

GENERAL ORDERS

The Newsletter of the

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



December 12, 2024

Jon Sebastian

We Are All in This War: the Northern Homefront

While the battles were mostly fought in the South, the people of the North were directly impacted and affected by the Civil War. Many aspects of life, even mundane daily tasks, were different. What were the experiences of those on the home front? How were they changed? And who were the Victorians? (Not the Steampunk variety) Where did they fit in? What about industrialization, transportation, and technology? And, of course, there were times when the Northern home front did become the battle front. Perhaps this side of the war deserves a closer look.

Jonathan Sebastian earned his B.A. in history from Judson College (now University) and his M.A. in Public History from Loyola University Chicago. He has been an adjunct professor of history at Judson University teaching World History 1500 to the Present and U.S. History. More recently, he was a social studies teacher at Woodlands Academy of the Sacred Heart. He was a tour guide at Jubilee College State Historic site outside of Peoria, Illinois, a project-based researcher at the Pritzker Military Library, and was the curator of the Fischer Farm historic site in Bensenville, Illinois. Currently, he



is an experience facilitator at the Arlington Heights Historical Museum and the education and programs assistant at the Elmhurst History Museum. He is also the author of Bensenville in the Arcadia Press Images of America Series.

General Orders No. 12-24

December 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
Through the Looking Glass.....	page 5-6
Fond du Lac's Pier Cemetery	page 6
Patriotic Luncheon Invitation	page 7
Cedarburg History Museum	page 7
Civil War Museum of Delafield	page 8
MCWRT Book Sale	page 8
Round Table News 2024-2025	page 9

- **2024-2025** Speaker Schedule
- **2024-2025** Board of Directors
- Meeting Reservation Form

Between the Covers	page 10-11
Wanderings	page 12
Travels and Tours	page 13
MCWRT – Reservations Upgrade	page 13
Mineral Point Book Club	page 13
Quartermaster's Regalia	page 14

December Meeting at a Glance

**The Bavarian Bierhaus
700 W. Lexington Blvd
Glendale, Wisconsin**

- 5:30 p.m. - Registration/Social Hour
- 6:30 p.m. - Dinner
- 7:30 p.m. - Program

**Reservations are requested by
Monday December 2, 2024.**

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





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

- 2005 Steve Fratt: "Civil War Combat and the 19th Century Revolution in Military Affairs"
- 2008 Third Annual Christmas Gala
- 2010 Samuel Hyde, Jr. PH.D.: "A Wisconsin Yankee in Confederate Bayou Country"
- 2011 Dr. James I. Robertson: "The Untold Civil War"
- 2012 Dale Philips: "The Red River Campaign"
- 2013 Col. Kevin Weddle: "Lincoln's Forgotten Admiral"
- 2014 Jim Ogden: "The Fight at Reed's Bridge"
- 2015 Dave Keller: "Camp Douglas"
- 2016 Bjorn Skaptason: "What I Saw of Shiloh"
- 2018 David Hirsch and Dan Van Haften: "Abraham Lincoln and the Structure of Reason"
- 2019 Daniel Weinberg: "Abraham Lincoln Bookshop Artifacts"
- 2020 Stephen K. Rogstad: "Stories from Among the Badgers"
- 2021 Dennis Doyle: "Illinois Regiments at Gettysburg"
- 2022 Garry Adelman: "Midwest Civil War Photo Extravaganza"
- 2023 Scott Mingus: "Unceasing Fury: Texans at the Battle of Chickamauga"



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.

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.

Pearl Harbor Remembrance Ceremony

Friday, December 6 | 11:00am – 12:00pm

Presented by Navy Club Ship 40.

Christmas at the Museums

Formerly "Victorian Christmas"

Saturday, December 7 | 10:00am – 3:00pm

Free and Open to the Public

Embrace the holiday spirit at the Kenosha Public Museums! Visit the Civil War Museum and step into a world of 19th century and present-day traditions. Experience living history and historic trades demonstrations in our main exhibit gallery, live performances, crafts, games, a seasonal display of Civil War Santa figurines and a bake sale.



*Merry Christmas and
Season's Greetings
to one and all!*



Daily Milwaukee News
Saturday, December, 27 1863

Christmas in Milwaukee - What was done at the Churches

At the Cathedral

In the Cathedral, the natal day of the world's Redeemer was ushered in by the celebration of Pontifical High Mass at 4 o'clock in the morning, at which the Rt. Bishop officiated, assisted by very Rev. M. Kundig and three or four clergy of the Diocese. The Church on this day throws off its robes of mourning and emblems of mortifying in commemoration of Him who came to redeem man. The vestments of priest and altar were white, and the Church was joyously lighted to the full extent of artificial rays. There was more than an ordinary number of acolytes in attendance on the altar, as is usual on such great festivals.

The organ pealed forth in impressive tones the following parts, which formed a pleasing contrast to the airs performed on occasions of mortification and repentance, such as the De Profundis. Such sad airs are not in harmony with the spirit of the Church on this day, but give way to ones of more joyous praise, such as the Mass from Mozart, Kyrie Eleison. Gloria in Excelsis, Duett Treble, and the hymn "Adeste Fideles," all of which were rendered on this occasion.

As the sacred arches echoed back the prayerful chant of praise, it was felt that this was indeed the day for the common jubilee of Christendom. And those who gazed on the clouds of sweet incense which enveloped the altar could not fail to remember how pure the aspirations of the human heart should be to ascend to the altar on High for another year of prosperity and happiness. Notwithstanding the early hour at which the services commenced, the church was crowded to excess, both pews and aisles being taken up. There was another High Mass at half past ten on Sunday, and Pontifical Vespers at three o'clock in the afternoon.

The Church of St. Paul

The single service usual on this occasion was held at the church of St. Paul Episcopalian. commencing at half past ten in the morning. Rev. Dr. Kelley, the rector of the parish, officiated at the altar. More than the usual number were present. The exercises were preceded by a Christmas carol selected for the occasion and admirably sung. In addition to the morning prayer and chant selections were read from the 19th, 45th and 85th psalms, and the 45th and 46th hymns of the prayer book were impressively sung by the choir. The trimmings of the church were tasteful and expressive.

Upon the east wall, over the chancel were inserted the words in emerald "Arise, Shine, for thy light is come." Above the eastern doors and altar were suspended a star, a cross and a crown, each encircled with a wreath of green. The pulpit cloth was decorated with a cross of evergreen, and the communion table with a cross of evergreen and white immortelles. The font was wreathed from basin to base. The emerald drapery also twined the railing enclosing, the altar, and draped from window to window in festoons. At five in the evening the little ones of the Sabbath school assembled at the church, where many gifts were distributed from a cheery Christmas tree.

St. John's Church

At four o'clock on Thursday evening an abundant feast was provided by the teachers for the children of the sabbath school in the chapel. After the feast, and while the Rector, Rev. Mr. Keene, was making some instructive and impressive remarks to the children, the merry jingling of bells was heard heralding the approach of Santa Claus, who entered the room with an enormous pack on his back. Mr. & Mrs. St. Nick distributed gifts to the happy innocents in lavish profusion from the aforesaid pack. The favors did not stop with the children, but the Rector and each of the teachers, not omitting the sexton, came in for a share of his bounty. After the festival the little ones went home to show their gifts and talk of the happy time they had.

By all children these festivals were hailed with unusual joy. But it is more hailed with unusual joy. It is more peculiarly so with the poor, those whose homes are never gladdened by such gifts on any other occasion. to such, these are most precious memories, treasured from year to year, and are the oases in the gloomy desert their lives. At how little cost can joy be bought for them! God be praised for these holidays!

On Friday the usual service was held in the church. A sermon was preached by the rector. His text was-"God, who at sundry times and in diverse manners hath revealed himself to the world by the prophets, hath in these last days", was expounded in a learned, logical and instructive manner. He showed the fallacy of the modern philosophies, which either discord or explain away the great doctrine of this manifestation of the Deity to man and impressively taught the necessity of an active, living faith in this cardinal doctrine of the great redemption. The church was very tastefully decorated for the occasion by the ladies of the society."

The principal aisle was overarched by evergreens, and the lampposts between this and the side aisles were completely concealed by graceful wreaths. The pulpit and the communion table were also beautifully adorned. On the latter was inscribed in evergreen the words--His Name Shall be called Jesus." The inscription was in two lines and between the lines was a representation of the cross. The close of the exercises was marked by one of the best pieces of music to which it has ever been our privilege to listen a Christmas carol which was rendered by the choir in a manner that would have done credit to most cathedrals.



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!

1863: DOLPHUS SKINNER DAMUTH TO MARIA DAMUTH



This letter was written by Dolphus Skinner Damuth (1839-1913), the son of George Damuth (1799-1872) and Elizabeth Tarbell (1808-1902) of Ft. Atkinson, Wisconsin. Dolphus was born in Jefferson County, New York, but came to Wisconsin with his parents in 1840. He wrote the letter to his sister Maria E. Damuth (1843-1911).

Rear of Vicksburg
June 14, 1863

Dear Sister,

I have just returned from our regular two hours duty sharpshooting. I didn't see any Rebels this morning but have seen a great many last week. I heard our men talking with the rebels. The captain [Gustavus H. Bryant] heard what the rebels said. The conversation was all blackguard. Our men work every night digging rifle pits. They keep getting closer all the time. The Battery keep to work slowly—just enough to let the Rebels know that we are around. At night the gunboats gives it to them. I have watched for hours to see them come over. It is fun. It is as good to see as fireworks on the 4th of July. What effect they have on the Rebels is more than I know but it must make a scattering among them sometimes. I know we don't like to see their coming over here to see us and they don't shoot one where we do 500.

I don't get any letters from home but keep writing and suppose you do the same. I am very anxious to hear from home but I suppose no more so than you are to hear from me. I am well and can eat my regular rations.

Our wounded and all the men left to care for them at Champion Hills have all gone up the river and John [R.] Tyler & Will[is W.] Wilson that were taking care of them come to the company yesterday. J[ohn] B. Meise had his arm taken off and bled to death. Ed[win] Skinner had his leg taken off and died on the way to the river. Drum Major [Frederick A.] Dyke died at Milliken's Bend. He was a very old man and ought to have went home. That makes 8 men we have lost since we crossed the river—3 killed in battle, 3 died of wounds received there, and two by sickness. As you have a record of the company, I will send you a list of the names of those that have died and all about the men in the company. Then you can see what a change there has been in our company since we left Camp Randall.

I think we will need some of those drafted men to fill up our ranks but I had rather they would keep them away from us. I don't like the idea of sending down a lot of green men for us to drill. We are drilled so that we don't have to do any of that kind of business. Now we have to put in practice what we have learned.

Wilson & Tyler start today for the Capitol of Indiana where they will stay until they are exchanged. I think they will get a chance to come home. I hope so for they are both good boys & have had a hard time taking care of our wounded but they had plenty to eat I suppose. Blackberries are very plenty out there. I have had a good many cups of ripe ones since we have been here but there is so many to pick them that there is not many for a man. Some of the boys were out on picket. They say corn is seven feet high. They saw three acres of water melons all in the blow. They looked nice. I suppose the owner was going to sell them to the soldiers in Vicksburg but now if there is any, we will take them in welcome.

I am acting as Orderly and make it go well. We have got one of the best captains that ever lived. He buys lots of things for the boys. The other day he got some pickles for the whole company and paid for it himself. He never gets anything good but what he calls me into his tent to get some. I have always tried to please him and believe I always have. When I wanted to go into the negro regiment, he told me enough so that I knew that I had better stay where I was. The boys all think everything of him as much as they do of [Lt. David W.] Curtis. Curtis has been unwell for a few days past but is getting better now.

continued



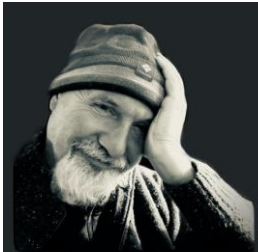
picture of Dolph in later years
submitted by Jim Gorman

Our Orderly don't seem to gain much. If he don't look out, he never will. It is hard work for a man to get up if he once gets down. The Division that the Tarbell boys are in are out to Black River bridge. I suppose there is an army of 160,000 men around here now. I would like to see the Rebel army that can whip us or drive us out of here. The thing can't be done. Gen. Grant is in no sweat about Vicksburg. It don't cost anymore to board us here than anywhere else. We know that they can't always live in there and know that they never can get out. I think when we get this place, we will see a little better times. I think we shall go up the river.

I wrote a letter to Sate [Sadie] some time ago. I don't see why she don't answer it. I hope you will all write as often as twice a week so you will hear from me often. I expect uncle Joy will be down here to see his boys but I don't expect to see him. I can't think of anything more to write just now so I will close for this time.

From Dolph

Spared & Shared Facebook is a portal to the largest archive of privately held American Civil War era letters and diaries you'll find on the web. These letters have been transcribed & researched by William Griffing, public historian. Check this site for fascinating, primary content!



For the last fifteen years since my retirement I have been transcribing letters—literally thousands of Civil War era letters and diaries that have never been previously published, most of them held in private collections for decades. The majority of these have been showcased either on one of my many Spared & Shared Webpages or on separate stand-alone websites.

A Message from William Griffing

If you have any Civil War or Antebellum Letters you are willing to share and wish them transcribed, researched, and showcased on Spared & Shared, please get in touch with me. I do not charge anything for this service and will consider any project as long as it results in public dissemination of the contents so that historians and family researchers might gain from the publication. I use my Spared & Shared Facebook Page to announce the posting of letters recently transcribed that I find particularly interesting, but not all of them. —Will Griffing (“Griff”)



Students from Trinity Lutheran School in Campbellsport area, along with a young man who makes a business of cleaning cemetery headstones, visited Pier Cemetery in Fond du Lac on November 9. Also involved in the clean-up of the grounds were members of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War C.K. Pier Badger Camp No. 1 and members of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee. It was a job well-done!



You're invited to our 55th Annual
Patriotic Luncheon

Honoring Presidents Washington, Lincoln and McKinley
Saturday, February 1, 2025 at 12:30 p.m.



"The Devil is in the Details: Lincoln & Temperance"
Guest Speaker: Steve Rogstad

Bid on premium silent auction items. Choose from a multitude of prizes in our \$1 raffle. Make new friends among more than 30 patriotic, hereditary, fraternal, historical and service organizations in attendance.

Luncheon buffet price \$27 per person

Location: Alioto's Restaurant

3041 N. Mayfair Rd., Wauwatosa, Wis.

(exit Hwy. 45 at Burleigh; east to Hwy. 100; turn right to restaurant)

Luncheon buffet includes:

Tenderloin Tips with Noodles or Baked Chicken.

Served with honey glazed carrots, buttered new potatoes, assorted relish tray, tossed garden salad,

Italian bread, coffee, sherbet for dessert.

Hosted by C.K. Pier Badger Camp #1 and Auxiliary #4
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

For more information, call (414) 614-3690

(Deadline for reservations is Friday, January 24, 2025.)

Cedarburg History Museum
N58W6194 Columbia Road
Cedarburg, WI 53012

www.cedarburghm.org



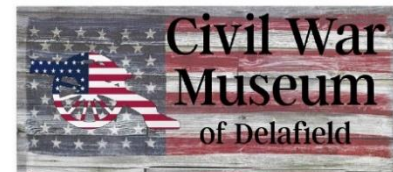
A New Exhibit Premiered on November 13

"Christmas Through the Decades"

Decorations, music, toys, and more transformed the Magic of Christmas throughout the 20th Century.

To attend a free lecture, please RSVP to 262-377-5856 or joel@cedarburghm.org

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



Please check the website for titles and times of presentations.

December 3: Hood's Tennessee Campaign, Fall 1864

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

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!

"The dogmas of the quiet past, are inadequate to the stormy present. The occasion is piled high with difficulty, and we must rise – with the occasion. As our case is new, so we must think anew, and act anew. We must disenthrall ourselves, and then we shall save our country."

**Abraham Lincoln to Congress
December 1, 1862**

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

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

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

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

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

**MILWAUKEE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
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 Bavarian Bierhaus) <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 19th 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.
2024 – 2025 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
Van Harl	First Vice President	2026
Tom Hesse	President	2026
Grant Johnson	Membership/Webmaster Past President	2027
Bruce Klem	Past President	2027
Daniel Nettesheim	Member	2027
John Petty	Second Vice president	2025
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

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 December 12, 2024

Mail your reservations by Monday, December 2 to:

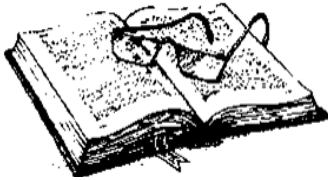
Paul Eilbes
1809 Washington Avenue
Cedarburg, WI 53012-9730

Call or email reservations to:

(262) 376-0568
peilbes@gmail.com

Enclosed is \$_____ (meal is \$35.00 per person) for _____ people for the
December 12, 2024 meeting of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee.
(Please make checks payable to the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.)

Name of Member _____



BETWEEN THE COVERS

The Buffalo Soldiers: A Narrative of the Negro Cavalry in the West

William H. and Shirley A. Leckie



My review today is on a book that has its start in the Civil War but deals with action throughout the Indian Wars. The book is The Buffalo Soldiers, A Narrative of the Black Cavalry in the West. It was the revised edition by William H. Leckie with Shirley A. Leckie. It was published in 2006. I purchased this book on a trip we took to Kansas City. We also stopped at Ft. Leavenworth and purchased the book at the gift shop in the Ft. Leavenworth Museum. Since this is a revised edition, I discovered it was first published in 1967. The new edition gets the results of thirty-six years of between-edition research conducted by a variety of writers and historians. The Leckies' first edition was billed as a groundbreaker because it opened a new chapter in the history of the Western frontier by focusing on black units formed after the Civil War and highlighted the role of the 9th and 10th Cavalry in the part they played.

Since almost 200,000 black soldiers served valiantly during the Civil War in USCT units and many of those experienced soldiers were desirous of continuing their careers in the Army after the war. In August 1866, General U. S. Grant directed Generals William T. Sherman and Philip Sheridan to organize and equip a regiment of black cavalry in each of their military responsibilities. Two experienced cavalry colonels who were outstanding leaders for the Union cavalry during the Civil War were picked out to head up two regiments.

The Ninth Cavalry was placed under the command of Colonel Edward Hatch of Iowa and the Tenth Cavalry under Colonel Benjamin H. Grierson of Illinois, who was something of a popular hero after his famous raid through Mississippi in 1863. Following a year of recruiting white officers and black troopers and the purchase of healthy horses, both regiments moved westward during the spring and summer of 1867. The Ninth went into Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona, the Tenth to the Central Plains. The term "Buffalo Soldiers" was first given to the Ninth Cavalry by Indian opponents but, eventually, this sobriquet was applied to all black troops. The Tenth added the figure of a buffalo to its regimental crest. The Leckies can give no precise reason for this nickname.

The Ninth and the Tenth faced raiding Apaches, Cheyenne, Comanches, and Kiowas as well as rampaging outlaw groups and roving Mexican revolutionaries who occasionally crossed the border to create havoc on the American side. The regiments were expected to return off-reservation Indians to their reservations. Forts and outposts were to be constructed where required, protection was to be afforded stage and mail routes, and the Ninth and Tenth were counted upon to perform other functions as they occurred, provided they fell within its competence. Finally, officers and enlisted personnel had to cooperate with the civil authorities, often in an antagonistic or downright hostile environment. The men of both regiments performed difficult duties in all kinds of extreme weather throughout the period after the Civil War and were instrumental in the settling of the West.

The authors provide many individual and small unit actions. These actions highlight the tremendous bravery of the men of the regiments and many of these encounters result in bravery of individual troopers that earned them the Medal of Honor for their actions. Considering some of the stories that occurred in extreme weather which in some cases going for long periods without water in high heat and yet men of these two regiments were successful in accomplishment of the mission. Throughout all the combat the men saw they had to deal with the effects of racial prejudice, Jim Crow laws as well as civilian violence against them.

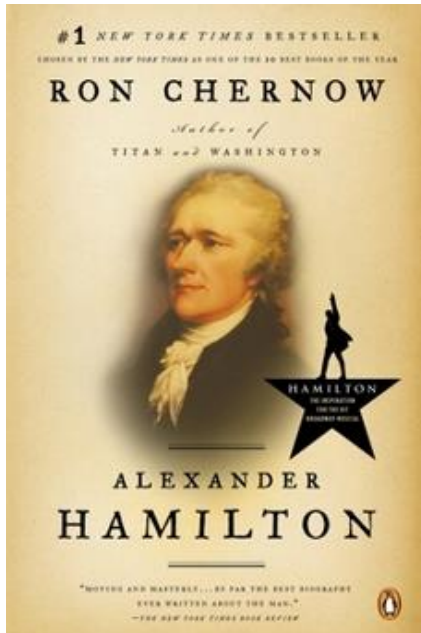
I thought this was an interesting read on two units whose birth came as result of the combat and experience USCT provided during the Civil War. This book gives the reader an insight into how the military provided help and security and dealt with the settling of the West and Indian affairs. I recommend this book to anyone who wants more information on the period of history immediately after the Civil War and how the Buffalo soldiers were an important part of that era.

submitted by Bruce Klem



Between the Covers Alexander Hamilton

Ron Chernow



My review is a bit different on this book. I bought this last year when we couldn't to the Hamilton play and I thought it would be appropriate for the General Orders, as one of Hamilton's grandchildren served as commander of one of the Iron brigade regiments. The book is Alexander Hamilton by Ron Chernow. I would say it's not a book for the faint of heart as it is 729 pages and has somewhat smallish print. It seems to me that Mr. Chernow's other books on Washington and Grant are even longer, but I'd wager the information provided is deep into each man's life. I found this was true with his book on Hamilton.

Mr. Chernow's writing shows that Hamilton was a prolific writer; he incessantly published papers, official reports, pamphlets, essays, newspaper articles. In addition, there were private papers and letters. Because his life intertwined with so many prominent figures of the time, one can imagine the colossal volume of materials to sift through and sort for the biography, which demonstrates the biographer's excellent organizational skills. The end product flows smoothly as if without effort I thought. His book starts out detailing the family history Mr. Chernow's story begins well before Hamilton's birth with a history of his maternal family in the sweltering slave society of St. Croix in the Caribbean. Hamilton was born the natural son of a Scottish noble and a socially disgraced divorcee. His natural talents were evident from a young age.

Hamilton nonetheless suffered a tragic childhood that left him a penniless yet a hot-blooded orphan with a dismal view of human nature and hunger for glory and prestige. Despite these miserable origins, Hamilton migrated north to college in an America poised to explode into rebellion. Hamilton's remarkable oratory and writing skills along with his impressive work ethic and organizational talent allowed him to insert himself into the nascent uprising. A rising star, he caught the eye of a certain General Washington and became the central cog of his wartime staff and began perhaps the most impactful partnership in the fledgling nation. Though frustrated with riding a desk as others rode into battle, the ambition Hamilton nonetheless proves himself vocal and talented enough to win glory at Yorktown before the war's end.

What I found to be very fascinating was how Hamilton with his involvement in the forming of the government, he manages to develop a financial system that provided a sound footing for the United States to develop as a financially sound country that is an envy of the world today and over the decades has led the world as a country to emulate. Hamilton was a challenging subject who instituted many varied technical details of his pioneer thinking to develop a financial system. He was intimately involved in the development and debate on the Constitution as well. Hamilton fought long and hard for a federal fiscal and financial system and against the opposition, to it.

Mr. Chernow includes all the details of Hamilton's life. His various liaisons and affairs, introducing us to the controversies that Hamilton was embroiled in. like Hamilton's injudicious behavior in the whole so called "Reynolds Affair" at the height of his power. Mr. Chernow also covers his vision for the army during the Quasi-War with France in 1798-1800, the "execrable" idea of the Christian Constitutional Society, and his preoccupation with religion in his final years.

Hamilton suffered some tragedies in his family, death of a child and in what turned out to be his own end, losing a son as a result of a duel. This story is about the life of a man who had close contact with all the big names in the formation of the country and saw it through a revolution, forming a strong government and many debates as to the final direction the young nation would take. He was close to many of the founding fathers, Washington Jefferson, Adams, Madison, Monroe and many others.

While this is a very long book with a tremendous amount of detail on Hamilton's life, I think it was a good read for any history student. That is particularly true for anyone who wants to better understand how this government and nation developed as one to be admired worldwide. I recommend this book as one to add to your bookshelf, unless maybe you can see the play.

submitted by Bruce Klem

Wanderings



Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville and Spotsylvania Court House

I am an officer of the Chicago Civil War Roundtable and a friend of the Milwaukee Round Table. This past October I had the opportunity to participate in a Civil War battlefield tour conducted by the Civil War Time Travelers. This tour covered the three battlefields listed above. I have visited these Battlefields previously but I learned a lot during this tour that I didn't know.

The format of the tour was one that I haven't experienced in previous tours I have attended. The participants travelled from Wisconsin (or in my case Lake Forest, Illinois) to the battlefields on a bus. I didn't know exactly what to expect but this format worked very well. From my viewpoint, it gave me an opportunity to meet and interact with the other participants before we got to the battlefields. I found them to be friendly and welcoming.

We arrived at Fredericksburg on October 21. We went directly to Chatham Manor and enjoyed the scenic vista of Fredericksburg spread before us. We also had a presentation on Dr. Mary E. Walker from Kay Wege, one of the of directors of the tour. To say that Dr. Walker was ahead of her time is an understatement. Among many other things, she worked at Chatham House when it was used as a hospital during the battle.



The next day we toured the battlefield itself. This included the Sunken Road, the Stone Wall, the Angel of Marye's Heights statue, Prospect Heights and Slaughter Pen Farm. Several excellent presentations were made by tour participants with the lead being taken by Dave Wege, the other tour director. Other presenters throughout the trip included Dale Bepalec, Paul Eilbes, Thomas and Terry Arliskas, Robert Johnson, and Carolyn Ivanoff. The main insight for me here was the importance of the fighting around Prospect Heights and Slaughter Pen Farm to the outcome of the battle. Historians tend to emphasize only the fighting in Fredericksburg and before Marye's Heights. The Union came very close to winning the battle at Prospect Heights and Slaughter Pen Farm.

On October 23rd, we were joined by our guide, Chris Mackowski for our tour of Chancellorsville. Chris was a great guide. He was very knowledgeable about the history and historiography of the battle. He also was a very engaging presenter, not being shy about sprinkling a little humor into his presentations. The main insight that I received about this battle was that after a very effective move to get in Lee's rear (he was still at Fredericksburg), Hooker squandered this opportunity by falling back towards Chancellorsville at the first contact with Confederate troops. Thus, some argue that Hooker could have won the battle on the first day. The rest is well known. Lee divided his army and sent Jackson around the Union position to attack the Union forces the next day from their rear.



Spotsylvania Court House was on tap for the third day. Once again Chris was our guide. We hit all of the high points of the battle including Upton's Charge, The Mule Shoe, Bloody Angle and Stevenson's Ridge (where Chris is historian-in-residence). We spent quite a bit of time at the Bloody Angle where the ferocity and duration of the fighting was unbelievable. We also learned about a (deliberately) misplaced battlefield marker!

The next day (October 25th) we headed home. On the way; we stopped at the National Museum of the Marine Corps. This is a marvelous museum. You should visit it if you are in the area.

All in all, this was an enjoyable tour where there was a lot to learn.

submitted by James D. Adducci



Civil War Time

Travelers, LLC

Trouble in the Trans-Mississippi:
Wilson's Creek, Pea Ridge, Prairie Grove
April 27 - May 2, 2025

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.

History for the Civil War novice and for the truly serious student of the conflict, it's all here when we go find some *Trouble in the Trans-Mississippi*.

Contact wegs1862@gmail.com

DINNER RESERVATIONS - AN UPGRADE!

The Round Table is excited to announce a new way to make your dinner reservations!

For the past several years, we have been sending email notifications regarding our upcoming meetings. Starting with the January meeting, these notifications will include a link to RSVP, making your reservations process smoother and more efficient. There will be a place to enter any special dietary requirements as well. A confirmation will be included.

We do not have an online payment process associated with this yet, so you would pay at the door for your dinner.

The current RSVP methods (phone/mail/email) will not be going away at this time, so if you are more comfortable with them you may feel free to use them.

We will begin by using the email addresses you have provided us over the past few years. If you aren't sure that we have your current email address, contact Grant Johnson at:

grant.johnson@responsory.com and we will be sure to get you added to the database.

Round Table member John Helmenstine is doing his utmost to start a Civil War Book Club in Mineral Point. The goal is to ultimately fashion the group into a Civil War Round Table. The group will meet again on the third Saturday of November (November 16th) at 1:00 at the historic Odd Fellows Lodge at 112 Front Street in Mineral Point. If anyone wants to be in on the ground floor of forming this group, or just wants to check out some more interesting history, then please mark November 16 on your calendar. For more information contact John at helmenstine@att.net.

**MILWAUKEE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
QUARTERMASTER'S REGALIA**

What better way to show off your pride in our organization! All items are made of first-rate, quality materials, modestly embroidered with the Round Table/Iron Brigade log, along with your name or initials.

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

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

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

