

GENERAL ORDERS

The Newsletter of the

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



March 7, 2024

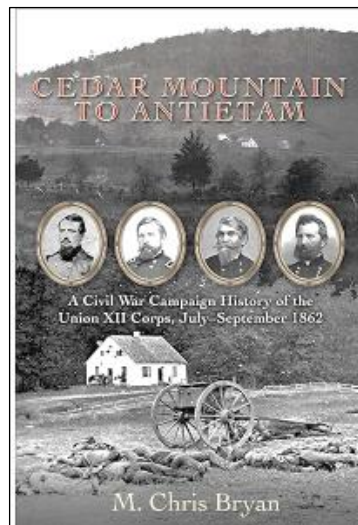
Chris Bryan

Cedar Mountain to Antietam – the XII Corps

The Union XII Corps formed in June 1862 as the II Corps, Army of Virginia. The corps, which joined the Army of the Potomac only a week before Antietam was small, numbering just over 7,600 men. Easily overlooked, Army of the Potomac leadership and historians since have largely glossed over this corps' contribution at Antietam. Nevertheless, this small corps ended Confederate attacks into the Miller Cornfield and East Woods, successfully defended the Dunker Church Plateau from Confederate assaults, and captured the West Woods, which had been the goal on the Federal right all morning. This talk will discuss the experience of the corps following the battle of Cedar Mountain and some of the ways in which its condition upon entering the battle of Antietam affected its performance in that battle. The talk will conclude with reviewing some archival research discoveries that led to new findings in this book.

Chris is the author of *Cedar Mountain to Antietam: A Civil War Campaign History of the Union XII Corps, July - September 1862*. He will have copies of the book for sale at the March meeting for \$34.95. Chris is presently editing two, multi-volume primary source reference sets, which Savas Beatie will publish in the near future. *The Chancellorsville Papers* and *Union Generals' Reports*.

Chris Bryan earned a B.S. in History from the United States Naval Academy, an M.A. in Liberal Arts from St. John's College, Annapolis, and a Masters in Historic Preservation from the University of Maryland, College Park. The former naval aviator works as a project manager and lives in southern Maryland with his wife and two children.



General Orders No. 3-24 March 2024

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March 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, March 4, 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.

The Great Lakes Civil War Forum: “Mr. Lincoln’s Navy”

Saturday, September 14 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
\$60 (\$85 non-members)

“Torpedoes: An Ironclad’s Greatest Fear”
presented by John Quarstein

“Mr. Lincoln’s Brown-Water Navy”
presented by Dr. Gary Joiner

“Hero of the Red River: The Life and Times
of Joseph Bailey”
presented by Michael Goc

“The Navy and Left-Armed Corps: Outstanding
Service in War and Peace”
presented by Stephen A. Goldman

Please see the Civil War Museum’s website for full descriptions of these presentations and more details on the Great Lakes Civil War Forum.

The Muster Roll: NEW MEMBERS

NAME	ADDRESS	PLACE OF BIRTH	DATE OF BIRTH	MEMBER SINCE	REMARKS
Tim Carpenter					
Tom Schneider					
Daniel Van Grunsven					

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 Nettlesheim, 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, Fred Madsen, Rod Malinowski, Jim & Monica Millane, Paul & Susan Miller, Tom Pokrandt, 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 March meetings of the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table featured these speakers and topics.

- 2005 Bruce Allardice: "The Vote to Win the War: The Election of 1864"
- 2008 Brian S. Wills: "The Civil War in Cinema"
- 2009 Dr. John A. Latschar: "Reinterpreting Gettysburg: Lessons from the Civil War"
- 2011 Sue Boardman: "The Gettysburg Cyclorama"
- 2012 A. Wilson Greene: "The Bermuda Hundred Campaign"
- 2013 Lance Herdegen.: "The Iron Brigade in Civil War and Memory"
- 2014 Charles Teague: "How Lincoln Came to be 'under God' at Gettysburg"
- 2015 Thomas Huntington: "Searching for George Gordon Meade"
- 2017 Paul Kahan, Ph.D.: "Simon Cameron: Lincoln's First Secretary of War"
- 2018 Robert D. Jenkins, Sr.: "The Battle of Peach Tree Creek"
- 2020 David Sutherland: "VMI's Civil War Legacy"
- 2021 Lawrence Desotell: "Confederate Soldiers at Camp Randall"
- 2022 Mark Laubacher: "USS Red Rover: Hospital of Firsts"
- 2023 Dwight Hughes: "Unlike Anything That Ever Floated: The USS Monitor at Hampton Roads"

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, 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.

Friday, April 12

Noon

D. L. Moody and the Civil War

Speaker: Steve Worsham

Dwight L. Moody moved from Boston to Chicago as a teenager shortly before the start of the Civil War. Moody achieved financial success in the shoe business, but serving in a Christian mission became his greater focus as he matured. To that end, Moody worked to meet the social and spiritual needs of orphaned children living on the streets of Chicago.

When the Civil War started, Moody became heavily involved in the fledgling YMCA in Chicago. He eventually quit his job in order to minister to the children of Chicago and to support Union troops through the YMCA and the United States Christian Commission. According to family records, Moody traveled to nine battlefield sites to help in whatever way he could be of service.

In his talk, Mr. Worsham will discuss the work of D. L. Moody with the YMCA and USCC war efforts, particularly in Chicago and the Western Theater battlefields of the Civil War.

See pages 8 and 11 for other public programs hosted by the Kenosha Civil War Museum.



Volunteers for Three Years

Gov. Randall received a dispatch from the Secretary of War this morning stating that it was desirable that volunteers should enlist for three years of during the war.

Capt. Hawley, of the Dane County Volunteers, on hearing this called together his company in order to ascertain how they felt in regard to entering service for that length of time. Out of fifty-seven present forty-six signified their readiness without hesitation to enlist for three years.

The ladies of this city are still diligently at work at the Assembly Hall, in making flannel shirts for the soldiers. They keep at work till ten o'clock every evening, and have volunteered to furnish two thousand shirts. The Hall was probably never used to so good a purpose before.

PROCLAMATION

To the Loyal Citizens of Wisconsin

For the first time in the history of this Federal Government, organized treason has manifested itself within several States of the Union, and armed regels are making war against it. The Proclamation of the President of the United States tells of unlawful combinations too powerful to be suppressed in the ordinary manner, and calls for military forces to suppress such combinations, and to sustain him in executing the laws. The treasures of the country must no longer be plundered; the public property must be protected from aggressive violence; that already seized must be retaken, and the laws must be executed in every State of the Union alike.

A demand made upon Wisconsin by the President of the United States, for aid to sustain the federal Arm, must meet with a prompt response. One Regiment of the Militia of this State will be required for immediate service, and further service will be required as the exigencies of the Government may demand.

It is a time when, against the civil and religious liberties of the people, and against the integrity of the Government of the United States, parties and politicians and platforms must be as dust in the balance. All good citizens, everywhere, must join in making common cause against a common enemy.

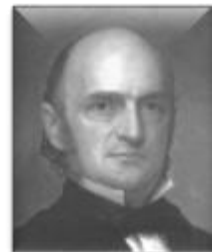
It is a time when, against the civil and religious liberties of the people, and against the integrity of the Government of the United States, parties and politicians and platforms must be as dust in the balance. All good citizens, everywhere, must join in making common cause against a common enemy.

Opportunities will be immediately offered to all existing military companies, under direction of the proper authorities of the State, for enlistment or fill the demand of the federal Government, and I hereby invite the patriotic citizens of the State to enroll themselves into companies of seventy-eight men each, and to advise the Executive of their readiness to be mustered into service immediately. Detailed instructions will be furnished on the acceptance of companies, and the Commissioned officers of each regiment will nominate their own field officers.

In times of public danger had men grow bold and reckless. The property of the citizen becomes unsafe, and both public and private rights liable to be jeopardized. I enjoin upon all administrative and peace officers within the State renewed vigilance in the maintenance and execution of the laws, and in guarding against excesses leading to disorder among the people.

Given under my hand and the
Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin
this 16th day of April, A.D. 1861

By the Governor,
Alex. W. Randall.
L. P. Harvey, Sec'y of State ap16



Omnibus Line

To and from Camp Randall.

Mr. Brien will hereafter run an Omnibus between the city and Camp Randall, commencing at 6 o'clock A.M. and continuing until 8 o'clock, P.M. The starting point in this city will be from Klauber's corner, and an Omnibus will leave every hour. Fare-Ten cents each way.

Madison, May 3, 1861. Camp Randall

To-day is an improvement on yesterday as to weather, but far from comfortable for soldiering. The mud on the Camp Grounds has dried up some and board walks have been laid near the barracks and Dining Hall. A sentry box is put up at the gate where two men are constantly on guard. A new building for medical stores has been put up near the Hospital. We learn from Surgeon Lewis that there are now from fifteen to twenty men more or less ill, chiefly with colds. One has the measles, and with the man who had the misfortune to break his leg, is quartered in a house nearby. Both are doing well. Two members of the Fox Lake Guards were attacked with bleeding at the lungs, brought on, as we understand, by marching in double quick time when they had colds. The excessive practice of this style of drill will hereafter be discouraged.

Wanderings



This “special guest” Wanderings article is written by Carolyn Ivanoff, our February 8 speaker. We asked her to reflect on the three-state Round Table tour she and Nick took as she shared her presentation on the boys of the 17th Connecticut Infantry.

From Gettysburg to Milwaukee, Chicago, and St. Joseph, Michigan February 2024 - The Wonderful Not So Frozen Tour

February 2024 was a mid-west Civil War Round Table extravaganza. The weather gods blessed our travels with sun and unseasonably mild temperatures. The Milwaukee, Chicago, and South West Michigan Civil War Round Tables welcomed us with open arms and embraced the stories of men of the 17th Connecticut from my book, *We Fought at Gettysburg*, and the meaning that the service and sacrifices of those citizen soldiers hold for us today in the 21st Century.

This wonderful mid-winter journey began with the summer 2023 Civil War Round Table Congress in Gettysburg. The mission of the Congress is to support and sustain the Civil War round table model nationwide. Programming, networking opportunities, and meaningful conversations celebrate round table history programs as well as battlefield preservation. Milwaukee and Chicago partnered together when a February meeting slot opened on their calendars and invited me to present a program and do a book signing. South West Michigan joined them in hosting me the following Tuesday. This was a triple crown experience.

We packed up the car in Gettysburg with books for signing and drove. Dave and Kay Wege, friends and members of Milwaukee CWRT generously hosted us at their home. The Wisconsin Club is a fabulous venue, home not only to the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table but the Iron Brigade Association. What a welcome we received from a wonderful, high-energy audience. Leaving Milwaukee, the car was packed with more books to take back to Gettysburg and the Seminary Ridge Museum for their new research center. The books were donated from the well-loved library of a long-time member of MCWRT who recently passed. Whenever I drive the Eleventh Cops line on Howard Avenue at Gettysburg, I nod my head as I pass the beautiful obelisk of Donna Agnelly’s beloved 26th Wisconsin boys.

We traveled on to Chicago and South West Michigan Round Tables under sunny skies and mild temperatures seldom experienced in February. We had wonderful receptions at both CWRT’s. It was a truly a remarkable experience. Thank you to everyone at the Milwaukee, Chicago, and SW Michigan Round Tables for your kindness, hospitality, your support of my presentation and my book, *We Fought at Gettysburg*. Most of all thank you for keeping alive the Civil War Round Table spirit in promoting and expanding interest in the study of the history of the American Civil War and the preservation of its hallowed ground and places. The past speaks to us with many voices, thank you for listening.

Carolyn & Nick Ivanoff

You may talk about the pathos
In the hardships of the war,
You may talk about the glory
Of the cause that you fought for;
But there's nothing so pathetic
As the lesson we receive
From the quiet, idle flapping
Of the useless empty sleeve.

You may talk about the marches,
The scant rations and hard tack;
Of the last drop in the canteen,
And the empty haversack,
There's nothing so convincing
In the impressions that you leave
As the mute and speechless record
Of the useless empty sleeve.



The Empty Sleeve by Florence Van Leer Earle Coates

You may speak of dreadful prisons,
But their horrors could not last;
Of the roar and din of battle,
And, thank God, that too has passed.
But we see the grim reminder,
Every morn and noon and eve,
In the living, speaking presence
Of the useless empty sleeve.

Soldiers deck the graves of comrades
With the laurel that they won,
Poets sing of gallant heroes,
And of deeds of great renown;
But there's naught in poets' anthems
Or the chaplets that they weave
That can beat the touching story
Of the useless empty sleeve.



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.

T.A. Hord, Sr. and the Civil War: Part Two

Battle of Lookout Mountain

There are other incidents that occurred from time to time. One of them in particular was some years later at the Battle of Lookout Mountain. The first item that was brought to my attention was the fact that Lookout Mountain was apparently an unscalable peak and capable of easy defense. Actually, I think the Federal troops got out of hand and without orders to do it took the mountain due to the fact that as they were going up Confederate fire could not be trained on the attacking force and when they got over the top they were just a few feet away from Confederate entrenchments and they just swarmed over them.

It was brushy and rocky and the Confederates couldn't see the Federals as they came up. Instead of it being an easily defended position, it was almost indefensible position.

Missionary Ridge

Now the Douglas Battery was put on Missionary Ridge, a flanking ridge, and the same thing occurred to them except the slope was no so precipitous. The Federals were swarming up there and looked like they were about to take them and one of the men - they called him "the Dutchman" - I don't know his real name - this is just the way the story was related to me - said he'd just as well get killed firing that gun as waiting for those folks to come up here and stepped to the back of the gun and held the trail up arm's length so the gun could just rake the hill side in front of him. He was thrown over into the brush, a bloody heap of rags, and they thought he was dead. And five other men for the other five guns each took their turn firing down that ridge and reloading and firing again, losing a man to every shot. They were supposed to be sacrificing themselves, just a suicidal action to save the Battery.

Dug Gap

They were holding that part of the line - they held it. And the Federals never did take it. I know one of my father's cronies later on - years and years later - was a Federal private soldier that was on the other side and they'd get together and discuss that whole action and have a great time together just like they'd been working together on the fight. Old man Mac they'd call him - McClellan I think his name was. And they were very good friends indeed. In any case, the Battery got word that the line was broken and to withdraw. Well, they got out of there as fast as they could. The Confederate Army was completely routed. There were two mountain passes to get through to get away. One of them was Ringgold Gap, and that action is covered in history and the Federals were held there. The other one - there's no mention of it in any history that I've ever seen - was known as Dug Gap and as the Army went through that gap, five hundred dismounted cavalymen were detached to hold it.

Now cavalymen are all right as cavalry, but they're not good as dismounted fighters. And the Federals sent up a reconnoitering force of other cavalry and developed the strength of what was there and they withdrew, logically and sensibly. And a Federal force of infantry was sent up to take the gap. Whether it was a brigade, which at that time would have been 3,000 men, or whether it was a division, which would have been 15,000, I do not know. I'm inclined to think it was a division. Meantime, the Battery was stopped and sent back to hold the gap. They put their guns in position, hid them with brush and loaded them with canister, matter of fact it wasn't canister, but it was a make-shift of canvas bags filled with spent bullets picked up on the battlefield. They put about a half a gallon of them down the gun barrel every time they fired it. Pretty effective sort of a thing to use. They waited until the Federals got up so close they could read the letters on their buttons. And they were coming with those 18-inch bayonets just as far as you could see down the road. Just a solid mass of them. When the first gun was fired, my father said he could see the gap in the line as that fan shaped pattern of bullets hit - well, they just came out in a fan shaped pattern and swept through the Federal lines and the other five guns fired just as fast as they could, one right after the other.

Then they omitted the usual ritual which allowed about one shot per minute and with one stroke of the ramrod, down went the charge of powder and with the second stroke of another ramrod down went the musket balls in these canvas bags and in the meantime, the man at the breech had fixed his friction primer in place and jerked the lanyard - immediately without sparing the gun and taking any precautions whatever they reloaded the same way. After those first six shots, according to my father's story and according to the one eye witness, the only other one, whose name I do not know, there was a little article appeared in the local publication years later - in Dallas - they said after those first six shots were spaced there was just a steady roll of thunder there for an indefinite length of time, without the slightest break in the cadence. Just a steady roar. And then the smoke lifted and there was no Federal force there at all. That gap was held. The other writer, in this obscure story, just made the statement that says as the smoke lifted there was the most heavenly blue along that road as far as the eye could see, on the ground.

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.

The Mid-Ohio Valley CWRT is sponsoring the placement of a new 2-sided historical marker to honor Rufus and Mary Dawes in Marietta, Ohio. The date selected for the program is Saturday, August 3rd.

The Dawes family has also scheduled a reunion in Marietta that same weekend and will be part of the program. Their organization is the Descendants of William Dawes Who Rode Association (DWDWRA.org) whose president is Barb Moberg, Marietta, OH, a great-great-granddaughter. Barb and husband Jack attended the September 2018 Milwaukee CWRT meeting, as some may recall.

The purpose of this message is two-fold:

1. To invite you to attend the installation program in Marietta on August 3rd. There is no more worthy member of the 6th Wisconsin and Iron Brigade than Rufus Dawes. It would be wonderful if representatives from the Milwaukee CWRT - Iron Brigade Association, and the Iron Brigade-focused Kenosha Civil War Museum could attend and participate.
2. 6th Wisconsin or Iron Brigade reenactors attending in period uniforms would be a terrific part of the ceremony. If you know of such possible organizations and/or individuals, please provide us with contact information. That would be very much appreciated.

Rufus and Mary Dawes worked together on his acclaimed memoir, *Service with the Sixth Wisconsin Volunteers*, from their home at 508 Fourth Street where the marker will be placed.

Carthage College, The Lincoln Forum, The Civil War Museum, and The Lincoln Presidential Foundation are proud to present the third annual

Lincoln Symposium

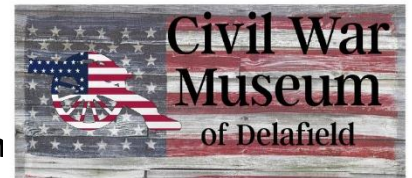
Thursday, April 25 through Friday, April 26

This event is free for the public to attend!

Questions? Please reach out to Dana Kroll, Executive Assistant to the President,
at Dkroll@carthage.edu or 262-551-5706.

<https://www.carthage.edu/news-events/special-events/lincoln-symposium/>

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



March 26 Presentation at 6:30 p.m. – “The Red River 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

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

**Kenosha Civil War Museum In-Person Workshops.
Please see the museum’s website for more details.**

Civil War Museum Media Club Read *The Lincoln Miracle*

by Edward Achorn

Monday, April 15 | 6:30pm | Presenter: Doug Dammann

\$8 (\$10 non-member)

Behind the Scenes Tour of *Faith in the Fight*

Monday, May 6 | 6:30pm – 8:30pm | Presenters: Doug Dammann and Robert Miller

\$16 (\$20 non-members)

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October 6-9, 2024: The Kenosha Civil War Museum’s campaign tour will visit sites associated with the 1863 Vicksburg Campaign.

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 March 7, 2024

Mail your reservations by Monday, March 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
March 7, 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

General William J. Hardee: Old Reliable

Nathaniel Cheairs Hughes

My review is on a book I picked up at our 75th Anniversary Dinner with the ticket I received for a free book from the used book section at the Kenosha Civil War Museum. The book is General William J. Hardee Old Reliable by Nathaniel Cheairs Hughes Jr. The book was published in 1965, 315 pages. I discovered that this is perhaps the only book on this Confederate General. So, despite being published quite a while ago, it is a major source of information on Hardee.

This biography was good, but not great. It could have been a bit longer and shed more light on Hardee after the Civil War for one thing. But, overall, I think the biography did a "reliable" job. Hardee's impressive Civil War career was handled very well. Hughes focuses almost entirely on this and you can't help but wonder what might have happened if Hardee had been placed in command of the Army of Tennessee instead of Hood.....or if Hardee had accepted permanent command after Bragg resigned. When I think of Hardee I think of Longstreet, both seemed to be the good reliable corps commanders that could be counted on in their respected armies, but neither were able to reach the level of a Jackson, Thomas, or Hancock as corps commanders.

Hardee joined the Confederate army after a 25-year career in the United States Army. He was born in the Georgia-Florida frontier in 1815. Hardee entered West Point in 1834 Hardee wasn't an outstanding student at West point and finished around the middle of his class. He was assigned to the 2nd Dragoons in Florida and saw action in the Seminole Wars. During that period, he was promoted and given the opportunity to command and lead troops into combat. He also became ill and spent some time in hospital in St. Augustine in 1840 and during his recovery he met Elizabeth Dummett and they were to wed in October of that year. At the time it was a quick marriage as Hardee had received orders to go to France for a year to study at the French Royal Cavalry School so affairs of the heart had to be dealt with prior to his departure.

The author follows Hardee's career through the Mexican War, detailing some issues that developed with other officers over the reports that were filed by his commander of an ill-fated command that got captured, and about Hardee's conduct during the event. He saved men under him but they were ultimately forced to surrender. He and his commander Captain Thornton were at odds. This eventually ended in a clearance of a court martial board to exonerate Hardee. In time, Hardee would persevere and continue his career fighting Indians, working to publishing Hardee's Infantry Tactics work and becoming West Point's Commandant of Cadets. He was promoted to Lt. Colonel of the 1st Cavalry at the end of his tour at West Point, the war however induced him to resign and join his native state of Georgia.

Hardee would move from service in the Georgia Army to the Confederate provisional Army taking command of the 1st Regiment of Infantry. The author points out his rise in the Confederate Army from regimental commander to sometimes Army commander, with many stops along the way to that command. The record that the author presents shows that Hardee was a competent combat leader at every step of the way during his service with the Confederacy. It appears his prominence came to grief while serving under General Hood in the Atlanta campaign. Hood placed blame for some of the failures to stop and defeat Sherman on Hardee's command in that campaign. In some cases, it appears that Hardee did not prepare sufficiently for attacks his Corps made. Success was not in the cards for Hood's Army in any case, and attacking against larger numbers is never a good idea. Coordination was poor in some cases, but not necessarily Hardee's failing. Poor intelligence and bad terrain proved to have not been properly taken into consideration by Hood himself. As a result, after the fall of Atlanta Hardee was given responsibility for organizing the defense of Savannah and, later, trying to delay Sherman's Army through the Carolinas.

After the war Hardee reentered the civilian world in a few railroad positions and some other civilian work eventually dying of stomach cancer on November, 6, 1873, 58 years old. I found this to be an interesting book on a General whose name appears in many of the battles of the Western Theater but not much that had been written about. It appeared to me that this man was a key officer in the War on the Confederate side, and that he had some success in leading troops in their cause. It also seems to me that given the opportunity to command the Army of Tennessee he declined repeatedly. I'm not sure why he declined, but I suspect he found his niche in being an excellent Corps commander. Perhaps realized he could not be a good Army commander.

I recommend this book to any student of the Civil War and since no other work is on this General would be a good addition to your Civil War library.

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 Mobile, 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.

The First Michigan Engineers

Saturday, March 23 | 10:00am – 4:00pm

The 1st Michigan Engineers will be discussing the regiment’s role as combat engineers, while displaying the many tools and equipment that would have been used in surveying and construction duties such as cheveaux de fris and transit/level. The living history group will also display items used in combat roles.

The present-day 1st Michigan Engineers and Mechanics, Company E, has been in the Chicago area since 1987. Over the years, the regiment has participated in combat and engineering roles at reenactments throughout the Midwest and national events at 1st Bull Run, Shiloh, Perryville (KY), and Bentonville (NC). Some of the items constructed at events include hand drawn field maps, bridges, a 33-foot signal tower, and plank roads.

The Lady Elgin Disaster and Its Role in Wisconsin’s Civil War Politics

Saturday, April 13 | 1:00pm – 3:00pm | Speaker: Brendon Bailod

The Lady Elgin is infamous as one of the worst disasters in the history of the Great Lakes. The sidewheel steamship was lost in a collision off Winnetka, Illinois, taking over 300 lives and decimating Milwaukee’s Irish community. Join maritime historian Brendon Bailod as he explores the history of the vessel and the disaster as well as the personal stories of heroism and tragedy. Brendon will also explore the role the disaster played in Wisconsin’s Civil War politics before discussing the discovery of the wreck site in 1989 and the archeology of the remains.

Brendon Bailod is an award winning maritime historian based in Madison, Wisconsin. He is the current president of the Wisconsin Underwater Archeology Association and the author of *Fathoms Deep But Not Forgotten: Wisconsin’s Lost Ships*, a compendium of over 400 Wisconsin shipwrecks. Brendon is an avid collector of antiquarian Great Lakes books, maps, ephemera and photos with one of the largest private collections in existence. He continues to look for lost ships on the Great Lakes and conducts regular fieldwork using side scan sonar. He has appeared on the History Channel, Discovery Channel, National Geographic Channel and Travel Channel discussing Great Lakes maritime history and shipwrecks.



**Why do
we need
to study
HISTORY**

We learn how we got where we are, and why we live the way we do.

Studying history allows us to observe and understand how people and societies behaved.

History provides today’s leaders with role models as they navigate through the complexities of modern life.

History shapes identity and builds empathy.

**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.

