

# GENERAL ORDERS

The Newsletter of the

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



September 7, 2023

Adolfo Ovies

## Cavalry of the Army of the Potomac

*The Boy Generals: George Custer, Wesley Merritt and the Cavalry of the Army of the Potomac* is, in essence, a dual biography of two superb cavalry commanders who were associated throughout most of the American Civil War. Though the battles and campaigns of the cavalry are covered in detail, it was never my intention to write a history book *per se*. My focus from the very beginning was to write a human story. In this case, it was the bitter enmity that developed between Custer, and his immediate superior, Merritt. By the end of the war, they had come to despise each other with a passion. Writing *The Boy Generals*, I was faced with two major hurdles.

In Custer's case, it was to debunk much of the mythology in the voluminous literature that had come to surround him that completely hid the true nature of his soldierly qualities. It was incumbent on me to refute the charges of recklessness that dogged his career, charges that were only enhanced by his spectacular death at the Battle of the Little Big Horn on June 25, 1876. This, I believe, *The Boy Generals* accomplishes.

The challenge with Merritt was to bring his enigmatic persona to the forefront. In contrast to Custer, only one full-length biography exists, Don E. Albert's *General Wesley Merritt*. Merritt, too, was a great soldier, a visionary soldier. He wrote extensively after the war. It would not be an exaggeration to state that he almost single-handedly transformed the U.S. Army from an army fighting Native Americans on the western frontier, to one capable of taking on the modern European powers during World War I.

Though opposite in character and temperament, it was their different tactical philosophies that drove them apart. Custer was the ultimate hussar, leading his men in a headlong mounted charge to victory after victory. Merritt was a dragoon, fighting his commands dismounted, relying on the carbine as his primary weapon.



As my friend and mentor, Eric J. Wittenberg, wrote in the Foreword to Volume 1, "No other study of either men, or Civil War cavalry operations, has even addressed these issues, let alone in the detail tackled by Ovies." My work is about the contest for the tactical supremacy of the cavalry, and the bitter enmity that drove it. It will be the focus of my presentation.

Please go to page 3 for more of Adolfo Ovies' biographical information. It is interesting reading!

## General Orders No. 9-23

September 2023

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

[Jackets required for the dining room.]

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

6:30 p.m. - Dinner

[\$30 by reservation, please]

Reservations are accepted until

Monday, September 4, 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.

[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 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.

Wisconsin WWII veteran Harry Baker will celebrate his 103<sup>rd</sup> birthday on October 9. At the request of his family, the staff of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum is asking for your help in marking this milestone by sending him a birthday card.

Lt. Col. Harry Baker served on active duty and in the U.S. Army Reserves for 24 years. He deployed to the European Theatre from Camp McCoy with the 76<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division.

Please send **CARDS ONLY** by **September 18<sup>th</sup>** to:

Wisconsin Veterans Museum  
Attn: Lt. Col. Baker's Birthday  
30 West Mifflin Street  
Madison, Wisconsin 53703



## The Muster Roll: NEW MEMBERS

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE	DATE	INITIALS
<b>John Lenchek</b>				

## MCWRT Annual Fund

The following members have made a generous commitment to the MCWRT by investing in that fund. This list reflects those donations made through June 30, 2023.

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

Gerald Frangesch, In Memory of Robert Parrish \$500, Grant Johnson

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

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

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

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, 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 September 2004 Brig. Gen. Parker Hills (U.S. Army, Ret.) shared his views on the Vicksburg Campaign.

Mike Kaufman discussed “The American Brutus, John Wilkes Booth” in September 2006.

JEB Stuart’s 1862 Ride around the Army of the Potomac was the topic of Horace Mewborn’s September 2007 talk.

Lance Herdegen brought his special style of speaking to the MCWRT when he discussed “Those Damned Black Hats” in September 2009.

Our September 2010 speaker was Wayne Mahood sharing his thought on Major General James S. Wadsworth.

September 2013 brought John Michael Priest to present about the Maryland Campaign up to South Mountain.

Dale Phillips came to Milwaukee in September 2015 to talk about “The Capture of New Orleans.”

Timothy B. Smith spoke on the topic “Difficult and Broken Ground: The Terrain Factor at Shiloh in September 2018.

In September 2019 Janet Croon presented a talk on her book “The War Outside My Window.”

September 2020 brought Ted Savas to discuss “Lost and Found: The Archeology of the Battle of Payne’s Farm.”

In September 2022 Steven Cowie shared thoughts on his book “When Hell Came to Sharpsburg.”

## 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, September 8

Noon

### The Grant-Rawlins Relationship: Some New and Surprising Revelations presented by Al Ottens

To Civil War buffs, General John Rawlins is usually regarded as the scold that kept Ulysses Grant sober. But the complex motivations behind Rawlins’s temperance interventions are not well known. Nor are the rare communication skills Rawlins possessed that significantly impacted his relationship with Grant. Al Ottens, author of the award-winning biography, General John A. Rawlins: No Ordinary Man, will provide the details at this illustrated lecture.

**See information on the 2023  
Great Lakes Civil War Forum  
on page 13 of this issue.**



## Adolfo Ovies’ Biography

I am Cuban by birth. The year 1959 was a watershed moment in Cuba’s long, long history, as Fidel Castro openly battled the regime of Fulgencio Batista until his successful culmination of the *Revolución*. The silvery screen of the television provided the parameters of my young life. The broadcast of American movies remained unabated, symbolic of a normalcy that no longer existed. The roguish, dashing Errol Flynn was my hero, and when he portrayed George Custer in “They Died with Their Boots On,” Custer, by extension, became my hero too. Decades removed from my first viewing, Flynn’s mesmerizing portrayal of Custer never ceases to amaze me. I am still struck by the dichotomy of how such a historically inaccurate movie could so perfectly capture the elusive nature of Custer’s buoyant, flamboyant personality.

In June 1960, destiny beckoned, and my family left communist Cuba for New York City. My grandmother was married to an American, and they had made a pretty good life for themselves in Connecticut. We moved in with them, and in essence, I became a “Connecticut Yankee.” I made my first visit to Gettysburg on a family vacation when I was 12 years old. The beauty of the battlefield, and the hundreds of accounts, which I have read over the ensuing decades, of what took place on that hallowed ground inspired me deeply. The “bug” bit me deeply, and I have to this day embraced the rich heritage of the American Civil War with a passion. *The Boy Generals: George Custer, Wesley Merritt and the Cavalry of the Army of the Potomac* is the culmination of decades of reading and researching.



### Wisconsin State Journal

The Prince of Wales will reach Detroit on the 19th and leave for Chicago on the following morning. It is expected he will pass a day at Chicago and perhaps another in chicken shooting on the prairies.

He is represented as having a great desire to visit the West and see the prairies.

### Wisconsin State Journal Sept. 5, 1860

For the Cranberry Marshes for the last few days our town has been lively with preparations for the cranberry harvest. Under the supervision of Mr. Dukes, of Minnesota, a large company started last Tuesday with teams, tenting, cooking utensils, for camp life. Other companies have started out on explorations, and so far, as we have been able to learn from observation, this business will be carried forward with briskness and some profit.

### The Wheat Crop of Wisconsin Never Equaled before in America.

Upon careful research we are convinced that no state in America ever raised a crop of wheat that would average as much as the present crop of Wisconsin. We have facts enough in our possession to warrant the estimate for the entire wheat crop of 1860 at 30,000,000 bushels.

The entire production of the United States we estimate the present crop at 180,000,000 bushels.

This proves what we have always maintained that the territory west of Lake Michigan, and accommodated with a market at Milwaukee, is the best wheat region on the continent.

Writers note: Europe during the Civil War had a period of bad crops so the wheat production in the US was a powerful factor in-so-far as the European support of the South during the war.

### Mr. Douglas as a Backer of Lincoln and the Union

Mr. Douglas has an excellent faculty of setting up a principal and then kicking the bottom out of it. His great principle of popular sovereignty, which came over in the Mayflower, has a proviso that "the measure" of sovereignty that the people may exercise, shall be decided by the Supreme Court. No Supreme Court came over in the Mayflower, so the imported article, in the original package, must have been defective.

At Norfolk he was very bold, and in response to the question, declared that the election of Lincoln, without any "overt act" on his part, against the Constitution, would not be any cause for Southern secession, and he proposed to back Lincoln in treating the Secessionists as Gen. Jackson proposed to do the nullifiers. But in the same breath he said, that in his judgment,

"the political opinions of Mr. Lincoln were hostile to the Constitution and the safety of the Union; also, that in the event of the success of the Northern Abolitionists, the Union and our glorious Constitution are put in peril and jeopardy.

We suppose that the opinions of Mr. Lincoln, which Mr. Douglas thinks hostile to the Constitution and the Union, are those in regard to the power of Congress to exclude slavery from the Territories. But Mr. Douglas says this is a question for the Supreme Court. the President appoints the Judges and in case of the election of Lincoln he may, in the ordinary course of nature, have an opportunity to appoint a majority of the Court. Then his opinions, which are hostile to the Constitution and the Union, will by a judicial decision become a part of the Constitution. Still Mr. Douglas would be compelled to sustain him, although he had subverted the Constitution, because had had committed no overt act."

We hardly know what Mr. Douglas meant by telling the Virginians that he would "take just as much pleasure in hanging Lincoln if he transcended his constitutional powers, as he felt pleasure in knowing that they hung John Brown.

We do not know how a man can feel pleasure in knowing that any man was hanged or take a pleasure in being a hangman. It is a very low, as well as a very brutal pleasure. But if the President can appoint the Court whose decisions make the Constitution, how can he possibly transcend his constitutional powers? Yet Mr. Douglas promises to stand by a President in subverting the Constitution and anticipate pleasure in hanging the Southerners who may stand by the integrity of that instrument.

If the Supreme Court has supreme power over constitutional and political questions, and their decisions are the Constitution, then the election of a President, who appoints the judges, and whose opinions are hostile to the Constitution and the Union, is an overt act against both; and instead of waiting for the inauguration, and the Constitution and Union have both passed into the power of an enemy to them, the South should secede at once.

Mr. Douglas cannot expect that the south will remain inactive until the Union and the Constitution and the appointment of the Supreme Court have passed into the power of one who he says, is hostile to the Constitution and Union, merely because they differed in regard to the policy of nominating him. Really, if Mr. Lincoln is what Mr. Douglas represents him, his running for the Presidency, is an "overt act," and Mr. Douglas is logically bound by his own declaration, to claim the pleasure of hanging him now.

Furthermore, if our Constitution is subject to a Supreme Court, which may be appointed by a President who is hostile to it, the sooner it is overthrown the better. If that is what our "glorious fabric of government" has come to, then if the southerners will lead off in such a revolution, they will deserve to be classed with Hancock, and Jefferson, and Henry, and John Adams, and the rest of the Revolutionary patriots.

# Discovering Captain James F Rowe in Montana

## *How History Sleuthing made the Past Meet the Present*



“We have never done anything like this before.” “It was a privilege to participate.” “The best playing of *Taps* I have heard at any ceremony.” “Captain Rowe is one of *ours*.”

These were some of the comments made by participants at the memorial ceremony held on June 24, 2023, at Mountview Cemetery in Billings, Montana. The ceremony was to dedicate after 132 years the replacement of a small cement flat basically name only marker with a new informative marble military headstone provided by his family and to honor the service of Captain James F Rowe of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Massachusetts Vol Infantry. The day was cloudy with severe thunderstorms looming, yet despite weather worries everyone came, and hoped for the best saying they had watched weather apps all night long right up to the time of the ceremony.

The event was a blending of past and present. The past was represented by a replica flag of Rowe’s 11<sup>th</sup> Corps and members of SUVCW Montana who wore reproductions of the uniforms of the 6<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Volunteer Militia and of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, units in which Captain Rowe served. His engraved commemorative sword, given to him after the Baltimore Riot by his Stoneham men of the Old 6<sup>th</sup>, was once again present in a ceremony to honor its owner. Today’s veterans, American Legion Billings Post #4 honor guard, gave a 21- gun salute and played *Taps* on a vintage bugle for one of their own from a war in the distant past. The mayor of Billings, Mr. Bill Cole, himself a history major, said a few words about Billings, the Rowe story still evolving and the importance of remembering our veterans.

The ceremony was based on the “*Sons of Union Veterans Headstone and Memorial Service as adapted from the 1917 Service for the use of the Grand Army of the Republic ceremony for a Civil War veteran.*”

Friends and descendants, including a great-great grandson and greatx3 nephew and nieces, came from all over the country to take part in the ceremony. Local Billings media and several neighbors also attended the event, for most their first time honoring a Civil War veteran resident. His story from being one of the first Union officers wounded at the outbreak of the war, to advancement in rank during the War in the reorganization of the ambulance corps, to years later his gruesome murder in Billings touched hearts and served as lessons in history.

As the words were read, the symbols of honor laid, the guns saluting toward the sky and taps expertly played with vibrato across the stillness of the stones, the gray clouds finally parted and rays of sunshine bathed the gathering. It ended with the words, “The soldier sleeps.” Indeed, Captain Rowe signaled us he was pleased and that he now at last sleeps in peace...

~Susan Mann Anderson  
Rowe niece-in-law (x3)  
promise kept to Donna Agnelly

An aside from Susan:

We found the sword for sale online at a Massachusetts dealer and then he informed me who bought it and that collector decided to sell it because it was going back to Rowe’s family. The Milwaukee Civil War Round Table has followed the Rowe story and published my story in 2021. This is the update on that story.



*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!



## Remembering Captain Frederick Rowe

An old black and white photo showing three Union Civil War officers prompted research that reconnected the two dissimilar halves of James Frederick Rowe's life.

"A picture can teach history if one takes the time," Susan Mann Anderson wrote in her research of Rowe, who was her husband's great, great uncle.

On Saturday, June 24, at 4 p.m., a headstone rededication service will be held in Billings Mountview Cemetery at Rowe's graveside — 132 years after his death — complete with military honors provided by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

In a short video recounting Rowe's life, Anderson calls the ceremony "making peace with the past at last."

"Family and friends are coming from Michigan, California, Wisconsin and Utah in order to pay their respects June 24 to their Civil War grandfather and uncle," she wrote in an email.

Rowe's agonizing death, two days after being shot in the stomach, left Billings residents with little knowledge of the 48-year-old man's previous life as a Civil War officer, ambulance corps leader, husband and father.

According to a March 26, 1891, article in the Billings Gazette, Rowe was shot following an argument with a roommate over a \$6 grocery bill.

"Roe (sic) was considerably under the influence of liquor at the time, but whether the other man was in a like condition is not known," the story said. "Harsh words passed between the two men," with an Anaconda newspaper story saying Rowe "used very insulting language ... reflecting on (the shooter's) parentage."

The killer, 19-year-old John Goulden, "left the cabin only to appear a little later carrying a six-shooter in each hand" and demanding a "retraction of the epithets used, which Rowe refused."

No hope was "entertained" for Rowe's recovery the day after he was shot with a .44 caliber pistol, one of two revolvers reportedly brandished by Goulden.

Goulden, who was born in England and "bears rather a hard name," fled the scene of the shooting but was eventually caught in Malta aboard a Northern Pacific train and brought back to Yellowstone County for trial, newspapers reported. Somehow the county attorney misplaced Rowe's dying statement and "the general inefficiency of the learned prosecuting attorney, made a very weak case for the state," the Gazette reported.

In the end, the jury found Goulden guilty of manslaughter. The judge sentenced him to 10 years, of which he served only six, "entirely unfitted to the crime," the Gazette wrote. Rowe was buried in Mountview Cemetery, with the cost born by his son, according to coroner Dr. Henry Chapple's handwritten note.

In reporting on the story, the Anaconda newspaper said Rowe was "respectably connected, but from hard drinking had sunk down in the social scale."

That prompted Anderson to muse, "After the guns of war are silenced and the killing stops and there are no more injured to be removed from the battlefields, personal battles may emerge and wounds not outwardly visible can fester within, not recognized or treated at the time." She wrote of an ailment now commonly recognized as post-traumatic stress disorder. "So many veterans then, as today, turned to alcohol to escape. Such was the rumored case with Captain Rowe."

**Captain Rowe's story will conclude next month with the story of his war-time service, his marriage, and the quest by his family to honor his memory.**

**Also see page for additional details of the family's deep-dive into history as they unraveled his past so he could be remembered in the present.**

**written by Brett French  
Billings Gazette Communications  
used with permission**

440 Wells Street, Basement Suite  
Delafield, WI 53018 262-303-4133



September Presentation: The Tullahoma and Chickamauga Campaigns  
October Presentation: Bristoe Station, Rappahannock Station, and Mine Run  
November Presentation: The Knoxville and Chattanooga Campaigns

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/>

### In Memoriam

Mary Hurn Korte passed to her eternal rest at age 77 in her sleep at home on July 30, 2023. Mary was born March 5, 1946 in Boston, MA. She is survived by her husband of 54 years, Don W. Korte, Jr., her son Don "Trey" Korte, III, her son-in-law Jamie Schounard, and grand-children Lizzie, Brooke, and Erin.

Mary was professor emeritus from Concordia University Wisconsin where she taught science for over twenty years and was the Director of the Master of Science Environmental and Education Program. Mary also attained a diploma in Christian Apologetics from The International Academy of Apologetics, Evangelism, and Human Rights in Strasbourg, France. After her retirement, Mary found special joy in serving as a docent at the Milwaukee County Zoo.

~ *May flights of angels guide her to her rest.* ~



### 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	Scott Mingus (At the Country Club) <i>"Unceasing Fury: Texans at the Battle of Chickamauga"</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>
Terry Arliskas	Secretary/Program Chair	2025
Thomas Arliskas	Past President	2025
Michael K. Benton	Past President	2026
Dale Bespalec	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 September 7, 2023**

Mail your reservations by Monday, September 4 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  
September 7, 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 \_\_\_\_\_

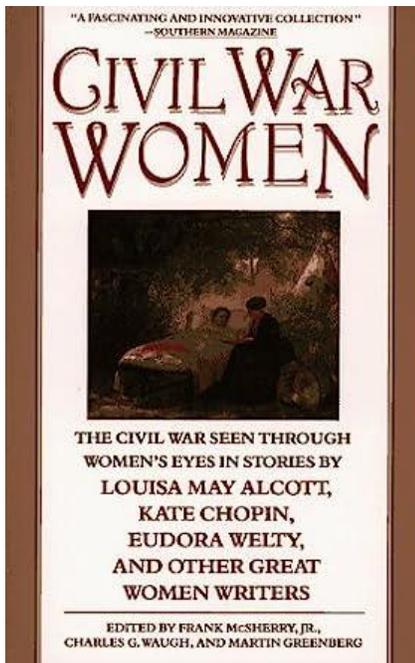




# BETWEEN THE COVERS

## Civil War Women

multiple authors



My review this time is on a book that I won at one of the Round Table's book raffle. It is a small book, a collection of short stories by women on their take on the Civil War and its impact that it made on women of the period. The author states "this war happened at a time in their collective self-understanding that made its impact great. In the mid-nineteenth century American women had begun to develop a political voice. They had started the temperance and abolitionist movements."

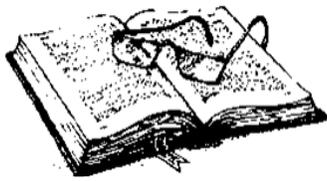
In 1848 the Seneca Falls Convention at Seneca Falls, New York, had marked the formal, concerted beginning of the women's movement. American women were writing and publishing in numbers with a cast of sentiment, piety of self-depreciation but often boldly and with resonance, according to the introduction written by Hope Norman Coulter. The book was edited by Frank McSherry Jr, Charles G. Waugh and Martin Greenberg, Civil War Women, The Civil War seen through Women's eyes in stories. This is a short book 172 pages and some of the stories written by Louisa May Alcott, Kate Chopin, Eudora Welty and others. Some stories written at the time of the war and others later.

I thought that many of these stories were perhaps like Twilight Zone endings or at the very least were written in the style of Ambrose Bierce, noted veteran and writer of Civil War stories. One for instance deals with a group of Confederate soldiers gathered around a camp fire. One of them laying close to the fire so he can read a letter, others sitting close as well for warmth. One of those soldiers notices the letter reader has a locket around his neck. Another opines that that locket is kind of a talisman that has kept him safe through the many battles their unit has been in in the last year and a half. The letter reader agrees that he didn't know how he'd managed to survive the fights without it. The soldiers then go to sleep around the campfire until early the next morning when the drums rouse them for battle.

The next scene tells of a priest walking over the battlefield checking for survivors, wounded left on the battlefield. He finds one young man, dead, mostly stripped of gear but the priest notices a gold locket around his neck. He removes it and is able to determine who the images in the locket are. He writes a letter and includes the locket to return it to the woman to which the picture is of. It is someone he knows. The final scene of the tale has the young woman at home dealing with the remorse of the loss of her beau in the war. One day riding in a buggy with the father of her dead lover, the man asks her to remove the black veil she wears to better enjoy the brightness of the day to help shake her sadness. She does so and as they ride along up the road comes someone they both recognize. It is Edmund, her lover, his son. Apparently as the soldiers slept one of the other soldiers removed the locket and put it on himself.

A surprise ending to the tale written by Kate Chopin. Many of the other stories have surprise endings, like O'Henry's, some perhaps a bit more macabre, closer to Bierce's. I liked some of the stories and found this to be a different kind of Civil War book that might not be for a serious student of the war but I thought was an interesting collection of short stories and worth the re and most will find these to be an enjoyable read.

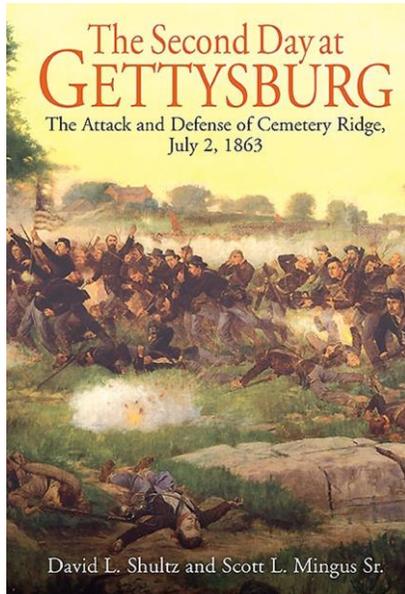
submitted by Bruce Klem



# 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 recon, 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



## The 1864 Red River Campaign in Louisiana

This past May I accompanied 40 members of the Chicago Civil War Round Table on a tour of the Red River Campaign in Louisiana. I knew little about this campaign and not much has been written about it until more recently. This campaign pitted Union Major General Nathaniel Banks against Confederate Major General Richard Taylor in a fight for economic, political, and military prizes. Upon arrival in the headquarters city of Alexandria, LA, we met with our tour leader Retired General Parker Hills who delivered a lecture on the campaign which involved infantry, cavalry, and naval forces. The goals for the campaign were to secure confiscated cotton much needed by mills in New England, and march into Texas by way of Shreveport, LA.

The next morning, we departed for Franklin, LA to follow Bank's XIX Corps as it marched to join troops commanded by Major General A. J. Smith and accompanied by Rear Admiral David Porter. I enjoyed a very pleasant lunch at the Tabasco factory on Avery Island. Heading north on the route of the advancing federals and retreating confederates we stopped in New Iberia and toured the grounds of Shadows on the Teche. This 1834 home was used as a headquarters by Major General William Franklin and is a National Historic Landmark operated by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. From there we continued north to Lafayette with stops at St. John's Catholic Church and the graves of Confederate Generals Franklin Gardner and Alfred Mouton. In Opelousas, the temporary capitol city of Louisiana after the fall of Baton Rouge, we visited the home of famed Alamo fighter Jim Bowie.

An early start on Friday brought us to Henderson's Hill where 350 Confederate cavalymen were captured by MG A. J. Smith. Until now, the greatly outnumbered and not reinforced confederates have been slowly retreating and Banks decided to separate the infantry from the naval escort with plans to reunite 100 miles upstream. Confederate cavalry delayed the union advance on Mansfield while Taylor selected the battleground and prepared his troops. Now Taylor led a force of 8,800 men against the Federal vanguard 7,000 troops. The Confederates routed the Federals at Mansfield causing them to retreat 2 miles until reinforced by 5,000 support troops. The 29<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Light, 1<sup>st</sup> Battery saw action at Mansfield. Banks attempted to lure Taylor into battle at Pleasant Hill. The battle at Pleasant Hill would have been a second Confederate victory but A. J. Smith's troops rallied and forced the Confederates to fall back resulting in a tactical win for the union. The 8<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin was part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade under General A. J. Smith. Our day concluded with a visit to Blair's Landing on the Red River.

We traveled to Natchitoches on Saturday, site of the movie "Steel Magnolias," following the route of the retreating Federals. After a stop at Oakland Plantation, fictional home of Miss Hanna Hunter in the John Wayne classic, "The Horse Soldiers," we proceeded to Monett's Ferry on the Cane River. Confederate troops numbering one-fifth the size of Banks' continued assaults driving the union troops into Alexandria. Porter's fleet was hampered by low water levels in the river. The Confederates had diverted water from the river leaving Porter's fleet grounded. Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Baily of Wisconsin, who had worked in the logging industry, constructed an ingenious dam that allowed the Mississippi Squadron to proceed down the river. Baily received the "Thanks of Congress" and was awarded the Medal of Honor.

On our last day, we continued the retreat path of Banks and Porter visiting Marksville and Fort DeRussy. General Parks provided detailed and colorful explanations of the Battle of Mansura and Yellow Bayou. At Simmesport Colonel Baily once again saved the troops through the creative construction of a bridge. The final stop at White Hall Plantation where, as General Parks would say "Reitch Here!", Banks would be reassigned to a desk position.

General Sherman described the campaign as "one damned blunder from beginning to end," but our tour was well organized and executed. Tired but full of new information our tour company returned to the hotel and began our travels home.

submitted by Dale Bsepalec

## 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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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.

