

# GENERAL ORDERS



The Newsletter of the

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



September 9, 2021

Eric J. Wittenberg

## **Seceding From Secession The Civil War, Politics, and the Creation of West Virginia**

*West Virginia was created out of necessity in the midst of the Civil War, and admitted to the Union in 1863. Many maintain that the admission of West Virginia to the Union was completed on less than constitutional grounds.*

Frank J. Williams

We start off our 2021-2022 season with a visit from Eric Wittenberg. Eric, along with Edmund A. Sargus and Penny L. Barrick, authored *Seceding From Secession: The Civil War, Politics, and the Creation of West Virginia*.

Maj. Theodore Lang of the 7th West Virginia Infantry called his state “the child of the storm.” Admitted to the Union in June 1863, just days before the Battle of Gettysburg, the dismemberment of the Commonwealth of Virginia had been simmering for many years. Come hear the story of how the Mountain State joined the Union in a tale of politics, the Civil War and fascinating issues of constitutional law that reverberate to this day.

Eric J. Wittenberg is an award-winning Civil War author. A native of southeastern Pennsylvania, Eric was educated at Dickinson College, the University of Pittsburgh School of Law and the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public and International Affairs. He is a partner in the Dublin, Ohio law firm of Cook, Sladoje & Wittenberg Co., L.P.A., where he manages the firm’s litigation practice. Wittenberg is the author of 23 critically acclaimed books on the American Civil War, several of which have won awards, as well as more than three dozen articles published in national magazines. He is in regular demand as a speaker and tour guide, and travels the country regularly doing both. He serves on the boards of trustees of the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust and the Little Big Horn Associates, and often works with the American Battlefield Trust on battlefield preservation initiatives. He is also the program coordinator for the Chambersburg Civil War Seminars and Tours. His specialty is cavalry operations in the Civil War. He and his wife Susan reside in Columbus, Ohio.

Eric will be taking orders for his book at the meeting if you would like to buy one. Please consider supporting our speaker.



### **General Orders No. 9-21**

**September 2021**

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### **September Meeting at a Glance The Wisconsin Club 9<sup>th</sup> and Wisconsin Avenue**

**[Jackets required for the dining room.]**

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

6:45 p.m. - Dinner

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

Reservations are accepted until  
Monday, September 6, 2021

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.**

### **2021-2022 Speaker Schedule**

Find the speaker schedule on page 6.

**[www.milwaukeecwrt.org](http://www.milwaukeecwrt.org)**

# Civil War Round Table News

## When Reservations are Cancelled

Please be aware that cancellations of dinner reservations within 48 hours of the meeting are subject to payment in full. The MCWRT is charged for these dinners whether they are used or not!

## Your Cooperation is Appreciated

“Walk-in dinner” requests are sometimes difficult to honor. Remember, dinner reservations are to be made at least 48 hours prior to the meeting date. We are always happy to accommodate where possible, but we cannot always guarantee a dinner that evening if you have not called in or emailed your reservation. Thank you for your understanding.

## Special Dietary Needs

We have quite a number of regular members who have opted for special entrees as options to the regular dinner being served. The Wisconsin Club and the Round Table will make every effort to meet any special dietary needs you may have. As a courtesy, **please give a reminder when making your reservations**, so we don't forget to serve you what you're expecting!

Welcome to another fun, fact, and fellowship-filled year packed with great meetings and exciting historical content. Please speak to any Board member (see page 6) to offer suggestions to improve **your** Round Table. Also, please remember to tell others about the MCWRT. We grow best by word of mouth provided by enthusiastic and excited members.

Huzzah! And here is to another season of the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table!



At this time there are no special Covid restrictions at the Wisconsin Club, please check the [milwaukeeecwrt.org](http://milwaukeeecwrt.org) website for any updates.

## The Muster Roll: NEW MEMBERS

A historical document titled "The Muster Roll" showing a list of members. The document is a form with columns for "NAME", "REGISTRATION", "PLACE OF BIRTH", and "FORMER MILITARY SERVICE". The name "Paul Heaton" is highlighted in the "NAME" column. The document is a form with columns for "NAME", "REGISTRATION", "PLACE OF BIRTH", and "FORMER MILITARY SERVICE". The name "Paul Heaton" is highlighted in the "NAME" column. The document is a form with columns for "NAME", "REGISTRATION", "PLACE OF BIRTH", and "FORMER MILITARY SERVICE". The name "Paul Heaton" is highlighted in the "NAME" column.

## 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 June 9, 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 September 1952, Lloyd D. Miller spoke to the Round Table on “The Union Left Flank at Gettysburg, July 2, 1863.”

September 1962 found Edward Coffman speaking to the membership on “Captain Henry Hines.”

“Lee: The Image and The Man” was the topic of Thomas Connelly’s presentation in September 1972.

At the September 1982 meeting Lynn C. Surles was our speaker talking about “Voices of Lincoln’s Time.”

Wiley Sword talked about “The Battle of Franklin: Who Speaks for the Dead” at the September 1992 meeting.

In September 2002 Jennifer Cain Bohrnstedt spoke to the membership on “Eternal Soldiers: The Role of Civil War Letters in Shaping History.”

“Wisconsin and Shiloh” was the topic presented by Bjorn Skaptason at the September 2012 meeting.

At last year’s September meeting, the Round Table welcomed Ted Savas who spoke on “Lost and Found: The Archaeology of the Battle of Payne’s Farm – November 27, 1863.”

## Great Lakes Civil War Symposium Saturday, September 11 | 9am – 4pm

**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](https://84428.blackbaudhosting.com/84428/Great-Lakes-Civil-War-Forum-11Sep2021)

Limited to 30 participants

**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](https://84428.blackbaudhosting.com/84428/Virtual-Great-Lakes-Civil-War-Forum-11Sep2021)

See page 16 for detailed descriptions  
of each presentation.



## 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.

### A Lifeline of Letters

Friday, September 10, 2021 – Noon

**Presented by: Mark Flowtow**

“A Lifeline of Letters” is a chapter title from Mark Flowtow’s book, *In Their Letters, In Their Words: Illinois Civil War Soldiers Write Home* from Southern Illinois University Press. Mark will discuss some basics about Civil War era correspondence, why soldiers’ letters were important then, and why they are important 155 years hence. Mark’s topics will be about social history, and only a little about political and military history.

Audience members are needed to read selected letter quotations and, in effect, be the voices of past Illinois soldiers as they wrote, or their family members at home reading aloud. Mark will provide large-print handouts for that. Discussion and questions will be encouraged throughout his presentation.

### Perryville: Battle for Kentucky

Friday, October 8, 2021 – Noon

**Presented by: Chris Kolakowski**

In 1861 Abraham Lincoln said “I think to lose Kentucky is nearly the same as to lose the whole game.” Over ten weeks in the late summer and early fall of 1862, Confederate armies invaded the Bluegrass State in a campaign culminating in the Battle of Perryville on October 8. This talk will examine this critical campaign and battle and assess its place in the Civil War.

### OTHER FREE IN-PERSON PROGRAMS

#### Lost Songs of the Civil War

Saturday, October 2, 2021 – 1 pm

**Presented by: Chris Vallillo**

From camp ditties to re-written versions of popular songs of the day, Civil War soldiers remade music to fit their own tastes and reflect the struggles and hardships they faced. Award winning folk musician and folklorist Chris Vallillo takes us deep into the journals and letters of the Civil War troops bringing these rare and unheard gems back to life in a new program.

#### Unplugged Day

Saturday, October 2, 2021 – Noon – 5 pm

Looking for a family friendly activity that doesn’t involve screen time? On Unplugged Day, the museum will have old fashioned games and activities set up in the Resource Center. Visitors will learn about old fashioned leisure activities and get a chance to play with some of the “original” handheld games. The old days weren’t all entertainment and games though! Visitors will also get a chance to experience some 19th century chores, from churning butter and making ice cream to spinning their own yarn!



Sergeant Lellie J. Perry, late the Second Wisconsin Infantry, editor of this paper, has been brevetted a captain by his excellency, Governor Fairchild, for distinguished gallantry (so the commission reads) in the Iron Brigade, at the Battle of the Wilderness, and at the Battle of Spotsylvania. The commission dates from May 5th 1864, the day when his bulldogship, Grant, commenced his work on driving Mr. Lee back to Richmond. What reminiscences the little sheet of parchment calls up!

We can see now as plainly as we did on that awful day, the blackened forest, the anxious faces peering through the thick brushwood for the coming foe, the ghastly, powder-stained corpses, the deep, deadly roar of the musketry, and the seething, sizzling sound of the Minnie bullet, which made the brownest cheek blanch and astride of which grim death screamed in demoniac delight, the dull thud and deep groan, which told the practiced ear that some heart had ceased beating forever, and the cries of the wounded, mangled comrades, which made the stoutest heart shiver with pain and sympathy. All, all is dancing before us again. But that isn't what we were intending to say, after all. We are proud of the brevet. It is an indication that Gov. Fairchild has an eye for merit. We hope the people of the State will have as keen one, and re-elect him next fall. It is a matter of conjecture with us whether our vote for him will be any "heavier" as a brevet captain than that in our capacity of citizen. Let others determine that, while we thank the brave, one-armed Governor for a kindness never to be forgotten. *Waupaca Criterion*.

*Wisconsin State Journal* (Madison, Wisconsin) 22 Apr 1867

#### **Latest War News!**

The latest news from Gen. McClellan's "Army of the Potomac" of One Hundred Thousand Men, contained in the Philadelphia and New York papers of yesterday, is of the newest and most startling character! And was ticked over the Telegraphic wires at the rate of five thousand words an hour!! But we will detain our readers not one valuable second of time longer from the highly exciting intelligence! It is:

"All is Quiet Across the River to-Night!"

#### **Lancaster Examiner and Herald Jan. 01, 1862**

The latest advertisement of an air tight coffin is that it protects the form from decomposition, "and can be retained in the parlor as an elegant piece of furniture, without any annoyance whatever."

#### **The President and the Constitution**

Gerritt Smith, in a recent letter, pays the President the following compliment:

President Lincoln is a man of understanding and of honest intentions; and why he has not ere ended the war and saved the country, is simply because he is a worshiper of the Constitution, and he feels that he can love and honor and save the country only through the Constitution. Every breach made in the Constitution is in his eye a breach made in the country and with him is alarming prospect of a lost country. But the good man cannot help it; for how rare is he who is able to surmount his education! And the President was educated to worship the Constitution. This education papers him at every step. With all his care would he save this country but his reverence for the Constitution will not let him.

An Epigram

From Vanity Fair

Britannica's breast with pity swells  
For the slaves, their wrongs are ne'er forgotten  
Poor Maid! We fear her bosom's swell  
Is but the rise and fall of Cotton.

#### **Manitowoc Weekly Tribune Jan. 1, 1861**

##### **Correspondent of the Janesville Gazette The 2d Wisconsin in the Battle Manassas Junction, August 28**

I have only 17 men with me to-day. The regiment engaged three regiments of the enemy at close range for one hour and not a man flinched. All did nobly and we held the ground and carried off our wounded. The fight was just at night near the Bull Run battle ground. We have some 200 men for duty to-day in the regiment. I am well, but are very tired. I write on the march in great haste. Will write particulars as soon as possible. God bless the Old Second and the Janesville Volunteers!

Geo. B. Ely, Capt. Co. D

##### **Military History of Wisconsin, Quinter, 1866**

This was one of the bloodiest battles of the war, and was fought by the Iron Brigade alone, only receiving aid after the heaviest of the fighting was over. The battle day of the 28th of August, is a bloody one in the calendar of many a Wisconsin homestead. While marching toward Centerville, a battery of the enemy opened on the brigade, when the Second Regiment was ordered to face the left, and march obliquely to the rear, and take the battery in flank. The left wing was advanced to bring the regiment facing the enemy, when the fire was returned, and for fifteen minutes, a tremendous storm of shot was kept up by the contending forces, a brigade of rebels being engaged by the Second Wisconsin. The Second held its ground during this time,

continued

when the Nineteenth Indiana came up on its left. The enemy was reinforced, and the Sixth and Seventh Wisconsin went into line, and the whole brigade continued its fight, till darkness put an end to the contest. General Gibbon in vain sent for aid, only two regiments making their appearance near the end of the action. At least four of General Jackson's best brigades composed the rebel force, among them the famous "Stonewall Brigade," which claimed that it never before was compelled to fall back. The fearful list of casualties proved the desperate nature of the contest. Colonel O'Connor sat on his horse amid the shower of bullets, encouraging his men, when he was wounded. He kept on his horse until again wounded, in the groin, when he was carried from the field, and died. Major Allen, of the Second, was twice wounded, but did not leave the field. Captain Randolph, of Company H, was killed instantly. Colonel Cutler, of the Sixth, was severely wounded in the thigh. Colonel Robinson, of the Seventh, was wounded in the leg, Lieutenant Colonel Hamilton through both thighs, and Major Bill was wounded in the head, thus depriving the Seventh Regiment of its field officers, leaving Captain Callis in command. Captain Brayton, of Company B, was killed. The brigade remained on the field, removing the wounded, till about midnight, when they were ordered to retreat to Manassas Junction. Wisconsin may well be proud of the heroes of Gainesville. All the regiments performed their duty admirably, and fought without flinching, and every man was a hero.



*Future years will never know the seething hell and the black infernal background of this war – and it is best they should not – the real war will never get in the books.*

Walt Whitman



*The day the sun stood still  
How they'll beat the bloody drums  
And the seconds move like hours  
But the sunset never comes  
And the cannons shake the ground  
And the bullets test your will  
Even shadows find no cover  
On some Godforsaken hill on  
The day the sun stood still.*



Based on *I Rode With Stonewall*, the writings of Henry Kyd Douglas, aid to Stonewall Jackson.

**Thank you, Jim Johnson, as we embark upon the 2021-2022 campaign season of insightful and delightful memories *From the Field* !**

## YOUTUBE LECTURES

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLvOc\\_ZB2rAyxtp87iXTvPVkT1uAvzJWRj](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/>

Arming Ohio  
Seceding the Secession  
The Wounding of Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.  
Lincolnomics: Why Lincoln Still Rocks the Global Conversation on Progress  
Scotland and the Civil War  
Company K, 1st Michigan Sharpshooters

## *Vicksburg is the Key*



Saturday, October 23 - Friday, October 29

**Civil War Time Travelers** is again planning a coach bus tour to Fort Donelson, Shiloh, Corinth, and Vicksburg, with a stop at Springfield, IL on the way home. We have **only two seats still available.**

Check out the **Civil War Time Travelers** on Facebook or email [civilwartimetravelers62@gmail.com](mailto:civilwartimetravelers62@gmail.com).

**MILWAUKEE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE  
2021-2022 SPEAKER SCHEDULE**

- September 9, 2021                      Eric J. Wittenberg  
*"Seceding from Secession; The Creation of West Virginia"*
- October 7, 2021                         David Dixon  
*The American Civil War:  
A Radical, International Revolution*
- November 11, 2021                      Tom Clemens  
**Nevins Freeman Award Winner**  
*Joseph K. Mansfield*
- December 9, 2021                        Dennis Doyle  
(At the Country Club)  
*Illinois Regiments at Gettysburg*
- January 13, 2022                         Jen Murray  
*George Gordon Meade*
- February 10, 2022                        Ann Durkin Keating  
*Juliette Kinzie, the Civil War,  
and the Making of Chicago*
- March 10, 2022                          Mark Laubacher  
*USS Red Rover: Hospital of Firsts*
- April 7, 2022                               Jeffrey Hunt  
*The Battles of Rappahannock Station and Kelly's Ford*
- May 12, 2022                              Dr. Thomas Carson  
*Lincoln as Moral Exemplar*
- June 9, 2022                                Lauren Szady  
*Topic to be Determined*

**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**

Name	Office/Position	Term Expires
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
Paul A. Eilbes	Treasurer	2022
Van Harl	Past President	2023
Tom Hesse	First Vice President	2023
Grant Johnson	Membership/Webmaster Past President	2024
Bruce Klem	President	2024
Daniel Nettesheim	Member	2024
Frank Rislser	Program Chair	2024
Tom Thompson	Member	2023
Justin Tolomeo	Member	2023
David Wege	Layout, General Orders	2024

[www.milwaukeecwrt.org](http://www.milwaukeecwrt.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](mailto:grant.johnson@responsory.com)

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

**Milwaukee Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for September 9, 2021**

Mail your reservations by Monday, September 6 to:  
Paul Eilbes  
1809 Washington Avenue  
Cedarburg, WI 53012-9730

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

Enclosed is \$\_\_\_\_\_ (meal is \$30.00 per person) for \_\_\_\_\_ people for the  
September 9, 2021 meeting of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee.  
(Please make checks payable to the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.)



# **BETWEEN THE COVERS**

## **Mountains Touched with Fire: Chattanooga Besieged 1863**

**Wiley Sword**

My review this time is on a book I bought at the Lookout Mountain Visitor Center in October 2018 when my wife and I were on the Kenosha Civil War Museum trip visiting Chattanooga and Chickamauga battlefield sites. The book is Wiley Sword's 1995 *Mountains Touched with Fire: Chattanooga Besieged, 1863*. I found this book to be an interesting, fast read and it kept you wanting to read more. I enjoyed Mr. Sword's style and the fact that he mixed in a variety of comments from soldiers and officers from both sides to give the reader a good picture of what the situation felt like and the things the commanders had to deal with to develop their strategies.

Wiley Sword's comprehensive interpretation of events surrounding Chattanooga in 1863 is excellent. Sword takes the reader straight from the end of the Chickamauga battle to the situation of Chattanooga and the primary leaders who fought the campaign in Part I. The picture he paints of the condition of General Rosecrans immediately after the battle was that he was completely broken down in his ability to successfully manage his army and take adequate steps to recover. Sword shows how spooked Rosecrans was and was operating from an entirely worst-case scenario. He failed to accept reports of subordinates that the Confederates were as disorganized as the Union army and not in a position to launch immediate follow up attacks.

On the Confederate side, General Bragg was still focused on splitting up the cabal that attempted to have him relieved and the end result was a reorganization of the Confederate army to eliminate dissention against him and decided a siege was the best approach to retaking Chattanooga, thus wasting the opportunity to destroy the Union forces and achieve complete victory. Mr. Sword believes that Bragg should have continued to maneuver as Longstreet recommended he do, and of course Bragg did not take that sound advice and besieged the city instead.

Mr. Sword shows how Grant and Thomas began forming a new relationship that would renew the situation for the Union Army and how Grant's leadership led to a sound plan to reestablish supply lines and build up supplies to enable the Union army to strike back at the Confederates, break the siege, destroy the Confederate forces and move south.

Sword also makes a few assumptions that Longstreet was expecting to take command over Bragg, but there is really little evidence beyond rumor. He stresses that Longstreet wanted Lee to come west to fix things, but Lee would not, and that Lee thought Longstreet should stay and take over. I have seen this presented by other authors and I believe that Longstreet did have an interest in an independent major command.

Part II is more focused on the troops and their stories. Perhaps one of the main themes that is presented is how the troops realized that putting up earthworks at this stage of the war was vital to their survival and did so at any opportunity when they were halted and in a defending mode. This shows how the war had changed by this point in the struggle and the men realized the "bloom" was off the rose of war. Winning also meant surviving their service.

The issue of supplies for both sides was a problem. On the Union side it was starvation until a plan was worked out for opening up a line of supplies to bring food and fodder into Chattanooga in order to build up strength to attack the Confederates ringing the city. The plight of the Confederate soldier was even worse as they languished in the cold and rain without shelter, warm clothing or adequate rations.

Part III deals with the actual break out attacks initiated by General Grant and his armies. I found the descriptions provided by the author were really enhanced by our trip with the Kenosha Museum to visit the battlefields. Having been on the ground made the picture in my mind's eye clear as I read about the maneuvers and attacks on the Confederates positions. Each step in Grant's plan to defeat Bragg was presented in a well-organized and interesting manner. I think the final collapse of Bragg's forces was a result of the individual troops in Thomas's forces continuing the attack up Missionary Ridge. It was supposed to be a diversion to take pressure off Sherman's force, by assaulting rifle pits at the base of the Ridge. Those Confederates retreated up the Ridge in the face of Thomas's assault. Once the Union troops took the rifle pits they realized they would be at the mercy of Confederate forces on the top of the Ridge and decided it was best just to keep moving and they followed the retreating Confederates up the face of the Ridge.

Once on top of the ridge they were mixed in with the retreating Confederates, negating fire from the positions on top of the ridge in fear of hitting their own men. The hesitation enabled the Union troops to get into the trenches and this led to the collapse of the Confederate defenses. A larger problem was the overall layout of the Confederate defenses.

They were not on the military crest and as result offered poor avenues of fire for the defenders. The end result was the rout of Bragg's army only saved as a strong rearguard action of Cleburne's division. Without that action Bragg's army most probably would have been completely destroyed.

I found this to be a top-notch book on the battles that broke open the Confederacy to Sherman's eventual capture of Atlanta. It involves many twists and turns and plenty of intrigue on both sides that impacted leadership decisions. I thought maps were plentiful to help the reader navigate the battle sites although a few more would have been helpful. I think this is a book that students of the Civil War should have on their shelf especially if you are interested in the Western Theater.

submitted by **Bruce Klem**



## **The Three-Cornered War: The Union, the Confederacy, and Native Peoples in the Fight for the West**

**Megan Kate Nelson**

This book was the selection for the November 2020 Kenosha Civil War Museum's media club discussion. The book was published in February 2020 and is about the fight that occurred between Union and Confederate forces in the Southwest for the New Mexico Territory of New Mexico and Arizona. It also was about how the Native Tribes were also a large part of the struggle for control of the territory.

Megan Nelson gives us a history of the Civil War in the West as told through the experiences of a variety of persons involved. Several Union and Confederate soldiers, some key Indian Chiefs, as well as some prominent women in this conflict, are profiled. This approach to history makes it more readable (and realistic), especially given the peculiarities of the War in the West. The unforgiving terrain, harsh weather, and great distances play important roles. Both Union and Confederate forces had to be mindful of crossing vast distances where the only supplies available, including water, were what they carried. Roads were extremely primitive and the sand of the desert bogged down both men and wagons.

Native Tribes seeking to protect their lands represent a challenge to both Union and Confederate forces. The government program of dealing with Native Tribes by destroying homelands and resources, removal and arrest and reservations, was temporarily put on hold while Union and Confederates fought for control.

New Mexico and Arizona also have significant numbers of Hispanic residents with shifting loyalties. Armies on both sides utilized both Native Americans and Hispano residents in their armies, so the individual armies were multicultural. This integration at times caused other problems as well.

At the same time as eastern states of America were witness to titanic battles and consequent mass slaughter in the 1860s, the less well-known parallel struggle for what was then named New Mexico Territory, including today's Arizona, was taking place. With relatively small numbers of troops contending over vast distances, and with rudimentary communications and stretched supply lines, armies had trouble even finding each other and, by the time they did, they were often depleted by disease and privation and almost too exhausted to fight. In fact some of the battles were finally decided by who could destroy and/or capture the other side's supply column.

The third "corner" of the title are the Apache and Navajo who found themselves in the way of the main contest. The Union, having abolished slavery, saw no irony in trying to herd Native Americans into reservations so that Anglos could open up the West to mining and railroads without hindrance. The Confederacy just wanted to add them to a slave empire stretching all the way to the Pacific. The question of broken treaties with the whites, constant fights with other tribes and attacks from Hispanos raised a question for the Native Americans of where do we place our allegiances. The author provides interesting stories from key Native American leaders that show the struggle they had with both Anglos and Hispanos and how they dealt with each in sometimes temporary alliances. These leaders realized that the white man's war was only a temporary situation and ultimately they had to navigate this situation carefully if they wanted to retain their historic homesteads.

This is a book that I think every student of the Civil War should read in order to understand this little written about Civil War region and how the issue of slavery impacted it. The author ties this into the story of "How the West Was Won" and how the Native Americans were impacted by the drive to claim land and resources. Definitely an interesting read and the media club had a fantastic discussion on this book.

# GETTYSBURG AGAIN? WHY YES INDEED!

## Wanderings



My first visit to Gettysburg was in 1976 and, even at the tender age of 21, I sensed something special about the place. I can't really explain it but the pull is undeniable. Through the years I have journeyed there over thirty times so when Covid finally began to loosen its grip there was no question where our first road trip would take us. My wife and I set out on May 9 for another trip to the Holy Ground, but this would be a little different. The Quality Inn on Steinwehr Avenue has always been my go-to-place to stay because of its proximity to the field. But with Covid still fresh in our minds Julie did not want to be so restaurant dependent, so an air B & B would be our home for the next week.

For many years I reenacted with the 3rd Wisconsin Infantry so their monument near Culp's Hill is always my first stop. I usually begin at East Cemetery Hill before going down (and then up!) towards Steven's Knoll. Hiking through the Spangler meadow I paused once again to reflect on the forlorn attack made by the 2nd Massachusetts and 27th Indiana on July 3. Those regiments were brigaded with the 3rd and I often think but for the luck of their place in the line our Wisconsin boys could just as easily been the ones suffering terrible losses in that place.

Early this year the Park began a project to cut back much of the underbrush on Culp's Hill so as to better represent what the field looked like in 1863. While this is still a work in progress you can already gain a much greater appreciation for the terrain, not to mention getting a clear look at the famous Forbes Rock. Kudos to the Park for undertaking this important work.

People ask me why I feel a need to return to Gettysburg so many times and one of my responses is that I always find something new to see. Having recently read *Too Much for Human Endurance* by our April 2021 speaker, Ron Kirkwood, I knew I had to visit the George Spangler farm, site of the 11th Corps field hospital. This area was purchased by The Gettysburg Foundation and while not open yet to the public, I was able to park outside the gated entrance and walk back to the site. I was fortunate to have the place to myself so I could take my time reflecting on what went on in that place. It was here in the summer kitchen that Confederate General Lewis Armistead died on July 5th. After leaving the Spangler farm I hiked up Power's Hill, someplace I had never been before.

Another book I read this past winter was *A Thousand May Fall* by Brian Jordan which details the history of the 107th Ohio Infantry, one of the German regiments of the 11th Corps. They were badly mauled on July 1 but were part of the heroic defense of East Cemetery Hill on July 2. Their monument is near the Adams County almshouse cemetery near Barlow's Knoll, not far from the monument of the 26th Wisconsin. This is another often overlooked part of the field and is well worth a visit.

I've often felt that walking the field is the best way to understand the terrain and how it impacted the battle. I was fortunate on this trip to do two long hikes. The first one began near Devil's Den on Houck's Ridge where the 124th New York (the "Orange Blossoms") were engaged on July 2. From there I threw tick caution to the wind and plunged down into "the triangular field" before following the old trolley line into the Rose Woods. Then the Loop around to Sickles Avenue and back out to the Emmitsburg Road and back into town. My second hike began at the seminary and continued along Confederate Avenue to the Spangler Farm horse trail and on to the Peach Orchard and eventually to The Angle. These solitary walks are always something special.

Another new experience this time around was spending time going over Pickett's Charge with Stuart Dempsey, a Licensed Battlefield Guide. While I have often sung the praises of these guides to folks planning a visit, I had never actually gone on a tour with a guide but was invited to do so this time by a friend who's ambition upon retiring is to become a guide. And again, I learned something new for in addition to looking over the usual aspects of the July 3 charge, Dempsey took us behind the McDonald's parking lot to talk about the role of the 8th Ohio, which was hotly engaged in that area.

But all too soon it was time to head home. While the weather had been rather cool early in the week (perfect hiking weather!) our last night was gorgeous so we enjoyed a lovely dinner outside on the square. I know I'm preaching to the choir here but if you've never been to Gettysburg you need to put it at the top of your bucket list! Until next time...

submitted by Andy Oren



**The annual membership renewal form can be found in this issue. Please complete the form and return it as soon as possible. By renewing right away using the postage paid envelope, you will be saving the Round Table the cost of mailing reminder notices. The money we save can be used for the excellent historical programming provided by your Milwaukee Civil War Round Table! Thank you for choosing to be a member of this fine organization! Keep spreading the good word about us!**



*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!

## Captain James F. Rowe

### A Common Man Uncommonly Involved in Historical Firsts

*In January 2020, you were introduced to Capt. James F. Rowe, and his 1862 sword that recently worked its way back to the family. Susan Anderson (Round Table member Laura Rinaldi's sister) got word that the sword was "on the market" and hastened to get it off the market! Capt. Rowe is Susan's husband's great-great uncle. Antique dealer James Mountain had described the sword as having a "monumental history" attached to it.*

*But they only knew a part of that history! Here is what Susan has learned since the sword came into her possession. Susan and Laura will have Capt. Rowe's sword and other memorabilia on display at the September meeting. Please stop and have a look at this wonderful piece of family history.*



Events of historical importance can happen to ordinary people living ordinary lives. Anyone who takes time to listen can hear family stories of immigration, love, financial struggles and wars. That is one personal way to learn and appreciate history. Another is to visit a cousin and take notice on a back wall of an old picture of Union officers on a mountain precipice with unfamiliar names scrawled on the back. A picture can teach history if one takes the time...One of the officers pictured was James F. Rowe, my husband's great- great uncle.

James F. Rowe enlisted in Co. L, Stoneham Light Infantry, 6th Massachusetts Militia Infantry, under Captain Dykes, at that time a peacetime militia. The "Old 6th" had a long history of being formed and reformed, this version having been organized in 1855; the government wanting to have at least a minimal force maintained at the ready. According to the regimental history, he was commissioned a 3rd Lieutenant on July 21, 1860. Training in weapons and drilling basics were routine, until – "Shortly after South Carolina issued its Declaration of Secession, Massachusetts Governor John A. Andrew anticipated imminent civil war and issued an order on January 16, 1861, to the ten existing Massachusetts units of peacetime militia to immediately reorganize and prepare for active service."(1) So "the Sixth Massachusetts Volunteer Militia was formally organized on January 21, 1861. In March they were issued uniforms and Springfield rifles and told to be ready to assemble at any time. After the attack on Fort Sumter on April 12th, the men of the M6M knew their days of drilling were over. Orders came 3 days later on April 15: defend Washington D.C. (2)

On their way to Washington after much celebration in Northern cities, the troop train approached Baltimore, Maryland, a known Southern sympathizing state although it did not secede from the Union. "Steam engines were not allowed to operate in the city limits, so the regiment crossed the city in train cars drawn by horses. Most of the men made it before a growing mob threw sand and ship anchors onto the tracks. At that point, the soldiers had no choice but to disembark and begin marching." (3) Firsthand accounts are filled with the confusion, terror and doom felt by the troops as they incurred the insane rage of the mob as it grew to number in the thousands. Vulgar racist epithets were hurled at them along with deadly projectiles and later gun fire. An account by Lt. Rowe appears in "The Liberator" May 5, 1861, reprinted from "The Boston Journal," Washington, April 20, 1861:

*We have a letter (says the Boston Journal) from Lieut. Rowe of the Stoneham Company, who was in the thickest of the fight at Baltimore. It is dated Washington, April 20. He says:-*

*"We marched in close ranks so as not to let them get into our company. They said we could never go through alive, and called us everything but honest men. We paid no attention to them until they began to press upon us. We then moved on in double quick time, and they let the stones and bricks fly; still we did not return the fire, and they rushed for the bridge to tear it up, but we were too quick for them and rushed across, driving them at the point of the bayonet. Then the pistols of the rowdies began to play upon our men. We could not stand that, although the order was not to fire upon them. They did not know we were loaded, but every gun was, and we began to let the cold lead fly, and to lay them right and left. They were astonished. I can assure you. They seemed determined to have our colors, but were disappointed in that, and the colors went through the city in spite of the ruffians. We had the hottest time as we crossed the bridge. They piled everything in our way to stop us. I was near the colors at this time. The missiles flew like hail, and I ordered the company to fire, and they picked off six or eight of the rebels, who scattered in all directions.*

*"Tell Old Massachusetts to arouse, and give us more men."*

It is not known exactly when Lt. Rowe was struck in the head although by his own account rebels were "determined to take the colors...but the colors went through the city." He was near the colors when he ordered his men to fire back despite orders not to. The Regimental history lists him as one of the first four officers wounded that day. (4) Rowe was transported to Washington with the other wounded from the 6th and the April 22, 1861, Company Muster Roll lists him in "Washington Hospital as a casualty, Riot in Baltimore April 19, 1861."

Interestingly, Lt. Rowe then became one of the first soldiers likely nursed by Clara Barton herself. The "Massmoments.org project" states: "Clara Barton and her sister Sally Vassal nursed the wounded of the Sixth Massachusetts when they arrived in Washington." Although not trained as a nurse, Clara was educated and working in Washington as a Patent Clerk. When the wounded of the 6th began arriving in Washington, she knew she needed to help. When younger, she had nursed her own brother after a head injury so it would not be too much of an assumption that she would have likely cared for Lt. Rowe, he having also a head blow. It is said that seeing the conditions in Washington seeded her desire to work with the military to help improve care. This experience for Lt. Rowe also must have let him know first-hand what it was to be wounded, saved from the field and then needing care. He was mustered out of the 6th after their 90 days enlistment on August 2, 1861 in Boston, Mass. At some time he was presented with a commemorative personalized sword and scabbard by his Stoneham Light Infantry Company men meticulously etched with patriotic and camp scenes along with the date of the Baltimore incident. This sword is still in existence in the family with evidence of wear indicating he carried it throughout the war after re-enlisting; a testament to a respected officer. On July 31, 1862, the 26-year-old James Rowe joined the 33rd Reg't Mass Inf Co D at Stoneham for 3 years. He was mustered in as a 1st Lieutenant on August 5, 1862. (5)

As the war intensified, there were dismal reports of wounded and dying soldiers lying in blood and filth sometimes for days on the field after battles. This was due to the ineptness of untrained details assigned to transport them, in many instances composed of slackers, young musicians, drunkards, cowards etc., commanders not wanting to spare fighting men for the duty. It was recognized that action needed to be taken.

submitted by: Susan Mann Anderson (extended family member)

### To be continued in the October *General Orders*

#### References:

- (1) Hall, Charles Winslow (1900). *Regiments and Armories of Massachusetts. An Historical Narration of the Massachusetts Volunteer Militia, With Portraits and Biographies of Officers, Past and Present etc. Vol 1. Boston: W.H. Potter & Co OCLC559765857.*
- (2) 6th Mass Vol Regiment Organized, massmoments.org project of masshumanities Primary source: Mayor's statement
- (3) Ibid 6th Mass Vol Reg
- (4) Old 6th Regiment History 1866 pg 47 lists Lt. James F. Rowe, Co. L as among the 3 officers wounded that day. Pg. 135 3rd Lt. James F. Rowe, Stoneham; wounded in the head with a brick, April 19, 1861 Baltimore; Capt. Co. F, 33rd Mass 3 years; on staff of Hooker, Howard and Mower
- (5) Compiled Military Service Record Summary: NARA

## 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 seeking funding to replace the obelisk at the grave of Brig. Gen. Lysander Cutler. Cutler first served as Colonel of the 6th Wisconsin Regiment 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 replacing the monument 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 September 30, 2021.

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.

# A NEW STATE ANSWERS THE CALL TO WAR

## Part I

News of the firing on Fort Sumter in 1861 was announced from the pulpits of small-town churches and elsewhere on a peaceful Sunday morning in Wisconsin. “The effect...can hardly be told upon those who had persistently insisted...that no American would ever open fire upon an American flag,” one man remembered. A hired hand working on a farm in Juneau County said the mood of the citizenry changed almost at once. “War, war, war, was the theme of every fireside and gathering. The people felt that the secessionists had forfeited all their rights under the constitution by treasonably making war against our government.”

The hot words and excitement of morning gave way by afternoon to what one man called “a palsied numbness.” Sunday schools were “not well attended by the older boys that day,” he said. “They were out on the corners listening, thinking and talking...There was very little loud expression, and no boasting or cheers. The saloons were not patronized by even those who habitually frequented such resorts. There was a most ominous quietness among those who gathered on the streets...This semi-silence was more expressive than can be described.”

Wisconsin joined the Union just a dozen years before and the new state on the far-off frontier was allotted only one regiment of infantry in President Abraham Lincoln’s first call for volunteers. The 90-day 1st Wisconsin Regiment of Active Militia was quickly raised for the various militia companies, outfitted in militia grey uniforms, and sent to the war front in Washington.

Governor Alexander Randall, however, was quick to realize more regiments would be needed and immediately ordered a second and a third regiment to be organized. Only few in the population were born to the state, but he had sons of New England and Pennsylvania and Ohio and New York – even Virginia and Tennessee and Kentucky – at hand to fill the ranks of state companies. There were as well young, tough fellows from Germany, Ireland, Norway, and other places across the ocean. In some of the backwoods companies being recruited could be found one or two free blacks and runaways and representatives of the Ojibwa, Oneida, Potawatomi, and other tribes – all to carry a musket with the rest.

War meetings stirred by drumbeats and screeching fifes were held in cities and backwoods towns and rural crossroads to form military organizations to put down the rebellion. Hampered by distance and a scattered population, patriotic and ambitious men seeking to gather the 77 enlistees needed to form a volunteer “company” moved into nearby communities to seek new recruits while bands played “Yankee Doodle” and “Hail, Columbia.” Hundreds of young men immediately stepped forward. “Parents tried to keep the youths back,” one volunteer said, “but the enthusiasm in young America was too great, and they went forward with a determination paternal demonstration and threats could not prevent.”

In Madison, Governor Randall expressed impatience with the Lincoln Administration for not moving quickly enough. He saw a longer conflict and told a joint session of the Wisconsin Legislature: “This war began where Charleston *is*, and it should end where Charleston *was*. These gathering armies are the instruments of His vengeance, to execute his judgments; they are His flails wherewith on God’s great Southern threshing floor, He will pound rebellion for its sins.”

A fourth Wisconsin regiment was organized and then a fifth, and finally a call for companies for a sixth regiment. A few of those who stepped forward were bored or wanted to be considered brave or sought advancement; some saw the coming war as a fight against the evil of slavery; others felt they were called to protect the sacred Union created by their grandfathers and great-grandfathers. It was one thing for the president to proclaim an insurrection and call out the state militias, however, and quite another to have the 75-thousand soldiers in hand.



The militia system in Wisconsin was typical of most Northern states on the eve of the Civil War. It was supported with an annual allotment of arms, equipment and stores provided by an 1808 Act of Congress. Under the Wisconsin Militia Act of 1858, “able bodied white male citizens between the ages of eighteen and forty-five years” were subject to military duty in time of war or insurrection. Active units at the time were organized into companies of 40 members. Exempted from state service were “ministers and preachers of the Gospel, licensed physicians and surgeons,” firemen and members of hook and ladder companies, various officers of the court and legislature, and “officers and attendants of the state lunatic asylum, public hospitals, and the state and country prisons.”

Four days after Lincoln's call, the governor urged ladies of the state to provide "blankets and quilts made for the use and benefit of the soldiers, until purchases can be made." There was a great need, he added, "clothing, shoes, knapsacks, rubber spreads, haversacks, drawers, cap covers, woolen shirts and socks." One bill for \$18.74 was presented for an ice cream social which the governor had provided for a group of Madison ladies who made 1,500 shirts.

The ten companies of the First Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry were ordered to rendezvous at Camp Scott in Milwaukee. By May 1860, the Wisconsin 1st – sworn in for 90-days of service – was organized and outfitted and then sent by rail to Washington. Five would-be volunteers were turned aside for physical reasons, including one gallant patriot who admitted he was 60 and still wanted to go.

As new companies arrived at Madison, the womenfolk – grandmothers, mothers, wives, sisters, and sweethearts – baked pies and packed packages of food and prepared socks and other items that might be needed by a soldier. One volunteer wrote to a Madison newspaper: "The Ladies everywhere – God Bless them!"

The mustering place at Madison was a wonder. About a mile and one-half from the city itself and surrounded by a plank board fence, the land was under the operation of the Wisconsin Agricultural Society until the 30-some acres was offered and accepted as a training camp. It was renamed "Camp Randall" in honor of the governor. An army of workers – hampered by a wet and rainy spring – set to cleaning the grounds, leveling a parade ground, as well as cleaning, laying flooring and installing windows and wooden beds in the animal sheds along the southern and eastern walls of the enclosure. A large shed was remodeled to provide a mess hall and a nearby building turned into a kitchen where workmen and incoming soldiers were fed at a cost of 37-cents per day per man.

When the first group of volunteers arrived in early May, they found the buildings still leaked when it rained and were drafty when the weather was cold. "Swimming out of the bunks, we care very little if it rains or not for we are used to it," one new soldier said. To add to the misery of trying to sleep in the old barns, several of the new inhabitants took to cackling and honking and quacking after dark to mimic the animals once housed there. In the final tally, however, Camp Randall would become the great mustering place for most of Wisconsin's regiments during 1861-1865.

One recruit from neighboring Minnesota found many of the men in his Fox Lake, Wisconsin, Company "rough vulgar blackguards" and denounced Madison as "miserably dull" with "no life, no gayety & scarcely amusement" and "scarcely a pretty woman here..." The plank board fence of Camp Randall was found to have several loose boards that allowed the new volunteers to run the guard (who was only armed with a shout, one said) and walk the mile into town.

The most notorious transgression came when a party of drunken soldiers attempted to get into Voigt's Brewery long after the closing hour. When the owner refused to open his saloon, a local newspaper reported, a window was broken, and several bottles of liquor taken. "Mr. Voigt, from a window above (in the second-floor apartment where he and his family lived), fired a shot gun over their heads with a view of driving them off, not intending to injure any one. Upon this they fired upon the house with revolvers and threw stones into the windows breaking glass, sash and blinds. Mr. Voigt fired several times over their heads with a revolver and finally discharged his shot gun aiming at their legs as nearly as he could upon which they decamped." It was subsequently reported that a soldier was found asleep near the brewery the next day, dead drunk.



submitted by: Lance J. Herdegen  
Author

*The Iron Brigade in Civil War and Memory and Thereafter*  
*Union Soldiers in the American Civil War*

*Those Damned Black Hats: The Iron Brigade in the Gettysburg Campaign.*  
Winner Army Historical Foundation Award for Distinguished Writing.

*The Men Stood Like Iron*

**To be continued in the October *General Orders***

From the Rochester Democrat & Chronicle

July 16, 2021

## Upstate NY Museum's Annual Civil War Event This Year Eliminates One Side of the Conflict

As it has done each July for decades, Genesee Country Village and Museum will plunge into Civil War history this weekend (July 17-18).

There will be cannon fire, and there will be muzzle flashes on the Great Meadow as part of artillery demonstrations. But for the first time since the early 1980s, the living – history institution's Civil War weekend will not host battle re-enactments in which hobbyists dressed as Union and Confederate soldiers clash on museum grounds, and the event won't include Confederate iconography, such as the "Stars and Bars" flag.

In the absence of the battle re-enactments, the Civil War weekend will not have a physical Confederate presence. About 100 re-enactors will portray Union soldiers, Museum CEO Becky Wehle said. Guests, the museum's website explains, will be able to visit their encampment and listen to the stories of combatants, including "colored troops and women who disguised themselves to join the war."

But no re-enactors will play Confederate troops, and no Confederate symbols will be displayed.

When asked, Wehle said recent incidents involving the Confederate flag, including its use by white supremacists at a 2017 rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, where an anti-racist protester was killed, did not factor into the museum's thinking. However, she said, current discussions around race did and spoke of the institution's desire to be more broad and inclusive in its offerings.

"The Confederate flag represented the Confederate government and military, which explicitly supported slavery and slaveholders' rights during the war," said Richard Newman, described as a "professor of history at Rochester Institute of Technology's College of Liberal Arts, and an expert on the Civil War and abolitionism," who applauded the move. Newman further indicated that "the banner cannot be viewed as a historical object independent of its 'long and problematic' use as a symbol of 'resistance to civil rights...'"

Some of the new offerings focus on women. A talk spotlights female soldiers and spies. A female re-enactor portrays a woman struggling to maintain a family farm while her husband, sons and brothers are on the front lines. Others explore the circumstances of Black and enslaved people, since, as the museum noted, New York played a key role in the abolitionist movement and the Underground Railroad... Another presentation focuses on Black women who ran printing presses for war correspondents...

As to whether the battle re-enactments, long a focal point, are a thing of the past, Wehle said: "Honestly, we don't know. We're taking this one step at a time to see how the reaction is to this event, and we'll make a decision from there. I hope we can make it clear to people that this is a really tough topic to navigate through, and the museum is doing the best it can to provide authentic, educational and sensitive programming."

Somewhere between authentic and sensitive, an entire Confederate Army of more than a million American men disappeared.

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

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

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

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

## **SAVE HISTORIC ANTIETAM FOUNDATION BUYS BATTLEFIELD LAND AT ANTIETAM**

For the first time in the preservation history of the Antietam Battlefield, a non-profit organization has acquired core battlefield land along the historic Harpers Ferry Road. The Save Historic Antietam Foundation, Inc. (SHAF) announced acquisition of a one-half acre house lot approximately on-half mile south of Sharpsburg for \$132,000.

“We’ve been targeting this battlefield sector as prime for preservation for some time,” said SHAF president Dr. Tom Clemens. “This site presented an ideal opportunity.”

Purchase of the non-historic house and adjoining property is all the more important because the ground lies outside the national park boundary.

“We are not confined by an artificial Congressional boundary,” commented Clemens. “This is prime battlefield land. The battle did not start or end at a paper boundary.”

The site is high ground that overlooks the final assault of Gen. Ambrose Burnside’s attack on the afternoon of September 17, 1862. Confederates under Gen. A.P. Hill stopped Burnside’s advance, saving General Lee’s army from defeat.

“Southern artillery from New Orleans occupied the position we purchased,” remarked Clemens. “From this high ground Confederate cannoners could pound Burnside’s assault.”

Clemens announced SHAF will be fundraising to pay for the property.

“An anonymous donor who has supported SHAF’s cause from the outset has offered a one-for-one match. We raise \$15,000; the donor matches with \$15,000.” said Clemens. “We’re up for the challenge.”

Clemens expects grants from other battlefield preservation sources to cover the bulk of the funding.

For anyone interested in donating toward the \$15,000 matching grant challenge, please visit the SHAF Facebook page or the SHAF web page. Donations can also be made through the Community Foundation of Washington County on their website, and may be tax deductible.

### **NEW ZOOM WORKSHOPS – PRIOR REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

#### **Ezra Carman and His Influence on the Antietam Battlefield**

**Wednesday, September 15, 2021 – 6:30 – 8:00 pm**

**Cost: \$15/\$10 Friends of the Museum**

**Presented by: Dr. Thomas G. Clemens**

Gen. Ezra Ayers Carman wrote an over 1,800 page manuscript that accompanied a series of 14 maps which mark the troop movements of the Battle of Antietam. These maps and manuscript became the most detailed record of the events of this battle, or any other Civil War battle, and are still used to conduct research. These documents are the centerpiece of the work completed by Carman and the Antietam Battlefield Board. The work completed by the Board in the 1890s set the battlefield on the course that made it what it is today.

Dr. Thomas Clemens’ workshop for the Civil War Museum will consider the legacy of General Carman and his influence on the maps, markers, and interpretation of the Antietam battlefield.

#### **Passing in Review**

**Tuesday, October 12, 2021 – 6:30 – 8:00 pm**

**Cost: \$15/\$10 Friends of the Museum**

**Presented by: Lance Herdegen**

It was a Civil War military organization known by many names – Western Brigade, Country Brigade, Gibbon’s Brigade, Black Hat Brigade, and finally remembered as The Iron Brigade of the West. It first consisted of the 2nd, 6th, 7th Wisconsin, and 19th Indiana. It was joined by the 24th Michigan after Antietam in late 1862. It was the only Western infantry brigade in the Eastern Armies until after its storied defensive at Gettysburg when the depleted ranks were reinforced by regiments from Pennsylvania and New York. At the end of the Civil War, it was found to be the Union brigade with the highest percentage of losses. In this virtual workshop, author Lance Herdegen tells the story of this fabled outfit from its beginning until the surviving regiments returned home to Wisconsin, Indiana, and Michigan.

# 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 and DESCRIPTIONS:

### **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

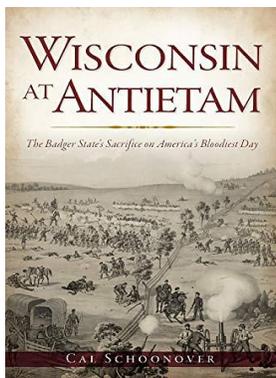
In April 1862, a year into the Civil War, essayist Ralph Waldo Emerson proclaimed “America is another word for Opportunity.” Among those who could attest to Emerson's words were families who arrived in the United States during the decades immediately preceding the war, and who sent their husbands, brothers 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* reveals the common soldier from the cataclysm of the American Civil War by offering a collective biography of five soldiers of the 96th in the Western Theater. The 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.



New from Round Table member, Cal Schoonover. Publishing date: October 2020  
**Wisconsin at Antietam: The Badger State's Sacrifice on America's Bloodiest Day.**

The Battle of Antietam was the bloodiest day in American history, and Wisconsin played a vital role. The Second, Sixth and Seventh Wisconsin Regiments served in the Iron Brigade, one of the most respected infantries in the Federal army, and fighting by their side in Maryland was the Third Wisconsin. The mettle of the Badger State was sorely tested and proven on South Mountain and on the bloody Miller's Cornfield. The Third alone lost more than half its men to death or injury, and the Iron Brigade, too, suffered extraordinary losses. Yet Wisconsin's sacrifices at Antietam rebuffed the Confederate incursion into Northern territory and enabled the Emancipation Proclamation.

Civil War historian Cal Schoonover sheds new light on the exploits of Wisconsin soldiers in this turning point to secure the Union.

A membership in the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table offers a chance to attend presentations by some of the most well-known Civil War scholars. It gives one the opportunity to enjoy a fine meal while engaging in spirited discussions of topics related to the Civil War and the reasons it is still considered America's "seminal event."

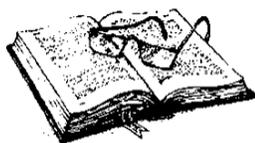
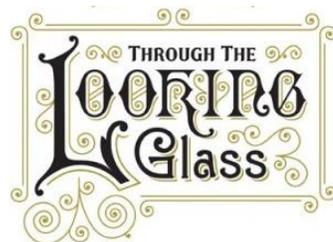
A membership also brings you the **General Orders**, the monthly newsletter of this quality organization. Following is a review of some of the impressive features of the **General Orders**.

## Wanderings



Remember to send the story of any of your Civil War wanderings to Donna Agnelly for possible inclusion in our on-going feature about historical travel enjoyed by members of the MCWRT. Positive memories and encouragement to travel more may motivate others to visit those same sites!

***Through the Looking Glass*** provides a venue for the sharing of personalities from the war years. These featured articles are not necessarily about military exploits and experiences. They often delve into the lives of civilians who also faced the war's upheaval.



**Between the Covers** presents reports and opinions delving into both recent and older Civil War book offerings. These write-ups can lead you to decide that a book is just what you have been looking for on a topic of interest to you. And, when you have read an exciting new book yourself, you can tell others about it as well!

No one said it better than the soldiers and correspondents who experienced the Civil War first-hand. How did Civil War contemporaries react to the battles and conditions faced by participants in the conflict? Find out by perusing **From the Field**, a monthly labor of love by Jim Johnson.



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

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

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

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

