

# GENERAL ORDERS

The Newsletter of the

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



September 12, 2024

John Horn

## Wilson-Kautz Raid June-July 1, 1864

On June 22, 1864, as Union hopes of a quick dash into Petersburg faded, Ulysses S. Grant aimed to cut Confederate supply lines into Petersburg and thought that a powerful cavalry force might do the trick. Union Generals James H. Wilson and August V. Kautz left Union lines near here with about 5,500 horsemen, 16 cannon, and orders to destroy the three railroads that fed Richmond and Petersburg from the south and west. The blue-clad troopers damaged the Petersburg, South Side, and Richmond & Danville lines before being stymied on June 25 at the Staunton River Bridge, nearly 100 miles from here. Wilson and Kautz then concentrated on returning to their own lines, as Confederate cavalry under Generals Wade Hampton and Fitzhugh Lee and several infantry brigades moved to intercept them.

The showdown occurred on June 29, 1864, and is known as the First Battle of Reams Station. Fitz Lee and the Confederate infantry occupied the direct routes to the Union lines to the east and north. Hampton moved his troopers up from the south, nearly surrounding their quarry. The ensuing battle cost Wilson about 1,000 casualties, all of his guns, and most of his plunder-filled wagons. Kautz managed to push through a seemingly impenetrable swamp to the southeast and escaped with less mayhem. The Union troopers staggered into their own lines two days later.

The Wilson-Kautz Raid covered some 350 miles and destroyed railroad tracks but at the cost of 1,445 casualties. The Confederates repaired their damaged railroads in short order, demonstrating to Grant that more than cavalry would be needed to isolate Petersburg.



A native of Illinois, John Horn received a B.A. in English and Latin from New College (Sarasota, Florida) in 1973 and a J.D. from Columbia Law School in 1976. He has practiced law in the Chicago area since graduation, occasionally holding local public office, and living in Oak Forest with his wife and law partner, H. Elizabeth Kelley, a native of Richmond, Virginia. They have three children. He is a member of the Chicago

Civil War Round Table and has published articles in Gettysburg Magazine, North & South, Civil War Times Illustrated and America's Civil War. His most recent book, The Petersburg Regiment in the Civil War: A History of the 12th Virginia Infantry from John Brown's Hanging to Appomattox, 1859-1861 (Savas Beatie), won the 2019 Army Historical Foundation Distinguished Writing Award for Unit History.

### General Orders No. 9-24

September 2024

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### September Meeting at a Glance The Wisconsin Club 9<sup>th</sup> and Wisconsin Avenue

[Jackets required for the dining room.]

5:30 p.m. - Registration/Social Hour

6:30 p.m. - Dinner

**\$35 by reservation, please**

Reservations are accepted until

Monday, September 9, 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**

# 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  
See page 8 for full details.**

Sincere apologies to Peter and Jean Jacobsohn and also to Roman Blenski. Their names were listed under major donations (besides those listed to the right) at one time, but during a later issue those thanks were unfortunately omitted. So sorry, and thanks for your patience and understanding of a very human error.

It's a new season for the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table. We have excellent speakers lined up and some great topics coming our way. If you ever have questions or suggestions, talk to any member of the Board of Directors. The list of board members is on page 10.

## The Muster Roll: NEW MEMBERS

NAME	REG'T	COMP	PLAC OF BIRTH	OTHER MILITARY SERVICE	REMARKS
Charlie Bauer			Illinois		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)

Roman Blenski, 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 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, 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 September meetings of the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table featured these speakers and topics.

- 2010 Wayne Mahood: "Major Gen. James S. Wadsworth"
- 2011 Bruce Allardice: "Civil War Baseball"
- 2012 Bjorn Skaptason: "Wisconsin and Shiloh"
- 2013 John Michael Priest: "The Maryland Campaign from Leesburg through South Mountain"
- 2014 Frank P. Varney: "General Grant and the Rewriting of History"
- 2015 Dale Phillips: "The Capture of New Orleans"
- 2016 Dale Eicher: "Tales of Civil War High Commands"
- 2018 Timothy B. Smith: "Difficult and Broken Ground: The Terrain Factor at Shiloh"
- 2019 Janet Croon: "The War Outside My Window: The Civil War Diary of LeRoy Wiley Gresham"
- 2020 Ted Savas: "Lost and Found: The Archaeology of the Battle of Payne's Farm"
- 2021 Eric J. Wittenberg: "Seceding from Secession"
- 2022 Steven Cowie: "When Hell Came to Sharpsburg"
- 2023 Adolfo Ovies: "Cavalry of the Army of the Potomac"



The *tentative* 2024-2025 Speaker Schedule is found on page 9. It obviously needs some additional information, but it certainly looks like another epic year of programming at the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee!

## Cedarburg History Museum

N58W6194 Columbia Road

Cedarburg, WI 53012

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

### Museum Hours:

Wednesday - Saturday 10 AM - 4 PM

Sunday - Noon - 4 PM

The mission of the Cedarburg History Museum is to preserve and interpret Cedarburg and Ozaukee County history through quality exhibitions, preservation, and programming.

See page 7 for more information.

## 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.

### The Letterman Evacuation Plan at Antietam

Friday, September 13 | 12:00pm - 1:00pm

Presenter: Dr. Gordon Dammann

Dr. Jonathan Letterman forever changed the course of both Civil War and modern medicine with the innovations he installed within the Medical Department of the Union Army between 1862 and 1864. The crowning medical achievement of what would become known as "The Letterman Plan" occurred during and after the September 17, 1862 Battle of Antietam. Letterman's system brought order out of the chaos and carnage of battle, and thousands of soldiers benefitted from the improvements he created.

### An Evening of Edgar Allen Poe w/Joshua Rex

Wednesday, October 16 | 7:00-8:30 p.m.

\$24 (\$30 non-members) Adults 21+ only

October sets the stage for an evening of chilling tales by Edgar Allan Poe. Indulge in a Poe-themed beverage as you immerse yourself in the haunting world of Poe's most iconic works. Join historian and author Joshua Rex for captivating performances of "The Masque of the Red Death," "The Tell-Tale Heart," and "The Raven." Prepare for an unforgettable journey into the dark and mysterious realm of Poe's imagination.

### Photography Workshop

August 24, 10-2:30

Join Historian and wet-plate photographer Dave Rambow at the Civil War Museum of Kenosha for a deep dive into all things photography and the Civil War. At this unique workshop, you will have the chance to learn about carte de vistas, tintypes, and why photography during the Civil War was so revolutionary. After the talk, participants will have the opportunity to have their very own portrait "struck" by Rambow for an additional fee.

Lecture \$24 (\$30 non-members)

Tintype \$72 (\$90 non-members)

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





Gettysburg Compiler

September 22, 1862

War News

**The Battle of South Mountain**

**The Rebel Loss Fifteen Thousand -- Federal Loss Three Thousand -- Movements of the Federal Army**

**Boonsboro, Monday, Sept. 16** - The Battle of South Mountain, which was fought yesterday, resulted in a complete victory to the army of the Potomac. The battlefield was located in a gorge of the mountain on the turnpike road, between Middletown and Boonsboro. During the forenoon the firing was by our artillery endeavoring to ascertain the enemy strength and position.

About 12 o'clock the corps under General Reno was ordered to ascend the mountain on the left and make an attack on the enemy's flank. At three o'clock these troops got into action, and the rattle of musketry for about half an hour was terrible. The enemy now gave way, leaving our men in possession of that portion of the ridge.

The loss on both sides in this action was considerable, but we had not a general or field officer injured at this point, excepting Major General Reno who was killed by a Minnie ball passing through his body.

General Hooker commanding McDowell's corps and the Pennsylvania Reserves, ascended the mountain on the right, for the purpose of making an attack on the left of the rebels' position. He got his troops into position and moved upon the enemy about two hours before sundown. Here, as in the case on the other ridge of the mountain, our troops were successful, driving the enemy before them with great slaughter. The rebels suffered here more than at any other point of the battle.

Gen. Hatch, commanding a division under Gen. Hooker, was wounded in the leg.

Gen. Gibbon's brigade, composed of the 2nd, 6th and 7th Wisconsin and the 19th Indiana regiments, were ordered to move up the gorge of the mountain. This brigade did not get into action until after dark.

They fought until nearly nine o'clock. This brigade lost about 120 killed and wounded. Among the dead is Capt. Caldwell, of the 2nd Wisconsin. The rebels were driven back for about a mile, when Gen. Gibbons' brigade was relieved by a portion of Gen. Summer's corps, who held the position during the night.

The rebel troops engaged were Longstreet's Corps, the divisions of D. H. and A. P. Hill. Had our troops had two hours longer of daylight the greater portion of the rebel army engaged would have been taken prisoners, as they were surrounded on three sides, the only mode of escape being through a narrow defile in the mountain, which our artillery would have soon made impassable.

Among the rebel officers known to be killed was General Garland, of Leesburg, and Col. Strong, of the Nineteenth Virginia regiment. The body of the latter was obtained to-day by a flag of truce sent by the rebels.

At daylight this morning what we most apprehended was realized. The rebels under cover of the night had left on their way to the Potomac. They went to this place (Boonsboro) two miles beyond the mountain and there took the road towards Sharpsburg.

They left all their dead on the field, and those of their wounded who were not able to walk were found in the churches in Boonsboro.

Between twelve and fifteen hundred prisoners were taken during the day most of them by the troops under Gen. Hooker.

Yesterday General Franklin's corps advanced to mountain pass six miles nearer Harper's Ferry, where he engaged the enemy, who held that pass for about three hours, The battle resulted in a complete rout of the enemy and with heavy loss.

Our loss in this action was about 250 killed and wounded. The rebel loss during the day and night was fully 15,000 killed, wounded and missing.

General Lee acknowledged to the citizens of Boonsboro that they have been defeated with terrible loss. Our loss in killed and wounded will probably reach 3000. We lost but few prisoners.

This morning at daylight Gen. Pleasanton, with the 8th Illinois Cavalry and Capt. Twitchell's battery start advancing after the enemy. At Boonsboro he came up with the 9th Virginia Cavalry, with a battery, acting as rear guard. The Illinois cavalry charged after the rebels through the town and two miles out on the Hagerstown turnpike, capturing two of their guns and killing and wounding a number of them. We also took about thirty of the rebel cavalry prisoners.

Gen. Richardson's division being in the advance, took the road from this place towards Sharpsburg. About two and a half miles from Sharpsburg General Richardson came up with the enemy in large force occupying a long range of hills. They presented in a line of battle one and a half miles long. The afternoon was spent by us in ascertaining the position and force of the rebels out troop not having yet come up in sufficient numbers to warrant making an attack on the enemy in this strong position.

## Wanderings

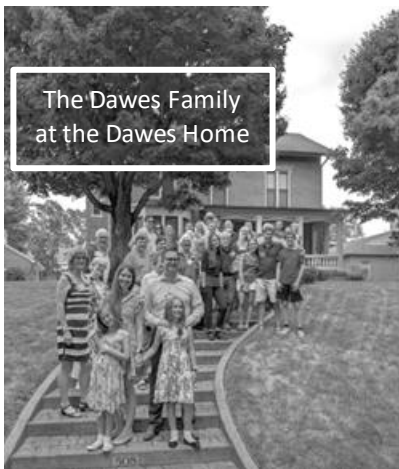


# Rufus and Mary Dawes Marker Ceremony

Several members of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee were privileged to attend and participate in the dedication at a new marker in front of the Rufus Dawes' home in Marietta, Ohio. Paul Eilbes, Rich Kallan, and Kay and Dave Wege made the long drive on a short weekend to the events in the Ohio River community. The quartet was present to lend the full weight of the Iron Brigade Association's authority and approval to the festivities.

From a Friday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> meet-n-greet, to the actual ceremony held in the First Congregational Church at which the Dawes family worshipped, to a closing dinner on Saturday evening, we were warmly welcomed and treated like royalty. The ceremony and the Dawes family, however, were the focus of the weekend, and what a grand time it was!

The Dawes family held a reunion during the festive weekend. It seems that they are fully aware of the grand lineage from which they come. William Dawes roared with Paul Revere to alert Lexington and Concord that the British Regulars were on the move. Rufus and Ephraim, brothers who fought valiantly in the Civil War, are highlights on the family's tree of freedom. Charles Dawes, son of Rufus, became 30<sup>th</sup> Vice President of the United States in the Coolidge administration. He won the Nobel Peace Prize for his plan for World War I reparations. And here were these simple Wisconsin folks, rubbing elbows and receiving high honors for attending events to honor Rufus and Mary!



The beautiful Dawes home, located at 508 4<sup>th</sup> Street in Marietta, is now owned by a Doctor and Mrs. Hershey. They are at times understandably reluctant to open their home to visitors who come not to see them, but the historic house in which they live. On this day, however, the Hershey family welcomed the entire Dawes group with open arms. And the gracious Dawes family told the visiting Badgers, "Come in and see the house with us. You are family now, too."

Kay Wege reported that entering the house was like taking a step back in time. Knowing that this beautifully preserved house was once the home and hearth of such illustrious people as Rufus and Mary touched the soul of one who isn't even a true Civil War nerd! The setting of the house, reached by a winding set of steps, sits prominently atop a hill. Though surrounded by other buildings, the home's setting suggests a sense of being something special. Visitors can feel that this grand house held a family that lived a good life together, a tradition that the Dawes family shares to this day. The new Dawes Marker will be placed in front of this home.

The marker dedication ceremony was inspiring. It began with a single bagpiper playing a haunting melody as he proceeded to lead an honor guard carrying the Tiffany flag of the Iron Brigade, along with the National and Regimental Colors of the 19<sup>th</sup> Indiana.

An address highlighting the service of Rufus Dawes, and the love between Rufus and his "best girl" Mary Beman Gates, was given in tandem by author Steve Magnusen and Scott Britton of the Castle House Museum in Marietta. Among the honorary color guard were Paul Eilbes, Rich Kallan, Dave Wege, Phil Spaugy, and Gary Milligan. An address highlighting the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table's connection with Rufus Dawes through the Iron Brigade Association was delivered by Paul Eilbes. Following the ceremony, many paid their respects at the Dawes family plot, where Rufus, Ephraim, Mary, and other family members rest until the final trumpet. At the closing dinner, the Round Table presented acrylic blocks featuring the Iron Brigade cross to Leight Murray and to Barb Moberg in appreciation of their efforts in organizing such a grand and historic event.



One could say, "You had to have been there" to capture the full meaning of the weekend. It was filled with powerful emotions created by exquisite words and imagery. However, readers of this newsletter can see with the eyes of the past and the heart of a historian. It is hoped that one can feel the beauty of our weekend through these simple words and pictures, thereby experiencing the ceremony and honor of the weekend. Sincere thanks to Leight Murray, Nancy Arthur, Jack and Barb Moberg, and the Dawes family for arranging the festivities and inviting participation by multiple Civil War Round Tables. The Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee was honored to be in attendance.



*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!

## Abijah Spafford to His Cousin

The following letter was written by Abijah S. Spafford (1840-1882) who enlisted in 9 September 1861 as a private in Co. G, 5th New York Cavalry. He reenlisted on 11 February 1864 as a 1st Sergeant and mustered out on 19 July 1865 at Winchester, Virginia. The muster rolls inform us that he stood 5 foot 10.5 inches tall, had grey eyes, brown hair, and a light complexion.



The 5th New York Cavalry Regiment, also known as the 5th Regiment New York Volunteer Cavalry, and nicknamed the “1st Ira Harris Guards”, had a good fighting reputation, and had important roles in the Battle of Hanover and the Battle of the Wilderness. It was present at nearly 175 battles and skirmishes, including Gettysburg, Opequon, and Cedar Creek. A majority of its fighting was in Virginia. The regiment was originally called the *Ira Harris Guard* in honor of the senator from Albany, New York. It was named 5th New York Cavalry on November 14, 1861. The regiment’s battle flag was blue with “painted inscriptions and a semi-elliptical red shield in the center” inscribed with “5th.”

Camp Scott, Staten Island, [New York]  
October 26,

Dear Cousin,

I sit myself down this pleasant Sabbath morning to write a few lines to you to let you know how I am getting along. I am well at present and enjoying myself first rate and I hope this will find you the same. I am getting so fat that I can’t hardly see out of my eyes. I have gained about 25 pounds since I left home and I never enjoyed myself better nor enjoyed better health for the same length of time in my life. I wish you and Sile was here and I know you would enjoy yourselves better than you ever did in Pennsylvania. We have got all of our uniform except overcoats and we are to have them tomorrow. We hain’t got our horses yet or rather we hain’t got them distributed out to us yet but they are here on this island. There is 1,000 horses here and 2,000 men here in this camp besides. There is five other camps on this island but I don’t know how many men there is in either of those camps but I presume there is as many in either camp as there is in this.

I received a letter from Orange the 24th and he said that Sile got kicked by one of B. L. Canfield’s horses in the face. You tell him I say that he won’t be in as much danger of getting killed here as he will there. Tell him I want him to write to me. The reason why I hain’t wrote to you or him before is because I hain’t had much time to write and what little time I have had I have to write to our folks and the last letter I got from them was mailed October 6th and I have wrote four or five to them since. I have wrote to them to send me \$1 in postage stamps but I have not received any yet. We have to pay four or five cents a piece for them here. You tell them that I say if they don’t send me any stamps that I shan’t write them anymore letters if I had got any money. I would send to the city after some but my money is gone and I don’t know how long it will be before we will get our pay.

Write as soon as you get this and let me know whether our folks is going to send me any postage stamps or not. Write and let me know...

— Abijah Spafford

**This letter and the accompanying text is taken from the Facebook page “Spared and Shared.” It is the work of a man named William Griffing, who goes by the name “Griff.” Here are some thoughts from Griff:**

***“I should emphasize that most of these letters or diaries have never been previously transcribed, let alone published, and therefore represent fresh new material available to historians who may be researching their family history or collecting material for a book.”***



## Honoring the Memory of Forgotten Soldiers

Part of the mission of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee is to educate the present generation about the history of a seminal event in our history, the American Civil War. Our Round Table also seeks to honor the memory of those who served in the war and remember them by sharing their stories.

The MCWRT was involved in sending the flower arrangement in this photo to Seattle as that city honored 28 Union Civil War veterans and 30 spouses in a ceremony that took place there on August 21-22.

The following article is adapted from one by *Emerging Civil War's* friend Richard Heisler of *Civil War Seattle* highlighting an event that took place in August of 2024:

On August 21, 2024, an unprecedented group of 28 Union Civil War veterans and 30 spouses were honored together in Seattle, Washington, during a public memorial service. The following day, August 22, they were interred in Tahoma National Cemetery in Kent, Washington. This was likely the largest group interment of Civil War soldiers to take place in the last 150 years.

Why Seattle? Thousands of Civil War veterans made the Seattle area home in the decades after the conflict. The veterans fought for states across the Union but migrated here in the decades following the conflict. Despite the distance from the war's battlefields, the legacy of those who fought the Civil War is woven into the fabric of Pacific Northwest history. Yet, several of them remained nearly forgotten in area funeral homes for more than 100 years.

They fought in battles like Gettysburg, made the March to the Sea and endured the horrors of Andersonville. Then they played a vital role in building the cities and towns of the Pacific Northwest in the decades after the war. This is an opportunity for us to join together to honor these men and women of the Civil War. They were interred with the recognition and honors that have been denied them for over a century.

The interment of so many Civil War soldiers or veterans together was extraordinary. We may never see something like this happen again.

Why are they being found now? Years of dedicated work by the **Missing in America Project** identified the cremated remains of these veterans and spouses. The mission of the **Missing in America Project** is to locate and identify the unclaimed cremated remains of American veterans and secure final resting places for these forgotten heroes. The reasons these veterans were left unclaimed are as varied as the number of veterans. Sometimes surviving family members died or moved away. Some had no local family to pick them up. Others arranged for temporary storage and had final wishes that went unrealized. The practice of cremation was adopted in this region earlier than most of the country. It was possible for veterans from the Civil War generation to have chosen that at a higher rate than elsewhere, thereby setting the conditions for some to have remained unclaimed and forgotten by time.

Veterans of regiments from Indiana, Illinois, Maine, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Wisconsin and the Navy are among those in the group to be honored.

Cedarburg History Museum  
N58W6194 Columbia Road  
Cedarburg, WI 53012

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



**September 7 @ 6pm**  
**Cedarburg, Ozaukee County and the 1862 Hysteria**  
**presented by David Zeh**

**September 28 @ 6pm**  
**"They Fought Like Devils" - the Black soldier and**  
**Wisconsin's Civil War experience**  
**presented by Reed Perkins, Jonathan Clark House Historian**

To attend a free lecture, please RSVP to 262-377-5856 or [joel@cedarburghm.org](mailto:joel@cedarburghm.org)



## **The 2024 Great Lakes Civil War Forum: *Mr. Lincoln's Navy*** **Saturday, September 14**

8:30AM Registration, Programs Begin at 9:30AM  
\$68 Friends of the Museums/\$85 Non-Members

### **Torpedoes: An Ironclad's Greatest Fear**

Presented by: John Quarstein, Director Emeritus of the USS Monitor Center

The Confederates had limited resources to counter Union ironclads blocking Southern harbors and rivers. Matthew Fontaine Maury and others developed torpedoes (mines) to block federal riverine movements. These weapons dramatically damaged several Union vessels. Captain John Worden's USS Montauk struck a torpedo; yet his quick actions helped to save his ship enabling it to fight another day. Other US Navy monitors were not so fortunate. USS Tecumseh struck a torpedo during the Battle of Mobile Bay and sank in 90 seconds.

### **Mr. Lincoln's Brown Water Navy**

Presented by: Dr. Gary Joiner, Director and Chair of the History Department, LSU Shreveport

The Union inland navy that became the Mississippi Squadron is one of the greatest, yet least studied aspects of the Civil War. Without it, however, the war in the West may not have been won, and the war in the East might have lasted much longer and perhaps ended differently. The vessels they created were highly specialized craft which operated in the narrow confines of the Western rivers in places that could not otherwise receive fire support. This talk is about the intrepid men who fought under these conditions and the highly improvised boats in which they fought.

### **Hero of the Red River: The Life and Times of Joseph Bailey**

Presented by: Mr. Michael Goc

Joseph Bailey was a lumberman from Wisconsin with a civil engineering degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana. He started the Civil War as the Captain of the 4th Wisconsin Infantry Regiment. The real break for Joseph Bailey was when he accompanied General Nathaniel Banks on the 1864 Red River Campaign. The Red River Campaign was not successful and General Bank's army was in serious trouble and needed the 10 river gunboats of Commander David Dixon Porter.

However, the gun boats were stranded by low water at Alexandria and it appeared that the boats might be captured and the army surrendered. Bailey suggested a wing dam be built to raise the water level of the river enough to allow the gunboats to pass Alexandria. Bailey had done this in Wisconsin to get logs down rivers and was sure it would work. The Bailey Dam worked as predicted and General Banks' army and the gunboats were saved.

### **The Navy and Left-Armed Corps: Outstanding Service in War and Peace**

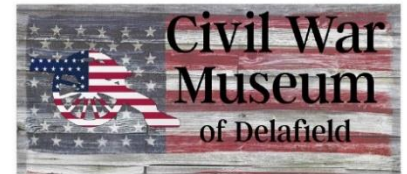
Presented by: Stephen A. Goldman, M.D., LFACLP, DLFAPA

Drawing upon his study of a representative cohort of battle-hardened Union soldiers and sailors who lost right arm function, research into the multifaceted impact of war on survivors, and longtime work with modern-day combat veterans, psychiatrist and author Dr. Stephen A. Goldman will explore superb naval efforts within the Left-Armed Corps. He will then link the veterans' uniformed service to their commitment to the war's "unfinished work", as they battled for equality for all Americans through Reconstruction, Jim Crow, and the Lost Cause.

**To register, please call 262-653-4140 or go to:**  
<https://museums.kenosha.org/civil-war-museum-programs-events/annual-events>



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



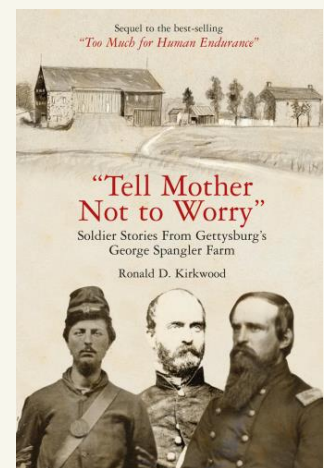
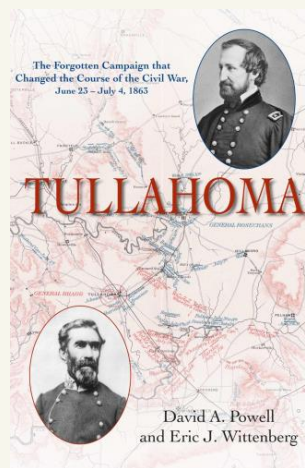
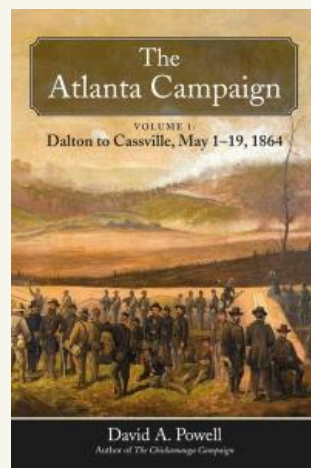
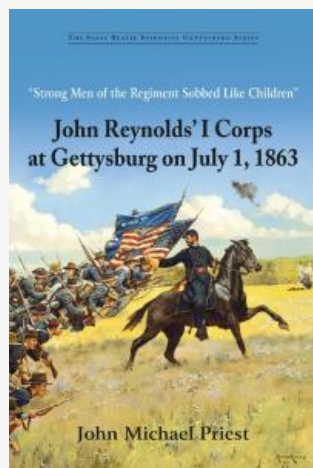
**The Overland Campaign, Part 2, and Jubal Early's Raid  
on Washington, May - August, 1864**

**Tuesday, October 1, 2024, 6:30-8:00 p.m.**

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

The museum is open Thursdays and Saturdays from 11:00-3:00 or by appointment, or call **262-303-4133**.  
Or to register via email or contact us with questions, write to us at: [cwmdel@gmail.com](mailto:cwmdel@gmail.com)

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



**Winter's coming! Don't be caught without some solid reading material.**

Check out these and other new titles from Savas Beatie. If you have checked the Savas Beatie Facebook page, it is a great way to see what is going on in the world of this premiere publisher of historical content. Savas Beatie is your prime source for any titles from the good folks at **Emerging Civil War**, too.

**[savasbeatie.com](http://savasbeatie.com)**

*General Orders*, the official publication of the **Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.** is produced September through June and upon request of the Board of Directors.

Send submissions to **David Wege** at [wegs1862@gmail.com](mailto:wegs1862@gmail.com). All submissions must be received by no later than the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to the next issue. We reserve the right to select articles to be printed and to edit for content, style, and length.

All address changes or problem receiving your *General Orders* should be directed to **Treasurer Paul Eilbes**.

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Yearly Round Table membership available: Individual (\$50), family (\$65), non-resident (\$30), attending education institution (\$25). **Contact Paul Eilbes for information at (262) 376-0568.**

The Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc. admits members of any race, color, national, or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, and activities of the Round Table.

**MILWAUKEE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE  
2024-2025 SPEAKER SCHEDULE**

September 12, 2024                      John Horn  
*Wilson-Kautz Raid*

October 10, 2024                      Jen Murray  
*General George Gordon Meade*

November 7, 2024                      **Kent Masterson Brown**  
*General Meade at Gettysburg and Lee's Retreat*

December 12, 2024                      Jon Sebastian  
(At the Country Club)  
*We Are All in This War – The Northern Homefront*

January 9, 2025                              Bjorn Skaptason  
*Shiloh*

February 13, 2025                      Hampton Newsome  
*Gettysburg's Southern Front*

March 13, 2025                              Gerry Prokopowicz  
*TBA*

April 10, 2025                              Phil Spaugy  
*The 19<sup>th</sup> Indiana of the Iron Brigade*

May 8, 2025                                      Steven Phan  
*Asian and Pacific Islanders During the Civil War*

June 12, 2025                              Dave Powell  
*Nevins-Freeman Award Winner*  
*Lost Opportunities in the Atlanta Campaign*

**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 Bspalec	Member	2026
Roman Blenski	Quartermaster	2025
Paul A. Eilbes	Treasurer	2025
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Bruce Klem	Past President	2027
Daniel Nettesheim	Member	2027
John Petty	Second Vice president	2025
Frank Risler	Program Chair	2027
Justin Tolomeo	Member	2026
David Wege	Editor, General Orders	2027

**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)

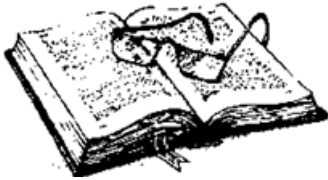
Grant will be creating a database with email reminders set to go out a week before the scheduled event. This is a purely optional choice on each member's part. If you have any questions please talk to Grant at a Round Table meeting or email him at the listed email address.

**Milwaukee Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for September 12, 2024**

Mail your reservations by Monday, September 9 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 \$35.00 per person) for \_\_\_\_\_ people for the  
September 12, 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**

### **Shipwrecked, A True Civil War Story of Mutinies, Jailbreaks, Blockade-Running, and the Slave Trade**

**Jonathan W. White**

This review is on the latest book that was read for the Kenosha Civil War Media Club for the January meeting. The book was Shipwrecked, A True Civil War Story of Mutinies, Jailbreaks, Blockade-Running and the Slave Trade by Jonathan W. White. This is a story of one Appleton Oaksmith. This is a story of a man who was an adventurer and sea captain among other things who in the end falls under the scrutiny of President Lincoln's administration in the battle of the slave trade. This book was one of the featured books in an issue of the Civil War Monitor which was one of the reasons it was chosen to read by the Media Club.

This lively historical work is about Appleton Oaksmith (1828-1887) and his mother, a feminist way ahead of her time. In this work Mr. White weaves an informative and instructive story regarding the slave traders of the Civil War period and the implications of Lincoln's suspending of the writ of habeas corpus. William Seward's State Department went after suspected slave traders, who mostly operated out of New York and New England, with a vengeance and apparently with little corroborating evidence of their crimes.

Appleton Oaksmith was a ship's captain and is a complex character, on whom we don't quite get a handle. It is primarily a biography of Appleton Oaksmith and secondarily of his mother Elizabeth Oakes Smith. Yet it is much more, as its subtitle indicates. It conveys aspects of life in 19th-century America that we do not often read about, with the Civil War serving mainly as backdrop. He started out as a ship's captain, owning a vessel and transporting goods to Africa and up the Congo River, to bring goods to settlements on the river. His boat became grounded in the river and threatened by native warriors. He and his crew managed to escape with help from a British Royal Navy ship and their crew. Ultimately his venture went bankrupt and he changed directions soon to be being associated with Tammany Hall.

His next move was to work his way back into shipping and this is where he runs into trouble. The main event of his life and of this book is the time that he fits out a ship purportedly as a whaling vessel and is arrested because the ship appears to be a slaver, intended to illegally transport people from Africa to the United States as slaves. From a historical standpoint the story is informative and instructive regarding the slave traders of the Civil War period and the implications of Lincoln's suspending of the writ of habeas corpus. William Seward's State Department went after suspected slave traders, who mostly operated out of New York and New England, with a vengeance and apparently with little corroborating evidence of their crimes. This seems to be the case for Oaksmith, although one wonders about his innocence. As I saw it, much of the case against him seems to be circumstantial but potentially damning. He was tried and convicted and sent to prison, where eventually escaped with help.

Later during the Civil War he became a Confederate blockade-runner, delivering goods in and out of the Confederacy. Yet after the war, he became a state legislator who was "ardently anti-Klan and in favor of protecting the rights of ex-slaves." What was his true attitude toward Black people? Who knows? It appears he played any side if it was profitable.

The author has created a story which has apparent tangents, such as the story of Nathaniel Gordon, who was hanged for slave trading after Lincoln refused to pardon him. But, as we read, we learn that these apparent tangents tie in with Oaksmith's story. I think the idea as to show the intense pressure put to eliminate slavery and all those even remotely connected with the trade.

Oaksmith devoted mother, Elizabeth is the other key character in this story. She continues to support her son, who found enemies and conspiracies against her "blameless" and poorly victimized son wherever she looked. Her influential reputation from her public speeches and literary endeavors gave her audiences with Secretary Seward, among many others, and she even wrote to Lincoln, that terrible and weak conspiratorial man, in her view, but to no avail. Her "innocent" son was never pardoned by Lincoln or Seward. Only Grant issued it, based on mom's tireless letter writing.

Appleton's life was a melodrama of somewhat hysterical proportions, complete with shipwrecks, marriages, a bitter divorce, exile, and many deaths among his family and friends. This is a terrific read, with appropriate scholarly citations and a selected bibliography of primary and secondary sources. The author's careful research is much appreciated and I think gives the reader a look at some little known but interesting facts about what was happening behind the lines. I think this is a book any student of the Civil War era should look into and should find it very interesting.

**submitted by Bruce Klem**

# 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!”

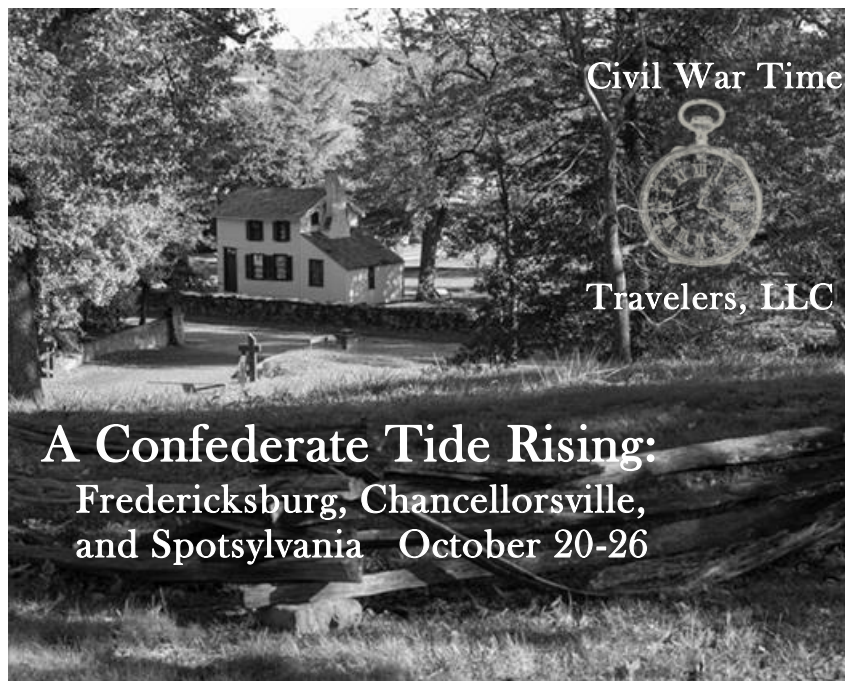


The Civil War Museum of Kenosha, WI is sponsoring a tour of sites and battlefields associated with the 1863 campaign to take Vicksburg, MS. During this tour, the group will visit locations such as Grand Gulf, Port Gibson, Raymond, Champion Hill, the siege lines of Vicksburg, the USS *Cairo* gunboat and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

<b>Beginning Balance:</b>		\$5,900.38	Checking Balance 7/1/2023		
<b>RECEIPTS</b>					
Dinner Receipts	\$18,155.00				
Member Dues	\$7,765.00				
Contribution-Annual Fund	\$5,770.00				
Speaker Enhancement Fund	\$3,065.00				
Book Raffle	\$1,105.00				
Clothing	\$140.00			MISC. RECEIPTS:	
Pins	\$15.00			CD Redemption	\$5,176.40
Surplus Book Sales	\$636.00			Education Memberships	\$125.00
Miscellaneous	\$5,426.40			Credit Card Points	\$75.00
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>\$42,077.40</b>		Donna A/ABT donation	\$50.00
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>					
Dinner Expense	\$21,927.63				
Speaker Expenses	\$4,732.85				
Printing	\$4,618.36				
Postage	\$2,387.25				
Contributions & Grants	\$5,400.00				
Office Supplies	\$308.86				
Plaques & Awards	\$1,133.00				
Miscellaneous	\$30.00				
Licenses & Renewals	\$145.50				
<b>Total Disbursements</b>		<b>\$40,683.45</b>			
		\$7,294.33	Checking Balance 6/30/2024		
		\$115.00	Cash on Hand		
		<b>\$6,622.45</b>	<b>Savings Balance</b>		



The memorial marker will be placed on 4<sup>th</sup> Street in front of the Rufus and Mary Dawes home. Behind it in the photo is the magnificent First Congregational Church. The original building burned down in 1905 and was rebuilt one year later. Rivermen called it “the two horned church” because of its twin bell towers, which served as a landmark for Ohio River traffic. The First Congregational Church is the oldest continuously operating congregation west of the Allegheny Mountains.

**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.

