

GENERAL ORDERS



The Newsletter of the

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



February 9, 2023

Charles Knight

From Arlington to Appomattox

"True patriotism sometimes requires of men to act exactly contrary, at one period, to that which it does at another, and the motive which impels them the desire to do right is precisely the same."

Robert E. Lee

Douglas S. Freeman's Pulitzer Prize-winning three-volume biography of Robert E. Lee is a masterful reconstruction of the man's life. So exhaustive was Freeman's research that he often boasted he could account for every hour of Lee's life from West Point until his death. Freeman's Lee is thorough, but it isn't THAT thorough. Often neglected in Freeman's Lee and other studies of the general or of his various battles and campaigns is what Lee was doing when he wasn't in the spotlight. Charles Knight's new *From Arlington to Appomattox: Robert E. Lee's Civil War Day by Day, 1861-1865* recreates those four years of Lee's life – at least as much as is possible at 150+ years distance. It is often forgotten that in addition to his duties as a general, Lee was still a husband, father, and friend. He lost a daughter, sister, two grandchildren, daughter-in-law, and his home during the war. In this presentation Knight shares some of the results of years of research into Lee's actions during the war years; previously unknown sources, inconsistencies that confused Freeman and dozens of other historians over the years, memorable anecdotes of Lee's daily life, and other historical "nuggets" that came to light in his research.

Charles Knight is native of Richmond, VA, where he developed a love of history at an early age. He has worked at museums and historic sites for more than 20 years in Virginia, Arizona, and North Carolina, and has given historical presentations to audiences across the country. He is the author of *Valley Thunder: The Battle of New Market* (Savas Beatie, 2010), *From Arlington to Appomattox: Robert E. Lee's Civil War Day by Day* (Savas Beatie, 2021), as well as numerous magazine and journal articles, and was a historical advisor on the 2014 film *Field of Lost Shoes*, about the Battle of New Market. Knight is currently working on a biography of Confederate

general and railroad magnate William Mahone; a history of Gen. Douglas MacArthur's Honor Guard company; and editing the memoirs and papers of Gen. R.E. Lee's aide Charles Venable. Knight is the curator of military history at the NC Museum of History in Raleigh and resides in Holly Springs, NC, with his wife and children.

Let's welcome Mr. Knight to our Milwaukee Civil War Round Table as he shares a Robert E. Lee we may not have considered.



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February 2023

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February 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, February 6, 2023

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.

milwauwkeecwrt.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!

Non-Discrimination Statement

The Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc. does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, national origin, religion, age, sexual orientation, creed, ancestry, pregnancy, marital or parental status, gender identity or expression, veteran status, physical, mental, emotional or learning disability, or any other legally protected status in its educational programs, activities, or membership.

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

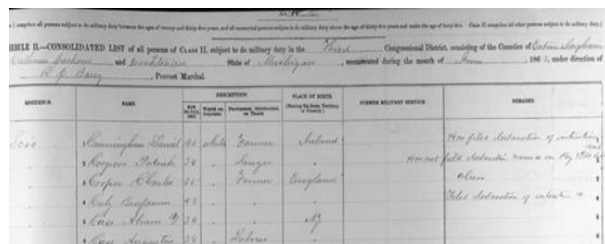
7:30 pm – Announcements/Program

Kenosha Civil War Museum Exhibits Through June 4, 2023

Loyal to the Union: Ohio in the Civil War

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. 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.

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 January 15, 2023.

Major Contributor (\$500 and above)

Gerald Frangesch, In Memory of Robert Parrish \$500

Patron (\$200 - \$499)

Doug Haag, Dawn & Van Harl, Gene & Jane Jamrozy, Dan Nettesheim, Laura Rinaldi

Associate (\$100 - \$199)

Donna Agnelly, Tom & Terry Arliskas, Michael Benton, Mike Deeken, Ellen DeMers, Gary & Judy Ertel, Jim Heintz, Bill & Claudette Finke, Peter & Jean Jacobsohn, David Jordan, Jerome Kowalski, Kathy McNally, Dennis Slater

Contributor (up to \$99)

George Affeldt, Jeryl Anthony, Brian Apfel, Dale Bspalec, Crain Bliwas, Angela Bodven, Robert Christie, Gordon Dammann, Larry Desotell & Deborah Wied, Thomas Doyle, Lori Duginski, John Durr, Paul Eilbes, Julian Gonzalez, Brian Gunn, Leon & Margaret Harris, Christopher Johnson, Grant Johnson, John Kuhnmuench, Jay Lauck, Steve Leopold, Fred Madsen, Rod Malinowski, Paul & Susan Miller, Herb Oechler, Tom Olsen, Tom Pokrandt, John Rodahl, Diana Smurawa, Sam Solberg, Dan Tanty, Justin Tolomeo, Bernard Van Dinter, Daniel Wartinbee, Paul Zehren

Speaker Enhancement Fund

George Affeldt, Donna Agnelly, Jeryl Anthony, Tom & Terry Arliskas, Jim Blake, Angela Bodven, Robert Christie, Ellen DeMers, Thomas Doyle, Lori Duginski, Paul Eilbes, Gerald Frangesch, Julian Gonzalez, Brian Gunn, Doug Haag, Jim Heinz, Tom Hesse, Don Hilbig, Peter & Jean Jaconsohn, Gene & Jane Jamrozy, Grant Johnson, Allan Kasprzak, Don & Mary Korte, Jay Lauck, Steve Leopold, Rod Malinowski, Robin Martin, Kathy McNally, Jim & Monica Millane, Dennis Mueller (in memory of Dr. Frank Klement), Herb Oechler, Tom Olsen, David Perez, John & Susan Petty, Tom Pokrandt, Laura Rinaldi, John Rodahl, Bob & Carla Rodzaj, Brad & Kathy Schotanus, Diane Smurawa, Dan Tanty, Paul Zehren



Robert Miller spoke about faith and religion in the war in his topic "They Both Prayed to the Same God" in February 2005.

In February 2008 David E. Long spoke about "Lincoln, Davis, and the Dahlgren Raid."

Steven Rogstad shared the story of "Lincoln's Art of Persuasion" in his February 2011 presentation.

Dave Wege presented on the topic "Pugnacious and Pertinacious Pat Cleburne" in February of 2012.

"General Longstreet" was the topic of Harold Knudsen's February of 2014 talk at the Round Table.

"Stuart's Christmas Raid of 1862" was the topic of Bob O'Neill's talk in February of 2017.

The Round Table heard Rob Girardi's viewpoint about history and memory in his presentation aptly entitled "Gouverneur's K. Warren's Last Battle" in February 2019.

In 2021 Doug Dammann shared the story of Wisconsin's "First Surgeon," Benjamin Franklin White.

Our speaker last year was Steve Acker with the presentation he called "The 36th Wisconsin: All in a Year."

"To care for him who shall have borne the battle."

Civil War Medical Weekend with the 17th Corps Field Hospital Group

Free and Open to the Public

Saturday, February 18, 10-4

Sunday, February 19, 12-4

Join the Civil War Museum and the 17th Corps Field Hospital for a weekend of interactive displays, presentations, and programs that explore the medical care provided to soldiers during the Civil War. Members of the 17th Corps Field Hospital, the largest Civil War Medical unit in the Midwest, will set up displays and materials highlighting Civil War era surgery, nursing care, pharmaceuticals, and embalming in the Civil War Museum's Freedom Hall.

Interactive presentations, materials and displays will be available throughout the weekend. Activities include:

Civil War surgical demonstrations. View hundreds of original surgical instruments up close. Hear about different diseases that affected soldiers during the Civil War. Learn how women nursed the wounded and sick. "Make pills" with the local Doctor Milam using an 1800's pill roller.

Kenosha Civil War Museum Second Friday Lecture Series

Sponsored by the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table
and the Iron Brigade Association

Friday, February 10

A Game of Whist: An Alleged Sheboygan Connection to Lincoln's Assassin

Noon Free and Open to the Public Steven Rogstad

Helen Brainard Cole was one of Sheboygan's leading celebrities in the early 1900s. Through numerous interviews she repeatedly told her reminiscences about being a nurse during the Civil War at a Washington, D.C. hospital, where she frequently interacted with President Lincoln during his hospital visits. Her tales of seeing Lincoln became legendary. Another involved her association with Lincoln's murderer, John Wilkes Booth, who she claimed she played cards with just weeks prior to the assassination. What did she remember of her frequent interactions with Booth? Did he reveal anything? How did Helen Cole become an intimate of America's most beloved president and most hated presidential assassin?

Saturday, February 18

1:00 PM

This is part of the Medical Weekend Programming

The Long Civil War: Living with Disability in Gilded Age America

Dr. James Marten, Marquette University

Hundreds of thousands of men returned home from the Civil War disabled in body or mind. These disabilities ranged from the quite visible loss of limbs to the more subtle, nearly invisible burdens of long-term illnesses and everything in between. "The Long Civil War: Living with Disability in Gilded Age America" will explore case studies of veterans of the Sixth Wisconsin—one of the regiments in the famous Iron Brigade—to examine a variety of challenges faced by survivors of the war and their families.

Saturday, February 25

Antebellum and Civil War African American Experiences

1:00 PM

Mike Medhurst

Renowned image collector and historian Mike Medhurst will take a visual look into the lives of African American soldiers and civilians before and during the Civil War. See one-of-a-kind photographs from his collection and others.





From the Wisconsin State Journal
Wood County Reporter

June 30, 1864

Remarkable Escape of Lieut. Col. Johnson, of the 15th Wisconsin

We had the gratification of meeting Lieut. Col. Johnson of the 15th Wisconsin, in our sanctum this morning. Col. Johnson was taken prisoner at Chickamauga last fall, and spent the winter and spring in Libby Prison at Richmond

After Gen. Butler's force landed south of Richmond, the rebels began removing the prisoners south. Col. Johnson was among a lot sent on the 7th of May to Danville. After remaining there a few days he, with a large number of others, was taken to Greensboro in South Carolina, put on a train, and started southward.

This was on the 13th of May. That evening as the train stopped to take on wood at a station in South Carolina, Col. Johnson, Cpt. Honeycutt and Lieut. Rogers, of the 2d East Tennessee regiment, effected their escape through a hole in the floor of the car. A guard was standing nearby them and saw Capt. Honeycutt as he was bending down to get through the hole. He supposed, however, that he was lying down, and his attention was diverted by the other prisoners who talked with him while the three effected their escape. They first thought of lying down on the roadbed, but feared the brakes were so low they would be hit by them.

They therefore resolved to take their chances of running, but as the one in advance emerged from under the cars, he ran against a man. Fortunately, it proved to be a negro who, after a sudden exclamation of surprise, apparently comprehended the nature of their situation and passed on without paying them any further attention. They were, however, so much startled by the occurrence that they returned under the cars. The bed of the road was sand. They got between the ties, scooped out the sand as much as they could, lay on their backs, taking up the least possible space and took their chances! Some seven or eight freight cars passed over them, the brakes coming so close as to scrape the buttons off Col Johnson's coat!

A guard on the rear car saw them, but, they suppose, thought them dead. The alarm, however, was raised, and the train began to slack up, when the fugitives took to their heels. They were fired after but not hit, and soon hid themselves in the woods near at hand.

They had with them a small piece of corn bread the size of a man's fist, and about a pound of dried apples. This was all the food they had for five days and nights. They traveled toward the north-west at night.

On the fifth night, hunger so far overcame their fears that they went to a negro house, and there were hospitably received, fed with corn bread, bacon and eggs, and their haversacks filled. They found the negroes invariably friendly and faithful. Col. J. says they trusted no white man until his character had first been endorsed by a negro. They stopped at the residence on one white man in South Carolina who was loyal to the core, who fed them bountifully, and gave them valuable information and advice in regard to their journey. Thus they proceeded, traveling by night, and avoiding settlements as much as possible, through North Carolina and across the mountains into East Tennessee, coming into our lines at Strawberry Plains on the 10th of June, after traversing nearly three hundred miles of the enemy's country. They saw many loyal white men and women, as well as black, and encountered many interesting adventures.

Col. Johnson has promised to write us a sketch of their experiences, which will be full in interest, as they passed through a region of country not yet penetrated by our armies.

The President Visits Gen. Grant

The President left Washington on Monday last to visit Gen. Grant on the James River. A gentleman who is an old and intimate friend of the President states that in a recent conversation with him in regard to the campaign Mr. Lincoln, while expressing great solicitude, avowed the greatest confidence in Gen. Grant's military ability and declared that he should have the most aid and co-operation in the power of the administration to extend to him. Mr. Lincoln, in the course of the conversation, spoke feelingly and with deep emotion of the patriotic fidelity and generous liberality of the Northern people, as exhibited in their contributions of men and money for the maintenance of the nation's honor and power. "Such a people," remarked Mr. Lincoln, "can never fail, and they deserve, and will receive, the proudest place in the history of nations." He also very feelingly alluded to the confidence that the loyal people manifest in him. "I do my best to deserve this," he remarked, "but I tremble at the responsibility that devolves upon me, a weak, mortal man to serve such a great and generous people, in such a place as I hold, in such an awful crisis as this is --it is a terrible responsibility, but it has been imposed upon me without my seeking, and I trust Providence has a wise purpose for me fulfill by appointing me to this charge, which is almost too much for a weak mortal to hold."

General Grant has several times, since the opening of the present campaign, urged the President to visit him at his headquarters in the field, but he has not until now had time to do so. He will probably, be absent from Washington over a week. He is in excellent health and looks good for many more campaigns. Capt. Honeycutt will be remembered as the writer of a letter, widely published, to Mrs. Lincoln, asking her to send him a box of provisions at Libby Prison. He is not where he can get his regular rations.

First Brigade Band of Brodhead, Wisconsin

In 1857, a group of citizens from Brodhead, Wisconsin decided to form a brass band. They first called themselves the Brodhead Tin Band, from the set of inexpensive tin instruments that they had purchased. Soon they purchased a set of brass instruments, however, and became known as the Brodhead Brass Band. Under that name, they performed at the debate between senatorial candidates Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas on August 27, 1858 at Freeport, Illinois.

During May and June 1861, the members of the band enlisted in the Union Army as the band of the 3rd Wisconsin Volunteer Regiment, commanded by Colonel Charles Hamilton. The high spirits of the time inspired Edwin Oscar Kimberley, the band's leader, to write a song in praise of Colonel Hamilton, "Hamilton's Badger Boys." The 3rd Regiment participated in the 1862 Valley Campaign against Stonewall Jackson, losing several battles and many instruments during retreats. In July 1862, the Federal government decided to reorganize music within the military and regimental bands became a thing of the past.

In early 1864, the citizens of Brodhead and other nearby towns raised the funds to enable the band to enlist again, as a brigade band associated with the 1st Brigade, 3rd Division, 15th Army Corps. Top quality instruments and proper uniforms were a part of this reenlistment. Their music included about sixty tunes, including dances, songs, hymns, and marches. The reorganized band was soon considered a credit to the brigade and their services were actively sought after.

The band eventually was a part of Sherman's March to the Sea, earning high marks from W. T. Sherman himself. At war's end, the 1st Brigade Band participated in the Grand Review in Washington, DC. In June 1865. As a final hurrah, it was invited to play at the homecoming for Ulysses S. Grant sponsored by citizens of Galena, Illinois in August 1865.



Today more than eighty volunteers, men and women, make up the 1st Brigade Band. Widely varied in age and occupation, they come from many communities, bringing with them a common interest in their musical heritage. During a typical year, they will meet their audience more than forty times, in concerts, parades, military balls, and worship services, presenting their educational and entertaining programs. While the abundant written and pictorial materials remain, the mellow sounds of the brass bands of the 1860's were lost until the 1st Brigade Band, starting in 1964, began to locate and restore the dented and broken instruments and

to retrieve and reconstruct the yellowed and torn music. Through their work you can now hear what Presidents Lincoln and Davis, Generals Lee and Grant, and their contemporaries heard.

The 1st Brigade Band is an affiliate of the Wisconsin Historical Society and is supported and sponsored by Heritage Military Music Foundation, Inc.; a non-profit, educational, historical, and patriotic organization. In 2009, HMMF was awarded the Rueben Gold Thwaites Trophy for Local History; demonstrating the excellence of its achievements in both collecting and preserving history and sharing that history with the public.

For more information, including a schedule of where this band may be enjoyed in all its brassy glory, please go to 1stbrigadeband.org.



Request from Round Table Member Andy Oren

Member Andy Oren is interested in attending the Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College in June 2023. He is looking for another member who is interested in attending and would like to carpool together to the event. If you are a member interested in attending and would like to carpool with Andy please contact him at: aoren@att.net

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.](#)



Civil War Time Travelers, LLC

A Bloody Road to Travel

October 23-28, 2023

Resaca - Dalton - Kennesaw Mountain - Cheatham Hill - Pickett's Mill
Patrick Cleburne's Proposal to Arm Slaves - Andersonville

Join us for an October 2024 visit as we travel to important locations on the road to Atlanta 1864. An estimated cost of \$950.00 will cover all major expenses on this tour. This includes the coach bus from Lamers, museum fees, hotel rooms, historians, and most lunches. Our speakers will include Robert Jenkins, a citizen of Dalton and excellent historian, along with NPS Rangers and members of our own Round Table.

This is our first 8-day trip and will run from **October 21-28**. We will follow the march of General William T. Sherman as he campaigned to take Atlanta, and Joseph E. Johnston's somewhat anemic response to protect that important city.

Contact Dave Wege for more information: wegs1862@gmail.com - OR - find us on **FACEBOOK**.

72nd Annual Chicago Civil War Round Table

Red River Campaign Battlefield Tour

May 3-7, 2023

COST OF THE TOUR: \$998.00 per person, double occupancy; \$1,250 per person, single occupancy.

Tour cost includes Hotel room for Wednesday evening through Sunday morning, all breakfasts, lunches & dinners; all motor coach services; outstanding Tour Guides; all admission fees; evening programs; and a comprehensive Tour Kit. A cash-bar will be available through all dinners.

Dinner on Wednesday night is a working supper power point presentation given by Ret. Genl. Parker Hills and is included in tour cost.

TOUR BASE HOTEL

Wyndham Garden - Alexandria, LA
2301 N. MacArthur, Alexandria, LA 71303

Call (318) 619-3300. For detail & directions: www.wyndhamhotels.com/hotels/alexandria-louisiana

Send this registration form with your payment in full, or a \$200.00 deposit.
Payment in full due on or before March 15, 2023.

Name(s) PLEASE PRINT: _____

Badge Names: _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phones: Home _____ Cell _____ Email _____

Plan to share a room? NO YES Roommates' name: _____

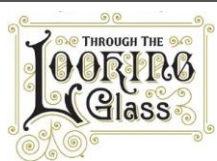
Drive ☐ or Fly ☐ Airline and Flight Number: _____

I need a roommate; please help _____ The CWRT does not ensure the suitability of roommate matches.

Senior Discounts _____

Send this registration form with your check, payable to "The Chicago Civil War Round Table" or simply "CWRT of Chicago."

MAIL TO ► Rae Radovich, Tour Registrar; P.O. Box 434, Palos Park, IL 60464
Call 708-218-1861; Email: rae@anuser.com



Through the Looking Glass features are intended to tell the stories of common folks of the Civil War, whether they are civilians or military personnel. If you have access to the story of an ordinary citizen of this war-torn era and are willing to share it with our Round Table, please consider submitting it to Donna Agnelly, editor of our General Orders. Thank you!

Enoch Bent – Lost on the *Sultana*

The steamboat *Sultana* sank on the Mississippi River seven miles north of Memphis. 1,195 people died in the tragedy, most of them recently paroled Union soldiers who had survived Confederate prison camps, only to now lose their lives through negligence and greed. Among the passengers aboard the *Sultana* was Enoch Bent, who had traveled from Wisconsin to claim and bury the body of his son Elijah.

Built in 1863 in Cincinnati, the *Sultana* measured 260 feet in length. She drew seven feet of water and was licensed to carry 376 people. Paddle wheels on the sides drove the ship through the water, powered by four boilers which drew water directly from the river. This design was poor on the muddy Mississippi, whose waters forced frequent cleaning. As the *Sultana* made her way upriver on what was to be her last voyage, the engineer noticed a bulge developing in one of the boilers. Ships' captain James Cass Mason planned to repair the bulge at Vicksburg, docking there on April 23rd, 1865.

Vicksburg was the collection point for over 5,000 recently released soldiers who had been incarcerated at Andersonville and Cahaba prisoner camps. These paroled soldiers were the responsibility of the quartermaster of the district, a man named Reuben Hatch. Hatch had a reputation as a fellow who saw the war as a means to make money. He had been involved in various schemes to defraud the Federal government, having had 1,696 claims lodged against him during the war. With the government paying \$5.00 each for transporting these soldiers north, Hatch saw a prime opportunity to set himself up for a nice kickback from whichever steamboat captain received the contract to carry prisoners homeward.

As the boiler underwent repairs, Captain Mason began pressuring the clerk responsible for assigning ex-prisoners their transportation to load as many as possible aboard the *Sultana*. This was despite the fact that a larger ship, the *Lady Gay*, and her captain were also seeking to carry paroled men north. Unsuccessful in his bid, the captain of the *Lady Gay* steamed north with no soldiers. The repairs to the boiler consisted of a patch riveted over the bulge. This repair, scheduled to take three days, was finished in only one. The engineer advised keeping the steam pressure under 100 pounds. Repairs completed, the *Sultana* paddled her way upstream to a tragic date with destiny. As the ship fought upstream against the heavy current, pressure in the boilers exceeded 130 pounds. As she passed Mound City and was rounding a bend in the Mississippi, three of her four boilers exploded and the ship caught on fire. It is estimated that between 400 and 500 men died instantly, among them Captain Mason, who was in the pilot house, which received the full force of the blast. Many passengers were thrown into the river. Some were scalded by steam, while others were badly injured by flying debris. Passengers who survived the initial explosion had to risk their lives in the icy spring runoff of the Mississippi or burn with the boat. Many died of drowning or hypothermia. Survivors were plucked from the tops of semi-submerged trees along the Arkansas shore. Bodies of victims continued to be found downriver for months, some as far away as Vicksburg. Many bodies were never recovered.

Enoch Bent, Justice of the Peace for Randall Township, was killed on the *Sultana*. 52 years old, he was returning North after ensuring a proper burial for his son, Elijah, who joined Co. A, 95th Illinois Infantry, out of McHenry County, IL. Elijah had died April 14, 1865, five days after Lee surrendered and the day Lincoln was shot.

Were it not for the Civil War, Enoch Bent would most likely have had a very ordinary life. Enoch was born February 19, 1813 in Greater Manchester, England. As of 1860, he was living in the town of Randall, Kenosha County, Wisconsin with his wife Johanna, and six of their seven children. A son John died in 1855 at age 16. Enoch had made his way to New Orleans to attend to his son's body and was returning to Wisconsin. He purchased passage on the *Sultana*, traveling with the returning POWs. When the boilers blew Enoch died. His grave marker in Wilmot lists his death as 26 April 1865, the day Johnston surrendered at Bennett Place, but the *Sultana* exploded on the 27th, and there is ample evidence of his presence on the ship. Questions lurked about whether Bent was on the *Sultana* when she burned. The research of historian Gene Salecker, an authority on the disaster, settles the matter. Enoch Bent was lost on the *Sultana*. The Milwaukee Civil War Round Table will purchase a commemorative brick to honor Enoch Bent. This brick will be located in the Memorial Walkway at the *Sultana* Disaster Museum in Marion, Arkansas.

submitted by Paul Eilbes and Dave Wege

CUTLER MONUMENT DEDICATION



Through the generosity of our Round Table members, the replacement obelisk at the General Lysander Cutler grave in Forest Home Cemetery has been acquired and placed.

Cutler served the Union well and was involved in some of its most serious fighting. He was in command of the 6th Wisconsin at Gainesville. His brigade opened the Battle of Gettysburg.

A dedication ceremony for the monument will take place on Sunday, May 28, 2023. Details will be provided in the upcoming issues of the *General Orders*.

Originally From the Cincinnati Commercial Published in the Kenosha Telegraph Thursday May 9, 1861

What the Cotton States Have Cost the Union

Some people are credulous enough to suppose that the seceding States, having first got out of the Union, can make a settlement with the remaining States which shall leave a sufficient balance on the side of the seceders to entitle them to claim a share of the territories. Let us see. The following is a table of the actual expenditures of the government for and on account of the Cotton States. The Mexican war expenses are properly counted in, since that war would never have been undertaken but for the claims of the extreme States:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Louisiana (purchased of France) | \$15,000,000 |
| Interest paid | \$8,487,353 |
| Florida (purchased of Spain) | \$5,000,000 |
| Interest paid | \$1,430,000 |
| Texas (for boundary) | \$10,000,000 |
| Texas (for indemnity) | \$10,000,000 |
| Texas (for creditors last Congress) | \$7,700,000 |
| Mexican War | \$217,175,575 |
| Soldiers' Pensions and bounty lands | \$15,000,000 |
| Florida War | \$35,000,000 |
| Soldiers' pensions | \$7,000,000 |
| To Remove Indians | \$5,000,000 |
| Paid by Treaty to New Mexico | \$15,000,000 |
| Paid to extinguish Indian titles | \$100,000,000 |
| Paid to Georgia | <u>\$3,082,000</u> |
| Total | \$489,774,929 |

To this is to be added some hundreds of millions more on account of the cost of the post office service in those States over and above the revenue, for seventy years; on account of the enormous extra expenses in that section for river and harbor improvements, military deficiencies, & etc., and on account of extra protection to Southern sugar, paid by the people of the North in the shape of a thirty cent tariff, which amounted to twelve million dollars in the single year 1857.



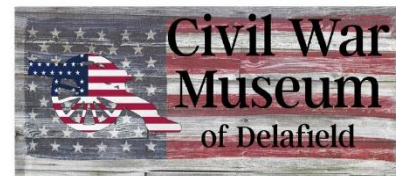
Lysander Cutler

When the Civil War broke out in April 1861, Cutler was one of few people in Milwaukee with previous military training. He was commissioned colonel of the 6th Wisconsin Infantry and began forming his regiment in July 1861 at Camp Randall in Madison. He was 53 years old, and his age and experience commanded implicit respect. "Our old Colonel Cutler," wrote a junior officer at the time, "is a strict disciplinarian and will tolerate no nonsense."

Cutler led his regiment into some of the worst fighting of the war. He fought in the battles of Gainesville, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, and the Wilderness. He was severely wounded three times- at Gainesville, Fredericksburg, and Weldon Railroad. His brigade opened the Battle of Gettysburg on July 1, 1863, and suffered the brunt of the fighting on the first day.

During the war, a visitor to his tent described Cutler as "an elderly gentleman, spare of frame, with silvery hair, a beard nearly white, and beneath heavy eyebrows of an iron-gray color, are keen, penetrating dark eyes. His step is somewhat uneven, owing to a severe wound received at Gainesville. From behind a somewhat grave and severe aspect, shines out a kindly, even genial manner that wins you at once."

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



Next presentation in March of 2023

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

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Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College June 9-14 - 15% Round Table Member Discount

The Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College would like to offer the members of your Civil War Round table or organization a 15% discount to attend the 2023 CWI summer conference, June 9-14. You can explore further details about our conference on our website, as well as check out our schedule for this year's event. At CWI, we believe in the mission of CWRTs and we are making this special offer to recognize the efforts of your organization in promoting the study of Civil War history.

<https://www.gettysburg.edu/civil-war-institute>



We mourn the passing of Kenneth A. Nelson, who entered eternal life on December 9, 2022.

Along with his beloved wife Mary Ellen, Ken was a member of the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table since 2006. Ken and Mary Ellen were married and best friends for over 50 years. Ken also leaves behind his children William and Victoria and many nieces and nephews.

Ken worked as an R & D adhesives chemist at Findley Adhesives (Bostik, Inc.)

Services were held at St. Olaf Lutheran Church in Rubicon on December 16.



May flights of angels guide and keep him.

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 <i>"When Hell Came to Sharpsburg"</i> |
| October 14-15, 2022 | Kenosha Civil War Museum <i>75th Anniversary of the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table</i> |
| November 10, 2022 | Mary Abroe <i>Civil War Battlefields and Historic Preservation: An American Story</i> |
| December 8, 2022 | Garry Adelman (At the Country Club) <i>Midwest Civil War Photo Extravaganza</i> |
| January 12, 2023 | Rob Girardi <i>The Union Prisoners of War at Camp Douglas</i> |
| February 9, 2023 | Charlie Knight <i>From Arlington to Appomattox</i> |
| March 9, 2023 | Dwight Hughes <i>Unlike Anything That Ever Floated The USS Monitor and the Battle of Hampton Roads</i> |
| April 13, 2023 | Rich Holloway <i>Red River Campaign</i> |
| May 11, 2023 | Sean Michael Chick <i>Dreams of Victory</i> |
| 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 |
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| Terry Arliskas | Secretary | |
| Michael K. Benton | Past President | 2023 |
| Roman Blenski | Quartermaster | 2025 |
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~ 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.

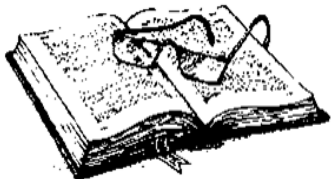
Milwaukee Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for February 9, 2023

Mail your reservations by Monday, February 6 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
February 9, 2023 meeting of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee.
(Please make checks payable to the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.)

Name of Member _____



BETWEEN THE COVERS

Giants in Their Tall Black Hats

Lance Herdegen

My book review today is on a book I purchased the last time the Civil War Museum ran a program on the Iron Brigade a number of years ago. The book is Giants in Their Tall Black Hats. It was edited by Alan T. Nolan and Sharon Eggleston Vipond. Its make up is based on a series of essays on the Iron Brigade by a number of authors. It was published in 1998 and is only 178 pages long. The book consists of ten essays on this famed unit. I thought this was a terrific summary on the Iron Brigade and featured many important highlights on the unit.

The first author to lead in the discussion of the Iron Brigade is Alan Nolan, who wrote the book on the Iron Brigade back in 1961. Published as The Iron Brigade, in my opinion it is probably the best known book on this historic military unit. In this work he picks up the unit at its first fight, the Battle of Brawner's farm. In this essay Nolan also gets into the aftermath of the fight on the Brawner family. He also points out the claim filed by Brawner for losses and highlights an area that many authors don't bother with. He talks about the significant impact that fighting on US soil had to the civilians who ultimately had to deal with effects fighting had on their land and livelihood.

Kent Gramm is next in this book and he deals with the naming of the Brigade, which is earned at South Mountain. "They must be made of Iron" is the quote that stuck with the unit from this fight forward to the end of the war and beyond, ever etched in the history books in tales of heavy fighting and brave men.

In the next essay, Scott Hartwig covers the Iron Brigades struggle at the Battle of Antietam. Mr. Hartwig covers the action of each regiment of the brigade fighting along the Hagerstown Road, in the West Wood, through the Miller farm and into and in the Miller cornfield. A fight which swayed back and forth between Union and Confederate forces. The end result was a long list of casualties for both sides. At the end of the day a mere 500 men of the brigade were left to reform and prepare for more fighting, which fortunately didn't occur.

The next essay by Steven J. Wright describes General Gibbon's impact on the brigade and deals with Gibbon's military career. He introduces the addition of badly needed reinforcements with the assigning of the 24th Michigan to the brigade.

Alan and Maureen Gaff describe the emotions and morale of the men of the brigade and the leadership. Marc and Beth Storch cover the actions of the brigade prior to the Battle of Fredericksburg. They describe the amphibious assault men of the brigade led to get the construction over the Rappahannock, and how they drove the Confederates back to secure the bridgehead.

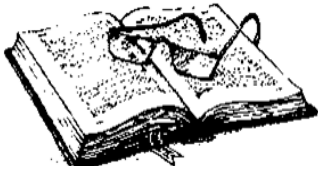
Our own Lance Herdegen covers the tremendous battle the brigade participated in at Gettysburg and the brilliant success of the 6th in fighting at the Railroad Cut. Between the fighting at Seminary Ridge and the Cut, the brigade was devastated and reduced to regimental size. Lance starts out with developing General Reynolds and his role in leading the Corps to Gettysburg, and also touches on his early positions and service record.

The next chapter is compiled by Mrs. Sharon Eggleston Vipond who, to my surprise, was a member of the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table. She now lives in Georgia with her family. Her essay deals with perhaps the nadir of the Brigade as it fights with the Army of the Potomac in the Wilderness, where the Iron Brigade, like many Union and Confederate units, is ground down in the tangled mess of the Wilderness.

The last two chapters round out the story of the Brigade. One deals with Battery B by Silas Felton and the last one by Richard Zeitlin and handles the aftermath of the war. It tells how the battle flags of the Iron Brigade and its surviving members played a large role in Wisconsin politics, the Republican Party, and the GAR.

I really liked this book and feel it is a great summarization of the vaunted history of the Iron Brigade. This one was one of the most informative books about the Iron Brigade and their conflicts of battle, that I have read and I have read many. The tactics of battle and the personal interest of the individuals involved from generals to privates is covered very well, almost to the point where you feel you come to know these brave, and sometimes not so brave, men. This book coupled with Alan Nolan's book on the brigade should be on anyone's bookshelf who has interest in the Black Hats. I would call this a must read for the same reasons.

submitted by Bruce Klem



BETWEEN THE COVERS

The Civil War at Perryville: Battling for the Bluegrass

Chris Kolakowski

This book review is on a relatively short book out of the Civil War Sesquicentennial Series by Mr. Christopher L. Kolakowski. The book is The Civil War at Perryville, Battling for the Bluegrass. I bought this book in preparation for the Kenosha Civil War Museum's 2022 trip to the battlefield of Perryville. I did not have a lot of knowledge on this fight and figured it would be a good one to read as a primer to the trip. As it turned out, I was not wrong in buying the book and recommend it for anyone who plans to visit the battlefield. The other terrific advantage I had was that Mr. Chris Kolakowski was the former director of the Perryville Battlefield Preservation Association and he was our tour guide for the tour of the battlefield.

Mr. Kolakowski does an excellent job in developing the Confederate and Union stories as to why both sides viewed Kentucky as vital to their cause. He sets the stage for the Confederate invasion and the main points the Confederates used to develop their strategy and plans. Two armies moved into Kentucky from the Confederate side one under Braxton Bragg and the other under Kirby Smith. Unfortunately for the Confederates the two commanders couldn't get together to form one force. Since Bragg was the senior officer, he would be the commander of a combined force - or at least he should have been. Kirby Smith had no desire to be under Bragg's command, so he was reluctant to combine his army with Bragg's. The end result for the Confederates was that they would lose out in controlling Kentucky. Bragg would end up facing the Union forces under Buell alone at Perryville.

Mr. Kolakowski points out that 1862 should be considered as the true high-water mark of the Confederacy. Every front was marked by Confederate surges into Union territory and victory. Lee moving into Maryland, Bragg and Kirby Smith moving into Kentucky. The Union forces were on the defensive and in trouble. Never again would the Confederacy be in this position.

The plan for Kentucky was for Kirby Smith to take the Cumberland Gap and force Union forces under Morgan out of Eastern Tennessee. Bragg would move into Kentucky, taking Lexington and installing a new governor and then, joined by Kirby Smith, defeat the Union forces and perhaps take Louisville and Cincinnati. Well, the plan got modified and Kirby Smith moved towards Richmond, Kentucky. In the process he won a huge victory at the Battle of Richmond by defeating forces belonging to Major General 'Bull' Nelson and capturing 4500 prisoners. Bragg's army had forced the surrender of a Union garrison at Munfordsville, taking about 2000 prisoners as well, so things were going well for the Confederates.

Mr. Kolakowski covers Bragg's plans to put the Confederate governor in place in Lexington and how Buell got his army going again to meet and tangle with Bragg. Buell sent a small force from Louisville towards Lexington to draw Bragg's attention. The rest of Buell's army moved SE toward Perryville, where the Confederate forces were positioned. The 3rd Corps of the Union army approached from the west toward Perryville and met with the Confederate forces deployed west of Perryville. The weather at the time was such that the area was experiencing severe drought and water was at a premium. Temps were up and one of the 3rd Corps division commanders moved his regiments to claim a good local water source in the area Doctor's Creek. That commander was Phil Sheridan. His units pushed back the Confederates stationed near the creek and the battle of Perryville was begun.

Bragg thought he could defeat the Union forces and the battle became a near-run affair. Eventually the Confederates realized they were facing more than one Corps and ended up falling back and retreating out of Kentucky. The fighting in and around Perryville had finally convinced Bragg that Buell's entire army was present on the field. Tactically, the Battle of Perryville was a victory for Confederate forces but strategically Buell was in a better position. Losses in men and leaders had left the Confederates in a poor position, reduced to about 13,000 men. The dream of a Confederate Kentucky was dead forever.

This book provides a good, basic treatment of the oft-forgotten battle of Perryville. Veteran Civil War aficionados will receive a great refresher course in the battle and engagements leading up to it. Newbies will find an easy summary of the battle and can test the waters on whether they want to read the larger accounts available as well as essay books. One minor issue I had was that I felt a few more maps would have been helpful. I highly recommend this book to anyone interested in learning about this fight and the campaign of the Confederates in Kentucky.

submitted by Bruce Klem



The Civil War Time Travelers made their way to several eastern battlefields in late October 2022. Among these visits to hallowed ground were stops at First and Second Manassas, Monocacy, and Gettysburg. No visit to Manassas would be complete without paying homage to the Back Hats at Gainesville, also called Brawner Farm.

The talents of our own members were on full display, as Donna Agnelly, Tom and Terry Arliskas, Doug Haag, Paul Eilbes, and Dave Wege contributed to the group's experience. NPS Rangers Matt Borders and Anthony Trusso added their expertise at Monocacy and at Manassas. Two excellent historians also provided insights as well, with Doug Ulmman, Jr. taking us through action at Second Manassas and the indefatigable Garry Adelman leading us to seldom visited sights at Gettysburg. Licensed Battlefield Guides Therese Orr (Civilians at Gettysburg) and Larry Korczyk (Farms and Hospitals of Gettysburg) also did excellent work to lead us all to new knowledge and exciting revelations.

The battles at Manassas were covered on the first days of the Time Travelers' 2023 trip. Then, enroute to Gettysburg, the group stopped at Monocacy. The events that occurred outside of Frederick, MD are not well known to most casual students of the Civil War. And, even though the visitor center was closed on the Monday we visited, our group was still in for a treat. NPS Ranger Matt Borders graciously agreed to give us several hours of his time on a day off. With a thorough knowledge of what transpired on that hot day in 1864, Matt took us to locations on the battlefield where Federals led by Lew Wallace faced off against Rebels led by Jubal Early. Though heavily outnumbered, Wallace's men put up a grand fight, effectively delaying Early's march towards Washington. The Best Farm and the Worthington House should be visited by anyone with even a passing interest in the war! This hot fight truly earned its nickname, "The Battle That Saved Washington."



Garry Adelman discusses action at Benner's Hill

Next, we were off to Gettysburg. We did not tour the usual sites. Instead, our itinerary called for stops at places most visitors don't spend much time visiting. Garry Adelman walked us through the action at Benner's Hill, Culp's Hill featuring George Seares Greene's defense of the barb of "the fishhook," and East Cavalry Field. The next day's tours were entitled "Women of Gettysburg" and "Farms and Hospitals of Gettysburg." The morning portion of the day utilized the expert services of licensed guide Therese Orr. She led a walking tour through the streets of town, starting at the 1863 Inn and ending at the Lutheran Seminary. After several

hours spent investigating the Seminary Ridge Museum, we ate a Subway lunch at Valentine Hall on the Seminary campus. As we ate, Donna Agnelly regaled us with her presentation "The 26th Wisconsin: Flying Dutchmen or Stalwart Warriors?" In the afternoon, licensed guide Larry Korczyk was able to get inside the Sherfy farmhouse, a real treat for anyone who visits Gettysburg. We visited the Trostle Farm and heard the story of Bigelow's battery and Dan Sickles. The second day in Gettysburg ended with a stop at the George Spangler farm. There Larry shared the story of what happened as casualties poured onto countless farms in the area, and medical personnel and civilians made use of every building and square foot of ground to care for the wounded. We were thrilled to run into author Ron Kirkwood at the Spangler farm as well. Ron graciously signed copies of his book "Too Much for Human Endurance." *Mysteriously*, he had multiple copies of his book to sell, two books to donate to our book raffle for battlefield preservation, and all because he *just happened* to be present when our coach bus arrived.

After four days of battlefield touring and craniums filled to overflowing with stories of courage and sacrifice, it was time to start heading back home. But our trip was not yet over! On the way to our overnight stop in Dayton, Ohio, our coach pulled in at the Flight 93 Memorial. We paid homage to those who died there on 9/11. It was a very sobering experience.

Before the final leg of our trip, we spent several hours touring the United States Air Force Museum. This museum is well worth a visit, and knowledgeable volunteers make the experience incredibly. Most of these volunteers are veterans themselves, so their insights lend a special poignancy to the information they share.

Thanks go out to Donna Agnelly, Terry and Tom Arliskas, Paul Eilbes, and Doug Haag for their dedication to expanding others' understanding of the Civil War. These members of our Milwaukee Civil War Round Table go over and above the norm to help keep history alive for Civil War enthusiasts. Special thanks go to Kay Wege. Without her attention to detail and sincere desire to serve others, lunches wouldn't arrive on time and many of the "little things" that make a trip successful might be overlooked.

"Mayhem at Manassas" is in the books. The Civil War Time Travelers' next trip will be October 21-28 as we head to Georgia and follow the stories of the 1864 campaign along "The Bloody Road to Atlanta."

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 |
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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.

