.

He was the past President of the American Bell Association and a member of the Bell Friends of Wisconsin and the North Lake Shore Chapter since April 1974. He was a member of the North Shore Congregational Church since 1956 and a member of the Milwaukee Curling Club.

And flights of angels guide him to his rest

ADJUTANT AND INSPECTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Richmond, February 6, 1865.

GENERAL ORDERS No. 3.

I. The following Act of Congress is published for the information of the army:

An Act to provide for the appointment of a General in Chief of the Armies of the Confederate States.

“Section 1. The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, That there shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, an officer, who shall be known and designated as ‘General in Chief,’ who shall be ranking officer of the army, and as such, shall have command of the military forces of the Confederate States.

Sec. 2. That the act providing a staff for the General who may be assigned to duty at the Seat of Government, is hereby repealed, and that the General in Chief, who may be appointed under the provisions of this act, shall have a staff not less than that now allowed a General in the field, to be assigned by the President, or to be appointed by him, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.” [Approved 23d January 1865.]

II. General ROBERT E. LEE having been duly appointed General in Chief of the Armies of the Confederate States, will assume the duties thereof, and will be obeyed and respected accordingly.

III. General Orders, No. 23, of 1864, is hereby revoked.

By order.

S. COOPER

From the files of Peter Jacobsohn

Adjutant and Inspector General.

The Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee 2018-2019 Speaker List

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

Without going into a minute-by-minute account of the battle as given by Ranger Allen, the point he wanted to make was that Shiloh was fought in some very difficult terrain, made up of old growth timber, huge tall trees with little undergrowth, cut by creeks and ravines, crisscrossed by back country roads that went east and west to Savannah, Tennessee, north and south to Corinth. Here and there would be an open space, farm fields and grazing lots surrounded by woods. It was a terrible place to conduct a battle. Even worse for green troops. 80% of the Confederates had never been in a battle or fired a shot, same for some 60% for the Union side. With little drill and preparation, the Confederates after great difficulty and time, were lined up across open country and ordered forward. Their lines of battle were two miles long when they entered the deep woods, not able to see the enemy, just glimpses of white tents and men in blue in the distance. Their goal – Pittsburg Landing – some two to three miles away and the destruction of the Union Army. It was a slaughter for both sides as the Confederates pushed north and the Federals worked to consolidate lines of resistance, each dissolving under heavy Confederate pressure and flanking movements including the Peach Orchard. Stacy Allen explained all this in detail to us. We ended up the first day at Grant’s last line on the landing.

Thursday was sunny but cool. Perfect weather for a battlefield tramp. Friday was not so nice. A cold front moved in and it was raining. That miserable leaky soft rain that made everything wet and muddy. We rallied and stood stoically under our umbrellas as Ranger Allen told us of the arrival of Buell and his army, Grant under pressure, and the preparation for the second day for his forces to drive the Confederates out of the captured Union camps and to the roads back to Corinth from whence they came. We could not finish the second day in detail, but we got more than many Civil War folks get. Corinth is a nice place to stay, lots of good restaurants and plenty to see. We had dinner that night at the Catfish Restaurant and Hotel in Savannah, Tennessee. It was catfish, fried chicken, shrimp and greens, baked potatoes, and sweet tea for me and everyone else. Rural Tennessee and the folks are wonderful people. We had no complaints.

I would suggest strongly if you plan a visit to get a good guide. The Shiloh battlefield is a difficult place to understand. Both first and second day markers litter the fields. You are surrounded by woods you cannot see through, filled with Regimental monuments and plaques. You can spend a good part of the day just driving around and wondering where you are or what happened here. Just do it and spend the money for a guide! The Visitor Center is very nice and they have a bookstore which is going to be re-done with more artifacts on display. Shiloh is in the middle of nowhere, for us and them at the time, but definitely worth a visit along with all the Civil War sites in that part of Tennessee. Lots of General Forrest markers up and down Rt. 45. Also lots of sites associated with Davy Crockett. Near Jackson, Tennessee was the last home of Davy Crockett. We visited the cabin he lived in before he headed for Texas. His mother is buried at that site. Terry, Ann and I are now “Crockettologists” – we all bought coon skin hats at the Shiloh Visitor Center so it is official!

If you get there say hello to Ranger Allen aka Albert Sidney Johnston. The story of Shiloh is not finished. We have a long way to go gathering all those stories, photos, letters, diaries, and maps for study. If you have any, the Park needs them and wants them. The Civil War Trust just purchased a site called Fallen Timbers where the last action of Shiloh occurred on April 8th on the retreat. It was the spot Nathan Bedford Forrest was wounded after a cavalry charge. The story of Forrest picking up a Federal soldier and forcefully using him to cover his person is a myth according to Ranger Allen, but a good story anyway. I wish you could have all been with us. You would all now be “Crockettologists” and have a better understanding of the Battle of Shiloh- a sad place but one very worth the visit.

submitted by Tom and Terry Arliskas

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

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

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

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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.

