

GENERAL ORDERS

The Newsletter of the

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



February 8, 2024

Carolyn Ivanoff

We Fought at Gettysburg

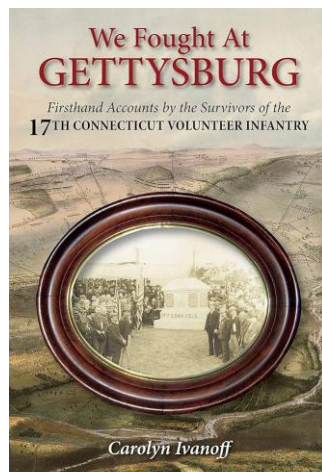
Our February talk will focus on twelve men from the 17th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry Regiment. These men fought for their lives, lost friends, and suffered themselves at Gettysburg. Their sacrifices are still with us today and from them we inherited great social and medical advances. Because of their sacrifices we understand the hidden costs of war, and that not all wounds are visible. Their stories illustrate the meaning that their lives and experiences have for our generation today. This was done using accounts from the men who survived after living through the carnage of battle. Many of them were wounded, taken prisoner, and endured the horrors of combat on the fields of Gettysburg. This is their story.

Carolyn Ivanoff is a retired high school administrator and independent historian. She writes and speaks frequently on American history at local, state, and national venues. In 2003 Carolyn was named Civil War Trust's Teacher of the Year. In 2010, 2011 and 2013 her education programs received Awards of Merit from the Connecticut League of History Organizations. In 2016 Carolyn was honored by the Connecticut Council of Social Studies with the Bruce Fraser Friend of the Social Studies Award. In 2018-19 Carolyn served as project coordinator for the 17th Connecticut Flagpole preservation and re-dedication ceremony on Barlow's Knoll at Gettysburg National Military Park. This project was honored with a 2019 Award of Merit from the Connecticut League of History Organizations (CLHO) for preservation. Her book, *We Fought at Gettysburg*, features firsthand accounts by the survivors of the 17th Connecticut Infantry and their experiences on the greatest battlefield of the American Civil War.



Carolyn Ivanoff with the beautiful Shenandoah Valley as a backdrop.

Carolyn will have copies of her book available for sale and signing at the February 8 Round Table meeting.



General Orders No. 2-24 February 2024

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February 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, February 5, 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.

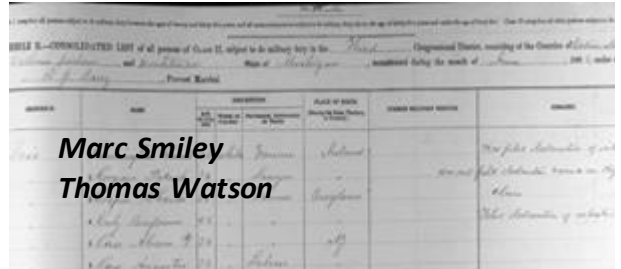
Please! Check the special donation on page 8 of this issue of General Orders. The American Battlefield Trust is making a plea to preserve Gettysburg battlefield land at Willoughby's Run. If you have not already done so (or even if you have), would you consider making a gift donation to help with this effort? There is a significant update to the preservation project in this newsletter!

The Cedarburg History Museum (see p. 3) has regular hours of 10-4 Wed through Sat. Sunday hours are 12-4. During February a new exhibit will be featured, “Wisconsin in the Civil War.”

“Third Man on the Monument” will be presented at the Zablocki Branch Library, 3501 W. Oklahoma Avenue on Wednesday, February 28 from 12:30-1:30 p.m. The speaker, local historian James Heinz, will tell the story of Milwaukee Civil War hero Howard Bass Cushing. Cushing inspired Edgar Rice Burroughs' *John Carter* and filmmaker George Lucas' *Luke Skywalker!*

Discovery Lunches is a series of one-hour presentations designed to help listeners connect with history. A light lunch is provided. Located in the Community Room.

The Muster Roll: NEW MEMBERS



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 Robert J. Miller: “Both Prayed to the Same God: Religion, Faith, and the Civil War”
- 2008 David E. Long: “Lincoln, Davis, and the Dahlgren Raid: Was Political Assassination a Legitimate Tool in the Civil War?”
- 2009 Bruce Allardice: “Lincoln as a War Leader”
- 2011 Steven Rogstad: “There is Something So Repugnant to Humanity: Lincoln’s Art of Persuasion”
- 2012 David Wege: “Pugnacious and Pertinacious Patrick Cleburne”
- 2013 Mary Abroe, Ph.D.: “Grosvenor of Ohio: Saving Chickamauga from Horseshoe Ridge and Back”
- 2014 Harold Knudsen: “General Longstreet”
- 2015 Leslie Goddard: “Why *Gone with the Wind* Still Matters”
- 2017 Bob O’Neill: “Stuart’s Christmas Raid of 1862”
- 2018 Larry Lee Hewitt: “Richard Heron ‘Fighting Dick’ Anderson”
- 2019 Robert Girardi: “Gouverneur K. Warren’s Last Battle: The General and the Historians”
- 2020 Connie Langum: “Battle at Wilson’s Creek”
- 2022 Steven Acker: “The 36th Wisconsin Infantry: All in a Year”
- 2023 Charles Knight: “From Arlington to Appomattox”

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, 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.

Friday, March 8

Noon

The Women Founders and History of the Milwaukee Soldiers Home

Speaker: Terry Arliskas

The Milwaukee VA Soldiers Home was one of the first soldiers’ homes in the country, and the only one where it’s still possible to experience the buildings and designed landscape together in something close to their original form. The 90-acre campus has served veterans continuously since shortly after the Civil War and includes some of the oldest buildings in the VA system.

But this special site would not have been possible without the dedicated efforts of the West Side Soldiers’ Aid Society, a group of Milwaukee women who, during the Civil War, were committed to creating a place for veterans to heal and recuperate. Terry Arliskas will discuss who these women were, what they accomplished, and how their legacy remains strong on the grounds of the Milwaukee VA yet today.

Please see page 11 for a series of Winter Workshops hosted by the Kenosha Civil War Museum.



Oshkosh Courier
Aug 31 1860

Non-Intercourse Act

The last Legislature of Michigan enacted a law which among other things, provides that "every person who shall bring any negro, mulatto, or other person of color into the State, claiming him or her as a slave shall be punished by imprisonment in the State Prison not more than ten years, or by fine not exceeding one thousand dollars."

On Monday says the Detroit Free Press, of the 7th inst, there arrived in this city by the Michigan Central Railroad from Chicago, a party of excursionists from four or five of the Southern states, numbering some three hundred persons, who had been invited by several railroad lines, including the Michigan Central to pass over their roads.

We are not aware how many of these excursionist's brought along with them their negro servants nor how many refrained from bringing them along because of their know age of the existence of this law, in Michigan. such as did bring them along made themselves there by mentioned in the law.

They passed out of the State without any of them having subjected to an arrest.

They did not however pass out of the State without having been subjected to insult or without having been reminded of the existence of a law which pronounces of some of them criminal, and which provides infamous punishment for such acts.

At marshal on the morning of the day on which they were expected to pass over the Central road, a hand bill was circuited thru the town in the following words.

Republicans to the Rescue!

Two hundred Southern slave holders with their slaves; will pass through our city this (Monday) afternoon and will dine at the depot. This is a flagrant violation of the laws of this State approved February 15th 1859, which provides as follows;

Every person who shall bring any negro; malatto, or other person of color, into the State claiming him or her as a slave, shall be punished by imprisonment in the State Prison not more than ten years, or by fine not exceeding one thousand dollars. Session Laws 1859 page 520-7.

Republicans, to Arms! Strike for the memory of John Brown, Lincoln and Freedom

Such a law as this is practical disunion- the logical sequence and autoreactive declination of /Republican doctorands. Of what avails it for unauthorized conventions of the party to assert their purpose not to interfere with the rights of the people in any state to maintain the comprises of the constitution, to respect the laws and preserve reciprocity between the States?

To what does the declaration of Mr. Lincoln, that the slave States have a right to a fugitive slave law, amount? The constitution recognizes slavery as a law in the Stats where it exists; the Republicans of Michigan treat it as a crime, the laws of several Stats protect it as a right; the sovereign State of Michigan attaches to it injurious penalties. How can there be any equality of right or community of interest under such a system? The citizen of a slave State cannot pass through Michigan with his attendants without making himself libel to arrest and the punishment of a felon. When by the laws of Michigan, a citizen of Kentucky is treated as a criminal for the mere "claiming of one the rights guaranteed to him by the Constitution of the United States, and the laws of his own State, is it strange that the citizen of Michigan should be retaliated upon by mob violence in Kentucky when he attempts to exercise the principles taught and enforced by the law in his State.

It is folly to talk about perpetuating such a Union the inevitable tendency of which is to civil war. It would be infinitely better for humanity and civil liberty that the political dissolution of the Union be at once declared when the social dissolution begins. It is hypocritical for a party to profess attachment to the Union and to the equality of the States while enacting measures so fatal to both.-

Republicanism of the present time means disunion, or subjugation, the only other and worse alternative. There are many amiable and well-meaning Republicans who will not see this who would greatly disapprove of the objects set forth in the band-bill which we quote above. It was undoubtedly conservatives of that kind who prevented a mob from arresting insulting their guests. Yet they can jot deny that they themselves are the condemners and the mob the vindicators of the laws of their own State. That the outrage would have been legal and their peaceable interference was lawlessness by their own party laws. Nothing but a return to the rages of the fathers which abolished slavery from seventeen States without infringing the rights of any -to the doctrines of States Rights and Popular Sovereignty-can save our country from anarchy and the Union from dissolution. "Mind your own business," is as good a rule for the government of States as of individuals.

Continued on page 5 - bottom



Our *Wanderings* article this month suggested visiting a local cemetery as a way to do some more Civil War traveling while remaining close to home. The very small Pier Cemetery in Fond du Lac is one example of an eternal historical resting place for local citizenry. The Pier Cemetery contains the natural remains of the first pioneer settlers of Fond du Lac, starting with the passing of Fanna (Kendall) Pier, wife of Colwert E. Pier in 1838. She died at the age of 30 after a short illness. A high plot of ground was chosen for her burial, and that is now the family cemetery.

It is also the burial ground for Pier, the area's first permanent white settler, a leading citizen and influential businessman in Fond du Lac. This small cemetery also contains the remains of Kate (Hamilton) Pier who came to Wisconsin at the age of 8. She graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1888, becoming the second female lawyer in Wisconsin, and the first to serve as a Circuit Court Commissioner. Colonel Colwert K. Pier served in the Civil War.

The Pier family moved to Wisconsin from Vermont in 1834. Colwert and his brother Edward checked out land from southern Illinois to as far north as Green Bay. They also decided to inspect land at the foot of Lake Winnebago. And so, in February 1836, they traveled by horse and sled down the mostly iced-over Fox River. They liked what they saw and returned to Green Bay to file on the land they had chosen. Colwert and Fanna Pier were the only white settlers in Fond du Lac County until March 1837, when the Edward Pier family arrived to settle in the area.

Captain Edwin A. Brown of Company E, Sixth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, was married to Ruth Pier, a daughter of Edward and Harriet Pier. By the time of their 1853 marriage, the Piers were considered one of Fond du Lac's leading families, and Ruth herself one of its most eligible ladies.

Tom Brown, a descendant of Captain Brown, is investigating doing some repair and renewal of the cemetery grounds. The stone wall is crumbling in some places, and invasive shrubs and other plants have taken over the outside grounds right up to the wall itself. The iron gate into the grounds needs repair, and the gilt paint identifying the location needs some touch-up. We hope to report back with some preservation success at the Pier Cemetery in a future issue.

submitted by Dave Wege

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.

From the Field - continued

People's Press

Two blacksmiths in Brooklyn, N.Y., had a duel with sledge hammers the other day and both were fatally injured.

Oshkosh Courier

Oct 26 1860

Colored men of Pittsburg and vicinity; You are requested to meet and form yourselves into Wide Awake Clubs immediately, for the purpose of furthering the interest of the friend of the human race, Abraham Lincoln. Our colored brethren had a tremendous demonstration in Boston recently. Already New York has spoken in favor of universal suffrage. They who would be tree themselves must strike the blow"-And if colored men would have their rights they should move for the success of their friends. Do not leave the Dutch and Irish monopolize all the honor of electing Lincoln and Hamlin. Colored men have a right to act at the polls as in Vigilance Committee, for the prevention of illegal voting. John Brown, the hero of Harper's Ferry is yet to be avenged.



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!

As many good things do, the series of stories we will follow in the next few issues of General Orders started as a simple conversation between enthusiasts. In this case, the conversation involved guns. Van Harl of our Round Table and Tom Hord were discussing Civil War firearms. The original Tom Hord served with a Confederate battery in the Western Theater. His first-person experiences are pure gold. So, fellow Round Table members, let us follow Mr. Hord and the reminiscences he has as shared through an interview conducted in 1967. Hord was a Civil War veteran and, then, a town marshal after the war. Please note that the interviewer's questions are in bold print.

T.A. Hord, Sr. and the Civil War

The idea of this is to make a record of certain incidents that occurred to the Dallas Douglas Battery - the Good-Douglas Battery during the Civil War. Items that have come by word of mouth from actual participants that do not appear in history.

Pea Ridge

The first item that I want to take up is the first battle in which the Battery was engaged. That was at Pea Ridge or Elk Horn Tavern in Arkansas. Apparently the first thing that happened seriously, the Federal force was coming in in that area from the north and this particular group that was from Texas was trying to get over to join up with the folks at Shiloh.

The battle occurred the same day as the Battle of Shiloh, which didn't appear so at the time, but was one of the most decisive battles of the Civil War. One of the first items that comes to my mind is not mentioned in history. The average officer - north or south, officer of any rank - always went into action with his men. At Pea Ridge, Ben McCullough and another officer whose name I'd have to look up, were in command of the Confederate forces and they had a group of Cherokee Indians with them. The Indians didn't do much good because they didn't stand artillery fire. It seemed to have a bad effect on their morale. In any case, those two commanding officers rode right into action on big fiery horses and naturally they were the best target in sight and both of them were killed immediately. And left the Confederates pretty well disorganized. I think the surviving officer was General Van Dorn, and I'm not sure of that - that'd have to be checked out - but in the meantime, this Douglas Battery was brought into action against the Federal artillery and the Federal advance and was very effective in holding them back. The Yankees didn't seem to like the fire of canister and one little incident occurred. My father was telling the story that he had gotten up on a clay stump, a clay stump seems to be the roots of an uprooted tree (I imagine that explains itself), he got up on top of that with or without field glasses and was observing the effect of the shell fire. He wasn't worried because he'd been told the Yankees couldn't shoot straight and a shell hit right in the middle of the clay stump and lifted him off and dumped him on the ground very unceremoniously. He felt very bitter toward the man who'd explained that the Yankees couldn't shoot - some of them did. The fight carried on and the Confederates withdrew and left it to the Douglas Battery to hold the line. The Battery, unsupported by infantry, was a sitting duck to a superior infantry force. And how they managed to survive the shell fire from three Federal batteries and the advance of the infantry, I can't tell you. They did it and held them back and finally withdrew in very good order with all their ammunition exhausted.

A little incident that occurred in the thing that did impress me very much, when my father told me about it, was the story of a little boy that is mentioned in this book of the Douglas Battery. A little boy was hit - I don't know how he came to be adopted by the company - seemed to be sort of a mascot, about 12 years old and a conical shell, in other words a Parrott rifle shell, cut his leg off, probably below the knee. Somebody, probably my father, put a tourniquet on him and when the Battery retired, they had him on a horse and started back to the rear. The little boy was conscious all this time and Mitch Gray was being carried off with a bad looking chest wound. Turned out later that it was superficial.

Was Mitch Gray a regular Dallas boy?

A regular Dallas boy. And the little boy looked over at Mitch Gray with blood all over his chest and said, "The poor fellow - I guess he'll die." Mitch Gray recovered as it was a superficial wound. In fact, he managed to get hurt in almost every fight that came up and survived the whole war so it turned out all right in the long run. The little boy disappeared from the picture there for a while as far as we're concerned. But, in 1902 when they had a Confederate reunion, my father got a letter from the boy. He'd grown up and went in business and had a store in Arkansas. I imagine he lived a long time there and had a happy life and recovered completely. They all thought he died when he was carried off the battlefield with his leg shot off.

Isn't his name in that book?

His name is in the book on the Douglas Battery that's supposed to accompany this part of it. There's one other point to bring out. Captain Good, shortly after this fight, was transferred from the artillery into the judicial forces, or the Adjutant General's office or something in the Confederate set-up and I imagine that he was very much disgusted the way he and the Battery had been sacrificed or left to be sacrificed to save the rest of the Army. In any case, the Battery took care of itself very well and Captain Good served throughout the war and later came back to Dallas and was very active in civic affairs for the rest of his life. Captain Douglas took over and did an excellent job throughout the war. And that covers the Battle of Pea Ridge.

I'm so glad that the little boy turned up all right. His name is mentioned in the book that this is supposed to accompany.

**submitted by Tom Hord
direct descendant of Tom Hord, Sr.**

This *Through the Looking Glass* series was gleaned from the transcript of an interview Tom Hord's father conducted with his father, Tom Hord, Jr. We will follow his story in upcoming issues, from Missionary Ridge to Dug Gap and to Nashville. From there we will take the story to Mobile Bay and to the end of the war. There is so much history to share!

Tom Hord, Sr. married Katherine Elizabeth Caldwell in 1887. Tom Hord, Jr. was born a year later in 1888. The senior Tom Hord served as a Town Marshal in Mexia, Texas until 1889.

Preservation Victory at Port Republic ***107 Acres Saved at The Coaling***

PORT REPUBLIC, Virginia — The Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation has announced the preservation of 107 acres of "The Coaling" on the Port Republic battlefield in Rockingham County. The Coaling, one of the most famed Civil War battlefield sites in the Shenandoah Valley, was the critical position during the Battle of Port Republic, the final battle of Confederate Gen. Stonewall Jackson's legendary Valley Campaign.

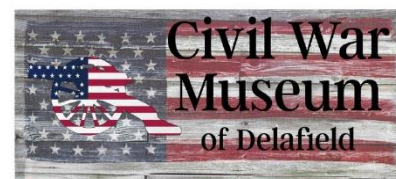
"This is a great victory for battlefield preservation – at one of the most desperately fought-over sites in the Shenandoah Valley," said Keven Walker, CEO of the Battlefields Foundation. During the battle, fought on June 9, 1862, the Coaling witnessed a ferocious struggle between Union troops and the famed "Louisiana Tigers." As renowned Civil War historian Robert K. Krick described the fighting, "Men ceased to be men. They cheered and screamed like lunatics – they fought like demons – they died like fanatics."

This preservation project began in 2017, when the Battlefields Foundation learned that that this historic ground had been divided into building lots and was on the cusp of being developed. Now, after 6 years of hard work, it has been forever preserved. The total cost of the project was \$1,555,000. Funding came from private funds, the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation, the Virginia Battlefield Preservation Fund, and the American Battlefield Protection Program. With the preservation of these 107 acres, the Battlefields Foundation has now preserved a total of 760 acres of the Port Republic battlefield.

During the Battle of Port Republic, the Coaling was a critical Union artillery position that decimated Confederate attackers on the lower ground below. "The shell from the battery on the coaling was ripping the ground open all around us, and the air was full of screaming fragments of exploding shell," recalled Confederate Col. George M. Neese. With his initial attacks stymied by that artillery fire, Stonewall Jackson sent Gen. Richard Taylor's Louisiana troops to seize the heights. After a series of back-and-forth assaults and horrific fighting, the Confederates finally gained control of the Coaling, and the Federals were forced to retreat.

With the ground now preserved, future plans are for the Coaling to be opened to the public with new trails and interpretive signs – part of the Foundation's growing number of such sites in the Valley.

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



February 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 Gettysburg Preservation Update: December 2023

To secure the downpayment on our multi-year campaign "First Blood at Willoughby's Run," your support is vital! Although hundreds of members gave very generously, the Trust is still \$78,000 short of paying off the transaction. The Trust dipped into a rainy-day fund and reallocated money earmarked for other priorities to meet the November 20th deadline, in order to prevent the construction of apartments on hallowed ground in Gettysburg.

Now, the Trust will either have to borrow money at today's sky-high interest rates or end up being forced to let other important preservation opportunities slip by.

Please help raise the remaining \$78,000 needed for the downpayment on Gettysburg.

Will you be one of the 1,000 patriotic, history-loving Americans to make a \$78 gift to the American Battlefield Trust as soon as you can? Your support is fully tax-deductible, and you'll help ensure the Trust has the crucial resources needed to save battlefield land as the new year begins!

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>
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**~ 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 February 8, 2024

Mail your reservations by Monday, February 5 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
February 8, 2024 meeting of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee.
(Please make checks payable to the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.)

Name of Member _____



BETWEEN THE COVERS

The Struggle for the Bliss Farm at Gettysburg

Elwood Christ

This review is on a book that Savis Beatie has issued as a reprint of Mr. Elwood (Woody) Christ's book The Struggle for the Bliss Farm at Gettysburg. Originally published in 1993, the Savas Beatie reprint was limited to 700 copies. They took orders in 2021 in advance of printing. My copy is #176. The book was chosen by Savis Beatie to kick off the new Essential Gettysburg Series. The reprint was out in 2022. It had the full support of the Adams County Historical Society and a forward by James Hessler, Licensed Battlefield Guide and co-author of Gettysburg's Peach Orchard.

Elwood Christ passed away in 2014 at the age of 60. He worked for 32 years as a Gettysburg Licensed Battlefield Guide and was also employed by the Adams County Historical Society. He served on Gettysburg's historic Architectural Review Board, was chief researcher and writher for Gettysburg's historic Building Survey, a member of the project team that developed Gettysburg's Historic District Design Guide, and chief researcher for The David Wills House Historic Structures Report.

The Bliss farm was a 60-acre site owned William Bliss farm and located south of Gettysburg. Its eastern edge was just west of the Emmitsburg Road about halfway between Gettysburg and the Peach Orchard. Today the farm no longer exists. Some of the area is marked by a few monuments to units who fought in the area. William Bliss was born in Massachusetts in 1799. After his marriage in 1823, the family moved to Pennsylvania in 1829, staying there for 5 years before moving to a new farmstead in New York near Sinclairville for 21 years. They finally moved to Gettysburg in the spring of 1857.

The farm of some 60 acres was on relatively flat land with the barn and house standing on a low oblong hillock situated roughly 600 yards equidistant from the closest points on Cemetery and Seminary ridges. A stream, Stevens Run, was in part of the land as well as a key terrain feature "of a flat knoll with a crest 450 yards east-northeast and 30 feet higher than the Bliss buildings." Overall, the land was without much ground cover but, as soldiers described the farm buildings, they were almost a citadel based on location and the sturdy construction of the buildings themselves. "Due to this construction and location of the orchard and farm buildings on a slight hillock it was a vital section of the battlefield providing the only significant cover for over 1200 yards between the battle lines."

On July 2nd Hays' 3rd Division of the Union army deployed Smyth's Brigade deployed in the vicinity of Zeigler's Grove. Company E of the 1st Delaware was ordered to deploy skirmishers and thus became the first Union challengers for the right to occupy the Bliss buildings. As the skirmishers advanced, they were met by fire from Scale's and Lane's pickets. The fight for the Bliss farm had begun. Over the next 30 hours the Bliss farm buildings would change hands 10 times. The final fight for the buildings was decided by Union General Hays when he ordered the last men holding the buildings of the 14th Connecticut were ordered to fall back to their lines and in leaving set the buildings on fire.

I believe the Bliss Farms area had a direct impact on the battle. Once Longstreet's attack began Lee had envisioned an attack by echelon. He thought he could roll up the Union forces in a coordinated attack that would move right up the Union line from the Round Tops to Gettysburg. However, poor Confederate leadership and the Bliss farm itself derailed the attack. Wilcox and Wright of Anderson's Division moved out as planned but the fight in and around the Bliss farm by Posey's brigade (whose job it was to clear the farm) was poorly deployed and completely failed to handle his task. Mahone for some reason failed to advance and refused to do so, allegedly based on orders from Anderson. Anderson in turn did not visit Mahone to clear up the matter, and thus Pender's and Rodes divisions failed to support the attack. So Lee's vaunted attack ended at the Bliss Farm. Eventually the Union forces were ordered to abandon the farm buildings and set fire to them to prevent further use by the Confederates.

Unfortunately for the Bliss family, after the war they put in claims for the loss of their farm stead but were rebuffed by the War Department for any claim since the buildings were not lost as caused by the Confederates. Bliss eventually sold his farm land to Nicholas Codori for \$1000. Based on their initial investment and their loss of personal property they had to absorb a capital loss of about \$2400. They ended up returning to Chautauqua County, never receiving any compensation for their loss.

I felt this was an interesting book on perhaps one of the key small battles within the larger fight at Gettysburg. This book is a good read on small unit tactics and an intense fight over this key piece of the Gettysburg landscape. I think any reader of this fight will come away with the same impression I did in that this was a key to stopping Lee's attempt to overwhelm the Union position at Gettysburg. I highly recommend this book to anyone interested in the Battle of Gettysburg. Not only does it cover the cost to the combatants but it highlights the cost and tragedy of effects on the civilian population.

submitted by Bruce Klem

The Civil War “Campaign Season” is Ahead!



We are kind of in the doldrums of Civil War trips for most folks. That is, of course, unless you are heading into the Deep South to visit places like Mobil, New Orleans, or the southern Atlantic coast. It is a time for planning and for dreaming. We research places we would like to visit. Maybe that is through reading. Perhaps it involves some of the awesome video content available. Some may enjoy different blogs or podcasts. Whatever your plans are, please consider doing a write-up about your trip. Include a few photographs. Relate your opinions and impressions for others to consider. This newsletter feature is a great way to share tidbits and recommendations from your travels!

Please keep in mind that there are many local sites to visit. The winter months are perfect for a short trip. How about visiting that old cemetery that has always caught your eye? Visit the beautiful National Soldiers Home in Milwaukee after hearing Terry Arliskas' presentation in March at the Kenosha Civil War Museum. Are you up-to-date on the museum's newest displays? Have you been to the Civil War Museum of Delafield yet? Are you planning to stop in to hear talks at the new Cedarburg History Museum? The Wisconsin Veterans Museum is always a great choice as well. There is nothing like seeing Keith Rocco's print *Through the Cornfield* come to life in a full-size 3D interpretation.

The winter months do not have to be a hiatus from history. There is much to see and do right in our own backyard. And, don't forget, when you make a visit, tell us all about it.

News from Savas Beatie

Hat tip to author John Hopkins ("The World Will Never See the Like: The Gettysburg Reunion of 1913," coming out next month!) for letting us know that:

"according to the winter issue of 'The Civil War Monitor,' three of the 10 top-selling Civil War titles of 2023 are by Savas Beatie authors! Congrats to Bradley M. Gottfried (The Maps of Spotsylvania Courthouse), Scott L. Mingus Sr. and Eric J. Wittenberg ("If We Are Striking for Pennsylvania"), Patrick and Dylan Brennan (Gettysburg in Color, Vol. 1: Brandy Station to the Peach Orchard) and to Ted Savas and his whole merry band!"

What is not recorded in the book statistics is the large number of copies Savas Beatie sells outside the book trade that are not recorded anywhere else. If the true numbers were revealed, there would be more than three titles listed.

Thank you everyone for making this possible. Onward.

The Civil War Museum is featuring in-person winter workshops on the following topics in January and February:

Coffee and the Civil War--10AM, Saturday, January 13

The Civil War Museum's Media Club will read and discuss: *Shipwrecked: A True Civil War Story of Mutinies, Jailbreaks, Blockade Running, and the Slave Trade* by Jonathan White on Tuesday, January 30 at 6:30 PM.

American Artillery--6:30PM, Tuesday, February 6

Additionally, the museum will be hosting a live virtual workshop with author and historian Scott Hartwig at 6:30pm, Wednesday, January 17 on his new book *I Dread the Thought of the Place: The Battle of Antietam and the End of the Maryland Campaign*.

To see expanded information on each workshop, pricing, and registration instructions, please use the link below.

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

**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.

ITEM	COST
Hooded Sweatshirt in Northern Blue.....	\$35.00
Baseball Hat.....	\$10.00
Blue Brief Case.....	\$25.00
Blue Light-Weight Sweatshirt.....	\$30.00
Blue Izod Polo Shirt.....	\$40.00
Blue Dress Shirt.....	\$40.00
Blue Fleece-Lined Jacket.....	\$60.00
Iron Brigade Pin.....	\$5.00
CWRT Pin.....	\$5.00
Bugle Pin.....	\$5.00
Iron Brigade Medal.....	\$25.00
Red River Medal.....	\$25.00
CWRT 60 Year Medal.....	\$10.00

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

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

