

GENERAL ORDERS

The Newsletter of the

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



October 12, 2023

Carleton Young

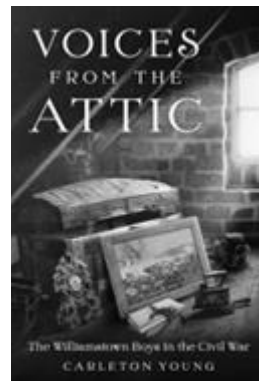
Voices from the Attic

The Williamstown Boys in the Civil War

Imagine clearing out your family attic and discovering an enormous collection of letters written by two soldiers during the Civil War, but not knowing why the letters were there. Faced with that situation, Carleton Young spent more than a decade visiting battlefields and researching the two soldiers as well as other people who appear in the letters. The two brothers were members of the celebrated Vermont Brigade in the 6th Corps of the Army of the Potomac. In *Voices From the Attic: The Williamstown Boys in the Civil War*, he tells the story of these two brothers who witnessed and made history by fighting in the Peninsula Campaign, then at South Mountain, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Mine Run, the Bristoe Campaign, the Wilderness, Petersburg, and Cedar Creek. They then preserved that history through their surprisingly detailed and insightful letters.

The publication of the book was followed by many favorable reviews. *Civil War News* called it “a substantial contribution to the genre of first-person Civil War accounts becoming so popular today.” The *Vermont History Journal* called it “more than another good narrative, the book is an adventure of historical research and discovery.” The *Western Pennsylvania History Journal* said that the book “offers a deeply interesting look into two detailed experiences of the war which explore the battles as well as life in between. Unlike other soldiers who may have skipped over tough details when writing home to families, the brothers did not shy away from describing the horror of battles, their hardships in camp, and what they saw as they marched through the South. More than merely satisfying an interest in the war, the author demonstrates our surprising connections to each other both past and present.”

As a result of such reviews, Carleton Young has been invited to share his story with more than 250 Civil War Roundtables, historical societies, and other organizations around the country.



General Orders No. 10-23

October 2023

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October Meeting at a Glance The Wisconsin Club 9th and Wisconsin Avenue

[Jackets required for the dining room.]

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

6:30 p.m. - Dinner

[\$30 by reservation, please]

Reservations are accepted until

Monday, October 9, 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.

“In part, what I have learned is just the importance of the storytelling that historians do, because it gives you an understanding not only of the circumstances in which we find ourselves now, but also an understanding of how people in the past have handled similar historical moments.”

Heather Cox Richardson
historian and author

“If you want someone to know the truth, you tell them. If you want someone to love the truth, tell them a story.”

Andrew Peterson
author and songwriter

The Muster Roll: NEW MEMBERS

Steve Acker	Chris & Lori Kelling
Patrick Barnes	Seth Maxfield
James Cornelius	Andrew Platta
Wendy Jones	Rick Thiede

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)

Grant Johnson, Dawn and Van Harl

Patron (\$200 - \$499)

Mike Deeken, Gene & Jane Jamrozy, Dan Nettesheim, Laura Rinaldi

Associate (\$100 - \$199)

Michael Benton, Dale Brasser, Paul Eilbes, Gary & Judy Ertel, Bill & Claudette Finke Doug Haag, Peter & Jean Jacobsohn, Robin & Tom Martin, Kathy McNally, Dennis Slater, Dan Tanty

Contributor (up to \$99)

John Abbott, George Affeldt, Tom & Terry Arkiskas, Don & Amy Bauer, Dale Bspalec, Robert Christie, Gordon Dammann, David Gapinski, Julian Gonzalez, Don and Lavarna Hilbig, Don Korte, Jerome Kowalski, Rod Malinowski, Jim & Monica Millane, Paul & Susan Miller, Tom Pokrandt, Paul Zehren

Speaker Enhancement Fund

John Abbott, George Affeldt, Roman Blenski, Dale Brasser, Paul Eilbes, David Gapinski, Julian Gonzalez, Doug Haag, Jim Heinz, Gene & Jane Jamrozy, Jerome Kowalski, John Kuhnmuensch, Rod Malinowski, Robin & Tom Martin, Kathy McNally, Jim & Monica Millane, John & Susan Petty, Tom Pokrandt, Laura Rinaldi, John Rodahl, Dan Tanty, Paul Zehren





Jerry Russell discussed “Lee After Chancellorsville” at the October 2003 meeting.

In October 2008 Gloria Swift, curator of Ford’s Theater, shared her views on the theater’s “secrets.”

Vernon Burton discussed “Lincoln and the Constitution” in October 2011.

“Lincoln and Grant: The Westerners Who Won the War” was the topic of Edward Bonekempers III’s October 2012 talk.

Dennis Frye spoke about “John Brown: The Spark That Ignited the War” in October 2015.

Our October 2016 speaker was Lance Herdegen discussing “The Baby Had Red Hair: Music of the Iron Brigade.”

Dave Powell asked “Who Won the Battle of Chickamauga?” in his October 2017 presentation.

The Civil War Trust’s Jim Lighthizer presented “Historic Preservation and Place-Based Learning” in October 2019.

In 2020 Rob Girardi connected Abraham Lincoln to the common soldier in the Civil War.

October 2021 brought David Dixon to present “The American Civil War: A Radical International Revolution.”

In October 2022 the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table celebrated its 75th Anniversary with a dinner and special Civil War Forum.

Cedarburg History Museum

N58W6194 Columbia Road
Cedarburg, WI 53012

Starting in February the Cedarburg History Museum <https://www.cedarburghm.org/> will be having an exhibit on the Civil War and a series of lectures on the war, including one by James Heinz of our Milwaukee Civil War Round Table. Jim will speak in June on the topic “None but the Brave: The Medal of Honor.”

These talks are free. They highlight the important role the Badger State played in the war. Look for more information starting in the December issue.

See *Wanderings* on pages 11-12 of this issue for a story of New Zealanders Tony and Myra Blackbeard who spent two months in the U.S.

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, October 13

Noon

Chicago’s Great Fire: The Destruction and Resurrection of An Iconic American City
presented by **Carl Smith**

The Great Chicago Fire of October 17-18, 1871, which destroyed the heart of the country’s rising inland metropolis and left a third of its population homeless, is one of history’s great disasters. If anything, the city’s rapid recovery was even more remarkable, revealing both Chicago’s resilience but also the world’s generosity. But both the city’s destruction and resurrection are a far more complicated – and interesting – story than this. This richly illustrated talk by the leading historian of the fire tells that story.

Carl Smith is Franklyn Bliss Snyder Professor of English and American Studies and Professor of History, Emeritus, at Northwestern University. His books include Chicago and the American Literary Imagination, 1880-1920; Urban Disorder and the Shape of Belief; The Great Chicago Fire, the Haymarket Bomb, and the Model Town of Pullman; The Plan of Chicago: Daniel Burnham and the Remaking of the American City.

Friday, November 10

Noon

Wisconsin Civil War Soldiers with Jewish Heritage
presented by **Richard Kane**

Richard Kane’s presentation will be based on original research that he has been compiling since 2014 and includes the following topics. In the mid-1890’s, Simon Wolf, a well-known Jewish attorney and diplomat, with access to thirteen presidents during his lifetime, attempted to identify Jewish Civil War soldiers. This was based mainly on name profiling and word of mouth and, as a result, was quite inaccurate. Even with today’s modern research tools, there are many challenges in identifying Jewish soldiers. The soldiers’ countries of origin and their involvement with the Turners Society show that most of them were recent immigrants to the country. Their fatalities and disabilities represent a microcosm of these conditions in the army as a whole. Also, many soldiers and their family members have interesting and sometimes surprising stories to learn about.

THE CIVIL WAR
museum
UPPER MIDDLE WEST EXPERIENCE

FROM THE FIELD

National Republican
27 July, 1861
Washington, DC

The Wounded at Bull Run

The following wounded persons have been received at the Georgetown Hospital: C. Billinger, N. F. Eldridge, Philip Lawrence, Second Wisconsin regiment

Uniforms.- Not a little of the loss of life occasioned in the last as well as some previous engagements, has resulted from the soldiers mistaking friends for foes. The color of the rebel uniforms is, for the most part, grey. Many of our men are clothed with the same. One of the Maine and one of the Michigan regiments repeatedly suffered from this cause at the hand of their friends. On the contrary, for fear of injuring their friends, attack was delayed. In one instance, a regiment of the enemy would have been most severely handled, if not captured, but their true character was mistaken until they had moved out of the way. This ought to receive immediate attention. We cannot afford to expose our brave troops to the double fire of friend and foe.

The execution of the latter is enough, without being aided by the "sharp-shooters" of the former. Let them have a dress that is uniform, and a distinctive one. Let our men escape the casualties, as well as the ear-marks of "secesh."

One word more touching this matter. One thing was observable in the late actions. The Fire Zouaves were hit about their arms, the upper portion of their bodies, and heads; those of the New York fourteenth about the legs. Both of these regiments are clothed-the parts named-with bright red. This color is the most easily distinguished, and while it is the most dashy for camp parade, it is not the thing for a fighting uniform. Let there be a uniform!

The Wisconsin State Register
Sat. July 27, 1861
Portage, Wisconsin

Our Volunteers.-As a proof that the men of the North who compose the great army which has so promptly rushed to the defense of the Union are not the vagrants of society, seeking bread and the adventurous life of the soldier, such as fell the ranks of armies in other countries, but are men who have a stake in society, and have left at home those domestic ties which knit a man to his countries, it may be mentioned that a single mail on Friday brought to the Second Wisconsin Regiment near four hundred letters and papers, and another day near five hundred; and one Rhode Island Regiment of thirteen hundred men received by one mail above one thousand letters and papers.

We learn, moreover, that the booksellers in this city have frequent occasion to remark the literary culture and scholarly taste evinced by many privates of the different regiments in the applications for books. It is no uncommon thing to find them inquiring for a portable copy of some Latin classic or other work belonging to the higher walks of polite literature.

National Republican
9 August, 1861
Washington, DC

The Arrival of the Sixth Wisconsin

This splendid regiment, 1,034 rank and file, arrived here at 4 o'clock yesterday morning from Baltimore, where they have been encamped for the past four or five days. The regiment comes fully provided in every respect, and has a fine regimental band of twenty-four pieces, besides a drum and fife corps of twenty pieces. Like the other Wisconsin regiments, the men are uniformed in grey, with black trimmings, U. S. army regulation caps and overcoats. They are well officered and will compare with any regiment now in the field, Accompanying the regiment are the wives of several of the officers.

The Arrival of the Fifth Wisconsin

This fine regiment, 1,041 strong, arrived here at 9 o'clock yesterday morning. they left Madison, Wisconsin, where they had been encamped four weeks, on Wednesday, the 24th ult., coming by way of Janesville, Chicago, Toledo, Cleveland and Pittsburg. Their trip was a triumphal march. All along the journey they were met at every station by crowds of people, who not only cheered them by their presence but also furnished them bountifully with refreshments of all kinds. Not a single accident happened on the whole route. The men are enjoying excellent health, and the wives and daughters of several of the officers accompany the regiment on its journey. The Hon. H. T. Saunders also accompanied the regiment as State agent, to look after its interest and welfare.

They bring with them a fine regimental band of 24 pieces, led by Dr. Craig, of Beloit. They have also an excellent drum and fife corps of 20 pieces.

Some of the companies are provided with the Minnie musket, whilst the rest will be supplied in a few days.



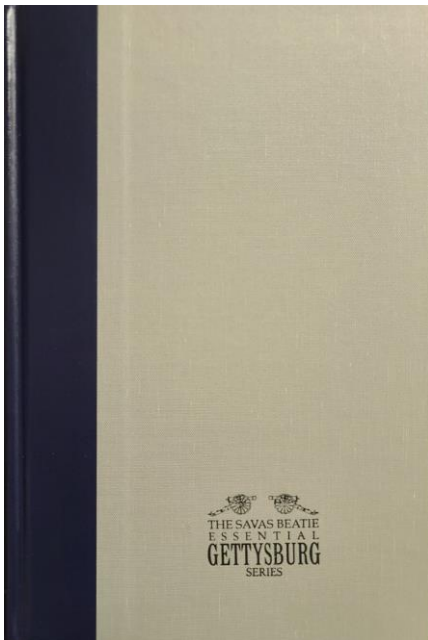
Thank you, Jim Johnson, for these *From the Field* features!

News from Savas Beatie

There is a lot of activity in the world of Civil War publishing. Our friends at Savas Beatie continues to expand the titles they offer. One of their newest is entitled the Essential Gettysburg Series. Unlike many newer books, the Essential Gettysburg Series plans to offer only hardbound books in what they call a classic style. They will have a sewn binding, be printed on matte art paper, and will be limited to 700 copies.

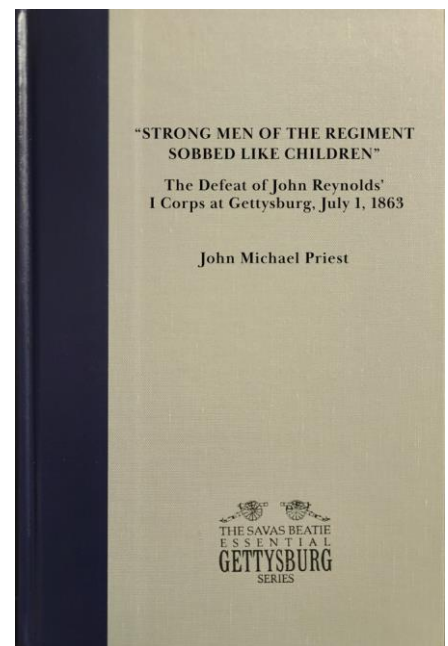
The first title in the series is **Over a Wide, Hot Crimson Plain – The Struggle for the Bliss Farm at Gettysburg July 2nd and 3rd, 1863.** Author Elwood Christ focused on this lesser known, but very important, portion of the three-day Battle of Gettysburg. Only about 100 copies of this book are left. It sells for \$37.50 and is only available through Savas Beatie. This volume is a reprint of Christ's earlier work, but has added content. A new foreword is provided by James Hessler. Hessler's foreword and Chapter 1 of the book can be read on the Savas Beatie website.

The second title in the series is John Michael Priest's **Strong Men of the Regiment Sobbed Like Children.** It tells in detail the story of the defeat of John Reynold's First Corps on July 1st, 1863. Author Priest was dubbed the "Ernie Pyle of the Civil War" by no less than Ed Bearss. Priest spent nine years researching the book and walking the ground so that he could immerse the reader in the rank-and-file experience. The author consulted over 300 primary sources to present the battle from the ground up. The book sells for \$39.95 and is also available only through Savas Beatie.



The spine cloth is the same for each book, and the front and back silver cloth will be slightly different, denoting different books in the same series.

Does the world need more books on the Battle of Gettysburg? That remains to be seen. But for the true student of the battle fought on those hot July days in 1863, the Essential Gettysburg Series provides a close look at specific aspects of the fight. Keep an eye on the series and snag a title that catches your eye. Then send a book review to General Orders!



If you would like notice of these books in advance, just sign up for the newsletter at www.savasbeatie.com. The link is at the top of the page.

Keeping independent publishers alive and well is certainly to the benefit of us all. This series promises to add to the discussion about the Battle of Gettysburg while increasing the depth of our understanding.

Do you have a specific title or publisher you want to see previewed or promoted in General Orders? Book reviews are always welcome. There are many publishers making new titles available. Some are great, some are good. If you have an opinion, get that information into your newsletter!

Dave Wege



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!

EDWARD DAY COHOTA, CIVIL WAR VETERAN

Chinese immigrant who fought for freedom in America.



With the passing at Parmalee, South Dakota, on Nov. 18, 1935, of Edward Day Cohota, nearly 93, the United States lost one of its most colorful and revered citizens, as well as the only full-blood Chinese to serve in the Union Army during the Civil War.

On December 27, 1845, Captain Silas S. Day left Shanghai, China, on his ship Cohota. Two days later two small Chinese boys were discovered aboard the ship. They were half starved and did not know their names. This left Captain Day in a dilemma. He decided not to turn back, rather to raise the boys as his own. They were about six and four years old. The eldest boy died a few days later and was buried at sea.

When the captain retired he took Edward to his home at Gloucester, Massachusetts, where he grew up. And when Edward wanted another name, he was named after the ship on which he was found; Edward Day Cohota. December 27, the day he was found aboard ship, was taken as his birthday.

February of 1864, Edward joined the 23rd Massachusetts Infantry and served his adopted country through the rest of the Civil War. Part of his time was served under General Ulysses S. Grant. At the battle of Cold Harbor, a bullet grazed his head which left a permanent part in his hair.

At the end of the war in 1865 he was mustered out at New Bern, North Carolina. Returning to Gloucester he could find no work so he returned to the sea. While in Boston he met a recruiting sergeant whom he had known in the service. In the fall of 1866, he re-enlisted and was soon on his way to Texas.

He said his longest walk was when his outfit marched from Kit Carson, Kansas, to San Antonio, Texas. Blisters formed on his shoulder from carrying a heavy rifle and blisters covered his feet from shoes too large. Edward served in Texas; New Mexico; Fort Sheridan, Illinois; Fort Randall, South Dakota; and Fort Niobrara, near Valentine, Nebraska. While at Fort Randall he said he stood guard over Indian chief Sitting Bull and spoke of him as a friendly chief.

In 1883 Edward and Anna Halstensen were married in the Episcopal Church at Fort Randall, a large church built in 1875 of native chalk rock by the soldiers and pioneer settlers.

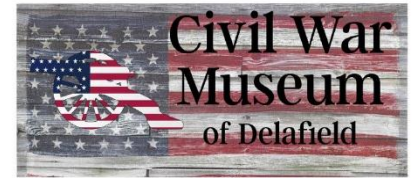
“He was a highly patriotic individual who raised and lowered a flag in front of his house every day,” said Montgomery Hom, a filmmaker who researched Cohota’s story for a documentary in post-production entitled “Men Without a Country: Chinese in the American Civil War.”

Amid rising anti-Chinese sentiment, Congress passed the Chinese Exclusion Act in 1882, which prohibited most Chinese immigrants from becoming naturalized citizens.

Before its passage, Cohota had failed to submit his second set of naturalization papers. He died in 1935, following an unsuccessful decadeslong battle for citizenship.

“That’s kind of the greatest tragedy,” Hom said. “He did all this for his country, but his country didn’t recognize him.”

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



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

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

Confederate Soldier's Letter Home

I am 82 years of age. My grandfather served the Confederacy under North Gen. J. Johnson Pettigrew. He died at the Battle of Gettysburg. I will allow his thoughts, written to my grandmother just a couple of weeks prior to that battle, to speak for themselves.

"My lovely wife, I do miss you, and the life we have on the small plot of land God has given us. More and more, it seems that my thoughts are drifting back there to reside with you. Yet, as badly as I desire to be back home, it for home which I deem it best for my presence here with these other men. The proclamation by the Lincoln administration six months prior may appear noble. Were I here in these conditions simply to keep another man in bondage, I would most certainly walk away into the night and return unto you. God knows my heart, and the hearts of others here amongst me. We know what is at stake here, and the true reason for this contest that requires the spilling of blood of fellow citizens. Our collective fear is nearly universal. This war, if it is lost, will see ripples carried forward for five, six, seven, or more generations. I scruple not to believe, as do the others, that the very nature of country will be forever dispirited. That one day, our great great grandchildren will be bridled with a federal bit that will deem how and if they may apply the gospel of Christ to themselves, their families and their communities. Whether or not the land of their forefathers may be deceitfully taken from them through taxation and coercion. A day where only the interests of the northern wealthy will be shouldered by the broken and destitute bodies of the southern poor. This my darling wife, is what keeps me here in this arena of destruction and death."

Jefferson Smith - Charlottesville

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. All submissions must be received by no later than the 10th 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 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	A. Wilson Greene <i>The Cracker Line in the Battle of Chattanooga</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

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

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

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

Milwaukee Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for October 12, 2023

Mail your reservations by Monday, October 9 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
October 12, 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

Command Failure in the Shenandoah Valley

David Powell

This review is on a book by Mr. David Powell, Union Command Failure in the Shenandoah. It discusses Major General Franz Sigel and the War in the Valley of Virginia, May 1864. The book is only 212 pages, plus an appendix of the Order of Battle. It's a relatively short read. I purchased this book in March at the Kenosha Civil War Museum. The museum was sponsoring an author's discussion on recent books different authors had written. The panel discussion Military Author's was co-sponsored by a new book store in Kenosha, Blue House Books. I've found Dave Powell's books are accurate in descriptions of the battles and strategy he describes. I've found his style easy to read and understand and he usually provides excellent maps of the action. All are pluses in my opinion.

The Battle of New Market in the Shenandoah Valley suffers from no lack of drama, interest, or importance. The ramifications of the May 1864 engagement, which involved only 10,000 troops, were substantial. Previous studies, however, focused on the Confederate side of the story. David Powell's, Union Command Failure in the Shenandoah: Major General Franz Sigel and the War in the Valley of Virginia, May 1864, provides the balance that has so long been needed.

U.S. Grant anticipated that the Shenandoah would play an integral role in the offensive war in the east during 1864. In this work Mr. Powell points out that Grant was his own worst enemy in assigning officers to this sector. Grant envisioned that Sigel's part would be only administrative while General's Crook and Ord would control the action with Ord being the tactical commander. He wanted Sigel to coordinate his movements with many other armies to make a hard war that eventually lead to a Union victory in the war. Movements in the Valley and West Virginia would help the Union gain many of Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia materials, destroy property at such places as Staunton and help the Confederate's ability to stop the Army of Potomac's drive to Richmond. The commanding general was leery of the foreign-born general but ultimately went along with the appointment. Unfortunately, the author points out that this was not a good decision and changes were ultimately made to senior management that helped lead to a Union victory in the valley and in the Eastern Theater.

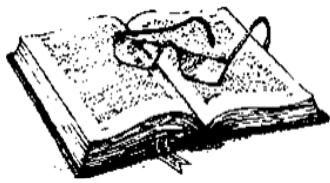
Powell points out that Ord was not fond of serving with Sigel and felt that Sigel was holding back troops from his command. He ultimately asked for a transfer from Grant and got it, thus Sigel was once again in control of the all the action. Bad weather and poor roads prevented Crook and his force from accomplishing his mission to link up with Sigel's force, thus compromising the overall strategy forcing Sigel to fight alone.

Sigel met Confederate Maj. Gen. John C. Breckinridge and his small army on May 15 just outside the town of New Market. The vigorous fight could have gone either way until finally, the Union lines retreated in disarray, and the Union left the field. The south's thousands of fighting men included three hundred teenagers from the Virginia Military Institute's Corps of Cadets. VMI's cadets played a significant part in the combat and ensured that New Market would not ever be forgotten, but placed other parts of this exciting and significant movement into a forgotten part of the fighting in this important region.

David Powell's years of exploration delivers a solid groundwork for this scholarship. While other authors concentrated on the efforts of the Confederacy, this study spends most of the research on Sigel and the failures of the Union leadership. Interesting points are made about guerrilla warfare by Confederates such as Captain John McNeil and Colonel John Mosby. Readers will also learn about the participation and efforts of future U.S. President-Colonel Rutherford B. Hayes. Mr. Powell points out the poor command management and deployment of forces led to the downfall of Sigel's command. Throughout the campaign there was a penchant for breaking up regiments and mixing companies of different regiments together, which destroys unit integrity and led to disaster on the battlefield on numerous occasions. Regimental and brigade leadership was spotty on the Union side. When the fight began two of Sigel's most experienced combat units 28th and 116th Ohio played no role in the fight, so the steadying effect of trained units was lost for support of green troops. The result was predictable.

Some of the best chapters in this important work published by Savas-Beatie concern the chapters on the battle of New Market and the aftermath of the campaign. An important component of this narrative is the 8 excellent maps and the 30 helpful images. It should be a must read for all who are interested in military history, the battle of New Market and the Civil War and wants to gain a greater understanding of Union General Franz Sigel and Confederate General John Breckinridge. I found the information provided in this book very good and highly recommend it for any student of the Civil War.

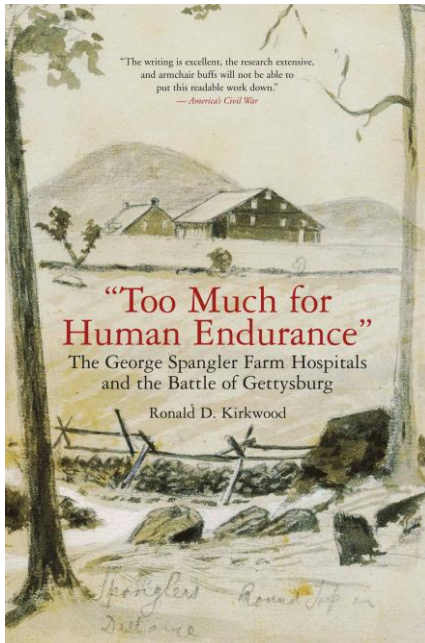
submitted by Bruce Klem



BETWEEN THE COVERS

Too Much for Human Endurance

Ron Kirkwood



This review is on a book that the author Mr. Ron Kirkwood present to our Round Table at our April 2021 meeting. He did a fine job on highlighting the work and brought a number of copies, one of which I purchased. In the book, Too Much for Human Endurance, Mr. Kirkwood detailed the wounded cared for at the Spangler Farm at Gettysburg. Mr. Kirkwood also explains the strategic value of the property and its key role in the Union victory. Part of this property was used by the Union to stage the Artillery reserve and other pieces of equipment and troops that helped Meade to successfully repel the Confederate attacks.

I felt this was a great book about the George Spangler farm which served as the II and XI corps hospital during and the month or more after the battle of Gettysburg this is one of the few books that really get into the field hospitals during the Civil war, the book covers the history of the farm and the Spangler Family. it is really hard to process the fact that the XI corps Doctors or Chief Operators worked for 3 or 4 days straight tending to the wounded with little or no rest. Mr. Kirkwood has really dug deep into many personal stories about the various individual stories about both the soldiers who were treated at the hospital and the personnel that aided in their treatment.

Mr. Kirkwood covers the tragedy that the Spanglers endured when their entire property was taken over by Union forces for their use. The Spanglers chose to remain on their property and were forced to stay in one of the bedrooms while the

rest of their home, barn and all out buildings were occupied by wounded Union and some Confederate soldiers being treated round the clock by a handful of Union surgeons. The aftermath of the battle left most of the property seriously damaged.

It's not something one thinks about when reading about Civil War battles. Usually most books cover the tactics, strategic implications, results of the fight, troop movements key decisions made by participants and many other battle related facts but few books really highlight the effect and the disaster left behind for the civilians. In this book Mr. Kirkwood gives the reader a startling view of the condition of the Spanglers after all the dust of the battle had settled and the last of the wounded left their farm.

The record shows the Spanglers filed three damage claims in the "1870s for \$2843.40. George Spangler provided the following as proof, 15 acres of corn growing about waist high, troop movements, wagons driven through it, horses fed, cattle herd standing in it, nearly destroyed entire crop, harvested 50 bushels, 19 acres of wheat standing, parked wagons and ambulance wagons, completely destroyed, 12 acres of oats uncut, completed trampled down by troops, totally destroyed." Also included in the claim were losses to fencing, buildings and personal property that disappeared. The net result for these claims was receipt of \$90. Not much to show for what probably amounted to a year's worth of income for the Spanglers not to mention what out of pocket costs the Spangler's would have to absorb to rebuild their farm and farm yard buildings.

I found this to be a very interesting book. It covers a subject on one of the Civil War's most important battles, highlighting many personal stories of the wounded cared for at this hospital, some of the key leaders treated at the hospital and the overall civilian impact of the battle on the community and their civilians Truly a real human interest story worth adding to your Civil War book shelf. I hope to visit this site on the Museum's fall trip to Gettysburg this year as it obviously played a key role in the battle.

submitted by Bruce Klem

A 2023 U.S. History Road Trip from New Zealand



In the summer of 2012 I was truly blessed to meet Dave Wege at the Mariner's Museum in Newport News. I was travelling with a friend and it was our last day in Virginia before we flew back to New Zealand. Dave was impressed that two New Zealanders had made the trip to see Civil War sites. That was my first trip to America. I had three more trips, in 2015 (6 weeks), 2018 (3 weeks) and 2023 (8 weeks). Each trip was divided between the Old West and the Civil War. And before each trip I let Dave know what I was planning. Each time he gave me invaluable advice as to what to add into or cut out of our itinerary. I am only going to talk about the Civil War part of the trip, which took four weeks.

I have to admit at the start, I really admire George Armstrong Custer and his brother Thomas Ward Custer, and both the Old West and Civil War parts were laced with places where they were.

My wife Myra and I arrived in Houston on 2nd June 2023 and spent just under a month driving around the Old West. Then we started the Civil War part in Tennessee at Fort Pillow and then Fort Donelson. They were both worth seeing. I had seen Stone's River, Chattanooga, Shiloh, Nashville, and Chickamauga in 2015.

I had never been to Kentucky before. We went to the Perryville battlefield and was lucky to get a guide to show us around. I had read a book about this battle, but just being there made it so much more understandable. At each of the battlefields I took masses of pictures and videos to go over so that it will reinforce my knowledge. While in Kentucky we went to the Ark Encounter (Noah's Ark) and the sheer size and presentation was amazing.

From there we went to the Virginia Military Institute in Lexington. I loved the painting of the Cadets at New Market, Little Sorrell, and Jackson's uniform at Manassas. In 2015 I had visited Jackson's grave and Washington and Lee University.



Namozine Church

Next we went to Richmond National Battlefield Park. I was always worried about going around these battlefields, so I inquired about a guide and found an amazing guy, Doug Crenshaw, who wrote a book about the Peninsula Campaign. He was worth every cent as I saw places I could only have dreamt of. His knowledge was invaluable. He took us around Gaines Mill, Malvern Hill, Cold Harbor, Haw's Shop, a small part of Glendale, Fort Harrison, Savage's Station, Seven Pines (where Joseph Johnson was wounded, which changed the Civil War) and Beaver Dam Creek. He was instrumental in our seeing Drewery's Bluff.

While in the vicinity we saw Five Forks, Namozine Church and Petersburg. All of them were worthwhile. I was pleasantly surprised at the information I found at Namozine Church, where Tom Custer earned his first Medal of Honor.

I was worried about the next few battlefields and asked Doug if he knew of someone to take us around them. He set us up with John Roos for North Anna and Mike Block for Cedar Mountain and Brandy Station. Mike has written a book about Cedar Mountain. These two guides were also amazing. Just being there, especially Fleetwood Hill, was superb and all the little bits of information were awesome.



Tony at East Cavalry Field
Gettysburg

I had intended to see South Mountain, but decided Myra would prefer to see Antietam, and that is what we did. This was my third time here but just being at Dunker Church, Miller's cornfield, and Bloody Lane gets to you every time. Our next stop was Gettysburg (also my third time). This time I went to the Seminary thanks to Dave Wege. It was fantastic being in the cupola and seeing the museum. I loved the paintings. We drove around the Confederate lines on Seminary Ridge, the Union lines on Cemetery Ridge, and the copse of trees. This is another special place. I also went to find the Custer sites at Hanover (where his horse was shot and he was saved by Norville Churchill) and Hunterstown. The next day I had very good directions at East Cavalry field and was delighted to find all of the stops. I cannot stress how important it is to walk the battlefields to get a better understanding.

Our next stop was Washington DC and Arlington Cemetery, (I was pleased to find George Crook's grave) and then on to Ford's Theatre. I was really pleased I made the effort, as I felt it was the end of the Civil War.

Manassas was our next stop. I had been there before but there is something to be said for going back to a battlefield you have previously seen. This time I went to the top of Matthew's Hill to see the battlefield from the other side. We did not have enough time to do all of Second Manassas as I wanted to show Myra Harper's Ferry, which she enjoyed more than Manassas.

Dave advised me to go to Cross Keys and Port Republic, but suggested we get a guide to show us around. I made contact with Bill Miller and he was absolutely amazing. Bill wanted to know where we would be on the morning when he would show us around and I said I wanted to see Tom's Brook (another Custer battle) but was not sure where to go. Bill told me he could show me around and, my goodness, was he good. There were few markers, but he explained it so well while going over the ground. Bill has written a book of the battle which he gave to me. Bill then gave us a great tour of Cross Keys and then Port Republic. I had been to the Coaling before but did not really understand the battle. After Bill had shown me the lead up to that fight it made sense. I had also arranged for Bill to take me over the Trevilian Station Battlefield (another Custer site). Bill also took us to see Jackson's Headquarters in Elkton and Turner Ashby's death site on Chestnut Ridge. I was planning to see these sites myself, but I would not have seen one tenth of what Bill showed me. If you ever want to see anything in the Valley he is your man.

The next few days were about the Fredericksburg Battlefields. I had seen Chancellorsville, Fredericksburg, and Spotsylvania Courthouse before, but not the Wilderness. Chancellorsville was first followed by the Wilderness. I was especially taken with the Lee to the rear site and Jackson's flank attack at Chancellorsville. The next day we went to Spotsylvania Courthouse, Jackson's Shrine and Fredericksburg. I had missed Pelham's position at Fredericksburg before and was pleased to see it even if it was now built around. The Slaughter Pen Farm was also something I missed before and it was worth seeing.

Before the trip started I was not sure whether to go south or north from here. Dave suggested the Confederate forts. I took his advice and it was good. Fort Fisher was first followed by Forts Sumter and Moultrie. I had a swim in the sea, it was amazing seeing Fort Sumter in the distance. Next was Fort Pulaski followed by the Atlanta Cyclorama at the Atlanta History Centre. This is amazing, whereas the Gettysburg Cyclorama you only have a few minutes to get acquainted with

what you are seeing, at Atlanta you can have as long as you like. Needless to say I spent a very long time there. I had seen this before in 2015 but the quality now is so much better. It was good to get to see the Texas (great locomotive chase) again. After that we went to Columbus Naval Museum which was also great. They have recovered the CSS Jackson and it was massive. This was a site I put in to fill in the distance to the next stop, but it was really worth seeing.



Battlefield at Raymond, Mississippi

Fort Morgan was next and we took a ferry across to Fort Gaines. Both are such significant sites. After this we spent three nights in New Orleans and then Dave recommended Vicksburg, which I had seen before, but he specified the Battles of Raymond and Champion Hill. Dave very generously set us up with guide Morgan Gates. Without him I would not have found the Raymond and Champion Hill sites. It was extremely informative.

Before we started this tour Dave did say this was a challenging trip and we should spend more time at each site. I agree with him, but when you live so far away, one had to try to fit everything in. As it was there were some sites I had to cut out. We drove the whole way covering about 11,500 miles in eight weeks. On the way I have come across some amazing Americans who have really helped make this trip so special. You have a great country with an amazing history and I count myself blessed that I have been able to see so much of it.



Tony and Myra Blackbeard

submitted by **Tony and Myra Blackbeard**
Waitaki, New Zealand

The Grand Army of the Republic Department of Wisconsin was host to four national encampments. Three were in Milwaukee: 1889, 1923, and 1943.

100 years ago: From the Journal of the Fifty-Seventh National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic, Milwaukee, Wis. September 2 to 8, 1923:

The Fifty-seventh National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic convened at the Auditorium, Milwaukee, Wis. on September 6, 1923 at 9:16 o'clock a.m., Commander James W. Willet of Tama, Iowa, presiding. Willet opened with the following:

"Comrades, the gavel which I hold in my hand is made from the hull of the last slaver that brought a cargo of human freight to the United States. It was presented to your Commander and Chief by a colored girl at the colored school adjacent to Mobile, Ala. and its history given to me by her at that time. There was a cargo of 100 blacks. The school of 500 pupils is comprised largely of descendants of that cargo. The Johnnies burned the vessel in the offing of a bayou out from Mobile Bay and this colored school have dug up the hulk and are making gavels and other mementos out of the wood. I promised them that I would call this encampment to order with this gavel".

A special memorial for Augustus Gordon Weissert from Milwaukee who died April 24, 1923. For a number of years prior to his decease he was the senior surviving Past Commander in Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, all his predecessors in office, 20 in number, and also 20 of his successors having passed away. In 1866 he became a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and for 57 years he was one of its honored members. In 1888-89 he was Commander of the Department of Wisconsin, Grand Army of the Republic, Senior Vice Commander in Chief in 1889 and Commander and Chief in 1892. He was liberally educated. In 1869 he was admitted to the bar and practiced law for half a century. He was School Commissioner of the City of Milwaukee for four years. On the 27th of last April the funeral services were conducted by the Reverend James Oastler at Calvary Presbyterian Church. He was laid to rest in Forest Home Cemetery. E.B. Walcott Post No.1, Department of Wisconsin, Grand Army of the Republic conducted funeral services.

The 2023 Great Lakes Civil War Forum: Vicksburg is the Key

On September 23rd, the Kenosha Civil War Museum hosted their 16th Annual Great Lakes Civil War Forum. The theme of this year's event was Vicksburg, and for those wanting to learn a little more about what may have been the pivotal battle of the Civil War (sorry, Gettysburg fans), this was the place to be. I was joined by nearly sixty other Round Table members (of a total of eighty attendees).

Due to some family emergencies and health issues, Andrew Miller was unable to give his presentation. So, we were gifted an entire morning of Dr. Timothy B. Smith, with programs on "The Real Horse Soldiers", his book on Grierson's Raid, and "Champion Hill: Decisive Battle for Vicksburg". I found both programs very interesting, especially contrasting the Union and Confederate command structures at Champion Hill.

In the afternoon, we had Father Robert Miller present to us on "Forgotten Footnotes: Vicksburg's Victims of Sickness and Disease". Not quite sure about the positioning of a presentation on disease right after lunch, but it was very worthwhile. An enlightening perspective on the effects disease had on Civil War campaigning.

Our final presenter was Dr. Xukai Zou, with "A New Look at Old Abe's Color Guard". Dr. Zou told us how, by combining historical research with newer forms of facial recognition and AI technology, he and his colleagues were able to verify or dispute the identities of the 8th Wisconsin's Color Guard in a photograph taken at Vicksburg.

I also had the honor of presenting our annual programming support donation to the Museum. Member generosity makes it possible for the Round Table to be an integral part of the Museum's operations.

Finally, it was my pleasure to participate in a color guard which presented and retired the colors for the day. The color guard was from C. K. Pier Badger Camp 1, Sons of Union Veterans of The Civil War. Camp 1 members Tom Brown and Steve Michaels were joined by me and Mike Benton. Mike and I are both members of Camp 1.

A very good day of learning and fellowship, and I'm already looking forward to the 17th Forum next fall.

submitted by Paul Eilbes

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

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Blue Fleece-Lined Jacket.....	\$60.00
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Contact Roman Blenski, Quartermaster
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You may also see Roman in person at the monthly meeting at the Book Raffle table.

