

GENERAL ORDERS



The Newsletter of the

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



June 10, 2021

A. Wilson Greene

We Have Done All That is Possible and Must Be Resigned: The First Petersburg Offensive

We are finally welcoming Will Greene to our Round Table after a Covid delay of a year! If you have not heard Will talk in person, mark your calendar and come to the June meeting.

Lt. General Ulysses S. Grant's grinding Overland Campaign ended on June 3, 1864 in stalemate at Cold Harbor, a few miles northeast of Richmond. Stymied by geography and the stubborn defense of General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia, Grant adopted the bold expedient of moving his entire army across the mighty James River to target Petersburg, the Confederate capital's logistical and supply center. The story of Grant's movement to and across the James is one of unparalleled achievement. However, the attacks against Petersburg between June 15 and 18 must be numbered as one of the Union army's greatest disappointments.

A. Wilson Greene's June talk, based on his recent book, *A Campaign of Giants*, will outline the brilliant maneuvers that brought five army corps across the James by stealing a march on Lee, only to be followed by four bloody days of combat that witnessed the triumph of a vastly outnumbered Confederate force under General P.G.T. Beauregard.

From 1995 – 2017, Will Greene was the President and CEO of Pamplin Historical Park and the National Museum of the Civil War Soldier. Will's position afforded him the unique opportunity to plan, develop, and manage a major historic site complex from its inception. Working virtually independently, he directed the transformation of 422 acres of private land into what many consider to be the premier Civil War-era historic site in the country. Pamplin Historical Park is on the National Register of Historic Places and a Virginia Historic Landmark, more than 85% of which is owned by Pamplin Historical Park. The Park has earned numerous awards and distinctions.

Will has also served as President and Executive Director for the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites, Fredericksburg,

Virginia; Staff and Research Historian, Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania County Battlefields National Military Park; Park Historian, Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania Battlefields National Military Park; and Park Ranger/Historian at Petersburg National Battlefield.

Will has addressed more than one hundred Civil War Round Tables and related special interest groups from 1985 – 2019. He visited our Round Table in 2012 presenting on "The Bermuda Hundred Campaign." We enthusiastically welcome him back to our Milwaukee Round Table.

Mr. Greene will be bringing copies of his Petersburg book. The cost is \$45.00. Cash or check is acceptable.

General Orders No. 6-21

June 2021

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June Meeting at a Glance

The Wisconsin Club

900 W. Wisconsin Avenue

[Jackets required for the dining room.]

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

6:45 p.m. - Dinner

[\$30 by reservation, please]

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 8.

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

In accordance with the Articles of Incorporation, the following slate of nominees were elected at the May meeting for a three-year term ending in May 2024.

- Grant Johnson
- Bruce Klem
- Daniel Nettesheim
- Frank Risler
- David Wege

Restoration Being Done in Gettysburg

As announced by Gettysburg Pictures and More: "Red Patch" on West Confederate Avenue next to the Armory, is being restored to its original 1900 elegance by Stephanie and author Jeff Shaara. It was built by Melville Stallsmith for Major General Charles Collis, who had commanded the 114th PA Infantry, 3rd Corp., AOP. Collis died in 1902, 2 years after its completion.



Owned most recently by Gail and the dearly departed Sal Prezioso, it was a lovely bed and breakfast, and a host of weddings and many fine parties. It will soon again be a stunning historic landmark on the battlefield.

The Muster Roll: NEW MEMBERS

NUMBER	NAME	RESIDENCE	PLACE OF BIRTH	US ARMY SERVICE	REMARKS
	David Christensen	Belmont			Has filed declaration of intention
	Philip and Elizabeth Kinsella				Has filed declaration of intention

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 12/30/2020 through 5/13/2021.

Major Contributor (\$500 and above)

Patron (\$200 - \$499)

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

Associate (\$100 - \$199)

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

Contributor (up to \$99)

John Abbott, George Affeldt, Carl Backus, Dale Bespalec, Jim Blake, Crain Bliwas, 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, Rich & Barb Kallan, Ardis & John Kelling, Jay Lauck, Fredric Madsen; Steve Magnusen, Rod Malinowski, Jim & Monica Millane, Bob & Mary Lou Parrish, Tom Pokrandt, John Rodahl, Dr. James A. Rydlewicz; David & Helga Sartori, Sam Solberg, Dan Tanty, Justin Tolomeo, Paul Zehren

Speaker Enhancement Fund

John Abbott, George Affeldt, Donna Agnelly, Jeryl Anthony, Mike Benton, Dale Bespalec, Jim Blake, Roman Blenski, Angela Bodven, Roger Bohn, Ellen DeMers, Tom Doyle, Lori Duginski, Paul Eilbes, David Gapinski, Julian Gonzalez, Douglas Haag, Tom Hesse, Jim Heinz, Eugene & Jane Jamrozy, Bernard Jene, Rich & Barb Kallan, Allan Kasprzak, Bruce Klem, Michael Kuntz; Jay Lauck, Stephen Leopold, Rod Malinowsky, Kathy McNally, Jim & Monica Millane, Paul & Susan Miller, Herb Oechler, David Perez, John & Susan Petty, Laura Rinaldi, Brad & Kathy Schotanus, Diana Smurawa, Sam Solberg; Dan Tanty



In June 1949, Otto Eisenschiml spoke to the Round Table on "The Story of Shiloh."

June 1962 found Jim Dan Hill speaking to the membership on "The Blockade."

"Medicine at Camp Randall" was the topic of William S. Middleton's talk in June 1972.

At the June 1982 meeting Karen Osborne was our speaker talking on "Mary A. Bickerdyke: A Female Hero of the Civil War."

Lance Herdegen talked about "Panorama Painters in Milwaukee" at the June 1992 meeting.

"September Suspense: Lincoln's Union in Peril" was the topic presented by Dennis E. Frye at the June 2012 meeting.

Last year's June meeting was held virtually due to the pandemic. Our president, Bruce Klem, spoke on "1st Wisconsin Cavalry: Organization, Development and Cavalry Operations."

On Facebook

Envisioning Emancipation: Black Americans and the End of Slavery

Friday, June 11 | Noon |

Presenter: **Dr. Barbara Krauthamer**

Dr. Krauthamer's presentation draws upon her work on the history of African American photography in the Civil War era. By looking at historical images and understanding the circumstances under which they were produced, we can better understand the lives and aspirations of African American women and men in the 19th Century United States. This talk will feature both works by African American photographers and images of African American subjects to illuminate the intellectual and artistic richness of African American communities in the 19th Century.



Kenosha Civil War Museum

YOUTUBE LECTURES

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLvOc_ZB2rAyxtp87iXTvPVkT1uAvzJWRj

The 29th Wisconsin at Vicksburg

Gettysburg Stories: Monuments and Iconic Locations

The Great Camel Experiment

Illinois Regiments at Gettysburg: July 1863

Medical Innovations of the Civil War

The Other Civil War in Mexico

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

Recovering the Voices of the Union's Midwest Irish

The Vicksburg Campaign: Grant's Masterpiece

The War That Made Beer Famous

Lincoln and the Presidential Campaign of 1860

Sir Butternut Comes to Madison

Among the Badgers: Rediscovering Sites Associated with Abraham and Mary Lincoln in Wisconsin

Such Anxious Hours: Wisconsin Women's Voices from the Civil War

FACEBOOK LECTURES

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

Seceding the Secession

Arming Ohio

Scotland and the Civil War

Company K, 1st Michigan Sharpshooters

The Wounding of Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

Company K, 1st Michigan Sharpshooters

NEW ON ZOOM

Juneteenth Performance: Caroline Quarlls –

My Independence Day

Saturday, June 19 | 1pm | Free Zoom program – advance registration required

Register by June 18 at:

<https://84428.blackbaudhosting.com/84428/Juneteenth-Performance-Caroline-Quarlls---My-Independence-Day>

During this first-person theater performance, meet Caroline Quarlls, an enslaved 16-year-old girl who left the slave state of Missouri and began a journey that took her to Milwaukee. There she met a number of people who assisted with her escape to freedom in Canada. The audience will meet Caroline in 1880 after she just received a letter from Mr. Lyman Goodnow, one of the people that helped her travel the Underground Railroad from Wisconsin to Canada in 1842. The powerful performance recounts their harrowing experiences and is based on the responses Caroline wrote to questions in Goodnow's letter.

FROM THE FIELD

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

Milwaukee Press and News

May 12, 1861

A Useful Article We Saw Yesterday

A neat article designed for the convenience of members of governor's guard Capt. Fairchild and gotten up through the patriotic endeavors of Mrs. E. S. Turner and other ladies of Grafton. It consisted of a folding pin-cushion well supplied with pins, needles and thread, compact in form and easily carried in the pocket. We can imagine no little thing more serviceable and would recommend that the example set in their manufacture be followed by the ladies of Milwaukee.

(Note: Some Sundays when I lived in downtown Waukesha, WI, I would on occasion meet Governor Dreyfus at a nearby bakery and discuss the Civil War and Wisconsin history as we shopped for breakfast. One day the Governor told me an interesting story. Capt. Fairchild, who would later be commander of the Second Wisconsin at Gettysburg, would lose an arm at that battle on the first day. Governor Dreyfus, knowing this, wanted to take advantage of the construction in downtown Madison in areas which included land on which Fairchild had a home after the Civil War. Fairchild never felt well about his missing arm and in the end went back to Gettysburg to bring his arm home and then buried the arm on his property. Then he could sleep well at last. Gov. Dreyfus asked the construction people to keep an eye open for the arm in a metal box. He said they thought he was crazy and sadly they never found the arm.

So, if anyone knows the final resting place of the arm it would be wonderful to complete the story for Gov. Dreyfus. Jim Johnson)

Milwaukee Press and News

May 12, 1861

Major of the 2d Regiment

Mr. McDonald of this city, has received the commission of Major in the second regiment. Mr. McDonald will make an excellent officer, and one who will be respected by officers and men. We rejoice at the appointment and honor the Governor for making it.

Flag Raising –

The ship carpenters and caulkers of our city yesterday assembled in large numbers and reared over their hull in Hubbert & Conover's block, a magnificent banner of the stars and stripes. The flag is gigantic in proportion, being 30 by 40 feet in size, and the staff from which it floats is surmounted by emblems of the mechanics who were instrumental in erecting it. It was run up amid cheers, salutes and music, and afterwards the crowd assembled in the hall and organized by calling S.S. Conover, Esq., to the chair.

Among the audience present were some two hundred ladies, who though not so demonstrative in their approbation, were, we feel assured, actuated by the same patriotic motives which animated the male portion of the assemblage. Miss Susan Demin sang the Star Spangled Banner in fine style, and in a manner which drew forth repeated cheers, after which she recited with that tone and force so characteristic of her, a patriotic Union address, which again created inexpressible enthusiasm.

Judge W. Carey, Esq., was then introduced and addressed the assembly in a lengthy patriotic speech setting forth the purposes which should animate every breast, and the determination which should arouse every man to action. He was listened to with marked attention, and was followed by the Rev. Mr. Wright, Mr. Smith, Mr. Rogers, and others. The meeting was marked by a great degree of enthusiasm.

Colonel of the Third Regiment

It is understood, although no commission has yet been issued, that the Governor has appointed Capt. C.S. Hamilton, of Fond du Lac, a colonel of the Third Wisconsin regiment. This is one of the best regimental appointments yet made. Col. Hamilton is a graduate of West Point, has served many years in the army, was in some of the most hotly contested battles in Mexico, and distinguished himself there as a brave and gallant officer. We are informed that Mr. Ruger, of this city, will probably be appointed lieutenant colonel of this regiment – a position he will fill with credit to himself and benefit to the regiment. With such officers “the third” will become a favorite corps in the state.

GAZETTE AND FREE PRESS

FRIDAY MORNING, MAY 24, 1861

Washington, May 20

Times correspondent. The post office department has discontinued steamboat mails on the Mississippi River, all the way from St. Louis to New Orleans.

Madison Wisconsin State Journal

May 3d 1861

North Western Virginia

There is no sympathy in North Western Virginia with the secession movement. Union meetings are being held there, and the people are almost unanimous in their loyalty. A meeting of some 1200 citizens in Harrison County met at the county seat, Clarksbury, on the 22d. John S. Carlisle, member of Congress, was present and took a leading part. Resolutions denouncing the attempt to drag Virginia out of the Union, and the recent demonstrations against the authority of the Federal government at Harper's Ferry and Norfolk were adopted, and a convention, composed from each of the Northwestern counties, recommended to meet at Wheeling on the 13th of May.

From the Field - continued

A meeting of the Merchants of Wheeling was held in that city yesterday. They adopted resolutions expressive of loyalty to the Union, denouncing the present state government as a usurpation, and recommending the non-payment of state taxes in the Ohio counties for the present. The meeting adjourned with three cheers for the Union. Its course is generally approved by the citizens.

As Bad as Old Brown

The Washington correspondent of the Philadelphia Press says indescribable consternation has spread through Virginia because of the arrival at the Capital of Gen. Jim Lane and Capt. Montgomery of Kansas. They have with them nearly two hundred of the desperadoes of the civil wars of that Territory. They are to act as an independent corps of scouts for dangerous and forlorn service, and will be as bad or worse than old John Brown and his men.

Col. Ellsworth's Zouave Regiment numbers 1,100 picked men. There is a sprinkling of Chicago boys invited. Their uniform consists of gray jacket, trimmed with blue and red cord, gray pants and red shirt, red cap with a blue band and regulation overcoat. They are all armed with Sharp's breech-loading rifles, worth \$76 a piece, and huge bowie knives which can be attached to the muzzle of their rifles, to answer the purpose of bayonets. Their knapsacks are made of rubber cloth, and other articles can be carried in each knapsack, without any inconvenience. A fatigue cap of gray felt, and a tin cup strapped on the outside of the knapsack, and a stout pair of shoes completed the outfit.



MONUMENT RESTORATION FUNDS NEEDED!

At the May 13th meeting, the Board of Directors presented an opportunity to the membership. Milwaukee's Forest Home Cemetery Foundation is looking for funding to replace the obelisk at the grave of Brigadier General Lysander Cutler. Cutler first served as Colonel of the 6th Wisconsin of the Iron Brigade. The Round Table, as custodian of the Iron Brigade Association, is excited to participate in this fundraising endeavor. The total cost of the monument replacement is estimated at \$7,000 to \$8,000.

Your contributions would be greatly appreciated toward this campaign. The Round Table will match member contributions pledged or received by August 31st.

To contribute, send a check payable to "CWRT of Milwaukee" to:

Paul Eilbes, Treasurer
CWRT of Milwaukee
1809 Washington Avenue
Cedarburg, WI 53012

Please note "Cutler Monument" in the memo line of the check.

Vicksburg is the Key



Saturday, October 23 - Friday, October 29

Civil War Time Travelers is again designing a coach bus trip to Fort Donelson, Shiloh, Corinth, and Vicksburg, with a stop at Springfield, IL on the way home.

Information should be available soon at the MCWRT registration table. Also check out the Civil War Time Travelers on Facebook or email wegs1862@gmail.com.

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 send an email to donnaagnelly@gmail.com with "Civil War Round Table" in the subject line of your message. All submissions must be received by the Editor no later than the 10th of the month prior to the next issue. The Editor reserves the right to select articles and to edit submissions for style and length.

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

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General Orders design & layout by Dave Wege.

Yearly memberships available: Individual (\$50), family (\$60), non-resident (\$30), attending an educational institution (\$20).

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

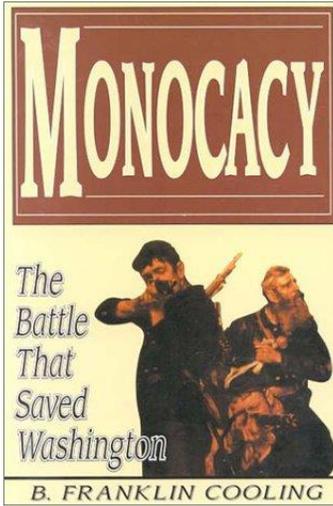
The Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc., admits members of any race, color, national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges and activities of the Round Table.



Between the Covers

MONOCACY: THE BATTLE THAT SAVED WASHINGTON

by B. Franklin Cooling



This review is on a book I purchased at the Visitor's Center at the Monocacy Battlefield. I was on my way to the Civil War Institute's Symposium at Gettysburg College in June 2019 and was going to visit the Monocacy Battlefield by making a slight detour to Frederick on the way. I highly recommend anyone heading to Gettysburg or on the way to DC to perhaps take a detour and visit this small but important battlefield. While this book is a bit dated as it was written in 1996 and it shows the old Visitor's Center (replaced in 2007), it does give an excellent description of the importance and historic context on the fight.

I found the book to be a fast, easy read and felt it was well written and extremely well documented, using rarely cited letters and memoirs from the individuals involved. It is an excellent description of a complicated campaign, with a thorough study of the motives, expectations, and outcomes of the movement of armies, political interference, personality clashes, misinterpreted orders, disobedience to orders, and acting without orders, leadership, bravery and cowardice, battlefield decisions and their outcomes, and the final result.

In his description of the battle Mr. Cooling points out that "this is a story about a bridge – or really three bridges to be precise. One loomed larger than the others – whether the stone highway arch or nearby railroad span both of which oriented on an axis for the Chesapeake port city of Baltimore." He goes on to point out that the reality of this fight was that it came down to a fight for time.

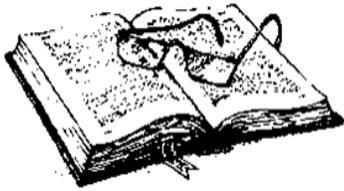
Mr. Cooling describes how the mission was established for Early and the 2nd Corps to be separated from the Army of Northern Virginia and to steal into the Shenandoah Valley with a twofold assignment, assist Breckenridge to clear the Valley of Union forces and then proceed to Leesburg and threaten Washington. Lee hoped that if these things were accomplished the breadbasket of the Confederacy, the Valley, would be secured and by threatening Washington would force Grant to back off on the Overland Campaign, thus providing relief for the staggering Army of Northern Virginia.

A number of things had to go right for the Confederate plan to succeed and as a result of many Union missteps and poor command decisions allowed Early and his force to move through the Valley and once again invade into Union territory. Plenty of denial and wishful thinking on the part of Union command permitted the Confederates to accomplish the mission. The one key action on the Union side that was correct was establishing a defensive position near Frederick on the Monocacy. Led by a commander whose star was tarnished, Lew Wallace, Mr. Cooling shows how a small number of Union troops, ably led and positioned managed to achieve the impossible and provide enough time, one day, to give the Union command enough time to correctly respond to the threat and recover to save Washington. The hard fighting of the small yet competent Union force, delayed Early's command and forced him into a pitched battle. The end result was that the Confederates, although clear victors in this fight, were worn down enough that further movement toward Washington that day was out of the question. The Union troops managed to inflict casualties and enough fatigue in the Confederates that they were forced to rest, reorganize and on the next day moved out, proving too tired to make an effective attack on Fort Stevens and get into Washington.

Mr. Cooling also points out that along the way Early was given another mission: to be prepared to advance on the prisoner of war camp at Point Lookout in conjunction with a Confederate naval mission to free the Confederate prisoners held there. It was a mission beyond what Early could realistically carry out and would have been doomed as the naval end failed to get into the area.

I highly recommend this book to any student of the Civil War. It covers a battle, while small, that had a major impact on the course of the war. It is one that doesn't get much press or even acknowledged but was vital in leading to the end of the war, in my opinion. I also encourage anyone headed to Antietam or Gettysburg to take time to tour this battlefield. In this book there is a self-guided tour of the battlefield and there is also a tour that can be rented at the Visitor Center as well. It is a small battlefield but interesting and can be covered in a short period. The museum at the Visitor Center is worth the stop as well.

submitted by Bruce Klem



Between the Covers

TOO MUCH FOR HUMAN ENDURANCE

THE GEORGE SPANGLER FARM HOSPITALS AND THE BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG

by Ron Kirkwood

We often hear, "Why another book on Gettysburg? Hasn't everything been covered already?" Ron Kirkwood, with his book "Too Much for Human Endurance," has answered those questions in dramatic fashion. The answer is that there is still plenty of gold in those Gettysburg hills that has yet to be mined. I believe Kirkwood has given us one of the most important Gettysburg titles of at least the last quarter century. His focus is a thriving farm owned by George Spangler which is quickly commandeered by medical officers of the 11th Corps to serve as the Corp field hospital. The Spangler farm was ideally located almost dead center in the rear of the famous fishhook Union line. Eventually almost 2,000 wounded men would spend time on this farm.

Kirkwood also explains how Spangler's farm fields served as the staging area for the Artillery Reserve of the Army of the Potomac. From this central location nineteen batteries would all eventually be put into action, many times at critical moments in the conflict. Kirkwood gives us an in-depth look at the inner workings of a Civil War field hospital while also providing extensive biographical material on the surgeons who did tremendous work despite being overwhelmed with more casualties than they had ever experienced before. Each chapter concludes with anecdotes about individuals who either worked at the hospital or were treated there.

We also learn of Confederate Brigadier General Lewis A. Armistead's journey from his place of wounding at The Angle to finally arriving in the Spangler summer kitchen where he died on July 5. What I found interesting was reading that the surgeons who first examined Armistead did not think his wounds were mortal and that he would survive. Several points of conjecture are offered to explain the cause of his passing.

If you were present at our April meeting you heard Kirkwood share that of all regiments who had men treated at the Spangler Farm the greatest number came from our own 26th Wisconsin Infantry, many of whom did not arrive at the farm until after the battle was over as they had been captured and held in the town of Gettysburg before being left behind after the Confederate retreat.

Kirkwood has included an extensive appendix listing a detailed roster of the men including their regiments, what type of wound and what kind of treatment they received. I found this section almost as interesting as the book itself.

The book concludes with a tour of the modern Spangler Farm which I will put to good use when I return there in May. This book is a "Must Have" for anyone who has an interest in Gettysburg or who desires a better understanding of how the medical arm of the army functioned.

submitted by Andy Oren

Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway

The following was reported on April 20, 2021 by the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway Tourist Center and WBAL-TV 11 Baltimore:

Exciting news! The home site of Harriet Tubman's father, Ben Ross, has been confirmed! This morning, archaeologists and state officials announced the discovery of the former home on property that's part of Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge (Stop #14 on the Tubman Byway) in Church Creek, Maryland. Harriet Tubman (then known as Minty Ross) spent time here as a young girl. Archaeologists had been searching the area last fall, and in March, they had a breakthrough in the evidence they had gathered.

"With the artifacts, the archaeology, the evidence of a building, and just the location -- knowing he worked in the timbered wetlands -- those multiple lines of evidence told us unequivocally that this is the home of Ben Ross," said archaeologist Dr. Julie Schablitsky.

Ben Ross received 10 acres of land in the early 1840s, and Harriet/Minty lived with her father there as a teenager, working alongside him in the timber industry and learning skills that she put to use later in leading her missions to freedom.

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

September 10, 2020	Ted Savas <i>Lost and Found: The Archaeology of the Battle of Payne's Farm</i>
October 8, 2020	Rob Girardi <i>Lincoln and the Common Soldier</i>
November 12, 2020	John R. Scales <i>The Battle and Campaign of General Nathan Bedford Forrest</i>
December 10, 2020	Steven K. Rogstad <i>Stories from Among the Badgers</i>
January 7, 2021	Christopher L. Kolakowski <i>Stones River</i>
February 11, 2021	Doug Dammann <i>Benjamin Franklin White</i>
March 11, 2021	Lawrence Desotell <i>Confederate Soldiers at Camp Randall</i>
April 8, 2021	Ron Kirkwood <i>Too Much for Human Endurance</i>
May 13, 2021	Kevin Hampton <i>Hans Heg: Our Adopted Country is in Danger</i>
June 10, 2021	A. Wilson Greene <i>We Have Done All That is Possible and Must Be Resigned: The First Petersburg Offensive</i>

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



**Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.
2021 – 2022 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	2023
Roman Blenski	Quartermaster	2022
Crain Bliwas	Member	2022
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Grant Johnson	Membership/Webmaster Past President	2024
Bruce Klem	President	2024
Daniel Nettesheim	Member	2024
Frank Risler	Program Chair	2024
Tom Thompson	Member	2023
Justin Tolomeo	Member	2023
David Wege	Layout, General Orders	2024

**~ 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 June 10, 2021

Mail your reservations by Monday, June 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
June 10, 2021 meeting of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee.
(Please make checks payable to the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.)

Backstage at Ford's Theater

We know about John Wilkes Booth. We are familiar with the actress Laura Keene who was performing in *Our American Cousin* on stage when Lincoln was assassinated. But what about the other actors and backstage people who were there on that infamous night? Were any of them co-conspirators? What was their history? Thomas A. Bogar looks backstage at Ford's Theatre and what made up the theatre world of that time.

Laura Keene, whose dress would bear the stain of Lincoln's blood, was born in England reportedly as Mary Frances Moss. She married Henry Wellington Taylor. The couple had two daughters and ran a pub together. Taylor was arrested, convicted of a crime and sent to a penal colony in Australia. In 1852, Mary, rechristened as Laura Keene, came to America with her two daughters and became the country's first female manager producer. She had an unsuccessful tour of Australia with Edwin Booth and upon her stateside return settled with John Lutz, who was both wealthy and married. With Lutz's help, Keene was able to lease a theatre in New York with the highlight of the repertory being *Our American Cousin*.

On April 17th, Laura Keene and other members of her company were arrested at the train depot in Harrisburg; they were subsequently questioned by the military. Many of the actors knew the Booth family. Many of them came under suspicion. The actors, when arrested, were officially on their way to Ohio but there was also a rumor saying that they were headed to Canada to avoid arrest. Lutz was able to get Keene released by order of the Secretary of War. Keene would cancel future performances of the play she was so well-known for. Keene would die in 1873 at the age of 47 of consumption.

At the time Booth fired his fatal shot, cast member Harry Hawk was alone on stage. It was Hawk who delivered the line meant to cause the audience to burst out in laughter. Booth counted on this audience response to cover the sound of the shot giving him the time needed to jump onto the stage and utter "Sic Semper Tyrannis." After the shot, Hawk saw Booth running towards him with a dagger in his hand. Hawk turned and ran up a flight of stairs fearing Booth was trying to stab him. After Booth escaped, Hawk was asked by the other cast members if he recognized Booth. Hawk said that he had but would not give the man's name since he wanted to keep out of any trouble and avoid any personal connection to Booth. Actor H.P. Phillips told him that would be foolish since Booth had shot the president and Hawk would hang if he would not give up the name.

Hawk was detained on a \$1000 bond as a witness. He was taken to the Peterson house and asked to confirm that Booth was the man who shot Lincoln. Hawk complied and in his statement to Corporal James R. Tanner stated: "In my own mind I do not have any doubt but that it was Booth. He made some expression when he came on the stage but I did not understand what." Hawk left town the next day. Afterwards Hawk would work under an assumed name. As a friend of Edwin Booth, Hawk generally declined talking about the events of that night out of respect for Edwin while Edwin was still alive.

Harry Hawk acted for over 40 years. He was acting in and managing Laura Keene's company when Keene died in 1873. Hawk was unable to keep up with the changing tide in theatre as audience taste moved more in the direction of musical comedy. He moved to the island of Jersey in 1911, and died there in 1916.

Among the other 44 actors, managers and stagehands working at Ford's Theatre only one member of the crew was officially charged with being part of the assassination conspiracy. Edmund "Ned" Spangler was a stagehand who was charged by his employer with preparing the presidential box that night even though he was a professed secessionist opposed to the abolition of slavery. Spangler had also worked for the Booth family in the 1850s and often did chores for John Wilkes Booth when Booth would appear at the theatre. Witnesses said they saw Spangler drinking with Booth on the night of the assassination. Of course, much of this is based on rumor and conjecture. Spangler was questioned on April 15, 1865, and released. He was arrested on April 17 and booked as an accomplice to Booth. At his trial Spangler would be found not guilty of conspiracy but he was sentenced to six years hard labor for helping Booth escape.

Spangler, Dr. Samuel Mudd, Samuel Arnold and Michael O'Laughlen were sent to Fort Jefferson in the Dry Tortugas off Key West. In 1867 there was an outbreak of yellow fever at Fort Jefferson. Spangler would help Mudd treat those who contracted the fever. When Mudd also contracted the fever Spangler took care of him.

Interestingly, Spangler's boss, John T. Ford, paid for his defense attorney, Thomas Ewing Jr., and then worked to have Spangler pardoned by President Johnson. Ultimately, Spangler would only serve a year and a half of his sentence before being pardoned on March 1, 1869. Dr. Samuel Mudd allowed Spangler to live on five acres of land near his Maryland home. Spangler died in 1875. After his death, Mudd found a handwritten statement in Spangler's tool chest in which Spangler describes his relationship with Booth and denies having aided Booth in any manner.

At a time of great sorrow and upheaval, the rumor mill was in full force; accusations and suppositions abounded. Were there conspirators among the backstage members? We will never know for sure but that does not stop us from wondering, speculating and theorizing today as to who was involved and the extent of what they knew or did. But we must remember that speculation can very easily replace fact.



Campaign 2021: Waucousta Lutheran

Campaign 2021: Waucousta Lutheran came to a successful conclusion as parents and students returned on May 1 from a Civil War field trip to Harpers Ferry, Antietam, and Gettysburg. Four days of 1862-1863 time travel wrapped up with a stop at the Flight 93 Memorial near Shankstown, PA. The solemn story told there brought home the service and sacrifice that has made our country great since its creation. Parents and students alike were able to connect the past to the present by viewing scenes of heroism, tragedy, and courage through the lens of the ordinary citizens of our country.

Principal Dave Wege led the group through the morning phase of the battle at Antietam. Historian John Michael Priest guided the tour through afternoon details of the fight. Mr. Priest's encyclopedic

knowledge of the struggle that occurred near Sharpsburg, MD on September 17, 1862 expanded our knowledge and understanding of America's single bloodiest day. Wisconsin troops did good service on the rolling fields and ridges along Antietam Creek.



Dave Wege led the group through the collision between Federal and Confederate forces at Gettysburg on July 1, 1863. The group followed the path of the Iron Brigade and the stand it took, along with other elements of the Union I and XI Corps, that saved the high ground and led to a Federal victory against Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. The famous charge on the Railroad Cut, performed by the 6th Wisconsin Vols. in 1863, was recreated by parents and students, complete with the national colors flying proudly.

Historian Carolyn Ivanoff joined us on Barlow's Knoll to discuss the collapse of the Union left flank that led to a Confederate victory on July 1. We visited the

Seminary Ridge Museum to view its three floors of phenomenal exhibits related to the first day's fight. This museum is a must-see for any Gettysburg visitor! A climb up into the restored cupola is also an important component to the museum visit. When one sees the first day's field laid out like a gameboard, commander's decisions become more clear.



Garry Adelman of the American Battlefield Trust guided WLGS through the action of July 2 and 3, 1863. Place names like Devil's Den, Little Round Top, the Slaughter Pen, Triangular Field, and more were given their fair due. Garry is an animated speaker and enthralled the kids and parents with solid history and individual soldier stories. We even used special 3-D glasses to view stereoscopic photos taken by Matthew Brady and his crew days after the battle! And, standing in the tall grass at the Rose Farm, we had our own Gettysburg battle. Upon leaving the farm pasture, our kids and adults picked off at least three dozen wood ticks.

After a visit to the Gettysburg Museum and Visitor Center, where we viewed the famous cyclorama depicting Pickett's Charge, our time at Gettysburg concluded with a visit to the George Spangler farm. The Spangler farm was one of many Civil War homes and farms that were converted into hospitals. Site director Paul Semanek introduced his

Wisconsin visitors to the farm's history and its use as a trauma center for battle casualties. The evening wrapped up with Carolyn Ivanoff's presentation about the care and treatment of Civil War wounded, and the burial of those who did not survive. She conducted an imagined drill where soldier's injuries had to be diagnosed and a decision made whether to **wait; not urgent; treat immediately; or nothing can be done.** In the last diagnosis, the decision was simply to make the patient comfortable and await an inevitable end. The students had real trouble making that last choice!

Historical knowledge, battlefield walks and talks, and great camaraderie helped our third Civil War field trip become another resounding success. Participants were reminded that duty, honor, and patriotism do not go out of style. Thank you to everyone who assisted and participated in Waucousta Lutheran Grade School's Campaign 2021!

Segments of the trip were recorded on video by Ken Walker, who also shoots the videotaping for our Round Table meetings. The recordings are available for your viewing on the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table's Facebook page.

submitted by Dave Wege



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!

Several years ago, Rick Gross attended a Round Table meeting where our speaker, Thomas Clemens, presented on his research and editing of Ezra A. Carman's manuscript about the Battle of Antietam. After conversing with the speaker, Rick received from Tom copies of four handwritten letters that Carman had received from Joseph R. C. Ward, the "unofficial historian" of the 106th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, 2nd Brigade, 2nd Division, 2nd Corps, Army of the Potomac. The letters detail the actions of the 106th Pennsylvania and the Philadelphia Brigade during the Battle of Antietam and the impetuous charge of Sedgwick's Division into the West Woods led by General Sumner. Rick Gross, great great grandson of J.W. Rathbone of Co. D, 106th Pennsylvania Infantry, generously shares these letters with us.

Antietam Letter From R. C. Ward to Ezra Carman

Here are the third and fourth of the four letters.

106th Pennsylvania, 2nd Brigade, 2nd Division, 2nd Corps Army of the Potomac

DR. JOS. R. C. WARD
COR. AUDUBON AND RUNNYMEDE AVS.
WAYNE, PA.

February 17, 1905

E. A. Carman Esq

My Dear Sir

Your very interesting letter received, and I have carefully considered it's content, and would have waited before replying until I received the additional documents from you but for your quotation from Colonel Palfry's book as I could not rest under that reputation. Colonel Palfry is wrong, and has been so notified several times, he was not at Antietam and got his information second hand. As I have been informed, General I.J. Wistar who commanded the 71st Pa. denied his imputation point-blank when he said: "I personally saw the second line break before the wild rush of fugitives from the front line, and for a few minutes my greatest difficulty was from their fugitives since they masked the fire of the 71st."

In his letter to Colonel Palfry he wrote. "Upon the integrity of this last line which you complain was the first to go, now depended the entire right of the line and a clear resistance was maintained by it both to fugitives and the enemy."

Bear in mind that General Howard had assumed command of the Division when Sedgwick was wounded, and Colonel Owen the Brigade, no matter what may be said, the fact is that the Philadelphia Brigade was not the first to go. It never left that wood, that is the right two regiments the 106th and 71st Pa. unless ordered by General Sumner to do so. There are many living yet who will testify to seeing him riding in front, from left to right, waving his hat and motioning us back, and many heard him distinctly say "Back boys, for God's sake move back, you are in a bad fix." The other two regiment had no doubt go thus under first and had gone, but when the right two regiments left that woods there were none of our ***** there but the dead and wounded. This cannot be *** positively stated and adhered to.

There is no doubt a mistake about both the 69 & 72 Regiments reaching to and extending beyond the Dunker Church. That the left of the 72d may have been in view of it and near it I will not positively deny but will try and see if I can find one man who will make affidavit that he was there.

General Wistars comment of the statement of Colonel Palfry speaks in no *****sound when he says "It is to be repeated that they should have * Dana Brigade & Gormans Brigade Howards Brigade Page 2 a single officer willing to give currency to unfounded statements to the prejudice of other troops of equal merit who on the same field and in the same Corps and Division loyally and cheerfully shed their blood in the same cause."

Now whose word is more entitled to belief, the officer who fought his regiment through that great battle, or the one who was absent ***** and got his information through someone else. My own words written in 1883 on that subject is as *****. "It - (the Philadelphia Brigade) did not leave the wood until ordered to do so by General Sumner, and then not

until after the first and second lines had broken, and portions of them were coming back through the line of the Philadelphia Brigade.” Your comment of the position of Gormans Brigade I accept as fact for I do not claim to know the exact formation of that and Dana’s Brigade after we crossed the Hagerstown Pike and am well aware that one cannot see much beyond his own command *** again assure that the 42nd N.Y. was not on the left of the 106 Pa except in line in front for many of it’s members came back on a run through our regiment, that I can furnish you ample proof if you want it.

Now that stand taken by the 106 Pa at the fence was an important one, and showed by all means by ** ma*. it’s colors were planted on that fence by it’s color sergeant, and held there, and his **going cry “106th rally round your colors was heard by many men, and won his promotion to second Lieutenant. His action also held some of the 69th members there too, and the fire this was opened there by our Regiment checked the mad rush of the enemy, assisted by the batteries in our rear. I certainly claim that so important a position taken and held should be marked. There is no dispute about it and the regiment is entitled by what we did.

I have written more than I intended when I started, intending merely to deny the statement of Col. Palfry and will wait until I receive from you the documents promised before I make a complete reply. Pardon me taking so much of your time, but I am deeply interested.

Very Respectfully Yours.

Antietam Letters from R. C. Ward to Ezra Carman

106th Pennsylvania, 2nd Brigade, 2nd Division, 2nd Corps Army of the Potomac
DR. JOS. R. C. WARD
COR. AUDUBON AND RUNNYMEDE AVS
. WAYNE, PA.

Copy of description of the advance of Sedgwick’s Division 2nd Div. 2nd Corps at Battle of Antietam by FH Schell War Correspondent of “Frank Leslie”.

At its head rode the grim and dauntless old Sumner with his staff and small cavalry escort. There too was the intrepid “Uncle” John Sedgwick about to lead his column of hope, the hitherto unbroken “Second Division” into battle to retrieve the awful mishap to Hooker. All are “full of ginger” undaunted by the all-pervading evidence of *****.

The battle lines fully deployed. They are pressing steadily forward, gay with flaunting colors, glorious with resolute purpose, stimulating cheers, and encouraging shouts. The first line (Gorman) swung by in stately style, slightly curved with a convex front to the enemy. There was another line (Dana) that moved past with a twisting formation. And yet another line (Howard) forged quietly ahead. Officers with waving swords rode along the rear of the lines and shouted loud commands and words of encouragement. Down went one from his horse which reared and fell. As the third line (Howard) passed the slimy **** of battle came in view behind it for the field was speckled with the first crop of its ghastly harvest ready to be gathered.

The last of the charging lines had gone beyond and was sweeping majestically into the jaws of death when the mass seemed to halt while from the front line spouted forth a long angry sheet of flame from innumerable gun barrels. Men were falling fast now as unseen batteries were pelting its lines with an iron storm and the Confederate bullets were finding the objects of their flights. It was pitiful to see the men drop, at times in groups, knocked over by solid shot or riddled with musket and rifle balls or bits of shell case or canister.

Cheered by their mounted and line officers the lines advance and pass on without halt or hesitation and fading in the distance while a thick cloud of smoke soon hid them from view.

Great Lakes Civil War Forum: Immigrants in the Civil War

Saturday, September 11 | 9am – 4pm

LIMITED TO 30 PARTICIPANTS!

In-Person Option: \$55 (\$70 non-member price) includes live in-person presenters, coffee breaks and boxed lunch

To Register for in person attendance:

<https://84428.blackbaudhosting.com/84428/Great-Lakes-Civil-War-Forum-11Sep2021>

Virtual Option: \$35 (\$50 non-member price) includes all presentations streamed live via Zoom

Register for the virtual option by September 8

<https://84428.blackbaudhosting.com/84428/Virtual-Great-Lakes-Civil-War-Forum-11Sep2021>

Great Lakes Civil War Forum: Immigrants in the Civil War

By the close of the Civil War, nearly 25% of the Federal Army was composed of foreign-born soldiers who immigrated to the United States. The 2021 Great Lakes Civil War Forum presents four programs that examine the experiences of some of these groups in the Union Army as well as Abraham Lincoln's official policies towards immigrants.

PRESENTERS:

Polish Participation in Civil War America

Presented by Dr. James Pula

One of the major themes in antebellum America was the rise of immigration. Much has been written about Irish and German immigrants in the Civil War, but studies of smaller groups are rare except in ethnic-oriented journals. Using photographs and other original materials, this presentation will explore the role of Polish immigrants in the anti-slavery movement and the resulting Civil War to identify key players—both North and South—and their contributions to the historical events of the times.

Blood of the Blood: Abraham Lincoln's Lifelong Defense of the Immigrant

Presented by Dr. Jason Silverman

Long before he spoke about the evils of slavery, Abraham Lincoln spoke about the need for free labor, and he consistently articulated an economic philosophy that relied heavily upon immigrant labor. From his earliest speeches on, Lincoln saw immigrants as the farmers, merchants, and builders who would contribute mightily to the economic future of the United States.

Before the Civil War, Lincoln saw America as “comparatively a new country” in which immigrants should be welcome. “If they can better their condition by leaving their old homes,” Lincoln said, “there is nothing in my heart to forbid their coming; and I bid them all God speed.” As the war dragged on, Lincoln saw the immigrant as a crucial source of labor and lobbied Congress to encourage immigration. Lincoln's signature on the *Act to Encourage Immigration*, July 4, 1864 allowed employees to bring foreign workers to America under contract and to deduct transportation costs from future wages. Lincoln later urged Congress to guard against frauds under this law and proclaimed immigrants “one of the principal replenishing streams . . . appointed by Providence to repair the ravages of internal wars and its wastes of national strength and health.”

Before the Statue of Liberty welcomed newcomers to American shores with the words of Emma Lazarus, Abraham Lincoln, unlike most of his contemporaries, perceived the United States as a hospitable home for immigrants where they would be treated as equals.

Faces of Immigrant Soldiers in the Civil War: An Album

Presented by Ronald S. Coddington

In April 1862, a year into the Civil War, essayist Ralph Waldo Emerson proclaimed “America is another word for Opportunity.” Among those who could attest to Emerson's words were families who arrived in the United States during the decades immediately preceding the war, and who sent their husbands, brothers and sons off to fight for their adopted country. This presentation is an album of rare portraits of representative soldiers from all walks of life who served, and their stories.

The Bonds of War

Presented by Diana L. Dretske

When curator Diana L. Dretske discovered that the five long-gone Union soldiers in a treasured photograph in the Bess Bower Dunn Museum were not fully identified, it compelled her into a project of recovery and reinterpretation. Utilizing an impressive array of local and national archives, as well as private papers, the author's micro-historical approach records events that often go unnoticed, such as a farmer enlisting in the middle of a crop field, a sister searching her brother's face for signs of war, and an immigrant dying in an effort to become a good American citizen.

This book, the most intensive examination of the 96th Illinois Volunteer Infantry since the regiment's history was published in 1887 and centers on immigrants from the British Isles who wished to be citizens of a country at war with itself. Far removed from their native homelands, they found new promise in rural Illinois. These men, neighbors along the quiet Stateline Road in Lake County, decide to join the fighting at its most dangerous hour. The bonds of war become then the bonds of their new national identity.

The Bonds of War uncovers the common soldier from the cataclysm that is the American Civil War by offering a collective biography of five soldiers of the 96th in the Western Theater. The human drama of their lives unfolds before the reader on battlefields such as Chickamauga and within the high pine stockades of Andersonville. Their lives argue that those who seem to matter least in military history are the very ones who can tell us the most about the experience of war and the reasons for remembering.

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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

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

