

GENERAL ORDERS



The Newsletter of the

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



December 10, 2020

Steven K. Rogstad

Stories from Among the Badgers

Let him have the marble monument, along with the well-assured and more enduring one in the hearts of those who love liberty, unselfishly, for all me.

Abraham Lincoln, in response to a monument being erected to the Honorable Owen Lovejoy
May 30, 1864

Our December speaker, Steven K. Rogstad, has written a new book entitled, *Lincoln Among the Badgers: Rediscovering Sites Associated with Abraham and Mary Lincoln in Wisconsin*, which discusses in detail the five visits made to Wisconsin by Abraham and Mary Lincoln, plus identifies all the markers and monuments to the Lincolns within the state. It is the first of its kind in all of Lincoln literature. Steven, in his presentation, will recount a few stories from the book, as well as discuss other Wisconsin-related connections to the Lincolns that *did not* make the book, and explain why.

This study represents the first scholarly treatment of the visits Abraham and Mary Lincoln made to the Badger State. Although they collectively visited Wisconsin five times, they traveled into the state at different times and never together. Abraham Lincoln entered the state's borders for the first time in 1832 during his military service in the Black Hawk War, returning in 1859 to make speeches in Milwaukee, Beloit, and Janesville. Mary toured northern Wisconsin and Racine in 1867, returning five years later to visit Waukesha.

Aside from the visits, Wisconsin has a myriad of unique and unusual monuments, memorials, and markers which honor the Lincolns. Most of them are concentrated in southern Wisconsin, although some unusual tributes can be found in the North Woods region. Also included are stories of five Wisconsinites who knew the Lincolns or were connected in some way with the president's assassination or elaborate funeral pageant.

Wisconsin then and now may lay claim to more Lincoln sites, artworks, associates, scholars and fans than any state where the Emancipator did not live. Rogstad leaves no hole unfilled in this brick of a tasty, nourishing, and sustaining book, particularly with new information about Mary Lincoln, who did briefly live there. The illustrations alone are worth the price; the text is even better. James Cornelius, Editor of the *Journal of the Abraham Lincoln Association*

Steven K. Rogstad is a Racine, Wisconsin, native who is known nationally for his scholarship in Lincoln studies. He has served as Secretary and Editor for the Lincoln Fellowship of Wisconsin, and Review Editor for the *Lincoln Herald* (Lincoln Memorial University, Harrogate, TN). In 2008, he was appointed Secretary of the Wisconsin Lincoln Bicentennial Commission by Governor Jim Doyle, and served on the commission's Markers and Memorials Committee. He has edited and introduced several volumes, authored numerous articles and reviews, coordinated restoration projects for Lincoln statuary in Wisconsin, and delivered dedicatory addresses for Lincoln monuments in Racine and Burlington. He is the former board chair for Racine Heritage Museum, and past board president of Preservation Racine.

Steven will be bringing copies of his books with him to sell. Cost is \$30 – cash or check accepted.

General Orders No. 12-20

December 2020

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December Meeting at a Glance Country Club of The Wisconsin Club 6200 Good Hope Road

[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, December 7, 2020

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.

2020-2021 Speaker Schedule

Find the speaker schedule on page 6.

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!

STARTING TIME FOR DINNER

Please be aware that our dinner will be served at **6:45 p.m. sharp** in order to have our members heading home at a reasonable hour. We understand that any number of events could cause a late arrival. Should that happen, please check in at the Registration Table or locate Paul Eilbes or Donna Agnelly; every effort will be made to get you promptly seated. Thank you for your understanding.

MASKS REQUIRED!

A mask is required when you come to the meeting per both the City of Milwaukee mask ordinance and state mandate. The ordinance allows you to remove the mask while seated at the table. If you are not drinking in the bar area you should have your mask on while conversing.

Please respect our speaker and fellow members by silencing your cells phones during the speaker's presentation.



Confederate Snowball Fight – Dalton, GA March 1864

The Muster Roll: NEW MEMBERS

MEMBER'S NAME	RESIDENCE	PLANS OF SERVICE	MEMBER SINCE
Paul Conradson			
Laurence Desotell			
Chris McLean			

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 October 2020.

Major Contributor (\$500 and above)

Patron (\$200 - \$499)

Gerald Frangesch, Van & Dawn Harl, Eugene & Jane Jamrozy, Stephen Leopold

Associate (\$100 - \$199)

Roger Bohn, Michael Deeken, Gary & Judy Ertel, A. William & Claudette Finke, Douglas Haag, Peter & Jean Jacobsohn, Bernard Jene, David Jordan, Bruce Klem, Kathy McNally, Jim & Ann Reeve, Laura Rinaldi, Dennis Slater, Bernard VanDinter

Contributor (up to \$99)

John Abbott, George Affeldt, Carl Backus, Dale Bepalec, Jim Blake, Angela Bodven, John & Linda Connelly, Gordon E. Dammann, Bill De Lind, Tom Doyle, Lori Duginski, Paul Eilbes, George Geanon, Julian Gonzalez, Brian Gunn, Leon & Margaret Harris, Jim Heinz, Christopher Johnson, Ardis & John Kelling, Jay Lauck, Steve Magnusen, Jim & Monica Millane, Bob & Mary Lou Parrish, Tom Pokrandt, John Rodahl, David & Helga Sartori, Sam Solberg, Dan Tanty, Justin Tolomeo, Paul Zehren

Speaker Enhancement Fund

John Abbott, George Affeldt, Donna Agnelly, Dale Bepalec, Jim Blake, Roman Blenski, Angela Bodven, Roger Bohn, Ellen DeMers, Tom Doyle, Lori Duginski, Paul Eilbes, Julian Gonzalez, Douglas Haag, Tom Hesse, Jim Heinz, Eugene & Jane Jamrozy, Bernard Jene, Allan Kasprzak, Jay Lauck, Stephen Leopold, Kathy McNally, Jim & Monica Millane, Paul & Susan Miller, Herb Oechler, David Perez, John & Susan Petty, Laura Rinaldi, Brad & Kathy Schotanus, Diana Smurawa, Dan Tanty

milwaukeeecwrt.org



In December 1951 Herbert A. Keller spoke to those assembled on “Rockingham County, Virginia in the Civil War.”

“Civil War Battlefields as They Are Now” was the topic presented by Donald Gerlinger in December 1961.

Earl R. Hoover was the speaker at the December 1971 meeting speaking on “Benjamin R. Hardy and Darling Nettie Gray.”

At the December 1981 meeting Patrick Pohn Hunter spoke to the Round Table members on “The Rambunctious Reporters of the Civil War.”

Lance Herdegen spoke to the membership in December 1991 on “A Wisconsin Brigade in the Washington Camps.”

“Infernal Machines: The Sinking of the U.S.S. Cairo” was the subject of Bill McGrath’s talk in December 2001.

December 2011 welcomed Dr. James I. Robertson, Jr. to our Round Table. Dr. Robertson spoke on “The Untold Civil War.”

At last year’s meeting Daniel Weinberg visited us and spoke on “Abraham Lincoln Book Shop Artifacts.”

At the Museum

For the safety of all visitors and staff, the following changes and policies are in place until further notice at the museum:

- Temporary Hours: 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Closed Saturday & Sunday
- A mask or other PPE is REQUIRED and must cover your mouth and nose
- Visitors are asked to sign in with your name and contact information
- Please practice social distancing at all time, staying 6 feet apart
- Visitors who feel ill or have a fever higher than 100.4 are asked to visit at a later date
- The museum is operating at 25% of building capacity, and there may be a wait to get in
- Some interactive exhibits and elements including the Resource Center are temporarily closed

If you wish to sign up for one of the workshops and are having trouble accessing the museum’s website, you can register with a credit card by calling the museum between 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday at 262-653-4140.

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.

WATCH ON FACEBOOK

- The Great Camel Experiment presented by: David Noe
- The Wounding of Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. presented by: Dr. Gordon Dammann
- Seceding the Secession presented by: Eric Wittenberg
- Recovering the Voices of the Union’s Midwest Irish presented by: Damian Shiels
- Gettysburg Stories: Monuments and Iconic Locations presented by: Steve Acker
- New Philadelphia presented by: Gerald McWorter and Kate Williams-McWorter
- Arming Ohio presented by: Phil Spaugy
- Medical Innovations of the Civil War presented by: Trevor Steinbach
- The Vicksburg Campaign: Grant’s Masterpiece presented by: Dan Nettesheim
- The 29th Wisconsin at Vicksburg presented by: Tom Arliskas

WATCH ON YOU TUBE

- The War That Made Beer Famous presented by: Lance Herdegen
- Illinois Regiments at Gettysburg: July 1863 presented by: Dennis Doyle
- I’ve Heard of Her: Belle Boyd presented by: Jenn Edginton & Samantha Machalik

Coming – New Virtual Class:

**From Enslavers to Civil Rights Advocate:
The Political Evolution of Ulysses S. Grant
Thursday, December 3, 2020 7 – 8:30 p.m.
\$15/\$10 Friends of the Museum
Instructor: Nick Sacco, NPS**

Ulysses S. Grant was a slave holding farmer who voted for Democrat James Buchanan for the presidency in 1856. Twelve years later Grant himself was elected to the presidency as a Republican committed to securing the right to vote for African Americans. Park Ranger Nick Sacco will examine Ulysses S. Grant’s political evolution, how the war shaped his views towards race and slavery, and why he came to believe the Republican Party was the only party that could successfully promote sectional reconciliation during the Reconstruction Era. Mr. Sacco will also provide additional resources for teachers who want to teach their students about Grant and the Civil War era. A Zoom link will be emailed the day of the program.

To register please visit the museum website, go to Events, locate the class and click: Register Here.



Thank you, Jim Johnson, as we continue this season of insightful and delightful memories in our *From the Field* features!

The Daily Gazette

City of Janesville Feb. 12, 1862

On Christmas Day a couple were married in the jail at Cleveland, Ohio, by a clergyman who is also under arrest there.

Wisconsin State Journal

Saturday Evening, Dec. 13, 1862

An Illustration

There is a great clamor over what are termed "arbitrary arrests" by the Government.

All those who are in favor of a peace upon conditions which will acknowledge rebellion and treason as legitimate and honorable, denounce the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus, and demand that the Government will cease to arrest and confine persons without giving them an immediate trial, and making public the grounds of their arrest.

Cases of this kind strengthen us in the conviction that during a civil war, when spies and traitors may be found in all parts of the country, when there are men scattered throughout the community who secretly, if not openly, sympathize with them, that it is necessary for the safety of the Government to adopt more rigorous, arbitrary, secret and prompt measures in arresting and condoning spies and other treasonable emissaries, than are adopted towards ordinary offenders in times of peace.

There will be some mistakes made. Cases of hardship and injustice will arise. There will be occasional abuses of power by those entrusted with the execution of these measures.

These are to be deplored. Where it can be established that such abuses have willfully occurred, those who have perpetrated them should be punished. We would palliate no intentional violation of the rights and liberties of innocent persons, we only ask that loyal and patriotic citizens shall support the Administration in the exercise of such powers as every Government must exercise from controlling motives of self-preservation, when it is assailed by traitors and threatened with destruction by a vast conspiracy.

Wisconsin State Journal

Saturday Evening, Dec. 13, 1862

Christmas Dinner for Sick and Wounded Soldiers.

Gov. Salomon has received the following note from Mrs. Caleb D. Smith. It is too late to do much in the way of contributing materials from this distance. Donations in money, however, might be sent by mail, which would be equally acceptable. Though addressed to the Governor, aid from any of our citizens will be equally acceptable:

Washington, D.C., Dec. 7, 1862

SIR:- I am desirous of providing a "Christmas Dinner," for the sick and wounded soldiers now in Washington and its vicinity- the number now exceeding twenty-five thousand, from all the loyal States. I take the liberty of soliciting a contribution from you in aid of this purpose.

A large sum will of course be required to prepare a proper festival to our brave and gallant soldiers, but I feel convinced that their friends at home will be glad to have an opportunity of showing their appreciation of their services.

Any donation you may be pleased to make will be thankfully received, if forwarded to my address. No. 288 H St. on or before the 15th inst.

Yours very respectfully,
Mrs. Caleb D. Smith

Wisconsin State Journal

Monday, Dec. 22, 1862

The Iron Brigade

The Iron Brigade (formerly King's afterwards Gibbon's) suffered but lightly in the battle of Fredericksburg, when it was commanded by Col. Cutler of the 7th Wisconsin. Its losses in the battle are reported as follows: Ten killed, thirty three wounded, seven missing.

Wisconsin State Journal

Tuesday, Dec. 23, 1862

Holiday Gifts. – Moseleys' store is crowded from morning till night these days with persons engaged in looking over the elegant gift books, photographic albums, &c, &c., with which their counters are loaded.

It is evident that the hard times will not interfere with the pleasant custom of holiday presents this year.

Wisconsin State Journal

Tuesday, Dec. 23, 1862

The Fight at Fredericksburg

We are indebted to Moseley & Bro., for a copy of the last "Frank Leslie", with views of the bombardment of Fredericksburg, and the crossing of the Rappahannock.

Appleton Crescent
Appleton, Wisconsin, Dec. 20, 1862
A Merry, Merry Christmas!

Will be repented and echoed on Thursday next, by many a joyous heart. The prattling child at your knee will look up and lisp the Merry Christmas; the noisy urchins on the street will claim their candies and “fixings” in shouts of Merry Christmas; the young and gay, with mirth and glee, express their hopes in the Merry Christmas of sunshine in the living present. Aye, let them be joyous, free, buoyant with hope, hearts light and happy. There is the present; the clouds have not appeared.

One year ago! The time seems brief indeed, yet how vast the changes wrought. How sadly falls the “Merry Christmas” on many an ear. A year ago it was merry.

The future looked bright and radiant with promise, but how sad, how desolate it is now. Widows and fatherless children cannot echo that Merry Christmas. War has made their heart that one desolate, and their only consolation is in the promises of Him who will temper the winds to the shorn lambs.

Life’s most vivid pictures are painted in sunshine and shade. Joy and sorrow accompany us through life. Then in the present let us live, smoothing the rough edges of life’s journey for our fellows, and each to each our greeting be, a merry, merry Christmas.

The Bay City
Green Bay, Wis., December 22, 1860
A Merry Christmas to you good friends. A merry, merry Christmas to you all.

Before another issue we shall have reached another Milestone in the track of Time, the sweetest as the solemnest of the resting places that are hallowed as shrines in our pilgrimage is repose and in our Christmas hearts and at our Christmas hearths we will kindle again, shall we not the lights of other days.

Another birthday of immortal mystery will have come to be celebrated in the spirit of forgiveness, in the spirit of kindly duty, of forbearance and welcome. Another year will have gone down the abyss of bared ages leaving its memory but us the moonstruck on the Ocean of history, lighting on the summit of its waves the wreath of waif and wreck it bears to the hand of silence and Death.

And in that season of immortal hope, in our Christmas hearts and at our Christmas hearths, we will revise and review again shall we not the dim heart pictures upon the chamber wall, now soft and warm as the summer’s landscape, now black and dreary us the winter shore, now wild and rash as storm and old Ocean all melting into romantabrance as dreary as the music of the evening rills.

The past is behind us, a mist already encircles it. In the gleam poignant of the shadowy hand that peoples its dim aisles are celestial shapes of our daily lovers and our early lost giving their trackless way to the silent city; but on that day they shall each come back to us, back to their cherished places in our Christmas hearts and at our Christmas hearth and we will not forbid them but with the living and the dead we will sit by reunited and thank God for another Christmas.



THE LAST CIVIL WAR PENSION

by Kevin Ryan

Irene Triplett was the last child of a Civil War veteran to be receiving a pension from her father’s service in the Civil War. She died this past May (2020) in Wilkesboro, North Carolina at the age of 90.

Her father, Mose Triplett, fought for the Confederacy and the Union in the Civil War. He was 83 years old when his daughter was born in 1930.

Mose began the war fighting for the Confederacy at the age of 16, but defected north in 1863 shortly after the Battle of Gettysburg, and began fighting for the Union.

After the war he applied for a pension, receiving \$73.13 each month from the Department of Veteran Affairs.

In 1924, when he was nearly 80, Mose married Elida Hall, who was 34. Such an age difference “wasn’t rare, especially during the Great Depression, when Civil War veterans found themselves with both a pension and a growing need for care.”

Triplett and Hall had two children including Irene, who suffered from mental disabilities. Mose Triplett died shortly afterwards in 1938.

Since the death of her father, Irene Triplett collected \$73.13 per month from the Department of Veteran Affairs. She was eligible to inherit her father’s pension due to cognitive impairments which she suffered, qualifying her as the helpless child of a veteran. The total amount she received was about \$73,000 or \$344,000 when adjusted for inflation.

It’s a reminder of not only our obligations to our veterans, but also the great, long-lasting cost to this country of every conflict.

Sources:

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/last-person-to-receive-a-civil-war-era-pension-dies-11591141193>

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/jun/07/irene-triplett-last-person-american-civil-war-pension-dies>

submitted by: Grant Johnson

**MILWAUKEE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
2020-2021 SPEAKER SCHEDULE**

September 10, 2020 Ted Savas
*Lost and Found: The Archaeology of the
Battle of Payne's Farm*

October 8, 2020 Rob Girardi
Lincoln and the Common Soldier

November 12, 2020 John R. Scales
*The Battle and Campaign of
General Nathan Bedford Forrest*

December 10, 2020 Steven K. Rogstad
Stories from Among the Badgers

January 7, 2021 Christopher L. Kolakowski
Stones River

February 11, 2021 Leslie Goddard
Presenting Clara Barton

March 11, 2021 TBA
Topic to Be Determined

April 8, 2021 Ron Kirkwood
Too Much for Human Endurance

May 13, 2021 Michael Hardy
General Lee's Immortals

June 10, 2021 A. Wilson Greene
Re-assessing Grant and Lee in the Overland Campaign

**Speakers/topics remain subject to change,
especially due to the fluid Covid situation.
We appreciate your understanding!**



**Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.
2020 – 2021 Board of Directors**

Name	Office/Position	Term Expires
Donna Agnelly	Editor, General Orders	2022
Thomas Arliskas	Second Vice President	2022
Terry Arliskas	Secretary	
Michael K. Benton	First Vice President	2023
Roman Blenski	Quartermaster	2022
Crain Bliwas	Member	2022
Paul A. Eilbes	Treasurer	2022
Van Harl	Past President	2023
Tom Hesse	Second Vice President	2023
Grant Johnson	Membership/Webmaster Past President	2021
Bruce Klem	President	2021
Daniel Nettesheim	Member	2021
Frank Risler	Program Chair	2021
Tom Thompson	Member	2023
Justin Tolomeo	Member	2023
David Wege	Layout, General Orders	2021

milwaukeecivilwar.org

**~ 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.

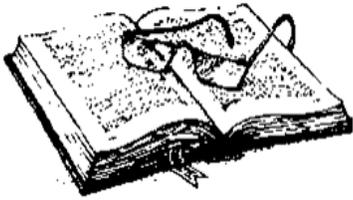
Milwaukee Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for December 10, 2020

Mail your reservations by Monday, December 7 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
December 10, 2020 meeting of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee.
(Please make checks payable to the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.)

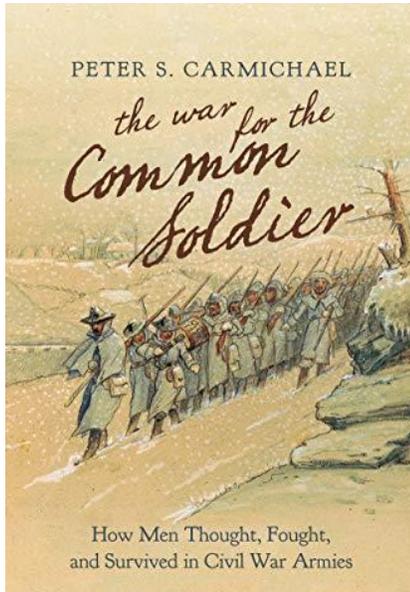
Name of Member _____



BETWEEN THE COVERS

The War for the Common Soldier

Peter S. Carmichael



This review is on a book I purchased at the June 2019 Civil War Institute's Symposium at Gettysburg College. The book was written by Professor Peter Carmichael who coincidentally was a speaker at the Kenosha Civil War Museum's Great Lakes Symposium in September 2019. The book analyzes the whys of the common soldier for each side and is broken down in chapters that deal with a variety of topics that Professor Carmichael uses to highlight the thought process of soldiers when enlisting and after enlisting - how they rationalized staying with the army and continuing to fight.

In *The War for the Common Soldier*, Carmichael relies heavily on case studies of men of all backgrounds. In this way he avoids just cherry picking quotes from soldier writings which tends to lead to a static view of Civil War soldiers as men of duty who acted on a set of beliefs in predictable and unchanging ways. Thought processes are a fluid thing that tend to change with the ebb and flow of events and I think that Professor Carmichael does an excellent job in showing the true character of the soldiers he identifies in this work.

Professor Carmichael analyzes the thoughts and words of Civil War soldiers in great depth and breadth – reading individual letters closely while also looking at individual soldiers' entire military careers – to understand how they fought and

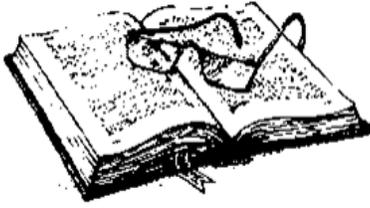
survived the conflict. Particularly compelling are the chapters on military justice and the ways in which soldiers looked to material culture to make their war experiences tangible. While not all readers will agree with the author's conclusions, he will make the reader think about long-held notions about why soldiers enlisted, why some fought and other deserted, and the relationships between the soldiers and their loved ones at home.

The book presents a balanced sampling of soldiers on both sides. "Astute analyses cut through Victorian letter writing veneer to expose real thoughts and intents of real men in the worst of times." Whether entering the military as idealistic volunteer, dutiful citizen, or reluctant conscript, those who became veterans developed both mutual dependency and individual survival skills.

In his explanations, Professor Carmichael divides this work into seven chapters: 1. Comrades, Camp and Community explores the "job" of being a soldier. 2. Providence and Cheerfulness deals with soldiers remaining cheerful when God's intentions cannot be determined. 3. Writing Home shows not so much as what they wrote but how they wrote. 4. Courage and Cowardice puts forth what propelled men to fight and how survivors dealt with the hideous results of the fight. 5. Desertion and Military Justice talks about how soldiers risked their reputations to avoid combat. 6. Facing the Enemy and Confronting Defeat tries to answer the question of how soldiers responded to defeat. 7. The Trophies of Victory and the Relics of Defeat handles the transition phase of soldiers after the war ends.

The War for the Common Soldier makes a substantial contribution by providing a fresh look that helps us understand the thoughts and insight of many people that fought in the Civil War including illiterate and semi-illiterate letter writers. This writer has shown that the philosophy of soldiering was to have no philosophy at all. Duty, loyalty, adaptability, courage, and honor were critical to succeeding and surviving the fighting and making it back home. I've heard Professor Carmichael speak on several occasions, in particular at the Civil War Institute's June Symposium. A friend of mine likened his style to that of a Baptist preacher delivering a sermon and I believe his style is very close to that mark. He spoke at the Civil War Museum on this book and delivered his talk with great enthusiasm. I think he would be a terrific speaker for one of our meetings and we should endeavor to line him up to address the Round Table. I think this book is a must for any student of the Civil War and gives the reader a good picture of motivating factors of the Civil War soldier for both sides.

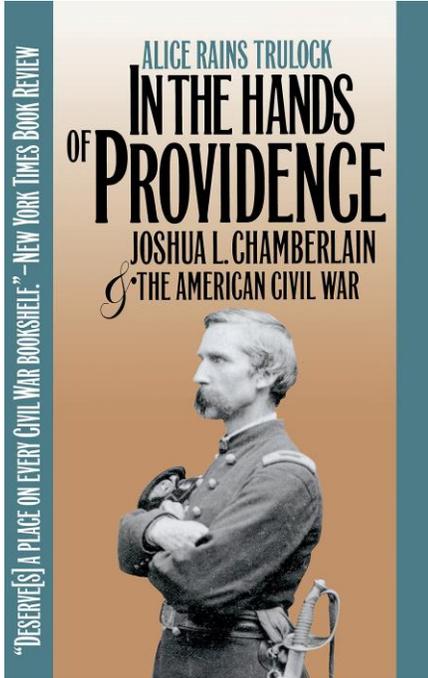
submitted by Bruce Klem



BETWEEN THE COVERS

In the Hands of Providence

Alice Rains Trulock



My review is on a work published in 1992. The book, *In the Hands of Providence*, is about Joshua Chamberlain. I picked this book up when my wife and I visited Appomattox in October 2017 on our way home from our trip with the Kenosha Civil War Museum's group visit to Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville. Since Chamberlain was involved in the final surrender of the Confederate forces at Appomattox, I thought it would be a good remembrance of the visit. I suspect enough has been said about Chamberlain and the 20th Maine since the movie *Gettysburg* really made him famous and perhaps today there is even some backlash to look at other units' contributions at Gettysburg rather than the 20th. However, other than the movie and various books on Gettysburg I never read a book solely focused on Chamberlain and thought why not delve into his life and his role in the Civil War. As it turns out I'm glad I picked this book up and read it.

The author, through this writing, shows how Joshua L. Chamberlain seems to be one of the least likely men of his era to have become a war hero; he was gentle, unassuming and almost academically cloistered. His decision to join the Army was patriotic, but Chamberlain gave up more than many men who joined. He had just been promoted to a prestigious and newly created European Studies Chair at Bowdoin, the acceptance of which not only carried with it tenure, but an all-expense paid 2-year tour of Europe. He saw his duty elsewhere, and took part in raising the 20th Maine, which became a legend under his and others' leadership. The book magnificently details their deeds and Chamberlain's rise to General

Officer in the U.S. Army. At the end of this great story, regardless of one's preconceived notions about Blue or Gray, the reader will be pleased to have "known" General Chamberlain.

The author covers Chamberlain's entire military service and highlights all the battles that he led as commander of regiment, brigade, division or corps. In all actions Chamberlain is shown to be leading from the front – a quality that gave him the respect of the men he led into the horrible fighting of the Civil War.

The advantage of a military history based on the career of one individual is that the sequence of events is less confusing than the accounts of a general history. I entirely take the point about a cult of Chamberlain, especially promoted by the film *Gettysburg*, and no doubt there are numerous other, more neglected, soldiers who could be the subject of further study. Generals Warren and Meade are shown in this volume as having been particularly poorly served. Chamberlain's career, however, contains a number of compelling features. Not only did he prove, for a non-professional, to have a remarkable aptitude for soldiering, but surprising personality traits are revealed. See, for instance, Chamberlain's words quoted on page 105, in his rejection of the received wisdom that soldiers admit to, or feel, fear under fire. For a man who obviously was religious and looking to enter a different life other than the military, he developed into a top-notch combat leader. Ms. Trulock follows Chamberlain's career to the end of his life and shows that the leadership qualities he had continued throughout his life as College President, Maine Governor and prominent civilian.

I found this to be a truly highly interesting and exciting read. This book is one that every student of Civil War studies should read in that it shows how a man can develop his leadership under the most trying conditions. I think for anyone who has seen the movie, this book helps to fill in some holes about Chamberlain and rounds out his character. The author develops the story from the beginning of Chamberlain's life and shows how he grew into manhood. This is definitely a book that should be on a Civil War student's book shelf. One of Chamberlain's best quotes from this book I think, puts into focus his feelings on the war and I suspect most of those who fought for the Union.

There is a phrase abroad which obscures the legal and the moral questions involved in the issue, indeed, which distorts and falsifies history. The War Between the States... There was no war between the States. It was a war in the name of certain States to destroy the political existence of the United States.

by Phil Spaugy



While there is certainly little doubt that travel to our favorite historical sites has been made more difficult by the ongoing Covid 19 crisis, it is not impossible. You must be willing to take the proper health precautions and to have some patience with your schedule. I have made several trips east to Gettysburg and often help lead a tour of the both the Fetterman Fight and Little Big Horn campaign. What follows is a travelogue of sorts of two of my favorite trips.

I made my annual battle anniversary trip to Gettysburg in July. It definitely was much different than in prior years. Masking requirements and reduced restaurant capacity were two very evident results of the Covid crisis. Also, unlike previous years, there were no NPS-sponsored programs to enjoy. I had a desire to expand my knowledge of the action of the often much-maligned Eleventh Corps on July 1, 1863. I had listened to Licensed Battlefield Guide Stuart Dempsey give a great presentation on Jim Hessler's and Eric Linblade's "Battle of Gettysburg" podcast.

I met Stuart at the Peace Monument on Oak Hill mid-morning on July 1st. It was an amazing coincidence that we would do much of this tour in real time, 157 years later! Stuart's first question was how far "deep into the weeds" I wanted to go, and I told him as deep as he wanted to lead me!

So we began. (With masks on and maintaining proper social distancing.)

While I could go in great detail about this tour, just let me say that if you are one who feels that the Eleventh Corps ran away without a fight, you are sadly mistaken and need to take this tour. From the hard fighting on the plains of Gettysburg, (especially by the 26th Wisconsin) through the town, to East Cemetery Hill and on the skirmish line between Emmitsburg Road and Seminary Ridge, you will see that the men of the Eleventh corps stood fire well, while suffering heavy casualties. It was interesting and rather poignant to me that Stuart had two ancestors who fought with the 73rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry that lost their lives during the heavy (and largely ignored) fighting on the skirmish line. The area they fell in is now a residential district today, but he walked the area of the skirmish line and discussed the action there. And while Stuart has done this tour many times, I could still feel the emotion as he discussed his family's loss.

Before I realized it, eight hours had flown by...perhaps the most educational eight hours I have spent on the battlefield. I certainly encourage any of you who visit Gettysburg in the future to avail yourself of taking this tour with Stuart.

Follow this link for a video of this tour and contact info for Stuart.

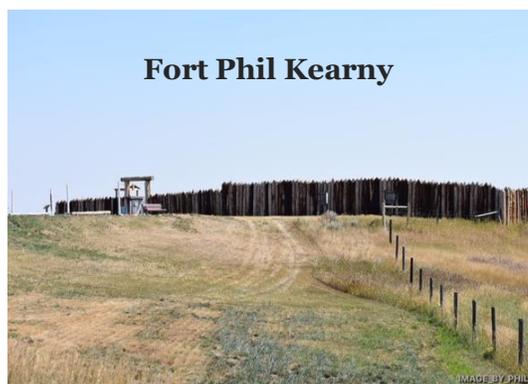
<https://www.gettysburgdaily.com/battlefield-guides/stuart-dempsey/11th-corps/>

Stuart Dempsey can also be reached through his Facebook page.

And for info on the very good "Battle of Gettysburg" podcast, follow the link below.

<https://www.facebook.com/gettysburgpodcast/>

My second trip was a bit more involved. Noted Civil War author Jim Hessler and I led our biennial trip to Montana and Wyoming to take a deep dive study into both the December 21, 1866 Fetterman Fight and the 1876 Little Big Horn campaign. Travel was a bit more involved this time as I flew out of Columbus, Ohio to Denver, then Billings, Montana. I will say that the United Airlines aircraft was clean and service was excellent.



This was a four day tour, starting on Thursday when the twelve attendees drove to the Fort Phil Kearny State Historical Site to begin our one day tour of the Fort, and the nearby sites of the Fetterman and Wagon Box sites. We had retained the services of local guide Bob Wilson, who not only provided us with a detailed tour of the sites mentioned, but also provided an interesting live-fire demonstration using the various firearms used during these engagements. As is so important in the study of any battle, no matter the size, there is nothing more important than walking the ground.

While all three of the above sites are in beautiful territory, being bordered by the Big Horn Mountains the site of the Fetterman fight, along the original trace of the Bozeman trail remains a stark example of the rugged terrain in this part of Wyoming. With his combined force of the infantry of the 18th

U.S. Infantry and of the 2nd U.S Cavalry strung out for a mile along the top of a hog back ridge, Fetterman and his 81 men stood little chance when more than 1,000 Native Americans emerged from the many ravines and in short order completely destroyed Fetterman's entire command.

Friday's tour agenda found us starting day one of our 4 days Little Big Horn campaign tour. While space will not allow a detailed account of our four days suffice to say that Jim Hessler provided us with many great insights into this campaign. Some of the locations we visited and discussed their role in the campaign were:

- Custer's approach from the Crows nest.
- The morass
- Lone Teepee location
- The location where Custer divided his command
- Reno's battalion initial crossing of the Little Big Horn River and his approach of the Native American village.
- Reno's Valley fight and subsequent retreat
- Reno's defensive position and the role of the nearby terrain in both defense and the Native American attacks on this position
- Weir Point
- Medicine Tail Coulee and Ford B
- The final positions and fates of Calhoun, Keogh and of course Custer's commands.

As you can see all four of our days were very full, and extremely educational. Jim and I hope to do another one of perhaps two of these tours in 2022. So stay tuned!

While travel was not like it was pre-Covid it was still doable if one will simply take all the health precautions we all are so well versed in. While I prefer to drive, my airline experience to Billings Mt. was not bad at all. However, all this happened in the summer of 2020. As I write this it appears that Covid is once again on the upswing and many states are issuing rather strict travel guidelines. So the best advice I can give is educate yourself as to the area you wish to visit, have patience with some of the inconveniences you will encounter and above all be safe.

Here are some links to information you might find useful.

<https://boothillinn.com/> - a great place to stay when visiting the Little Big Horn National Monument. Manager Shelli Mann and her staff are simply top notch!

<https://www.fortphilkearny.com/> - a first class historical site, with a very nice museum and gift shop.

For guided tour of the Fetterman fight and other locations of both Red Clouds and the Great Sioux War of 1876, contact Bob Wilson @ rcwilson@vcn.com
<https://www.nps.gov/libi/index.htm>



Should you desire more information on the topics covered in this article or future trips that Jim Hessler and I might be planning, please feel free to contact me by email at: philspaugy@gmail.com





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!

Because *Through the Looking Glass* focuses on the lesser lights of the Civil War, on this page we are privileged to hear stories of folks just like us. This month's article contains the memories of two men named James Maxwell. The elder James Maxwell was a contemporary of James Longstreet, the younger James Maxwell a contemporary of ours. The junction of their memories supplies the content of this piece.

My grandpa was born June 1, 1885. Brigadier General Longstreet married Helen Dortch on September 8, 1885. The former Miss Dortch was 34 years, the general was 76 at the time of their nuptials in 1897. So grandpa would have been twelve years old when General Longstreet moved to Franklin County. The Longstreet and Maxwell places were separated by a low rise. Grandpa used to say how neat it was to remember his deddy (Yes, that's daddy with an "e") in the mornings calling out over the hill. He would call "Good morning, Brigadier Longstreet." Then, on hearing back, "Good morning, Zerab," each would know that the other had made it through another night.

Why were the men concerned about making "through the night?" James Longstreet, a beloved Civil War general, was not as loved after the war. He was, after all, a friend of Ulysses S. Grant. He had dared to criticize General Robert E. Lee's handling of the army at Gettysburg. And, perhaps worst of all, he had become a Republican after the war. In the eyes of many southerners, this made him a traitor and a target for reprisal.

I remember grandpa sharing some side notes on Brigadier Longstreet. One I remember in particular is, "from early spring through the fall harvest Brigadier Longstreet was a hard-working man. And from harvest through the winter he was a hard-drinking man."

So, James Longstreet was a man who was not adverse to a nip from the bottle? We can imagine he was in good company, then, for the memories the veterans carried had to be too much for them at times. This side of Lee's "Old War Horse" makes him more human. Pictures of Old Pete often make him seem beyond reach, too stoic to be real. An image of him subduing a few inner demons with an adult beverage creates a Longstreet who is more like the rest of us.



Helen Dortch Longstreet became owner and editor of the Carnesville Tribune in 1888. Carnesville is the county seat of Franklin County, where I grew up. My grandpa, James C. Maxwell, had a farm about ten miles east of Carnesville. I have not been able to find for certain exactly where Great Grandpa Zerab's farm was. I don't know if it was the same piece of property, but I am fairly certain I remember my dad saying Grandpa Jim bought his (Grandpa Zerab's) farm.

Helen Dortch Longstreet was quite "progressive for her time." This is before progressive came to mean what it does today. She simply was ahead of her time in many ways. A fire destroyed the Longstreet's Gainesville, GA home in 1889 along with the family's belongings and war memorabilia.

General Longstreet died in 1904. Before and after becoming a widow, Mrs. Longstreet devoted much time to ensure the General was accurately portrayed by history. In 1905, she documented her husband's account of the Civil War by publishing the book *Lee and Longstreet at High Tide*. After his death, Helen embraced public affairs, yet fulfilled her promise to her husband that "in the future, so long as I shall live, whenever your war record is attacked, I will make answer." As the founder of the Longstreet Memorial Association, she arranged to have a statue of her late husband placed at Gettysburg.

Known as the "Fighting Lady," Helen Dortch Longstreet pursued many other activities from protecting the environment to supporting civil rights. During World War II, she was a Rosie the Riveter at the Bell Aircraft plant in Atlanta. She said, "I was at the head of my class in riveting school. In fact I was the only one in it. She died in 1962.

Special thanks to James Maxwell for sharing these memories at a campground on the beautiful Keweenaw Peninsula on the Upper Peninsula. It is truly amazing to see how Civil War memory intersects with the present.

submitted by Dave Wege

In Memoriam

LeRoy Apfel, member of the Round Table since 2007, passed away on November 4th. LeRoy was born on July 13, 1933 to Lawrence and Dorothy Apfel in Marshfield, Wisconsin. After high school graduation, he enlisted in the US Army National Guard. He was honorably discharged in 1957, after three years working in the OSS...the prelude to the CIA.

LeRoy married Janet Goebel on May 21, 1955; the couple had 3 sons, Kevin, Terry and Brian. LeRoy was involved in Boy Scouts with his sons, having achieved the Silver Eagle, himself. He worked for 40 plus years at Fairbanks Scale.

He continued to be active in the community after his retirement. He was a 4th degree member of the Knights of Columbus, and Vice President of the United Seniors of Wisconsin and volunteered at the Ronald McDonald House. After the death of his wife, he continued to travel and enjoy life with Carolyn Clements.

LeRoy is survived by his son, Kevin (Donna) Apfel and grandchildren Kurtis, Derek, and Crystal Apfel; daughter-in-law Linda Apfel and grandson Jonathan (Amber) Apfel along with great-grandchildren Kayleigh, Leigha and Dylan of Virginia. LeRoy is also survived by his son Brian Apfel who is also a member of the Round Table.

LeRoy was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Janet, daughter-in-law Jennifer Apfel, and his son Terry Apfel. He was also preceded in death by his brothers Charles and Larry Apfel.



The Board of Directors of the Civil War Round Table expresses its sincere sympathy to our member Doug Haag on the loss of his brother Ronald K. Haag.

Ron earned BBA, MBA, and Associate Horticulture degrees and worked as a purchasing manager for over 40 years. He was a lifetime member of the National Purchasing Management Association and served as its President. Ron taught at Fox Valley Technical College for several years and served on the Board of Governors of the English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Association and ESSFTA Foundation. He was a member of FDL County Master Gardeners.

Ron served his country in Vietnam with the 199th Army Infantry in 1969-1970. He loved sharing life with Bev, gardening, hunting, fishing, outdoors, and laughing with friends and family. He enjoyed raising and training English Springer Spaniels for 40 years in hunting, obedience, and agility.

And Flights of Angels Guide Them to Their Rest



Illustration by Thomas Nast of soldier on picket duty
Harper's Weekly, 1862

Holiday Greetings to all of You!

Separated by distance and kept apart by Covid health restrictions, we none-the-less are a family of students of history, particularly the American Civil War and its impact on our nation.

May you have a healthy and happy holiday filled with joy and the Spirit of the season.

Be safe and well as 2020 comes to a close.

We wish you all of the best life has to offer in 2021. May it be a grand year for all.



MEET DAVID N. DUNCAN: NEW PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST

David Duncan is a native Virginian, born in Roanoke during the summer of 1964. He developed his passion for history early in life, in large part thanks to his father, who taught middle school history, civics and social studies in Roanoke County for 38 years. David remembers their home being filled with books and weekly trips to the local public library.

“Even now, I strive to read 10,000 pages (the equivalent of 25 400-page books) each year. I’m hopeful I can keep that pace with my new responsibilities. But,” he adds with a laugh, “only time will tell.”

At James Madison University, in the Shenandoah Valley, he majored in media and communications, fully intending to pursue a career in radio, television or film industries. As his studies progressed, Duncan worked an on-campus job in the main dining room starting off doing janitorial work and progressing through the ranks to become a student manager helping to oversee nearly 120 fellow student employees. Duncan believes that his early real-world business and personnel management experience helped prepare him for a career.

After graduation, he and his fiancée moved to the Washington, D.C., suburbs of Northern Virginia, married, raised two daughters and still live there today. David and his wife, Karen, celebrated their 34th anniversary this past October.

During his long commutes in Northern Virginia traffic, he would listen to books on tape with the words of Bruce Catton, Shelby Foote, James “Bud” Robertson and others filling his car. In the evening he watched Ken Burns’ Civil War series on PBS. His father gave him a copy of *The Killer Angels* which he devoured in a weekend and then made his first trip to Gettysburg. Soon his weekends would be filled with battlefield trips within a few hours’ drive.

Duncan joined the then Civil War Trust on March 20, 2000 taking a substantial pay cut but with a huge boost to his sense of purpose.

For more than 20 years, he has worked to help build the Trust into the successful national preservation organization it is today. Under his leadership, working with dedicated and generous trustees, individual donors, and foundations, the Trust has raised nearly \$240 million in private donations, including two successful capital campaigns.

“I truly believe that we are accomplishing work that is vital to the future of our country. I want to build on the tremendous work and success that my colleagues have already achieved, thanks to our generous supporters.”

To read the complete article on David Duncan please visit:

<https://www.battlefields.org/learn/articles/meet-david-n-duncan-new-president-american-battlefield-trust>

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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.

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Contact Roman Blenski, Quartermaster
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(414) 327-2847, dbcpmilw@execpc.com

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

