

# GENERAL ORDERS

The Newsletter of the

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



**May 11, 2023**

**Sean Michael Chick**

## **They Came Only to Die: The Battle of Nashville**

The November 1864 battle of Franklin left the Army of Tennessee stunned. In only a few hours, the army lost 6,000 men and a score of generals. Rather than pause, John Bell Hood marched his army north to Nashville. He had risked everything on a successful campaign and saw his offensive as the Confederacy's last hope. There was no time to mourn.

There was no question of attacking Nashville. Too many Federals occupied too many strong positions. But Hood knew he could force them to attack him and, in doing so, he could win a defensive victory that might rescue the Confederacy from the chasm of collapse. Unfortunately for Hood, he faced George Thomas. He was one of the Union's best commanders, and he had planned and prepared his forces.

In his soon-to-be published *They Came Only to Die: The Battle of Nashville*, historian Sean Michael Chick offers a fast-paced, well analyzed narrative of John Bell Hood's final campaign, complete with the most accurate maps yet made of this crucial battle.

That book forms the basis of Sean's presentation to our Round Table. Was there any hope for the hard-luck Army of Tennessee, or was the battle lost before it started?



Sean Michael Chick graduated from University of New Orleans with a Bachelor of Arts in History and Communications and from Southeastern Louisiana University with a Master of Arts in History. He currently works in New Orleans, leading historic tours of his hometown and helping residents and visitors appreciate the city's past. He is also a boardgame designer, concentrating on the period of Western warfare from 1685-1866. His main American Civil War research interests include Shiloh, the Army of Tennessee, New Orleans during the Civil War, P.G.T. Beauregard, the Petersburg Campaign, and Civil War tactics in relation to linear tactics from 1685-1866.

April Round Table speaker Richard Holloway made a special offer to our membership at the of his April 13<sup>th</sup> presentation. He has an article about William T. Sherman in the next issue of [America's Civil War](#). A free copy will be sent to any members who request one.

To get one, email your physical address to [wegs1862@gmail.com](mailto:wegs1862@gmail.com). A list of those names will be sent to Rich and a free copy will be yours!

## **General Orders No. 5-23**

**May 2023**

### **IN THIS ISSUE**

MCWRT News ..... page 2  
 From the Archives ..... page 3  
 Area Events ..... page 3  
 From the Field ..... page 4-5  
 Emerging Civil War News ..... page 5  
 Abraham Lincoln Symposium ..... page 5  
 Through the Looking Glass ..... page 6  
 Special Events/Opportunities ..... page 7

- Civil War Museum of Delafield
- Civil War Time Travelers Trip
- Chicago Round Table Trip

Round Table Speakers 2022-2023 ..... page 8

- 2022-2023 Board of Directors
- Meeting Reservation Form

Between the Covers..... pages 9-10  
 Wanderings ..... page 11  
 Quartermaster's Regalia ..... page 12

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

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

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

6:30 p.m. - Dinner

[\$30 by reservation, please]

Reservations are accepted until

Monday, May 8, 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.

**[milwauweecwrt.org](http://milwauweecwrt.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.

## NOTICE OF BYLAW UPDATE

As presented at the April 13, 2023 Round Table meeting, the Board of Directors have undertaken a review and update of the Bylaws. This is the first such review and update since 2010.

The Board of Directors recommends approval of the updated Bylaws. The vote of the membership will be at the June 8, 2023 meeting.

Copies of the proposed Bylaws will be available at the May meeting and via the Round Table website.

## Election: Board of Directors

In accordance with the Articles of Incorporation, the nominating committee of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee recommends the following slate of nominees for the upcoming election of members to the Board of Directors for a three-year term ending in May 2026. The election will take place at the May 11, 2023 Milwaukee Civil War Round Table meeting.

Michael Benton - Dale Bepalec - Van Harl  
Thomas Hesse - Justin Tolomeo

## The Muster Roll: NEW MEMBERS

NUMBER	NAME	RANK	COMPANY	PLACE OF BIRTH	PREVIOUS MILITARY SERVICE	REMARKS
1000	William H. ...	...	...	...	...	...
1001	...	...	...	...	...	...
1002	...	...	...	...	...	...
1003	...	...	...	...	...	...
1004	...	...	...	...	...	...
1005	...	...	...	...	...	...

## 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 Bepalec, 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



In May 2003 William Beaudot spoke about the 24<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry.

May 2005 saw Daniel Nettesheim present on the topic of Winfield Scott Hancock at our Round Table.

Vernon Burton discussed the Age of Lincoln in May 2008.

Tom Schott explained the unique partnership of Jefferson Davis and Alexander Stephens in May 2011.

The Round Table was pleased to welcome David Bastian for his talk about Grant's Canal at Vicksburg in May of 2014.

Eric Leonard shared an impression of the horrors of Andersonville in his presentation in May of 2015.

"Grant Under Fire" was the topic of Joseph Rose's talk in May of 2018.

Will Greene's presentation to the Round Table in May of 2020 was cancelled due to COVID precautions.

Kevin Hampton presented the story of Hans Heg and the 15<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Infantry in May of 2021.

In May 2022 Dr. James Pula discussed the role of the 11<sup>th</sup> Corps at Gettysburg.

## Lysander Cutler Monument Rededication

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 6<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin at Gainesville. His brigade opened the Battle of Gettysburg.

A dedication ceremony for the monument will take place on Sunday, May 28, 2023. The start time for this ceremony will be 1:00. More information will be provided at our April and May Round Table meetings.



## Kenosha Civil War Museum Second Friday Lecture Series

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

**Friday, May 12**

**Noon**

**Vicksburg After the Fall**

**presented by Gene Eric Salecker**

With the capture of Vicksburg in July 1863, the Bluff City became a Union citadel within the Confederacy, accessible only via the Mississippi River. Turned into a major Union supply base, Vicksburg was the starting point for a number of Union expeditions or raids throughout the rest of the war. At the same time, the city became a haven for thousands of liberated enslaved people. And at the very end of the war, Vicksburg became a way station for Union ex-prisoners-of-war being sent back home from Andersonville and other Confederate prisons. On May 12, you will hear "the rest of the story" concerning the city Abraham Lincoln famously called "the Key" to the Confederacy.

**Friday, June 2**

**Noon**

**Gettysburg in Color, Volume 1:**

**Brandy Station to the Peach Orchard**

**presented by Pat and Dylan Brennan**

Patrick Brennan, a long-time student of the Civil War, published author, and an editorial advisor for *The Civil War Monitor* magazine, has teamed up with his technology-astute daughter Dylan Brennan to bring the largest Civil War battle to life in the remarkable 2-volume study: *Gettysburg in Color*. Volume 1 covers Brandy Station to the Peach Orchard, and Volume 2 covers The Wheatfield to Falling Waters.

Rather than guess or dabble with the colors, the Brennans used an artificial intelligence-based computerized color identifier to determine the precise color of uniforms, flesh, hair, equipment, terrain, houses, and much more. The result is a monumental full-color study of the important three-day battle that brings the men, the landscape, and the action into the 21st century.

Pat Brennan is the author of *Secessionville: Assault on Charleston* (1996), *To Die Game: General J.E.B. Stuart, CSA* (1998), and more than twenty articles for a variety of Civil War magazines and journals. Pat is on the Editorial Advisory Board for *The Civil War Monitor* and his work has appeared in the *Chicago Tribune* and *The Reader*. He has lectured around the country on the Civil War and Bob Dylan.

**THE CIVIL WAR**  
MUSEUM  
UPPER MIDDLE WEST EXPERIENCE





Janesville Daily Gazette

June 11 1862

Freedom in the Territories

The president has signed the bill declaring that there shall be neither "Slavery, nor involuntary servitude in any of the territories of the United States." We of this day may think this is progress and be thankful for it, but the words are as old as the days of Jefferson, who applied them to all the territories then belonging to the nation. we are only "returning to our original position.

Jackson's Stature at Memphis.

A correspondent writing from Memphis, June 6th, says:

"Passing through Court Square we came upon the stature of Jackson, defaced at night a year ago, among the opening acts of secession's ill-played tragedy. Its inscription, The Federal Union, it must and shall be preserved, has been marred by a chisel, the word federal and the first two letters of the Union being chipped out. The features of the old hero, with their determined lines, are yet undefaced.

Madison Wisconsin State Journal

June, 03 1862

Army Correspondence

Williamsport, Maryland

May 28th, 1862

Editors State Journal:- I will give a brief account of the doings of the "Third Wisconsin" the retreat of General Banks from the valley of Virginia, its fatigues and its losses.

After General Shields' division left Banks' command to join McDowell, Gen. Banks fell back upon Strasburg, and his command consisting of two small brigades, with their complement of artillery and cavalry, lay in camp, several companies being detached to guard the bridges and track of the Manassas Gap railroad from Strasburg to Front Royal, while others were at work upon the fortifications then erecting for the defense of the position.

On Friday, the 23d inst., while our Regiment was quietly at supper, a report came to camp that Captain Hubbard's company. (the Neenah Guards) then guarding the bridge at Bucks town Station, had been attacked and overwhelmed.

News of the attack upon the 1st. Maryland Regiment, at Front Royal, came also, and order for Colonel Ruger to march instantly.

In a few minutes our Regiment was on the double quick down the track towards Front Royal. Keeping this gait for five miles, they reached the station where Captain Hubbard had made a gallant defense against the fierce onset of a large force

of rebel cavalry. He was in command of his company and one of the 27th Indiana. Driven from his position, here treated across the bridge to Strasburg side and there kept up a continual fire upon the rebels from four o'clock till dark. His loss was two killed and seven wounded while the cavalry opposed to him lost two Captains, one, Captain Shute, quite a notoriety, the other Captain Fletcher, thirteen men and eight horses, as was confessed by prisoner taken from their party.

The Regiment remained here until morning, when it was ordered back to Strasburg, where it arrived just in time to take position in the brigade as it moved out upon the road to march to Winchester. The retreat of Saturday was one of thrilling excitement. Our long supply and ambulance train, with a tedious sprinkling of refugee and sutler wagons, stretching out for several miles; the enemy, who had broken through our lines at Front Royal, were hovering on its front flank and rear. Our brigade was marching in the center of the train. Between Middleton and Newton the train was attacked behind them and some fifty wagons, a company of Zouaves, and two squadrons of cavalry cut off. They marched back to Strasburg, took a by-road and after a continuous and circuitous march of one hundred and forty miles, performed in two day and nights, reached the Potomac above Hancock. Our brigade marched back to the point of attack and deploying in line of battle, kept the enemy at bay from four o'clock till midnight. In this brisk fighting our Regiment did not participate. Having been on duty the night previous, it was held in reserve. Thus the trains passed safely through Winchester, the two brigades remaining till morning a short distance south of the town.

At early dawn, the enemy in overwhelming force was close upon us. Our brigade commanded by Col. Gordon, of the 2d Massachusetts, was brought into line of battle on the right and west of the Strasburg pike. Col. Donnelly's brigade took position on the left and commanded the entrance from Front Royal. Behind these lines, near the town, on eminences, were planted our batteries.

Hardly were these positions taken than the long lines of the enemy were seen stretching far away to our left. in front of Donnelly, and a moment after a regiment appeared upon the summit of the ridge in front of our right. From this position our batteries drove them in great disorder, but they held it long enough to reconnoiter our whole position and force.

Then occurred an ominous lull, in which we soon learned that they were deploying their heavy columns behind the ridge to sweep round our right and approaching the town from the westward, completely cut us off. Soon they appeared in overwhelming force along our right and upon its flank, and got their batteries in fine position.

Then seeing that he was overwhelmed, outflanked and the day lost, Col. Gordon ordered a retreat. The 2d Massachusetts and 27th Indiana fell back immediately. Col. Ruger coolly ordered his regiment to "about face."

With the regularity of parade drill, they turned on the heel and marched to the rear. Approaching a stone wall, the Colonel ordered them to make a stand behind it, which was done in good style, checking the rapid advance of the enemy and forcing him again to halt and plant his batteries. Again marching in retreat, our Regiment swept down upon a little field in the suburbs, surrounded by a strong wall. On one corner of this, which faced the enemy, companies I, Captain O'Brien, C, Captain Flood, and H, Captain Whitman, again made a stand and poured several volleys into the foe. Again we had to halt and open upon them with shot and grape. Thus the enemy was kept back for some fifteen minutes, in which time the broken troops and batteries got off the field.

As our column moved through the streets in some disorder, the citizens began firing upon us from the doors and windows, killing two of our regiment and wounding several. the enemy's skirmishers rushed into town from the south and west and poured their bullets in upon us, and their batteries swept up the streets through our ranks. the rush of ambulances, batteries and cavalry, threw us into confusion, and for a few moments the horrors of Bull Run stared us in the face. The infantry, however soon formed in columns on each side of the road, and battery took position, so our retreat, though precipitated, was handsomely covered. The enemy crowded upon us, and we halted not until we reached the Potomac, at Williamsport, a distance of thirty-five miles. Our suffering from fatigue and hunger can best be imagined by the experienced soldier.

Considering the completeness of our rout, and our long exposure to the enemy's fire, our loss in killed and wounded has not been heavy. Many are missing from our Regiment but are constantly coming in, having struck the river at other points.

Emmett Theodore Johnson 1st Corp.

With 3d Wis Inf. Co. K

Died : 09/17/1862 Antietam, MD

**A Note from James Johnson: My 3d great uncle with Company K took part in this adventure.**

## The Abraham Lincoln Association is Holding a Symposium

**Saturday, June 17, 2023 — 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

Free and open to the public. RSVP to **Kay Smith** or call: **217-LINCOLN**

*Cantigny Park – Wheaton, Illinois*



The  
**Abraham  
Lincoln**  
Established 1908 **Association**

This Symposium will emphasize the increased use and availability of original and primary resources in the research and writing on Abraham Lincoln, the Civil War and Reconstruction. The speakers are as follows:

- **Michael Burlingame** – author of *Abraham Lincoln: A Life*
- **Michelle Krowl** – Library of Congress, Specialist, Manuscript Division – Civil War & Reconstruction
- **Dan Weinberg** – expert on Lincoln documents & owner of Abraham Lincoln Bookshop, Chicago
- **Guy Fraker** – author of *Lincoln's Ladder to the Presidency: The Eighth Judicial Circuit*
- **Robert I. Girardi** – Author/Editor of nine books on the Civil War, including *The Civil War Generals*
- **William Griffing** – creator of Spared & Shared: Saving History One Letter at a Time
- **Diana Dretske** – author of *The Bonds of War: A Story of Immigrants and Esprit de Corps in Company C, 96<sup>th</sup> Illinois Volunteer Infantry*



*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 members, please consider submitting it to the **General Orders**. Thank you!

The following article is but the introduction to a 36-page document written by Philip Deeken. Michael Deeken, Philip's brother, is a member of Milwaukee Civil War Round Table and did much of the research that led to the story being told. The pride in their ancestor is easily apparent in the pages of the tale of Schneider's service. It is real, it is filled with the uncommon honors and deserved praise of the famed Iron Brigade, one unit among many that gave everything it had for Cause and Country.

We welcome more articles like this one, submitted by members of the Round Table. We do, however, reserve the right to edit for content, clarity, and length.

## **Peter Christian Schneider of the Iron Brigade**

On the morning of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1863, the three hundred soldiers of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wisconsin Volunteer Regiment were the tip of the spear in General Meade's massive Army of the Potomac. By the time the Battle of Gettysburg was over, only thirty-four men remained and fit for duty. The Brigade earned the grim record of having the highest percentage of soldiers killed in action in United States history. Sergeant Peter Christian Schneider, our grandfather's grandfather, was one of those few men to survive the battle. Massively outnumbered, they had slowed the advance of the Confederate Army allowing the Union troops to take the high ground, setting the stage for the largest battle ever fought on the continent.

Thirty-two-year-old Peter had volunteered in Madison Wisconsin in January 1862 and was one of one hundred men in the newly formed K company. Only five years before Peter, a stone cutter by trade, had emigrated from the small village of Villmar thirty miles from Frankfurt and settled in Wisconsin. He now belonged to the First Brigade of the First Division of the First Corps, the only western men to fight in the east as part of the Army of the Potomac. He was one of an estimated 200,000 German immigrants who fought to preserve the Union.

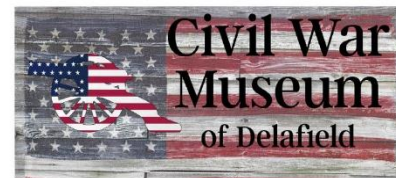
In addition to Gettysburg Peter fought at Brawner's Farm, South Mountain, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, and the Battle of the Wilderness where he was wounded by a bayonet thrust through his right leg. While recovering Peter served as a Provost Guard and was later discharged as a First Sergeant in January 1865. He returned home to Wisconsin and immediately married Anna Luchsinger, the sister of one of his fellow soldiers. Together they raised a family of eight children, continuing his job as a stone cutter. He died at the age of sixty-two of pneumonia.



Much as the three hundred Spartans delayed the advance of the Persian army at the Hot Gates of Thermopylae in ancient Greece, the Iron Brigade delayed the Confederate army for those crucial early hours which played a decisive factor in the Union Army's win. As Winston Churchill said of his Royal Air Force in 1940, "Never has so much been owed by so many to so few". The same can certainly be said of Peter Christian Schneider and his fellow soldiers of the Iron Brigade.

submitted with permission from Michael and Philip Deeken  
Peter Christian Schneider was "their grandfather's grandfather"

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



**Next presentation on May 2: The Union Blockade and Confederate Response 1861-1863**

Please register at our website: <https://www.civilwarmuseumdelafield.com>

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

**On Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/Civil-War-Museum-of-Delafield-WI-108835694973198/>

### 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>



### Civil War Time Travelers, LLC

A Bloody Road to Travel

October 21-28, 2023

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

**We have reached our tour capacity, but have started a waiting list.**

Contact [wegs1862@gmail.com](mailto:wegs1862@gmail.com) if you are interested.

*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 submissions to **David Wege** at [wegs1862@gmail.com](mailto:wegs1862@gmail.com). All submissions must be received by no later than the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to the next issue. We reserve the right to select articles to be printed and to edit for content, style, and length.

All address changes or problem receiving your *General Orders* should be directed to **Treasurer Paul Eilbes**.

Copyright © 2015 by the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc. Permission is granted for use of the contents, in whole or in part, in non-profit Civil War Round Table newsletters only. All other rights are reserved.

Yearly Round Table membership available: Individual (\$50), family (\$65), non-resident (\$30), attending education institution (\$25). Contact **Paul Eilbes** for information at (262) 376-0568.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

March 9, 2023 Dwight Hughes  
*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  
*They Came Only to Die: The Battle of Nashville*

June 8, 2023 Mark Zimmermann  
*The Brutal Retreat from Nashville*

**Speakers/topics remain subject to change.  
We appreciate your understanding!**



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

Name	Office/Position	Term Expires
Donna Agnelly	Editor Emeritus, 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 Risle	Program Chair	2024
Tom Thompson	Member	2023
Justin Tolomeo	Member	2023
David Wege	Layout, General Orders	2024

**www.milwaukeecwrt.org**

**~ CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE NEWS EMAIL  
NOTIFICATIONS ~**

Would you like to receive an email reminder before each meeting? How about an email telling you about a special or upcoming Civil War event in our area? If you are interested in receiving an email reminder/notification please send your email address to Grant Johnson at: [grant.johnson@responsory.com](mailto:grant.johnson@responsory.com)

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

**Milwaukee Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for May 11, 2023**

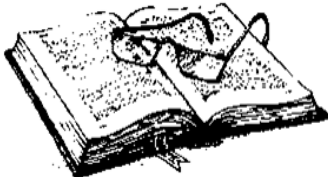
Mail your reservations by Monday, May 8 to:  
Paul Eilbes  
1809 Washington Avenue  
Cedarburg, WI 53012-9730

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

Enclosed is \$\_\_\_\_\_ (meal is \$30.00 per person) for \_\_\_\_\_ people for the  
May 11, 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 \_\_\_\_\_

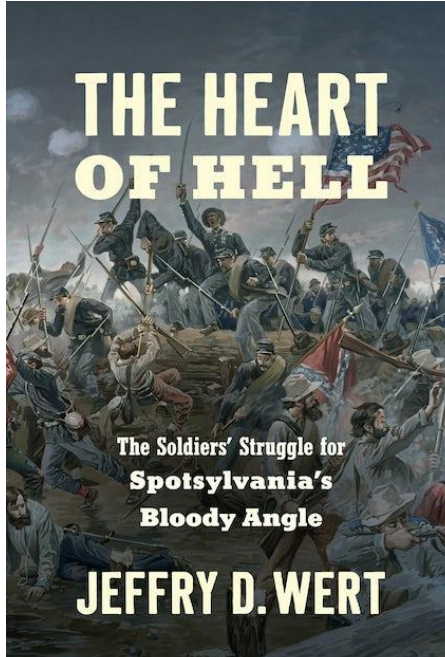




## BETWEEN THE COVERS

### Heart of Hell: The Soldier's Struggle for Spotsylvania's Bloody Angle

Jeffrey D. Wert



The Heart of Hell: The Soldiers' Struggle for Spotsylvania's Bloody Angle is the latest book by renowned military historian Jeffrey D. Wert, the author of many previous books, including "Gettysburg, Day Three," "From Winchester to Cedar Creek: The Shenandoah Campaign of 1864," and "The Sword of Lincoln: The Army of the Potomac."

At 320 pages, readers will not expect a microhistory of every facet of the battle but rather, in a vivid and intensely emotive manner, a soldiers' story that many seasoned veterans would later recall was unmatched in their fighting experience. The fierce struggle over the Confederate fortifications during the Battle of Spotsylvania, known as the "Mule Shoe," was without parallel during the American Civil War. The massive Union assault that began at 4:30 A.M. on May 12, 1864, sparked brutal combat that forever became known as the "Bloody Angle," a notorious part of the famous Overland Campaign that pitted Grant versus Lee.

Weaving together a strong, blow-by-blow narrative of the fighting with powerfully expressive quotes from innumerable firsthand accounts, readers are drawn into the brutal fighting that lasted nearly 24 hours. By the time Federal forces withdrew, some 55,000 men from the Union and Confederate armies had been drawn into the fury, battling in torrential rain along fieldworks at point-blank range, in a "seething, bubbling, soaring hell of hate and murder." Considered the costliest

battle of the Overland Campaign, the point-blank nature of the fighting was unique in scale and duration.

Both sides would declare victory, yet in truth, there were no victors, and some 30,000 officers and men from both sides had been killed, wounded, or captured by the time the fighting ceased in the dense Virginia woods. In the end, the Union soldiers realized that Grant would not retreat, as past Union generals had and Lee's men, for all their prowess, realized they were fighting a determined and different Union army.

Jeffrey Wert's ability to present the battle in such an intense and compelling manner draws readers right into the trenches with the desperate soldiers of both sides. This is truly a soldier's perspective of this gory warfare. The savagery of the struggle at the bloody Angle was without precedent and heartbreaking, and the battle is presented in an even-handed way that does credit to both sides.

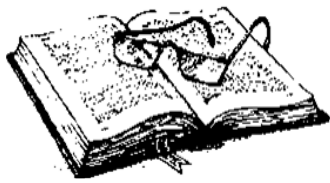
Heart of Hell is a vivid yet perfect way to describe this desperate battle as witnessed by the soldiers that would never forget Spotsylvania. This is another powerful addition to the excellent writing of historian Jeffrey Wert.

submitted by Robert Johnson



The University of North Carolina Press based in Chapel Hill, NC is offering a 40% discount on its publications to our Civil War Round Table. Orders over \$75.00 will also receive free shipping. When ordering use promo code **01DAH40**.

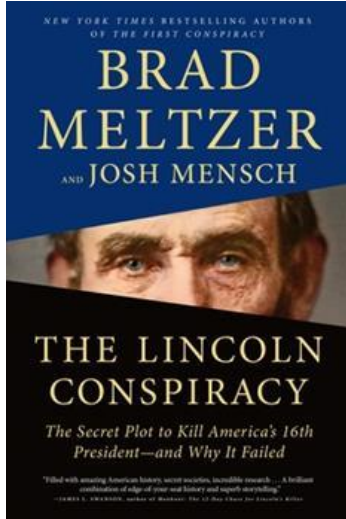
That promotional code does not expire. We have been invited to share this information with the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table by the Senior Director of Marketing at UNC Press.



# BETWEEN THE COVERS

## The Lincoln Conspiracy

Brad Meltzer and John Mensch



The book the Kenosha Media Club read for its February 8, 2023 meeting was Brad Meltzer and Josh Mensch's book The Lincoln Conspiracy. The group as a whole felt this was an extremely interesting book, highlighting a plot against Lincoln as he passed through Baltimore on his way to Washington in 1861. Turmoil that existed in Baltimore at the time. Our readers knew that Lincoln changed his plan to come through the city in the early hours instead of keeping to his day time schedule.

The group, however, didn't take into account that the reason for the change of plans was that, beyond the turmoil and rioting that might occur with Lincoln's passing through the city, the real reason was that there was an assassination plot against him.

The plot, which was largely formulated by The Knights of the Golden Circle (KGC), intended to kill the President-elect in Baltimore while he was traveling to his inauguration. Many of its members also advocated for secession, which was part of their larger intent to create a new country, known as the Golden Circle. This country would eventually be divided into 25 slave states, including Mexico, parts of South America, and the Caribbean.

The book then is about the secret plot to kill America's 16th president and why it failed. The research and writing were impressive. The reader goes back in time and you feel as if you are on the streets with the events unfolding. It sort of reads like a mystery novel and seems that way until you begin to understand it is actually based on fact.

The story begins with Lincoln's rise to become the 16<sup>th</sup> President. This in turn sets the stage for the turmoil that occurs with the abolitionist's movement and the whole slavery issue gripping the nation during this time period. Lincoln's election becomes the spark to finalize succession and, along with it, the possible assassination attempt as a means to protect slavery. One figure enters into the picture; Samuel Felton, president of the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore railroad. His concern is the route that Lincoln has to take to get to Washington means he will be using Felton's system. He is concerned about rumors of certain groups attempting to stop the inauguration by any means. One of those means could be destruction of parts of the railroad, posing dangers to staff, equipment, and passengers. In order to help provide protection for his system he hires noted detective Allan Pinkerton and his agency to investigate possible attempts of disruption of his system.

The authors go on to describe the role and actions of Pinkerton and his group. In addition to the discovery of possible actions against the railroad's operations, they discover the plot of the actual assassination attempt on Lincoln when he arrives in Baltimore and transfers trains to get to Washington. It is the investigation of Allan Pinkerton and his agents who foiled the plot to kill the incoming president that is the story of this book. He and his agents infiltrated the Democrats who planned to kill Lincoln prior to his inauguration. Simply a fascinating story.

According to the writers Lincoln became swayed by the fact that another independent group led by General Scott and Secretary Seward came up with the same information. At that point, when both groups presented the information about the plot, Lincoln understood the risk of sticking to his original plan of going through Baltimore. He would change plans and go through in the wee hours to avoid trouble.

I highly recommend this book to anyone interested in the Civil War and Lincoln's Presidency. It reads like a mystery novel and is a fast read. On another note - if you are interested in old movies, I recently stumbled across a 1951 movie that roughly parallels this story. The movie was called "The Tall Target" starring Dick Powell. It might be worth a watch (perhaps available on Netflix). I caught it on TCM about a month before I read the book.

submitted by Bruce Klem

# The Battle of Athens



The Battle of Athens, pronounced Aythens by the locals, took place on August 5, 1861 along the Des Moines River in Missouri, just across from western Illinois. Seriously, who even knew that this battlefield existed and is within a fairly short driving distance from Milwaukee?

As battles go it wasn't a huge fight. Approximately 2,000 Missouri State Guards squared off against 500 Missouri Union Home Guards. At stake was control of the hotbed of secession west of the Mississippi River.

Confederate General Martin Green faced Union David Moore, who had recently been elected to the colonelcy of the 1<sup>st</sup> Northeast Missouri Home Guard Regiment. A veteran of the war with Mexico, Moore found himself grossly outnumbered.

Facing a much larger secessionist force and by dissension in his own command, Moore determined to strike local secessionists, then fall back to Athens as a rally point where he would be close to the Croton, Iowa supply depot and Iowa militia support. On July 21, with the help of a company of Illinois militia and a company of Iowa Home Guards, he attacked the village of Etna, Missouri and drove off enemy cavalry there. He then fell back to Athens.

Colonel Green responded by entering Edina in Knox County, Missouri on July 31—stampeding the local Home Guards. He then proceeded toward his target, Moore's Unionist regiment in Athens. Meanwhile, unknown to Green, several hundred of Moore's regiment received Springfield rifled muskets.

On August 4 Green bivouacked seven miles west of Athens. While Moore attempted to prepare for attack, several of his company commanders allowed men to visit home. Moore called for reinforcement from Croton and Keokuk, Iowa, but they would not cross the river in time to participate in the engagement.

Moore's pickets warned of a secessionists' advance at 5 AM, and Moore called out the regiment to begin assembling it for battle. Between men still absent on weekend leaves and removing the sick across the river, Moore force of 500 had only 333 men in line.

Green's much larger force surrounded the town on three sides, with the river behind the Union. Lieutenant Colonel Charles S. Callihan, commanding the Union left flank, found himself facing Rebel cavalry and James Kniesley's three-gun battery. Recall the Union forces had no artillery. However, Kniesley's guns were a motley assortment (a 6-pounder, a 9-pounder, and a hollowed log) supplied with only a few solid shot and improvised canister. One can only imagine what would happen when a "hollow log" fired off "improvised canister."

While the artillery spooked a cavalry scout, it had little other impact on the battle. The first shot from the artillery passed over the defenders, across the river and into the Croton railway depot. Another passed through the Benning house and into the river. Predictably, the log cannon flew apart on its first fire and played no further part in the battle.

As the secessionists advanced, firing became general. Other than the lack of artillery, Moore's small force was much better armed with rifled muskets and bayonets versus shot guns and squirrel rifles. Green's force contained many poorly equipped, untrained and untested recruits.

The advance faltered as it approached through a cornfield. When the Confederate field commander was wounded in the neck, his demoralized men began falling back. Seeing this, Moore commanded his men to fix bayonets. Then he ordered, "Forward! Charge! Bayonets!" This counterattack sent the Missouri State Guardsmen into headlong retreat. The Rebel artillery withdrew. Most of the Union force was on foot so the pursuit was not an option. Although a few shots were fired at long range across the river by some Iowa militia, they played no real part in the battle. By the time a relief force reached Athens the rebels had already begun a general retreat. The Battle of Athens was over.



The war was hard on the city of Athens. It is now a ghost town with the battlefield there maintained by the state of Missouri.

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

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

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

**Contact Roman Blenski, Quartermaster**

4601 W. Holt Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53219

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

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

