

# GENERAL ORDERS



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



March 7, 2019

John David Smith & Micheal J. Larson

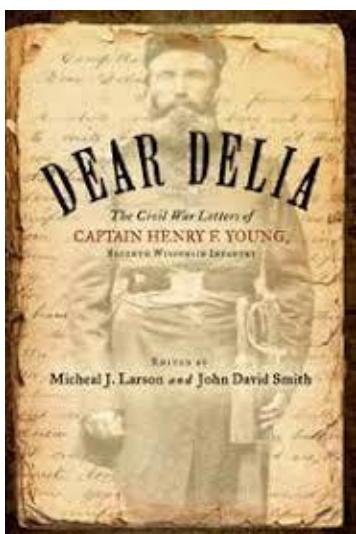
## **DEAR DELIA: THE CIVIL WAR LETTERS OF HENRY F. YOUNG Seventh Wisconsin Infantry**

*Dear Delia* chronicles the story of Henry F. Young, an officer in the famed Iron Brigade, as told through 155 letters home to his wife and family in southwestern Wisconsin. Words that are insightful, sometimes poignant and powerful, enables us to witness the Civil War through Young's eyes.

Writing from Virginia, Henry Young's devotion to Delia and his children is demonstrated in his letters. His letters reflect both his loneliness and his worry and concern for them. Young wonders what his place is in a world beyond the one he left in Wisconsin.

Young covers innumerable details of military service in his letters – from camaraderie, pettiness and thievery to the brutality of the war. He was an astute observer of military leadership, maneuvers and tactics, rumored troop movements and what he perceived were the strengths and weaknesses of African American soldiers. He kept up with Wisconsin and national politics and would often note incidents of graft and corruption as well as offering pointed opinions on the 1864 presidential election.

At our March meeting, Smith and Larson, co-editors of *Dear Delia*, will discuss Henry Young's letters. The letters, candid, contemplative and occasionally humorous, provide us with a clear window into everyday events during wartime. Young's communications highlight his unflagging patriotism and his fierce determination and willingness to sacrifice for the country he loved.



Micheal J. Larson is a native of Wisconsin who teaches American history in the School District of Menomonie. He first unearthed Young's correspondence thirty years ago at the Wisconsin Historical Society as an undergraduate student at the University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire.

John David Smith is the Charles H. Stone Distinguished Professor of American History at the University of North Carolina – Charlotte. He has published twenty-nine books, many on the topic of the Civil War, and has edited collections of letters, diaries, and other primary works on the war, race relations, and southern history.

## **General Orders No. 3-19**

March 2019

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### **March 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, March 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](http://www.milwaukeecwrt.org)**

### **Silent Auction**

The on-going silent auction that was to be held in February was postponed. The folks coming from Fond du Lac with the books chose not to brave icy roads. Therefore, those books will be offered in auction at the March meeting of the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table.





### From the Archives

In March 1949 Frank Welcher spoke to those assembled on "The Second Manassas Campaign."

"The Battle of Champion's Hill" was the topic presented by Edwin C. Bearss in March 1959.

Frank L. Byrne was the speaker at the March 1969 meeting speaking on "Uses for Yankees: Confederate Experiments with Prisoners as Manpower."

At the March 1979 meeting Herman Hattaway spoke to the Round Table members on "Stephen D. Lee."

The featured speaker at the March 1989 meeting was Jerry Russell who spoke on "The Battle of Pea Ridge."

"The Ninth Illinois Infantry at Shiloh" was presented by Peter Cozzens at the March 1999 meeting.

At the March 2009 meeting Dr. John A. Latschar discussed "Reinterpreting Gettysburg: Lessons from the Civil War"

At last year's March meeting Robert D. Jenkins, Sr. spoke to the group on "The Battle of Peach Tree Creek: The First Nail in the Coffin of Atlanta."

### Educational Travel Opportunities

#### 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! For information contact Dave Wege at [wegs1862@gmail.com](mailto:wegs1862@gmail.com). You can also visit the group's Facebook page: Civil War Time

## 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, 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.

**Tuesday, March 5, 2019    7 p.m.**

**Immigrant Stories of the Civil War**

**Presented by: Doug Dammann and Jenn Edginton.**

In conjunction with the Kenosha Public Library's Big Read Program, this lecture tells the personal stories of well known, and not so well known, Union soldiers who were born outside the United States and immigrated to the country before the Civil War. Some of the places these men were from just might surprise you.

Free copies of the Big Read book, *Into the Beautiful North*, will be available at the Civil War Museum front desk.

**Tuesday, March 19, 2019**

**Media Club 7 – 8:30 p.m.**

**To My Best Girl: Courage, Honor, and Love in the Civil War**

**Instructor: Doug Dammann**

**\$10/\$5 Friends of the Museum**

Please read and come prepared to discuss Steve Magnusen's book. Behind all descriptions of historical events are the stories of real people. This is the extraordinary true story of a citizen soldier, Rufus Dawes, and the girl he loves, Mary Beman Gates, as both become embroiled in the cauldron of our nation's Civil War. Based on many letters and diary entries, most never published, this is a timeless story of love and courage.

**At the Antaramian Gallery**

**January 19 – June 12, 2019**

**Object Lessons**

**True Stories of Civil War Artifacts**

Uncover the unique stories of 20 Museum artifacts.

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  
3 a guest to our monthly meetings!

# FROM THE FIELD

*From the Second Wis. Regiment  
Camp Tillinghast, Virginia,  
March 5th, 1862*

**Editors: Tribune:-**

On the morning of 22nd, Washington's Birthday, the Second were notified that their presence was wanted at Gen. McDowell's Head Quarters to hear Washington's Farewell Address and fire a salute of ten rounds of blank cartridge. As usual, the Second turned out *en masse*, prepared to do their might in paying respect to the Father of his country. The drill was splendid and eclipsed all other regiments in the brigade. Captain Hathaway read the Farewell Address — cheer upon cheer rent the air at the conclusion and the brave troops evince the true spirit of the noble chieftain. On the 25th we were again ordered to appear at head-quarters to drill in Brigade. On this day too we made a grand appearance and won laurels. A number of regular officers and men were present and quite a congregation of ladies. At the conclusion of the drill, and at the request of Gen. King, the Second remained and had a dress parade. Adjutant Dean formed the battalion and the troops being ordered to be played — (the regiment stands at parade rest, every eye to the born, hands in proper place, not one moving, every officer and man actually appearing more like statues than mortals) — the band passed up and down the front of the battalion dispensing sweet music to an admiring assembly. Lieut. Col. Fairchild then put the regiment through the manual of arms and the efficiency they displayed in this particular is worthy of the men. At the hands of an unbiased public they have more than once been the recipients of applause as the enclosed slips will show:

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

*regulations as any volunteer corps in service and has received many compliments from our best officers. We shall expect to hear a good report from the Wisconsin brigade and particularly from Col. O'Connor's Second Regiment when the advance takes place. —*

(The other extract from the *Washington Republican* was published in the *Tribune* last week)

Our band, under the tutorship of Prof. Titus, is a fixed institution in the brigade and it has become so that even when other regiments wish to make a grand show of their skill, and give a fancy parade our band is called on to attend and do the agreeable, while theirs is left at home.

Some will aver that the Second is wearing laurels never won; but let me refer the doubtful to the records. It is in black and white. On this parade an order was read to prepare to march. Four teams were assigned to each regiment, and both officers and men were required to immediately prepare for a forward movement, that all unnecessary articles be packed, preparatory to being left in some secure place. In accordance with this order all hands are busy making due preparations, and you may calculate to hear within a short time, of the triumphant march of the Army of the Potomac over the Plains of Manassas to the gates of Richmond, to form another link in the anaconda-like chain that is now encircling the troop of the hydra-headed monster treason.

On the 28th, we were mustered, according to law. It is presumed that we will not be paid before April or May, as our movement will be made within a week or two at the farthest. Of course, we are not anxious, so long as we can be allowed to move which you know we feel quite delighted over, as well as the whole country.

The monotony of camp life was somewhat enlivened by a fall of snow this morning. In the afternoon one of Co. "I," received an impression on the left cheek from a snow-ball thrown by a member of Co. "C," (this Company is from Platteville) which laid out a young corporal's *hors' du combat*. This warranted Co. "I" turning out to resent the indignity thrown upon said corporal. No sooner was Co. "I" in the line of battle, armed with plenty of snow ball ammunition, then Co. "C" was on hand to meet the fierce onslaught of the infuriated Snake Ringers. The battle began, the air was filled with missiles and shout upon shout rent the air as here and there was a hero with his proboscis smashed and suffering from the effect of a nasal hemorrhage. At this state an armistice was asked for, as the left wing of the battalion wished to try the right wing on a skirmish. The two walls of the adjacent fort, upon the parapets of which stood the good-natured Lieut. Col. After all due preliminary arrangements, the battle again opened with increased fury, and many a poor hero wears a dark memento in the vicinity of the ocular organ.

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

At the suggestion of the Lieut. Col. the left wing under the command of Gen. Cary, Co. "E" was ordered to deploy a portion of the forces around the fort, and attack the right wing in the rear, but the quick eye of General Budlong, Co. "I", commanding the right wing, detected this strategic movement, and was prepared to foil the foe in that attempt. On came the left wing, with their colors flying, rending the air with their maddened yells, while Gen. Budlong headed, in person, a detachment of his forces and met the fierce onslaught. The fight now became terrific and the troop of Gen. Cary's detachment became disorganized and were now an easy prey to the excellent soldiers of Budlong. He captured the full detachment with the flag, and then wheeled his forces into line and made a charge upon Gen. Cary's forces, driving them into their quarters. The six foot seven general flushed with victory then marched his forces from the field to the tune of Dixie and drawing them up in line at the Colonel's quarters, presented the flag as a trophy of war, to the Lieut. Col. The Colonel's speech on the occasion was most eloquent indeed, and so appropriate to the occasion, that I doubt not the propriety of publishing it full. The Col. intimated that in his next dispatches to the War Department, he would make a favorable mention of Gen. Budlong.

Later. - Some difficulty having arisen as the rightful owner of the flag and the Col. being called upon to decide the matter said that if the snow remained, the first opportunity should be given all hands to have a general set-to for the possession of the flag. Thus, ended the matter with the two wings. The number killed and wounded on both sides is as follows:

Left Wing – killed .....	0,000
Left Wing wounded.....	150
Right Wing – killed .....	0,000
Right Wing – wounded .....	150
Right Wing – missing .....	1
Total Killed, wounded and missing .....	301

## IN MEMORIAM

On December 30, 2018, Fred "Fritz" Upham, brother of the late Bill Upham who along with James Sullivan voted to have our Round Table carry on the Iron Brigade Association, passed away in Fort Collins, Colorado at the age of 97. According to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Department of Wisconsin, Fred was one of only three still living with a direct link to a Union veteran of the Civil War.

The Upham family has a long history in Marshfield, Wisconsin; a street bears the Upham name and the historic Upham Mansion on West Third Street is where Fred and his brother grew up.

Fred Upham was in Colorado in 1941 when the attack on Pearl Harbor took place. He would go on to serve as a private in the U.S. Army Corps in 1942 and as a flight instructor from 1943 to 1944. He also served briefly aboard an aircraft carrier and as a meteorologist for the U.S. Navy in California.

Tim Pletkovich, author of *Civil War Fathers: Sons of the Civil War in WWII* interviewed Fred many times before the book was published and many times after said of him: *I think he always felt like, 'Here I am, this anomaly under these strange circumstances who just happened to be the son of someone who was appointed to West Point by President Lincoln and who rose to become governor of Wisconsin.'*

Full obituary notice can be found in the January 17, 2019 edition of the *Marshfield News-Herald*.

*And flights of angels guide him to his rest*

[Note – Those killed are supposed to be dead, and those wounded are mostly harmed about the smeller and peeper.]

The position of Companies in this Regiment has been altered by placing Co. "B" on the right, Co. "E" on the left, Co. "A" in place of Co. "E," Co. "F" in place of Co. "G" and "G" in place of "F". This is as it should be only that "I" should have gone with the left wing.

The positions of Co.'s "H," C," "D," "K," and "I" are not changed.

A new installment of clothing is being received, and the Companies again present their usual neat appearance.

It is the general supposition of friends at home that the "Miner's Guards" can turn out a force of at least eighty men for a battle. In this they are mistaken. Since we left home fourteen have been discharged on surgeon's certificates, one is missing since the 21st of July, and sixteen are on daily extra duty, thus leaving us in force only seventy men, and upon a march, we could not possibly turn out over sixty-five men, besides the three commissioned officers. These seventy are good men and are a willing, good-hearted, ever-ready set being prepared to go through almost any hardship imaginable. That they will do their duty in the coming strife no one can doubt, and they will come out of an engagement with honor to themselves and the place they hail from. The reliance placed upon this Regiment, coupled with the extraordinary good name they bear naturally enough nerves every man to do his might. There will be no flattering, but each man will be prepared to meet the worst of circumstances.

*Yours, Judge.*



## THE AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST CELEBRATES

In a January 11, 2019 release, The American Battlefield Trust celebrated a landmark year of historic land conservation. The Trust protected more than 2,783 acres of battlefield land in 9 states in 2019, preserving in perpetuity sites rooted in the Revolutionary War, War of 1812 and Civil War. The year's successes marked a historic milestone for the Trust as they surpassed 50,000 total acres saved.

"Undoubtedly, 2018 will be remembered as a year of transformative and monumental victories for battlefield preservation," said Trust President James Lighthizer. "The land we saved will forever serve as a living memorial to America's brave soldiers and our nation's history, now protected for generations to come. We are grateful beyond measure for another year of generous support, because every penny raised and every acre saved is an investment in our national treasures and helps us continue the ongoing race to save our hallowed grounds."

Working closely with willing landowners and preservation partners, the Trust completed 32 transactions at 25 battlefield sites.

The mid-year acquisition of a 13-acre tract at Cedar Creek – where Union troops gained control over the Shenandoah Valley – pushed the Trust to over the 50,000-acre threshold. To date, the Trust has saved more than 1,000 acres of Revolutionary War and War of 1812 battlefield land.

To view the entire article visit: [www.battlefields.org/](http://www.battlefields.org/)



### An Obscure Civil War Fact

Chang and Eng Bunker, best known as "the original Siamese Twins," bought 110 acres in the Blue Ridge Mountains in North Carolina in 1839. They married sisters and built a successful farm (using slave labor). They became naturalized citizens (hailing originally from Siam) and devoted Confederates. In 1865, Union General George Stoneman raided North Carolina and decided to draft some of the locals, regardless of their sympathies. Men over the age of 18 were put into a lottery. Eng's name was drawn, but he resisted the draft. Chang's name was not drawn, and since the brothers were joined at the sternum and their livers fused, there was little General Stoneman could do. Neither Eng nor Chang served in the war, but their eldest sons both enlisted and fought for the Confederacy.

The Bunker sons enlisted in Company I, 37th Virginia Cavalry Battalion. Eng's son, Stephen Decatur, received two wounds in the service. Chang's son, Christopher Wren, was captured during the war and spent almost a year as a prisoner of war at Camp Chase near Columbus, Ohio. Both Stephen and Christopher survived the war, returned home and became two of only a handful of Confederate soldiers of Asian descent.

*Sources: Smithsonian.com, November 2011*

*Civil War Talk, December 31, 2014*

### CHICAGO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE 2019 TOUR

Please check [chicagocwrt.org](http://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.

***The Civil War defined us as what we are and it opened us to being what we became, good and bad things...It was the crossroads of our being, and it was a hell of a crossroads.***

Shelby Foote

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

<b>September 13, 2018</b>	<b>Tim B. Smith</b>
	<i>Difficult and Broken Ground: The Terrain Factor at Shiloh</i>
<b>October 11, 2018</b>	<b>Ted Karamanski</b>
	<i>The Civil War as an Indian War</i>
<b>November 8, 2018</b>	<b>Paul Kahan</b>
	<i>The Presidency of U.S. Grant: Preserving Civil War Legacy</i>
<b>December 13, 2018</b>	<b>David Hirsch &amp; Dan Van Haften</b>
	<i>Abraham Lincoln and the Structure of Reason</i>
<b>January 10, 2019</b>	<b>Bjorn Skaptason</b>
	<i>Shiloh in the Footsteps of Henry Morton Stanley</i>
<b>February 7, 2019</b>	<b>Rob Girardi</b>
	<i>Gouverneur K. Warren</i>
<b>March 7, 2019</b>	<b>John David Smith Micheal J. Larson</b>
	<i>Dear Delia: Letters of Henry Young</i>
<b>April 11, 2019</b>	<b>Brad Gottfried</b>
	<i>Maps of Fredericksburg</i>
<b>May 9, 2019</b>	<b>John Horn</b>
	<i>The Petersburg Regiment in the Civil War: A History of the 12th Virginia Infantry from John Brown's Hanging to Appomattox 1859-1865</i>
<b>June 13, 2019</b>	<b>Greg Biggs</b>
	<i>The Question was One of Supplies: The Logistics for William T. Sherman's Atlanta Campaign</i>
<b><i>Speakers/topics remain subject to change.</i></b>	

**Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.**

**2018 – 2019 Board of Directors**

Name	Office/Position	Term Expires
Donna Agnelly	Editor, General Orders	2019
Thomas Arliskas	President	2019
Terry Arliskas	Secretary	
Michael K. Benton	Second Vice President	2020
Roman Blenski	Quartermaster	2019
Crain Bliwas	Member	2019
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A. William Finke	Member	2020
Van Harl	Past President	2020
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Daniel Nettlesheim	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@responsible.com](mailto:grant.johnson@responsible.com)

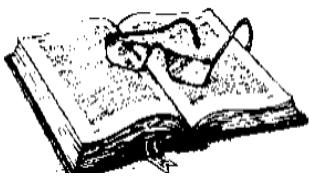
Grant will be creating a database with email reminders set to go out a week before the scheduled event. This is a purely optional choice on each member's part. If you have any questions please talk to Grant at a Round Table meeting or email him at the listed email address.

**Milwaukee Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for March 7, 2019**

**Mail your reservations by Monday, March 4 to:**  
**Paul Eilbes**  
**1809 Washington Avenue**  
**Cedarburg, WI 53012-9730**

**Call or email reservations to:**  
**(262) 376-0568**  
**peilbes@gmail.com**

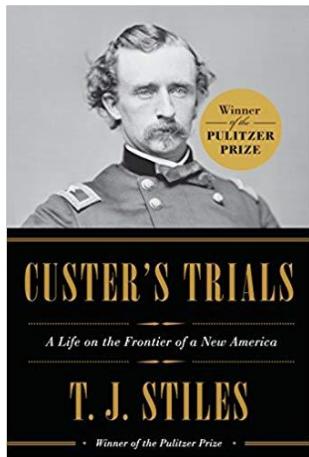
**Enclosed is \$\_\_\_\_\_ (meal is \$30.00 per person) for \_\_\_\_\_ people for the  
March 7, 2019 meeting of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee.  
(Please make checks payable to the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.)**



## BETWEEN THE COVERS

### CUSTER'S TRIALS: A Life on the Frontier of New America

by T.J. Stiles



I received this book prior to my attendance at the Civil War Institute's Civil War Symposium in June of 2017; an early bird enrollee – one of the first 15 to enroll for the symposium- I received, as a bonus, a copy of Mr. Stile's new book on Custer.

I really enjoyed reading this book as Stiles put in a lot of information on the women who played a big role in Custer's life and often were a motivating force in the decisions that wrapped up his life and, in some instances, some of his strange behavior. I'm not a big fan of Custer and other than the movies I've seen about him and a few magazine articles on him, I can't say I've pursued much reading on his life. However, more recently I've been made aware of his actions during the Civil War, from a talk on the Cavalry action at Gettysburg and Gordon Rhea's book on Cold Harbor, where the cavalry under Sheridan played a decisive role in securing the opening positions for Grant's maneuvers at Cold Harbor.

I thought the beginning of the book seemed a bit slow to me, but as I got into the second chapter things began to pick up. Stiles' research paints Custer as somewhat of a contrast. Born of poor parents in Ohio he proved himself to be capable yet insecure, intelligent yet bigoted. He was a romantic individualist but at odds with the military system. He was court-martialed just prior to graduation and was almost not commissioned as a result of it. In part saved by his own closing statements and the fact that the Civil War was just starting enabled him to graduate and be commissioned.

Stiles shows how Custer performed individual acts of bravery on the early battlefield and eventually earned a spot on McClellan's staff where he took a liking to "Little Mac" and vice versa. This would become a stumbling block for him a bit later in his career as he supported Mac's ideas on the war and also Mac's ideas on Emancipation.

Stiles points out how Custer and Libby Bacon came together and the highs and lows of their relationship through Custer's Civil War activities and the aftermath of the war and their life on the Plains. Custer always seemed to be the womanizer and this at times put a strain on the relationship. However, it was obvious that the two had a deep love for each other in spite of the various trials that developed in his life.

Stiles' book shows how Custer tried a number of different things to bring fame into his life – his army career, the stock market, development of a gold mine and even as a writer both in book form and as a serial writer for a magazine and newspaper. Custer had some difficulty in dealing with troops in a noncombat role. It was obvious that his leadership abilities were best in leading troops into combat. He fared poorly in a managerial role for the most part and in some instances, made very questionable decisions. In one case, at least, this resulted in another court martial that got him suspended. In all probability that case could have proved him guilty of murder. He was saved perhaps by Sheridan, whose strong personal relationship Custer gained serving under him during the war made Custer the "go to guy" for Sheridan.

Mr. Stiles shows how Custer was a figure that was caught between America as a nation leaving the simple agricultural time and a nation moving into the industrial revolution. Custer was rooted in the past and many of his ideas were at odds with the changes the nation was embracing as it expanded to the Pacific. As it turns out, Custer perhaps became a victim of the change. He often times became a polarizing figure in politics and the westward expansion.

I particularly enjoyed reading this book. I think that the author succeeds in casting a new light on George Custer and his family and how he helped shape the nation. I recommend this book to any student of the Civil War with an interest in cavalry leaders and also to anyone wanting to read a fascinating biography on one of the more well-known American figures.

submitted by Bruce Klem



President Lincoln's visit and speech is remembered at Gettysburg each year usually the weekend closest to the date he came, November 19th. The Sons of Veterans Reserve, and the Military Department of the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War sponsor the modern version. Here's how the most recent commemoration was experienced by a group of New Englanders.

For anyone who hasn't attended the weekend events, they've changed a little in recent years due to security concerns and the changing business scene on Steinwehr Avenue, but there's so much going on, it's always worth the visit during this late fall weekend.

Things really take hold from Friday evening through Saturday night as most groups make the journey home on Sunday.

Some events include impromptu brass band performances in front of the Dobbin House, ceremonies on the battlefield, at various monuments, and the cemetery and of course Saturday evening the *Illumination* where a candle is lit and placed on each grave in the National Cemetery and sentries stand by the memorial where Lincoln once stood.

This is a good chance for reenactors and living historians to visit shops where sales and special deals take place. Often people pop into the pubs like O'Rourke's or Eddie's and those planning ahead may have a special dinner reservation at the Farnsworth House or Dobbin House where candlelit tables and patrons in period attire mentally transport everyone to 1863 (If only the prices weren't 2018).

My wife, Elizabeth, and I have been attending for over 20 years with only a few years that were skipped for various reasons. Our involvement on these weekends has been more so the last eight or so than the earlier years.

Friends of ours in the mid-1990s, Cynthia and Ellsworth Brown of Salem, New Hampshire, began a special way to remember the boys from New England.

In addition to flagging the graves of Massachusetts, Maine, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Connecticut and Vermont, the Browns held a special ceremony honoring these men on Saturday morning. Words would be said, poems, and when done, anyone who gathered with them, including modern civilians, would take handfuls of rosemary to distribute.

Rosemary is the herb of remembrance. Shakespeare mentions it, the Romans used it, and even in modern times at various places across the globe, the plant can be found in cemeteries.



To conclude the Browns' event, each individual places a sprig of rosemary on each soldier's grave and says his name aloud. This way, the poor sons from the Northeast who never saw home again, are remembered once a year.

About 10 years ago, due to age and the work in such endeavor with permits and travel, Cynthia and Ellsworth handed the baton to others. With the exception of one year, the honor has come to Elizabeth Hallett with some minor help from me.

Liz is a member of Auxiliary to Camp 60 to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, a charter member and current president of the Civil War Roundtable of the Merrimack (Salisbury, Massachusetts) and the current vice-president of the Civil War Roundtable of New Hampshire. She's been a reenactor/living historian for over twenty years and handles all aspects of getting our part of the weekend going.

We live about 475 miles from Gettysburg and to have time to flag the graves, we leave about 5 a.m. This year we had a new challenge – snow!

Many trips have included wisps of snow especially in the Poconos and near Scranton, but this year required alternate routes down to Gettysburg and upon arrival, 4 or 5 inches on the ground in town and in the cemetery. This was a first in the 20 or so years of being part of this.

Flagging the graves must be done before dark when the cemetery is closed, but now we had to deal with snow-covered graves. For us, we had the good fortune of friends before us arriving and borrowing a snow shovel to clear off the graves of the New England men.

Our task has been slightly reduced in recent years as other groups have taken the helm and handle the flags for Connecticut and Rhode Island. Still, that leaves us with just under 400 graves to flag before darkness at about 5 p.m.

Liz's daughter, Aileen Kelly, has resumed attending and helping out. Aileen has been "dragged" to the event as a child and teen, but after some years of conflicting schedules, now makes a point to help. We see her as the next generation to continue this.

It's Saturday morning and others who ventured down from various parts of our region, join us. Some come by a special reserved bus and others like ourselves, drive. But all converge by Massachusetts or New Hampshire and the ceremony begins.

My personal connection is the grave of Sgt. George E. Noyes of the 20th Maine. Uncle George as I call him, is a distant cousin of sorts and I discovered him in 1994. All of my trips to Gettysburg include a visit to the grave of the 27-year-old who never married and has no descendants.

Other ceremonies throughout the morning include wreath laying, dirges and taps often played.

We usually use the time after Liz's ceremony to get something warm to eat or even just a coffee. Forming up for the parade is usually required by 12 or 12:30 to step off at 1 p.m.



A new addition this year was a visit to the Elizabeth Thorne Statue in the Evergreen Cemetery, which is adjacent to the Hallowed Ground Lincoln spoke of. We squeezed in a visit to her before the parade.

Mrs. Thorn was six months pregnant and had three young children and a father who only spoke German. Her husband Peter was away fighting for the Union when the war came to the family's doorstep.

The Thorns were the cemetery keepers and during the battle Mrs. Thorn helped Union officers with her knowledge of roads and alleyways they could use. She tried to feed them, but the Rebels had taken most of her food already.

When the battle was over, in the hot July weather, Mrs. Thorn proceeded to bury numerous graves all while being six months along.

The main event is the parade on Saturday where thousands of reenactors, living historians, and members of fraternal groups and allied orders of both Union and Confederate representation march the streets of Gettysburg. Among them various generals like Grant, Longstreet, Armistead, Custer, Lee and Pickett can be found and personalities such as Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman have been known to attend. Of course, Mr. Lincoln makes an appearance.

In 2017, a threat made against the parade and Remembrance Day altered the route of the parade and caused the FBI, Homeland Security and State and local authorities to take other precautions. FBI snipers sat poised on the rooftops of hotels and dump trucks and large concrete barriers were placed at intersections and at gas stations to prevent anyone from charging headlong and causing havoc.

Bomb sniffing dogs patrolled the cemetery from the Boston FBI as well.

The good news out of this was that we weren't going to let those people win. The parade folks and the spectators were unified in making this annual event happen.

Fear of another attack against the noble and honorable event in 2019 put the same safety precautions in but slightly toned down. The altered parade route may unfortunately be permanent.

If the weather is cooperative, many flock to Little Round Top about 4 p.m. where brass bands from all over join together to perform hymns and patriotic songs that echo across the valley towards Devils Den and beyond.

Years ago the parade came out on Middle Street and turned down Baltimore Street in a route similar to that of Mr. Lincoln. It would then turn onto Steinwehr and end across from the McDonald's near the old entrance to the Cyclorama lot, now known as Hancock Avenue.

Looking down the hill of Baltimore Street, as I'd march, seeing flags rippling in the breeze and hearing martial music, filled me with emotions that I have yet to find words to convey.

But after the threat of 2017 and for safety in 2018, the parade route now begins on Lefever Street near Twin Sycamores, then to Baltimore Street, Steinwehr, and eventually turns onto Taneytown Road, ending at the parking lot near the Maryland Monument.

As the sun sets over South Mountain, a lone musician stands on a boulder to finish the short concert and facing the sunset, plays Taps as the crowd remains in silent awe.

Things aren't over yet and now many people have dinner or for those attending balls, the ladies need to change into ball gowns to arrive in time for the grand march of the ball to see who's there and what they're wearing.

Years ago one ball was held, and now so many are held, visitors can actually decide which to go to - perhaps one on Friday and one on Saturday. Some are for profit and others raise money for preservation; the latter appeals to our hearts.

If a ball is not your thing, you may enjoy a quartet of musicians at Christ Lutheran Church near the center of town.

Intertwined with stories of the wounded that were cared for under its roof, songs of sorrow and joy bring a personal touch to any Gettysburg experience. This is the church where a Rebel shot a Union clergyman on the steps and a marker tells the story.

Before leaving the Gettysburg area, we have to fulfill the agreement on the permit and remove all the flags. This we do Sunday morning and often some help comes our way from those who participated in the ceremony the day before.

After packing up, usually it's off to Maryland and a brief visit with family. This year included meeting my first grandchild.

It's difficult to partake of everything at Remembrance Day, but for a group of us from the New England states, we make sure the priority is in remembering.

**submitted by William Hallett**

William Hallett is the past president of the Civil War Roundtable of New Hampshire and is a current board member of that group and the Civil War Roundtable of the Merrimack (Salisbury, Mass.) He is the author of *Newburyport and the Civil War* (History Press 2012) and a reenactor/living historian for over 20 years. He is a former radio announcer and is now a voice-over performer.

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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.**

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: Part II

### *The 3<sup>d</sup> Wisconsin Volunteers Leave Fond du Lac*

Everything was ready for departure. "All Aboard" - the call was heard along the line and the guards had their hands full getting embracing persons to separate and get aboard their appointed seats.

Away through the summer fields of Wisconsin and Illinois to Chicago. When we had transferred there to an eastern route we knew we were head for the Potomac Army division. Everywhere we were greeted in the friendliest manner. Field workers looked toward us and waved their hats. From ports we saw the flutter of flags, and in many places the citizens were pleased to serve us good meals.

In Elmyra, N.Y. we stopped to eat breakfast. We then marched to the camp of a New York regiment which just a few days previously had returned from the battlefield. In the mess hall about 100 pretty young girls stood in two rows and the 3<sup>rd</sup> marched happily through this array of eastern roses. The beauties of Elmyra followed us into the dining room to serve the stalwart fellows at their meal.

After this very good breakfast we returned to our stations, accompanied by some of the pretty ladies. Cards were exchanged and a lively set of letters was the result. I wish to reveal right here, that several of the boys in blue who returned safely from the war, among the beauties of Elmyra, found their life's partners. Thus for the Idyll; realism followed in short order. At Williamstown, Pa. there was a repeat of the Elmyra experience. By the next morning we were at the battlefield near Hagerstown, Md. And were assigned our positions.

In Hagerstown, after a few days we received our weapons, taught the basics in handling them properly. This was followed by a two days' march to Harper's Ferry. This march in the burning July sun, and carrying the heavy equipment, was nothing less than a picnic. Near the Ferry we struck camp. The spot was pretty, and left nothing to be desired; in spite of all this sickness soon made its appearance.

### BULL RUN

A few days after our arrival in the distance we heard the heavy thunder of the cannon at Bull Run, whose outcome is well-known. The first big battle had been fought and the Northern army suffered a big defeat. The quiet that followed evoked the slogan "All quiet along the Potomac."

The "three-monthers" were dismissed, and the 300,000 "three-year" rookies arrived. A steady routine of exercises was maintained. McClellan became the commander of the Army of the Potomac. He had a talent for organization, and soon had a fine-standing army in the neighborhood of Washington. No one doubted that inside of a few weeks, by the fall of 1861, the march to Richmond would take place. But a change occurred.

The Third Wisconsin Regiment was still encamped on the Maryland Heights at Harper's Ferry. One day marching orders arrived. In a few minutes the camp was broken and away the men went – not against the enemy – but northward. Ours was the only regular regiment that left thus; the others all stayed there.

### CAPTURING A CIVIC BODY

In a two-day's march we arrived at Frederick City where it became our task to "take" a South-minded legislature, which we did successfully. The next morning we were holding a neat number of these officials. The rebellious legislature was escorted to Baltimore. Their further fate remained unknown to us.

### A SHORT DIGRESSION

From the State of Wisconsin we had received gray uniforms made of an inferior quality of cloth. When we arrived in Frederick City, they were in tattered condition. As we marched thru the city, we heard frequent remarks like: The boys look good. All respect to them. But o my, o my, those uniforms.

Shortly after our entrance march into Frederick City we received our uniforms from Uncle Sam, and that was a pleasure. We now looked twice as good. For several weeks we remained in quarters, and as we went wherever it might be we made good friends.

### **HARPER'S FERRY - 2<sup>ND</sup> TIME**

One day six companies of our regiment were ordered to entrain to Harper's Ferry, going then over the river into the Shenandoah Valley. We encamped near a mill in which several thousands of bushels of wheat were stored. We were ordered to remove them, to keep the rebels from reaping the benefit of this supply. The mill lay between the two unfriendly lines. We had completed our tasks when the rebels appeared on the scene, two regiments of infantry, one division of cavalry with two canon. A battle ensued. We suffered several casualties and some wounded who were taken to Frederick City. The dead were buried there and the wounded were hospitalized.

A week later we were on the march again. The Ball's Bluff affair, which at that time raised a lot of dust, was the reason. In quick-march we arrived there but everything had already quieted down, so before Christmas we had returned to Frederick City. (2<sup>nd</sup> time)

The entire N. P. Banks Corps now encamped there in a great circle about the city and carried on police duty. Our regiment was within the city. It was an arduous duty, but we lived well and exercised good discipline. One man in a Pa. regiment was hanged; he had shot dead a major in the regiment. The severity of the existing discipline is shown, certified, by this instance:

Several religious sects had distributed tracts with this headline: "Come to Jesus." Several had been signed: "Cannot come. Col. Ruger will give me no leave."

### **TO RICHMOND!**

So the days passed until February when the orders came that the army should be prepared to march.

The Banks Corp went from Frederick City to Harper's Ferry and up the Shenandoah Valley. McClellan with his 140,000 men marched from Washington over the peninsula toward Richmond. A third army went from the Potomac to Fredericksburg. All three under McClellan were to capture Richmond.

From here on this report may be of more interest. Heretofore the daily newspapers had constantly been: "All quiet along the Potomac." Suddenly "**On to Richmond!**" appeared in bold face print.

The big army came alive, General Banks took his troops from Harper's Ferry over the Potomac, and after two days of intense marching arrived in the small city of Charlestown.

This place, besides Harper's Ferry, had become noteworthy – even notorious – because of the John Brown escapade. He was captured at the Ferry and hanged in Charlestown. We saw the cell in which he sat and the place of the gallows. As we marched in the boys sang lustily: "John Brown's Knapsack," etc.

The weather was miserable. The clouds sent down a mixture of snow and rain. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Wisconsin again was placed on police duty and was quartered in standing wooden structures. Co. C, the Mayville Boys and two other companies, were put into a church with a very fine pipe organ. We had barely eaten and found comfortable seats in the pews when the pastor appeared and asked permission to remove the valuable articles from the altar. Naturally this was given.

As he, the pastor, and his companions were engaged in rolling up the precious carpeting there sounded forth from the organ the introduction to a hymn. The minister stood erect and removed his hat and now as men's voices joined in singing the hymn being played he turned to the officers and said politely, "I deem it unnecessary to remove anything from here." He then left us. Truth to tell, nothing was taken out, nor anything damaged. Except for the impossible, to prevent dirt and dust from weather conditions, everything was orderly.

The adventures of Sergeant Gerhard Schutte and the 3rd Regiment will continue in the April General Orders.

**submitted in memory of Lillie M. Heilman  
translator of "The Boys of Mayville" from  
German into English February-March 1984**

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

