

GENERAL ORDERS

The Newsletter of the

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



November 10, 2022

Dr. Mary Abroe

Civil War Battlefields and Historic Preservation An American Story

Battlefield preservation enables current and future generations to better understand the connection between military conflicts and important social and political changes that occurred in American history.

National Park Service

Dr. Mary Abroe’s November presentation will focus on what modern Civil War parks tell us about their meaning and preservation at the hands of successive generations of Americans, ourselves included – those who, over the decades between the 1890s and the early twenty-first century, have continued to shape those landscapes.

Founded by Congress in August 1890, Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park is our first federal battlefield park. Later that same month, passage of legislation that set aside funding for preserving battle lines and buying land to mark troop positions provided the basis for what became Antietam National Battlefield Site. Rounding out the five “granddaddies” that constitute the nucleus of our national battlefield park network are Shiloh (1894), Gettysburg (1895), and Vicksburg (1899). At a time when there was no National Park Service as we know it and only a few other “national parks” – like Yellowstone and Yosemite, both of which were western wilderness parks – the Civil War preserves of the 1890s set the precedent for all national historical parks (of whatever designation) going forward. As a result, those turn-of-the-century military establishments are among the premier historical properties of the entire National Park System.

Additional Civil War sites joined their predecessors over the next 120-plus years, but whether we consider Chickamauga or Mill Springs (KY) – in 2020 the most recent addition to the System – the immediate thought for many, if not most, is “killing fields.” And so they were. But, over time, as men and women lived, worked, and remembered in those spaces, layers of human motives and actions also shaped them. In that way, preserved battlefields have plenty to reveal about Americans’ understanding of the Civil War and their resulting urge to preserve its sites as memorials, patriotic symbols, tourist destinations, documentary evidence, and outdoor classrooms. The battlefields also are full of stories about local communities, whose people, through no choice of their own, became witnesses to history and neighbors of the places where it happened.

Mary Munsell Abroe holds a BA in history from St. Mary’s College, Notre Dame, Indiana and a PhD from Loyola University Chicago. She is retired from teaching history at the College of Lake County in Grayslake, Illinois.

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November 2022

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November Meeting at a Glance The Wisconsin Club 9th 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, November 7, 2022

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.

2022-2023 Speaker Schedule

Find the speaker schedule on page 8.

www.milwaukeeecwrt.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!

Veterans Day Ceremony @ Kenosha Museum

Friday, November 11, 2022 11 am

Join the Navy Club Ship 40 in a ceremony honoring veterans from all branches of service. Open to the public. Light refreshments sponsored by Piasecki Funeral Home.

Victorian Christmas @ Kenosha Museum

Saturday, December 3, 2022 10 am – 4 pm

Join the museum for a family-friendly afternoon of Victorian Era themed holiday music, living history, dancing, craft activities and more including:

Holiday favorites concert by Ed Pierce and the Palmyra Eagle Brass Band. More holiday music performed by the Nash Elementary School Choir

Plus... Free admission to all galleries; Civil War soldier and 19th Century civilian living history demos; crafts and games; an appearance by Civil War Santa; Victorian dance demos and instruction; displays of miniatures, doll houses, toys, period collectibles and more

Christmas trees and present wish lists from the 1890s, 1930s, 1950s and 1980s

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

The Muster Roll: NEW MEMBERS

| NUMBER | NAME | RANK | REGIMENT | PLACE OF BIRTH | PREVIOUS MILITARY SERVICE | REMARKS |
|--------|----------------|------|----------|----------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | Matthew Jensen | | | | | Has files destination of collection |
| | ... | | | | | ... |

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 October 15, 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, Laura Rinaldi

Associate (\$100 - \$199)

Donna Agnelly, Michael Benton, Dale Bepalec, Dale Brasser, 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 Kuhnmuensch, Jay Lauck, Fred Madsen, Rod Malinowski, Paul & Susan Miller, Herb Oechler, David Perez, Tom Pokrandt, John Rodahl, Diana Smurawa, 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 Brasser, 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



In November 1948 Robert B. Browne spoke to the membership on “The Escape of Gen. John H. Morgan.”

Harnett Kane spoke about “Spies Blue and Gray” at the November 1954 meeting.

November 1964 had Archie K. Davis speaking to the members on “Fact and Fiction.”

“Lincoln’s Friend Steve Hurlbut, Hero of Hatchie River” was the topic of Gerald P. Clausius’ presentation to the Round Table in November 1974.

At the November 1984 meeting Frank L. Klement spoke about “Civil War Politics and Propaganda.”

“Ho! For the Cavalry” was the subject of Terry Van Meter’s presentation at the November 1994 meeting.

Dorothy Kelly spoke to those assembled at our November 2004 meeting on “A Want of Confidence: The Failure of Longstreet’s East Tennessee Campaign.”

In November 2014 the Round Table welcomed Professor Stephen Towne who spoke on “Detecting Deserters and Disloyalty: U.S. Army Intelligence in the Midwest During the Civil War.”

At last year’s November meeting Nevins-Freeman Award winner Dr. Thomas G. Clemens spoke to the group on “Joseph K. Mansfield.”

Kenosha Civil War Museum Exhibits 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.

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 or 262-653-4432.

The Civil War Nursing Service of Sister Anthony O’Connell and the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati **Friday, November 11, 2022 Noon – 1 pm**

Presenter: Judith Metz

Sister Anthony O’Connell (1814 – 1897), a Sister of Charity, ministered in Cincinnati, Ohio, for sixty years. Typical of thousands of nineteenth century Irish Catholic immigrant women, she entered a religious community when she was barely out of her teens and spent her life serving in Catholic sponsored ministries. She distinguished herself by her intelligence, leadership and uncommon virtue. Her work in the hospitals of Ohio, Tennessee and Kentucky as a U.S. Army nurse during the Civil War brought her fame and the undying admiration of the soldiers she treated.

First Fallen: The Life of Colonel Elmer Ellsworth, the North’s First Civil War Hero

Friday, December 9, 2022 Noon – 1 pm

Presenter: Meg Groeling

Colonel Elmer Ellsworth was the first Union officer killed in the Civil War. His life story is complex and fascinating, but it is also the story of many young men who fought and died for the Union. Elmer, however, was the first – and according to those who remember him – perhaps the best.

Family Activity Day: Candle Making

Saturday, November 12, 2022 1 – 3 pm

Location: Second Floor Resource Center

When days got shorter and nights longer during the Civil War, candles were very important for light and warmth. Stop in to hand make your own beeswax candle to take home.

Sensory Friendly Day November 12, 2022 9 – 10 am

Sensory Friendly Days give visitors of all ages with complex developmental disabilities, sensory sensitivities, or on the autism spectrum a safe, comfortable environment to explore the museum exhibits during special hours before the museum opens to the general public. Where possible, our lights will be dimmed and the sound turned off. Signage will be posted for those areas in which we are unable to turn off the sound or there may be other sensory triggers. Trained staff will be available to help visitors navigate the museum and offer supportive resources (noise-cancelling headphones, fidgets, weighted blankets, quiet spaces), as well as opportunities for sensory engagement during your exploration of the museum.



Madison Wisconsin State Journal
January 07 1874

Wednesday, January 7, 1874
Mexican War Veterans

In pursuance of a call published in the State Journal some time since, a meeting of soldiers of the Mexican War was held at the Capitol on the 6th, the object being to memorialize Congress for pensions, and conduct measures with Mexican war veterans of other states to secure them.

Dr. A. J. Ward, of this city, who was Assistant Surgeon in Stevenson's New York regiment in the Mexican war, and Surgeon of the Second Wisconsin in the war of the rebellion, was called to chair, and Capt. C. H. Johnson, of the 12th regulars in the Mexican war and the 14th Wisconsin Infantry in the late war, was chosen Secretary. Letters were received from fifty-four veterans of the Mexican war sympathizing with the objects of the meeting, and 23 veterans were present, their age, regiment, &c., being given.

Maj. A. A. Meredith and Capt. C. C. Johnson, were elected delegates to represent the surviving soldiers and sailors of the Mexican war now residing in this state at the National Convention called to meet at Washington, January 15, 1874.

Memphis Daily Appeal Dec. 23 1862

Added to "Wars and rumors of war," we have had a genuine, unmistakable earthquake here. On last Sunday morning, near 10 o'clock, the shock was palpable, violent, and continued about thirty seconds. Some houses were shaken heavily, and the inmates alarmed. In others the shock was not so violent, but apparent to all.

In a recent letter I mentioned that Colonel John L. Dorau, of the 17th Wisconsin, had been placed under arrest. He subsequently tendered his resignation, which was promptly accepted; and Lieut. Col. Maloy, the ideal of the regiment, is thereby left in command. A petition, signed by all the governors, was sent to the governor, asking the appointment of Maloy as colonel, and no doubt is entertained by any of his receiving it.

We now have a Wisconsin brigade in General McArthur's division, composed of the 8th, 14th (I believe), 16th, 17th and 18th Wisconsin regiments, and commanded by Colonel Bouck, of the 18th, as acting brigadier-general. The colonel's long service in the present war entitles him to it and none dispute his qualifications.

Among other promotions, I am glad to hear that Mr. O. H. Ross, so long general superintendent of mails in this department, has been appointed an aide of General Grant's

with the rank of lieutenant. Ross has earned his promotion a dozen times over, and his friends will be gratified to hear that he has not been forgotten.

Entre Nous.

Sturgeon Bay Door County Advocate
Thursday, March 2, 1865
Charleston is ours

The event of the past month is the occupation by the Union forces of the birth-place of the Rebellion, the hot-bed of Treason – Charleston!

Sherman keeps "marching on" --- Branchville, Columbia, Charleston, are ours. Florence will be probably soon if it is not already, and Wilmington.

The evacuation of Richmond will be with stacked arms and lowered banners unless it takes place very soon. Sherman is closing in upon all the communications, by which supplies are to be obtained for Lee's Army.

Postscript

Our latest papers just receive the news that Mobile was evacuated on the 4th of January; that Wilmington was occupied by our forces on the 19th, the Rebels moving towards Raleigh, and that Sherman is pushing on toward Raleigh and Danville!

Information from the Army of the Potomac states that the army was in great glee over the capture of Charleston. They begin to see in the evacuation of this stronghold that the end of their labor draws nigh. A slotted salute was fired through the whole line in honor of the event.

The draft for the Fifth District commenced at Green Bay yesterday. If you mean to enlist you must hurry up.

Manitowoc Semi Weekly Tribune June 01, 1863
A Capital Letter
Showing the Integrity of a Wisconsin Soldier

Camp Near Memphis, Tenn.
May 11, 1863

As I have not much of interest to write to you, I will give the following which I received principally from a commissioned officer of the 2d Wisconsin Cavalry. I will make the statement, as near as I can recollect it, as he told it.

Michael Coleman, a member of Co. F, 2nd Wisconsin Cavalry and formerly a member of the Belle City Rifles, of the old 2d Wisconsin Infantry, while on duty near this city with a few of his companions, went out to patrol the woods, and lanes while the others were eating dinner. He had not gone far when he saw a butternut driving through the bypaths with a good team of horses and a carriage. The command "halt" was given and obeyed. Your pass, Sir. Said he had none; that he did not wish to go to the Provost Marshal as he was not ready to take the oath. Friend, said he (the rebel) are you not an Irishman? I am a Good hearted fellow generally –

Won't you have a drink? Yes, but you must drink first, said the guard (lest it be drugged). Both drank lightly, each feeling that he had an important part to play. Now said the guard, you cannot go through these lines without a pass, nor can you take these articles through without a permit from the Board of Trade. – Friend said the rebel, I did not expect to see anyone here, but since it has happened so, I will reward you handsomely to pass me through. You are on the outpost; it will never be discovered; you need not hesitate, even officers do more than this – at the same time pulling out a watch worth about fifty dollars, and six dollars and seventy-five cents in green backs. The guard took the watch and money, and said that it was not enough. Then I will give you one hundred dollars to see me outside the lines. Well, come along, said the guard, and took to the main road a short distance from his post.

Now sir, you are my prisoner! This was spoken in a firm tone which made the smuggler tremble, but he recovered and said: Don't you know that this is a war of speculation and that all who can make money? Now I have three other wagons prepared to come through here, loaded with articles we need very much, and if you will pass me through with them I will give you \$1,000 in cash right here, and an order on the Worsham House, Memphis, for \$1,000 more. –

To this Michael replied by bringing the muzzle of his revolver in close proximity to the rebel's head, commanding him at the same time to seize his lines and drive as he should direct. He obeyed, but requested the guard to put up his revolver; that he was his prisoner and would go along quietly. I will give no

man the advantage over me – speak not another word, if you value your life said the guard. They were soon in the presence of Colonel Stevens (2d Wis. Cavalry) who took charge of the team and buggy. In the latter was found three dozen calf skin hides dressed, two revolvers, a quantity of quinine and other medicines. Michael then gave his colonel the watch and money he had taken, the rebel was imprisoned and awaits his trial. For this brave and patriotic act Gen. Veatch has presented him a splendid watch, bearing the following inscription:

“From Gen. Veatch to Michael Coleman, 2d Wis. Cav. For meritorious conduct.”

The captured watch will follow the footsteps of the rebel, and may yet prove it a bitter enemy to him. The citizens here complain of the Wisconsin soldiers being too strict – a good recommend, I think. The same guard, a few days ago, took another prisoner, a quantity of quinine, a case of surgical instruments, a few rifles and two dozen revolvers.

Thus you see the Wisconsin boys are gaining for themselves and their country a proud name. In city or town, in storm or sunshine, as well as on the field of battle, they are found at their post, true to their country and government. Thusly, I believe, the soldiers of Wisconsin have earned a high reputation. Their noble deeds and true patriotism will fill a bright page in the history of our country, and among the names of the brave Wisconsin boys that will be handed down to posterity, will be found that of Michael Coleman.

From the Field provided by Jim Johnson

EMERGING CIVIL WAR (ECW) AWARDS ANNOUNCED

Service in Civil War Public History

The ECW honored the American Battlefield Trust as the recipient of this year's Service in Civil War Public History. This award recognizes the work of an individual or organization that has made a significant impact on the field of public history in a way that better helps the general public connect with America's defining event.

ECW Editor-in-Chief Chris Mackowski said:

Battlefields are unique historical artifacts and invaluable primary sources, and the Trust has been tireless in its efforts to preserve them. In doing so, it has done an incredible job of relaying – over and over and over – the vital importance of our history and why we need to understand and appreciate it. In thirty-five years, the Trust has connected more people with Civil War history than almost any other entity.

Previous winners of this award include Ted Alexander, former historian at Antietam National Battlefield; David Roth, publisher of *Blue & Gray* magazine; D. P. Newton, founder of the White Oak Civil War Museum; John Coski, historian at the American Civil War Museum; David Ruth, former superintendent of Richmond National Battlefield Park; and Civil War historian and author Gary W. Gallagher.

Civil War Book Award

The recipient of this year's ECW Civil War Book Award is Kent Masterson Brown's *Meade at Gettysburg: A Study in Command* (University of North Carolina Press, 2021). The award recognizes a work of Civil War history with a public history focus published in the preceding calendar year. Recipients are chosen by ECW's stable of published authors, making the award a peer-to-peer honor.

Stevenson Award for Service

Emerging Civil War selected cartographer Edward Alexander of Make Me a Map, LLC as the recipient of this year's Brig. Gen. Thomas Greely Stevenson Award. The award is presented to an individual or organization in recognition of outstanding service to ECW.

Alexander has been a contributing member of Emerging Civil War since 2013. His first book, *Dawn of Victory: Breakthrough at Petersburg*, was published in 2015 as part of the Emerging Civil War Series. He has worked as a park ranger and historian at Richmond National Battlefield Park and Pamplin Historical Park.

Past recipients of this award include Sarah Keeney of Savas Beatie, LLC; Jack Melton of Civil War News; C-SPAN; historian Gregory A. Mertz; Sylvia Frank Rodrigue of Southern Illinois University Press; and publisher Ted Savas.

Upton Award

Dan Welch has been selected as this year's recipient of the Emory Upton Award. The award is presented to a member of the Emerging Civil War community in recognition of outstanding service to ECW.

"Dan has been a pinch hitter for ECW in so many ways it's almost impossible to track them all," said ECW Editor-in-Chief Chris Mackowski. "His portfolio of service has deeply entwined Dan into the very fabric of ECW itself. His energy and enthusiasm have done a lot to propel us forward as an organization at some really key moments."

Most recently, Welch assumed the mantle of managing editor of the Emerging Revolutionary War book series, published by Savas Beatie in collaboration with ECW and ECW's sister site, Emerging Revolutionary War.

The Ninth Annual Emerging Civil War Symposium at Stevenson Ridge

The Ninth Annual Emerging Civil War Symposium will be hosted at Stevenson Ridge (Spotsylvania, Virginia) on August 4-6, 2023. We'll be focusing on 1863 and some of the most pivotal events of that year of the American Civil War.

Stay tuned this autumn for more details about our speaker line-up and other event announcements. Early Bird Registration is open through December 31, 2022: just \$200/ticket (save \$25).

[Check out the 2023 Symposium Page for more details.](#)



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.



Dr. Abroe has commented on and given presentations related to her interest in the Civil War era and historic preservation at professional gatherings and cultural/historical institutions, including the Kenosha (WI) Civil War Museum, Wilmette (IL) Public Library, Wilson's Creek (MO) National Battlefield, and meetings of the Illinois State Historical Society, Ohio Valley History Conference, National Council on Public History, and Organization of American Historians. Her articles and reviews have appeared in *Civil War History*; *Mid-America: An Historical Review*; the *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society*; the *Journal of Southern History*; and *Cultural Resource Management* (later *CRM: The Journal of Heritage Stewardship*), a publication of the National Park Service. In observance of the Civil War Sesquicentennial, she was project scholar for "Let's Talk About it: Making Sense of the American Civil War," co-sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities and American Library Association, at the Wilmette Public Library.

Dr. Abroe is vice chair of the Board of Trustees of the American Battlefield Trust and a member of the Board of Directors of the Save Historic Antietam Foundation. She also is a past president of the Civil War Round Table of Chicago.

Mary Abroe is also this year's Nevins-Freeman Award winner. In 1974, the Civil War Round Table of Chicago established the Nevins-Freeman Award, and bestows it annually on an individual whose advancement of American Civil War scholarship and support for the Round Table movement warrant special recognition. The award itself is designed as a generous financial donation to a historical preservation project chosen by the recipient. The award is named for two men whose legacies are synonymous with the Civil War era: Allan Nevins (1890 – 1971) and Douglas Southall Freeman (1886-1953).

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 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
75th 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
*Unlike Anything That Ever Floated
The USS Monitor and the Battle of Hampton Roads*

April 13, 2023 Rich Holloway
Red River Campaign

May 11, 2023 Sean Michael Chick
Dreams of Victory

June 8, 2023 Tom Cartwright
TBD

**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

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 November 10, 2022

Mail your reservations by Monday, November 7 to:
Paul Eilbes
1809 Washington Avenue
Cedarburg, WI 53012-9730

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

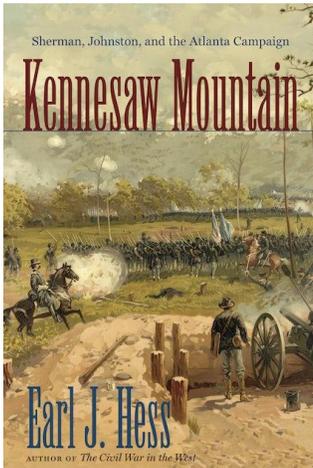
Enclosed is \$_____ (meal is \$30.00 per person) for _____ people for the
November 10, 2022 meeting of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee.
(Please make checks payable to the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.)



BETWEEN THE COVERS

Kennesaw Mountain

Earl J. Hess



This review is on a book that I purchased at the Kenosha Civil War Museum in 2016. It is a relatively short book at only 226 pages, plus an appendix. Unfortunately, I did not read it until after my wife and I visited the National Battlefield of Kennesaw Mountain in November of 2021. I found that reading the book after we got home really brought things to light on this fight. Given that the appendix has some great maps and sketches on the main parts of the fight and the breastworks of the Confederate positions with pictures would have been most helpful on our visit. Nonetheless, having seen the terrain over which the battle was fought, I could see how formidable the position held by the Confederates was and the near impossibility of a breakthrough by the Union.

In this book Mr. Hess points out how the armies arrived at this position in the six weeks that followed Sherman's maneuvers toward Atlanta after leaving Chattanooga. It had been a continuing chess match between the two sides as Sherman's forces pushed south towards Atlanta. I have always found it interesting that General Johnston was sacked by Davis because he failed to attack Sherman, while being outnumbered 100,000 to 65,000. The

fallacy of that strategy was shown when Hood was placed in charge and made the attempt by attacking, which led to the fall of Atlanta.

Mr. Hess shows the stage being set when Sherman being stymied by Johnston's ninth fortified position bogged Sherman down and he felt forced to try a frontal assault. I think Johnston's only strategy lay in delaying as much as possible Sherman's forces by falling back to continuous fortified positions and looking for an opening to counterattack a part of Sherman's army group.

I found myself supremely impressed by how concise Hess's narrative is, even while being heartily and liberally strewn with extremely interesting small anecdotes recorded by a parade of witnesses, letters from privates or the correspondence of the generals whose fame was well known overall in the Civil War story by the time of the episode of Kennesaw Mountain. This abundance of tiny personal details embraces both sides point of view on either side of the parallel trenches. The effect of the wealth of particulars stirred into the concise narrative is extremely effective and I found the book to be endlessly compelling.

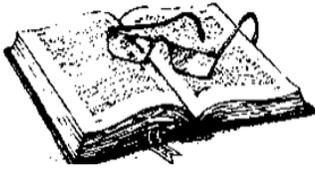
Mr. Hess, in this work, shows why after achieving so much success in marching toward Atlanta, Sherman without a major frontal assault causing high casualties was now forced to make such an attack. It was an action that none of his subordinate commanders were in favor of. Sherman however, was deeply concerned in "making sure Johnston did not detach troops to Virginia to help Lee fight Grant." As early as April 4th Grant made this clear to all his subordinates and that Grant would do the same.

So when things bogged down and stopped near Kennesaw and showing "little immediate prospect for a quick resolution Sherman became worried and desperate." The thought that Johnston may send help to Lee spurred him on to risk an attack on June 27 that he probably would not have attempted otherwise. The consensus of opinion among historians is that the attack on June 27 was a mistake. The attack in short was an experiment. Sherman demonstrated at Kennesaw Mountain that while he may be tempted to try an assault, he had no intention of wasting his manpower to the point that he could no longer sustain the strategic offensive.

As it turned out, Sherman was successful when he detached part of his army and made a wide flanking maneuver, forcing Johnston to fall back once more.

I recommend this book to anyone interested in the campaign of the Civil War Western theatre. It is a book that describes the actions along the Kennesaw Line but also explains the significance of the Kennesaw phase and helps to understand the outcome of operations, showing high-command problems, decisions and triumphs on both sides of the lines. The appendix shows many of the remaining entrenchments providing the reader with a better appreciation of the type or works used in the Civil War. It is a book that is especially useful if you are planning a visit to the Kennesaw Battlefield.

submitted by Bruce Klem



BETWEEN THE COVERS

Lincoln and the Irish

The Untold Story of How the Irish Helped Abraham Lincoln Save the Union

Niall O'Dowd

This 2018 book is an interesting read by Niall O'Dowd, an Irish born author. He is the founder of two Irish American periodicals and the author of several books dealing with Irish history. He was also involved in American politics with his support of the campaigns of both Clintons.

There are 15,000 plus books on Abraham Lincoln, more than on anyone except Jesus Christ. There have been many fiction/non-fiction books written on the Irish and the Civil War. Yet this is the only non-fiction book on Lincoln and the Sons of Hibernia.

As a young man Lincoln seemed to prefer the Germans because they were fleeing a failed revolution and were better educated than the Irish. The scruffy Irish fleeing persecution and starvation had no hold on Lincoln at that time.

Despite his wife and law partner happily stereotyping and vilifying the Irish, Lincoln was able to overcome that because of his innate concern for all underdogs. Yet, in spite of that belief, Lincoln was willing to act against the Irish if needed. In an election in Springfield, the local Irish leader considered using force to only let the Irish vote. But Lincoln grabbed an ax handle from a local store and went alone to open the way to the ballot box.

The million plus Irish who arrived in the US because of famine had an impact on US history in many ways. They were perceived as worthless troublemakers by many and looked down on by the Protestants here in the US. Yet, in the long run they were a valuable asset to the Union cause as more than 150,000 Irish fought for the Union in the Civil War compared to only 25,000 fighting for the South.

Before the Civil War, Lincoln saw the Irish as instinctive supporters of the Democratic opposition, while the Irish saw the English landlord class in Lincoln's Republicans. But that dynamic would evolve, and the Lincoln whose first political actions included intimidating Irish voters at the polls would eventually hire Irish nannies and donate to the Irish famine fund.

Lincoln and the Irish shares how when Lincoln was voted into the White House, he surrounded himself with Irish staff, much to the chagrin of a senior aide who complained about the Hibernian cabal. And the Irish would repay Lincoln's faith – their numbers and courage would help swing the Civil War in his favor, and among them would be some of his best generals and staunchest advocates.

This book contains some interesting stories and incidents. When Pickett charged at Gettysburg, it was the all-Irish Pennsylvania 69th who held fast while the surrounding regiments broke and ran. And it was Abraham Lincoln who, a year earlier at Malvern Hill, picked up a corner of one of the Irish colors, kissed it, and said, "God Bless the Irish flag." When the war was going poorly for the South, their ambassador tried to stop Union recruiting in Ireland.

After the assassination of Lincoln, there are two more Irish connections to the chase and end of Booth's life. An Irishman, the Provost Marshall of Washington, D.C., James O'Beirne was in charge of the military police. He was in the room when Lincoln died and then was in charge of the pursuit of the conspirators. At one point he was within 10 miles of capturing Booth but to no avail. However, he did share in the reward money as an acknowledgement of his efforts. Irishman, First Lieutenant Edward Doherty of the N.Y. 16th Cavalry was ordered to take 25 men and try to capture Booth. After two weeks of frantic efforts, they were able to surround Booth in a barn where he was killed in the capture attempt.

Lincoln had stayed true to the Irish; as an utter outsider himself, that sense of the underdog drew him to the Irish. His own staffers complained about the "Mick Clique" around him as he enjoyed their company and their issues. And so, the Irish fought. The old Irish war cry "Fag an Bealach" that translates as "Clear the Way" rings true for their contribution to victory in our Civil War.

submitted by John Helmenstine

Bruce Klem's Kentucky Wanderings: Part One



The Kenosha Civil War Museum trip in 2022 was focused on the state of Kentucky. So what battles occurred in Kentucky that would warrant an exploration of Civil War activities in the Civil War you may ask? Actually a couple, and more historians are beginning to call 1862 the true High Water mark for the Confederacy in the war. At least especially in the West. So we began our journey down to Kentucky leaving at 8AM on Sunday figuring to arrive at the Fairfield in Lexington around 5PM. Weather was decent and traffic light enough to allow us to drive through downtown Chicago and the Skyway to get to I-65 and down through Indiana.

We made good time, stopping occasionally for stretch breaks, lunch, and gas. Arrived at the Fairfield about 5:30, which was due to the time zone change into Eastern. At any rate we were in time for the evening introduction to the 1862 situation that existed in Kentucky and our welcome pizza fest and beer.

The talk was given by Mr. Kent Masterson Brown. I was looking forward to the presentation having read one of Mr. Brown's books Retreat from Gettysburg, which I thought was a masterful read on the Confederate retreat after Gettysburg and a complete discussion on the logistical feat the Confederates managed to complete.

Mr. Brown covered the political situation that was in force in early 1861 and into 1862. Kentucky, he said, was sort of in between the Confederacy and the Union both literally and figuratively. Parts of their makeup fit into both spheres of the political and geographical spectrum. Yes they were a slave state but no they didn't want to leave the Union. They passed certain laws that made it illegal to enlist in the Confederate Army among other legal items. He also painted the state's picture of how the population developed via immigration, certain geographical issues and how the state responded to the challenges of the war before, during and after. I felt his presentation set the stage for the battlefield site visitations the next couple of days.

The next day we boarded the bus at 8AM to head out to the start of the Kentucky campaign with the exploring of the site of the battlefield at Richmond, Kentucky, not far down the road from our hotel in Lexington. Our guide for the next few days would be Mr. Chris Kolakowski, Director of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum and author of a number of books, one on Perryville. The battle started in the early morning of August 30th, 1862. Bull Nelson had been given command by Buell of newly arrived troops in and around the Lexington area. Kirby Smith and his Confederates were moving north towards Lexington and one of his divisions, the 4th under Cleburne led the way, supported by the 3rd division under Thomas Churchill in support. Nelson meanwhile reacted by sending Manson's division south of Richmond supported by Cruft's division. Nelson controlled about 7,000, mostly inexperienced troops. General Mahon Manson moved his division south of Richmond in the vicinity of the Mt. Zion Church occupying ridges on each side of the Richmond road. The site is a state park which our bus pulled into and we dismounted to explore that part of the battlefield.



Unfortunately most of Manson's forces were deployed on the east side of the road and Cleburne instructed by Kirby Smith not to engage in battle until Churchill joined him, deployed and skirmished with the Union forces. When Churchill arrived, Cleburne launched a spoiling attack to hold Manson and Cruft when his division arrived on the east side of the Richmond Road. Only the 69th Indiana was on the west side of the road facing SE. Churchill maneuvered one of his brigades to the west and hidden by terrain managed to attack the ill positioned Indiana men in the rear and flank, causing it to rout, thus flanking the rest of Manson and Cruft's position forcing a withdrawal back to the Rogers House, which is now a visitor's center for the battlefield. We explored the initial positions and then bused back to the visitor' center to see a movie on the battle and artifacts in the center. Unfortunately the bus

got stuck trying to enter the center and it took a while to get it free and back on the road. The center however is definitely worth a stop and with the movie, maps and our guide we got the full explanation of the fight. As it turned out the Union forces retreated once again into the Richmond Cemetery for a new defensive position. Bull Nelson managed to rally about 2000 of his troops into position but once again the newly minted Union troops broke. The Confederates had the foresight to send cavalry behind the Union forces blocking the main road and when the last line broke captured about 4000 Union lads. Nelson managed to escape capture but the Rebs won their first main battle on the road to Lexington.

After getting the bus rolling again we had lunch in Lexington at the Golden Corral. After lunch we met with personnel from the Frankfort Historical group and took a tour of the Old State Capital building and other historic sites in Frankfort. We finished the day with dinner at a brewpub, the Goodwood in Frankfort and returning to our hotel to gear up for the next day and visiting the Battlefield at Perryville.

To be continued in December . . .



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 Russell Family Story – A Life Lived Hard

Life was incredibly different for those who lived before and during the Civil War. Families were larger due in part to dependence on children's availability to work on the land. More than a few children didn't live into adulthood. In many cases, a family moved often as land wore out or as an urge to see "what lay on the other side of the hill" drove a family to new surroundings.

Add to those elements of family dynamics a move to Missouri in the pre-war years. Bushwhackers lurked in hiding, waiting to strike out at those who held opposing political views, or simply to settle old scores under the guise of extreme passions. The following story contains the memories of the matriarch of the Russell family who put some of her recollections down in print to share her kins' story. All spellings are her own, with no attempt to "modernize or improve" her prose.



Back in the yr 1807 in South Carolyna William Wiley Russell was born. And then in the late 1820 he met and married Lucinda Crow. She also was borned in South Carolyna in the yr 1807.

They didn't stay in Carolyna long. They left & went to Tennesee. They had 10 children in All. 5 boys and 5 girls. The first one was named Frank. Never did marry. He was killed in DService at Rolla, MO. Also had one boy named Lark. He died young. Never did marry.

Then in 1833 They had a boy named David then in 1839 they had a girl named Mary Ann. Then in 1842 they had another boy named William. Then in Aug '44 they had a boy girl named Martha Jane. Then in '47 they had a boy named James.

Seems like the old grand daddy Russell was quite a rambler. Between 1847 and 18 & 53 they left Tennesee and landed in M.O. They landed and settled in a little place which is now called Ball District that is in Ozark County. Then in 1853 Malinda was borned. She was a twin to Lucinda. Then in 1857 Matilda was borned.

Several years later Ole granddaddy as he was called got restless again and left to went to Okla. He died and was burried some where in Okla. But granny lived until 18.99 and she was layed to rest at the Ball Cemetery.

All of Granddad Russell's kids except one lived & died & in & Around Dora. This is Mary Ann. She is my daddy's Grand Mother. She first married Riley Brown. They didn't live together but little while. & he was hung by Rebbels. Then she married William Owen. That was my daddy's grandpa they had 2 boys. Joe was the oldest & then Jim.

He was my grandpa. Then William was Also hung by the Rebbels. I don't know where he was buried, but As far As we know he was Hung in A big tree. On what is known now as Theodore Shipley place close to the ball Cemetery. Then she married Henery Colile. They had 8 children.



Mary Ann



It is safe to say that the Russell family story isn't like most tales shared in *Looking Glass*. Darings deeds and impactful events aren't its theme. However, it serves as a snapshot of times that were as alien to our thinking in 2022 as our thinking will seem to readers in 2182. How casually the lynchings of family members spilled from her pen. A family death in battle at Rolla, MO in 1861 was a matter-of-fact entry that illustrated a hard life. These were real people who lived and loved, and, all too often, lost. They are the picture of an America that changed forever in the four years that created modern America.

submitted by Dave Wege on behalf of John Hall – Russell family descendant

More from the Kenosha Civil War Museum

Civil War Media Club

Custer Victorious by: Greg J.W. Urwin

Tuesday, November 15, 2022 6:30 pm

\$5/\$10 non-members

Location: Ashling on the Lough (125th 56th Street, Kenosha)

While many books have focused on Custer's Last Stand in 1876, making legend of total defeat, *Custer Victorious* is the first to examine at length his brilliant Civil War career. Urwin describes the Boy General's vital contributions to Union victories from Gettysburg to Appomattox. Please read the book prior to November 15 and come prepared to discuss. Food and beverages can be ordered from Ashling on the Lough's restaurant menu and are not included in the price of the workshop.

A Christmas Carol

A Reading by Charles Dickens

Friday, December 2, 2022 7 pm

\$15 Adults/\$10 Children Ages 15 and Under

This "one-man production" stars Nate Plummer as Charles Dickens and is based on the American Reading Tour that Dickens performed in the late 1800s in which he portrayed all of the beloved characters from his holiday classic. Dickens – always a theatrical showman – traveled with his own scenery and lighting equipment throughout his tour. This production – presented over 150 years later – explores how Dickens might present the show using the theater technology of today: LED Lighting, Projections, Sound Effects, Music and more.

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



**Tuesday, November 15, 2022
6:30 – 8:00 pm**

The Perryville Campaign

The presentation will focus on the Confederate Resurgence in the Western Theater in the late of 1862, culminating Braxton Bragg's invasion of Kentucky and the Battle of Perryville on October 8.

**Tuesday, December 13, 2022
6:30 – 8:00 pm**

The Fredericksburg and Stones River Campaigns

This presentation will focus on these two important campaigns—one in the East and one in the West—in December of 1862. Both saw vicious fighting and high levels of casualties but were ultimately indecisive.

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

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.

| ITEM | COST |
|---|-------------|
| 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)

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

