

# GENERAL ORDERS

The Newsletter of the

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



October 10, 2024

Dr. Jen Murray

## **The Victor of Gettysburg: General George Gordon Meade & the Civil War**

Once prominently defined as the “Hero of Gettysburg,” General George G. Meade is now commonly obscured by generals deeply embedded into the Civil War narrative--Grant, Sherman, and Sheridan or Lee and Jackson. Indeed, Meade commanded the Army of the Potomac, the North’s principle instrument of war, longer than any other commander and assumed a prominent role in the course of the Civil War. Together, we will explore George Meade’s role and influence in the Civil War from his command of a brigade in the Pennsylvania Reserves to the commanding general of the Army of the Potomac.

Dr. Jennifer M. Murray is a military historian, with a specialization in the American Civil War, in the Department of History at Oklahoma State University. Murray is the author of *On a Great Battlefield: The Making, Management, and Memory of Gettysburg National Military Park, 1933-2013*, published by the University of Tennessee Press in 2014, with an updated version released in the summer of 2023. She is currently working on a full-length biography of George Gordon Meade, tentatively titled *Meade at War*. This is a comprehensive treatment of Meade’s life, with a focus on his military career in the Army of the Potomac. She is the co-editor of the forthcoming, *They Are Dead, And Yet They Live”: Civil War Memories in a Polarized America*, published with University of Nebraska Press. In addition to delivering hundreds of Civil War battlefield tours, Murray has led World War I and World War II study abroad trips to Europe. Murray is a veteran faculty member at Gettysburg College’s Civil War Institute. A Maryland native, Murray worked as a seasonal interpretive park ranger at Gettysburg National Military Park for nine summers.



Let’s welcome Dr. Murray to our Milwaukee Round Table as we learn more about a stalwart general whose history has not treated with the full attention he deserves.

### **General Orders No. 10-24**

**October 2024**

### **IN THIS ISSUE**

MCWRT News .....	page 2
From the Archives .....	page 3
Kenosha Civil War Museum .....	page 3
Area Events .....	page 3
From the Field .....	page 4
Wanderings .....	page 5
Through the Looking Glass .....	page 6
Seminary Ridge Museum News .....	page 7
Cedarburg History Museum .....	page 7
More Kenosha CW Museum .....	page 8
Preservation Victory! .....	page 8
Civil War Museum of Delafield .....	page 9
MCWRT Book Sale .....	page 9
Round Table News 2024-2025 .....	page 10
• <b>2024-2025 Speaker Schedule</b>	
• <b>2024-2025 Board of Directors</b>	
• <b>Meeting Reservation Form</b>	
Between the Covers .....	page 11
2024-2025 Tours .....	page 12
MCWRT Financial Summary .....	page 13
In Memoriam .....	page 13
Quartermaster’s Regalia .....	page 14

### **October Meeting at a Glance The Wisconsin Club First Floor Mitchell Room 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 October 7, 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. 10**

# 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 Muster Roll: NEW MEMBERS

TABLE II--CONSOLIDATED LIST of all persons of Class II, subject to the military law in the \_\_\_\_\_ Organizational District, residing in the Counties of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, Wisconsin, enumerated during the month of \_\_\_\_\_ 1867, under \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, Passed March \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER	NAME	RESIDENCE	PLACE OF BIRTH	FORMER MILITARY SERVICE	REMARKS
	<b>Mary Williams</b>	_____	_____		Has filed declaration of intent
	George Bohach 38	_____	_____		Has not filed declaration, names on My
	George Bohach 25	_____	_____		claim
	Andy Kaufman 43	_____	_____		Has filed declaration of intent
	Lois Mann 25	_____	_____		
	Lois Mann 25	_____	_____		

## 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 July 1, 2024 through September 14, 2024.

### Major Contributor (\$500 and above)

Paul Eilbes, Dawn and Van Harl, Grant Johnson

### Patron (\$200 - \$499)

Mike Deeken, Gerald Frangesch, Gene and Jane Jamrozy  
Dan Nettesheim, Laura Rinaldi

### Associate (\$100 - \$199)

John Abbott, Tom and Terry Arliskas, Crain Bliwas,  
Dale Brasser, Bill and Claudette Finke, Doug Haag, Jim  
Heinz, Peter and Jean Jacobsohn, Bruce Klem, Don  
Korte, Rod Malinowski, Kathy McNally, Brad and Kathy  
Schotanus, Dennis Slater, Justin and Stacy Tolomeo,  
Paul Zehren

### Contributor (up to \$99)

George Affeldt, Mike Benton, Dale Bepalec, Jim Blake,  
Robert Christie, Jim Cornelius, Gordon Dammann, Ellen  
DeMers, John Durr, Julian Gonzalez, Brian Gunn, Paul  
Heaton, John Lenchek, Paul and Susan Miller,  
Ed Newman, John Rodahl

### Speaker Enhancement Fund

John Abbott, George Affeldt, Mike Benton, Jim Blake,  
Jim Bolek, Dale Brasser, Gordon Dammann, Ellen  
DeMers, John Durr, Paul Eilbes, Gerald Frangesch,  
Julian Gonzalez, Doug Haag, Jim Heinz, John  
Helmenstine, Tom Hesse, Peter and Jean Jacobsohn  
Gene and Jane Jamrozy., John Kuhnmuensch, John  
Lenchek, Steve Magnusen, Rod Malinowski, Tom and  
Robin Martin, Kathy McNally, Jim and Monica Millane,  
John and Susan Petty, Laura Rinaldi, Dennis Slater,  
Paul Zehren



## Gentle Reminder

**The October 10 meeting of the Round Table will take place in the first floor Mitchell Room of the Wisconsin Club.**

## ATTENTION!

**A new Civil War Book Club will be hosting an organizational meeting on Saturday, October 12 in Mineral Point. The group will meet at 1:00 at the historic Odd Fellows Hall located at 112 Front Street.**

**For more information or to ask questions, please contact John Helmenstine – [helmenstine@att.net](mailto:helmenstine@att.net).**



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

- 2005 Ed Bearrs: "The Most Forgotten, Misunderstood, & Least Civil War Appreciated Soldiers and Battles"
- 2008 Gloria Swift: "Ford's Theater Secrets Revealed!"
- 2011 Vernon Burton: "Lincoln and the Constitution"
- 2012 Edward H. Bonekemper III: "Lincoln & Grant: The Westerners Who Won the War"
- 2013 Doug Dammann: "Elmer Ellsworth and the United States Zouave Cadets"
- 2014 Mark Bradley: "When East Meets West: Joe Hooker, O.O. Howard, and the Atlanta Campaign"
- 2015 Dennis Frye: "John Brown: The Spark That Ignited the War"
- 2016 Lance Herdegen: "The Baby Had Red Hair: Music of the Iron Brigade"
- 2018 Ted Karamanski: "The Civil War as an Indian War"
- 2019 Jim Lighthizer: "Historic Preservation and Place-Based Teaching"
- 2020 Rob Girardi: "Lincoln & the Common Soldier"
- 2021 David Dixon: "The American Civil War: A Radical, International Revolution"
- 2022 **75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner and Forum**
- 2023 Carleton Young: "Voices from the Attic: The Williamstown Boys in the Civil War"



The Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee was established in 1947 and is the second oldest of the more than 200 Civil War Round Tables still in existence in the United States and abroad. Current membership of the MCWRT is approximately 200.

## 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.

### John Brown:

#### Hero or Terrorist? Martyr or Madman?

Friday, October 11 | 12:00-1:00 p.m.

**Presenter: John Pressman**

This presentation will examine John Brown's life and how he arose from obscurity to become one of the most significant figures in the run-up to the Civil War. It will include the views of modern historians on Brown and how his attack on the federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry triggered the Civil War.

### The Atlanta Campaign: Missed Opportunities

Saturday, October 12 | 1:00-3:00 p.m.

**Instructor: Dave Powell**

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

"I've got Joe Johnston Dead!" Or so Sherman is said to have exclaimed upon hearing that James B. McPherson had seized Resaca. Famously, that turned out not to be true, one of the great "lost opportunities" of the entire war. But in fact, there were other such turning points in the first month of the campaign, each perhaps more significant than Resaca. On May 16, Sherman's armies stumbled crossing the Oostanula River, offering Johnston a chance to damage one or more of the Federal corps; and at Dallas, McPherson hesitated again when facing just a single small Confederate division. What would have happened if either of these moments had gone differently?

### 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.





# FROM THE FIELD

**Manitowoc Pilot**  
**May 31, 1861**

## **Archbishop Hughes for Peace**

The opinions of Archbishop Hughes upon the civil war, which have been looked for with much interest by a large class of our fellow citizens, are given to the public in the Metropolitan Record. We extract a portion of the remarks of this eminent divine. Above all the war, a civil war is the most deplorable and the most destructive in its consequences, both to the victors and vanquished. Its progress is marked by ruin and desolation. It gives a loose rein to the worst passions of the human nature; rapine and carnage, though horrible to gaze upon, though terrible to witness, cannot be compared to the moral evils which it inflicts upon society. Or is not in civil strife that the noble attributes of our nature are shown; the mind of man becomes hardened and callous amid scenes of blood and devastation. The transition from a peaceful republic to a military despotism is more easily effected through such a medium than people generally suppose. Man kind are pretty much the same in every age of the world. Material civilization, it is true may develop the mind and sharpen the intellect, but does not purify the aspirations nor elevate the moral nature of the race.

## **Chances of Being Killed in War**

Marshal Saxe, a high authority in such things, was in the habit of saying that to kill a man in battle, the man's weight in lead must be expended. A French medical and surgical Gazette, published at Lyons, says this fact was verified at Solferino, even in the recent great improvement in fire arms. The Austrians fired 8,400 rounds. The loss of the French and Italians was 2,000 killed, and 1,000 wounded. Each man hit cost 700 rounds, and every man killed cost 4,200 rounds.

The mean weight of a ball is one ounce; thus we find that it required, on an average, 272 pounds of lead to kill a man. If any one of our friends should get into a military fight they should feel great comfort in the fact that 700 shots may be fired at them before they are hit, and 4,200 before they "shuffle of the mortal coil."

## **Washington, May 24**

Alexandria is at this moment in quiet possession of the federal troops. But, alas, the occupation was not unattended by the loss of life. Gallant Colonel Ellsworth has fallen.

From an official report just made to the President by Capt. Fox, it appears that his regiment was the first on the other side, it having crossed the river in steam tugs. After the arrival

of other troops, he proceeded up the street with a squad of his men to take possession of the telegraph office. While passing along he noticed a secession flag flying from a house top.

He in the evening entered the building, made his way up to the roof, with one of his men, and hauled down the secession emblem, and wrapping it around his body he descended.

While on the second floor a secessionist came out of the door with cocked double barrel shot gun and took aim at Ellsworth, when the latter attempted to strike the gun out of his way with his fist, and as he struck it one of the barrels discharged, lodging the whole load of buck shot into Ellsworth's body, killing him instantly.

His companions instantly shot the murderer through the head, making him a corpse.

A second or two after the fall of Ellsworth, the house was immediately surrounded and all the inmates made prisoners. Thirty-five secession cavalries were made prisoners, by Federal Dragoons, in the vicinity of Alexandria.

The news of the death of Col. Ellsworth was not generally known through Washington until 10 o'clock to day. The excitement was immense, especially among the military, who express the greatest impatience and desire to be sent over the Virginia.

From a spyglass view of Alexandria the Stars and Stripes are seen flying from various heights.

Three hundred troops from South Carolina, arrived at Richmond, last Wednesday night, and are now stationed near old Point Comfort. They are to be followed by 500 more in a day or two, from the same state, making a full regiment of 1000 men. Twelve hundred Tennessee troops arrived at Richmond on Tuesday.



## **New York, May 24**

The news of the death of Col. Ellsworth created intense excitement here. The regret at his loss is mingled with a general feeling that he must be avenged.

**Thank you, Jim Johnson, for these  
*From the Field* features!  
You consistently provide us with an  
interesting read.**

## Marker Dedication to Rufus Dawes

August 3, 2024 – Marietta, Ohio



General Rufus R. Dawes passed away August 1, 1899. A historic marker in his honor was created by the CWRT of the Mid-Ohio Valley and dedicated on August 3, 2024 in Marietta, Ohio, exactly 125 years after his memorial service on August 3, 1899.

Reverend William Roe, presiding at Rufus' funeral said, "A man richly endowed with talent, successful in winning well-deserved honor, possessing in a high degree those elemental qualities that make a true manhood, he was one who served well his day and generation, and left a multitude who not only admired his ability and achievements, but loved him for the lovable traits in his nature." It is because of these qualities that the CWRT of the Mid-Ohio Valley chose to honor Rufus.

CWRT members from Milwaukee, WI; Cleveland, OH; Vandalia, OH; Wayne County, OH; Pittsburgh, PA and other areas along with a member of the Association of Gettysburg Licensed Battlefield Guides were in attendance. Darryl and Mary Roberts came from Gettysburg. The event which took place in the First Congregational Church: "The Church of the Pioneers" was attended by over 140 people. This church is where, from the balcony, General Dawes first saw Mary Gates whom he would eventually wed.

Dawes family members numbered over 45 and were members of a group, Descendants of William Dawes Who Rode Association (DWDWRA,) that honors their forebear who rode with Paul Revere.

Musical selections offered were cited by Rufus in his memoirs, *Service with the Sixth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry*. Nathan Mann, a family member, opened with a bagpipe selection followed by presentation of colors by members of Benjamin D. Fearing, Camp #2 and CWRT and SUVCW organizations from Iron Brigade States.

Local CWRT president, Nancy Arthur, welcomed all and introduced Marietta Mayor, Joshua Schlicher, who declared this Rufus and Mary Gates Dawes Day.

Detailed background comments were offered by Scott Britton, Director of the local Castle Museum and CW expert and Steve Magnusen, author of the book *To My Best Girl, Courage, Honor and Love in the Civil War*, a historical novel about the lives of Rufus and Mary and the Civil War.

References to Rufus' memoirs, *Service with the Sixth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry: Four Years with the Iron Brigade*, were mentioned. Leight Murray, coordinator of this event also served as emcee, weaving together this beautiful and heart-warming ceremony.

Unveiling of the marker was performed by Barb Moberg, president of DWDWRA along with granddaughters Elsa and Lulu Espinosa and nephew Matthew Messerle. Battle Hymn of the Republic immediately followed.

Lunch was offered at The Betsey Mills Club three blocks away. During lunch a video was shown of the battle at South Mountain, which preceded the Battle of Antietam. Family member, Bryan Haynes, portrayed Rufus in this video twenty years ago. He enlightened us with memories of that event.

The Betsey Mills Club was the childhood home of Betsey and Mary Gates and the site of Mary's marriage to Rufus. (1864) It was later the birthplace of their son, Charles Gates Dawes, Vice President in the Coolidge administration. It was also the site of Barb Moberg's marriage to Jack. Four blocks up the street at 508 Fourth Street, the group was invited into the Dawes' home by current residents, Dr. and Mrs. Rick Hershey. Much to the delight of everyone, the interior was instantly recognizable from historic photos of the home.

Meeting at the Dawes' family plot, a few blocks away in Oak Grove Cemetery, Mary Roberts led a repeat singing of *Battle Hymn of the Republic*. Darryl Roberts, Scott Britton and Steve Magnusen engaged in lively conversation on the impact of the attack at the Railroad Cut and its impact on the outcome of the Battle of Gettysburg.

Saturday night's dinner at the Levee House Bistro overlooking the Ohio River brought convivial conversation with Dawes family members and their new-found friends among the CWRT members from afar, who were now considered Honorary Dawes family. Members of the Iron Brigade Association and CWRT of Milwaukee presented memorial gifts and expressed their honor in attending and being welcomed by the DWDWRA and the Dawes family.

Barb Moberg offered sincere thanks and appreciation to those who had traveled so far to share in the recognition of her great-great-grandfather, General Dawes, and also to celebrate the historic marker dedication.

submitted by Jack and Barb Moberg  
Marietta, Ohio



*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!

## Benny Havens, Oh!

From the West Point Sketch Book by MAJ Ernie Webb, CPT John D. Hart, and 1LT James E. Foley:

No story of Mr. Ducrot could be complete without mention of Benny Havens. This affable creature so famed in song and story, first crashed the official records about 1825 as keeper of "a public house or place where liquors are sold." Prior to this, we know, Benny, who had come to West Point from New Windsor as a young man, had worked for the sutler or general storekeeper; one of those who had been cashing Mister Ducrot's pay checks in advance at a juicy premium. At this time, the barracks were located in what is now known as Central Area. The store was located about where the north sallyport of Central Barracks is now. Benny lost his job at the store for selling rum to a cadet, so he joined a volunteer outfit from Buttermilk Falls, holding a commission of first lieutenant in the War of 1812. Then he had run a floating delicatessen for several years before opening up, just off the post, south and west of the present cadet hospital. This was located on property owned by one Mr. Gridley. Here he and the missus, a marvelous cook, dispensed good food and hot rum punches, both highly esteemed by the Corps, until the government finally got around to buying up the Gridley property, mainly to remove the tavern nuisance.

Naturally this commendable act only added to the wear and tear on Mister Ducrot's shoe leather! For when Benny and the missus moved still farther south to their historic location down at the river's edge below Buttermilk Falls, the Corps simply extended its lines of communication and maintained contact as both tactics books and tummies prescribed. Mister Ducrot liked this site even better, for now he had the river for a secondary escape route, especially handy when it was frozen over and circumstances indicated rapid withdrawal. There were still hazards, of course, and it is reported that the Confederate States of America almost lost their president before he even left West Point -- it seems that Jeff Davis once slipped off the cliffs trying to evade the tacs who had invaded Benny's, and was nearly killed. But it was nice and private down there by the falls, and although the hospitable Benny welcomed the tac's good dollar along with the cadet's doubtful chit, the brass kept their distance for quite a few years, staging only an occasional raid to corral their wandering boys.

Even after the young lieutenants in the T.D. who had so recently enjoyed Benny's as cadets began frequenting the little tavern with greater regularity, much to Ducrot's disgust, Mein Host usually got warning enough to shoo his illegal guests out through back windows and doors before the V.I.P.'s arrived. Legend has it that the slow-falling waters of Buttermilk Creek even speeded up at such times and roared their own warning of approaching trouble. Be that as it may, despite the awesome number of unofficial cadet-hours spent at Haven's during the thirty-odd years he acted as sommelier to the Corps, his influence on the Academy was a healthy one as a whole. In later years at least, the authorities realized this and made no determined effort to close him up, although there was always much to-do about getting around to it.

For Benny and the missus, whose hearts were bigger even than their ample bodies, were no contributors to juvenile delinquency, as they loved every cadet like their own son. And despite the tall tales that have grown up around the little house at the river's edge, there was always for more eating down there than drinking, although Benny was famous for the quality of his "flip." "Flip" was made of a mixture of ale or cider and eggs well beaten, sweetened and spiced, and made hot by means of a red hot iron or "flip dog" plunged into it. If the iron was left in just long enough, a caramel-like flavor was the result -- and Benny knew to the second when to withdraw the "dog." When Benny ceremoniously plunged his sizzling poker into his famous flagon of rum punch and "filled the brimming glasses," it was only to warm cold, homesick young hearts with friendly hospitality so that they could for a while at least forget their barren existence, while the roasting fowl turned dripping on its spit and the aroma of flapjacks and fraying ham filled the low-ceilinged, smoky room. It is no wonder that Benny's meant so much to so many, for it was the one place Mister Ducrot could unfasten his collar, put up his feet, and let down his hair in an atmosphere of home. To hell with the risks; they even added to the spice of it, and what were a couple of months of walking the area in comparison?

The hours of relaxation spent at Benny's were not soon forgotten, and graduates returning to West Point in later years were almost certain to return to that site of pleasant memories, just as did Lieutenant Lucius O'Brien in the winter of 1839-40.

submitted by James Johnson

-to be continued-



## Gettysburg Museum Announces New Executive Director

Seminary Ridge Museum and Education Center (SRMEC) has announced that Judy Morley will serve as its new Executive Director and President of the Seminary Ridge Historic Preservation Foundation (SRHPF). SRMEC inhabits the 1832 Lutheran Seminary structure that became a centerpiece of the first day of the Battle of Gettysburg. Inside, it interprets the causes and consequences of the Civil War, in a building where slavery was debated, where military leaders used the Cupola as a lookout, and where the battlefield's largest fixed field hospital was created July 1, 1863. Morley was unanimously elected by the SRHPF Board of Directors on Friday, September 6 at its fall meeting. She brings degrees in American History and teaching experience in the American Civil War to the award-winning Museum, as well as depth in executive and management experience. She has extensive communication training and expertise in entrepreneurship and fundraising. Em Cole, SRHPF Board Chair, sees in Morley "a superb combination of historian, educator, and manager for leading the Museum. She has breadth and depth of experiences that will serve the mission of the Seminary Ridge Museum well, and she has familiarity with nonprofit organizations in Adams County." Brad Hoch, a member of the search group, suggested reasons Morley rose to the top of their list. Her "lifelong studies in the American Civil War, her professionalism, communication abilities and high energy bring a powerful skill set to the ongoing work of those on Seminary Ridge." Morley reflected her high energy for the SRHPF mission and its Museum, saying "I am thrilled to join the team of this amazing organization! It's an honor to be able to work with such skilled and passionate individuals, and I hope that my talents will be a beneficial contribution to our mission."



The Museum opened in 2013 on the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg under the direction of Barbara Franco. Morley succeeds Peter Miele, who had served in various roles on the Museum staff since 2013 and served as its Executive Director since 2020. She will assume the new position October 1.

Cedarburg History Museum  
N58W6194 Columbia Road  
Cedarburg, WI 53012

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



### October 18 @ 6-8 pm Conclusion and Aftermath of the Civil War presented by Brook Brown

After the Civil War the challenge begins. The war ends, but what comes next? The plan for Reconstruction and its results will be discussed. Often the peace can be harder than the war. The presentation will be given by Brook Brown, retired and award-winning U.S. History teacher from Homestead High School.

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





## **From Prison Guards to Prisoners: The Story of the Nineteenth Wisconsin**

**Friday, November 8 | 12:00-1:00 p.m.**

**Presenter: Larry Desotell**

The presentation will track this little-known regiment from Wisconsin. After forming and training in Racine, the regiment was stationed at Camp Randall to guard Confederate prisoners sent there after the April 1862 fight at Island No. 10. Almost the entire regiment was killed, wounded, or taken prisoner at the Second Battle of Fair Oaks. Prisoners, who once served as guards, now tasted prison life from a different angle. This is their story.

## **Union General Daniel Butterfield: A Civil War Biography**

**Friday, December 13 | 12:00-1:00 p.m.**

**Presenter: Dr. James Pula**

Dan Butterfield played a pivotal role during the Civil War – led troops in the field at the brigade, division, and corps level; wrote the 1862 Army field manual; composed “Taps;” and served as the chief of staff for Joe Hooker in the Army of the Potomac. Butterfield was also controversial, not well-liked, and tainted by politics. Award-winning author James S. Pula unspools facts from fiction to offer the first detailed and long-overdue treatment of the man and the officer.

## **Preservation Victory in Chattanooga**

After 14 months of ongoing effort to “Save the Bend, Again” from the threat of new construction within the National Archeological District boundary on Moccasin Bend, National Park Partners has announced a preservation victory. Tennessee officials are now advocating for saving the land instead of going forward with plans to rebuild the mental health facility first located there in 1961.

An archeological survey commissioned by state officials proved beyond any doubt that Moccasin Bend is a time capsule containing evidence of 12,000 years of continuous human habitation. Tennessee Governor Bill Lee and the Hamilton County legislative delegation, together with National Park partners, state that recognizing that the highest and best use of this incredibly significant land is cultural and historic interpretation, for the benefit of all, now and forever.

Named for its unique shape, Moccasin Bend is a peninsula formed by a prominent bend in the Tennessee River and is directly across the river from downtown Chattanooga.

During the Civil War, Moccasin Bend was a crucial strategic location in the Union’s efforts to supply its forces. The peninsula is sometimes referred to as “The Key to Chattanooga.” It was here that the “Cracker Line” was established, allowing Federal supplies to be transported across the Tennessee River at Brown’s Ferry. The issue of supplying the Union Army in Chattanooga became paramount when the army retreated to Chattanooga after the stunning defeat at Chickamauga in the Fall of 1863. Bottled up in the city under the guns of the besieging Confederate Army, Federal troops suffered severely from lack of food and other needed supplies. When the “Cracker Line” was opened, and with a new commander in Ulysses S. Grant along with reinforcements from the East, Union forces stormed out of the city and drove the Rebels from the high ground they held.

Moccasin Bend is a part of the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park. In addition to its place in Civil War history, Moccasin Bend was also a part of the Trail of Tears. The Trail of Tears National Historic Trail follows the route of the Brown's Ferry Road that crossed Moccasin Bend and commemorates the forced removal of Cherokee Indians from their ancestral homelands.

While saving the land for cultural and historical interpretation is an important preservation victory, the work of completing the park is not done. National Park Partners and city, county, state, tribal, federal, and other community partners will continue to work to complete their dream of a first-class interpretive site.



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



Please check the website for titles and times of presentations.

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/>

## Think you know all there is to understand about President Abraham Lincoln?



At the January 9, 2025 meeting of the Round Table, our esteemed Quartermaster Roman Blenski will be bringing books for a special sale. At just \$3.00 per book, one can brush up on knowledge of the Rail-splitter, learn more of the complicated man who took on the powerful Stephen A. Douglas in debate, or simply come to a new appreciation of the man who guided the ship of state through the awful storm of the Civil War. All book sale proceeds go directly to support the educational mission and programming of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee.

So, help Roman clear a few books out of the stockpile he holds for the Round Table. At the same time, help our group by adding some funds for our work. Imagine - \$3.00 for a book about Abraham Lincoln, and just in time for your Christmas shopping.

*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 12, 2024	John Horn <i>Wilson-Kautz Raid</i>
October 10, 2024	Jen Murray <i>General George Gordon Meade</i>
November 7, 2024	Allen Ottens <i>The Grant-Rawlins Relationship During the Civil War</i>
December 12, 2024	Jon Sebastian (At the Country Club) <i>We Are All in This War – The Northern Homefront</i>
January 9, 2025	Bjorn Skaptason <i>Shiloh</i>
February 13, 2025	Hampton Newsome <i>Gettysburg's Southern Front</i>
March 13, 2025	Gerry Prokopowicz <i>TBA</i>
April 10, 2025	Phil Spaugy <i>The 19<sup>th</sup> Indiana of the Iron Brigade</i>
May 8, 2025	Steven Phan <i>Asian and Pacific Islanders During the Civil War</i>
June 12, 2025	Dave Powell <i>Nevins-Freeman Award Winner</i> <i>Lost Opportunities in the Atlanta Campaign</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
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Frank Rislér	Program Chair	2027
Justin Tolomeo	Member	2026
David Wege	Editor, General Orders	2027

**www.milwaukeeecwrt.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)

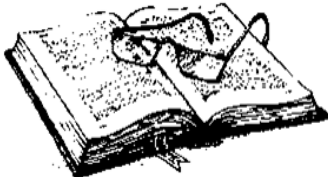
Grant will be creating a database with email reminders set to go out a week before the scheduled event. This is a purely optional choice on each member's part. If you have any questions please talk to Grant at a Round Table meeting or email him at the listed email address.

**Milwaukee Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for October 10, 2024**

Mail your reservations by Monday, October 7 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  
October 10, 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!”

2024 BUS TRIP  
**VICKSBURG**  
 CAMPAIGN TOUR  
 OCTOBER 6-9

THE CIVIL WAR  
 UPPER MIDDLE WEST EXPERIENCE

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>

Civil War Time

Travelers, LLC

Join CWTT for a week exploring the Trans-Mississippi as we dive into the lesser-known battles of Wilson’s Creek, Pea Ridge, and Prairie Grove. Union victories came hard early in the war, but Old Glory eventually flew over the region despite early setbacks and defeats. Come visit these pristine battlefields and discover why the Trans-Mississippi was important in the overall Union war effort.

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)

**Trouble in the Trans-Mississippi:**  
 Wilson’s Creek, Pea Ridge, Prairie Grove  
 April 27 - May 3, 2025



<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
Surplus Book Sales	\$636.00			Education Memberships
Miscellaneous	\$5,426.40			Credit Card Points
Total Receipts		\$42,077.40		Donna A/ABT donation
				\$5,176.40
				\$125.00
				\$75.00
				\$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			
Total Disbursements		\$40,683.45		
		\$7,294.33	Checking Balance 6/30/2024	
		\$115.00	Cash on Hand	
		\$6,622.45	Savings Balance	

### What is a Ration?

People sometimes wonder, "What was the daily ration for a Union soldier?" The following is a list of articles constituting a daily ration for one soldier, from the army regulations:

- 20 oz. fresh and salt beef or 12 oz pork
- 18 oz. soft bread or flour, or 12 oz hard bread
- 2.5 oz. beans or 18.5 oz. rice, 5-6 oz. sugar
- 1 oz. coffee, ground, ½ gill vinegar
- ¼ oz. candles, two-thirds oz. soap, ½ oz. salt



### ~In Memoriam~

Harry H. Anderson, age 93, died peacefully on May 21, 2024. Harry served as the Executive Director of the Milwaukee County Historical Society for over 35 years, and also served as an adjunct professor at UW-Milwaukee. Harry dedicated his life to the teaching and preservation of Milwaukee history, Wisconsin history, and the history of the American frontier.

Harry is survived by his loving wife of nearly 66 years, Evelyn Anderson; and daughters Susan Anderson Clayton (Ronald) of Waukesha, Karen Anderson Crawford (Alan) of Milwaukee, and Signe Anderson of Whitefish Bay; and grandchildren Jack and Julie Clayton.

*May flights of angels guide him to his rest.*

**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.

