

# GENERAL ORDERS



The Newsletter of the

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



## **APRIL 2020 ROUND TABLE MEETING CANCELLED**

With the recent events surrounding COVID-19, the board of the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table has cancelled the scheduled April meeting. The Wisconsin Club, where our meetings are held, has also announced that they are closed until further notice.

Any further updates or announcements will be posted on our website: <http://www.milwaukeecwrt.org/>

If you have any questions please feel free to contact us at: [cwrtmilwaukee@gmail.com](mailto:cwrtmilwaukee@gmail.com). or please call 262-376-0568 (Paul Eilbes) or 262-652-6256 (Bruce Klem).

As a reminder, we do leave attendance at our meetings up to you to make your own best judgment. Our priority is always the health and safety of each of our members.

During this time please follow the World Health Organization guidelines:

- Wash your hands often
- Cough into your elbow
- Don't touch your face
- Maintain social distance – stay 3 feet apart
- Feel sick? Stay home

### **A Terrible Scourge in the Civil War**

From April 29 to May 30, 1862, some 300,000 men converged at the tiny railroad depot of Corinth, Mississippi. There they laid siege to the Confederate forces under Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard. The Union army scarred the landscape with miles of earthen fortifications. But the trenches could not protect soldiers from what Thomas Macaulay called “the most terrible of all the ministers of death,” a predator that craved those close, confined spaces, where men’s blood, breath and spit mingled freely. Although they fought on opposite sides of the trenches, the Union and Confederate forces shared a common enemy: smallpox.

Of the infectious diseases, smallpox was not the most common, but it was the most feared. During the course of the war, the Union Army reported only about 12,000 cases of smallpox among white troops, but the death rate from smallpox hovered around 39 percent. Medical professionals, a career really in its infancy, wrung their hands and coped as well as they could. New diseases, old diseases, new strains and mutated strains strained the system. However, the system adapted and advances were made that brightened survival and care for those affected.

### **General Orders No. 4-20**

**April 2020**

### **IN THIS ISSUE**

MCWRT News ..... page 2  
 From the Archives .....page 3  
 Area Events ..... page 3  
 From the Field ..... pages 4-5  
 Between the Covers ..... page 6-7  
 Round Table Speakers 2019-2020..... page 8  
 2019-2020 Board of Directors ..... page 8  
 Meeting Reservation Form ..... page 8  
 Gems from Lance Herdegen ..... page 9  
 More Learning Opportunities ..... page 10  
 Wanderings ..... page 11  
 Through the Looking Glass ..... page 12  
 2020 Travel Opportunities ..... page 13  
 Quartermaster’s Regalia ..... page 14

### **April Meeting at a Glance**

**The Wisconsin Club**

**900 W. Wisconsin Avenue**

**MEETING**  
[Jackpot raffle to the dinner 6 p.m.]

6:15 p.m. - Registration/Social Hour

6:15 p.m. - Dinner

**CANCELLED**  
[\$30 by reservation, please]

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.

### **2019-2020 Speaker Schedule**

Find the speaker schedule on page 6.

[www.milwaukeecwrt.org](http://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 2023.

- Michael K. Benton
- Van Harl
- Tom Hesse
- Tom Thompson
- Justin Tolomeo

The election will take place at the May 7, 2020 Milwaukee Civil War Round Table meeting.



FROM OUR SPECIAL WAR CORRESPONDENT.  
 "CITY POINT, VA., April —, 8.30 A.M.  
 "All seems well with us."—A. LINCOLN.  
 (Hesper's Weekly, April 15, 1864)

## The Muster Roll: NEW MEMBERS

NUMBER	NAME	RESIDENCE	PLACE OF BIRTH	REGIMENT	REMARKS
	<b>Carl Backus</b>				
	<b>Don Hilbig</b>				
	<b>Anne Resch</b>				

## MCWRT Annual Fund

The following members have made a generous commitment to the MCWRT by investing in that fund. This list reflects those donations made from July 1, 2019 through March 12, 2020.

### Patron (\$200 - \$499)

Eugene & Jane Jamrozy, Daniel Nettesheim

### Associate (\$100 - \$199)

Dale Brassler, Bill & Claudette Finke, Gerald Frangesch, Doug Haag, William & Carol Hughes, Peter & Jean Jacobsohn, Bernard Jene, David Jordan, Stephen Leopold, Kathy McNally, Bob & Mary Lou Parrish, Randle Pollard, James & Ann Reeve, David & Helga Sartori, Dennis Slater, Jr.

### Contributor (up to \$99)

George Affeldt, Dale Bespalec, T. James Blake, Robert Christie, John & Linda Connelly, Cynthia Cooper, Gordon Dammann, Michael Deeken, Lori Duginski, John Durr, Paul Eilbes, Gary & Judy Ertel, George Geanon, Julian Gonzalez, Jr., Leon & Margaret Harris, Christopher & Mary Beth Johnson, Jerome Kowalski, Jay Lauck, Fredric Madsen, Rod Malinowski, Robin Martin, Carol Maudie & Gerald Witherspoon, Jim & Monica Millane, Ed Newman, Herb Oechler, Thomas Olsen, Tom Pokrandt, John Rodahl, Dr. James Rydlewicz, Sam Solber, Dan Tanty, Richard Tonelli, Michael Uihlein, Bernard VanDinter

### Speaker Enhancement Fund

George Affeldt, Donna Agnelly, Jeryl Anthony, Tom & Terry Arliskas, Mike Benton, Dale Bespalec, T James Blake, Angela Bodven, Dale Brassler, Civil War Time Travelers, Tim Crawford, Ellen DeMers, Bob Dude, Lori Duginski, John Durr, Paul Eilbes, Gary & Judy Ertel, Julian Gonzalez, Jr., Rick Gross, Doug Haag, Dan & Carol Hughes, Van & Dawn Harl, Leon & Margaret Harris, Jim Heinz, Gene & Jane Jamrozy, Bernard Jene, Grant Johnson, Allan Kasprzak, Bruce Klem, John Kuhnmuensch, Jr., Stephen Leopold, Robin Martin, Kathy McNally, Jim & Monica Millane, Thomas Olsen, Bob & Mary Lou Parrish, David Perez, Tom Pokrandt, Jack Rodencal, Dr. James Rydlewicz, David & Helga Sartori, Diana Smurawa, Dan Tanty



In April 1950 Frank Klement spoke to those assembled on “Copperheads in the Middle West.”

“The Baltimore & Ohio Railroad & the Civil War” was the topic presented by Larry W. Sagle in April 1960.

Elmer C. Brinkman was the speaker at the April 1970 meeting speaking on “The Military Career of ‘Black Jack’ Logan.”

At the April 1980 meeting Ralph Newman spoke to the membership on “The Lights Go on Again at Ford’s Theatre.”

The April 1990 meeting brought Dr. Richard M. McMurray to town to speak to the group on “Two Great Rebel Armies: The Army of Northern Virginia and the Army of Tennessee.”

Ted Alexander visited the Round Table in April 2000 speaking on “The Fall of 1862, The Confederate High Tide.”

“The Impeachment of Andrew Johnson” was the topic of David O. Stewart’s presentation at the April 2010 meeting.

At last year’s April meeting Brad Gottfried spoke to those assembled on “The Maps of Fredericksburg.”

### **The Great Camel Experiment**

**Friday, April 24, 2020 - Noon**

**Presented by: David Noe**

On paper it seemed like a good idea. Beginning in 1856 and continuing in the years leading up to the Civil War, the U.S. Army conducted successful experiments using camels to transport supplies in the arid regions of the west. Unfortunately, with the beginning of the Civil War the army lost all interest in continuing the experiment.

This program traces the experiment from its beginnings in acquiring the animals, some of the tests or tasks they performed, why the experiment failed, and what became of the animals after the war. It continues with an examination of a number of private ventures that attempted to utilize the camel’s virtues and concludes with a discussion of some of the myths and legends concerning the animals.

### **The War That Made Beer Famous**

**Saturday, May 16, 2020 - 1 pm**

**Presented by: Lance Herdegen**

Historian Lance Herdegen will explore how the love of beer spread throughout the Union Army during the Civil War.

## **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.

#### **An Evening of Horror at Ford’s Theatre: President Lincoln is Assassinated!**

**Wednesday, April 15, 2020 - Noon**

**Presented by: Rich Schimenti**

Listen as an eyewitness gives his account of the assassination of President Lincoln at Ford’s Theatre in Washington, DC. This first-person account will tell us of the heinous crime as well as the many efforts made to save the President’s life. We will also learn of the nationwide manhunt to bring the killers to justice.

#### **Civics 101**

**Wednesday, April 29, 2020 - Noon – 1 pm**

Test your knowledge of the United States Civics test in a fun trivia competition and learn about the American government and history that inspired the questions. Each person should bring their own smartphone, iPad or laptop to compete in the trivia challenge.

Free but reservations recommended.

#### **Illinois Regiments at Gettysburg: July 1863**

**Friday, May 8, 2020 - Noon – 1 p.m.**

**Presented by: Dennis Doyle**

Illinois contributed three regiments to the combat operations during the Summer, 1863 Gettysburg Campaign: The 8th and 12th Illinois Cavalry Regiments, and the 82nd Illinois Infantry Regiment. This program will show how the three Illinois Regiments provided many over-looked but essential military roles during the Gettysburg Campaign. From the firing of the first shot of the battle, to establishing the first hospital at the Gettysburg Train Depot, to one of the first occurrences of house-to-house combat during the Civil War, Illinois soldiers played a critical role in the battle.

**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.



April 1862

*Mrs. Stephen Durkee sends for publication the following extract from a private letter from her husband who is a correspondent of the Record. – Ed.*

**FROM THE SEVENTH WIS REGIMENT  
CAMP NEAR CEDAR RUN, VA.,**

April 6, 1862

Again our “On to Richmond” march began April 4th at three o’clock PM; we marched about six miles and camped for the night. The next morning we started at five o’clock and marched to the old battle ground of July 18th, 1861, and this morning (Sunday) took up our line of march for Cedar Run five miles from Manassas.

As near as I can learn, the rebels are falling back as fast as our troops approach and I see in this morning’s *Chronicle* by a dispatch from General Wool to the Secretary of War, that the General thinks the Army of the Potomac will meet with but little resistance in their advance.

I counted twenty-two horses in one place killed to prevent their falling into our hands and all along the road we found horses that to appearance had mired and the rebels in their hurry could not wait to get them out and killed them.

Everything in this country looks desolate. Now and then a house is found inhabited and they seem to be glad that rebellion is going down.

The railroad is completed to Bristol four miles from Manassas Junction and is being re-built as fast as our troops advance in order to supply our advancing army, for the rebels destroy as they retreat.

General Cutler, Colonel of the 6th Wisconsin Regiment, is promoted to Brigadier General commanding General King’s old Brigade; General King to Division General commanding General McDowell’s old division; we are still in Cutler’s Brigade, now King’s division. The troops have great confidence in their officers and are anxious to have the ball roll on and not stop until a death blow is given to treason.

Yours, Stephen Durkee

P.S. April 10th – Two men belonging to a New York Regiment were found yesterday about three miles from our camp in a barn with their throats cut and four Brooklyn Zouaves were found near our camp tied together with cords and drowned in Broad Run. Nothing is too revolting to the rebels to do and I hope speedy retribution will be meted out to them.

S.D.

**FROM THE 7TH REGIMENT CAMP NEAR  
BRISTOL, VA.**

April 11th, 1862

**FRIEND PLEASE:** I thought it right that having a spare moment, I would, through the medium of your paper, give information of the whereabouts and doings of our company. Thus far nothing has occurred of interest on our march here except the unusual sight, to us, of rebel fortifications at Centerville, Manassas and vicinity and the destruction of railroad bridges, tearing up of Railroad tracks, burning of wagons, stores and destruction of dwellings by the Rebs.

We are at present encamped on the line of the Orange and Alexandria R.R. about six miles northeast of Warrenton Junction in Prince William’s County and expect to resume our march towards Richmond as soon as it has been evacuated by the rebels; or, if that event is long delayed, to march back to Arlington, one of which events we are all most sure will occur one of these days.

For the past three days we have been favored by a specimen of the spring weather they have in this portion of the Sunny south in the way of a continued storm of snow, sleet, rain, mud and freezing. I have had some little experience in camping out on the Western plains and mountains – have slept amid snow, rain and storms on the Rocky Mountains – but can safely swear that there was never at any place or time on this continent as mean, disagreeable and uncomfortable a storm as the one experienced by us on the 8th and 9th of this month in this God forsaken portion of his footstool.

This morning is bright and clear yet it is frozen quite hard. And now, whilst I write, the boys are falling in for “roll call,” for we have one every two hours between “reveille” and “tattoo” by order of Col. Cutler, commanding our brigade. This is done to keep men from wandering from camp to the great damage of the citizens and destruction of chickens, sheep, hogs, and all things edible within a circuit of ten miles of our camp; yet still I have had several good meals of chicken, hams, mutton with honey &c. for which I am indebted to the boys of the company who assure me they purchased them.

I enclose you a specimen of the small change they use in Rebeldom which is in fact the only kind of change they have. Our boys have been doing a very profitable business with the inhabitants hereabouts by passing a photographic representation of confederate script for anything they can buy and getting in change such trash as the accompanying “shinplaster” represents.

**Thank you, Jim Johnson, for these great  
pieces for our *From the Field* features!**

## From the Field - continued

On all sides of me I hear the boys discussing the result of the fight near Pittsburg (Tenn) and swearing horribly because they have thus far had nothing to do but be reviewed, camp in mud and march out a few miles towards the enemy and then march back again – each one fearing that the war will end and they have no fight. It is too bad that men who have been in training so long and who, without doubt, are as fine a body of troops as are in the Grand Army should be kept so idle. But I hope we'll yet have a chance to show of what material we are made and whether there is any fight in us.

Our health is unusually good at this time. Our Company (E) has been unfortunate in times past having lost six of its members in quick succession by disease whilst encamped at Arlington” viz:

Alanson Marshall	Jan, 20th, 1862
Chas. A. Smith	Feb. 14th
G. W. Root	Feb. 23rd
Chas. R. Sawlinson	Mar, 3rd
Edward I. Spooner	Mar. 4th
William Bradshaw	Mar. 22d

To whose friends I would thus say: - You must take the same steps to secure their pay, bounty, &c. as to obtain a Land Warrant.

I am in hopes that death by disease, at least, has left us, and that if any more of us are to sleep our last sleep in a strange land it will be upon the battlefields that death will reach us. Hoping that I may have a chance, one of these days to give you a description of a fight in which the “Sharp-Shooters” have had a hand I quit until then.

Yours, C

## NEW IN BOOKS

*The Personal Memoirs of Julia Dent Grant*

Edited by John Y. Simon with new material by Pam Sanfilippo, John Marszalek and Frank Williams with additional photographs.

In honor of her birthday in January of this year, Southern Illinois University Press has released a 45th anniversary edition of the memoirs. The book is available at major retail, independent and online bookstores.

The book can also be ordered at: [www.siuupress.com](http://www.siuupress.com)

Or via phone at: 1-800-621-2736

Or via email at: [custserv@press.uchicago.edu](mailto:custserv@press.uchicago.edu)

*The Women of City Point, Virginia, 1864-1865*

Jeanne Christie

Society for Women in the Civil War member and one of the founders of the Conference on Women and the Civil War

While the title suggests that City Point is the focal point of the book, the stories spread to Richmond and the surrounding communities. City Point on the James River was a military hospital and encampment, where women played a variety of roles and come from a variety of backgrounds: nurses; Sanitary Commission and Christian Commission agents; civilians residing in the Safeguard area; African-American contrabands; and the wives of officers. Based on contextual research, *The Women of City Point, Virginia, 1864-1865*, extends beyond the Civil War and concludes with an analysis of the women's post-war lives.

The book is available from McFarland Press (ISBN # 978-1476678771).

## BEYOND THE BATTLEFIELD: THE CIVIL WAR SOCIAL HISTORY FORUM

**Saturday, April 25, 2020 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

**Registration: 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.**

**Programs Begin at 9:30 a.m.**

**Catered Lunch included Friends of the Museum \$40/Non-Members \$50**

Formerly known as the Home Front Seminar – the program highlights topics and talks pertaining to the social history aspects of the Civil War period.

### Featured Speakers:

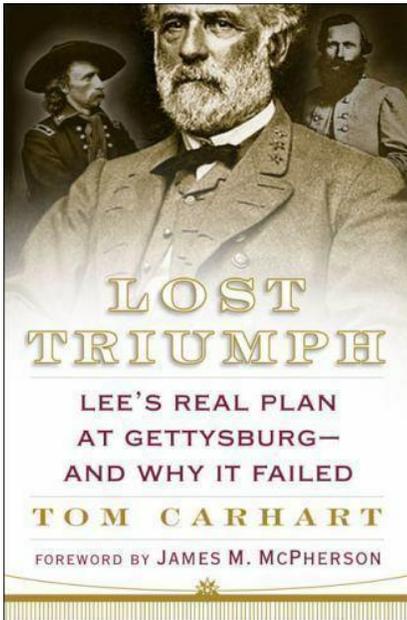
- Ed Pierce – From Band Stand to Battlefield and Back: The Epic Journey of the American Band
- Jo Ann Daly Carr – Such Anxious Hours: Wisconsin Women's Voices from the Civil War
- Gerald McWorter & Kate Williams-McWorter – New Philadelphia
- Claire Herhold – Growing Up Abolitionist: How the Children of Boston's Most Prominent Abolitionists Grew Up to Change the World



## Between the Covers

### LOST TRIUMPH: LEE'S REAL PLAN AT GETTYSBURG AND WHY IT FAILED

by Tom Carhart



War, like life, can be well planned and yet an unexpected interference can upset and defeat those plans. And so, at Gettysburg, we will see how another well planned and brilliant action by Robert E. Lee was upset by the timely and unexpected interference by a Union cavalry led by then unknown George Custer. Custer's troops prevented a back door unexpected attack on the Union forces.

Many observers (then and now) of the fighting at Gettysburg often wondered why Lee used only 1/5 of his troops on the third day of the battle. Why did he send Pickett's men across a mile of open field against a well-entrenched prepared opponent? Many have presumed that Lee made his biggest tactical mistake of the war with this poorly planned attack.

R. E. Lee in many ways is a man of mystery as he left no written explanation of his strategy in his official reports during his Civil War campaigns. After the war was over he also made no public comment on the various incidents of the war.

Author Tom Carhart, a lawyer, West Point graduate and historian for the Department of the Army has written four other books on military history. In *Lost Triumph* he goes into assumptions of intent by General Lee. After reading the

book, I found several reviews both positive and negative of Carhart's ideas. One reviewer said it was: "revisionism of the worst sort – it's grossly irresponsible and there is not a shred of evidence to support Carhart's contentions." Yet others, including highly respected James M. McPherson, support and endorse the theories of the author.

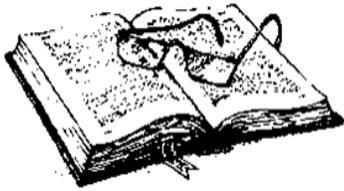
The basic premise of this moderately sized volume is that Pickett's Charge was only one part of a planned three-way attack. This plan of attack by Lee's army, if successful, would have overrun the Union position on Cemetery Ridge, Cemetery Hill and Culp's Hill.

The author takes time to explain similar strategy and results of the following historical battles that are parallel to Lee's past victories and his plans for the third day of Gettysburg. Hannibal's victory at Cannae in 216 BC came from the key blow dealt by his cavalry. In 1557, at Leuthen, Frederic the Great used his cavalry to defeat a larger Austrian force. And in 1608, like in the previous battles, Napoleon also used a favorable ground situation and his cavalry to defeat a larger force at Austerlitz.

From studying Lee, in his actions against previous Union Generals, we know that he never left any of his forces inactive during his victories. It would be insulting to Lee's reputation to think that he would not have had a better plan. It is a mystery as to why he used only part of his forces on an entrenched foe on the third day at Gettysburg. The author's answer is that Lee planned to have Stuart's cavalry attack from the east at the same time as Pickett's charge from the west on the "fishhook" defenses of the Union army. If successful, these simultaneous attacks would have caused the destruction of this Union Army and might have led to the survival of the South as an independent nation.

As I am an amateur historian, I think Tom Carhart has a reasonable explanation for what was planned at Gettysburg and why it didn't occur. It also sheds light on the admirable leadership of George Custer and his impact at Gettysburg which prevented a Union loss.

submitted by John Helmenstine



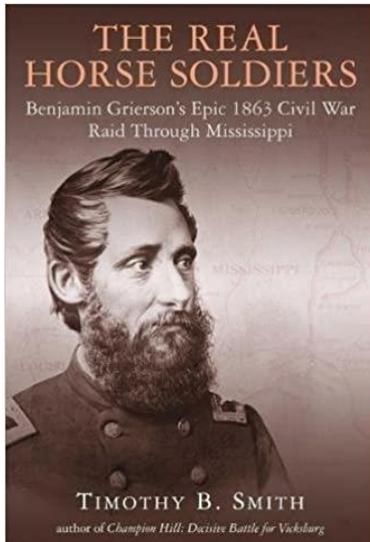
# Between the Covers

## THE REAL HORSE SOLDIERS

### BENJAMIN GRIERSON'S EPIC 1863

### CIVIL WAR RAID THROUGH MISSISSIPPI

by Timothy B. Smith



My review is on a book that was also selected by the Kenosha Civil War Museum's Media Club as their March 2020 read. Previously, I had read another book about this famous raid by noted author Mr. D. Alexander Brown. His book, originally published in 1954, seemed to have its focus on the raid details itself. In his forward Mr. Smith takes some umbrage with Mr. Brown's version as to "stretching" the facts and perhaps inventing conversations without saying so. In contrast, I found Mr. Smith's work to include more information about the strategy and planning involved with Grierson's raid into Mississippi and the number of other commands that worked to set up the confusion created. This confusion enabled Grierson's command to move through Mississippi, cut key transportation routes for Pemberton's Confederate forces at Vicksburg and enabled Grant to cross the Mississippi River to begin his campaign against Vicksburg.

In the larger picture, General Ulysses Grant chose an unorthodox – and dangerous – strategy to invest Vicksburg. He would send his Union forces down the Mississippi below Vicksburg. Then he would have his troops cross the river from the west to the eastern side to get on dry land south of Vicksburg. Again, a fraught

option. To try to deceive the Confederates and confuse them as to Grant's actual moves, several raids and other actions were taken. One of these was for Colonel Grierson to take a brigade (3 regiments) of cavalry, 2nd Iowa, 6th and 7th Illinois and Battery K of 1st Illinois artillery, on a long raid through Mississippi. In this work Mr. Smith marries both the strategy and the tactical moves that led to success for both Union commanders, Grant and Grierson.

This volume uses archived resources and provides the reader with a rich telling of this tale. A real threat to the raid was that the further south it went, the more Confederates were determined to catch up with them. Some very helpful maps illustrate the various efforts by Confederate forces to thwart the raid – as well as Grierson's efforts to avoid running into enemy forces. Mr. Smith also emphasizes the complexities of carrying out such a raid and the tireless efforts by the Union officers and soldiers to successfully achieve the objectives. Not lost on the author is that the Union troops took great care to minimize damage to civilian's property and health. It is noted, almost as an afterthought, how few casualties the Union troops suffered on their 16-day sortie through central Mississippi. Additionally, he provides amusing anecdotes of Confederates confusing the Union soldier for "their boys" even though all but "scouts" were wearing Union blue. Mr. Smith, in his writing, shows how some Southern newspaper accounts depict the raiders as being destroyers of civilian property and doing much harm to civilians. As mentioned, this was not even true and the locals Grierson's forces met were very complimentary over the troops' actions toward them. The exception of course was the fact fresh horses and mules were often exchanged or taken to replace worn out mounts. Food and fodder was also confiscated for Union use as the raiders were living off the land when their rations ran out.

Mr. Smith did repeat, on occasion, the overall strategy of the raid but I do not think it detracted from the quality of the work and served to keep the reader aware of the mission and how Grierson had to keep that in mind while adjusting his actions to keep the Confederate forces focused on him but not enough to give away his route.

I highly recommend this book for any student of the Civil War. It provides an excellent picture of what a raid can do and provides some great information on one of the most successful raids in Civil War history. Having read both Brown's and Smith's works on the raid, I think Mr. Smith's to be the better of the two. Not having access to sources cited, I can't say I could point to any areas where Mr. Brown stretched the facts, but I believe Mr. Smith's work puts the raid and its purpose in clear perspective as to its design and effect on Confederate planning in the theater of operations. Mr. Smith clearly shows how it fit into Grant's overall strategy for taking Vicksburg and led to his success in that campaign.

reviewed by Bruce Klem

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

- September 12, 2019 **Janet Croon**  
*The War Outside My Window:  
The Civil War Diary of LeRoy Wiley Gresham*
- October 10, 2019 **Jim Lighthizer**  
*Battlefield Preservation*
- November 7, 2019 **Ethan Rafuse**  
*The Valley Campaign*
- December 12, 2019 **Dan Weinburg**  
**Country Club of the Wisconsin Club**  
*Abraham Lincoln Book Shop Artifacts*
- January 9, 2020 **Pamela Toler**  
*Heroines of Mercy Street: Nurses in the Civil War*
- February 13, 2020 **Connie Langum**  
*Wilson Creek Battlefield*
- March 12, 2020 **David Sutherland**  
*VMI Civil War Legacy*
- April 16, 2020 **Michael Schaffer**  
*Memory of Self and Comrades: Thomas W. Colley*
- May 7, 2020 **A. Wilson Greene**  
*Petersburg Campaign*
- June 11, 2020 **Brian Steele Wills**  
*George Henry Thomas*



**Speakers/topics remain subject to change.**

**Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.  
2019 – 2020 Board of Directors**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Office/Position</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
Donna Agnelly	Editor, General Orders	2022
Thomas Arliskas	Second Vice-President	2022
Terry Arliskas	Secretary	
Michael K. Benton	Past President	2020
Roman Blenski	Quartermaster	2022
Crain Bliwas	Member	2022
Paul A. Eilbes	Treasurer	2022
A. William Finke	Member	2020
Van Harl	Past President	2020
James J. Heinz	Member	2020
Grant Johnson	Membership, Past President Webmaster	2021
Bruce Klem	President	2021
Daniel Nettesheim	First Vice President	2021
Frank Rislér	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](mailto: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 16, 2020**

Mail your reservations by Monday, April 13 to:

Paul Eilbes  
1809 Washington Avenue  
Cedarburg, WI 53015-9172

Call or email reservations to:

(262) 376-0568  
peilbes@gmail.com

**Meeting Cancelled**

Enclosed is \$\_\_\_\_\_ (meal is \$30.00 per person) for \_\_\_\_\_ people for the

April 16, 2020 meeting of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee.

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

## THE SHAM BATTLE

A valued correspondent whose choice contribution should have appeared before, dilates upon the coming "Sham Battle," in the manner following: If we must have a "Sham Battle" during Reunion week, why, let us have one with all the concomitants. Let the breathless spectators, who want to see how a real battle looks, be treated to the genuine article, with nothing omitted which goes to make up "the pride, pomp and circumstances of glorious war."

In this view it will be eminently proper to have firing commence on the picket line at early dawn, when the men will fall in and shiver in line for two hours, while the general officers sit under tent flies and drink hot coffee.

A regiment of cavalry will be deployed through all the mud puddles in the vicinity...after which details will be made to fill the canteens of the men from these puddles. General officers will direct these movements and be refreshed with copious draughts of whiskey, meanwhile.

After the men have stood in line until they are thoroughly starved and made enough to fight each other, the fight will be postponed for two days.

When the opposing forces are finally mustered for the fray and appearances indicate that there will be a battle, several hundred wagons will be formed in the rear of each army. Then the most severe sufferings of a soldier's life will begin. In each company will be seen the dreadful work of disease. Strong men will suddenly be attacked with gripes. A shell from the enemy will burst within a mile and a half of the sufferers, who will be seized with the idea that they can get relief only under a wagon. The slam bang of the whole battery will develop the fever and ague, measles, cerebro spinal-come-and-get-us, and milk leg in a number of victims in each command they will with one accord apply the wagon antidote. After the space under each wagon is filled with sick soldiers, the well ones will move under such inspiring orders as "Hell and damnation, men, why don't you dress up on the right."

A soldier will fall while eagerly pressing something to his lips; and the essential females will at once conclude that it is a girl's picture or a lock of her hair. Close inspection will demonstrate, however, that it is a chunk of musty bacon.

The surgeons will appear, and establish field hospitals. The old surgeons will quarrel over the question as to whether the "circular" or the "flap" operation is preferable in amputations, and the young saw bones will refuse to operate upon anyone but real strong men, who seem to be able to sustain the amputation of a leg above the knee, in cases where a toe has been dislocated.

The wounded will be tenderly served on the ground with muddy water and hard tack, while the sanitary commission fellows will rest on spring mattresses a mile or two in the rear, and eke out a miserable existence on choice wines and home made jelly.

After the battle is over the dead will be robbed by such of the sick men under the wagons as have recovered sufficiently to crawl out. Most of them will feel well enough to rob at least one corpse.

Each army will withdraw out of sight of the other, and claim a glorious victory. The next day, one of the fellows who crawled under a wagon, but who has a relative at home in high political favor, will receive a commission from the governor as captain for "bravery in action."

*The Milwaukee Sunday Telegraph May 9, 1880*  
submitted by **Lance Herdegen**

## Them Damned Black Hatted Fellows!

*"Loud cheers were frequently given when some particular regiment or brigade passed by. Especially when...the 1st Corps came along with the 'full moon' on its banners, and as the great Western or Iron Brigade passed, looking like giants in those tall black hats...And giants they were, in action...I look back and see that famed body of troops marching up that long muddy hill unmindful of the pouring rain, but full of life and spirit, with steady step, filling the entire roadway, their big black hats and feathers conspicuous..."*

Captain Charles Stevens, Berdan's Sharpshooters, May 1863

## Overlooked & Often Not Visited: Ridges, Farms & Other Battle Sites Association of Licensed Battlefield Guides

2020 Spring Seminar

May 1 – 2, 2020 - Gettysburg, PA

\$125 per person Cost includes: 5 programs, Friday evening snacks, light breakfast and lunch, and transportation. Special room rates for May 1 & 2 are available at the Hilton Garden Inn 717-334-2040

May 1 – Heritage Center - 297 Steinwehr Avenue Gettysburg

LBG Tony Nicastro: “The Historic Use of and Evolution of Terrain Appreciation in Military Doctrine”

May 2 – Hilton Garden Inn - 1061 York Rd Gettysburg

Speakers:

LBG Jim Hessler: “I’ll Lead You This Time Boys! The Battle of Hunterstown”

Honorary LBG Dean Shultz: “East of Rock Creek”

LBG Chris Army: “West of Willoughby Run & the Fight for the Harmon Farm”

LGB Jim Heuting: “The Action at the Bliss Farm: Or Making a Molehill Out of a Mountain”

Register online at: <https://gettysburgtourguides.org/>

## COMING IN SEPTEMBER!

### THE GREAT LAKES CIVIL WAR FORUM: COMMAND DECISIONS

Saturday, September 12, 2020 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Registration: 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Program Begins at 9:30 a.m.

Catered Lunch Included Friends of the Museum \$55/ Non-Members \$65

The theme of the 2020 Great Lakes Civil War Forum is Command Decisions. This year, four renowned Civil War historians will consider the decisions made by Union and Confederate military leaders at several of the most important campaigns of the Civil War – Antietam, Gettysburg, Chickamauga and Petersburg.

Featured Speakers:

- Dennis Frye – Antietam Shadows – Did McClellan out-think Lee?
- Wayne Motts – “Sir I Have No Division:” Command Decisions and Pickett’s Charge at Gettysburg
- Dave Powell – Negley at Horseshoe Ridge
- Will Greene – Grant, Lee, Butler and Beauregard at Petersburg: June 12 – 18, 1864

*General Orders*, the official publication of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc. is produced September through June and upon request of the Board of Directors.

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

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

Copyright © 2015 by the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc. Permission is granted for use of the contents, in whole or in part, in non-for-profit Civil War Round Table newsletters only. All other rights are reserved.

*General Orders* design & layout by Dave Wege.

Yearly memberships available: Individual (\$40), family (\$50), non-resident (\$25), attending an educational institution (\$20).

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

The Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc., admits members of any race, color, national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges and activities of the Round Table.

## Wanderings



In May of 2016 I was able to check off a box on my “Bucket List” when I walked the Gettysburg battlefield. This was accomplished when I participated in the Annual Heritage Trail Hike offered by the Friends of Gettysburg of the Gettysburg Foundation. The 15-mile hike follows the Billy Yank and the Johnny Reb trails and is led by Licensed Battlefield Guide Larry Korczyk.

My journey started with a two-day drive from Wisconsin to Gettysburg. I have a family in the Toledo, Ohio area which made for a nice stopping point. By the way, if you find yourself going through the Toledo area on the Ohio Turnpike, take time to stop by the reconstructed Fort Meigs. Fort Meigs, the largest stockade fort east of the Mississippi, was the site of a British siege and a two-day battle during the War of 1812.

Arriving at Gettysburg on a Thursday afternoon, I checked into the Tillie Pierce House Inn, a Bed and Breakfast on Baltimore Street about half way between the town center and East Cemetery Hill. Built in 1829, it was witness to the battle. The house is old and basic but each guest room does have its own bathroom. The small room that I stayed in was on the second floor at the front of the house and faced Baltimore Street; this room location had a lot of street and traffic noise. Each morning a continental breakfast was provided in the downstairs parlor. The advantage of this B & B is the location. It was an easy walk to the town center, restaurants and shops. Parking is in a small private lot behind the house.

My first full day included a walk through the town and visits to several shops and museums. I had been to Gettysburg several times before, but had not had a chance to explore this area. I also walked out to East Cemetery Hill and then drove to the Battlefield Visitor Center and Museum. While there, I checked in for the hike and got the details on when and where to meet the next morning.

I arrived at the Visitor Center at about 8:30 Saturday morning where I met our guide Larry and the other fellow hikers; there were about 16 of us. We started our hike at 9:00 with a walk from the Visitor Center to Meade’s headquarters then on to The Angle. Larry carried with him a thick binder filled with photos of the battlefield as it appeared over the years. He would occasionally stop to show us what the area we were in looked like in the past. At The Angle we gathered around one of Cushing’s guns while Larry explained the process of loading and firing a cannon. We then proceeded south on Hancock Avenue to United States Avenue where we turned west. As we walked, we made frequent stops where Larry explained the actions of the second day of the battle. We ended our westward trek at the Peach Orchard where we bought sack lunches. After a refreshing rest, we proceeded eastward along Wheatfield Road to The Wheatfield. We were not able to go into The Wheatfield due to recent heavy rains. From there our hike took us to Devil’s Den then up Little Round Top. The climb up Little Round Top along the park’s paved road was probably the most tasking part of the hike. Upon coming down from the summit of Little Round Top, we came upon South Confederate Avenue and took that south then west to Emmitsburg Road. After another refreshing pause, we crossed Emmitsburg Road then north on West Confederate Avenue along Warfield Ridge. Just south of the Virginia Monument, we diverted to a hiking trail which led to the Henry Spangler Farm where Pickett’s Division staged and waited out the bombardment prior to their charge. We then back-tracked to West Confederate Avenue and continued north to the Virginia Monument. From this monument we followed the path of Pickett’s Charge back to The Angle then on to the Visitor Center arriving there about 4:30.

When I got back to my B & B I was still charged with energy, so I decided on a walk out to the Lutheran Theological Seminary on Seminary Ridge. This gave me a new appreciation for the distance covered during the Union retreat on the first day of battle. On the way back I stopped at the Garry Owen Irish Pub for a refreshing beer and a good supper. I slept well that night.

Our hike on Sunday started at 9:00 from the Visitor Center. We again walked the path to Meade’s headquarters then turned north and followed the Tanneytown Road to the Soldiers’ National Cemetery and the site of Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address. We crossed Baltimore Pike to East Cemetery Hill and followed Slocum Avenue to Culp’s Hill and Spangler’s Spring. A short hike back to the Visitor Center concluded the tour at about 12:30. Since the hike did not include the first day’s fighting portion of the battlefield, I decided to take a walk on that ground in the afternoon. Parking on Reynold’s Avenue I walked along Meredith Avenue on the ground that the Iron Brigade defended. In these woods I discovered a narrow, unmarked path that took me down to and along Willoughby Run. Walking to Chambersburg Pike I followed the charge of the Sixth Wisconsin in their attack on the Railroad Cut. Back to the car I then drove out to Oak Hill then over to Barlow Knoll. This concluded my up-close tour of the Gettysburg Battlefield and a whole new appreciation of that battle. I am estimating that in those two days I walked over 20 miles. The following day started my two-day drive back to Wisconsin.

I highly recommend this hike for a whole new perspective on this battle. You see far more on foot than through a car window. This year’s (2020) hike is May 9th and 10th. The cost is \$110 for non-members of the Gettysburg Foundation. More information can be found at [www.gettysburgfoundation.org](http://www.gettysburgfoundation.org). I have also heard that an optional walking tour of the first day portion of the battlefield will be offered for May 8th.

submitted by **Richard Gross**



*Through the Looking Glass* features are intended to tell the stories of common folks of the Civil War, whether they are civilians or military personnel. If you have access to the story of an ordinary citizen of this war-torn era and are willing to share it with our Round Table, please consider submitting it to Donna Agnelly, editor of our General Orders. Thank you!

## John Fulton Reynold's Kate



On July 1, 1863, Major General John Fulton Reynolds, commander of I Corps, Army of the Potomac, became a fatality at Gettysburg; he was 42 years old. As his aides loosened his collar, they discovered a Catholic medal and a gold ring hanging around his neck; Reynolds was Protestant. The ring, in the form of clasped hands, was inscribed with the words "Dear Kate."

Reynolds body was carried to the rear with instructions to send it to his home in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. On July 3, 1863, with his sisters in attendance, a woman arrived at the house on Spruce Street. Catherine "Kate" Mary Hewitt had Reynolds West Point ring and told his sisters that the two had met on a boat from California to New York and that they were engaged.

John Reynolds did not tell his Protestant family about his engagement to Kate. The couple had agreed that if he was killed and they could not marry, that Kate would join a convent.

Upon seeing Reynolds body, Kate lost her composure and explained her hesitation on coming to the Spruce Street house because she knew none of the family members. Kate would leave and return to the house in the evening to sit by Reynolds body in an all-night vigil. Kate returned Reynolds West Point ring to the family but kept the Catholic medal that he had been wearing.

Reynold's sister, Jennie, would write to her brother Will, a captain in the United States Navy:

*She seems to be a very superior person. We all regret that he had not told some of us about her, and that we had not known her, yet are happy she came and had all the comfort we could offer her.*

Eight days after Reynolds was buried in Lancaster, Kate applied for admission to the Sisters of Charity Convent in Emmitsburg, Maryland. The convent was located only 10 miles from the Gettysburg battlefield where Reynolds had been killed. The sisters had maintained both a convent and school at the location since their founding in 1809 by Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton. Reynolds and his First Corps had passed the convent grounds only hours before his death.

Kate became Sister Hildegardis and moved to Albany, New York, to teach in a large school that the Sisters of Charity had recently opened. Reynolds sisters tried to visit Kate each year. In August 1868, five years after Kate entered the convent, Reynolds sister, Eleanor wrote:

*Miss Hewitt is still in Albany – I hope we shall visit her in October. She is not strong and has a cough that is almost constant. She says she is happier as a "sister" than she would be "in the world."*

The October 1868 visit never happened. On September 3, 1868, Kate left the convent and the Sisters of Charity. She had taken no vows and was free to leave. Kate gave up her Catholic faith, returned to her hometown of Stillwater, New York, and never married.

Kate died of pneumonia in Stillwater in 1895. She is buried in the Stillwater Union Cemetery located not far from the Saratoga Battlefield.

submitted by Donna Agnelly

The Milwaukee Civil War Round Table has been called "the best-kept secret in southern Wisconsin." Please consider bringing a guest to our monthly meetings or share ideas to help us grow!

# Travel Opportunities

Going stir crazy with “lockdowns” and quarantines? Planning ahead for 2020 when many restrictions will (hopefully) be lifted? Below please find some grist for your planning mill!

## The Civil War Museum 2020 Corinth/Shiloh



**TOUR DATES** Sunday, October 18 – Wednesday, October 21, 2020

**COST OF THE TOUR** Museum Members: \$735 per person double occupancy  
Museum Members: \$960 per person single occupancy Non-Members: \$785 per person double occupancy Non-Members: \$1,010 per person single occupancy

**TOUR COST INCLUDES** Hotel stay for Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday nights; all breakfasts, lunches and dinners; all motor coach services, tour guides, admissions, evening programs. A cash-bar is available Monday and Tuesday dinners.

**TOUR BASE HOTEL** Pickwick Landing State Park 116 State Park Rd, Counce, TN 38326

**TRANSPORTATION** Attendees are responsible for their own transportation from their homes to the base hotel. Flights can be arranged through Memphis International Airport.

**MAKING RESERVATIONS** Reservations for the trip can be made by mail, in person, or by phone at 262-653-4140 with a credit card.

## Civil War Time Travelers 2020 Fort Donelson/Shiloh/Corinth/Vicksburg



**TOUR DATES** Sunday, October 24 – Friday, October 30, 2020

**COST OF THE TOUR** \$825.00 per person double occupancy.

**TOUR COST INCLUDES** All hotels, luxury coach transportation from Wisconsin with pick-ups in Campbellsport, Menomonee Falls, and Milwaukee. Historians, several meals, and entrance fees are included.

**MAKING RESERVATIONS** Check the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table registration table or email [wegs1862@gmail.com](mailto:wegs1862@gmail.com).

*Traveling where heroes trod!*

*“You have to do your own growing no matter how tall your grandfather was.”*

Abraham Lincoln



**MILWAUKEE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE  
QUARTERMASTER'S REGALIA**

What better way to show off your pride in our organization! All items are made of first-rate, quality materials, modestly embroidered with the Round Table/Iron Brigade log, along with your name or initials.

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>COST</b>
Hooded Sweatshirt in Northern Blue.....	\$35.00
Baseball Hat.....	\$10.00
Blue Brief Case.....	\$25.00
Blue Light-Weight Sweatshirt.....	\$30.00
Blue Izod Polo Shirt.....	\$40.00
Blue Dress Shirt.....	\$40.00
Blue Fleece-Lined Jacket.....	\$60.00
Iron Brigade Pin.....	\$5.00
CWRT Pin.....	\$5.00
Bugle Pin.....	\$5.00
Iron Brigade Medal.....	\$25.00
Red River Medal.....	\$25.00
CWRT 60 Year Medal.....	\$10.00

**Contact Roman Blenski, Quartermaster**  
4601 W. Holt Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53219  
(414) 327-2847, [dbcpmilw@execpc.com](mailto:dbcpmilw@execpc.com)

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

