

# GENERAL ORDERS

The Newsletter of the

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



**December 7, 2023**

**Scott Mingus**

## **Unceasing Fury: Texans at the Battle of Chickamauga**

Chickamauga, although the Civil War's second-largest battle in terms of casualties, has had far fewer books written about it than the thousands of books penned about the war's bloodiest battle, Gettysburg. Less than three dozen authors have tackled Chickamauga in any depth and most previous studies are of the full battle. What has been remarkable has been the dearth of books about specific brigades, regiments, or state troops at Chickamauga, unlike Gettysburg which has a plethora of specialty books. Scott Mingus's and Joe Owen's *Unceasing Fury: Texans at the Battle of Chickamauga, September 18-20, 1863*, is the first full-length book to examine in detail the role of troops from the Lone Star State.

Chickamauga was deemed as "the soldiers' battle" because of the perception in the ranks of a lack of direct involvement of senior-level leadership. More than 4,400 of these soldiers were from the state of Texas. One out of every four of the Lone Star boys who fought at Chickamauga fell there. The surviving Texans gave us vivid descriptions of battle action, the anguish of losing friends, the pain and loneliness of being so far away from home, and their often-colorful opinions of their generals.

Texans fought in almost every major sector of the sprawling Chickamauga battlefield, from the first attacks on September 18 on the bridges spanning the creek to the final attack on Snodgrass Hill on the third day of fighting. In between, Texas regiments launched attack after attack against Union lines in now famous spots such as the Viniard farm, Poe Field, Kelly Field, and North Dyer Field. Ultimately, Union mistakes led to a tactical Confederate victory, one that was marred by the strategic mistake of not aggressively pursuing the retreating Federals and seizing the vital transportation hub at Chattanooga.

Drawn from personal accounts, memoirs, post-war newspaper articles, diaries, and other primary sources, this richly detailed study explores the critical role that Texas enlisted men and officers played in the three days of fighting near West Chickamauga Creek in September 1863.

Multiple award-winning author Scott Mingus is a retired scientist and executive in the global specialty paper industry. The Ohio native graduated from Miami University. He was part of the research team that developed the first commercially successful self-adhesive U.S. postage stamps, and he was a pioneer in the early development of bar code labels. He has written more than 30 Civil War and Underground Railroad books and numerous articles for *Gettysburg Magazine* and other historical journals. He has appeared on C-SPAN, C-SPAN3, PBS, PCN, and several other TV networks. Mingus writes a blog on the Civil War history of York County, PA, where he and his wife Debi live. He also has written six scenario books for miniature wargaming. He received lifetime achievement awards from the York County History Center and the Camp Curtin Historical Society for his many contributions to local Civil War history. His books and wargaming scenario books have received or been nominated for numerous national awards.

## **General Orders No. 12-23**

**December 2023**

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### **December Meeting at a Glance Country Club of the Wisconsin Club 6200 Good Hope Road**

**[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, December 4, 2023

7:30 p.m. - Program

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

### **2023-2024 Speaker Schedule**

# 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 CONSTRUCTION

The I-43 exit to Good Hope Road coming from the south is closed due to construction. Please pre-plan an alternate route for our December 7<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## 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



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

- 2004 Dr. David Zarefsky "Lincoln, Douglas, and Slavery: In the Crucible of Public Debate"
- 2005 Steve Fratt "Civil War Combat and the 19th Century Revolution in Military Affairs"

**Annual Christmas Galas were held from 2006-2008.**

- 2010 Samuel C. Hyde, Jr., PH.D. "A Wisconsin Yankee in Confederate Bayou Country"
- 2011 Dr. James I. Robertson, Jr. "The Untold Civil War"
- 2012 Dale Phillips "The Red River Campaign"
- 2013 Col. Kevin Weddle (Retired US ARMY) "Lincoln's Forgotten Admiral, Samuel F. Du Pont"
- 2014 Jim Ogden "The Fight at Reed's Bridge: A Chickamauga Story Enlarged by Preservation"
- 2015 Dave Keller "Camp Douglas"
- 2017 David Dixon "The Lost Gettysburg Address"
- 2018 David Hirsch & Dan Van Haften "Abraham Lincoln and the Structure of Reason"
- 2019 Daniel Weinberg "Abraham Lincoln Book Shop Artifacts"
- 2020 Steven K. Rogstad "Stories from Among the Badgers"
- 2021 Dennis Doyle "Illinois Regiments at Gettysburg"
- 2022 Garry Adelman "Midwest Civil War Photo Extravaganza"

**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, 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.

**Saturday, December 2 10:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.**

The Civil War Museum is hosting its annual Victorian Christmas celebration. There will be musical performances by the German Men's Chorus, the Palmyra Eagle Community Band, and the Harborside Academy Chamber Orchestra group. We will also feature Victorian Dance Demonstrations and Instruction with Karen and Gary Alexander (I'm sure many MCWRT members know them), plus an adaptation of A Christmas Carol done by a local theater group. The link to the web site info is:

<https://museums.kenosha.org/civil-war-museum-programs-events/annual-events>

**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 [I Dread 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](#).





### **How a Wisconsin Boy became a Lieutenant in the Regular Army**

The Second Regiment Correspondent of the Milwaukee sentinel has the following:

Did I ever tell you how a Wisconsin boy, a Sergeant, worked his way into the regular army? I think not, but I will. I refer to Lieutenant Potter, of Oshkosh.- He enlisted in Captain Bouck's company and was promoted to Sergeant. While we were at Chain Bridge, Gen. McClellan visited the camp, and was accompanied by Secretary Cameron and Mr. and Mrs. Gov. Curtin, of Pennsylvania. With Mrs. Curtin, Potter was acquainted; so when the carriage stopped, he made his way through the crowd, and told her what he wanted. Mrs. Curtin turned to the secretary, and asked:

"Mr. Cameron, did you ever do me a favor?"

"No, I never did," was his reply.

"Then I want you to now."

"It is granted without the asking," was the gallant reply.

"Then you appoint Mr. Potter a Lieutenant in the regular army?"

"I will."

Soon after Potter called upon the Secretary in his office. Mr. Cameron turned to his head clerk and said, "Fill out a commission for Potter."

"There are no Second Lieutenant vacancies," said the clerk.

"Then give him a First Lieutenancy."

"There is but one vacancy. Come in next week and I will give it to you."

"No, sir," said the Secretary sternly, for he knew if laid over till next week that would be the last of the matter. "Do it now, as Lt. Potter will wait."

Lt. Potter did wait, and when he left the office, it was with a first Lieutenancy in the U. S. Army in his pocket, and soon after he was sent home recruiting for the regular army.

### **Arrival of Arms**

One hundred and thirty-eight cases of muskets, 2,760 in number, arrived at this port yesterday morning for Gov. Randall. This will go far towards supplying the arms lacking for this state.- Wisconsin 18th.

**Oshkosh Courier**  
Dec, 21 1860

### **Secession and Revolution**

At this crisis in the history of the Republic which, in the words of the weird sister in Macbeth, is "not lost but tempest toss'd" certain questions in regard to the reciprocal duties of States to the Federal Government, are worthy of being considered. The President says in his Message, that "secession is neither more nor less than revolution," and certainly there is no secession clause in the fundamental laws of the United States, for such a contingency was not contemplated. Webster elaborated a most logical argument on this subject contending that the Union is not a "compact" between the States, or their mere "accession" to the Union, which would imply perhaps the right of "secession" but that it is a confederation, founded upon the Constitution and duly ratified by all the States. He summed up the whole legal principle involved, when he declared that a seceding State "must show that she has a right to reverse what has been ordained, to unsettle and overthrow what has been established to reject what has been adopted and to break up what she has ratified." the Constitution, thus ratified, had a voice and spoke with authority, created direct relations between the government and individuals; is not a contract, or compact, but a government proper, a relation which no State can dissolve but by revolution. These opinions, sustained as they have been by all conservative Statesmen, are fully confirmed by the President in the declaration that secession is revolution.

**Madison Wisconsin State Journal**  
Dec. 26, 1861

### **Death of Prince Albert**

The Persia brings the news of the death of Prince Albert. He expired on Sunday noon the 15th inst, of gastric fever. The second son of Ernest Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, he was born at Roseann, August 26th 1819, and was consequently forty-two years of age at the time of his death. His marriage with Queen Victoria was solemnities on the 10th of February 1840.

Of cultivated tastes; and a patron of the arts and sciences, he was very popular with the English people and his death will be generally deplored.

### **Santa Claus is coming - Prepare for the Holidays**

A full stock of Holiday and seasonable goods

A. A. Waltzinger's

Madison Wisconsin



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

You are invited to our 54<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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!

Why walk Hallowed Ground, whether a battlefield, cemetery, or historic site? One answer to the question is that we are able to connect with the past at these places. In his first inaugural address, President Abraham Lincoln summarized that idea in these words. "The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battlefield and patriot grave to every living heart and hearthstone all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature." Thanks for sharing your reminiscences about Andersonville, Marion!

## Thomas Lewis Reynolds

The highlight for me during the Civil War Time Travelers 2023 trip to Georgia was seeing Thomas Lewis Reynolds' grave in person! I knew for years that one of my late husband's relatives had died at Andersonville Prison. My husband's Aunt Mina had done genealogy research decades ago when they wrote letters, waited months for answers, and drove around the country hunting for deceased relatives. It was also when sources weren't documented, and some of what they recorded were "family stories," that may or may not have had a small grain of truth embedded in them.

So, researching Thomas Lewis: First, he sometimes went by Thomas, sometimes by Lewis, and there are many possible spellings of names that sound like Reynolds, such as Runnels. Once I found that his first name was Thomas, (Aunt Mina had him listed as Lewis), I eventually found that he was born in 1827. He was most likely born in Ohio (however, it could also have been in New York state). He was the brother of my husband's Great-Grandfather, Philip Reynolds. Philip also served, as a Private/Corporal 105<sup>th</sup> Ohio Infantry, Company L, probably at Resaca, which CWTT also visited. Family relationship now confirmed, Ancestry.com listed him as dying at Andersonville Prison. More research followed.

According to the 1860 census, Thomas Lewis farmed in Oak Center, (Oakfield) Wisconsin, living with his wife and two daughters. He enlisted as a Union soldier on September 16, 1861. Thomas L. Reynolds was a private in Company K, 10<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Infantry. He was captured by the Confederate Army at Chickamauga on September 20, 1863. (It says 1864 in the Andersonville records, but that isn't possible.) I wish I had known that a few years ago when CWTT visited Chickamauga.



He died of dysentery on July 20, 1864. Perhaps due to the handwriting of the era, his headstone is marked J S Reynolds, but the archive's records note his actual name as well as the wrong initials.

He left behind his wife Catherine, his daughters, and a son, born the summer after he enlisted, that he never met.

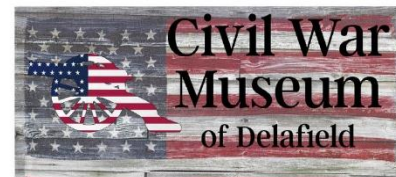
It was surprisingly emotional to stand at my husband's great granduncle's grave, one among thousands in the cemetery; all who died so needlessly as prisoners of war. Even though it was a beautiful, sunshine-filled October day, the spirits of those men from 160 years ago seem to still linger, at least in the visitor's mind. The sadness remains, and I cried.

Thank you to Ranger Terri, who explained so well what the prison camp was like, and who directed our coach to within 20 feet of his tombstone, among the thousands of other similar white stones, and to Carmen, our driver, and Shirley, our trip photographer. Thanks also to Robert Johnson, a CWTT member, who gave a talk at Andersonville that was so good that Ranger Terri asked for a copy.

They say you die twice: once when your physical body dies, and the second time when no one remembers your name. The Andersonville dead are remembered.

submitted by **Marion Blakely**  
Eden, Wisconsin

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



## December Presentation: The Chattanooga Campaign

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](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	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](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 December 7, 2023**

Mail your reservations by Monday, December 4 to:  
Paul Eilbes  
1809 Washington Avenue  
Cedarburg, WI 53012-9730

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

Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (meal is \$30.00 per person) for \_\_\_\_\_ people for the  
December 7, 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

## The Gettysburg Campaign

Dr. Edwin B. Coddington

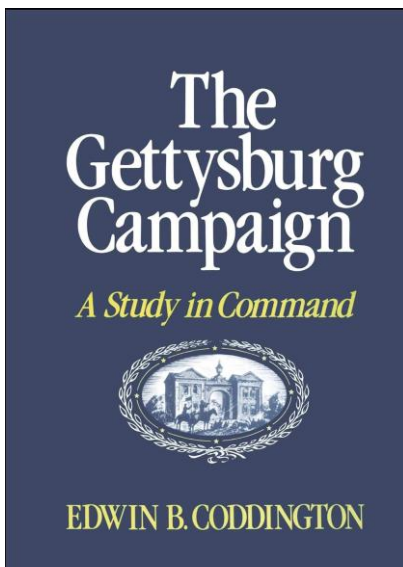
This review is on a book I bought from the used book section at the Civil War Museum. The book is The Gettysburg Campaign by Dr. Edwin B. Coddington. I purchased this book a few years ago and, now that the Museum is leading a trip to Gettysburg the coming October, I thought it was time to read a book that at the time was considered the premier work on the Gettysburg campaign. That was one of the reasons I bought the book in the first place, plus it was at a discounted price. What's not to like about that? It is a detailed writing on the battle that is told in 574 pages of reading and, with order of battle, notes, bibliography and index adds up to 866 pages

I think Dr. Coddington did a superlative job in putting the information and details on the entire campaign. Between this book on the fight and Gettysburg, A Testing of Courage by Trudeau, these are two of the best on the topic in my opinion. I think one comment that Dr. Coddington makes early on in the book sets the tone as to why perhaps the Confederate failed in their mission to end the war. He ends a chapter describing the Confederate force with "Under a beloved and respected leader it had become convinced of its invincibility and supremely confident of its ability to annihilate the despicable enemy. Here perhaps was the fatal defect the attitude that breeds overconfidence, which in turn leads to mistakes when the foe proves worthy of his mettle."

With the above comment I felt that Dr. Coddington set the tone for what happened to the Confederate plan to win the war. Throughout the book the reader sees some of the key mistakes made on the Confederate side that led to the Union victory at Gettysburg. I think the overconfidence of the Confederate side led to some uncharacteristic mistakes, like poor reconnaissance, uncoordinated attacks, poor leadership and overall command lapses all led to the failure of the Confederates to win the battle. Not to mention the terrific performance of the Union forces to rise to the occasion to win the most important fight of the war.

Coddington's writing style is first rate and the story flows very smooth. It's not just a simple book about who attacked who, where, and when. We hear the stories of both the generals all the way down to the privates and how they viewed the battle. The book takes an all-encompassing view of Gettysburg.

Coddington's information builds the setting of this tremendous battle through both armies which allows for some very good reading. Coddington covers all three days of the battle with a good balance of coverage to the events. He also gets into the minds of popular key players such as Lee, Meade, Hancock, Sickles, Longstreet and others. His battle coverage at times is not the ultimate in detail as I have read in Harry Pfanz's work, although it is valuable. I found Trudeau's book on Gettysburg to use more of that in his coverage, though Coddington's use of references is a book in itself, which is a true asset and superior to others.



I think this account is the most balanced, insightful analysis of not only the battle but explodes the mythology of the popular perspectives - in short - the Lost Cause perspective. Coddington recognizes the ability and skill of the Union forces, and debunks the blame often aimed at Longstreet for the loss of the battle, which in Coddington's perspective, wasn't a defeat. General Meade's actions are described in great detail, debunking in part, the blame he has been assigned by many for not outright defeating Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. The research basis is solid as the end notes you read will convey. Maps are useful. Perhaps though, is the beauty of the use of language that Coddington displays in revealing perhaps the most accurate account and judgment of this historic event?

I highly recommend this book for any student of the Civil War or if you have interest in the Battle of Gettysburg. I think if you really like to read, I'd add Trudeau, Sears, and Pfanz to your reading list on the battle in order to cover different styles and some other points covered by other authors.

submitted by Bruce Klem

## A Bloody Road to Atlanta

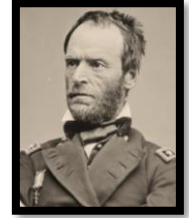


"War is Cruelty. There is no use trying to reform it. The crueller it is, the sooner it will be over."

**William Tecumseh Sherman**



Sherman's summation of war in these comments were both blunt and descriptive at the same time. I think we (my wife and I) and my fellow travelers saw this from the beginning battles of this Civil War Time Travelers trip to the very end.



### **Day 1- Saturday, October 21**

We arrived that night in Frankfort, Kentucky and heard Tom Arliskas' presentation "Defending the Chessboard of War." Tom gave us some insights into General E. Johnston. Some thought that Johnston was the reason why the South lost the Battle of Atlanta. But Tom told us a much different story of General Johnston, who did the best with what he had under the overwhelming odds he faced against the North. The North, as we know, had more of everything- more troops, more ammunition, more resources...and a lot of determination through the likes of Sherman! Finally, we were told of Johnston's ego which probably did him no favors.

### **Day 2- Sunday, October 22**

We took a tour of the battlefield where the Battle of Richmond, Kentucky was fought. Our historian tour guide, Doug Lippman, who was a native of Richmond, told us about the battle and how the North was completely routed. The difference in the outcome seemed to be that the Southern Troops in this battle were more experienced and battle hardened than the Northern Troops- some of which had just set foot on their first battlefield. After our tour, Dale Bepalec told us about the life of Mary Todd Lincoln. (And then she died. Just kidding, Dale!) It seems that Lincoln would have never been the man he was without her and may have never become president without her, either! That same day we arrived at Dalton, Georgia after Dave Wege talked about the Battle of Ringgold Gap, which occurred 6 months before Resaca. In Dalton were regaled by another Civil War historian, Robert Jenkins. Mr. Jenkins was a walking library and seemed to know everything about the Battle of Resaca.

### **Day 3- Monday, October 23- was a fun filled day.**

We toured Tunnel Hill and also toured the historic Huff House which was the headquarters for General Johnston. After a splendid meal, we learned that the Huff House was the site where General Patrick Cleburne was betrayed by one of Johnston's generals. It seems that this general betrayed Cleburne by secretly sending Cleburne's proposal of freeing some of the slaves to fight for the Confederacy to Jefferson Davis. This did not bode well with Jeff Davis. Robert Jenkins then took us to some of the sites of the battlefield at Resaca and showed us where some of the earthworks were set up. The day was capped off by another enlightened speech- this time by Terry Arliskas on "General Sherman- Grant's Man." We learned why Sherman was so important to Grant and about some of his peculiarities.

### **Day 4- Tuesday, October 24**

We toured the Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History at Kennesaw, Georgia. It gave us a wonderful summation of the Civil War and of the importance of Railway Travel. We learned of James Andrews and his brave men who were behind "The Great Locomotive Chase". Next, we went to Kennesaw Mountain where Ranger James Pratt gave his presentation. Ranger Pratt discussed one of the key conflicts of the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain which was Cheatham Hill and the Dead Angle. The North again lost this battle at an extremely high casualty rate. Surprisingly, General Johnston ordered his troops to withdraw from this position the next day.

### **Day 5, Wednesday, October 25**

We viewed the battlefield at Altoona Pass. Paul Eilbes gave us a wonderful presentation on "Altoona Pass - Hold the Fort," where General Corse of the Northern Army withheld the Confederate attack by General French's army. Next, we walked the battlefield with another historian tour guide, Jeff Wright, at Pickett's Mill. Another bloody loss for the North. On the bus ride to Atlanta, Bob Johnson told us the wonderful story of General "Black Jack" Logan and his heroic leadership in the Battle for Atlanta. Finally, to cap off the day, we viewed the Cyclorama in Atlanta. It was a spectacular 3D painting of the Battle of Atlanta (also saw "Black Jack" Logan in it). We took pride in that German painters from Milwaukee engineered this giant feat.

## Day 6, Thursday, October 25

Our last day in Georgia, took us to the Andersonville Prison. This was a somber day as we learned of the 13,000 prisoners who died in this camp and suffered tremendously from disease and dysentery. We also learned of the demise of the commander of the camp, Captain Wirz. Somehow, in this whole story of misery and suffering, there was hope when a new spring, Providence Spring, miraculously appeared, giving the prisoners much needed fresh water. Finally, Marion Blakely was able to see the grave of a relative who died at Andersonville. Thomas Reynolds was her husband's great granduncle and was laid to rest at the Andersonville Cemetery. It was an emotional moment for her. I would be remiss if I didn't mention the Ice Cream Social that night and the Civil War play put on by our fellow travelers. Marvelous! Gene, you did a great job! Unfortunately, no Oscar for you.

Day 7, Friday, October 26 was our return trip home. We were amazed at the sites we had seen and felt like we had truly gone back to a time of bloody battles which shaped our American history.

submitted by Kurt and Elsie Meyle

We have a very special request to ask of you. One of our museum members and veterans, John "Jack" Hall, will be celebrating his milestone 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on January 3, 2024. We would like to make this birthday very special for him by surprising him with cards from the community. To help him celebrate, would you mind sending in a birthday card?

## Happy Birthday to a Hero!



John "Jack" Hall is a World War II veteran who served as an infantryman in the 36<sup>th</sup> Army Division and was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his bravery. According to the official order, "Hall displayed heroism in action on August 28, 1944, near Allex, France. While leading his squad under the cover of darkness, in an attack on an enemy roadblock, Sergeant Hall advanced toward a house that was occupied by enemy troops. As the squad approached the house, it was subjected to intense fire from two machine guns located within the building. Immediately dispersing his squad, Sergeant Hall worked around the right flank and to the rear of the house. Keeping close to the wall, he crept around the front of the building, and signaling to his men to cease fire, hurled three grenades through a window, destroying three enemy gunners and causing the remainder to withdraw in confusion. By his courageous leadership and extraordinary heroism, Sergeant Hall eliminated a strong enemy roadblock and enabled his battalion to seize its objective."

**Please send birthday CARDS ONLY by Wednesday, December 27th. We will deliver these to Jack for his birthday celebration. Other items will not be delivered.**

Mail cards only to:  
Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation  
Attention: Sergeant John "Jack" Hall  
30 West Mifflin Street, Suite 200  
Madison, WI 53703

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

What better way to show off your pride in our organization! All items are made of first-rate, quality materials, modestly embroidered with the Round Table/Iron Brigade log, along with your name or initials.

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Iron Brigade Pin.....	\$5.00
CWRT Pin.....	\$5.00
Bugle Pin.....	\$5.00
Iron Brigade Medal.....	\$25.00
Red River Medal.....	\$25.00
CWRT 60 Year Medal.....	\$10.00

**Contact Roman Blenski, Quartermaster**  
4601 W. Holt Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53219  
(410 327-2847 [dbcpmilw@gmail.com](mailto:dbcpmilw@gmail.com))

You may also see Roman in person at the monthly meeting at the Book Raffle table.

