

GENERAL ORDERS



The Newsletter of the

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



April 11, 2019

Brad Gottfried

MAPS OF FREDERICKSBURG

It is well that war is so terrible, or we should grow too fond of it.

Robert E. Lee, Fredericksburg

If there is a place worse than hell, I'm in it!

Abraham Lincoln on hearing
the news of Fredericksburg

After Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia was forced out of Maryland in September 1862, President Abraham Lincoln grew frustrated by Maj. Gen. George McClellan's failure to vigorously pursue the Rebels and replaced him with Ambrose Burnside. The opening stages of what would come to be the Fredericksburg Campaign began in early October when the armies moved south. After several skirmishes, it became clear Burnside would force a crossing at Fredericksburg and drive south. Delays in doing so provided General Lee with time to get his troops into position behind the city.

The initial fighting occurred on December 11 when a single Mississippi Confederate brigade delayed the Union bridge-building efforts. Once across, Burnside's army prepared for action. The main battle took place on December 13, a two-pronged attack against Marye's Heights on the Union right and Prospect Hill at the opposite end of the line. Neither was successful. Burnside contemplated another attempt to flank Lee, but the January weather conspired against him and he was removed from command.

Maps of Fredericksburg plows new ground by breaking down the entire campaign into twenty-two map sets of "action sections," along with 122 detailed full-page color maps. These cartographic originals bore down to the regimental and battery level, and include the march to and from the battlefield and virtually every significant event in between. Keyed to each piece of cartography is a full facing page of detailed text describing the units, personalities, movements, and combat (including quotes from eyewitnesses) depicted on the accompanying map.

Our March speaker, Dr. Bradley M. Gottfried will illustrate the battle of Fredericksburg using a number of full-color maps. While most may *think* they understand the battle, maps provide an additional layer of understanding. Dr. Gottfried's presentation promises to be fast-paced and highly informative.

Dr. Bradley M. Gottfried holds a Ph.D. in Zoology from Miami University. Recently retired, he worked in higher education for more than four decades, beginning as a full-time faculty member and ending as president of the College of Southern Maryland. He also serves as a board member of the Central Virginia Battlefield Trust. Brad and his wife Linda have four children and five grandchildren. He has recently finished his manuscript on *The Maps of Spotsylvania, North Anna, and Cold Harbor Campaigns*. An avid Civil War historian, Brad is the author of eleven books, including *Stopping Pickett: The History of the Philadelphia Brigade* (1999), *Brigades of Gettysburg* (2002), and five previous Savas Beatie Military Atlas Titles – First Bull Run, Antietam, Gettysburg, Bristoe Station/Mine Run, and Wilderness. Brad is currently finalizing (with Theodore P. Savas) *The Gettysburg Campaign Encyclopedia*.

General Orders No. 4-19

April 2019

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April 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, April 8, 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!

ELECTION: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As announced at the March Round Table meeting and in accordance with the Articles of Incorporation, the nominating committee of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee recommends the following slate of nominees for the upcoming election of members to the Board of Directors for a three-year-term ending in May 2022.

- Donna Agnelly
- Thomas Arliskas
- Roman Blenski
- Crain Bliwas
- Paul A. Eilbes

The election will take place at the May 9, 2019 Milwaukee Civil War Round Table meeting.

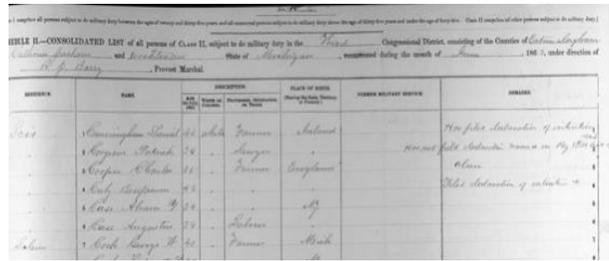
After the Federal catastrophe on the Rappahannock, these comments were made about Fredericksburg.

“General, if you put every Union soldier now on the other side of the Potomac on that field to approach me over the same line, I will kill them all before they reach my line.” **James Longstreet**

“It is well that war is so terrible, or we should grow too fond of it.” **Robert E. Lee**

A despondent **Abraham Lincoln** wrote, *“If there is a worse place than hell, I am in it.”*

The Muster Roll: NEW MEMBERS



MCWRT Annual Fund

The following members have made a generous commitment to the MCWRT by investing in that fund. This list reflects those donations made 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)

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 Bspalec, 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

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.

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 a Shenandoah Valley winery and a Bardstown, Kentucky distillery on the return to Wisconsin.



In April 1949 Gerald R. McMurtry spoke to those assembled on “Rear Admiral John L. Worden.”

“The Second and Third Days at Gettysburg” was the topic presented by Frederick Tilberg in April 1959.

Glenn Tucker was the speaker at the April 1969 meeting speaking on “Some New Slants on Gettysburg.”

At the April 1979 meeting William A. Frassanito spoke to the Round Table members on “Antietam.”

The featured speaker at the April 1989 meeting was Charles Wesselhoeft who spoke on “The Army of the Tennessee Under Grant.”

“Wisconsin’s Civil War Governors” was presented by Lee Sherman Dreyfus at the April 1999 meeting.

Dr. Stephen R. Wise visited our Round Table in April 2009 speaking on “Gate of Hell: The 1863 Campaign for Battery Wagner and Charleston.”

At last year’s April meeting John Marszalek spoke to the group on “The History of the Memoirs of Ulysses S. Grant.”

Saturday, April 6, 2019

1 – 3 p.m.

The Shenandoah Valley and Grant’s Grand Strategy for 1864

Presented by: Dave Powell

\$20/\$15 Friends of the Museum

Union General Ulysses S. Grant regarded a spring campaign in the Valley of Virginia as integral to his overall strategy designed to turn Robert E. Lee’s strategic western flank, deny his Army of Northern Virginia much needed supplies, and prevent other Confederates from reinforcing Lee. It fell to Union general and German transplant Franz Sigel to execute Grant’s strategy in the northern reaches of the Shenandoah. Sigel met Confederate Maj. Gen. John C. Breckinridge and his small army on May 15 just outside the crossroads town of New Market. The hard-fought affair hung in the balance until finally the Union lines broke, and Sigel’s Yankees fled the field. Mr. Powell’s workshop delves into all the issues of the campaign, analyzing it from an operational standpoint to explain why the Federals were defeated and how other important factors contributed to the ruin of Grant’s scheme in the Valley.

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, April 12, 2019

Noon

The History of Firearms, 1300-1870

Presented by: Steve Krolick

Mr. Krolick’s presentation provides a timeline of the history and evolution of firearms. Specifically, the talk covers the development of powder, ammunition, lock development and different types of weapons. His presentation will also provide examples of these firearms to be seen first-hand by the attendees.

Wednesday, April 17, 2019

Noon

The Generals of Shiloh

Presented by: Mr. Larry Tagg

Free and Open to the Public

Larry Tagg, author of *The Generals of Gettysburg* and *The Unpopular Mr. Lincoln*, discusses the Civil War’s Western generals and the strategies that resulted in the Battle of Shiloh. Shiloh was the culmination of the first year of the Civil War in the West and the biggest battle in the nation’s history up to that time. Mr. Tagg’s discussion will illuminate a radically different struggle than the Civil War in the East, both in terms of its generals, its politics, and its military campaigns.



Friday, May 10, 2019

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

History on Tap: Craft Beer Tasting at the Civil War Museum

\$35/\$25 Friends of the Museum

Celebrate Kenosha’s Craft Beer Week by sampling beers from across the Midwest in the main exhibit of the Civil War Museum. These beers were selected not only for their great taste, but also because they fit into the themes of the museum gallery. Your ticket includes eight 4 oz. tastings of our choice and snacks. Have a great time sampling in the exhibition, but be careful, you might just learn something too.

3 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!



6th Wisconsin from **Yorktown**
Headquarters 2nd B. S. D. 4H. C. H. P.
April 23d, 1862

Editors Patriot:-Nothing of any especial importance has transpired here since I last wrote you, yet we are kept in a state of vigilance and constant activity. We have been strongly fortifying our position bearing upon the rebel works. We have large fatigue parties constantly throwing up entrenchments digging rifle pits constructing gabions and placing abates. In order to protect from the fire of the enemy almost all the work is done at night. Sand bags are filled and gabions made, however, in the day time and put in place at night. We have twelve guns in position. Frequently at night the working parties are saluted with a volley of musketry from the enemy across the creek, doing as yet however no more serious damage then to create an alarm in camp.

Skirmishes are of daily occurrence. From the Third Brigade of this division we have two men killed and two wounded to day. On our side we took one prisoner and killed and wounded several of the enemy. The rebels are undoubtedly concentrating all their energies for a mightily struggle at this point. Flanked by two large rives and having their front strongly protected by a continuous rifle pit from the York to the James river with ports at frequent intervals along the line beside the natural aid afforded by creeks and marshes - their position is indeed a strong one.

"To be forewarned is to be forearmed," and while our army is fully sensible of these strong points of the enemy we are prepared to oppose him with the genius of McClellan, mortars, Parrott guns, and a soldiery ready to do as effective fighting as has ever been witnessed under the sun.

The conduct of the Vermont brigade in the action of the 16th has been a subject of universal remark by old army officers. The bravery and daring of the men can only elicit the highest admiration, but the perfect coolness and determination of purpose they exhibited ever under a galling fire called forth the warmest praise. Not a man hesitated not a rank wavered. There was no confusion. No disorder. Every command was obeyed with perfect precision. The wounded were borne from the field by their comrades, who again returned and took their places in the ranks. If a deadly shot struck down one, another stepped up to take his place. Such men cannot but be victorious and of such is the army of the Potomac. Just as I close, although ten o'clock at night, two heavy guns have been fired from one of batteries I presume at working parties on the rebel fort.

S

Camp 2d Regiment Wis. Vol.
Plymouth, Va.,
April 24th, 1862

Dear *Tribune*: - I had written a short letter for you when stationed at Catlett on the Orange and Alexandria railroad but being suddenly required to pack up and vamoose the ranch I withheld it and shall now replace it by giving a rather lengthy scribble on matters and things pertaining to this region of the State of Virginia. Let me present a few passages from the diary which I imagine will serve to give you an idea of our experience as soldiers since the 7th inst.

April 7th – Camped on Milford Creek. Rains, snows and hails; anticipated a dreary time. Ordered to move camp ten miles distance in a pine thicket.

April 8th – slept on the ground, while it rained and snowed. Shelter tents leak badly. Awoke refreshed but to look out upon a gloomy prospect – the ground covered with snow and it is raining quite hard. A good deal of complaining among the soldiers – many wet and chilly, but few sick. It continues to snow, rain, and hail all day.

April 9th – The storm has abated some yet the clouds hover over. Everything bears a gloomy face. The men look worn and weather-beaten. Clothes and blankets wet and rusty. It continues to storm during the day.

April 10th – Awoke this morning to see the sun shine once more. It is good cheer to the bivouacking soldiers. All went to work drying clothes and blankets. Considerable sickness in the Regiment.

April 11th – roll call every two hours. Regiment assembled to receive orders. Car loads of troops passing to Catlett Station. P.M. – Franklin's Division returning to Alexandria, preparatory to reinforce McClellan.

April 12th – Ordered to move. Detailed to guard the Orange and Alexander Railroad, between Bristol and Catlett Station, a distance of seven miles. The left wing made the detail and the right wing went into camp on the banks of Cedar Run. – Have a beautiful camp ground. Weather pleasant.

April 13th – In camp and roll call every two hours. Writing letters, &c. is chief business. Inspection of arms at 11 A.M. P.M. – A slight quantity of old rye comes into camp. A deserter from Secesh bro't into camp. Details of guard and fatigue duty men.

April 14th – bridge across Cedar Run finished.

April 15th – Rains until 10 A.M. when it clears off and became quite pleasant. Auger's and Kirkpatrick's Brigades ordered to Fredericksburg, with the Harris Cavalry.

April 16th – the day warm and pleasant. Col. O'Connor wishing to do a little scouting details Company I as an escort. Go in direction of Warrington. About 4 miles out stop for dinner. Receive Virginia hospitality in the shape of hoe-cake, beans and boiled ham for dinner. Overseer of plantation refuses to receive pay for dinner. He feeds the whole Company. See fine farming country and any quantity of livestock. Return delighted over the tramp.

April 17th – Warm and pleasant. Company and Battalion drills. Crackers and boiled port for dinner.

April 18th – heavy cannonading in direction of Warrington. The day warm and pleasant. No morning drill - a wonder! News comes in that Gen. Auger is shelling rebel cavalry. Reported wounding of Gen. Kirkpatrick. Harris Cavalry have a muss with Secesh. Eight men killed on Union side. Secesh run with the Cavalry and a Brooklyn regiment in Hot pursuit. Bridge across Rappahannock at Plymouth burnt by rebels. Surrender of Fredericksburg to Gen. Auger by the Mayor.

April 21st – it continues to rain. Ordered to march to Fredericksburg at 8 o'clock. Arrived at Elk Run, a distance of three miles. Lost the way, and traveled several miles out of the way. Storms all day and night. Soldiers receive a thorough drenching.

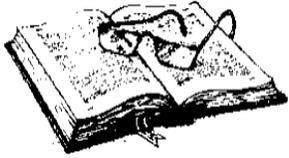
April 22d – strike tents at eight o'clock and march to within three miles of Falmouth. Rains all day. Men about worn out.

April 23d – Strike tents and march to Falmouth on the Rappahannock river, where we found Auger's and Kirkpatrick's Brigades and the Harris Cavalry. Camp within a mile of the town. Has been a warm and pleasant day. Ten gun boats lie a little below this place ready for service should they be required. Falmouth is a small town of about two thousand inhabitants. Fredericksburg is directly opposite and the main landing for the boats that ply between it and the mouth of the Rappahannock. A majority of the citizens of both places are strong Secessionists. Fredericksburg is a town of about five thousand inhabitants and was surrendered to Gen. Auger on Friday last though with some reluctance on the part of many of its citizens over whom the Mayor said he had no control. The General gave the citizens their choice to either pull down the Rebel flag and surrender or receive a thorough shelling from the Wisconsin battery. They concluded it the best policy to give in and therefore the Mayor appeared and done the agreeable to Gen. Auger. Our packets remain on this side of the River. The Secesh pickets are said to be about a mile back of Fredericksburg. When the Rebels took their sudden departure they burnt the Railroad bridge and two other bridges below the town. As the Secesh retreated they endeavored to make a stand and thus repel our advance guard. They arranged several cribs of rails across the road about six feet in breadth and

four feet high behind which they secreted and awaited the approach of Harris Cavalry. It was just at dusk when the Cavalry arrived in sight of the wooden structures and mistook them for a column of infantry. They immediately formed in line and made a grand charge on the rails and secesh receiving both the brunt of the compact cribs and volleys of musketry. Ere they had time to form for another charge Secesh was in full retreat – our cavalry followed and with Auger's Brigade obliged them to clear both towns capturing six of the Secesh Cavalry who are now prisoners in Falmouth. The Wisconsin battery was arranged on a high eminence and commenced shelling the retreating cavalry. But a few shot was necessary to clear both sides of the river...Our boys have done well in the way of trading today. The Secesh refused to take the U.S. Treasury notes preferring to take the Fredericksburg scrip. They also refused the Richmond scrip except in denominations of five and ten dollars. Our boys are well supplied with a quantity of the fact-simile notes printed at Philadelphia which cost them a cent on the dollar...The inhabitants of this place are loud in their expressions in favor of Jeff Davis. The women in particular are terrible if not ridiculous. For the first time in my life I have stood before a woman that I feared and hated but I trust I may be relieved from hearing any more of the kind give vent to their feelings. The lady in question had the impudence to upbraid me in the strongest terms sparing not my young and devoted head from the worst of aims. She believes us to be a set of marauders ready to devour the innocent women and children of the South that we invaded their land to murder their husbands and sons. I pitied the poor thing yet I feared her even as much. I have been to several houses and conversed with a number of the Secesh ladies but one good whole souled Northern Gal is worth a dozen of those paudy stuck-up pieces of calico...A little excitement was created in the streets to-day by the chance meeting of a master and his slave. The slave had been absent without leave and the master had come in pursuit of him but Cuffy refused to return with his master where upon the slavebroker undertook the task of arresting him. Cuffy took leg bail with the master in pursuit, was caught and again escaped leaving his master in the midst of a squad of Union soldiers who felt highly elated over the discomfort of the slaveholder without interfering.

The slave escaped and the master returned home, ranting and rearing over the loss of poor Cuffy...Our brigade is ordered to guard the Aquia Creek Railroad. We move tomorrow morning at half past eight o'clock. The health of the 2nd regiment is good considering what they have passed through within the last three weeks. Company I has one in the hospital. The company is in good condition, well and happy, with a plenty to eat, drink and wear. The drum beats for "Lights out" therefore I draw my scribble to an end, bidding you all a happy good night.

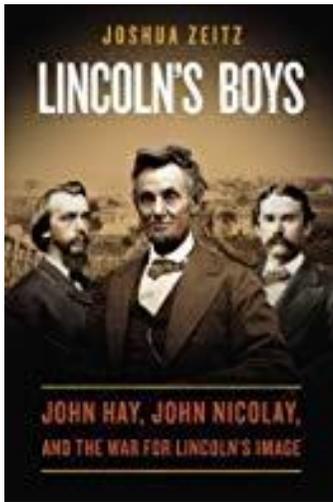
L. _____ B. _____



Between the Covers

LINCOLN'S BOYS: JOHN HAY, JOHN NICOLAY AND THE WAR FOR LINCOLN'S IMAGE

by Joshua Zeitz



This review is on a Kenosha Civil War Museum Media Club selection. In this work, Joshua Zeitz, historian and political advisor, shows Lincoln through the perspective of two of the men who worked closest with him on a daily basis from the 1860 election through Lincoln's final day in the White House. In this book, Mr. Zeitz, with the eyes of Hay and Nicolay, presents a behind the scene look at the Lincoln Presidency. He used diaries, papers and historical documents of the Lincoln era to make his presentation in this book.

The author starts out with tracing the development of his two main characters, Hay, native born and Nicolay, an immigrant to this country at a young age. He shows how each man developed in the early days of American history and how they both navigated the turbulent times of the 1850s – 1860s. He shows how each man identified with the days feelings towards slavery and how over the time associated with Lincoln and long after the war those ideals and attitudes fell in line with Lincoln's. Both men came to realize the justice of Lincoln's views. The focus of this book is their service to Lincoln as president, followed by their efforts to define Lincoln's legacy. They accomplished this by writing a

10-volume biography. It was done with the input and approval of Lincoln's son Robert but not without some hesitancy from Robert as well as some editing. This work continues to influence views on Lincoln, his cabinet, General McClellan and other Union generals.

Zeitz shows how, after Lincoln's death, many claimed to have intimate knowledge of Lincoln and published works with dubious claims on Lincoln. William Herndon, for one, wrote extensively on Lincoln. But Abraham Lincoln played it close to the vest in revealing details about his background, feelings and political motivations. The author shows how Herndon's work and others lacked true information about Lincoln and presented works that were flawed in many ways. He shows how these two personal secretaries during his presidency could lay claim to a close and constant political relationship with him. These two men evolved from private secretaries/clerks into tireless historians who managed to defend and develop Lincoln's legacy. Mr. Zeitz gives both Hay and Nicolay credit for securing and developing the Lincoln legacy and image as a result of the documentation that they both worked on to publish the history of Lincoln's time in the White House.

The author expertly crafts a story to show how both men worked tirelessly to publish the 10-volume biography of Lincoln's presidency. The men worked with Robert Lincoln and others to put the work together. Zeitz shows how the time and energy in dealing with stumbling blocks were dealt with and overcome to bring the biography to fruition. What I also found interesting is how they both worked their way into the political arena. Zeitz points out how Hay, in particular, moved right into the governmental field. Considering that he was looking at becoming a poet early in his life it seemed highly unlikely that the field of politics and government would become his life. John Hay apparently found his niche in life. He stuck with government service for the rest of his life.

Mr. Zeitz traces both Hay's and Nicolay's lives after Lincoln showing how both men continued to look to past associations to find positions in government service. John Hay in particular serves as an Assistant Secretary of State under Hayes, ambassador to the United Kingdom under McKinley and Secretary of State under both McKinley and Roosevelt. John Nicolay also served in government and Republican positions, Consul to France and Marshall of the Supreme Court again using contacts that he had developed while originally serving as Lincoln's secretary.

I found this to be a very informative book as I had never really read anything specifically about the two men's service to Lincoln and their subsequent roles in the government and Republican Party. There was plenty of interesting discussion at the Media Club when we met to talk about our thoughts on this book. I heartily recommend this book to anyone with an interest in the Lincoln legacy and how it developed as well as to follow the careers of perhaps Lincoln's two most important allies during the Civil War.

submitted by Bruce Klem

**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
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.

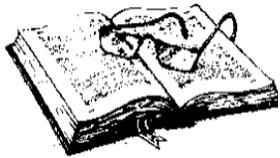
Milwaukee Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for April 11, 2019

Mail your reservations by Monday, April 8 to:
Paul Eilbes
1809 Washington Avenue
Cedarburg, WI 53012-9730

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

Enclosed is \$_____ (meal is \$30.00 per person) for _____ people for the
April 11, 2019 meeting of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee.
(Please make checks payable to the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.)

7 Name of Member _____



BETWEEN THE COVERS

GRIERSON'S RAID

by D. Alexander Brown

My review this time is on an older book that I found in the used book section of the Kenosha Civil War Museum. The book, *Grierson's Raid*, by D. Alexander Brown was published in 1981 by Morningside Bookshop Press. I found that the book is a mirror for the movie *The Horse Soldiers* starring John Wayne and William Holden. Although it appears that the movie was based on a novel, Brown's work could have been the script for the novel and movie. Having seen the movie a number of times I could recall various parts of it as I read the book. Mr. Brown had written a number of books on history with his most widely known one probably *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*.

In this work, Mr. Brown carefully develops the story from the early origins of the raid concept to the actual raid itself and the conclusion. From the notes of Grierson and others used as references, Brown traces the conception based on a suggestion from Grant to Smith that a raid to cut the rail line from Jackson, Mississippi to Vicksburg would divert Confederate reinforcements from the Mississippi River area and enable Grant to land below Vicksburg from the rear. Grant also indicated such a raid should be of a volunteer nature due to the distinct possibility that the raiders would ultimately be captured.

The author weaves an interesting story on how the players were brought together to form the unit and some of the command friction that developed as well. His work shows how the mild-mannered Grierson managed the unit and avoided any serious engagement with Confederate units along his long march to Baton Rouge. Originally it was thought that once the raiders accomplished their mission they would most likely go back to the starting point of La Grange. However, on the third day of the raid contact is made with a large force of Confederate cavalry. At that point, Grierson decides that he needs to throw the Confederate high command a curve to get them thinking the raid is but a short one and the Union forces are now headed back to La Grange. To accomplish that he has one third of his force fall back to La Grange in order to draw off the Confederates and have them think the raid has ended. The 2nd Iowa leads the Confederates back toward La Grange via a different route and creates the diversion Grierson needs.

The confusion resulting in the Confederate command reads like a novel as Mr. Brown shows how Grierson continues to move south while creating mass confusion at Confederate headquarters. General Pemberton continues to send out information on the raiders as he tries to discern where the ultimate target of the raid is aimed at. As a result, Confederate units are sent out in a variety of directions. Time after time Grierson's unit has some near misses with Confederate forces but with skillful implementation of diversions to throw off the Confederate units as to his intentions, he manages to get his unit to the target, Newton Station, and accomplishes the cutting of the railroad to Vicksburg. Contrary to some information presented by one of our speakers, Grierson had an idea of where Grant was going to make his landing at Grand Gulf. The only question Grierson had to answer was exactly when. Mr. Brown points out that Grierson was originally aiming to link up with Grant at that point. All he needed was confirmation that it occurred.

Mr. Brown, using references and Grierson's notes, shows how Grierson attempts to find out about the landing from taking captives along his route of march and listening for sounds of firing from the Union gunboats that would indicate a landing taking place. Grierson did not have an exact date that the landing would take place so he needed to have some confirmation of the fact. As it turned out, he could not nail that down. So rather than being caught between Confederate forces from Port Gibson, cavalry chasing him from behind and infantry from Baton Rouge he managed another diversion to throw off the hunters and drive south to Baton Rouge and the safety of Union lines. Fighting one final battle with Confederate militia units the raiders cross the final river barrier to the safety of Union lines. Their mission was completed, with minimal casualties while inflicting over 100 casualties on the Confederates, paroling over 500 prisoners, destroying over 60 miles of track, burning many rail car, destroying over 300 arms and other stores and capturing over 1000 horses and mules. The unit lost 3 killed, 7 wounded and 5 left to be cared by the Confederates and 9 men missing. The route covered over 600 miles in less than 16 days. Quite an accomplishment.

I highly recommend this book to anyone with an interest in the Civil War. It was very interesting and fast paced. The book also contains many individual stories of personnel involved with the raid. These were individuals that played key roles in creating diversions and other surprising operations. These make for a highly interesting read. I also recommend the movie *The Horse Soldiers* to get a better feel for the action as the movie follows the actual raid fairly accurately. This book was written some time ago and there is a new book out by Tim Smith entitled *The Real Horse Soldiers* published by Savas Beatie. I will check that one out so you can look forward to another review on this topic.

submitted by Bruce Klem

AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST SUPPORT THE TEACHER INSTITUTE

Take action for our educators
2019 Teacher Institute
GOAL: \$25,000

The American Battlefield Trust is still trying to reach its goal of \$25,000 for the 2019 Teacher Institute.

Why is this important? Why is this even more vital today? This is what the American Battlefield Trust says about the importance of this Institute:

Many students have their first experience with American history in a classroom. Teachers who make those experiences meaningful have a great honor and responsibility to nurture the citizens, history lovers and preservationists of tomorrow.

Good history teachers instill a passion for the past by bringing history to life for their students. A skilled professional may make this look easy, but we know how much hard work it takes. Behind every history lesson are countless hours of study and prep time. In addition to maintaining deep knowledge of both subject matter and the most effective, engaging tactics for conveying that subject matter to students, many teachers must also contend with diminishing budgets and increasingly stringent educational standards.

We established our National Teacher Institute to recognize and support these dedicated professionals. Each year, we bring together K-12 history educators from across the United States for world-class lectures, workshops and tours. Through the Institute, educators can connect with like-minded professionals, learn new teaching techniques, and acquire the continuing-education credits required by most states.

Over the years, we have helped some 2,000 teachers receive the continuing education credits they need and skills that they can take back to the classroom. Every year, we receive overwhelmingly positive feedback from teachers who leave the Institute feeling refreshed and prepared for the upcoming school year.

Our goal is to provide this opportunity for free - but we can't do it alone. Will you support history education today by helping a teacher attend the Institute?

It costs \$50 for one teacher to receive those vital continuing education credits- and the knowledge and tools they gain will benefit their current and future students for years to come. That means for \$100 you can make a lasting investment in history education for two classrooms. For \$500, you can support 10 classrooms.

When you contribute to the Teacher Institute, you directly support those whose job it is to inform and inspire the next generation of citizens, history lovers and preservationists. Please take a moment to make this important investment in our nation's future today.

In today's climate where history classes are scaled back and in some colleges eliminated altogether it is vitally important that we support those teachers who passionately bring history to life for their students and who teach their students the importance of knowing and understanding our history.

To donate please visit: www.battlefields.org scroll down the left hand side of the home page to support the Teacher Institute, click and donate.

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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.



On to Tennessee! was the motto for an October trip taken by an adult tour group. It's also the theme for a trip taken by a group of students from Waucousta Lutheran Grade School in Campbellsport. The trip hasn't happened yet, as it will take place in May. However, students who want to attend the field trip were required to write an "*application essay*."

The trip will again feature historian A. Wilson Greene, NPS rangers, and the staff from the Carter House and Carnton Plantation. And, while it's not a once-in-a-lifetime trip, it *is* planned as a catalyst to both kindle the students' love for history and a desire to revisit Civil War sites in the future.

As a guide for writing their essays, students were given several questions to consider.

Why do you want to go on this trip from a learning standpoint?

When grades 5-8 went on the trip to Gettysburg (in 2016), they all felt more "connected" to the Civil War. They understood the Civil War more. I want to be able to understand history more, and I feel this will be a good experience. It will take understanding history to a whole different level. I am so excited to be able to witness these historical places. **Macey**

I would love to go on this trip to Tennessee not only because it will be fun, it will also be great preparation for the Civil War Test. I can also learn some new facts that are totally useless and finally know something my grandpa doesn't know! **Moses**

I feel it would benefit me greatly to experience what I have learned by seeing where the Civil War was fought. Going to Tennessee could teach more details about what I have learned in 2018 to help me remember the battles better. I learn with my eyes more than with my ears, so I believe I will get a lot out of the Tennessee trip. I would love to learn more about the south's point of view on the war and get a southerner's opinion while I am down there. **Riley**

On this trip to Tennessee, I want to learn one main thing. I want to have a better understanding of the battles we studied. Having a visual idea of what went on makes much more sense. Going on the Gettysburg trip in 5th grade really helped me understand what went on at the Battles of Gettysburg and Antietam and at John Brown's Raid on Harpers Ferry. I hope to get the same experience out of this trip. **Anika**

Even though I didn't study the Civil War with the rest of the 7th and 8th grade, I would like to go on the Civil War field trip to catch up on the unit I missed. *Experiencing* history can not only help you remember what you have already learned, but also teach you something in a way you would not have thought of otherwise. **Sophia**

What do you expect will be a highlight of the trip for you?

I expect that the highlight of the trip will be Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge, and Billy Goat Hill. I expect that to be the highlight because I get to see how high the men of the Wisconsin regiment had to climb to reach their goal and still defeat the Confederates. **Alec**

I honestly don't know, but I look forward to learning, and having fun. I may bring a notebook to write notes, so I never forget about what I learned, NEVER! **Willy**

I expect the highlight of this trip will be the day we look at the Battle of Chattanooga. I am really looking forward to standing on top of Lookout Mountain and seeing the town of Chattanooga and the Chickamauga (oops!) River below. I am excited to see the place where Wisconsin troops bravely charged up the ridge, facing what seemed like insurmountable odds. I am not only looking forward to the view, but also looking forward to getting that extra dimension of history. **Anika**

I think the highlight of the trip to Tennessee will probably be being able to look out from the top of Lookout Mountain and being able to see seven states. I want to learn about the battle that took place on the mountain. **Camden**

Is this a history trip for you, or just a trip to a place you have never visited before?

This trip is both a history trip and a fun trip. I feel it's important to learn about history and its wars. If you don't learn about history, it's like all of the people who died or were injured are forgotten. **Natalie**

This is going to be a magnificent history trip. It is also a place I have never went (*sic*). It is going to be totally cool. **Maylee**

This is a history trip for me. I believe that when you study history out of a textbook you never really grasp the meaning of the words that are written. This trip will provide a "hands on" experience and truly bring out the reality of the events that took place there. This will make history become more realistic and give me a new perspective on learning history. **Kacey**

submitted by General Longwind
classroom teacher



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!

William Wallace

William Wallace, an Irishman, arrived at the port of New York at the age of 20 in 1851. His wealth included \$5.52 and an abundant supply of thrift and energy. He worked on an eastern dairy farm and in eastern factories for ten years where he acquired a number of skills; also acquiring his wife, Sarah, and two infant sons. It was then that he came to the 40-acre farm in section 34 of town LeRoy, Dodge County, about two miles north of Kekoskee. His patriotic spirit compelled him to enlist in the Williamstown Union Rifles in answer to Governor Alexander Randall's call at the outbreak of the Civil War.

He promised to write every week and, mostly kept that promise. His letters richly describe two campaigns, the Virginia campaign of 1861-1862 and the Atlanta Campaign of 1864. At age 30 Wallace was a little older than his comrades. In camp near Little Washington, Va. William Wallace wrote:

My Dear Wife and Children,

Yesterday morning at seven o'clock the whole division was ordered out into the drill ground to be reviewed by General Pope. We were all drawn up in line, 20 regements of us, and 48 cannon, 4 regements having come two days previous. We presented a fine appearance in our blue uniforms.

Pope is a fine, clever looking man, with heavy black whiskers and mounted on a dark grey steed he viewed each regement pretty sharply. When he came to ours and we had presented arms he turned to General Banks and asked what regement this was. He was told it was the Wisconsin 3rd, Colonel Rugers. It is a fine regement, said he. When Banks replied in the affirmative he viewed us from left to right and said that all the Wisconsin regements he had seen was very fine regements.

The 3rd Wisconsin soon marched through Sperryville, Virginia. There they encountered General Carl Schurz, who was very glad to see a Wisconsin regiment. Schurz was fresh to the military when he encountered his Wisconsin colleagues. His command of the mostly German Third Division included action at Second Manassas. Later action at Gettysburg and at Chancellorsville brought his career to ruin. Another Wallace letter is dated August 10, 1862.

Dear Sarah,

Before this letter reaches you, you will hear of our fight at Cedar Mountain on Saturday. I got shot in my two little fingers of my right hand. The one next to the little finger is badly hurt. The Doctor thinks it will not have to be taken off. It is badly shattered. It pains me badly. It was a bloody fight. We have about one hundred wounded here in the hospitals. I have to hold up my write hand with my left and the pencil in my finger and thumb which will account for the bad writing. I had a musket ball through my hat, just clearing the crown. The regement is still on the battle field. My love to you and pray to God for his merciful deliverance.

From your own dear William

Wallace's wound did not prevent him from his promise to write. He recuperated in hospital at Grace Church, Alexandria, where he told Sarah that he was still alive and kicking. In a letter on August 15, he shared that a ball wound is worse than a cut with a knife or any edged tool. But at least, he told Sarah, he didn't have to "get it off." He and another man from Kekoskee, Anson Titus, were the only two from their company in the hospital. After the fighting at Cedar Mountain, 30 railroad cars, all loaded with wounded, made the trip to Alexandria. Other trains had come before and others after, all of them carrying the same broken human cargo.

The wounded hand gave William some trouble. He writes:

I had to have the ragged portions of my fingers burned off with caustic. It was mortifying for want of proper care. The doctor had no time to see to it, as they were so busy amputating limbs. It is quite sore now when I am writing. Give my love to all the children and friends and neighbors. I don't hear anything about David. My hand is tired so I must quit.

From your own devoted husband, William Wallace

adapted from a 1979 series by Evaline Boeck in the Mayville News
submitted by Dave Wege

William Wallace's story continues in the May issue of General Orders.

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

