

# GENERAL ORDERS

The Newsletter of the

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



**November 9, 2023**

**Ernest Dollar**

## **Hearts Torn Asunder: Trauma in the Civil War**

In the popular memory of the Civil War, its end came with handshakes between Robert E. Lee and Ulysses S. Grant in Virginia. But the war was not over. There was a larger, and arguably, more important surrender yet to take place in North Carolina. Yet this story occupies little space in the vast annals of Civil War literature. Reexamining the war's final days through the lens of modern science reveals why.

This final campaign of the Civil War began on April 10, 1865, a day after the surrender at Appomattox Court House. Over 120,000 Union and Confederate soldiers cut across North Carolina's heartland bringing war with them. It was the final march of Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman's effort to destroy Southern ability and moral stamina to make war. His unstoppable Union army faced the demoralized, but still dangerous, Confederate Army of Tennessee under Maj. Gen. Joseph E. Johnston. Adding to the chaos of the campaign were thousands of distraught and desperate paroled Rebels streaming south from Virginia. The collision of these groups formed a perfect storm for grief-stricken civilians caught in the middle, struggling to survive amidst their collapsing worlds.

Ernest Dollar will explore the psychological experience of these soldiers and civilians caught this chaotic time that's captured in his new book, *Hearts Torn Asunder: Trauma in the Civil War's Final Campaign in North Carolina*. Using an extensive collection of letters, diaries, and accounts, Dollar demonstrates the depths to which war hurt people by the spring of 1865. *Hearts Torn Asunder* recounts their experience through a modern understanding of trauma injuries. Both men and women endured intense emotional, physical, and moral stress of making, and enduring, "hard war." The story of the war's end in North Carolina faded with each passing decade leaving a memory so painful that few wanted to celebrate but none could forget.



Durham, North Carolina native, Ernest A. Dollar Jr. graduated from the University of North Carolina- Greensboro with B.A. in History and M.A. in Public History from North Carolina State University in 2006. He has been a Civil War living historian for over 30 years and served in the U.S. Army Reserve/North Carolina National Guard from 1993-1999. Ernest has worked in several historic parks in both North and South Carolina, including Bennett Place Historic Site and currently serves as the director of the City of Raleigh Museum and Dr. M.T. Pope House Museum.

## **General Orders No. 11-23**

**November 2023**

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## **November 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, November 6, 2023

7:30 p.m. - Program

Speaker and topic are subject to change. In case of inclement weather, listen to WTMJ or WISN for meeting status.

## **2023-2024 Speaker Schedule**

Find the speaker schedule on page 8.

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

## January 11 MCWRT

Our esteemed Quartermaster Roman Blenski will offer for sale books by Bruce Catton. Each book will cost just \$2.00, with all proceeds going to our Milwaukee Civil War Round Table. Complete a set. Add a series. Support our mission. Roman has been known to do some horse trading, so make any reasonable offer.



## 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)

Gerald, Frangesch, Grant Johnson, Dawn and Van Harl

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

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

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

Michael Benton, T. James Blake, Crain Bliwas, Angela Bodven, Dale Brasser, Robert Brown, Paul Eilbes, Gary & Judy Ertel, Bill & Claudette Finke, George Geanon, Brian Gunn, Leon & Margaret Harris, Peter & Jean Jacobsohn, Bernard Jene, Christopher Johnson, Rich Kallan, Jay Lauck, Diana Smurawa, Robin & Tom Martin, Kathy McNally, Brad & Kathy Schotanus, Sam Solberg, Dennis Slater, Dan Tanty, Justin Tolomeo

### Contributor (up to \$99)

John Abbott, George Affeldt, Tom & Terry Arkiskas, Don & Amy Bauer, Dale Bepalec, 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, T. James Blake, Roman Blenski, Angela Bodven, Dale Brasser, Robert Brown, Ellen DeMers, Lori Duginski, Paul Eilbes, Gerald Frangesch, David Gapinski, Julian Gonzalez, Doug Haag, Jim Heinz, Tom Hesse, Gene & Jane Jamrozy, Bernard Jene, Rich Kallan, Jerome Kowalski, John Kuhnmuensch, Steve Leopold, Rod Malinowski, Robin & Tom Martin, Kathy McNally, Jim & Monica Millane, John & Susan Petty, Tom Pokrandt, Laura Rinaldi, John Rodahl, Ryan Rosenthal, Dana Smurawa, Dan Tanty, Paul Zehren



At the November 2004 meeting Dorothy Kelly shared thoughts about “A Want of Confidence: The Failure of Longstreet’s East Tennessee Campaign.”

Bob O’Neill discussed “Phillip St. George Cooke and his influence on Union cavalry in November 2006.

In November 2008 Richard W. Hatcher III presented on the topic “The History of Fort Sumter.”

Robert Girardi discussed Civil War Corps Command: A Study in Leadership” in November 2010.

“Jubal’s in the Valley, Summer 1864” was the topic of Gail Stephens’ November 2011 talk.

Lawrence Lee Hewitt spoke about “Civil War Myths and Mythmakers” in November 2013.

Our November 2015 speaker was Phillip Leigh discussing “Trading with the Enemy.”

Paul Kahan presented “The Presidency of U.S. Grant” in his November 2018 presentation.

In November 2020, General John Scales asked the group “Did Forrest Make a Difference?”

Ethan Rafuse shared his topic “Back to the Chivalric Days of Yore: The Valley Campaign of 1982” in November 2019.

In November 2021 Dr. Thomas Clemens presented on the topic of Joseph K. Mansfield.

November 2022 brought Dr. Mary Abroe to discuss “Civil War Battlefields and American Memory – An American Story”

## 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.

## 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, 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.

**Friday, December 8** **Noon**  
**Fit for Duty: The Veteran Reserve Corps**  
**in the Civil War and Reconstruction**  
**presented by Dr. Stephen Goldman**

Described by the Indiana Adjutant General “as an unusual fighting force as the United States ever armed and equipped for action,” the dreadfully-named and preposterously uniformed Invalid Corps came into existence in April 1863, and within a year became the Veterans Reserve Corps (VRC). Despite the general derision from able-body filled units, they provided valuable garrison, guard, and other types of off-line duty, and enabled superb soldiers to continue serving their country during the Civil War, and after.

Stephen A. Goldman, M.D., author of *One More War to Fight: Union Veterans’ Battle for Equality through Reconstruction*, *Jim Crow*, and *the Lost Cause*, will discuss the VRC’s formation, organization, responsibilities, and under-recognized contribution to the successful July 1864 defense of Washington. He will then explain how VRC soldiers played a major role in one of Reconstruction’s most vital organizations, the Freedmen’s Bureau.

**See more Kenosha Civil War Museum**  
**events listed on page 5.**





### The So-called Union Meeting Last Night.

A full sketch of the proceedings of the Democratic, no-party, "Union" Meeting last evening to elect Commissioners to the Peace Conference occupies a large portion of our columns. Other duties have prevented us from preparing any extended commentary upon the affair but the proceedings speak for themselves.

It is enough to know that all the leading speakers declared themselves ready to make any concession which the insolence of the slaveholders may demand, in order to save the Union. Interpreting the speech of Mr. Seward as an expression of a similar readiness on his part, they implored the Republican party to abandon their principles. With the exception of Judge Orton, who is a Bell man, the speakers—we of course do not include Messrs. Bean and Warner, as members of the meeting—had not one word of rebuke for Southern secession, treason, and larceny, and very broadly insinuated the anti-coercion policy, though the resolutions adopted are of different import.

The commissioners appointed are Messrs. Marsal M. Strong, Mason C. Darling, John H. Tweedy, Republicans, and T.C. Dousman and ex-Gov. Dewey, Democrats. They are to go to Washington next week, unless other commissioners are, in the interim, appointed by the Legislature, and ask for admission into the Peace Conference. It is proper to add that none of the gentlemen designated, attended the meeting last evening.

**One Word Omitted** - Our Democratic friends omitted the word "liberty" from their patriotic speeches last evening. They were willing to sacrifice our liberties. The Republicans propose to save both the Union and the liberties of the people; not to throw overboard passengers and cargo to save the ship, but to save both the ship and the cargo. Is not this the true policy, and does the Democracy feel like opposing us in our honest and patriotic endeavors to accomplish this beneficent result? We trust not.

Madison Wisconsin State Journal  
Feb 27 1861

### Mr. Lincoln in Washington—Further Details respecting the Baltimore Plot.

(Special Dispatch to Cincinnati Gazette.)

Harrisburg, Pa., Feb, 23-3 P.M.--I learn from a perfectly reliable source, that the President elect had most excellent reasons for the course he pursued last night. Incontestable evidence had been discovered of a conspiracy against his person and life.

One plan was to throw the special train off the track between the Pennsylvania line and Baltimore. Besides, it was satisfactorily ascertained that the Baltimore police were wholly unreliable, and that voidance toward Mr. Lincoln would be offered with impunity. These facts were fully known at Washington, and Gen. Scott, Senators Seward, Trumbull, and others, strongly advised him to go on in advance of the special train.

Mr. Seward was so alarmed that he sent his son to Harrisburg, with a special message to Mr. Lincoln, urging the special message to Mr. Lincoln, urging the step. Mr. Lincoln left Harrisburg at 6:30 P.M., yesterday, reached Baltimore at 10.15 P.M., and Washington at 5.48 this morning. He was very reluctant to take this course, and only yielded after long persuasion.

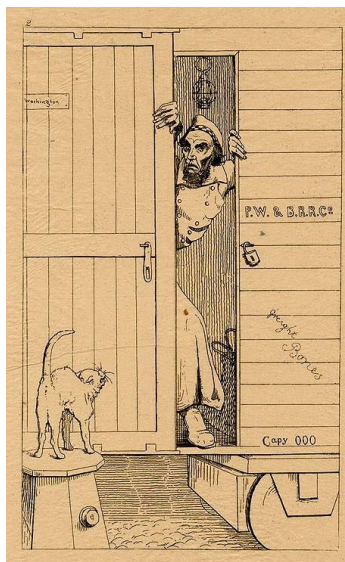
### Washington, Feb. 24.

#### How the conspiracy was discovered.

The following is the true reason of the change of Programme, as derived from an authentic and reliable source;

Gen. Scott, who had some of the most experienced and vigilant detectives in Baltimore employed of late, was apprised by them of a matured conspiracy to assassinate Mr. Lincoln on the arrival of himself and suite in that city. The detective said he procured his knowledge by joining various associations of the dangerous and lawless classes which infest

Baltimore, land as a member of the same, he became possessed of the design and the details arranged for its execution. He arrived in Washington some few days since, and it was then that Gen. Scott matured the scheme of the bringing in the President incognito. Sen. Seward, and a few other confidential persons, alone were apprised of the design. Nothing could have been more adroitly planned or more successfully executed.



Many papers mocked Lincoln, with artists drawing caricatures showing a disguised Lincoln sneaking into the capital.



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

### **Arrival at Willard's-Gov. Seward receives him.**

It was about half past six when he arrived at Willard's. There Gov. Seward had been walking back and forth nervously for an hour, much to the surprise of early risers, who regarded his conduct as suspicious. When Mr. Lincoln got out, Mr. Seward welcomed him, and the passengers, porters and one correspondent, who got wind of the movement, opened their eyes quite widely.

Mr. Seward escorted Mr. Lincoln to a private parlor with a magnificent suite of apartments, quietly engaged for him yesterday.

### **He calls on Mr. Buchanan.**

At half past 10 the President elect and Mr. Seward took a carriage and proceeded to the White House. At 11 o'clock precisely, Abraham Lincoln for the first time in his life put his foot within the portals of the Executive Mansion. Gov. Seward, with the calmness for which he is celebrated, handed a plain card inscribed "A. Lincoln" "W.H. Seward," to the usher, who took it, stared considerably, and immediately handed it to Mr. Buchanan.-

The latter was intensely surprised, as he had not heard of the arrival, but soon found himself in the presence of his successor, whom he welcomed most cordially the Cabinet were in session, but the conference lasted only fifteen minutes.

Mr. Douglas headed the Illinois delegation, in calling on Mr. Lincoln. the interview between Lincoln and Douglas was very pleasant. the members of the Peace Conference called on him in the evening, Gov. Chase, of Ohio, introducing ex-President Tyler and others. On the following day, Senator Crittenden called on him, and expressed himself much pleased with him, and has strong hopes that he will bring the county out of its present troubles.

## **More from the Kenosha Civil War Museum**



### **Navy Ship Club 40 Veterans Day Ceremony**

**Saturday, November 11 | 11:00am – 1:00pm**

Join the Navy Ship Club 40 in a celebration of Veterans Day at the Civil War Museum. Includes a performance by the Woodwind Quintet, "Fairwinds" from Navy Band Great Lakes. Light refreshments will be provided; open to the public.

### **Grant at Ft. Donelson and Shiloh**

**Saturday, November 18 | 1:00pm – 2:00pm | Speaker: Tom Arliskas**

Grant's rise to command in the Federal Armies was a self-taught belief that he knew how to win Battles. The life of General US Grant is the typical, Horatio Alger story where a young man, through self-reliance and hard work, rises to success, and won for Grant the admiration of a Nation. We will look at the early Grant as Brigadier General in 1861 through to Shiloh, April of 1862.

New research uncovered and re-purposed will convey to the audience Grant and Sherman, who turned out to be two of the best Generals in 1863 and 1864, for 1861 and 1862 were almost lost to the Union Army. Grant's rise was a hard road and not what most Historians teach. Grant the man and the soldier will be reviewed with a perspective new to many people. It will be an interesting discussion on generalship, tenacity, and luck – a lot of luck.



*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!

## **Private Albert Woolson**

**(taken from Veterans Memorial Hall in Duluth)**

Albert Woolson was born in the state of New York and lived there with his family until the Civil War began. In 1861, his father, Willard Woolson, enlisted in the Army to fight for the Union during the war. Willard Woolson was injured in 1862 and sent to Minnesota for treatment. The family, including Albert, moved to the state to be near him and probably settled in or near Mankato in south central Minnesota.

After Willard Woolson died, the family stayed in Minnesota. Shortly after their move to the state, in August 1862, the U.S.-Dakota War broke out. The fighting ended with the hanging of 38 Dakota men in Mankato on December 26, 1862. The Woolson family lived in an area affected by the war and would have known about it. In an interview later in his life, Woolson commented on the mass hanging and mentioned being in the crowd on the day of the execution.

On October 10, 1864, Albert Woolson enlisted in the First Minnesota Heavy Artillery, a unit formed in the summer of 1864. He gave his age as 17 and his birth date as February 11, 1847, though records indicate he probably was born in 1849 or 1850. He appears to have added several years to his age to make himself appear older than he actually was. He signed up as a rifleman but served as a drummer and bugler with Company C. His regiment was part of the Army of the Cumberland, assigned to protect a garrison in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

He remained in Tennessee throughout his enlistment, but did not see combat. He was in Tennessee when President Abraham Lincoln was assassinated in April 1865 and was discharged as a Private on September 27, 1865.

After his discharge from the army, Woolson returned to Minnesota. He married Sarah Sloper in 1869 and began a family that eventually numbered seven children, including son, Albert, Jr., who served in the Spanish-American War.

The Woolsons lived in Mankato and in St. Peter, where he worked as a wood turner in a furniture factory, before moving to Windom, Minnesota, in 1895. The town was new—it was founded after the Civil War in 1870—and there were opportunities for work.

He became Superintendent of the Windom Waterworks and Electric Plant, a position he held for about a decade. In 1903, while still living in Windom, he also taught Band, Music, and Mechanical Engineering at Breck School. The school moved from its original location in Wilder to St. Paul in 1916.

Sarah Woolson died in December 1901. She is buried in the Lakeview Cemetery in Windom. Three years later, in 1904, Woolson married Anna Haugen of Windom; they eventually had three daughters. A year after their marriage, Anna and Albert Woolson, along with several members of the Haugen family, moved to Duluth. In Duluth,

Woolson worked as an electrician with the Duluth Carbolite Company, as a wood turner for the Scott Graff Lumber Company, and for the Hirschy Company, a manufacturer of washing machines. He joined the Duluth Kiwanis Club and the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.), a powerful national group of Union veterans. In many photos taken of him in his later years, his G.A.R. pin with the five-pointed star is clearly visible.

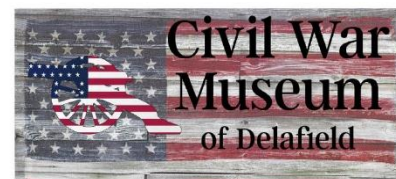


Woolson retired in 1933. After the death of Anna Woolson in 1949, he lived in the West End area of Duluth with his daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. John Kobus.

In his later years, he often visited local schools to tell his story. He would recount the role of President Abraham Lincoln in ending slavery in the United States, but also often commented on the effects of war saying, "We were fighting our brothers. In that there was no glory."

When Albert Woolson died on August 2, 1956, he was the last surviving member of the Union Army, the last surviving member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and the last Civil War veteran. About 1,500 people attended his funeral service in the Duluth National Guard Armory and hundreds lined the route of his funeral procession to Park Hill Cemetery. At the cemetery, 2,000 people attended his burial. Vice President Richard Nixon was among those sending condolences to the family.

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



**November Presentation: The Knoxville and Chattanooga Campaigns**  
**December Presentation: to be determined**

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/>

## Preserve 15 Acres at Willoughby's Run

The American Battlefield Trust is launching a multi-year campaign to save this essential — and highly threatened — “First Blood at Willoughby’s Run” tract. These 15 acres of incredibly hallowed land saw some of the earliest and most dramatic opening moments of the Battle of Gettysburg.

After months of negotiations, the developer agreed to sell it to us for the price of \$3 million. Fortunately, a generous donor who cares passionately about Gettysburg has stepped forward with an offer to give — over the next few years — fully half of that amount, or \$1.5 million, as a match, if we can raise the other half!

Unfortunately, time is working against us. We need to pay half by November 20 of this year — now just six or seven weeks away — and the other half by July 1, 2024 — the 161st anniversary of the opening of the battle. Together, we can prevent the residential development in the short-term, but in the long-term this hallowed ground can never be considered fully preserved until the loan is paid off.

**Will you help us raise \$375,000 before November 20 to ensure this hallowed ground at Gettysburg is preserved?**

In Shelby Foote’s *The Civil War, A Narrative: Fredericksburg to Meridian*, we read that “down into the shallow valley ... two [Confederate] brigades started through the standing grain, the skirmishers whooping and firing as they went ... leading the way into the greatest battle of the war.”

**The land the Trust is working so hard to save right now is that very same “shallow valley” between just east of Herr’s Ridge down to the west bank of Willoughby’s Run.**

The retreating troopers cross this crucial piece of land in the face of the Confederate advance, some stopping — with bullets clipping the leaves of the trees around them — in the shallow water of Willoughby’s Run. Ultimately, the weight of Confederate numbers, first, wave upon wave from the west, the north, and then from the northeast — plus the untimely death of General Reynolds — take its toll on the Union infantry, and by the end of that terrible day, both sides would suffer more than 17,000 casualties.

*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	<b>Adolfo Ovies</b> <i>"Cavalry of the Army of the Potomac"</i>
October 12, 2023	<b>Carleton Young</b> <i>"Voices from the Attic"</i>
November 9, 2023	<b>Ernest Dollar</b> <i>"Hearts Torn Asunder: Trauma in the Civil War"</i>
December 7, 2023 (At the Country Club)	<b>Scott Mingus</b> <i>"Unceasing Fury: Texans at the Battle of Chickamauga"</i>
January 11, 2024	<b>Pat and Dylan Brennan</b> <i>Gettysburg in Color</i>
February 8, 2024	<b>Harold Knudsen</b> <i>The Confederate General Who Fought the Next War</i>
March 7, 2024	<b>Chris Bryan</b> <i>Cedar Mountain to Antietam – The XII Corps</i>
April 11, 2024	<b>A. Wilson Greene</b> <i>The Cracker Line in the Battle of Chattanooga</i>
May 9, 2024	<b>Lynn and Julianne Herman</b> <i>Tragedy in Lawrenceville - The Allegheny Arsenal Explosion</i>
June 13, 2024	<b>Tim Smith</b> <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](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 November 9, 2023**

Mail your reservations by Monday, November 6 to:  
Paul Eilbes  
1809 Washington Avenue  
Cedarburg, WI 53012-9730

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

Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (meal is \$30.00 per person) for \_\_\_\_\_ people for the  
November 9, 2023 meeting of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee.  
(Please make checks payable to the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.)

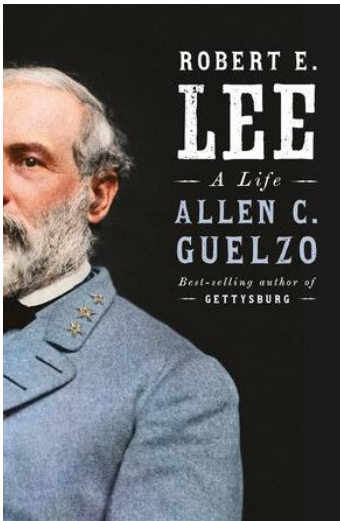




# BETWEEN THE COVERS

## Robert E. Lee - A Life

Allen C. Guelzo



This book review is on a book I bought at the Gettysburg visitor's center on my last trip to Gettysburg in 2022. The book is Robert E. Lee A Life by Allen C. Guelzo. It was published in 2021 and is 434 pages and includes 8 pages of pictures of Lee's family and other items that were part of Lee's life. Having read some of Mr. Guelzo's other work I find his style easy to read and understand. I think that, while I found the book interesting, I was not presented with a lot of new information. What makes this book different from other books on Lee is Mr. Guelzo's presentation of Lee. In the reading of this book was my take away that Lee was an unhappy man from an early age.

In this work most of the information is well known to anyone who has read books on Lee's life. Where Mr. Guelzo differs in his writing is that he has come to the conclusion that Lee was perhaps more deeply affected by the fact that his father ("Light Horse Harry Lee" of Revolutionary War fame) failed his family and abandoned them, losing all their financial support in the process. As a result of this Robert was so affected by this tragic situation that, underneath his stoic demeanor, he was very unsettled. This writing shows that Lee was constantly doubting his ability to being able to provide for his family while in the Army and second guessing himself by staying in that career.

No matter how many times I read the evidence of his decision to resign from the U.S. Army and then very quickly take a commission in the Virginia militia, it was not understandable. His father was a nationalist, his hero, Washington, a nationalist. Lee himself an old-line Federalist. He spent very little time in Virginia during his life. It's a riddle and a misguided decision. In this book Mr. Guelzo presents comments by Lee prior to the war that secession is wrong and should be avoided and he would defend the country. Then suddenly Virginia leaves the Union and he must go with Virginia. Mr. Guelzo points out that perhaps Lee was more concerned about losing his property, Arlington, and becoming estranged from his extensive family who favored slavery and secession.

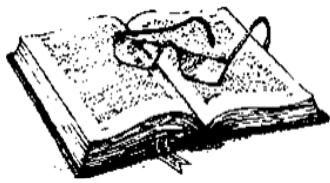
Another point made in this book is the fact that Lee was never really a commander of troops in combat. He was by training an engineer who was in command of small detachments if at all early in his career handling engineering projects in various parts of the United States. In the Mexican War he was on Scott's staff as an engineer and he was assigned various solo scouting and recon missions for Scott but usually by himself. Even his early involvement with the Confederacy he was designing defensive works, training and organizing the first batch of Confederate troops or advising the governor and later Jefferson Davis. While he did have one command responsibility in NW Virginia which ended badly, troop leadership was minimal. Lee's real expertise is that of a strategist and key leader. His success in this arena is what garnered his support among the men who served in his army.

As Guelzo points out, Lee was also an astute strategist, initially striking the North audaciously to break home front morale, and later, when Grant pinned him down at Richmond and he no longer possessed the resources to go on the offensive, prolonging the war by holding on defensively in order to bring on the defeat of Lincoln in the 1864 Presidential election. Both strategies nearly worked. Early on he saw the key to victory was political and hence he invaded the North twice in an effort to bring world support to the Confederacy the first time and the second to supply his army and sour the North's support of the Lincoln war plan.

According to Mr. Guelzo the war seems to have given him a psychological release of his need to be in control, as much as a General can be, and to have the opportunity to test his own abilities. But Lee is probably as responsible as anyone for lengthening the war which resulted in the end of slavery. Additionally, Mr. Guelzo does a good job in explaining the whys and why nots of the treason charges against Lee and the reasons for Lee's not coming to trial.

Overall, I found this to be an interesting read in that Mr. Guelzo identified Lee the strategist and highlighted some key components of areas of failure. I'm not sure it is a book for every student of the Civil War but I think it gives a different take on the man Robert E. Lee and was glad I read it. I know some reviews of Mr. Guelzo's style call him pretentious, which I did not find in his writings.

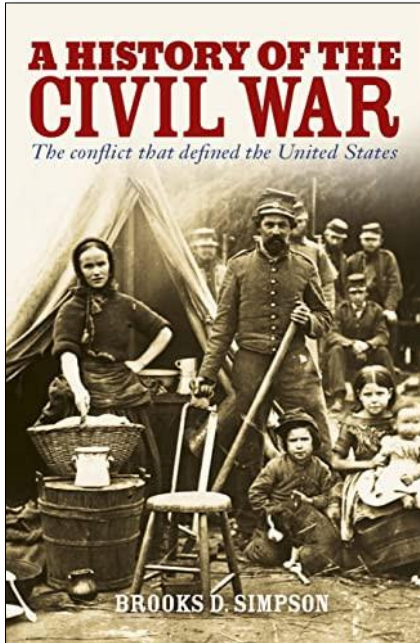
submitted by Bruce Klem



# **BETWEEN THE COVERS**

## **A History of the Civil War: The Conflict That Defined the United States**

**Brooks D. Simpson**



This brief (only 240 pages) history of the conflict is the best and most thorough of any recent Civil War book that I have read as it covers the causes, campaigns, attitudes, and beliefs about the war to this very day.

The author states in his Introduction that “This is a concise introduction to the Civil War and Reconstruction era, focusing on the war itself, but also offering brief discussions of how the war came about, how Americans sought to define what the war did (and did not) achieve during Reconstruction, and how memories of the war and debates over its legacy continue down to the present day.”

The chapter on “How the War Came” goes beyond President Grant saying it “will have to be attributed to slavery.” Although slavery was profitable in the North, it was not integral to the social, economic, or political order of the region. Over time support for the eradication of slavery grew in the Northeastern state and eventually prevailed. To the west the territories north of the Ohio chose not to make the “peculiar institution” part of the polity when they applied for statehood.

South of the Mason-Dixon line, changes in agriculture opened new opportunities to promote slavery’s profitability. Therefore, by the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, slavery had become a distinctly Southern institution. However, the defense of slavery was already an issue by the time of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution Convention.

Although Americans disagreed over a number of issues, those involving slavery proved far less susceptible to the traditions of bargaining and compromise than in other areas. The Missouri Compromise and the Compromise of 1850 were undone by the growth of the Abolitionist Movement. The continuing sectional disagreements culminated in the Election of 1860 and the dissolution of the Union.

The chapter on “The Limits of Limited War” ends with Lincoln pocketing McClellan’s missive objecting to escalation of the war. However subsequent aggressive decisions and actions by Lincoln and his administration did lead to an end of the war. The subjects of the last two chapters “Reconstruction Under Lincoln and Johnson” and “Reconstruction Under Grant” are often ignored in discussing the Civil War. The author gives a brief but good coverage of the events from 1865 to 1876 when Reconstruction came to an end.

The book’s conclusion, “The Civil War Remembered” describes the variation over time as to our thoughts on the war. The Grand Army of the Republic” and “The Lost Cause” are two different sides to our coin of remembering. The ending paragraphs, “Memory, Reckoning and Removal” bring us into the 21<sup>st</sup> century views on the war.

Brooks D Simpson born (1957) in NY, educated at the University of Virginia and the University of Wisconsin is currently a Professor of History at University of Arizona State. He is the author of seven books and co-editor of eight other books.

**submitted by John Helmenstine**

“In mid-May, he (Grant) dictated a message for a reunion of the Grand Army of the Republic that had a touching, patriarchal tone: *“Tell the boys that they probably will never look into my face again, nor hear my voice, but they are engraved on my heart, and I love them as my children.”*”

**Ulysses S. Grant to the G.A.R.  
Grant died July 23, 1885.**



## Inspire Others with Stories of Your Travels

The purpose of this feature is to give members an opportunity to share travel experiences to historic places. Write up your adventures. Include of photo or two. Inspire fellow Round Table members with your daring-do, your insights, and your suggestions. Articles will be lightly edited for clarity and any space limitations. Submitted an article to Wanderings is just one more way to make the **General Orders** your newsletter.

*Wanderings* articles may be submitted to wegs1862@gmail.com.

## More on the Grand Army of the Republic

As a member of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUV) I attended ceremonies on August 12th recognizing Private Albert Woolson in Duluth, Minnesota. Woolson was the last veteran of the Civil War and a resident of Duluth, He was 106 years old when he died in 1956.

Ceremonies were based on Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) guidelines. The GAR was founded in 1866 for Union Veterans to provide comradeship, soldier's homes and pension legislation similar to many organizations we have today. It was a patriotic organization whose mission was one of Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty as well as a political club. National Encampments of the GAR rivaled national political party conventions. The association with others of like mind eventually lead to political involvement. Members were active in politics.

The GAR helped to elect five United States Presidents and thousands of state and local officers around the country. There was an old saying that the GAR controlled elections to offices from president to dog catcher. The members of the GAR spent the rest of their lives dedicated to the patriotic cause that saved the country from disunion during the Civil War. That is the patriotism we share today.

The final Encampment of the G.A.R. was held Aug.28 - Sept. 1, 1949. The SUV was organized in 1881 and chartered by Congress in 1954 as the legal successor to the GAR.

**This article and the GAR article from the October General Orders were submitted by Sam Solberg, a Milwaukee Civil War Round Table member from Ashland, Wisconsin.**



Members of the Sons of Union Veterans who traveled from Wisconsin to participate in the ceremony honoring Albert Woolson (left to right): Kirby Scott, Sam Solberg, Kurt Kirk, Tom Brown, (Gary Carlberg MN Camp Commander), Steve Michaels, Brian Peters, Brian McManus, and Jeff Graf.

**MILWAUKEE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE  
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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**  
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You may also see Roman in person at the monthly meeting at the Book Raffle table.

