

# GENERAL ORDERS

The Newsletter of the

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



September 8, 2022

Steven Cowie

## **When Hell Came to Sharpsburg: The Battle of Antietam and Its Impact on the Civilians Who Called it Home**

*The guests were not invited. Rather, they were invaders. All Union and Confederate soldiers at Antietam were unwelcome intruders. In fairness, the two most powerful armies in North America did not target the residents of the Antietam Valley. Happenstance forced their tectonic collision.*

Dennis Frye

The Battle of Antietam, fought in and around Sharpsburg, Maryland, on September 17, 1862, was the bloodiest day in American history. Despite the large number of books and articles on the subject, the horrendous effect that the battle had on area civilians is rarely discussed. *When Hell Came to Sharpsburg: The Battle of Antietam and Its Impact on the Civilians Who Called it Home* by our September speaker, Steven Cowie, rectifies this oversight.

By the time the battle ended about dusk that day, more than 23,000 men had been killed, wounded or captured in just a dozen hours of combat – a grim statistic that tells only part of the story. The epicenter of that deadly day was the small community of Sharpsburg. Families lived, worked, and worshipped there. It was their home. And the horrific fighting turned their lives upside down.

*When Hell Came to Sharpsburg* investigates how the battle and its armies wreaked emotional, physical, and financial havoc on the people of Sharpsburg. For proper context, the author explores the savage struggle and its gory aftermath and explains how soldiers stripped the community of resources and spread diseases. Cowie carefully and meticulously follows fortunes of individual families – ordinary folk thrust into harrowing circumstances – and their struggle to recover from their unexpected and often devastating losses.



Steven Cowie earned a degree from California State University, Long Beach. As part of the Los Angeles film industry, he penned spec screenplays and sold his award-winning short film to the Sundance Channel. A lifelong student of the Civil War, Cowie dedicated fifteen years to exclusively researching the Battle of Antietam. *When Hell Came to Sharpsburg* is his first book.

Please join us in welcoming Steven Cowie to our Round Table as we begin our new season.

## **General Orders No. 9-22**

**September 2022**

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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.]**

5:30 p.m. - Registration/Social Hour

6:30 p.m. - Dinner

[\$30 by reservation, please]

Reservations are accepted until

Monday, September 5, 2022

7:30 p.m. - Program

## **CHANGE IN MEETING TIME**

In looking for ways to improve the experience for members, guests, and presenters at our meetings, the Board of Directors has decided to change our meeting times as follows:

5:30 pm – Social/Registration

6:30 pm – Dinner

7:30 pm – Announcements/Program

Note that the dinner and program start times will be FIRM.

# 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!

Join with us in observing



of superb historical programming at the  
**Milwaukee Civil War Round Table  
Anniversary Celebration**

October 14-15, 2022  
at the Kenosha Civil War Museum

**SEE PAGE 5-6 FOR DETAILS!**

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## The Muster Roll: NEW MEMBERS

### MCWRT Annual Fund

The following members have made a generous commitment to the MCWRT by investing in that fund. This list reflects those donations made through June 9, 2022.

#### Major Contributor (\$500 and above)

Gerald Frangesch

#### In Memory of Robert Parrish \$500

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

Doug Haag, Dawn & Van Harl, Gene & Jane Jamrozy, Steve Leopold, Dan Nettesheim

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

Donna Agnelly, Michael Benton, Dale Bespalec, Dale Brassler, Mike Deeken, Gary & Judy Ertel, Bill & Claudette Finke, Peter & Jean Jacobsohn, Bernard Jene, David Jordan, Robert Mann, Kathy McNally, James & Ann Reeve, Laura Rinaldi, Brad & Kathy Schotanus, Dennis Slater, Justin Tolomeo

#### Contributor (up to \$99)

George Affeldt, Tom & Terry Arliskas, Angela Bodven, Robert Christie, John & Linda Connelly, Gordon Dammann, Paul Eilbes, George Geanon, Julian Gonzalez, Brian Gunn, Leon & Margaret Harris, Christopher Johnson, Jerome Kowalski, John Kuhnmuench, Jay Lauck, Fred Madsen, Rod Malinowski, Paul & Susan Miller, Herb Oechler, David Perez, Tom Pokrandt, John Rodahl, Cal Schoonover, Sam Solberg, Dan Tanty, Bernard Van Dinter, Gil Vraney, Paul Zehren

#### Speaker Enhancement Fund

George Affeldt, Donna Agnelly, Tom & Terry Arliskas, Jim Blake, Roman Blenski, Dale Brassler, Angela Bodven, Robert Christie, Ellen DeMers, Thomas Doyle, Lori Duginski, Paul Eilbes, Gerald Frangesch, David Gapinski, Julian Gonzalez, Rick Gross, Brian Gunn, Doug Haag, Leon & Margaret Harris, Jim Heinz, Tom Hesse, Don Hilbig, Bernard Jene, Steve Leopold, Rod Malinowski, Kathy McNally, Jim & Monica Millane, Herb Oechler, Andy Oren, John & Susan Petty, Tom Pokrandt, Laura Rinaldi, Jack Rodencal, Bob & Carla Rodzaj, Dan Tanty, Justin Tolomeo, Rich Tonelli, Paul Zehren



Robert S. Holzman spoke to the membership in September 1954 on “Stormy Ben Butler.”

September 1964 had E. C. Kubicek speaking to the members on “Matthew Brady’s Civil War.”

“5th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Regiment Field Music” was the topic of Edward Noyes’ presentation to the Round Table in September 1974.

At the September 1984 meeting Dr. Richard H. Zeitlin spoke on “Beyond the Battles: The Flags of the Iron Brigade, 1863-1918.”

“Lincoln Still with Us Today” was the topic presented by Frank J. Williams at the September 1994 meeting.

Brig. Gen. Parker Hills (U.S. Army, retired) spoke to those assembled at our September 2004 meeting on “The Forgotten Vicksburg: The Louisiana Campaign.”

In September 2014 the Round Table welcomed Frank P. Varney who spoke on “General Grant and the Rewriting of History.”

At last year’s September meeting our speaker was Eric J. Wittenberg. Eric’s presentation was on “Seceding from Secession: The Civil War, Politics, and the Creation of West Virginia.”

## **Kenosha Civil War Museum Exhibit** **June 11, 2022 through June 4, 2023**

*Explore the people and events that made the Buckeye state unique and so important to the Union cause.*

Ohio joined the Union in 1803 as the 17th state, and was a major agricultural, economic, educational, and intellectual force in pre-Civil War America. At the time of the Civil War, Ohio was the oldest and most established state in the Upper Middle West.

It can be argued that no northern state was more important to the Union cause than Ohio. Its size, location, and its southern borders with Virginia and Kentucky made it geographically important. The Ohio River and a well-established network of railroads moved troops, food and supplies. Ohio contributed more soldiers per capita to the Union Army than any other northern state. Ohio’s location made it a major route for African American freedom seekers traveling to Canada. Five Ohioans who served in the Union Army went on to become president of the United States.

## **Kenosha Civil War Museum** **Second Friday Lecture Series**

These free in-person programs are sponsored by the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table and Iron Brigade Association.

### **The Band That Played for History** **Friday, September 9, 2022 Noon** **Presenter: Ed Pierce**

Of all the bands that participated in the Civil War, few equaled more experience than the little brass band from Brodhead, Wisconsin. From 1857 to 1865 the core group of musicians morphed into three ensembles: The Brodhead Brass Band, the 3rd Wisconsin Regimental Band, and the 1st Brigade Band. Abraham Lincoln, Stephen Douglas, U.S. Grant, William T. Sherman, Oliver Otis Howard, Charles Hamilton, and Nathaniel P. Banks were among the impressive list of those who heard their music. Hear the remarkable, yet largely unknown, story as they stepped off the concert stage and onto the stage of history.

### **Virtual Workshop** **Ohio at Chickamauga** **Wednesday, September 14, 2022. 6:30 pm.** **\$10/\$25 non-members** **Instructor: Dan Masters**

Chickamauga truly lived up to its name as “the river of death” as Ohio lost more soldiers in this battle than in any other of the entire war. The state of Ohio contributed more soldiers to the Army of the Cumberland than any other state, while Ohioans also held numerous command positions within the army starting with commanding General William S. Rosecrans. Buckeyes fought on every portion of the field, from the opening shots near Jay’s Mill on September 19 to the gallant stand of the 21st Ohio on Horseshoe Ridge on September 20. And Buckeye-born Bushrod Johnson turned in his best performance of the war while leading a division on the Confederate side.

### **SPARK!**

This monthly program is for individuals with early to mid-stage memory loss and their care partners. Participants are engaged in lively conversations, storytelling and other multi-sensory activities.

Please register for the free program at [spark@kenosha.org](mailto:spark@kenosha.org) or 262-653-4432.

### **Voices of Freedom From the Underground Railroad** **Friday, September 16, 2022 2 pm – 3:30 pm**

Learn about some of the Freedom Seekers who traveled on the Underground Railroad through the Upper Midwest.



*In the June 2022 General Orders you read about Colonel Harrison C. Hobart's, 21st Wisconsin, capture and imprisonment in Libby Prison at Richmond. Colonel Hobart spoke about his experience to a joint convention of the two houses in Madison.*

*In Part 2 we learn about Colonel Hobart's escape from Libby!*

### **Exchange of Prisoners**

Col. H. next spoke of the difficulty in the exchange of prisoners. He said it all grew out of the refusal of the rebels to allow our Government credit for the prisoners we took and paroled at Vicksburg. Those parole prisoners had been put back to the ranks of the rebel army. Our Government demanded that credit for them should be allowed in making and exchange of prisoners. The subject of colored soldiers had nothing whatever to do with the difficulty of effecting an exchange. He had it from Gen. Breckinridge himself. Furthermore, Col. Hobart said he would state here and state it with the expectation that it would go back to his late comrades, that in all his intercourse with him comrades, Libby prison notwithstanding all their sufferings, he did not believe there was a man there that desired the North to surrender a single point in regard the exchange. (Cheers) They would have the country do nothing inconstant with its honor and true interests.

That was the sentiment of the nearly eleven hundred officers now confined there.

Judge Hubbell – Three cheers for the eleven hundred.  
(Three cheers were given with uproarious zest)

Col. H. resumed: The rations of the prisoners were half a loaf of tasteless unbolted corn bread, and sometimes a little rice or soup, and the muddy water of the James River. When the officers received boxes of provisions from the North, they threw out their tasteless rations through the windows to the poor women and children that crowded around to receive them.

The situation of the privates on Belle Island was far worse, of course, than that of the officers at Libby prison. They received comparatively little from the North and it was a fact that they had killed and eaten every cat and dog that came within their reach. This fact told more in regard to their famishing condition and suffering than could be given in an exact number of words.

After detailing the mode of exit from Libby prison, substantially as published by us in a previous article, the Colonel thus gives the history of the latter portion of their journey:

Saturday night the journey was resumed as usual. It was Col. Hobart's turn to play the part of picket and pilot. During the night, incautiously emerging from the thick pine forest, he suddenly found himself almost in the immediate presence of a party of rebel cavalry. His surprise and alarm for the moment welded him to his tracks. Not doubting that he was seen he felt his case hopeless. Recovering his self-possession, however, he perceived that his presence was unobserved. Fortunately no guard had been stationed. He was but three or four rods from his enemies, and the slightest noise on his part might seal his fate. Cautiously putting one foot behind the other, he retreated from the place. The party of fugitives feeling considerably confused as to the "situation," scarcely knew now whether to retreat or attempt to turn the enemy's flank. They finally returned a distance of about three miles, and halted for further consultation. They lost their way, and being satisfied that there was danger ahead, and that it would be a labor lost to return further toward Richmond, they concluded to make an effort at considerable risk, to obtain information as to their locality. The others concealing themselves, Col. Hobart marched up to the door of a Negro dwelling and knocked. The voice of a black woman responded, inquiring who he was.

Col. Hobart answered that he was a traveler who had lost his way. After considerable parley, during which Col. H. refused to comply with the request to go to another house for his information, the door was opened, when it appeared that a large good-looking Negro was inside and had heard the conversation.

The Negro said, "I know who you is. You're one of dem 'scaped officers from Richmond." Col. H. laid his hand on the Negro's shoulder and said "I am and you are just the person I wanted to see. I want you to help me through." The Negro asked if there were any others with him. Col. H. told him. He said they must not stay there, that the road was picketed with rebel cavalry, who passed up and down every hour looking for the fugitives. The Negro woman offered Col. H. some milk to drink which he said did him more good than anything he ever took before in his life.

The Negro proved a sharp and shrewd fellow, and he invited Col. H. to a private spot at a distance in the field where the party all assembled and held a conference. The result was that the Negro was engaged to pilot them round the cavalry pickets. He then conducted them through a low swamp, then through several fields, and then directly over the road, crossing between the cavalry and their videttes – the cavalry sitting on their horses not over thirty or forty rods distant – and accompanied them a mile further on. They asked him to go with them, but he said he would not go unless he could get his family away also. He was a slave, as they were about to leave him, he said to Col. H. "Now, Mighty God, massa, how soon is you all coming down here? We all want to go wid you?" Col. H. told him he thought we should be along very soon. (Laughter and cheers)

He said he had the name of that Negro, and he should remember him, and his kindness to his dying day and should repay it if ever opportunity was given.

The line of the Williamsburg Pike was then followed rapidly, as far as the “Da scum river,” which was reached just at light on Sunday morning. To cross this river without assistance from some quarter was found impossible. They endeavored to wade through it, but failed. After a while they succeeded in reaching an island in the river, but could get no further. At this juncture a rebel citizen was seen coming up the river in a row boat, with a gun. Col. H. concealed himself in the bushes by the river to get a look at the man. Finding his countenance to indicate youth and benevolence, Col. H. accosted him as he approached. “I have been waiting for you,” said the Colonel. “They told me here at the house that you would take me across the river.” The end of the boat was toward the shore. “There are three more of us,” said Col. H. having by this time got his foot on the boat and his eye on the gun. The other three approached. The determination was to pass the river in that boat – peaceably if possible, forcibly if they must. “Where do you all comes from?” said the boatman seeming to hesitate and consider. The party represented themselves as farmers from various localities on the Chickahominy. “The officers don’t like to have me carry men over the river,” said the man who held the oars. “That’s right,” said Col. H. “you shouldn’t carry soldiers or suspected characters. Besides there are Yankees about here sometimes. But we farmers should be taken over without trouble.” Suffice it to say that the boat went and the escaping prisoners went in it, but in a short time thereafter a hue and cry was raised, and the entire population seemed to be out on the paths of the fugitives. Fortunately, the officers, instead of going farther that day, misled the rebels by concealing themselves near the river until night – a fact to which their escape at this time was due. At dark, the flight was again commenced with renewed hope, but perceiving evidences of continued pursuit, they returned to their hiding places where they then took a fresh start, going to the Williamsburg Pike, where they lay in ambush by the roadside for an hour before venturing to progress.

It was now early in the morning of Monday. For five days and six nights this little band of hunted and almost exhausted fugitives, with the stars for their guide, had slowly picked their way among surrounding perils toward the camp fires of their friends. They knew they must be near the outposts of the Union troops and now began to feel as if their trials were nearly over.

After six nights, they approached our pickets. The danger now was in being shot by them. They now changed their style and took the middle of the pike, walking leisurely and irregularly. At length as they came into a thick wood at about 4 o’clock in the morning, they were startled and brought to a standstill by a sharp and sudden command. “Halt!” Looking in the direction whence the command proceeded, they discovered the dark forms of a dozen of cavalymen drawn up in line of battle, who seemed to have risen from the ground. Neither knew whether they were friends or foes. His heart sunk in his breast, as in the shadows of the night he saw the gray confederate uniform, while sickening visions of Libby prison, and despairing thoughts of another exile from home and still worse duration vile than he had yet endured passed over his brain. “Who are you?” was the next question. “Citizens!” they answered. Col. Hobart thought he could see distinctly that their uniforms were gray, he had “gray” on the brain about that time. (Laughter)

They were immediately surrounded. One of the fugitives then ventured to inquire – “Are you Union troops?” “Well we are!” was the reply. The answer, the tone, the dialect of the reply told them at once that they were in the hands of their friends. Col. H. said the gray uniforms turned to blue in a moment. (Laughter) He and his comrades, without stopping to make explanations, lifted their hats and gave one long, exultant shout of joy, which at once assured the soldiers who they were. The party proved to belong to the 11th Pennsylvania, and they were but twelve miles from Williamsburg. Here their sufferings and perils ended.

**Thanks to Jim Johnson for all of his work on these  
From the Fields features.**



## Iron Brigade Color Guard

In recognition of their 40 years of membership the Round Table welcomes Peter and Jean Jacobsohn into the Iron Brigade Color Guard. Please take the time to congratulate and recognize Peter and Jean for their many years of devotion to the Round Table.

### **IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT:**

**During speaker Q&A, only specific questions related to the topic are allowed. If your question does not meet this criterion, you may be asked to yield the floor and you may also forfeit the opportunity to ask future questions.**

# The Great Lakes Civil War Forum

Where the Fight was the Thickest:  
The Campaigns of the Iron Brigade of the West

**Saturday, October 15 \* Check In Opens at 8:30 am \* Program Begins at 9:30 am**  
**\$55 (\$70 for non-members) includes lunch**

## **A Deadly Game of Bo-Peep: The Iron Brigade at South Mountain, September 14, 1862**

Presenter: Dr. Brian Matthew Jordan

On Sunday, September 14, 1862, the Army of the Potomac notched three, hard-earned victories in the rugged passes of South Mountain. One of the most inspiring moments of this first major combat of the Antietam Campaign involved a brigade of hearty Midwesterners who, ascending the old National Pike, forced Turner's Gap. How did this daring action contribute to and shape the identity of what came to be called the Iron Brigade? And how did the battle itself shape the course of the Maryland Campaign? Historian Brian Matthew Jordan will address these questions and more.

## **Whoever Stood in front of the Corn Field at Antietam Needs no Praise: The Black Hat Brigade at Antietam**

Presenter: Scott D. Hartwig

The Battle of Antietam was not the costliest battle the western brigade of General John Gibbon fought in the war, but for those who experienced its ferocity it was an unforgettable experience that no one who survived it ever wanted to repeat. Nearly a year later, Rufus Dawes of the 6th Wisconsin, would write that he dreaded the very thought of the Antietam. This program will examine the experience of the brigade that day, what sustained them through some of the fiercest fighting of the war, how some failed, but ultimately how they emerged from the Maryland Campaign with the nickname The Iron Brigade.

## **Boys, We Must Hold Our Colors on This Line or Lie Here Under Them**

Presenter: Phil Spaugy

The 19th Indiana is probably the least known of the Iron Brigade regiments. The veterans of the 19th had no authors such as Mickey Sullivan, Rufus Dawes, Jerome Watrous, or George Otis to write their regimental history. But the other men who wore the Black Hats remembered them well. Jerome Watrous of the 6th Wisconsin Volunteers recalled, "The 19th Indiana regiment became known as "Old Posey County" or "Swamp Hogs No. 19" and "every man of them did not care a goll darn how he was dressed, but was all hell for a fight."

The 19th Indiana brought 339 men to Gettysburg and by the end of July 1 had lost 27 killed, 133 wounded and 50 missing. Phil Spaugy's program will detail their vicious fighting along Willoughby Run and during the retreat to Seminary Ridge, where the 19th Indiana served on the exposed left flank of the brigade.

## **Camp-Fire Memories of the Iron Brigade**

Presenter: Lance Herdegen

The four years of Civil War cast a long shadow over the surviving veterans of the Iron Brigade. At first, they were too busy getting on with their lives and did not to give much thought of their days in uniform. But the years passed and soon they were caught up in an overwhelming need to think of soldier days, seek out the old comrades, and reflect on what had been accomplished. They called their reunions "Camp-Fires" and the written accounts comprised much of what is known today of the Iron Brigade. Writers and researchers delight in finding those accounts, but often use only small segments after making decisions on their historical value. The accounts themselves were often softened to spare readers, yet they hint at the truth of the war experience and provide an important glimpse of how the war and its memory affected the veterans and their families.

## CELEBRATING 75 YEARS

The Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, custodians of the Iron Brigade Association, was established in 1947 and is the second oldest of the more than 300 Civil War Round Tables in the United States and abroad. This year we will be celebrating our 75th anniversary at the Civil War Museum in Kenosha the weekend of October 14-15, 2022. Activities include a dinner on October 14th and presentations on key battles in the history of the Iron Brigade of the Civil War on October 15th. Current membership is approximately 300. Membership in the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc. has many perks. Membership automatically includes membership in the Iron Brigade Association.

### October 14, 2022 Dinner

#### Appetizers

Bacon-Wrapped Water Chestnuts finished in a house-made Bourbon BBQ glaze  
Personal Charcuterie Cup

#### Plated Salad

Apple Salad  
Spring Mix & Romaine Lettuce, Candied Pecans, Blue Cheese Crumbles with a Champagne Vinaigrette

#### Buffet Dinner

Black Angus Top Sirloin  
Served with a Red Wine Demi-Glace

Grilled Scottish Salmon  
Flame-grilled on-site and served with Mango Relish for a tropical citrus flavor

Roasted Wisconsin Red-Skinned Potatoes  
Oven-Roasted with Fresh Herbs & Garlic-Infused Olive Oil

Maple Glazed Carrots  
Artisan Dinner Rolls & Butter

Chef David's Famous Cheesecake Bars  
House-made Cheesecake on an Oreo Cookie Crust Topped with Raspberry Drizzle

**Cost of Dinner Event per person: \$50**

**[Please be aware that this dinner cost is separate from the Forum on Saturday.]**

Additional items available for dinner event guests:  
Certificate for one Used book  
Commemorative Note pads & post-its  
Golf style shirt (TBD)  
Auction prints and books

## ❧ IN MEMORIAM ❧

The Round Table reports the loss of the following members:

**Francis Kosednar** passed away on June 4, 2022 at the age of 90. He was born on July 19, 1931 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Frank was preceded in death by siblings Louis, Sue and Rita. He will be greatly missed by siblings John and Francine, his children, Timothy, Michael (Kathy), Jane, David (Marty Kral), Patricia, Kathryn, Valerie (Mark Greico), Mary and Daniel (Kimberly Vrublely), 14 grandchildren, five great grandchildren and counting, stepchildren and many extended family members and friends.

An interment ceremony was held on June 24 at Prairie Home Cemetery in Waukesha, Wisconsin.



**James Reeve II** passed away on July 23, 2022 in Green Bay, Wisconsin at the age of 82. He was born in Appleton, Wisconsin, on February 3, 1940.

Jim is preceded in death by his parents, John Paxton Reeve and Jean Shannon Reeve, as well as his two younger sisters Elizabeth (Betsy) Reeve Hansen and Barbara Buckland Reeve. Jim was devoted to his wife of 58 years, Ann Elizabeth Wartinbee Reeve. He was the father of Helen (Eric) Conlon, Libby (Jon) Baranko, Lucy Reeve, and Jamie (Maggie) Reeve. He was the proud grandfather of eight grandchildren: Ryan, Rob and Drew Baranko, Catie and Maggie Conlon, Olivia, Max, and Lily Reeve.

A service took place on August 3, 2022 at St. Michael's Anglican Church in Delafield, Wisconsin.

*And flights of angels guide them to their rest*

### Preview for 2023: *Atlanta is Ours! (And Fairly Won!)*



Preliminary planning suggests we will visit Dalton, Resaca, the brand-new Rocky Face Ridge Park, Allatoona Pass, Pickett's Mill, Kennesaw Mountain, Kolb's Farm, Andersonville, the Southern Museum of Civil War and Railroad History (home of the **General**), and the Atlanta History Center, where the **Texas** is memorialized. We will also stop at Columbus, home of the National Civil War Naval Museum as we make our way back towards Wisconsin.

Of course, much may change in a year, but the outline of the October 2023 trip will remain as described.

**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. 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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**General Orders** design & layout by Dave Wege.

Yearly memberships available: Individual (\$50), family (\$60), non-resident (\$25), attending an educational institution (\$20). **Contact Paul Eilbes for information: (262) 376-0568.**

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

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

September 8, 2022 Steve Cowie  
*"When Hell Came to Sharpsburg"*

October 14-15, 2022 Kenosha Civil War Museum  
*75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table*

November 10, 2022 Mary Abroe  
*Civil War Battlefields and Historic Preservation:  
An American Story*

December 8, 2022 Garry Adelman  
*(At the Country Club)  
Midwest Civil War Photo Extravaganza*

January 12, 2023 Rob Girardi  
*The Union Prisoners of War at Camp Douglas*

February 9, 2023 Charlie Knight  
*From Arlington to Appomattox*

March 9, 2023 Dwight Hughes

April 13, 2023 Rich Holloway  
*Red River Campaign*

May 11, 2023 Sean Michael Chick  
*Dreams of Victory*

June 8, 2023 Tom Cartwright

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



**Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.  
2022 – 2023 Board of Directors**

Name	Office/Position	Term Expires
Donna Agnelly	Editor, General Orders	2025
Thomas Arliskas	Past President	2025
Terry Arliskas	Secretary	
Michael K. Benton	Past President	2023
Roman Blenski	Quartermaster	2025
Paul A. Eilbes	Treasurer	2025
Van Harl	First Vice President	2023
Tom Hesse	President	2023
Grant Johnson	Membership/Webmaster Past President	2024
Bruce Klem	Past President	2024
Daniel Nettesheim	Member	2024
John Petty	Second Vice President	2025
Frank Rislér	Program Chair	2024
Tom Thompson	Member	2023
Justin Tolomeo	Member	2023
David Wege	Layout, General Orders	2024

**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 8, 2022**

Mail your reservations by Monday, September 5 to:  
Paul Eilbes  
1809 Washington Avenue  
Cedarburg, WI 53012-9730

Call or email reservations to:  
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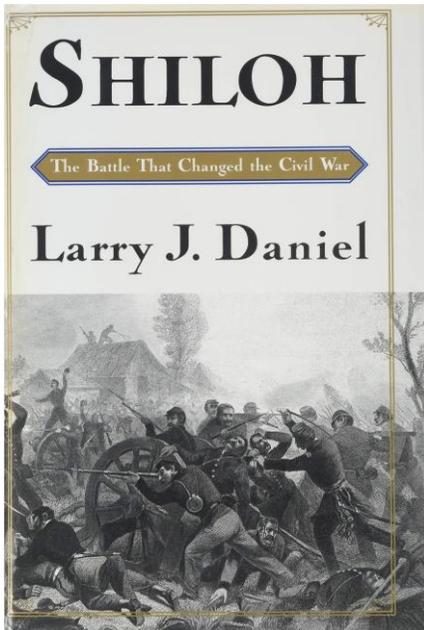
Enclosed is \$\_\_\_\_\_ (meal is \$30.00 per person) for \_\_\_\_\_ people for the  
September 8, 2022 meeting of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee.  
(Please make checks payable to the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.)



# **BETWEEN THE COVERS**

## **Shiloh: The Battle That Changed the Civil War**

**Larry J. Daniel**



This review will be on a book I purchased at the Kenosha Civil War Museum's symposium in September 2018. The author, Larry J. Daniel, was giving a presentation on Shiloh. I finally got to read it this past year in preparation for going on the Museum's trip to visit Corinth and Shiloh in October 2021. While our tour guide was Mr. Tim Smith, who also wrote a book on Shiloh, I read Mr. Daniel's book because I had already read Mr. Smith's book. I found that both authors' books were very informative on the battle and thoroughly covered the political build up to the battle, the battle and the aftermath in slightly different ways.

Mr. Daniel set the stage for the conflict in the buildup on the Confederate situation in the West. General Johnston has a larger territory to defend in the West than the East which essentially is the Virginia area. The Confederate strategy at the start was to defend all territory. The West has roughly the same troop strength as the East but about 4 times as much area to cover. Jefferson Davis firmly believes that in General Johnston he has the best commander of both sides. I'm not sure that Johnston used the best distribution of his forces and as a result begins almost immediately losing the territory he needs to defend. Davis supports him 100% and the political situation becomes sticky as the South loss of land increases.

The fall of Forts Henry and Donelson cost about 14,000 of Johnston's troops which were greatly missed in the upcoming battle at Shiloh. Mr. Daniel alludes to this in the book. Johnston is backed into a corner as a result of this loss. I think

better troop disposition would have enabled him to put more troops into supporting those forts or at the very least pull back when threatened and save those men to fight another day.

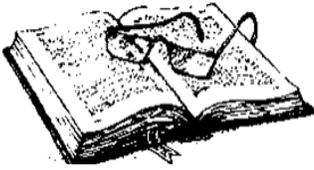
Eventually Johnston is forced to make a strike after seeing Nashville fall as well. He masses his forces at Corinth in preparation of a strike against Grant knowing he must hit the Union forces before Buell's army unites with Grant's at Pittsburg Landing. Mr. Daniel points out that Johnston would have liked to unite his force with those of Van Dorn but that plan fell through in that Van Dorn did not move toward Corinth until too late. In this book Mr. Daniel highlights the problems in the overall Confederate strategy in that each of their armies were almost all independent and there was no general plan to unite forces to meet a central threat.

At any rate the battle goes on with some delay due to rain. The battle plan as Mr. Daniel stated was poor as most historians identify the Corps on line attack was doomed to fail once contact was made and troops from different Corps and different divisions became mixed and control suffered. One thing I found somewhat confusing in this work was that the maps while plentiful did not show all the troop movements following the writing. As a result I was sometimes forced to page back and forth to follow the troop movements during the battle.

The end result for the South was defeat. In this work Mr. Daniel points out the battle of Shiloh was a must win for the South. "Hopes of recovering the upper Mississippi Valley forever dimmed after the loss." The other issue with this fight was that within 7 weeks the West had lost 30,000 men. It was a war of attrition in the West, one the South could never win. Johnston/Beauregard had failed to destroy Grant's army. As Daniel points out they were never close.

I think this was a fine book on Shiloh and Mr. Daniel provided the reader with the political build up behind the conflict and highlighted the overall Confederate strategy. While maps were plentiful, I feel they could have provided better guidance to the reader. Overall though it is a good book to have on one's bookshelf.

**Submitted by Bruce Klem**

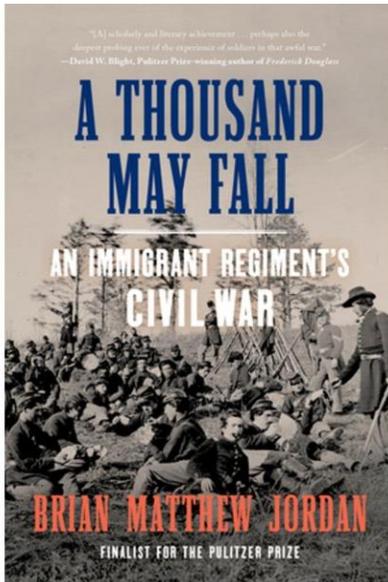


# **BETWEEN THE COVERS**

## **A Thousand May Fall**

### **An Immigrant Regiment's Civil War**

**Brian Matthew Jordan**



My review this time is on a book that I read for the Kenosha Civil War Museum's Media Club. The book is 252 pages. The choice for this book tied into an exhibit at the museum that highlights the impact of foreign men who enlisted in the Union Army to fight in the Civil War to restore the Union.

The book follows the account of the 107th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, which was composed mostly of German American soldiers. It was part of the group of regiments that became labeled as "Damned Dutch" as a result of their unfortunate positioning in the Battle of Chancellorsville and subsequent placement in the Battle of Gettysburg. In the first instance, as part of Howard's XI Corps they collapsed under the almost 3-1 odds against the onslaught of Jackson's famous flank attack on Hooker's Army of which Howard's Corps was ill prepared to receive.

In the second instance at Gettysburg their part of the XI Corps was again placed in harm's way in a position that could not be defended as there was no defensible terrain and against odds stacked against them. However, in this situation they proved their mettle by holding the position for overwhelming forces for quite some time and earned praise from their adversaries of giving more than they got.

Mr. Jordan points out that while many assume the Civil War was a uniquely American conflict, he emphasizes the foreign contributions made by immigrants to the Union cause. Incredibly he says one quarter of the Union army was "foreign-born and with over 200,000 native Germans fighting to save their adopted homeland and prove their patriotism."

In fact, the 107th was but one of 7 all or mostly all German infantry regiments from Ohio. The others were the 9th, 28th, 37th, 74th, 106th and 108th, joining the 35 that served in the Union army as ethnic German. In their service the 107th Ohio was decimated five times over and one of its members earned the Medal of Honor. In this book Mr. Jordan points out the horrible extremes the members endured and the deeper meanings the men contemplated during the conflict from personal questions of citizenship and matters of slavery and emancipation. Even to the point of whether their service was worthwhile.

Another interesting facet of their service was after the two brutal battles and subsequent reassignment of theatres was the impact the Copperhead movement had on these men. Copperheads had a strong following in Ohio and information filtered down to the men of the 107th. The impact I think the author shows was that a large majority of the members of the 107th did not vote for Lincoln in the 1864 election and were questioning their continued service.

I thought this book gives additional insight to the men of the regiment and the reflection of the two ugly engagements of the XI Corps. The book deals with the disdain these immigrants had to endure and yet continued to perform their duty to save the Union. It was a book that tied in well with the exhibit at the museum on immigrant soldiers in the Union army. I would recommend this book to anyone who would like to gain additional knowledge on German American service in the Civil War.

**Submitted by Bruce Klem**



## American Battlefield Trust Teachers' Institute and Events That Occurred Along the Way

After a two-year hiatus caused by Covid craziness, the American Battlefield Trust again sponsored a National Teachers' Institute. This free event, featuring leading historians, spectacular food, great and uplifting camaraderie, and more than a few great classroom teaching tips is the highlight of many teachers' summer. Visits to Civil War sites were a true highlight of the conference, as we walked hallowed ground with some of the best guides in the Civil War world. That is certainly true of the heroes (or villains) of this adventure. Let's call them Bob (Indianapolis), Dave (Pittsburg), Jeff (Estes Park), and Dave (Campbellsport). Be aware that no names were changed for the usual reason. No one was innocent.

As seasoned campaigners, the quartet of teachers listed above (affectionately called the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse), made plans to visit sites enroute to the American Battlefield Trust conference. Our first stop was in Vicksburg. There we did the usual driving tour and paid homage to the USS Cairo. Continuing problems with erosion on the battlefield affected the tour stops we could safely visit. The next day we hired a Licensed Battlefield Guide. Morgan Gates took us to the site of the Battle of Raymond, MS and to the Champion Hill Battlefield. Morgan was exceptional. Securing the services of a trained guide is highly recommended so one gets the full picture of events that occurred in these lesser-known fights. The fight at Raymond was particularly interesting. Confederate General John Gregg designed a particularly clever trap for a small column of Union troops who he thought were scouting the countryside. When the trap sprung, he discovered that he had a tiger by the tail. His 3,000 men faced a 10,000-man corps led by James B. McPherson. Oops! Humid conditions and black powder smoke, combined with faulty intelligence of who the Confederates actually faced, nearly led to serious disaster.

At Champion Hill, the bloodiest fight in the prelude to the siege of Vicksburg, we learned of the confused fighting at the battle's namesake hill. We wondered about Confederate Joseph Johnston's unwillingness to insert his neck into the noose that Vicksburg was becoming, though the presence of his troops may well have made a difference in the outcome of the battles that led to the eventual siege of the Confederate Gibraltar. The obstinate nature of Confederate General William Loring, who hated John Pemberton, was presented in detail, as were the actions undertaken by Confederates John Bowen, Lloyd Tilghman, and S.D. Lee. Ulysses S. Grant's perseverance and vision were also on full display.

After an overnight in New Orleans to again visit the National World War II Museum, the Horsemen were off to Mobile and the annual institute. As always, the American Battlefield Trust treated stable hands like kings. We were immersed in excellent sessions led by veteran teachers and local experts with knowledge specific to Mobile. Addresses from the Trust's Chief Historian Garry Adelman; Medal of Honor recipient Melvin Morris; Ben Raines, author of [The Last Slave Ship](#); and others enthralled the entire conference in whole-group lectures. The exceptional camaraderie experienced by teachers from all over the nation only added to this truly positive atmosphere at the institute. This explains why teachers come back year after year after year.



Battlefield walks at Fort Blakeley, Fort McDermott, and Fort Gaines told the story of the waning hopes of the Confederacy, as her last ports were being taken by combined forces of the Federal navy and army. These all-day tours were educational and, in spite of soaring temperatures, very enjoyable. Exploits of Admiral David Farragut, General Gordon Granger, and others opened our eyes to great stories of names less known than the Grants and Lees. The transition made from masonry forts to earthen forts was clearly explained, as rifled monster cannon made their presence known in armament on both land and sea. At Fort Blakeley we saw extensive earthworks and really nasty insects. Both made one appreciate the day-to-day struggles faced by soldiers of both armies. We immediately gained a renewed respect for what our

ancestors endured. The final tour we took was aboard a large pontoon boat, the *Delta Explorer*. On this craft park historian Mike Bunn shared the stories of the river forts and batteries that were built by soldiers and slaves to protect the river approaches to Mobile. Fort Huger was especially interesting, as every cubic yard of dirt to build in the swamp had to be laboriously brought in by barge and shoveled by hand! These forts can only be viewed from the river, as the swamps between them and solid ground are nearly impenetrable.

The Teacher Institute, which began on July 21 and closed on the 25<sup>th</sup>, requires teachers to pay for their trip to the event and any costs along the way. Otherwise, the entire institute is free of charge. Teachers like free stuff. The Trust offers this event with an understanding that many of the next generation of Civil War enthusiasts and scholars are created in classrooms. The funds to pay for the annual institute come from individual donations, corporations, and from the Trust's own monetary commitment to education. Next year's Teacher Institute will meet in Baltimore.

Submitted by Dave Wege

## **SOLDIERS HOME WALKING TOURS**

For 30 years, Old Main sat empty, but today, thanks to the work of many partners, it is an award-winning restoration and provides permanent supportive housing to veterans and their families at risk of homelessness. We worked hard to ensure Old Main and 5 other buildings on this National Historic Landmark campus were restored in service to veterans, and we're thrilled to be able to offer walking tours of the Soldiers Home grounds, including a stop in the newly restored Old Main to see the incredible preservation work and take in the building's history exhibit.

NOTE: Advanced registration is required to attend any Soldiers Home Walking Tour. Registration will end at 11 a.m. the Friday before each tour. Future tours will continue through early Fall and will be added as dates are finalized.

Each tour is 90 minutes long, approximately 1 mile, and will cover a variety of fascinating information including the history, architecture, and preservation stories of these historic buildings. Tours run rain or shine. Tours are offered for FREE, but you are welcome to leave a donation during the registration process to ensure these tours remain accessible to all. All donations directly support MPA's work to ensure the remaining vacant buildings on the Soldiers Home campus are preserved as well as our broader advocacy to preserve Milwaukee's built and cultural heritage.

Established just after the Civil War, this 90-plus acre district rests on the grounds of the Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center and represents Milwaukee's role in furthering veteran care in America. One of only 43 National Historic Landmarks in Wisconsin, it is the most intact Soldiers Home in the country and the only one with the majority of its surrounding recuperative village remaining.

For dates and to register: [mpa@milwaukeepreservation.org](mailto:mpa@milwaukeepreservation.org)

## **COMPANY OF MILITARY HISTORIANS**

### **ANNUAL MEETING – BLACKHAWK, BROWNING AND THE BIG RIVER**

**October 6-8, 2022**

**Stoney Creek Hotel**

**Moline, Illinois**

This is the first meeting in the Midwest in 25 years. Speakers include:

Thomas G. Clemens, Bruce Gleason, Michael Goc, Allen J. Ottens, Dan Weinberg and Elizabeth Papp.

The meeting will feature:

- Presentations by specialists and authors on topics related to the Civil War, Blackhawk War, WWI and military music
- Optional Field Trip One – space limited to first 53 registrants
- A full-day tour of the US Army Rock Island Arsenal

Additional Highlights include:

- Ample exhibit display/flea market space and silent auction
- Continental breakfasts, beverages and box lunches included
- Two field trips (including box lunches), buffet lunch on Friday, and traditional banquet
- Friday concert by the First Brigade Band of Watertown, Wisconsin

Full registration rate for the 3-day meeting is \$300. Friday and Saturday only is \$200. Saturday only is \$100. The banquet is an additional \$65.

**Deadline for registration to the meeting is September 8th.**

Questions? Contact meeting coordinator

Kevin Lonergan

[Cmh2022annualmtg@gmail.com](mailto:Cmh2022annualmtg@gmail.com)

563-271-1167



*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!

## The GAR Took Milwaukee by Storm in 1880



The first Grand Army of the Republic convention held in Milwaukee in 1880 was an astounding success. The city was only a sixth of its present size and almost burst its seams trying to find room for the thousands of Civil War veterans and spectators who attended. The city also held GAR conventions in 1889 and 1923, but the first was the most successful and was credited with helping to revive the GAR. Supposedly the 1880 convention was also a factor in doubling Milwaukee's population and trebling the city's industries.

The first Milwaukee GAR post was created in 1866 immediately after the war as other posts also were created throughout Wisconsin and the U.S.

Following an initial period of growth and enthusiasm, the GAR experienced a general decline in membership throughout the U.S. in the 1870s. The Milwaukee convention sprung from an 1879 GAR Wisconsin department meeting at Berlin, Wisconsin where only three posts attended. By this time, the GAR had decayed into a machine for advancing the interests of politicians who controlled it. The men in attendance at Berlin decided that the "Grand Army" should not be allowed to rot further. Therefore, they organized as the "Wisconsin Soldiers Reunion Association" and decided to hold a reunion in Milwaukee on the week of June 7, 1880. All soldiers and sailors in the state were sent letters of invitation to this reunion. This letter was sent to practically all the newspapers in the state and appeared in hundreds of newspapers outside of Wisconsin. The letter concluded with this appeal:

*Comrades! Attend to this at once, or we shall not know whether you are dead, proud, or gone to Texas.*

Replies poured into their office for a year and a half. Many letters contained war incidents, bits of biography and valuable war history. Amazingly so many acceptances poured into the association's headquarters in such volume that it was decided to invite all Civil War veterans in the U.S. to attend. In a few months, the reunion roster had close to 40,000 veterans' names and the Reunion Association dumped the convention into the laps of the Milwaukee committee. An initial convention fund of \$17,000 was raised by popular support and later had to be increased to \$40,000.

The newspapers of the day were also quick to realize an opportunity to attract more readers. Nearly every newspaper in Wisconsin from the Lake Michigan shore to Superior to Mineral Point, Dodgeville and central Wisconsin contained articles about the upcoming events in Milwaukee. Articles about the upcoming reunion appeared in all our neighboring states and even to the east coast cities.

The railroads were quick to see an opportunity to attract more customers by offering special prices and scheduling trains to the convention. For example, the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul railroad advertised round trip tickets to the convention at 3 cents a mile.

Sheboygan sent a delegation of some 300 ex-soldiers to attend the festivities. A delegation of one hundred ex-soldiers from New Ulm, Minnesota who had served with Wisconsin units attended the reunion. Illinois veterans who served in Wisconsin units also attended. Twenty Wisconsin out of town militia companies gave notification of their intention to be in Milwaukee during the reunion.

Wisconsin Governor Smith was at the Newhall hotel during the reunion week. The Governor also issued an executive order that such state militia companies that wanted to attend the reunion could do so in place of their annual training sessions.

The city's hotels, rooming houses and accommodations could not provide enough room for the throng that was coming. Hundreds of Milwaukeeans offered to shelter veterans during the conventions. The federal government sent one thousand army tents that were erected on what is now Lake Park to shelter the veterans for free. In addition, ten frame dining halls, two concession buildings and a horse barn were erected there. The cost of the tent wood flooring used during the reunion was about \$800 as the flooring was to be used elsewhere later. The cost of gas lighting the camp was also about \$800. Lastly, dozens of horse-drawn streetcars were added to take the veterans to the campgrounds and the parade route.

Interestingly, the other big, related story of the summer was the Republican presidential convention in Chicago where former President Grant was seeking the nomination. But despite support from many in the party, Grant lost to Garfield, another well-known Civil War leader.

Two days before the convention was to open, Milwaukee was lashed with a 60-mile gale and heavy rains. Tents and miles of bunting were thrashed, but miraculously the skies cleared bringing a sunny day and drying up the mud on June 7. The crowd of some 100,000 began moving into the city center early that morning by train, steamer, carriage, horseback, and walking. "Everywhere were the bearded (the current fad for mature men) veterans; it is certain that Milwaukee had never had as many beards before or since." Gamblers and gay ladies (prostitutes) also moved into town. Dozens of horse drawn streetcars were added to take the veterans to the campgrounds. The password of the camp was "The Union of the States; One and Inseparable." Supposedly, the "Reunion Liberty" flagpole at the tent grounds was to be the tallest in the U.S.

An ordinance prohibited the sale of whiskey on the campgrounds and within five hundred feet of the camp, but apparently no one bothered to measure. And beer flowed constantly from hundreds of spigots to keep everyone hydrated. But even so, ladies of the temperance movement set up booths in competition as they preached earnestly against the evils of whiskey.

*To be continued with Day 2 of the Convention in the October General Orders.*

Submitted by John Helmenstine



Be sure that you have read several important notes in this issue. The black box on **page 2** highlights changes in our meeting times. The two announcements on **page 5**, one related to Q & A at our meetings and the other welcoming Peter and Jean into the Iron Brigade Color Guard, are also very noteworthy.

**528 Wells Street, Suite F  
Delafield, WI 53018  
262-303-4133**

**Tuesday, September 27, 2022  
6:30 – 8:00 pm**



## **The Antietam Campaign**

The presentation will focus on Confederate General Robert E. Lee's first invasion of Northern soil, September 4 – 20, 1862, culminating in the "bloodiest day in American history" on Antietam Creek on September 17, 1862.

Seating is limited! Please register at our website: <https://www.civilwarmuseumdelafield.com>

Or to register via email or contact us with questions, write to us at: [cwmdel@gmail.com](mailto:cwmdel@gmail.com)

Visit us at Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Civil-War-Museum-of-Delafield-WI-108835694973198/>

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

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

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

**Contact Roman Blenski, Quartermaster**

4601 W. Holt Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53219

(410 327-2847 [dbcpmilw@gmail.com](mailto:dbcpmilw@gmail.com))

You may also see Roam in person at the monthly meeting at the Book Raffle table.

