

# GENERAL ORDERS

The Newsletter of the

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



June 8, 2023

Mark Zimmermann

## The Brutal Retreat from Nashville - 1864

Mark Zimmerman, a member of the Nashville Civil War Round Table, will present an hour-long slideshow, "The Brutal Retreat from Nashville 1864," based on his self-published book, *Mud, Blood & Cold Steel*. The presentation details the torturous 10-day, 100-mile retreat by John Bell Hood's Army of Tennessee from Compton's Hill in Nashville to the Tennessee River in northern Alabama. The Confederates were pursued by the infantry and cavalry of George Henry Thomas, including the cavalry of James Harrison Wilson, armed with repeating rifles. The harrowing retreat was conducted in the dead of winter through rugged and inhospitable terrain.

Mark is a retired newspaperman who belongs to numerous Civil War and historic preservation organizations. He has self-published eight non-fiction books, including four on "the late unpleasantness." His latest book, *Fortress Nashville*, was named a Top Ten Book of 2022 by Civil War Books & Authors. He is also a Tennessee Squire with modest landholdings in Lynchburg. He was born and raised in Rockford, the gritty city at the top of Illinois, and spent seven years as a Packers fan in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. He is also an avid fan of the University of Tennessee Volunteers. He has

been known to enjoy the fine products of Milwaukee breweries. He is old enough to have attended a Milwaukee Braves home game and a Milwaukee Bucks game featuring Oscar Robertson and Lew Alcindor. He has led tours of historic sites in Nashville and has presented at Shiloh National Military Park, Johnsonville State Historic Park, Fort Defiance Interpretive Center, and Fort Negley Interpretive Center.



## To the members of the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table

Thank you for another great season of fellowship and enjoyable study of the Civil War. What a precious thing it is to be united in love for our country and its history. Have a safe and relaxing summer. Enjoy safe travels, and write up any Civil War trips for inclusion in our General Orders!

### General Orders No. 6-23

June 2023

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### June 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 June 5, 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.

### **2023-2024 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.

## NOTICE OF BYLAW UPDATE

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

President Tom Hesse then announced at the May 10 meeting that further review will be done by a committee with the goal of presenting a finished version the Round Table members in the Fall of 2023.

## Election: Board of Directors

At the May 11, 2023 Milwaukee Civil War Round Table meeting, the following members were elected to the Board of Directors for a three-year term ending in 2026:

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

The Board of Directors also gratefully acknowledges Tom Thompson for his many years of service and contributions to the Board of Directors.

## 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 May 11, 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



In June 2004 Mark Bradley spoke about the command Partnership between R. E. Lee and Joseph E. Johnston.

Robert Girardi spoke to the Round Table about the Atlanta Campaign's Railroad Defense in June 2010.

Peter Carmichael discussed Robert E. Lee's and the Strategy of Annihilation in June 2011.

In June 2012 Dennis E. Frye shared thoughts on September Surprise: The Union in Peril.

The Round Table was pleased to welcome Kenneth E. Noe for his talk *The War in Appalachia* in June of 2014.

Garry Adelman led the group in a *4-D Civil War Photo Extravaganza* in June of 2015.

*Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain at Petersburg* was the topic of Dennis Rasbach's talk in June of 2018.

In 2019 the Round Table was privileged to hear Greg Biggs speak about logistics for Sherman's Atlanta Campaign.

Bruce Klem spoke to the group about the 1<sup>st</sup> Wisconsin Cavalry in June of 2020.

In June 2021 Will Greene regaled the Round Table with his presentation about the First Petersburg Offensive.

Dave Wege presented on *Four Calico Boys of Company E* at our June 2022 meeting.

## **Coming up at the Kenosha Museum** **All programs are free and open to the public.**

**Friday, July 14** **Noon**  
**Theodore Roosevelt and the Civil War**  
by Calvin Watts, Academic Advisor, UW-Parkside

**Friday, August 11** **Noon**  
**Post Civil War Veteran Mental Health**  
by Dr. Gregory Burek

**Friday, September 8** **Noon**  
**The Grant-Rawlins Relationship: Some New and Surprising Revelations**  
by Al Ottens

**See information on the 2023  
Great Lakes Civil War Forum  
on page 12 of this issue.**

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

Sponsored by the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table and the Iron Brigade Association. Free and open to the public.

**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.

**Friday, June 9** **Noon**  
**More Than Just Grit: Civil War Leadership,**  
**Logistics and Teamwork in the West, 1862**  
presented by Dick Zimmermann

A new book, *More Than Just Grit: Civil War Leadership, Logistics and Teamwork in the West, 1862*, has entered the collection of Civil War titles describing the war in its second and crucial year. More evenly matched on battlefields with the South than at any time later in the war, the North was able to win a series of victories, and occasionally did so with commanding generals who remain largely unknown today. Why was the North so successful in the West? Dick Zimmermann will present an original summary of his book showing the pattern of observable elements that appeared to lead to victory in these engagements.

Mr. Zimmermann was a school administrator and taught history and economics. At the Civil War Museum in Kenosha, Wisconsin, he assists in the archives, presents programs on military history, and does research for new exhibits. He has written one other book on the Civil War, articles on military history and is a member of the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table.



Manitowoc Post

July 11, 1862

### The English Press on American Affairs

The English papers are nearly unanimous in favor of the recognition of the South by their government. The London Herald maintains that it is time for England and France to take decided action in American affairs, and says it is impossible to account for the inactivity of McClellan's army, and that since the battle of fair Oaks and Beauregard's reinforcing the Rebels, McClellan may find himself outnumbered and likely to meet with disaster which may change the whole aspect of the war, for a reverse to McClellan's involves the ruin of his army and the hopes of the Federal Government.

The London Times; comments of fearful carnage in America, says never could the map of Europe show so many Blood-stained spots; that the war has now reached a point at which it is a scandal to humanity: it has become a war of extermination, and yet submission is as far off as ever. The opportunity is at hand when some potent American voice prudently calling for peace may awaken a universal echo.

The Times has an editorial on American finances, and says they are in a most critical condition, and ought to produce serious alarm instead of empty boasting.

The Morning Post charges the American government with being all along influenced by popular clamor, having never pursued an independent course.

**The Pilot  
Manitowoc**

Friday Morning, July 11, 1862

The Democratic Creed

Equal and exact justice to all men, of whatever state or persuasion, religious or political.

The support of the State governments in all their rights as the surest bulwarks against antirepublican tendencies.

A mild and safe corrective of abuses which are lopped by the sword of revolution, where peaceable remedies are unprovided.

A generous spirit of concession and compromise, the vital principle of republics, without which there must be an appeal to force, the vital principle and immediate parent of despotism.

The supremacy of the civil power over the military authority. Economy in the public expense, that labor may be lightly burthened.

Freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and freedom of the person.

Under the protection of the habeas corpus, and trial by jury impartially selected.

Manitowoc Post

July 11, 1862

### A Duel Near Philadelphia

Rumors were afloat yesterday, based on apparently authentic sources, giving the particulars of a duel which took place on Tuesday morning last, near this city.

It was stated that on, Monday last, two gentlemen were engaged in conversation at the Continental Hotel, when the position assumed by England towards the United States was noticed and bitterly commented upon. One of the party present, an officer of the Grenadier Guards, (now stationed, we believe in Canada,) took offense, and used an insulting expression, which was resented by the American spokesman. A challenge appears to have been the result. The combatants, with their respective friends, left the city about day light on Thursday, and drove to Litzenburg's farm, in Montgomery County.

Here at 6 o'clock a.m., all the arrangements were completed. A spot of ground was chosen, which was partially surrounded by woods. At that early hour, there was no danger of intrusion.

Ten persons, in all, were present. Twelves rounds were fought with foils, both parties being skilled in their use, the one from military experience, and the other from practice at a club in this city. Several scratches were given and received, but, before any serious result had ensued, an agreement was proposed and accepted. An amicable breakfast was the result. The name of the English officer has not transpired, nor has that of the American, who is alleged to have been a retired merchant of this city. Speculation is rife as to the personnel of the parties.

**The Watertown Republican**

January 03, 1862

The Washington correspondent of the Baltimore Sun says that there are in England several elements that favor a war with this country. The landed interest want a high price for corn, and the manufacturing interests desire a cheap and plentiful supply of cotton. Besides, the Canadas want railways and government expenditures, and covet the acquisition of Portland harbor and that portion of Maine through which the Grand Trunk Railway passes. Then again, the present ministry has a watchful opposition, led by Lord Derby, and a popular clamor for war could not be resisted.

**The Watertown Republican**

January 03, 1862

### Heavy Shipments of Arms from Europe

The Hamburg steamer Teutonic which arrived on Monday, brought over seventy-five thousand stand of arms, principally rifles, for the Government. The arms are of various kinds; a few of them are old muskets, but nearly all are new and excellent arms. The largest proportion of this shipment was procured in Austria. The arms are consigned to many different houses. It is estimated that nearly a quarter of a million stand of arms have been brought to this country during the past four months by the Hamburg line of steamships.



## 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 commanded the 6<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin at Gainesville. His brigade also 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.

**Forest Home Cemetery**  
2405 West Forest Home Avenue  
Milwaukee, WI 53215

**Sons of Union Veterans  
of the Civil War and Auxiliary**

# Memorial Day Service

**Monday, May 29, 2023 at 10 a.m.**

at Milwaukee's Historic  
**CALVARY CEMETERY**  
5503 W. Bluemound Road

Outdoor Mass  
followed by a Patriotic Program

## 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!

## Adam John Robert McGowan

Private – Company I

First Wisconsin Cavalry

Camp Smith  
Nashville, Tennessee  
Sept 17<sup>th</sup>, 1864

My Dear Brother,

Your very much welcome letter came directly to hand and I suppose you will think it strange that I have not replied to it sooner. I intended to do so but did not have an opportunity of writing in time so that it would reach you before leaving home. I suppose that ere this you have seen some account of Wheeler's expedition into Tennessee and I will try to give you a littler history of our exploits on our way after him, on the night of August 31 we were called into line and marched over to the armory and had the old Harpers Ferry muskets issued to us, as we had no carbines and about 11 o'clock the next day we got order to saddle our horses and take nothing along but our guns and no traps except our blankets and a good many of the boys did not even take their haversacks or canteens. That afternoon we went somewhere out on the Murfreesboro Road, they had been fighting considerably that forenoon and we met a few wounded men and some wounded horses coming in lame and I saw two of the 1<sup>st</sup> Tenn boys lying dead beside the road. But before we got up Wheeler had commenced a retreat towards Franklin, so our column was turned back and started for Franklin on another road.

The most of the column marched all night and until about ten o'clock the next day when we reached Franklin. They made a halt and were going to draw some rations when the report came that Wheeler was coming into town, so they started out to meet him. After running their horse about two miles they met the gentleman and had a pretty sharp fight for about two hours when the rebs again commenced retreating. Our men and horses being very tired and hungry the men having had nothing but a few hard tack since the morning before and the horses nothing at all. They incamped for the night.

Through some mismanagement there was a piece lost off the end of the column in the night of which I was one and so we were not in that fight. The next morning we started after them and it was not long before we came to where they had burned some of the rail road. That day we passed through Spring Hill and reached Columbia where we stayed all night. And then started after him again in the morning and followed him all day and again on the next day until eleven o'clock. When another skirmish commenced at a small town called Campbellville which lasted about three or four hours. As we charged down a lane one of the Lieutenants of the 8<sup>th</sup> Illinois was wounded in the leg. I was stationed in a lane about 2 rods from any of the rest of the boys. I fired 9 shots and every time I shot there was about six directed to me but none of them took effect though some of them came very close. No more room and I am pretty tired so I will close for this time.

I remain, A.J. McGowan

The 1st Wisconsin Cavalry was organized at Camp Harvey in Kenosha between September 1, 1861, and February 2, 1862. It mustered in on March 10, 1862, and left for St. Louis, Missouri, on March 17, 1862, where it was stationed at Benton Barracks until April 28.

It traveled to Camp Girardeau, Missouri, on April 28, 1862, where it was attached to a series of Union cavalry brigades that fought in Kentucky, Georgia, Tennessee, and Alabama over the next four years. The regiment fought at the Battle of Chickamauga on September 19-20, 1863, in the Atlanta Campaign the following year, and helped capture Confederate president Jefferson Davis on May 10, 1865.

The 1st Cavalry lost a total of 401 men during service. Six officers and 67 enlisted men were killed. Seven officers and 321 enlisted men died from disease.

**This letter is very interesting for a number of reasons. If a paragraph has more than two or three sentences, it is because the writing was lightly edited to eliminate run-ons. English teachers would have a fit! Also, note the casual way in which McGowan described combat. He traded shots with the enemy and had six shots returned at him for every one of his own! Also note, his unit was cut off from the main body, in the presence of the enemy, and, "ho-hum," they made it home. What amazing people, these boys in blue.**

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



**May Presentation: The Campaign and Battle of Chancellorsville**  
**June Presentation: The Vicksburg and Gettysburg Campaigns**  
**July Presentation: The Siege of Vicksburg and the Battle of Gettysburg**

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**.

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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  
2023-2024 SPEAKER SCHEDULE**

September 7, 2023	Adolfo Ovies <i>"Cavalry of the Army of the Potomac"</i>
October 12, 2023	Carleton Young <i>"Voices from the Attic"</i>
November 9, 2023	Ernest Dollar <i>"Hearts Torn Asunder: Trauma in the Civil War"</i>
December 7, 2023 (At the Country Club)	Scott Mingus <i>"Unceasing Fury: Texans at the Battle of Chickamanga"</i>
January 11, 2024	Pat and Dylan Brennan <i>Gettysburg in Color</i>
February 8, 2024	Harold Knudsen <i>The Confederate General Who Fought the Next War</i>
March 7, 2024	Chris Bryan <i>Cedar Mountain to Antietam – The XII Corps</i>
April 11, 2024	Steve Knowlton <i>Thirteen Months in Dixie – A Federal Prisoner in Texas</i>
May 9, 2024	Lynn and Julianne Herman <i>Tragedy in Lawrenceville - The Allegheny Arsenal Explosion</i>
June 13, 2024	Tim Smith <i>Nevins-Freeman Award Winner Vicksburg</i>

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



**Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.  
2023 – 2024 Board of Directors**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Office/Position</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
Thomas Arliskas	Past President	2025
Terry Arliskas	Secretary	
Michael K. Benton	Past President	2026
Dale Bspalec	Member	2026
Roman Blenski	Quartermaster	2025
Paul A. Eilbes	Treasurer	2025
Van Harl	First Vice President	2026
Tom Hesse	President	2026
Grant Johnson	Membership/Webmaster Past President	2024
Bruce Klem	Past President	2024
Daniel Nettesheim	Member	2024
John Petty	Second Vice president	2025
Frank Risler	Program Chair	2024
Justin Tolomeo	Member	2026
David Wege	Editor, General Orders	2024

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

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

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

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

**Milwaukee Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for June 8, 2023**

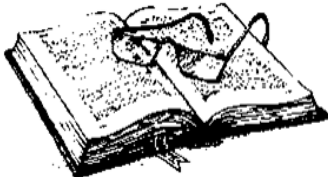
Mail your reservations by Monday, June 5 to:  
Paul Eilbes  
1809 Washington Avenue  
Cedarburg, WI 53012-9730

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

Enclosed is \$\_\_\_\_\_ (meal is \$30.00 per person) for \_\_\_\_\_ people for the  
June 8, 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 \_\_\_\_\_

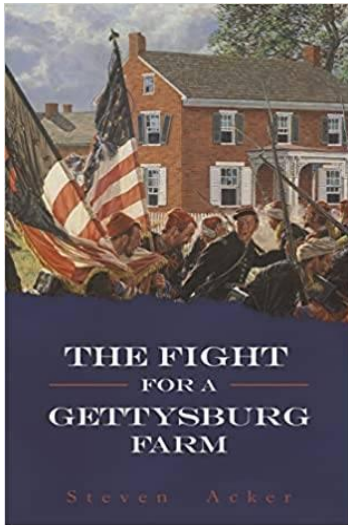




# BETWEEN THE COVERS

## The Fight for a Gettysburg Farm

Steve Acker



The cornfield at Antietam, the Carter house at Franklin, the George Troup Hurt house near Atlanta, the Shiloh Church, the Stone House at Manassas, and the Peach Orchard at Gettysburg. North and South Civil War battles have been connected to the land and the buildings in which the battles have been located. I have visited many battlefields and read many books, yet it was not until recently that I realized I have traveled past these landmarks to get to the “battlefield.” What made me reevaluate my Civil War battlefield visits is a new book by author, teacher, reenactor, and historian Steven Acker and his book “The Fight for a Gettysburg Farm.”

I honestly had never considered the tragedy that visited these peaceful farms and fields, orchards and homes until the well-written and thoroughly researched book on the fighting around the Peach Orchard and Sherfy farm. In Acker’s 185-page book, the farm and family are as much the focus as the battle that took place around it. Well respected and highly praised for his beautiful, well-kept farm, Joseph Sherfy, his wife, her mother, and six children led a peaceful, prosperous farm life. The future boded well as a new orchard,

recently planted, was looked on as a new source of revenue. Life was hard but rewarding for the Sherfy family - and then the war came to Gettysburg and nothing was the same. We have all read about Gettysburg and the fighting around the Peach Orchard but through Acker’s fictional yet highly accurate story, we are not only at the table with Joseph and his family just before the battle but also in the middle of the fighting. Boys and men, both North and South, confused, committed, frightened, and dying as the thunder of cannons shakes the ground, and smoke, blinding and acrid, obscured the battlefield. What must the Sherfy family, as well as so many other families, have felt as they returned to find their fields and homes destroyed, littered with half-buried bodies, dead horses, the debris of battle, devoid of any food, and occupied by the wounded?

I had never really thought about this aspect of the war. I guess, just like the armies, I simply moved on after the fighting was done. There is nothing dry or clinical about the story that the author weaves around the men and women wrapped up in the Sherfy’s story. After reading Steve Acker’s most excellent book I will never “just” drive past a Civil War-era farm and not reflect on how hard it was on the civilians. The land and its people have their own Civil War story to tell. Thank you, Mr. Acker, for opening my eyes through your compelling book.

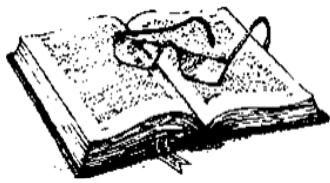
(I understand the ongoing discussion regarding fiction vs. non-fiction, but there are times when a well-written, well-researched fiction book can drop readers into a small moment of time and make us feel, taste, and hear the horrors of war like nothing else can.)

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**.

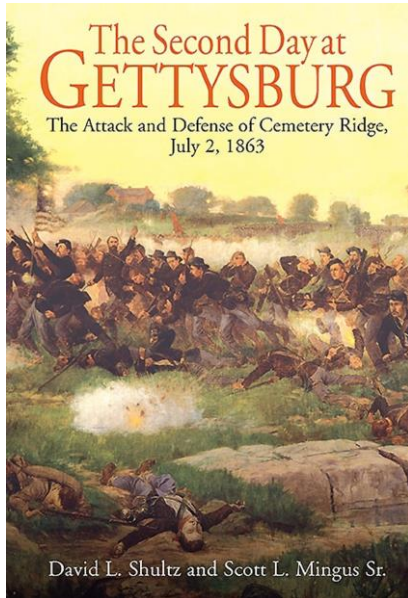
That promotional code does not expire. We have been invited to share this information with the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table by the Senior Director of Marketing at UNC Press.



# BETWEEN THE COVERS

## The Second Day at Gettysburg

David L. Schultz and Scott L. Mingus, Sr.



My review is a for book I purchased last year at the Kenosha Civil War Museum's used book section, The Second Day at Gettysburg, The Attack and Defense of Cemetery Ridge July 2, 1863. It was written by David L. Shultz and Scott L. Mingus Sr. and published in 2015. It is a long book with 494 pages. The focus does not cover Peach Orchard, Houck's Ridge, Valley of Death, Devil's Den, or the Round Tops. It also does not cover the action on the Union right on Cemetery and Culp's Hills. The book touches upon but does NOT cover the second-day fighting south of Wheatfield Road in/for the Wheat Field, either. The focus was limited to the fight of part of McLaws and Anderson's attacks on Cemetery Ridge.

The authors focused on the events that set the stage for the attack, the amount of misinformation that was presented to Lee from faulty recons, and the changing situation of troop positions on the Union side. The other key that impacted the lack of success on the Confederate efforts was the poor coordination of their unit commanders from the Corps on down. As a former Army officer, it seemed to me that this vital follow-up attack to the success of the first day was very poorly directed. A lot was left to chance. A big key to the Union success turned out to be the work of Hancock to plug holes in the Union line as the attack developed. His success in those efforts led to the failure of the Confederates to achieve the collapse of the Union front lines and the rolling up the Union Army.

The authors identify that, at the start of the campaign, "Hooker's initial blunder of allowing Lee to get a one week head start and then wait to pursue was inexcusable. But Stuart's ride around the Union army, coupled with exceptional Union intel and reorganized Union cavalry command, offset Lee's initial advantage." In addition, resting Hill and Longstreet's commands at Culpeper did not aid the Confederate's cause in the campaign, either.

In my opinion, the advance of Hill's command to Gettysburg, led by Heth, was a "movement to contact" and highlighted three consistent problems during Lee's movement into Pennsylvania. These issues were insufficient recon, uncertain or conflicting information, and an overall lack of tactical coordination. While any one of these can lead to problems, the presence of all three factors, coupled with strong Union efforts, likely crippled the campaign.

Where the lack of poor recon and coordination of commanders to the plan hurt the Confederates was the attack on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day. Lee thought the strike up the Emmitsburg pike would be against the Union flank, which he thought due to poor recon was up in the air. As things turned out this wasn't the case. Obviously, Hancock's continuous response to the developing situation by moving new troops into the fray enabled the Union forces to stem and halt the attack. The poor coordination that occurred in this attack was with the Confederate Corps commanders and division commanders. For the echelon attack to work Anderson's division was supposed to advance as well to help prevent the Union side from shifting troops to the critical area. But that support and continuation of the attack stopped with Anderson in that Posey and Mahone failed to participate. Had Anderson been in position to watch and control his brigades and Pender likewise along with Hill more troops should have participated. But from the description of the attack, it appears these movements were left to brigade commanders and as a result the attack failed.

This book was a detailed account of troop movements in this part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> day assault on Cemetery Ridge, excluding certain parts of the fight. The authors provided great detail on the Confederate attack on the Peach Orchard, on the southern part of Cemetery Ridge, and the Union response. I mention it was finally detailed and would say if you are interested in all the troop movements and counterattacks of individual units then this is the book for you. However, if tremendous detail causes your eyes to glaze over then perhaps a book of less detail might be to your liking. I did find this an interesting one in that the authors I felt did an excellent job in identifying the key faults of the Confederate campaign and specifically the reasons for failure in the Day 2 assault despite Sickles' near fatal unauthorized repositioning of his Corps.

submitted by Bruce Klem



## On Wisconsin!

Students and chaperones of Trinity Lutheran in Campbellsport took a six-day trip into history. From April 23 until April 29, eighteen travelers clambered aboard three vehicles and headed south.

Our sights were set on learning the history of events at Chickamauga, Chattanooga, Spring Hill, and Franklin. As an added bonus, a stop at the Abraham Lincoln Museum in Springfield was included.

Students gave a report on a personality who was important at each of our stops. At Chickamauga we heard student-historians speak of Nathan Bedford Forrest, Benjamin Hardin Helm, Hans Heg, John Wilder, William H. Lytle, and George Henry Thomas.

In Chattanooga students spoke about Braxton Bragg, Andrews' Raiders, and Arthur MacArthur.

At Carnton Plantation in Franklin, our final student speaker told us about Carrie McGavock.

The group was privileged to be lead at Chickamauga by author/historian Robert Carter. Trinity principal Dave Wege wanted an expert to share what happened at key locations on the battlefield. In particular, he wanted to have the group learn about the Confederate breakthrough that occurred on September 20, 1863. Miscommunication, supreme exhaustion, and pettiness contributed to the tidal wave that crushed the Union center on that day.

We also wanted to hear about the Union stand on Snodgrass Hill following the collapse of the Federal right and center. It was here that George Henry Thomas earned his nickname "The Rock of Chickamauga." Who better to tell these stories than an author who has written battlefield guides to lead visitors around each of the key locations? Seriously, the services of Robert Carter are strongly recommended should your travels ever take you to the Chickamauga battlefield.

Will Greene led the charge at Chattanooga. Our group hiked to Brown's Ferry, scaled Lookout Mountain (in our vehicles) to visit Point Park, came to understand what Grant saw from Orchard Knob, wondered why the Sherman Reservation isn't called Cleburne Reservation (since Old Pat handed Uncle Billy his lunch there) and, finally, we ended the day at the Bragg Reservation on Missionary Ridge. Will Greene is a master at making the mess that was Chattanooga make sense.

While in Chattanooga our kids and chaperones did more than pound history. "See Rock City" say the barns and billboards all the way down the interstate. So, we did. Visiting this tourist-trap gem was a real adventure. It cleared some cobwebs from overloaded minds, and refreshed us. The same thing happened at the Tennessee Aquarium. That venue is a must-see for both adolescents and adults. The aquarium is super well done.

Our itinerary took us to Franklin, Tennessee next. On the way there we stopped at St. John's Episcopal Church near Columbia. This beautiful church, built by the family of the Bishop-General Leonidas Polk, was a temporary resting place for General Patrick Cleburne's body after the disaster at Franklin. It also contains the bodies of an earlier skirmish near Spring Hill, and is the final resting place for several former slaves. This led to some great discussion with the kids!

At Spring Hill we discussed the lost opportunity General John Bell Hood had to trap the Union army under John Schofield. The "best move" of Hood's career came to naught, and he was "wrathful as a rattlesnake" because of it. Was the fiasco here a specific individual's fault, or was the blunder there more solid evidence of the Confederate Army of Tennessee's dysfunctional nature?



The Carter House and the Carnton Plantation moved hearts to tears. The Carter family endured horrible things during the battle. Soldiers fought in the dying daylight and into the night in five tragic hours that destroyed any hope of success for the Confederates. Over 1400 Confederates buried by civilians, many of the bodies unknown, is a sad tale that needs to be heard. Educational interpreter Jenny Peach lived up to her last name. She had us all in the palm of her hand with exceptional information and great insights about both the Carter House and Carnton.

Our final day brought us to Springfield, Illinois. There we visited the Abraham Lincoln Museum and the Lincoln House National Historic Park. The museum in particular interested the students. With state-of-the-art displays and films, the Lincoln story was told in a unique and fascinating way. Tickets to the Lincoln house are free, but distributed on a first-come basis. We didn't get inside.

Trinity put on about 2,000 miles, ate some fantastic meals, and saw God's handiwork in His incredible scenery. All venues the group visited were kid-friendly and fulfilled their goals of education beyond our expectations. It was a great trip!

submitted by Dave Wege



## Mission Critical - Now is the Time to Act

The current Wisconsin Veterans Museum has been in its current location, which is leased, for nearly 30 years. It has functionally outgrown this space which inhibits the ability of the staff to tell the stories of all Wisconsin Veterans from all eras of service. We need to do better for our veterans.

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum (WVM) with the Wisconsin Department of Affairs (WDVA) and Department of Administration (DOA) Secretary's offices jointly studied future facility requirements and options in downtown Madison for the museum. Concept A of that study, which involves acquiring the museum site and constructing a new building on the museum's current location, was selected as the preferred course of action. It is a compelling vision that will secure WVM's future for the next 50-75 years.

This project will be a public-private partnership similar to other museum projects in Madison. W. Jerome Frautschi has already pledged \$10 million towards the new museum, contingent on the museum's current site being acquired by the state of Wisconsin.

To move the project forward, the Governor's proposed biennial budget includes \$9 million for acquisition of the current site and preliminary engineering. The balance of the project will be addressed in the 26-27 Biennial Budget. Budget hearings for public comment with the Joint Finance Committee have concluded. You still can help.

For more than 100 years, the museum has been safeguarding and sharing the legacies of our Wisconsin veterans. It is essential for the community to ensure our mission continues and make sure our veterans' legacies are not forgotten. This is your museum, and now is the time to act!

*The current museum lease ends November 2025, right after the 250th birthdays of U.S. Army, Navy, and Marines. There are no more renewals - without action, the museum will be forced to close and move into storage.*

## What You Can Do to Help

Contact Your Elected State Representatives

or

Contact Jennifer Carlson

Executive Director | Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation  
(608)576-2553



concept rendering of possible future WVM building

**Wisconsin Veterans Museum**  
**30 West Mifflin Street**  
**Madison, Wisconsin 53703**

# **The 2023 Great Lakes Civil War Forum**

## **Vicksburg is the Key**

**Saturday, September 23**

8:30AM Registration, Programs Begin at 9:30AM  
Price Includes Coffee, Snacks, and a Catered Lunch  
\$80/\$64 for Friends of the Museum

### **Champion Hill: Decisive Battle for Vicksburg**

**Dr. Tim Smith, University of Tennessee-Martin**

Through all the long months of operations against Vicksburg, Champion Hill stands as the most decisive battle of that decisive campaign. Fought on May 16, 1863, Champion Hill almost literally decided the fate of Vicksburg and the Confederate army that defended it. Ulysses S. Grant even wrote to his friend William T. Sherman that night, "I am of the opinion that the battle of Vicksburg has been fought." So why was the fight such a decisive Union victory? Terrain, numbers, and timing all played a role, but in the end leadership was the biggest factor in victory and defeat. This lecture will compare and contrast Union and Confederate leadership at Champion Hill and analyze the results mainly within the context of the two generals involved.

### **Faithful Service, Unselfish Devotion**

**Wisconsin Anecdotes During the Vicksburg Campaign**

**Andrew R. Miller Lead Interpretive Ranger and Historic Weapons Program Coordinator**  
**Vicksburg National Military Park**

Andrew Miller's program will focus on the service of several regiments and individuals from the over 9000 soldiers from Wisconsin who participated in the campaign to capture Vicksburg.

### **Forgotten Footnotes**

**Vicksburg's Victims of Sickness and Disease**

**Rev. Robert Miller**

Medical professionals studying the Civil War have concluded that sickness from infectious illness was a major factor affecting especially the Vicksburg campaign. Confederate forces had a greater total rates of illness rate, diarrhea and malaria than did the attacking Union forces, and it is reasonable to conclude that medical care affected the course and possibly the outcome of the Vicksburg campaign. Dr. Michael Brown avers that "the South's significant medical disadvantages and increased risk of infectious diseases ensured a Northern victory." We will examine the human-interest perspective of this aspect of the Vicksburg campaign, reflecting on the toll that sickness and disease played, and some of the forgotten stories of people who suffered and died because of health issues. Notable among those who died by disease were CSA Gen. John Bowen, Willie Sherman and several Catholic clergy ministering to troops at the time.

### **A New Look at Old Abe's Color Guard**

**Analyzing a Historical Image using Artificial Intelligence**

**Dr. Xukai Zou Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis**

One of the most well-known images of the Civil War is that of the 8th Wisconsin Infantry Color Guard and their live eagle mascot, Old Abe. The image was taken following the fall of Vicksburg, Mississippi in July 1863. Despite the subsequent fame of this iconic image, the true identities of many of the color guard members have been lost to time. In this work, researchers from Purdue University Indianapolis, assisted by Civil War historians, reexamine evidence from primary and secondary sources to identify a group of soldiers who potentially appear in the image. Using state-of-the-art, artificial intelligence-based face recognition techniques, researchers evaluate the relative likelihood of several of the color guard members' potential identities. As a result, the identities of several previously unidentified color guard members are proposed, as well as new alternate identities of several previously-identified color guard members.



**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.

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Baseball Hat.....	\$10.00
Blue Brief Case.....	\$25.00
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Blue Dress Shirt.....	\$40.00
Blue Fleece-Lined Jacket.....	\$60.00
Iron Brigade Pin.....	\$5.00
CWRT Pin.....	\$5.00
Bugle Pin.....	\$5.00
Iron Brigade Medal.....	\$25.00
Red River Medal.....	\$25.00
CWRT 60 Year Medal.....	\$10.00

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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.

