

GENERAL ORDERS



The Newsletter of the

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



February 7, 2019

Rob Girardi

GOVERNEUR K. WARREN'S LAST BATTLE THE GENERAL AND THE HISTORIANS

Happiness is not my companion, and is not the true nature of myself.

Gouverneur K. Warren

Gouverneur Kemble Warren was one of the most important generals in the Army of the Potomac. During the course of the war, he rose in rank from Lt. Col. to major general. He played a vital role in the planning and conduct of every major battle from Chancellorsville to the end of the war.

Warren led the 2nd Corps from after Gettysburg until March 1864 and the 5th Corps for 14 months after that. He fought in every battle during the Overland Campaign and the Siege of Petersburg, and led several independent actions until the battle of Five Forks, in April 1865. At Five Forks, Philip H. Sheridan accused Warren of dilatoriness in action and reluctance to fight. In other words, cowardice! Warren was unceremoniously removed from his command.

Prior to that, every commander he served under praised him – except two. These two, U.S. Grant and Sheridan were able to effectively stain our view of Warren in the history books. The misrepresentations of Warren's conduct and character has skewed the historical record resulting in an injustice to the man and a flawed understanding of his role in the Civil War.

At our February meeting our featured speaker, Robert Girardi, will talk about Gouverneur K. Warren, remembered as the Savior of Little Round Top, highly regarded for his education and competence, but also accused of being too cautious by the generals who removed him from command. Warren has suffered in the history books because of the long reach of his enemies. Girardi will reevaluate the facts with some unpleasant revelations.

Robert Girardi has had a lifelong fascination with the Civil War. He has studied all aspects of the war, and has tramped over many of the battlefields and related sites. He has collected artifacts and memorabilia and has read through thousands of documents, letters, and diaries written by participants, there developing an understanding of the important issues of the war and a sense of what the soldiers experienced.

Robert earned his M.A. in Public History at Loyola University of Chicago in 1991. He is a past president of the Civil War Round Table of Chicago and a past vice president and newsletter editor of the Salt Creek Civil War Round Table. He is a fellow of the Company of Military Historians and is an associate member of the Sons of Union Veterans. He received the Chicago Civil War Round Table's prestigious Nevins-Freeman Award in 2010. In 2014 he was awarded the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table's Iron Brigade Association Award for Civil War scholarship.

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February 2019

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February Meeting at a Glance The Wisconsin Club 900 W. 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, February 4, 2019

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.

2018-2019 Speaker Schedule

Find the speaker schedule on page 6.

www.milwaukeecwrt.org



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!

Mark Your Calendar! Home Front Seminar Saturday, March 16, 2019



**Registration: 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. Program begins at 9:30 a.m.
Catered Lunch and Museum admission included
\$55/\$40 Friends of the Museum**

The Civil War Museum's Annual Home Front Seminar highlights topics and talks pertaining to the non-military and social history aspects of the Civil War period.

Speakers:

**Dr. Bonnie Laughlin-Schultz, History Department,
Eastern Illinois University**
John Brown's Children and the Long Reach of the Civil War

Dan Hess, Old World Wisconsin
Wisconsin Farms to Factories

**Ronald Coddington, Editor and Publisher, Military
Images Magazine**
Cardomania! The Rise and Fall of the Carte de Visite
in Civil War America

**Register by calling the museum at: 262-653-4140 or by
visiting their website:**

https://museumstore.kenosha.org/qsot-event/home-front-seminar/03-16_2019-830am/

Please note the speaker and topic change
for March 2019 Round Table meeting.

The Muster Roll: NEW MEMBERS

NUMBER	NAME	RESIDENCE	PLACE OF BIRTH	EDUCATIONAL DEGREE	EDUCATION
	Sam Solberg				
	Stephen Solberg				
	William Solberg				
	Carl Solberg				
	Charles Solberg				

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 through December 12, 2018.

Major Contributor (\$500 and above)

Patron (\$200 - \$499)

Gene and Jane Jamrozy, Grant Johnson, Steve Leopold, Robert Parrish

Associate (\$100 - \$199)

Michael Benton, Crain Bliwas, Bill Finke, Doug Haag, Van and Dawn Harl, Dr. Peter and Jean Jacobsohn, Bernard Jene, David Jordan, Kathy McNally, Jim and Ann Reeve, Laura Rinaldi, Dennis Slater

Contributor (up to \$99)

George Affeldt, John Beatty, Dale Bepalec, T. James Blake, Anne and Shaw Bridges, John and Linda Connelly, Dr. Gordon E. Dammann, Mike Deeken, Lori Duginski, John Durr, Tom Eddington, Paul Eilbes, Gary & Judy Ertel, Gerald Frangesch, George and Alison Geanon, Jim Heinz, Alan Kasprzak, Ardis Kelling, Jerome Kowalski, John Kuhnmuensch, Jay Lauck, Frederic Madsen, Rod Malinowski, Herbert Oechler, Tom Pokrandt, John Rodahl, Chet Rohn, David and Helga Sartori, Diana Smurawa, Dan Tanty, Michael Uihlein, Bernard Van Dinter, Gilbert Vraney

CIVIL WAR MUSEUM 2019 MANASSAS TOUR

The Civil War Museum 2019 Manassas Tour
Sunday, October 20, to Wednesday, October 23, 2019
Reservations can be made by mail, in person or by phone at 262-653-4140 with a credit card.
For a complete itinerary and details visit:
<https://museums.kenosha.org/civilwar/events>
Go to the bottom of the events page and click on the link provided for the tour itinerary.

CIVIL WAR TIME TRAVELERS 2019 TOUR

Showdown in the Shenandoah is next year's October tour. Cross Keys, Port Republic, New Market, Winchester, and Cedar Creek will be our historical highlights. We will also visit the Perryville Battlefield in Kentucky on our way south to the Valley!



From the Archives

In February 1949 Frank Klement spoke to those assembled on “Fort Donelson.”

“Lincoln’s Plan of Reconstruction” was the topic presented by W.B. Hesseltine in February 1959.

The February 1969 meeting brought Leslie H. Fishel Jr. to the Round Table speaking on “Lincoln and the Negro.”

At the February 1979 meeting Mark E. Neely Jr. spoke to the membership on “Has the Lincoln Theme Been Exhausted.”

The featured speaker at the February 1989 meeting was Frank L. Klement who spoke on “Civil War Democrats: Traitors or Competent Critics.”

“The Lincoln Assassination” was presented by Edwin C. Bearss at the February 1999 meeting.

Bruce Allardice visited our Round Table in February 2009 and spoke about “Lincoln as War Leader.”

At last year’s February meeting Larry Lee Hewitt spoke to the group on “Richard Heron ‘Fighting Dick’ Anderson.”

Tuesday, February 12, 2019

Success and Failure in the Heartland: Leadership at Forts Henry and Donelson

6:30 – 8 PM

Instructor: Rob Girardi

\$25/\$15 Friends of the Museum

In the winter of 1861-62 the Civil War was just beginning to erupt in its full fury. A string of battles the previous summer and fall had been a series of Confederate successes with few exceptions. Leadership of the war effort was still in flux on both sides of the conflict. The opening moves were vitally important, as they would dictate the course of action of subsequent events. The performance of the early leaders became the critical measuring stick of war policy and conduct. In the West, leadership on both sides was still evolving. During the Fort Donelson Campaign, many of the questions about the conduct and competency of the leaders of both armies were answered; often with far reaching consequences to the war effort.

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.

Friday, February 8, 2019

Noon

Fighting Slavery in Chicago – Abolitionists, the Law of Slavery, and Lincoln

Presented by: Tom Campbell

Based on eight years of research, Mr. Campbell’s program traces the activities of some Chicagoans who ran the underground railroad, established abolitionist newspapers, organized political parties, and helped get Abraham Lincoln elected president. His talk also examines Lincoln’s position on slavery and the steps he took to abolish it.

Friday, March 8, 2019

Noon

Caroline Quarlls – My Independence Day

Performed by: Shannon Sloan Spice

In 1842, Caroline Quarlls, a 16-year-old St. Louis slave, made the choice to run away from her master’s home. With slave catchers in pursuit, she fled to Milwaukee where she was helped by local citizens on a journey to Canada and to freedom. Years later, after the end of the Civil War, Caroline received a letter from Lyman Goodnow, the man who escorted her along the Underground Railroad to Canada. During this performance, you will meet Caroline, and hear her account of her journey as she answers the first of Mr. Goodnow’s letters to her.

African-American Civilians and the Gettysburg Campaign

Saturday, February 2, 2019 1 p.m.

Free and open to the public

Presented by: Steve Acker

The history surrounding the name Gettysburg has been woven into the fabric of American history. For three days in 1863, two great armies fought to create their own definition of America. This program will add another layer to that rich history by sharing the story of the African American at Gettysburg. From the beginnings of the town, the story of Gettysburg has also been the story of free and runaway African Americans living barely ten miles from the Mason Dixon line and a slave holding population dedicated to subjugating a people. Using powerful images and personal stories we will learn about Mag, Palm, Basil Biggs, the Underground Railway, a fraternity party coming to the rescue of a half-starved runaway and much more.

The Milwaukee Civil War Round Table has been called “the best-kept secret in southern Wisconsin.” Let’s try to change that. Please consider bringing a guest to our monthly meetings!



Camp Tillinghast, Va.
Feb. 1st, 1862

Friend Sam – On the margin on the Register I received from you last evening I found the following: “Why don’t you write to me? – Sam” Well if that is your request here goes.

If you will take the pains to imagine your humble servant acting Serg’t of the guard and at present seated in one corner of a log guard house which is warmed by an old fashioned fire place with about twenty of the boys around him dancing, singing, playing cards, telling stories &c. &c., you will have my exact position to a T.

Although we are comfortably situated in our log shanty, it is anything but pleasant out of doors, either under foot or over head. Last night snow fell to the depth of one inch and today the rain has fell to the depth of about two inches. Now take this in connection with the mud we had to start with (about a foot) and we have a mixture that a weak man cannot waddle through very easily. By the way, speaking of mud reminds me of a little incident that happened last Thursday and here it is. A certain corporal went to the city to see what few sights there is to be seen there and in his wanderings about town, and before he was ready to return to camp night overtook him and that too in a how came yer eye out condition, but as luck would have it he came across an old chum who was all right spiritually speaking, and for short we will call him Ike. After a short consultation they came to the conclusion that camp was the place for them and for it they started. They got along finely as far as the river and even across the river; but then came the pull back for two good miles were between them and camp and the mud knee deep in places and the night as dark as a stack of black cats. They had groped their way along but a few rods when the corporal got mired and in helping himself and being helped out of his dilemma, he lost one of his boots in the mud and could not find it. They had gone but a few rods farther when they came to a hut which was occupied by a Negro. Now what do you guess they done? Why just this; they made the Negro pull one of his boots off – which the corporal put on – and then take a lantern and light them to camp at least one mile and a half, which he did and that too with only one boot on, the other foot being bare. The corporal was the little rough looking “seed” the next morning I ever saw and to all appearances he had more load the night before than he could carry and undertook to draw it; for evidently he had been down on all fours a good share of the time.

We have not done anything except guard duty for a long time, and all on account of the mud. Drills have been entirely out of the question and as for Dress Parades, they are getting to be among the things that *were*. The last one we had was Jan. 14th.

We could not go on Picket when it was our turn, consequently the advance regiment had to do our duty for us. Reason why – *mud*.

We are not like the little boy who cried “more mud” but directly the opposite. Some people suppose we are suffering by the cold weather. Never was one more mistaken – I do not think the thermometer has indicated as low as ten degrees above zero this winter; and as for the snow that has fell here, it would not exceed three inches in depth on the level, all told. Last night was the heaviest fall at any one time. We have plenty of blankets to keep warm with and when our day’s labor is done and the time comes to “turn in,” there is some of the gayest bed-making that could possibly be imagined. The days of the “cutting bench” are nowhere in comparison. But with all its faults (the bench), I love it still. Generally, about the time we get fairly wrapped up in our U.S. Sheets, the buglers of the cavalry regiment close by sound their “taps” which makes me think sometimes of the old song, “Toot away, you fifin’ feller” &c. and after cracking a smile to myself in remembrance of the days gone by, I drop into the arms of Morpheus and only awake to consciousness at the sound of reveille in the morning. “Turn out the guard! I’ll see whether my order will be obeyed or not” is the order of the officer of the day. Leave the sergeant in command. Whew! I wonder what’s up? I will let you know shortly. Well the thing is did and result is two of the N.Y. 12th boys are safely quartered in our cottage on the Potomac. They would dance and now they are paying the fiddler. They are good boys undoubtedly but in hard luck. That’s what the matter.

Since writing the above, I have had a talk with Private Marshall of Company “B” who was one of the prisoners taken at Bull Run and soon after confined in one of the Hotels de Tobacco in Richmond and from him I learned the following:

He made good his escape from the prison which he was confined in on Christmas evening in company with another prisoner and after loitering round the city for several days taking notes, he took “Westward, Ho” for a motto and shaped his course accordingly.

The result was he traveled several days under different disguises – sometimes a cattle buyer, sometimes a wood buyer, then an agent for some Southern firm and, at all times, a Yankee and bound to win.

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

After perambulating about rebeldom to his heart's content and had gathered all the information he could of the "doings," he took another motto, which was "Northward, Git!" and after considerable engineering and hard labor, he brought up in the position of a soldier before Gen. Rosecrans, all O.K. The General detained him three or four days as a "Tartar" but when he found out he was sound, he provided him with a pass to Washington and even gave him some of Uncle Sam's filthy lucre for the "Southern Scrip" which Marshall had, exchanging even up. Marshall has been under the questioning process of Gen. McClellan for the past three days but has now returned to camp.

He says there are no fortifications about Richmond whatever – not a cannon mounted there – but at Centerville they have two hundred and sixty Siege guns mounted and the fortifications in every position are very strong.

Home Again – Last week we chronicled the release of Willie H. Upham from his imprisonment at Richmond; this week we have a more pleasing notice, that of his return to Racine. He arrived on Monday and looks hearty as ever. From him we learn what befell him after the time he was lost sight of on the battlefield, when carried wounded by his comrades to the temporary hospital.

In about half an hour the rebels took possession of the building and placed a guard over the wounded. They were left with their wounds undressed until Wednesday, three days after the battle! Then a company of surgeons came down from Manassas, dressed their wounds and they were carted to Manassas Junction, shipped in cattle cars to Richmond being thirty-six hours on the way, crowded and almost suffocating. On their arrival at Richmond they were placed in a Tobacco factory from which, until released to return home, he and his fellow prisoners were never permitted to leave. Mr. James Anderson of this city, who was also one of the wounded, was in a building across the street yet during the whole six months they never saw each but twice. Of course watched so closely they had no means of ascertaining the feelings of the people.

As to rations they weren't of a kind to make them bilious. Breakfast, a slice of bread and cup of coffee. Dinner, slice of bread, plates of rice and water. Supper, a slice of bread and a cup of coffee. Beyond a slight stiffness, he has recovered from his wound entirely and will return to post of duty when his furlough expires being very desirous to renew some acquaintances he made in Richmond.

Young Lacy, who was among the wounded prisoners, will doubtless get a discharge. His wound was quite severe; it leaves him lame from which, however, we trust he will recover. Anderson is quite recovered, he was shot through the leg. Antle Henry, it will be seen any Burlington correspondent, has got home once more.

As to the "Gallant Rifles" they are decidedly fat and saucy, the boys say and from mere striplings with beardless pale faces have become sun burnt, hairy, well-disciplined equal to any emergency and longing for a dash at Secesh. George Bauman has come home to get volunteers to fill up the ranks. We doubt not he will be able to fill all the wants.

Charlie Dow

Wisconsin Regiments:

Feb 1862

The Wisconsin Regiments that have gone forward to the seat of war now number thirteen, besides the Artillery Batteries, all of which leave this week, these regiments are scattered from Washington to Kansas and have always done credit to themselves and their state. The 1st and the 10th are in Kentucky; the 2d, 3d, 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th are on the Potomac; the 8th is at Cairo; the 11th and 12th are in Missouri; the 13th started for Leavenworth, Kansas, last Saturday, an account of which will be found in to-day's paper; the 9th is off for St. Louis. We have collected a few items of news and annotate from correspondence, &c., concerning these regiments, which we give below.

The Second

This regiment which has passed through more hardships and suffered greater demoralization than any other, is now thoroughly re-organized and in good condition. The men composing it seem gifted with a peculiar faculty of "getting along" and supplying the larder. One of the Generals, McDowell we believe, said of them, that "go to the furthest federal picket, climb the tallest tree, and look abroad to the most distant hills, and the sight of some of the 2d stealing corn would greet the eye."

"Bingen," in the LaCrosse Republican gives the following incidents illustrative of their talents in foraging provisions for Thanksgiving day: "As I looked around upon their well-filled table, groaning under the weight of turkeys, geese, chickens, pigs, lamb, beef, &c., &c., I wondered how they obtained them, situated as they were in an enemy's country, and remote from any market. But the mystery was all solved by a remark of Colwell's, (in confidence of course) that we go to market here after dark. Do the 2d steal? Who said they would steal? I have not – no sir! That is an insinuation of your own, Mr. Editor. I don't think they would exactly steal, but I do think that if it were not for Blenker's brigade (that Gen. McClellan keeps close by them to prevent the exercise of their appropriating propensities) they would appropriate and bring into Maryland the whole rebel army in two weeks, for they have already taken everything of a movable character between Washington and Fairfax Court House, notwithstanding the constant vigilance of Blenker.

William H. Upham, of Racine, Wis. has been nominated by the President a cadet at West Point. At the battle of Bull Run young Upham was a private in the 2d Wisconsin regiment, was shot through the breast and dangerously wounded.

After lying two or three days on the battlefield, he was thrown on a rebel cattle car and conveyed to Richmond, where he lay for months in a tobacco house, suffering intensely, part of the time, from his wound...In February last he was exchanged. While at Washington the President heard of him and sent for him.

He went to the White House and the President asked him in regard to all the particulars of his capture and imprisonment. At the conclusion of the interview, Mr. Lincoln asked for his full name, and on parting with him said – “Young man you may hear from me again.” Young Upham thought no more of it and returned to Wisconsin, looking for and seeking nothing from the favor of the President. His appointment will be a pleasant surprise to him.

CHICAGO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE 2019 TOUR

Please check chicagocwrt.org for the Vicksburg Campaign 2019 Battlefield Tour sign up information. The dates are May 2 to May 5, 2019. Ed Bearss and Terry Winschel are the guides.

Young and Old

Young. What makes the dale so strange, my dear?
What makes the dale so strange?

Old. The men have gone from the dale, my dear,
And that makes all the change.

Young. The lanes and glens are still at night,
No laughter or songs I hear.

Old. Our lover-lads have marched to the fight
And maidens are lonely, my dear.

Young. The kine are slow to come to the call
That once were all so quick.

Old. They miss the voice known best of all,
Of John or brother Dick,

Young. And will the dale be always strange
And dull and sad, my dear?

Old. Ay, lassie, we shall feel the change
For many a mournful year.

Henry Allsopp from *Songs from a Dale in War Time*, 1915
Posted on Roads to the Great War
1/6/2019

~ *Written in 1915 but words that reflect
on the homefront of any war* ~

Submitted by: Paul Eilbes

THE CIVIL WAR
UPPER MIDDLE WEST EXPERIENCE



Further Offerings from the Kenosha Civil War Museum

Civil War Medical Weekend

Saturday, February 16, 2019 – 10 am – 4 pm

Sunday, February 17, 2019 – Noon – 4 pm

Commemorating the role of physicians, nurses, and caregivers during the war

Dr. Sarah Ann Chadwick

February 16, 2019 – 1 pm

Presented by: Trevor Steinbach

Meet Dr. Sarah Ann Chadwick, the first female surgeon and assistant surgeon of the Civil War. Hear of the difficulties and hardships Dr. Chadwick encountered as a woman surgeon at Cairo, Illinois, and after the Battle of Shiloh, Tennessee. Even after the Civil War, it took the intervention of the President of the United States for Dr. Chadwick to obtain a veteran's pension.

Forgotten Warriors: The Forgotten Role of Native Americans in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan Regiments

February 17, 2019 – 1 pm

Presented by: Lance Herdegen

The service of American Indians who fought with Civil War regiments from the Upper Middle West is all but lost to history. Yet, many members of the Great Lakes tribes served with regiments from Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Michigan. Uncover the evidence and stories such as a company of Ojibwe from Minnesota who fought against Nathan Bedford Forrest and Moses Ladd an American Indian scout for General Sherman.

**MILWAUKEE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
2018-2019 SPEAKER SCHEDULE**

September 13, 2018 **Tim B. Smith**
*Difficult and Broken Ground:
The Terrain Factor at Shiloh*

October 11, 2018 **Ted Karamanski**
The Civil War as an Indian War

November 8, 2018 **Paul Kahan**
*The Presidency of U.S. Grant:
Preserving Civil War Legacy*

December 13, 2018
David Hirsch & Dan Van Haften
Abraham Lincoln and the Structure of Reason

January 10, 2019 **Bjorn Skaptason**
Shiloh in the Footsteps of Henry Morton Stanley

February 7, 2019 **Rob Girardi**
Gouverneur K. Warren

March 7, 2019 **John David Smith**
Michael Larson
Dear Delia: Letters of Henry Young

April 11, 2019 **Brad Gottfried**
Maps of Fredericksburg

May 9, 2019 **John Horn**
*The Petersburg Regiment in the Civil War:
A History of the 12th Virginia Infantry from
John Brown's Hanging to Appomattox 1859-1865*

June 13, 2019 **Greg Biggs**
*The Question was One of Supplies: The Logistics
for William T. Sherman's Atlanta Campaign*

Speakers/topics remain subject to change.

**Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.
2018 – 2019 Board of Directors**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Office/Position</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
Donna Agnelly	Editor, General Orders	2019
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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

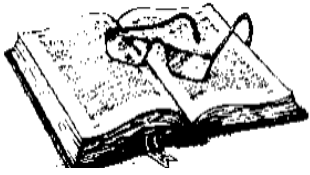
Grant will be creating a database with email reminders set to go out a week before the scheduled event. This is a purely optional choice on each member's part. If you have any questions please talk to Grant at a Round Table meeting or email him at the listed email address.

Milwaukee Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for February 7, 2019

Mail your reservations by Monday, February 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
February 7, 2019 meeting of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee.
(Please make checks payable to the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.)



BETWEEN THE COVERS

THE MYTH OF THE LOST CAUSE

by Edward H. Bonekemper III

Many of our members may be familiar with the book I am reviewing here – *The Myth of the Lost Cause* since Edward Bonekemper was the speaker at the September 2017 Round Table meeting. Round Table past president Van Harl commented on this book in the October 2017 issue of *Ammoland*. Needless to say, he received a few negative comments on his spot-on views and that of the book from obvious believers in the myth. In my review I will endeavor to provide some additional information on my spin on this book and some of the comments that came out of the discussion from the Kenosha Civil War museum’s March media club meeting at which this book was the selection.

The book is focused on what the author identifies as seven essential components of the Myth of the Lost Cause. These tenets are: slavery was a benevolent institution that was dying before the war came, protection of states’ rights was the main cause of secession, the Confederacy faced huge odds that prevented it from winning, General Lee was one of the greatest generals of history, General Longstreet caused the loss at Gettysburg, General Grant was a butcher who won by numbers not skill and the North won by waging “total war” on the South.

Mr. Bonekemper provides accurate information on each of these components and sets the scene for each by devoting one chapter in the book to each topic. His work details the topic of each with the information that was espoused to be the facts in each case and then provides information that refutes the claim for each one item by item. In the case of the benevolence of the “particular institution” the myth uses words like “happy,” “content,” “faithful,” “amiable,” and “cheerful” to describe slaves’ attitudes about their conditions. Jefferson Davis called the slaves peaceful and contented laborers. But as Bonekemper provides, if this was the case why then was there a mass exodus of slaves to Union lines, which exposed this so-called contentment.

The author points out, via numerous sources, that instead of “lashing out in desperation” to its’ demise, slavery supporters seemed too confident in the future of slavery. Actually, in at least four different attempts, Southerners had attempted to invade Cuba to cause a rebellion so the south could spearhead a movement to annex Cuba as another slave state. Hardly the actions of a group who thought the institution was dying off. Expansion of the institution to additional states would keep it growing.

In another chapter he debunks the argument that states’ rights was the main cause. Bonekemper merely points to the numerous examples in the articles of secession that clearly state slavery is why each state has chosen the path of secession. States’ rights was the cover word to say that each state had the right to maintain the institution of slavery. Hence it was states’ rights elimination by Lincoln to end slavery that was the loss of rights.

Probably the biggest hit that Mr. Bonekemper puts into his book is the chapter he devotes to debunking the mythology about General Lee’s superiority. He points out the figures of losses and the higher percentage of losses in Lee’s army vs. comparable losses to the Union army that Lee fought. The percent of loss to Lee in almost all the battles his army fought are higher on the percentage basis than the Union forces. Bonekemper points out that for the Confederacy personnel losses were much harder to replace. Especially considering that the overall population upon which to draw from was at an over 2 to 1 disadvantage compared with the North. Lee continued to favor the frontal assault over a lot of maneuvering. When compared to Grant during the Overland Campaign Lee pales in his tactics. Grant, often painted as a butcher, managed to hold his level of casualties down in spite of being on the attack during the entire operation of the campaign. Again, another facet of the myth exposed. All of Lee’s campaigns resulted in high casualty numbers. Grant’s, on the other hand, held losses down. His Vicksburg campaign was a superb exhibition of maneuvering an enemy into a checkmated position with no option but surrender – something Lee could never achieve.

Bonekemper also points out that the argument that the Union used the “total war” concept was far off the mark. Grant and Lincoln realized that one of the South’s weaknesses existed in the supply chain. To that end Grant identified that was a “center of gravity” for the South and their ability to continue the war. Grant had Sherman and Sheridan on destroying the South’s ability to maintain the field armies and sent them out to destroy that ability. While the myth focuses on warfare carried on civilians, few if any civilians were targeted and killed during this effort by the Union. Total war makes civilian targets as well. World War II being a prime example. Civilians as targets were never targeted by the Union during the war.

I highly recommend this book to any student of the Civil War. It shines a new light on the Myth of the Lost Cause and puts it into the reality of what actually happened. It is a good addition to any library for anyone who has an interest in the conflict.

From the Files of Peter Jacobsohn

GENERAL ORDERS,

No. 3

WAR DEPARTMENT
ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, January 3, 1863.

The following Act of Congress is published for the information and government of all concerned:

[PUBLIC – No. 5]

AN ACT to facilitate the discharge of disabled soldiers from the army, and the inspection of convalescent camps and hospitals.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That there shall be added to the present medical corps of the army eight medical inspectors, who shall immediately after the passage of this act, be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, without regard to their rank when so selected, but with sole regard to qualifications, and who shall have the rank, pay, and emoluments now authorized by law to officers of that grade.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted, That the officers of the medical inspector's department shall be charged, in addition to the duties now assigned to them by existing laws, with the duty of making regular and frequent inspections of all military general hospitals and convalescent camps, and shall, upon each inspection, designate to the surgeon in charge of such hospitals or camps all soldiers who may be, in their opinion, fit subjects for discharge from the service, on surgeon's certificate of disability or sufficiently recovered to be returned to their regiments for duty, and shall see that such soldiers are discharged or so returned. And the medical inspecting officers are hereby empowered, under such regulations as may be hereafter established, to direct the return to duty, or the discharge from service, as the case may be, of all soldiers designated by them.*

Approved December 27, 1862.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR:

E. D. TOWNSEND,
Assistant Adjutant General

Lawrence Lefler Collection Silent Auction

Making a return for our February meeting will be the silent auction for books from the collection of Larry Lefler of Fremont, Nebraska. Larry, a descendant of Amos Lefler of Company E of the 6th Wisconsin, passed away in June of 2018. The proceeds from these raffles will go towards the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table and to the Seminary Ridge Museum in Gettysburg. To date \$170.00 for each has been collected from these auctions. Titles to be raffled will include but not be limited to:

Team of Rivals by Doris Kearns Goodwin; Pickett's Charge: A Microhistory of the Final Attack at Gettysburg by George R. Stewart; Stealing Secrets by H. Donald Winkler; Gettysburg by Steven W. Sears; Letters Home: Henry Matrau of the Iron Brigade; These Honored Dead: The Union Casualties at Gettysburg by John W. Busey; and several more.

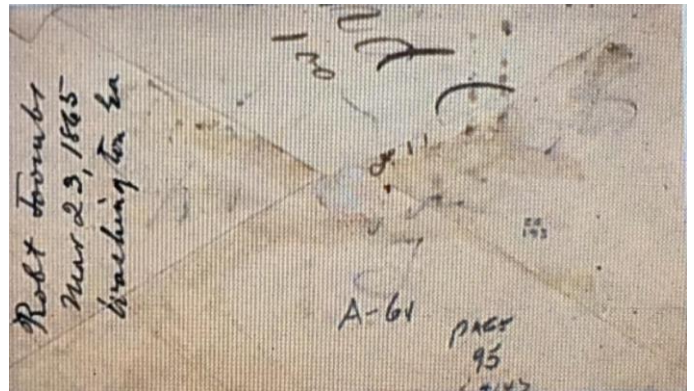
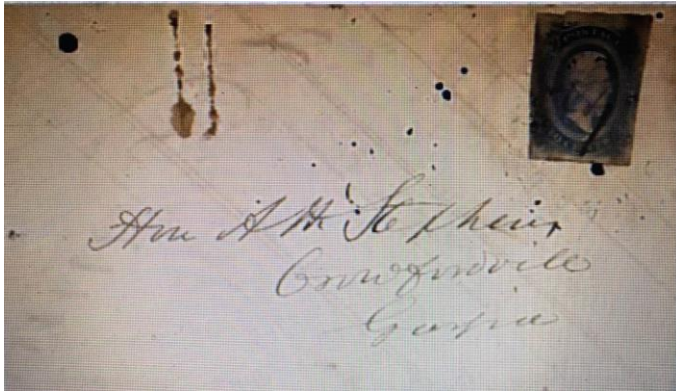
The premiere book in this auction may well be a printing of Messages and Proclamation of Wisconsin War Governors. It was authorized by the Wisconsin History Commission in December of 1912 and is a second printing.

LETTER FROM ROBERT TOOMBS TO ALEXANDER H. STEPHENS

Washington, GA., *Mch. 23rd, 1865.*

DEAR STEPHENS, I find upon examination of my old law papers that I have the exemption of the record from Greene Court of the case of Nicholson and Grimes and will bring it with me to Hancock Court.

My health is again good, having wholly recovered from chills, fever and jaundice and I am again ready to take the field. I see nothing hopeful from Richmond. They will swear all is right until Lee's defeat or evacuation, and then – chaos. I fear the congress has not nerve enough to see and appreciate the evil and the remedy. There is but one remedy – it is begone Davis. I suppose we have the matter of five hundred idlers and ration-eaters in this town, with [several?] mules, waggons, etc., doing nothing on earth but harassing the people and eating out their substance. Not a waggon load of provisions has been sent to Abbeville since the impressment of five hundred mules and waggons for that purpose in February. There [are] daily gathering here dozens of hungry adventurers who are consuming the revenues of the country under pretense of administering them. The crowd in the rear far outnumbers those in the front, and I see Davis vetoed a bill to disperse the vagabonds. Come over next week to our Court and bring Linton if you can. I should like to see you both and talk to you about the prospect before us. All well. Mr. & Mrs. [Clay?] are with us yet.



submitted by Milwaukee Round Table member John Petty

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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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.



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!

The Blue Boys of Mayville

It is just too true that the old live mostly in the past, and when Carl Gerhard or others in the “Banner” report memories from out of the past I read about them with great interest. This led me to the idea that I, too, could offer a few happenings which occurred to me in those far-away times to the readers, principally from the monumental Civil War.

The writer, as a very young man, came to Mayville in the 1850’s, and so was an eye-witness to the prelude which led to this bloodiest of battles. I will not attempt to write history, but naturally allude in general, in broad strokes, to historic events in order to be understood.

Abraham Lincoln had been elected president, but before he could take office, the South, following the example of South Carolina, declared its independence from the Union and elected Jefferson Davis as their president. They called themselves the “Confederate States of North America.” This secession had had a long period of preparation. So the Buchanan administration had placed its best weapons in southern arsenals, a matter of preparedness for fear of what might come to pass. The command of these arsenals and forts in southern harbors was given to such people who were deemed trustworthy, able at the right moment to turn them over to the Southern states. Everything seemed to proceed as planned; only in a few cases had a misjudgment been made.

In the port of Charleston, Fort Sumter, a man loyal to the Union was commanding. This bulwark had to be attacked in force. The well-known date is April of 1861. An atrocity had occurred. The union flag had been violated, and President Lincoln called 75,000 men to arms for a three-month period.

Throughout the country the recruiting drumbeat to enlistment sounded forth. Within a few days complete companies could be organized. One hundred young men from Mayville and its vicinity were ready to offer themselves to maintain the Union. So our service was volunteered to the state, at first not accepted because Wisconsin was to furnish only one regiment, and the ranks were already filled. But Governor Randell (sic) of Wisconsin held the already organized companies together in the certain expectation that soon a call to duty for them would be forthcoming.

We exercised the routines in today’s Foster Park, and behold, soon the famous call for 300,000 men was heard. The Mayville group immediately answered this call, and off we went, to Fond du Lac. Here we were assigned to the 3rd Wisconsin Infantry Regiment and served enthusiastically in its Company “E.”

Our quarters were tents – we slept on straw – we were fed in a large mess building erected for that very purpose. Sleeping on straw and the collective meals served were not exactly things to please many of our comrades. There would come a time, however, where we would long for something like this as a lost paradise.

So in Fond du Lac we underwent much training and were in luck to have such excellent teacher as Col. Hamilton and Colonel-Lieutenant Ruger who were graduates of West Point Military Academy and many of the regulars had served in the Mexican War.

On July 12th, 1861 the N.W. Railroad Co. had in place on its rails in Fond du Lac two extra trains of 10 cars each to transport the men to the battle scenes. A mass of people had come to bid farewell to their departing menfolk. Parents, siblings, and sweethearts crowded forward for a final look into each other’s eyes, before the departure, on a trip from which, oh so many would not return.

This document was originally written in German from National City, California in about 1920. Gerhard Schutte, born in Germany, spoke the language as his native tongue. This note was appended on the final page of the document:

Author volunteered at Pres. Lincoln’s first call. Lived in Mayville, Dodge Co., and returned there in 1865. In translation Feb/Mar 1984 by Lillie M. Heilman, Milwaukee, Wis., once a teacher of German in Public Elementary School for 3 yrs. in Mayville.

submitted by Dave Wege
grandson of Lillie M. Heilman

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Contact Roman Blenski, Quartermaster
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You may also see Roman in person at the Monthly Meeting at the Book Raffle table.

