

# GENERAL ORDERS

The Newsletter of the

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



June 13, 2024

Timothy B. Smith

## The Real Horse Soldiers: Grierson's Raid

Benjamin Grierson's Union cavalry thrust through Mississippi is one of the most well-known operations of the Civil War. There were other simultaneous operations to distract Confederate attention from the real threat to Vicksburg posed by U. S. Grant's Army of the Tennessee, but Grierson's operation, mainly conducted with two Illinois cavalry regiments, has become the most famous. For 16 days, Grierson led Confederate pursuers on a high-stakes chase through the entire state of Mississippi, entering the northern border with Tennessee and exiting its southern border with Louisiana. The daily rides were long, the rest stops short, and the tension high. Ironically, the man who led the raid was a former music teacher who some say disliked horses. Throughout, he displayed outstanding leadership and cunning, destroyed railroad tracks, burned trestles and bridges, freed slaves, and created as much damage and chaos as possible. Grierson's Raid broke a vital Confederate rail line at Newton Station that supplied Vicksburg and, perhaps most importantly, consumed the attention of the Confederate high command. While Confederate Lt. Gen. John Pemberton at Vicksburg and other Southern leaders looked in the wrong directions, Grant moved his entire Army of the Tennessee across the Mississippi River below Vicksburg, spelling the doom of that city, the Confederate chances of holding the river, and perhaps the Confederacy itself. Novelists have attempted to capture the large-than-life cavalry raid in the popular imagination, and Hollywood reproduced the daring cavalry action in *The Horse Soldiers*, a 1959 major motion picture starring John Wayne and William Holden. Although the film replicates the raid's drama and high-stakes gamble, cinematic license chipped away at its accuracy. Based upon years of research and presented in gripping, fast-paced prose, Timothy B. Smith's *The Real Horse Soldiers: Benjamin Grierson's Epic 1863 Civil War Raid through Mississippi* captures the high drama and tension of the 1863 horse soldiers in a modern, comprehensive, academic study. This talk, based on the book, will bring you along for the ride.

Timothy B. Smith (Ph.D. Mississippi State University, 2001) is a veteran of the National Park Service and currently teaches history at the University of Tennessee at Martin. In addition to numerous articles and essays, he is the author, editor, or co-editor of more than twenty books with several university and commercial presses. His books have won numerous book awards, his trilogy on the American Civil War's Tennessee River campaign (Forts Henry and Donelson, Shiloh, and Corinth) winning a total of nine book awards. He is currently finishing a five-volume study of the Vicksburg Campaign for the University Press of Kansas and a new study of Albert Sidney Johnston for LSU Press. He lives with his wife Kelly and daughters Mary Kate and Leah Grace in Adamsville, Tennessee.

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June 2024

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#### June 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, June 10, 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.

#### 2024-2025 Speaker Schedule p. 9



Timothy B. Smith

# 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

NUMBER	NAME	REGISTRATION	PLACE OF BIRTH	FORMER MILITARY SERVICE	REMARKS
	Charlie Bauer		Indiana		No files destruction of...
	...		...		...

## 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 March 9, 2024.

### 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, Charlie Bauer, Don & Amy Bauer, Dale Bspalec, 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, 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 Kuhnmuench, 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 June meetings of the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table featured these speakers and topics.

- 2010 Robert Girardi: "Railroad Defense in the Atlanta Campaign"
- 2011 Peter Carmichael: "Robert E. Lee and the Strategy of Annihilations"
- 2012 Dennis E. Frye: "September Suspense: Lincoln's Union in Peril"
- 2013 Timothy B. Smith: "Corinth 1863: Siege, Battle, Occupation"
- 2014 Kenneth Noe: "The War in Appalachia"
- 2015 Garry Adelman: "4D Civil War Photo Extravaganza"
- 2017 David Wege: "When Johnny Came Marching Home"
- 2018 Dennis Rasbach: Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain at Petersburg"
- 2019 Greg Biggs: "The Question was One of Supplies: Logistics in Sherman's Atlanta Campaign"
- 2020 Bruce Klem "1st Wisconsin Cavalry"
- 2021 A. Wilson Greene: "We Have Done All That is Possible and Must Be Resigned: First Petersburg"
- 2023 Mark Zimmermann: "The Brutal Retreat from Nashville - 1864"



The *tentative* 2024-2025 Speaker Schedule is found on page 9. It obviously needs some additional information, but it isn't too early to get excited about another year of truly exceptional programming at your Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee!

**Cedarburg History Museum**  
N58W6194 Columbia Road  
Cedarburg, WI 53012

The Cedarburg History Museum 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. Find for more information at

[www.cedarburghm.org](http://www.cedarburghm.org)

## 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.

### Post Civil War Veteran Mental Health

Friday, June 14 | 12:00pm - 1:00pm

Presenter: Dr. Gregory Burek

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

Dr. Gregory Burek is the Medical Director of BRAVE, a program focused on testing Traumatic Brain Injury PTSD and other invisible wounds of service. Dr. Burek served in the United States Marine Corps from 1999-2003 and was deployed to Iraq in 2003 for Operation Enduring Freedom.

After his service he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology, and a Master's Degree in Biological Science. He then went on to earn a Medical Doctorate from Drexel University College of Medicine in 2014. He completed his residency in psychiatry in 2018.

### Coffee and the Civil War

Monday, June 10 | 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Presenters: Doug Dammann and Steve Acker  
\$20 (\$25 non-members)

No single item of food or drink meant as much to Civil War soldiers as coffee. They talked about it, wrote about it, and dreamed about it. Based on first-hand Civil War accounts, this workshop explores the different methods soldiers used to obtain and brew their coffee, while also discussing what was used as substitutes when coffee beans became scarce. Attendees will participate in guided tours of different areas of the Fiery Trial, demonstrations of how to brew Civil War coffee alternatives, and enjoy a coffee-tasting to finish off the workshop.

Please see page 8 for other programs & events hosted by the Kenosha Civil War Museum.





The State Journal  
Saturday, Jan. 10, 1863

**A Great Discovery  
From the Albany Evening Journal**

One of the greatest discoveries of modern times has just been made in Germany.

Two savants-Professors Kirchhoff and Bunsen, of Heidelberg University- have published the results of investigations into the Chemical constituents of the solar atmosphere. These results, incredible as it may seem, involve nothing less than an analysis of the luminous atmosphere that surrounds the Sun-the detection of metallic and the other substances in it, and the measurement of the proportions and quantities of each!

In other words, the discovery and the application of a process by which the student in his laboratory may stretch out his hand a distance of 95,000,000 miles, and, as it were, count, and weigh, and separate, the different elements that compose the Sun, and even the fixed stars, "with as much ease and certainty as he would do if he could handle it, and prove its reaction in the Test Tube."

How was this marvelous result attained! It is by the simple means of the solar spectrum!

Dr. Wollaston long since noticed that when he allowed a beam of light to fall through a narrow slit upon the prism, a number of dark lines cutting up the colored spectrum made their appearance.

These lines indicate the absence of certain kinds of rays in the sunlight. These lines offered the key by which the chemical composition of the solar atmosphere is determined. How? The property of substance to give off certain kinds of light is well-known. Thus each elementary substance, whether it be a gas, a solid or liquid, may be made to emit a kind of light peculiar to itself. This, then, forms the basis of spectrum analysis-a science by which the chemical composition of bodies is determined by the kind of light they emit.

**Thank you, Jim Johnson, for  
these *From the Field* features!  
We appreciate another year of  
fun-filled facts.**

**En Route for Florida  
Letter from Beaufort**

I arrived here in the steamship Star of the South, on Thursday, after a passage of four and a half days, laying by off Beaufort, 12 hours awaiting the landing of a company of soldiers for Newbern.-When we left New York, the thermometer was below zero, and the vessel being crowded, was exceedingly uncomfortable for the first day, but as we came south, the atmosphere gradually changed, until at Hatteras it was almost like summer, and the sea was as smooth as a river from thence to this place.

The only means of transportation is furnished by the army and navy, and no person is allowed to pass except on authority from Washington, when transportation is free and travelers only required to pay for subsistence from \$1 to \$2 per day.

**(Note: An 1863 dollar would now be the equivalent of \$24.50).**

We were detained six weeks in New York awaiting transportation, such was the crowded state of the Government transports and the embarrassments attending the transportation of persons connected merely with the civil departments of Government, with their baggage and supplies. From here there is no regular conveyance to the ports of Florida north of Key West, and as our party is destined for Fernandina, about 100 miles distant from Hilton Head, we are to be furnished with special transportation, and a small boat is to be placed at our service on Friday. In the meantime, I look about here.

I find things in this department in rather an unpleasant and discouraging position with no hope of relief until Gen. Hunter shall arrive with additional troops and inaugurates a more liberal and active policy on behalf of the army.

**The State Journal – Victory in Kentucky  
Tuesday Evening, Jan 21, 1862**

The Union victory in Kentucky, and the death of Zollicoffer, the Rebel General briefly reported yesterday, is confirmed by our dispatches to-day. It is pronounced the most brilliant Union success of the war, and will break the back of rebellion in Kentucky. Now that our armies are beginning to move, we hope to continue getting good news.

Recruits wanted for the Sixth Wisconsin Regiment  
Young able-bodied men- between the ages of 18 and 45-are wanted to fill up the ranks of the Sixth Wisconsin Regiment, that is now encamped at Arlington Heights, Virginia. this regiment has the reputation of being one of the best in the service, and is commanded by Col. Lysander Cutler. Anyone wishing to enlist can choose any company in the Regiment. For further particulars enquire of the undersigned at Baraboo, by letter or in person.

A. G. Malloy, Recruiting Officer





## A View from a Newcomer to Civil War History

On a Saturday afternoon in mid-September, after 28 years of serving as a paramedic, I encountered the bloodiest motorcycle crash I had ever witnessed. The patient's leg was so severely damaged that it was unrecognizable, and blood was flowing onto the highway like a river. Despite the severity of his injuries, the patient was still conscious and able to speak. The patient survived and can now walk again thanks to the outstanding medical care provided by the local trauma center at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. But even with 28 years of experience, this incident left a lasting impression on me. I couldn't shake the image of the patient's leg from my mind. However, compared to the sights of the battlefields I witnessed during our tours of "Marching with the Black Hats," this was just a tiny slice of my career.

By no means am I a historian; in fact, history was always my worst subject in school. Before this trip, I had only been on one other Civil War Tour with Civil War Time Travelers. That trip was only six months prior, and passing Grade 1 Civil War History would have been challenging. But here I was, now on a second trip, learning and enjoying my time.

The coach rides to our destinations were long but comfortable. We have the conveniences of bottled water, snacks, a bathroom, and frequent stops to stretch our legs and enjoy some fresh air. The soldiers marching into battle certainly didn't have the luxuries we enjoyed. Marches of 8-13 miles a day and diets of unripe corn or apples were the benefits of the Civil War soldier.

Our senses were heightened as our group reached Gettysburg and arrived at the Adams County Historical Society Museum. It was here that we experienced being "Caught in the Crossfire" as civilians in the recreated Civil War home and heard and felt the sights and sounds of the battle that took place beyond the confines of their home. Intense fear had to have been a familiar feeling in every home as three days of battle occurred.

Onward, we rode to the Antietam National Battlefield Visitor Center. The war's timeline was laid into the concrete walkway leading to the visitors' center. Behind us was the Dunker Church, which served as an aid station to the wounded and bloodied soldiers from the battles at Miller's Cornfield or Poffenberger Farm. Those less fortunate would be embalmed on the same church bench where soldiers' shattered limbs were amputated.

As we traveled back through time to the Battle of Gettysburg, we came to a place marked by the Peace Light. On July 1, 1863, peace was the furthest thing from any soldier's mind. General Robert E. Lee felt confident as his men marched into Gettysburg. Three days of the bloodiest battles on American soil ensued. The Union would win this battle three days later, as Lee's army would retreat. Peace wouldn't come until another couple of years.

The cupola at Seminary Ridge Museum was a favorable vantage point for the Union during the battle in Gettysburg. The beauty of the Appalachian Mountains to the southwest makes a concerted effort to erase the memories of the bloody fighting. Below the cupola in the museum, an entire floor is devoted to the physical medical needs of the soldiers. Amputations were lifesaving, and any building in Gettysburg became a trauma center. Death was an all too familiar sight.

The monuments in Gettysburg are nearly as numerous as the soldiers who died during the three-day battle. Reading the placard on each one brings you closer to the soldiers and their sacrifice for our peace, freedom, and the rights we embrace as Americans today. Some 60,000-plus men died on the battlefields in the little town of Gettysburg. Numerous men were injured. Limbs laid in heaps outside of makeshift aid stations. Women like Clara Barton tended to the soldiers and patients. She treated thousands! I can't imagine what she saw when she closed her eyes at night.

Many other sights were encountered while "Marching with The Black Hats" and the Civil War Time Travelers, and they were now tucked away in my memory as I boarded the coach to return to Wisconsin. I felt a sense of gratitude and thankfulness for the soldiers who marched so many years ago. As much as I tried to put myself in the place of the soldiers or even Clara Barton, I could only go back to a place along the county road and that man on the motorcycle and his mangled leg. We can only imagine the feeling of loss and pain that they all endured. We can only strive to be, as the Time Traveler's Creed says to be, "better every day."

submitted by Linda Kohrs  
Lake City, Minnesota



*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!

## The Unlucky 13<sup>th</sup>

William Williams of Cold Spring, Jefferson County, Wisconsin, was 18 when President Lincoln called for volunteers in 1861. He signed up. As is well known, Wisconsin's first 12 regiments of infantry saw important action; the 13<sup>th</sup>, which Williams joined (Co. H), saw almost none and have been dubbed therefore the "lucky 13<sup>th</sup>." Picket, patrol, scout, garrison, guard – these were their verbs.

Frederick Dyer's indispensable *Compendium* of 1908 (self-published in Des Moines) describes the movements of every Union regiment, including the 13<sup>th</sup>, as if they stood on a par with one another -- administratively true, anyway. The unit organized at Janesville and mustered in on 17 Oct. 1861, leaving in January 1862 for Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas. (One of their members opened a school for blacks there.) They were moved to the Dept. of the Tennessee in June, and garrisoned Forts Henry and Donelson until June 1863. [Dyer, v. 3, pp. 1692-93]

Here is where young Williams met his microbial match, according to his thick pension file in the National Archives. Muster rolls for 1862 already find him "sick in quarters" during 3 warm months, and then at Donelson in summer 1863 "sick in Hospital." He got well enough to move on with his mates in the Dept. of the Cumberland through 1864 as part of the 12th Army Corps, shifted to the 20<sup>th</sup> Army Corps – though he was "sick in quarters" again that mid-summer. When his 3 years were up in late 1864, he rejoined as a Veteran.

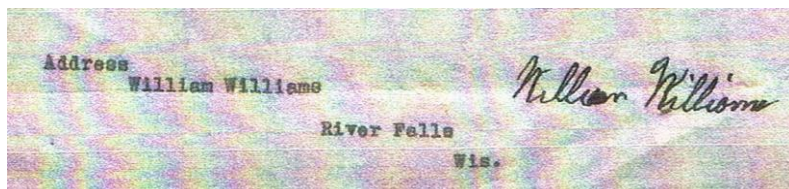
Their tasks were to guard rail and river-supply lines in eastern Tennessee and northern Alabama while the unluckier men under Rosecrans, Thomas, Sherman, and others took up the hard fights near Chattanooga and Chickamauga. While at Decatur, Alabama, parts of the unit were attacked by John Bell Hood's rebels on 26-29 Oct. 1864, and the 13<sup>th</sup> repulsed them.

The end of the war in the East found most of them at Huntsville, from which they moved to Nashville for 3 months and were then ordered to New Orleans enroute to Indianola and San Antonio, Texas, in the heat of that summer.

The men of the 13<sup>th</sup> were mustered out on 24 Nov. 1865. Pvt. William Williams had more to go home to than did some men: While on furlough back in Whitewater in Feb. 1864 he had married Mary Boyle, 19. She and farm work – and eventually 6 children born across 17 years – could have filled his life.

But on the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his return, age 32, he filed for a disability pension. Here began his 2<sup>nd</sup>, quieter struggle, with doctors and bureaucrats in the Pension Bureau and Dept. of the Interior. Whatever bug caused him a repeated 'Southern Fever' each summer of the war, it gradually left him partly disabled with heart trouble. Eight visits to doctors in Cold Spring, Ft. Atkinson, Whitewater, then River Falls, Hudson, and beyond described his condition variously as rheumatism, chronic diarrhea, constriction of mitral valves, stomach pain, dysentery, general prostration of the nervous system, inflammation of the pericardium, etc. One M.D. was blunt enough to write: "muscles flabby; skin cold and clammy." Wrote another, the "cardiac asthma ... will be progressive." He had gone from half-disabled at 32, to fully disabled in his 40s.

All this merited a pension of \$6 a month from May 1876; \$10 from 1880; then a leap to \$24 after personal intervention by the Commissioner of Pensions in 1884. It stayed there for 32 years. His congressman in 1913 wrote on his behalf, seeking \$30. Rejected -- the 3<sup>rd</sup> rejection over the years, one of those "erroneously," wrote a later official. Williams was once ordered to St. Paul for examination, but when he got there the medical referee told him he knew nothing about the case, go home. A doctor who had known him for 30 years wrote that he was "totally disabled ... could do no manual work on his farm." Wife, three sons, and three daughters kept it going.



article continued on page 13

## New Dawes Marker in Marietta

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.

## An Update on the Valders Cemetery

The Tyler's and Johnsons were the core group of interrelated families that came to Wisconsin from New York in the 1840's by water, from Rochester NY.

Most of the folks buried there were adamant about their Yankee/British Isles heritage. In fact, there appears to be a split as to burials based on religion and ethnicity.

The church that was located in the Tyler Cemetery is now at the Manitowoc County Historical Society Historic Village. The church was moved in 1973. It was a family-owned church.

Many Civil War veterans are buried in the cemetery. The veterans built this cemetery and the mentioned church in the early 1870's.

The land was donated by the Tyler's, their parents being the first buried there after moving from New York, and the Johnson sawmill provided the wood - all did the labor - post Civil War.

The cemetery is just to the east of the intersection of Highway 32 and 151, past what was the second Johnson farm (Jesse and Anna's, as shown in the photo) on the north side of the road. The first Johnson Farm (for Jesse's father) was located north of the intersection, on Highway 32.

The Johnson sawmill and other facilities were located along that stretch of Highway 32. The store and post office were located at the intersection.

*Information by Susan Johnson, 2015.  
She is now buried at the mentioned cemetery.  
Edited by Jeremy Johnson, 2024.*



### **Pier Cemetery Cleanup**

A group of teens from Trinity Lutheran Church and School in Campbellsport did some spring cleaning at the Pier Cemetery in Fond du Lac. The group of enthusiastic volunteers was joined by Tom Brown, a descendant of Edwin A. Brown of Company E of the 6<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Volunteers, and Steve Michaels, both of whom were there representing Sons of the Union Veterans and Colonel Colwert Kendall Pier, the namesake of their camp. Colonel Pier's stone is flanked by a G.A.R. marker, a statue, and a small flag.

**“Myths of the Civil War; The Fact, Fiction, and Science Behind the Civil War’s Most-Told Stories”**  
by Scott Hippensteel, 2021, 257 pages, photos, bibliography

“KAA BOOM” is what the author does to common myths about our Civil War.” In his words, “A skeptic is a person who questions the ideas and facts that have already been widely accepted by society. Any serious scholar of the Civil War should be a skeptic to some degree. After all, the flowery and romantic language contained in the letters of the day, would if read too literally, lead one to conclude there was an amazing number of “obedient servants spread among the ranks of commanding officers. The exaggerations, grandiose analogies, and hyperbole found in so much this wartime writing is a product of that era as well as an indication that the authors were struggling to properly express the impact or horror of what they had experienced or witnessed.”

The target of this book is to use scientific reasoning to identify the silly and the false included in the collective recollections of the soldiers and to identify these fables every time they are published. Using critical reasoning of meteorology, spatial analysis and physics, the author clearly explains all in an understandable manner.

The Table of Contents alone does an excellent job of telling what we will find that puts down these myths. Starting with “An Overview of the Tall Tales” and followed by “The Myth of the Civil War Sniper” gets a reader to begin to see a more realistic view of the war.” “The Density of Death,” “Lead Precipitation”, “Ready, Aim, Reload” and the “Rifle Musket Revolution” continue to give a clearer view of the war. “The Eye of History or Photographic Fraud” and “The Civil War on Canvas: Realism versus Romanticism,” both explain what we see.

The twelve pages of the bibliography by itself are an asset worth reading. The four Appendix also shoot holes in our misunderstandings of the Civil War. This is a well written and researched book that should be read by any serious Civil War fan.

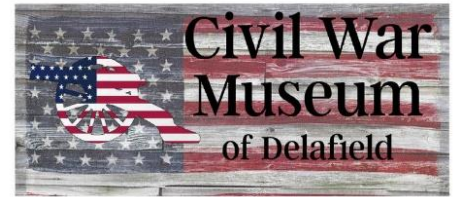
submitted by John Helmenstine



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

Tuesday, June 18 6:30-8:00 p.m.

“Grant Takes Command: The Wilderness & Spotsylvania”



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

The museum is open Thursdays and Saturdays from 11:00-3:00 or by appointment.  
**Don't hesitate to 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)

## Kenosha Civil War Museum In-Person Events. Please see the museum's website for more details.

### **Buffalo Soldiers: The Invisible Soldiers Who Fought for a Dream** Friday, July 12 | 12:00pm – 1:00pm | Speaker: Darrell Greene, LTC(R)

Learn the history, sacrifices, and incredible achievements of the Buffalo Soldiers and African Americans who have served in our armed forces.

In 1770, Crispus Attucks, an African American man, was the first American to die in the fight for the independence of the United States. Since that time, African Americans have always played a significant and important role in the military history of our great country. However, it was the unsung heroes of the legendary Buffalo Soldiers that set the standards for all of the successes, contributions and accomplishments of African American men and women serving in today's military force.

Buffalo soldiers helped to pave the way for the expansion of white settlers moving Westward by maintaining order between the Native (Indigenous) Americans and the settlers, helped to build forts and roads, patrolled our borders, protected National parks, mail stagecoaches, and railroad construction crews. They were the Invisible Warriors that led the way for all who followed in their footsteps.

### **A New Look: Gainesville and Brawner Farm** Friday, August 9 | 12:00pm – 1:00pm | Speaker: Lance Herdegen

The Iron Brigade's opening battle came August 28, 1862 on the John Brawner farm near Gainesville, Virginia. The story has been told before, but never from a fog of war view with one author writing of the Union side and another from the Confederate. There is much to learn about command decisions both successful and failures. Lance Herdegen, who wrote the Iron Brigade account, tells what he discovered.

*General Orders*, the official publication of the **Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.**  
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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  
2024-2025 SPEAKER SCHEDULE**

September 13, 2024	TBA	Bjorn Skaptason
October 11, 2024	TBA	Jen Murray
November 8, 2024	TBA	Kent Masterson Brown
December 13, 2024	TBA	Jon Sebastian (At the Country Club)
January 10, 2025		Brian Butka <i>Colonel Albert Myer- Founder of the Signal Corps</i>
February 14, 2025		Hampton Newsome <i>Gettysburg's Southern Front</i>
March 14, 2025	TBA	Gerry Prokopowicz
April 12, 2025		Peter Carmichael <i>War and the Common Soldier</i>
May 8, 2025	TBA	Steven Phan
June 12, 2025	TBA	Dave Powell <i>Nevins-Freeman Award Winner</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
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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)

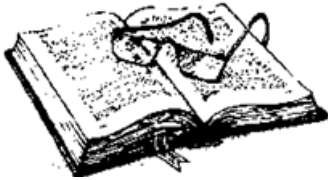
Grant will be creating a database with email reminders set to go out a week before the scheduled event. This is a purely optional choice on each member's part. If you have any questions please talk to Grant at a Round Table meeting or email him at the listed email address.

**Milwaukee Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for June 13, 2024**

Mail your reservations by Monday, June 10 to:  
Paul Eilbes  
1809 Washington Avenue  
Cedarburg, WI 53012-9730

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

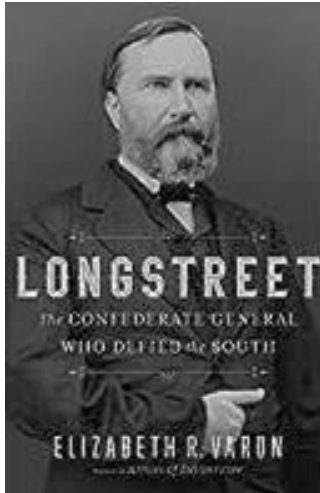
Enclosed is \$\_\_\_\_\_ (meal is \$30.00 per person) for \_\_\_\_\_ people for the  
June 13, 2024 meeting of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee.  
(Please make checks payable to the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.)



# **BETWEEN THE COVERS**

## **Longstreet: The Confederate General Who Defied the South**

**Elizabeth R. Varon**



When James Longstreet applied for a pardon directly to President Andrew Johnson in November 1865 he was told “There are three persons of the South who can never receive amnesty: Mr. Davis, General Lee, and yourself.” He was considered one of the big three that had caused the Union too much trouble but just a few years later, as the Lost Cause was gaining hold in the South, Lee “Old War Horse” would be blamed for the loss at Gettysburg and for having failed the Confederacy. This turn of events has often been the source of conjecture but never has it been examined as thoroughly by author Elizabeth R. Varon, in this well-written and very satisfying book.

Love him, or hate him, a reader can wonder, why a new book on James Longstreet? There have been many books written on the general considered Lee's right hand yet seldom has his life away from the battlefield been plumbed for the turn of events and the change in the solid Confederate general. Lt. Gen. James Longstreet remains the Confederacy's most controversial senior military leader. Born in 1821 and raised in the deep south under the influence of his uncle Augustus Longstreet, long reputed to be a spokesman for the South, slavery, and secession it is little wonder that young Longstreet would adopt the attitude and beliefs of his uncle.

As war became a reality he was more than ready to stand with the South and the Southern slaveholders. His rise to high rank in the Confederate army was meteoric; during the second year of the Civil War, he became Gen. Robert E. Lee's second-in-command in the Army of Northern Virginia, outranking the fabled Thomas J. “Stonewall” Jackson. Southerners praised him for his military and tactical acumen and his leadership of the victories at Second Manassas, Chickamauga, Antietam, and Fredericksburg. He stood by Robert E. Lee and the Confederate army to the bitter end.

After the war, Longstreet and his family settled in New Orleans. He worked in cotton brokerage and insurance. He joined the Republican Party and held several federal offices under his West Point friend, U. S. Grant. Always a realist, he understood the South had lost the war and the best path forward was not to continue insurgent activities against the United States government. This stand made him few enemies and he lost many friends.

Longstreet viewed the Republican Party as the best vehicle for the South to develop and reintegrate into American society. Varon (history, Univ. of Virginia; *Armies of Deliverance*) presents an in-depth exploration of Longstreet's career as a Republican, including patronage positions, such as ambassador to the Ottoman Empire. His postwar politics fueled attacks on his wartime record, particularly the decisions made at the Battle of Gettysburg.

Many fellow Southerners would call him a “scalawag” and the United Confederate Veterans refused to invite him to their events. As the South adopted the Lost Cause mindset and set about creating Lee as almost a saint, they needed someone to blame for the huge loss at Gettysburg and Longstreet became an easy target. His memoirs of the war, published in 1896, ripped open old wounds and his renewed criticisms of Lee at Gettysburg created a literary war of words with the likes of Jubal Early, who helped to create the immortal Lee image, that continues to this day.

Although he was one of the highest-ranking Confederate generals, Longstreet has never been commemorated with statues or other memorials in the South because of his postwar actions in rejecting the Lost Cause mythology and urging racial reconciliation. He is being rediscovered in the new age of racial reckoning. This is the first biography in decades and the first to give proper attention to Longstreet's long post-Civil War career.

Longstreet's complex personality and his life after the war merits study. When James Longstreet died in 1904, President Theodore Roosevelt said he possessed “the fine and high-souled patriotism which made him, when the war was ended, as staunchly loyal to the Union as he had been loyal to the cause for which he fought the war itself.”

**submitted by Robert Johnson**

# The Civil War “Campaign Season” is Ahead!



Got you hotel reservation set? Have a trip itinerary all planned out? Checking places off of a bucket list of “must-see” Civil War sites? Let’s get traveling!

Spring is here, and, with it, a tendency for Americans to hit the road. If you are going to do some fun Civil War sightseeing, please consider writing up a story or a journal and share your trip experiences with all of us. The Wanderings article in this issue is an example of what you might consider. Linda Kohrs simply reflected on the things she saw, experienced, and felt as she traveled to Antietam and Gettysburg. And, she says, she was not even a history student “back in the day!”

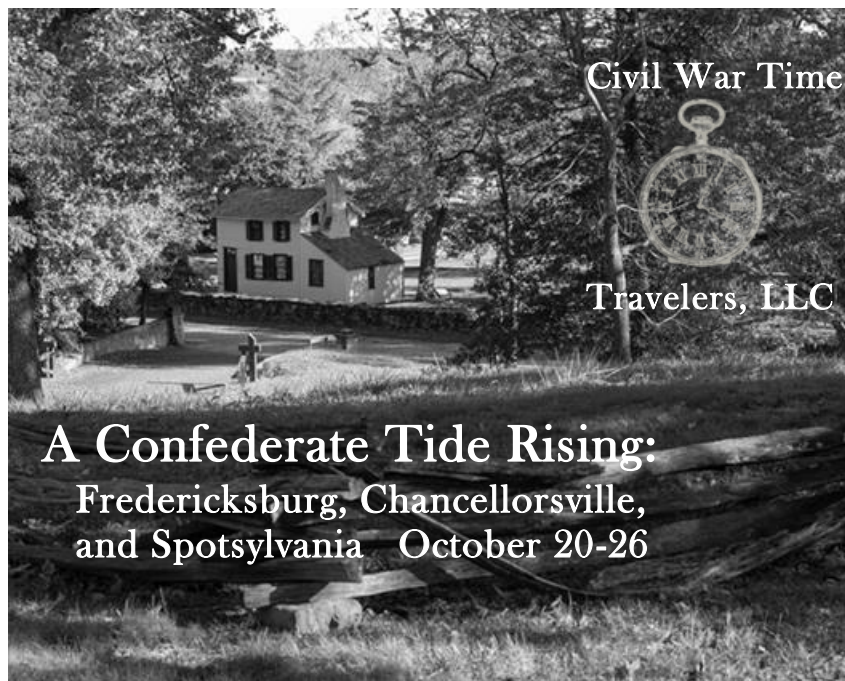


The Civil War Museum of Kenosha, WI is sponsoring a tour of sites and battlefields associated with the 1863 campaign to take Vicksburg, MS. During this tour, the group will visit locations such as Grand Gulf, Port Gibson, Raymond, Champion Hill, the siege lines of Vicksburg, the USS *Cairo* gunboat and museum, and the Warren County Courthouse.

The tour will be led by Rick Martin, a thirty-eight-year veteran of the National Park Service. Seventeen of those years were spent as Chief of Operations and Chief Ranger.

The cost of the tour includes hotel stay in Vicksburg for Sunday through Tuesday, all breakfasts, lunches, and dinners; motor coach, tour guide fees, park and museum admissions, and evening programs.

For more details please go to the museum’s website at <https://bit.ly/CWMBusTrip>



Join CWTT for four days in Fredericksburg as we dive into the rising and falling fortunes of Robert E. Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia. Experience the battle of Fredericksburg. Visit the scene of “Lee’s Masterpiece” at Chancellorsville. Finally, feel the horror of the Wilderness fighting and the Bloody Angle at Spotsylvania, where Lee met his match as he faced the bulldog tenacity of Ulysses S. Grant.

With stops in Ohio on the way out and back, Time Travelers will make new friends and reacquaint with old ones. We will absorb history and enjoy gastronomical good eating.

Our formula for sharing the story of the Civil War involves using the talents of members of our own Round Table as speakers. We also enjoy the skills of NPS Rangers and well-known historians/authors to build a historical framework for the sites we visit and the events we explore. Contact [wegs1862@gmail.com](mailto:wegs1862@gmail.com)



## “Marching with the Black Hats”

Perspectives of First-time Tour Participants

Where do we start? The much-anticipated trip for Lisa and myself exceeded all expectations. From the travel on the coach, to the included meals and hotel accommodations, everything was “first rate.”

We knew from the first night’s presentation of *The Iron Brigade of the West* that this trip would be rich in Civil War knowledge and passion. Members from Milwaukee’s Civil War Round Table led discussions outlining some of Wisconsin’s volunteers engaged in the war. The days that followed were filled with excellent tour guides detailing the Battles of South Mountain, Antietam, and Gettysburg. We learned of personal stories relating to the Iron Brigade, which brought this time of war closer to us from Wisconsin. As the week progressed, Lisa and I were starting to be in a better frame of mind to absorb the tremendous amount of information we were being given.

In addition to the visits to battlefields with our guides, we visited excellent museums, giving us additional perspectives of the war and life during this time period. The highlights for us were the Seminary Ridge Museum, which seemed intimate and had great visual effects, and the Gettysburg National Military Museum. Nothing can compare to the Cyclorama! The time spent here went quickly and we were filled with images of the Battle of Gettysburg.

The most enjoyable aspects of this trip were the rich memories and new friends we made. The week went by very quickly, and we are feeling very blessed to have been a part of this tour group. Since the trip ended, we have both continued to increase our Civil War knowledge through reading books and reviewing information given to us on the trip. We look forward to new Civil War trips in the future.

submitted by **Ron and Lisa Tews**  
Campbellsport, Wisconsin

## Something New from the General Orders

There is a long hiatus between the June issue of your newsletter and the September issue that highlights our coming season of meetings. We certainly don’t want anyone to feel disconnected from the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee as you go about your summer activities.

To that end, a summer issue of General Orders is being discussed. It will highlight events in the area, give reports on various activities related to the Civil War, and give you a preview of things to come in our 2024-2025 campaign. Any feedback on this project will be appreciated.

continued from page 6

Pvt. Williams died on New Year’s Day, 1917, of angina pectoris. Four days later wife Mary applied for a widow’s pension, and for 18 more years the Williams pension file filled with her efforts, in long, kind, undemanding handwritten letters, to get and then thank everyone in Washington (and the Lord) for the increase (which Congress required by a law of 1926). She died suddenly in 1935 during lunch at her daughter’s table, age 90.

The roughly 1,000 men of the 13<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Vol. Inf. lost only 5 men killed or mortally wounded, and 188 by disease, according to Dyer. But 9 years after those 3 vast volumes appeared, William Williams died at the age of 73. His years were not cut short, but his life since the hospital stay at Donelson in 1863 surely was, in defense of his country.

*They also serve who only stand and wait – John Milton, 1652*

submitted by **James M. Cornelius**, member

**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.

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>COST</b>
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](mailto:dbcpmilw@gmail.com))

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

