

GENERAL ORDERS



The Newsletter of the

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



January 11, 2024

Patrick and Dylan Brennan

Gettysburg in Color

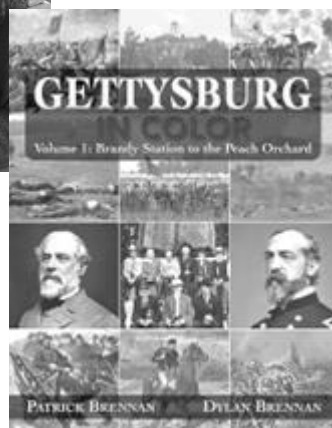
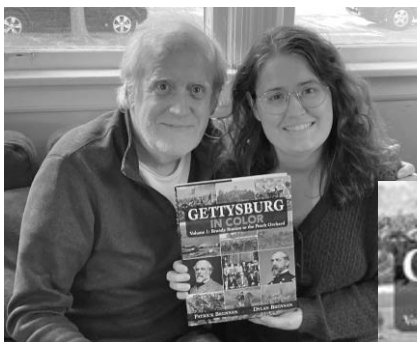
A fundamental obstacle to truly understanding the American Civil War is our tendency to view the men who fought it as “old-timey,” as simpler than us, innocent and more virtuous, deprived of their human richness. Yet, the two generations of Americans, leaders and led, who fought that bitter war were every bit as complex, intelligent, sophisticated, troubled, and profound as anyone living today. Those Americans were far more like us than we credit.

Patrick and Dylan Brennan have brilliantly (and entertainingly) enlivened those generals and privates from our past, using color to revivify men we have shrouded in black and white. Here, faces glow with life or stun us with vivid death. Battle scenes teem, about to burst from their frames in vivid hues. Look at the skillfully colorized portraits: These men are real human beings - “like us.”

Patrick Brennan, a long-time student of the Civil War, published author, and editorial advisor for *The Civil War Monitor*, teamed with his daughter Dylan, who is much more astute technologically. Together they bring the largest Civil War battle to life in their two-volume *Gettysburg in Color*.

Rather than guess at period colors and hues, the Brennans used an artificial intelligence-based computerized color identifier to determine possible colors of uniforms, flesh, hair, equipment, terrain, and much more. The result is astounding. It brings the three-day Battle of Gettysburg into a “you are there” clarity that has never before been achieved.

Let’s welcome this creative father and daughter duo and their merging of text, pictures, and technology to the January meeting of the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table!



General Orders No. 1-24

January 2024

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January 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, January 8, 2024

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.

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.

Wishing you a most Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year. As we count our riches in 2023, let's remember our own Milwaukee Civil War Round Table on that list. We are privileged to share a historic passion and education with one another!

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

A historical document titled 'MUSTER ROLL' is shown. It is a table with columns for name, rank, company, and other details. A handwritten entry for 'Kurt Meyle' is visible in the second row. The document is aged and has some ink bleed-through from the reverse side.

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 Brassler, 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, Jeryl Anthony, 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, Sam Solberg, Paul Zehren

Speaker Enhancement Fund

John Abbott, George Affeldt, Anonymous, T. James Blake, Roman Blenski, Angela Bodven, Dale Brassler, Robert Brown, Civil War Time Travelers, 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



Previous January meetings of the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table featured these speakers and topics.

- 2005 Terry Winschel "Stephen D. Lee and the Making of the Post-War South"
- 2006 Stephen Servais "As if We Were Foreigners Coming Suddenly into a Strange Country; New Englanders in Tidewater Virginia, 1861-1865"
- 2008 Edward T. Cotham "The Southern Journey of a Civil War Marine"
- 2011 Lawrence Lee Hewitt, Ph.D. "Slandered Heroes: Deserters Who Didn't"
- 2012 Parker Hills "Chickamauga"
- 2013 David Powell "The Confederate Cavalry in the Chickamauga Campaign"
- 2014 Robert I. Girardi "The Murder of Major General William "Bull" Nelson"
- 2015 Father Robert J. Miller "The Most Christian Nation in the World"
- 2017 Richard J. Sommers "Richmond Redeemed: Enduring Lessons from the Siege of Petersburg"
- 2018 Bruce Allardice "These Charges Don't Pay: The Battle of Ezra Church"
- 2019 Bjorn Skaptason "Shiloh in the Footsteps of Henry Morton Stanley"
- 2020 Pamela D. Toler, Ph.D. "From Unwanted to Indispensable: The Real Nurses of the Civil War"
- 2023 Robert I. Girardi "The Union Prisoners of War at Camp Douglas"

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, January 12

Noon

Post Civil War Veteran Mental Health

Speaker: Dr. Gregory Burek

Dr. Burek's presentation will focus on post-Civil War diagnosis and treatment of PTSD or other mental illnesses that were seen in Civil War Veterans.

Dr. Burek is a psychiatrist and founder of Aurora Health Care's Veteran Program along with his colleague Dr. Erich Roush. Doctors Burek and Roush established the Veteran Program in 2018 to improve mental health care for military veterans and service members through understanding military culture and how that affects the individual.

Friday, February 9

Noon

Grant and the Verdict of History

Speaker: Frank P. Varney

The presentation will be live-streamed at the museum.

Ulysses S. Grant has long been viewed as one of the finest generals in American history, the man who won the Civil War. To a point that is true; but he did not win the war all by himself. And it not unreasonable to examine what all of those other generals who helped with the war have to say. Only by dispassionately viewing the past, and by giving ear to more than one voice, can we come to a balanced understanding of our own history. Grant's memoirs, no matter how entertaining or well-written, no matter how dramatic the circumstances of their genesis, should not be allowed to stand as the sole arbiter of truth. For the sake of history, and for the sake of truth itself, we must be willing to set aside preconceptions and consider impartially just what really happened all those years ago. Sometimes the process can be painful. The truth is there, if we are willing to look

SAVE the DATE

Wednesday, January 17 @ 6:30 p.m.

Live ZOOM workshop featuring Scott Hartwig, former head historian for the Gettysburg National Military Park, will discuss his new book LDread the Thought of the Place The Battle of Antietam and the End of the Maryland Campaign. The cost for this event is yet to be determined. Look for details in upcoming issues of the General Orders.

FROM THE FIELD

Madison Wisconsin State Journal
Jan 07 1861

A Massachusetts lady driven from Savannah. The following extract is from a letter written by a young lady who has been teaching school in Savannah, but who has been driven out by the chivalry for not expressing her opinions. We are informed says the Boston Journal, that the writer is quiet, gentle and amiable. A sojourn of several years at the South had so familiarized her with the "institution" that she was often its defender, though she deeply deplored its existence:

Savannah, Dec. 17, 1860.

My Dear-I am too nervous to say more than a few words this morning- though nervous does not begin to express my condition. I am angry, vexed, insulted, grieved, and possessed of every other imaginable ugly feeling I am sent home-ordered out of the State; and for what?

It is reported that I have said things which imply I am hostile to the South. I have said nothing, but on the contrary, have carefully controlled all feeling or expression, while day by day insulted in that which is as dear to me as life-my love for noble old Massachusetts. But that would avail nothing. They are as angry if you say nothing as though you did and I leave here because I will not say that I am in favor of secession. I start for home tomorrow morning; shall spend Christmas in D---. This is no more than any Northern teacher may expect. If I had a man here to defend me from insult, I would not go so quietly. I cannot write more. Don't get excited over this, for it will do no good.



Mineral Point Weekly Tribune
Nov 06, 1860

From the Plains

Fort Kearney.- The Missouri and Western Telegraph line is completed to this place, and we are now in direct communication with St. Louis. The Company are prepared to receive and forward dispatches to and from California connection with the Pony Express, which delivers them at the eastern terminus of the Placerville telegraph line, over which they can be telegraphed to any part of California. The tariff from St. Louis to any part is \$5.40 for the first ten words, and 23 cents for each additional word. Telegraphic connections can be made with the Pony Express and St. Joseph, as heretofore. But a day and a half and sometimes two days, can be saved by making the connection at Fort Kearney.

Col. Miles, commanding head quarters of the infantry, with the band arrived here on the 21st inst. the commanding officer and surgeon of the port are greatly embarrassed by the importunities of the sick and indigent returning Pike's Peaker's, there not being faculties for comfort of the sick outside of the army provided by the government.

On the 26 Oct. it commenced flowing and raining, turning into almost a tornado. On the 27th it was cold and snow fell occasionally,-Thermometer that day 35 deg.

The Indians quiet-all the Pawnee braves having gone south on a grand buffalo hunt-Capt. Sully, with his company F. second infantry expected to return to this post from the Pawnee agency on the 4th prox.

Mr. G.F. Ingle, a resident of Monmouth, Io. returning from Pike's Peak, was left by two of his traveling companions, names unknown, at the hospital door, on the 25th of October, when they galloped off. Dr. Somers humanely took him into the hospital and attended him, but he was too far gone with the fever to recover. He died and was buried in the graveyard of the fort on the 27th.

Col. Crosland. deputy Quarter Master General arrived from Utah to-day. Capt. Heath, of the 10th Infantry accompanied him.

The thermometer this morning was 30 deg.



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

You are invited to our 54th Annual
PATRIOTIC LUNCHEON

Honoring Presidents Washington, Lincoln, and McKinley
Saturday, February 3, 2024 at 12:30 p.m.

“The 1864 Presidential Election - Lincoln’s Other Struggle for Victory”
Guest Speaker: Nic Bur

- Bid on premium silent auction items
- Choose from a multitude of prizes in our \$1 raffle
- Make new friends among more than 30 patriotic, hereditary, fraternal, historical and service organizations in attendance
- Luncheon buffet price still only \$25 per person

**Hosted by C.K. Pier Badger
Camp #1 and Auxiliary #4
Sons of Union Veterans of
the Civil War**

Location: Alioto’s Restaurant

3041 N. Mayfair Rd., Wauwatosa, Wis.
(exit Hwy. 45 at Burleigh; east to Hwy. 100; turn right to restaurant)

Luncheon buffet includes:
Tenderloin Tips with Noodles or Baked Chicken.
Served with honey glazed carrot, buttered new potatoes, assorted relish tray, tossed garden salad, Italian bread, coffee, sherbet for dessert.

***Find registration information at our MCWRT Registration Table
or call (414) 614-3690.***

Marching with the Black Hats

The Civil War Time Travelers, LLC will be hosting a trip from April 21-27, 2024. South Mountain, Antietam, and Gettysburg will be the official destinations as we follow the Black Hats from their christening at South Mountain, through their slugfest at Antietam, and finally to their epic “last stand” at Gettysburg on July 1, 1863. Coach transportation, all hotels, museum fees, and most meals are included in the cost of \$980.00. Our speakers are recognized experts, Licensed Battlefields Guides, National Park Rangers, and knowledgeable members of our own group. Three suppers are designated to be “on your own” so that guests may experience the charm of Gettysburg at nearby restaurants and eateries of their choosing.

Our visits at Antietam and Gettysburg will also dedicate some time to discussing other notable action at sites on those battlefields. One highlight at Gettysburg will be the new Adams County Historical Museum.

Our Gettysburg lodging will be at the 1863 Inn of Gettysburg, with stops at Ohio Hampton Inns on the way out and back.

A down payment of \$200.00 is required by January 26 to reserve a spot on the tour. Contact Dave Wege by email at wegs1862@gmail.com for more information or at our MCWRT registration table.

UPCOMING TRAVEL AND EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Early October 2024: The Kenosha Civil War Museum’s campaign tour will visit sites associated with the 1863 Vicksburg Campaign.

Late October 2024: Civil War Time Travelers will visit the battlefields of Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, and Spotsylvania.



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!

Sixth Wisconsin Volunteers from Michigan

Many volunteers anxious to enlist in 1861 had origins in other states and countries. For example, Rufus Dawes from Juneau County was a Marietta, Ohio native living temporarily with his father near Mauston. Rufus immediately recruited volunteers that became the Lemonweir Minute Men and Company “K.” Elected captain, Rufus was anxious to defend the Union, but he also desired escape from his nasty father. That is part of his dramatic personal story told in [To My Best Girl](#). The Sixth regiment, of course, became part of the battle-scarred Iron Brigade, and Dawes eventually commanded the regiment.

But what about U.S. citizens who specifically traveled to Wisconsin from other states to enlist? This is the curious and interesting story of nineteen young men who volunteered by traveling from St. Joseph, Michigan to do so.

This account was revealed by Southwest Michigan CWRT member Mike Dumke during my November 2023 presentation in St. Joseph, Michigan. He provided some local historical information and I then performed some research on my own.

Twenty-year-old Charles Keeler, a Michigan resident living near St. Joseph, Berrien County, joined his local 105-man militia company. The elected captain was young W.W. Edmunds. Edmunds traveled to Lansing to request that Governor Blair assign his company to a Michigan regiment under President Lincoln’s call for 42,000 3-year volunteers. Blair had more volunteers than his state needed, so Edmunds headed home without a commission and with no regimental assignment. Tragically, he somehow fell off his riverboat and drowned in the St. Joseph River near Niles, Michigan.

Shaken by the news but still full of military fervor, the militia company volunteers decided to split up and enlist elsewhere. A portion went to Missouri and became part of that state’s 7th Regiment. Another group went to Chicago and joined the “Douglas Brigade” (55th Illinois). Nineteen went to Wisconsin. Charles Keeler traveled to Prescott, enlisted in the “Prescott Guards” led by Captain D. J. Dill, mustering in for three years on June 11, 1861 at Camp Randall, becoming Company “B”, 6th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry.



The regimental roster lists his “Residence” as Prescott, not his native St. Joseph, Michigan. In the photo Keeler sports the distinctive Iron Brigade uniform – black Hardee hat, frock coat, white leggings. Why the far northwest city of Prescott, located where the St. Croix joins the Mississippi River next to Minnesota? Was there a connection that placed him there? How did he travel? Who were the others and in which companies did they enlist? Local historical societies have not been able to answer.

Keeler survived six tough battles unscathed but the bloody Gettysburg railroad cut charge on July 1, 1863 took him down. A bullet went through one ankle and lodged in the other. Charles was transferred to the 22nd Regiment Veteran Reserve Corps as a sergeant and mustered out in 1865.

He returned to St. Joseph, married, had three children, operated a fishery, was part of a Lake Michigan Life Saving crew, won election as Village Recorder, and was active in the community. He died in 1913.

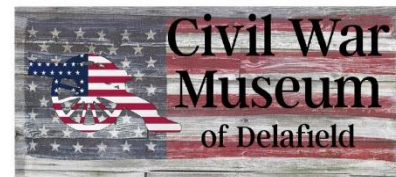
One other St. Joe/Berrien County Sixth Wisconsin volunteer is identified. Henry C. Matraw enlisted in Milwaukee as Corporal, part of the “Beloit Star Rifles”, Company “G”. Henry somehow avoided the continual heavy casualty lists and was promoted through the ranks to 1st Lieutenant in October 1864. He reenlisted as a “Veteran” and was transferred to Company “D” as its Captain a month later. County documents claim that Matraw made captain “before he was nineteen years old”. If so, he was only 15 at enlistment! Officers he served under include Lt. Col. Rufus Dawes, Col. John Kellogg (escaped prisoner), Major Phillip Plummer (KIA Wilderness), Lt. Col. Thomas Kerr (regiment commander), Captain Lewis Kent (wounded Petersburg), Lt. John Timmons (wounded Laurel Hill, KIA Globe Tavern), Dennis Dailey (2nd Wisconsin Veteran), and James Converse (KIA Wilderness). Henry Matraw was truly a survivor and must have been a mature and brave young man.

Who were the seventeen others? That is still a mystery, but in the words of a 19th Century county historian, “decimated again and again by disease and battle, there were but few of them who returned after the war to become citizens of Berrien County.”

submitted by Steve Magnusen

Author: [To My Best Girl](#), [The Inspiring Life Stories of Rufus Dawes and Mary Gates](#)

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



January Presentation: To Be Determined

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

Also open by appointment. Call 262-303-4133.

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/>

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. 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	Carolyn Ivanoff <i>We Fought at Gettysburg</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 January 11, 2024

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

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

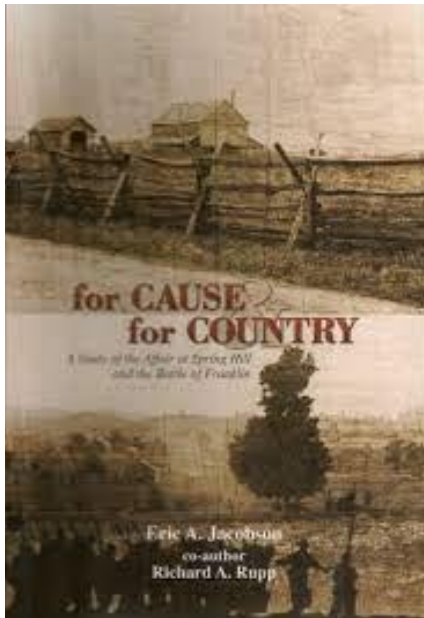
Enclosed is \$ _____ (meal is \$30.00 per person) for _____ people for the
January 11, 2024 meeting of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee.
(Please make checks payable to the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.)



BETWEEN THE COVERS

For Cause and For Country

Eric A. Jacobson



I have read many Civil War books over the last forty years and there are a few that stand above the rest. For Cause & for Country by Eric A. Jacobson is just such a book. I recently revisited this stellar account published in 2006 of Spring Hill and Franklin. The battle at the end of November 1864, a mere six months before Lee's surrender, was savage, bloody and tragic. It was one of the worst disasters of the war for the Confederate States Army with six generals, Patrick Cleburne included, dying in the brutal battle. The book is even handed, and carefully balanced giving the reader a panoramic view of both sides of the battle lines.

At 630 pages, this book is a thoroughly-researched account of the Spring Hill affair and the decisive Battle of Franklin the following day during John Bell Hood's Tennessee Campaign in late 1864. This was the Confederacy's last major offensive and last realistic opportunity to reverse the war's trajectory. The book does not detail, but does summarize, the subsequent engagement at Murfreesboro, the Battle of Nashville, and the retreat of the remnants of Hood's Army of Tennessee to Tupelo, MS.

In addition to a detailed account of the movements and actions of the Army of Tennessee and the Union forces under Gen George Thomas opposing them, including excellent battle narrative, the authors sew together numerous eyewitness accounts on both sides to help explain what happened, why it happened, and the consequences. Full of insight, the author puts you right in the trenches and into the battle lines that was the madness of the Battle of Franklin. The smell of gunpowder and the scream of wounded men are a part of every page. Much of the story is told by those who were there, gleaned from journals, letters, memoirs, manuscripts, regimental histories, official war records, newspapers, and other sources.

The battle description is engaging and lively as the author effectively weaves together first-hand accounts that give readers a sense of the chaos, desperation, fear, courage, and carnage of battle. Numerous accounts describe close-quarters and hand-to-hand combat, artillery action, violent deaths and injuries, and the suffering and privations endured. Details provided by the participants of the sights and sounds, as well as their feelings of terror, frustration, anger, exhilaration, and even admiration for their opponent.

Author Eric A. Jacobson examines the controversy that John Bell Hood was highly medicated during Spring Hill and Franklin battles, as well as long reported stories, controversies and tales of this terrible battle. We are also given many thumbnail sketches of the major and minor warriors both blue and gray that do not disturb the flowing narrative. This truly is a book that is difficult to put down. I highly compliment Mr. Jacobson for such extensive research. This book is a well-written and very readable. Buy a copy for yourself and a copy for a friend. I know I have a few friends that will be receiving this book for their birthday. It is that good.

submitted by Robert Johnson

Wisconsin Veterans Museum Archives



Check another item off the bucket list. On December 11 a group of us went to the archives of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum in Madison. Housed in a separate, climate-controlled building, the archives contain 97% of the museum's holdings. The fabulous historical artifacts that lie in drawers and on shelves are an Alladin's cave for a history nerd. Chris Kolakowski, director of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum, together with archivists Kevin Hampton and Andrea Hoffman, took us on a journey through the past by sharing dozens of items and the stories that go with them. It was the story associated with each historical artifact that made this visit so special. Thanks also go to John Petty for doing the legwork to organize this visit.

Did you catch the percentage of artifacts that the archive houses? Simple math tells us that only 3% of the museum's treasures can actually be displayed in the facilities the WVM presently has. That is why a campaign was launched several years ago to build a state-of-the-art museum on the site of the structure which it now inhabits. Plans call for a six-story structure with meeting rooms on the upper floor providing a view of the capitol building and the square. The new museum could host up to 20% of the museum's artifacts. That would be a tremendous improvement over the limitations posed by today's rented facilities.

Upon entering the archives, we waited for our group to assemble, having come from multiple locations near Milwaukee and Campbellsport. We were then led to a long hallway. Standing at one end, we could see a quarter mile to a set of doors that contain the shelves, drawers, and lockers that hold the history. Along the long hallway were many other doors to rooms used to preserve artifacts, research history, and do the hands-on work of keeping the historical objects viable. Some of the space is also occupied by the Wisconsin Historical Society, which seems to be a very symbiotic relationship.

After we passed through the double set of doors at the end of the very long hallway, we were given a brief description of how the massive storeroom was set up. Moveable sets of shelves on tracks, designed to optimize space, were everywhere. There were also tracks on the floor to permit storage space growth as the museum's collections grow. That will obviously happen, as history is an ongoing event!



The first actual artifact we saw was the battle-torn flag of the 24th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry. Yes, there it was, the ragged colors that young Arthur MacArthur used to rally those Western boys on the slopes of Missionary Ridge on November 25, 1863. "On Wisconsin!" What an amazing sight to see, and an amazing story to hear.

We saw other flags as well. There was the second flag of the 24th, which flew at Franklin in 1864 and to the end of the war. In another drawer was the state flag of the Iron Brigade, the original to the blue Tiffany flag that graces our Round Table meetings. It was majestic, and still has part of a story to tell. A piece of the flag was cut away, perhaps at a reunion by some souvenir seeker. The staff at the

Veterans Museum looks forward to the day when they get a call from someone who has found that blue piece of silk in an old trunk in some dusty attic. They await the day it may be returned to its rightful place.

Another special treasure we viewed was the only existing Hardee hat that was worn in combat. This hat adorned the crown of Sergeant Philander Wright on July 1, 1863 on the fields of Gettysburg. The hat, pierced by a bullet front to back, shows personal touches Wright added to his headgear. A loop still exists that once held his plume at the proper 45° angle. Grommets he added to provide ventilation are prominent. This hat tells a story. Wright survived the war, but both he and his hat took a pounding on July 1. Wright was hit three times near McPherson's Ridge.

We saw all that is left of Old Abe the War Eagle, just some sad feathers in a glass-lidded wood box. We saw a long, wrapped form that was the staff of the colors of the 2nd Wisconsin. After the original staff had been shot away, a sapling was cut on Culp's Hill, where the Iron Brigade spent July 2 and 3. That sapling was still with the flag when it was unrolled in the 1960s. In another drawer, a single shoulder board told a "What if?" story. Without naming names, museum staff believe that this single shoulder board might have been gathered as a memento of Colonel Edgar O'Connor of the 2nd. O'Connor was killed in action at Gainesville. The memento might have been collected by Lucius Fairchild in memory of his lost friend.

There is so much to see. There are so many stories to hear and share. A trip to the Wisconsin Veterans Museum and a glimpse into their archives is worth the trip to our capital city!

submitted by Dave Wege

More pictures may be found on page 11.



Patricia Anne Lynch found peace Tuesday, November 28, 2023 after a courageous two-year battle with cancer. She was born in Oneonta, NY and spent her early years in Westfield, MA. Patricia attended Marquette University (Class of '75). There she met Patrick, her husband of 45 years. She had a rich and varied career as a caregiver for her father-in-law and mother-in-law. She created Harvest Graphics, worked as a graphic designer for ACTA Publications in Chicago, and worked for years in partnership with Donna Agnelly to create our Round Table's General Orders newsletter. Patricia delighted in dance and was a generous teacher. In her compassionate care for her family, she was truly a person of the Beatitudes. Patricia opened her home to offer hospitality for those in need and for just pure joy.

May flights of angels guide her to her rest.



Top Left – the Hardee hat worn by Philander Wright at Gettysburg. The “2” designates the Second Wisconsin. The circle behind the “2” is red, denoting the First Corps. See the grommets for ventilation and the bullet hole front to back?

Bottom Left – Chris Kolakowski displays the sad remnants of Old Abe. After two fires and feather poaching for gifts and souvenirs, the governor had to send out a plea to get even these few feathers returned.



Bottom – the original Tiffany flag of the Iron Brigade. It's in pretty good shape, except for the conspicuous cutout of the 7th Wisconsin Regiment in the bottom right corner. Our own Tiffany flag is an exact replica of this flag, and ours has no pieces missing!

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Blue Light-Weight Sweatshirt.....	\$30.00
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Blue Fleece-Lined Jacket.....	\$60.00
Iron Brigade Pin.....	\$5.00
CWRT Pin.....	\$5.00
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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.

