

GENERAL ORDERS

The Newsletter of the

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



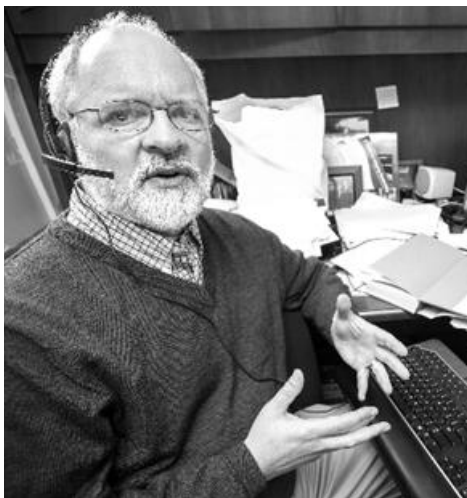
March 13, 2025

Gerald Prokopowicz

Civil War Talk Radio: Podcasting History

For more than twenty years, the weekly podcast “Civil War Talk Radio” has featured hundreds of authors, curators, collectors, re-enactors, musicians, and other students of Civil War history, giving in-depth interviews about their work. Today, if you have to make conversation with someone you haven’t seen in a while, a safe opening is “Love your podcast!” since everyone and their cousin seems to have one. But in 2004, the word “podcast” had just been invented. How did “Civil War Talk Radio” get started so long ago? Who listens to it? Who gets to appear on it? More important, how have CWTR and other digital media reflected and influenced the world of Civil War scholarship? History professor Gerry Prokopowicz, who has hosted the show since 2004, shares stories from Civil War Talk Radio’s past, reflects on the evolution of Civil War scholarship in the past two decades, and offers observations on the potential for CWTR and similar podcasts to provide oases of scholarly discourse, in an online world increasingly infiltrated by AI and disinformation.

Gerald J. Prokopowicz is a professor of history at East Carolina University in Greenville, North Carolina, where he teaches military history and public history. He is the author of *Did Lincoln Own Slaves? And Other FAQ about Abraham Lincoln* and *All for the Regiment: The Army of the Ohio, 1861-1862*.



Before coming to ECU, he served for nine years as the resident Lincoln Scholar at the Lincoln Museum, in Fort Wayne, Indiana, where he helped create the award-winning exhibit, “Abraham Lincoln and the American Experiment,” and edited *Lincoln Lore*. Since 2004 he has hosted “Civil War Talk Radio” www.impedimentsofwar.org, the oldest longest continuously running history-related podcast. In addition to teaching, writing, and talk Civil War history, he enjoys leading battlefield tours, playing old-time fiddle tunes, and cheering for his hometown Detroit sports teams.

General Orders No. 3-25

March 2025

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
Driftless Area CW Club	page 6
In Memoriam	page 6
Other Educational Programs	page 6
Civil War Museum of Delafield	page 7
Save Hallowed Ground in Virginia	page 7
Round Table News 2024-2025	page 8
• 2024-2025 Speaker Schedule	
• 2024-2025 Board of Directors	
• Meeting Reservation Form	
Between the Covers	page 9-10
Wanderings	page 11
Top Ten CW Books of 2024	page 11
Travels and Tours	page 12-13
Great Lakes Civil War Forum	page 13
Quartermaster’s Regalia	page 14

March Meeting at a Glance

The Wisconsin Club

9th and Wisconsin Avenue

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Jackets are required for dining room.

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

6:30 p.m. - Dinner

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. 8

milwaukeeecwrt.org

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.

If you have not done so lately, check out the website of the Milwaukee Round Table. Grant Johnson and his team have done exemplary work in updating the page and keeping it fresh and informative! And, they are not done yet! Thank you, Grant!

If you send meeting reservations in by mail:

We are requesting that all forms that are mailed be sent the FRIDAY before the meeting date. There have been several late arrivals with mailed reservations in recent months. Use these dates:

March 7 – April 4 – May 2 – June 6

The Muster Roll: NEW MEMBERS

NAME	RESIDENCE	PLACE OF BIRTH	MEMBER SINCE
Janet Key	Waukegan, Ill.	Illinois	
Mark Key	Waukegan, Ill.	Illinois	

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)

Susan Anderson, Roman Blenski, Paul Eilbes, Gerald Frangesch, Dawn and Van Harl, Charles and Rebecca Jarvis, Grant Johnson

Patron (\$200 - \$499)

Mike Deeken, Doug Haag, Gene and Jane Jamrozy, Dan Nettesheim, Laura Rinaldi

Associate (\$100 - \$199)

John Abbott, Tom and Terry Arliskas, Crain Bliwas, Dale Brasser, Gary and Judy Ertel, 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, Dan Tanty, Justin and Stacy Tolomeo, Paul Zehren

Contributor (up to \$99)

George Affeldt, Mike Benton, Dale Bespalec, Jim Blake, Robert Christie, Jim Cornelius, Gordon Dammann, Ellen DeMers, John Durr, George Geanon, Julian Gonzales, Brian Gunn, Leon and Margaret Harris, Paul Heaton, Christopher Johnson, Jerome Kowalski, John Lenchek, Steve Leopold, Paul and Susan Miller, Ed Newman, John Rodahl, Diane Smurawa, Sam Solberg

Speaker Enhancement Fund

John Abbott, George Affeldt, Mike Benton, Jim Blake, Jim Bolek, Dale Brasser, Gordon Dammann, Ellen DeMers, Lori Duginski, Gary and Judy Ertl, John Durr, Paul Eilbes, Gerald Frangesch, Julian Gonzalez, Doug Haag, Jim Heinz, John Helmenstine, Tom Hesse, Peter and Jean Jacobsohn, Gene and Jane Jamrozy, Jerome Kowalski, John Kuhnmuench, John Lenchek, Steve Magnusen, Rod Malinowski, Tom and Robin Martin, Kathy McNally, Jim and Monica Millane, Dennis Mueller (in honor of Frank L. Klement), John and Susan Petty, Laura Rinaldi, Dennis Slater, Diane Smurawa, Dan Tanty, Paul Zehren



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

- 2003 Ed Bearss: "Medical Care in the Civil War Compared to Care in World War II"
- 2006 Gail Stephens: "Lew Wallace and Shiloh"
- 2011 Sue Boardman: "The Gettysburg Cyclorama"
- 2012 A. Wilson Greene: "Bermuda Hundred Campaign"
- 2013 Lance Herdegen: "The Iron Brigade in Civil War and Memory"
- 2014 Charles Teague: "How Lincoln Came to be 'Under God' at Gettysburg"
- 2015 Thomas Huntington: "Searching for George Gordon Meade"
- 2017 Paul Kahan PhD: "Simon Cameron: Lincoln's First Secretary of War"
- 2018 Robert D. Jenkins, Sr.: "The Battle of Peach Tree Creek"
- 2020 David Sutherland: "VMI's Civil War Legacy"
- 2021 Lawrence Desotell: "Confederate Soldiers at Camp Randall"
- 2022 Mark Laubacher: "USS Red Rover: Hospital of Firsts"
- 2023 Dwight Hughes: "Unlike Anything that Ever Floated"
- 2024 Chris Bryan: "Cedar Mountain to Antietam"



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.

Wildfire, Miss Clampit, and the Wonder Girl from the West: Early Woman Sculptors of Abraham Lincoln

Friday, March 14 | 12:00pm – 1:00pm

Presenter: Mr. Dave Wieggers

In the middle of the 19th Century, women were not generally a force in American sculpture. Art, and especially sculpture, were a male-centric occupation. Three women sculpted images of Abraham Lincoln in the 1860s and 1870s, and each has an interesting story. Two of these women sculptors, Vinnie Ream (Hoxie) and Sarah Fisher Ames, would produce images of Lincoln that would be displayed in the United States Capitol building. A third, Edmonia Lewis, broke many barriers of race and gender to become a well-known sculptor. Each of these women has a unique story and, other than Ream, has not had her story widely told.

Two Histories Merge at the Underground Railroad: Abolitionists Seth Paine and Harriet Tubman

Friday, April 11 | 12:00pm – 1:00pm

Presenter: Nancy Shumm and E. Olivia Darden

Author of *The Anointed One*, Nancy Shumm, and narrator of the audiobook, E. Olivia Darden, will present Seth Paine and Harriet Tubman in a new light, focusing on Seth's work on the Midwest Underground Railroad, black history, and his collaboration with others in Chicago and Lake Zurich that mirrored the work of Harriet Tubman along the Eastern Seaboard of the United States. While Tubman and others were hard at work in the East, abolitionists in Chicago assisted freedom seekers escaping from southern states, leading them to the Great Lakes and Canada. This program will include readings from the book, details of the Underground Railroad activity in the Great Lakes area, and the work of Harriet Tubman in the East.

See more information about The Great Lakes Civil War Forum, focusing on the Battle of Antietam, on page 13.



Feb. 28, 1861

Peace Meeting in Racine

A call is published in the Racine papers for a meeting of those friendly to measures of compromise for the preservation of the Union. Among the signers of the call are Marshall M. Strong and Dyon.

Political Matters

As a matter of political history, we publish today an article from the pen of Hon. Moses M Strong, digging up the Wisconsin secession resolutions of 1859. These resolutions seem certainly to go a very great length, and to assert the perfect liberty to stay in or go out of the Union as she pleases and they set up that each State is the only proper judge of the limits upon its power This is strongly squinting to ward Jeff Davisism. We guess the resolutions had better be rescinded.

March 5, 1861

Lincoln's Inaugural Address

We publish this morning this important document delivered in a time of peril which the government h

As not seen before since it was established. No turmoil or inordinate confusion disturbed the quietude of the day in Washington and general order prevailed.

We have read with great attention this production for which the public has waited with breathless interest. We feel bound to say and we say it gladly and cordially that it is honest outspoken and worthy of the high office to which Mr. Lincoln has been chosen and of the occasion. It is moderate and patriotic. Of any tone could soften the animosities of faction and the fierceness of sectional strife that tone he has assumed. We do not see how any patriot, North or South, can fail to yield a candid assent to all his argument and the persuasive force of his appeals for moderation in council and prudence in action. We do not see that he recommends the employment of force to compel adhesion to the Union.

Secession he denounces as anarchy, and the road to despotism. He counsels as that neither side can be absolutely certain that it is right, and he appeals to time and the returning sense of the people for a solution of the people for a solution of our difficulties and an escape from our perils.

We violate no consistency and we have no cause to retract an ill-natured abusive word, or a reflection on Mr. Lincoln's patriotism, his ability or his avowed principles, his ability or his avowed principles, his ability or his av-owed principles, for we uttered none, even during –Speaker Cy on the heat and excitement of the late canvass –when we say that on the whole

platform of President Lincoln's inaugural we can heartily support his administration and yield to it a genuine support. We have neither the zeal of a convert nor the madness of an apostate to dictate this course but only patriotic desire to strengthen as far as may be in our power the hands that hold the destiny of the American Government.

Manitowoc, May 1, 1861

**Letter from Capt. Clark
Manitowoc, May 1, 1861**

Mr. Editor: The Company of Volunteers from this County has been accepted by the Governor, and the Officers commissioned.

The Company will be clothed and equipped at the expense of the State, as soon as they are assigned to a Regiment, and ordered to the rendezvous; in the meanwhile, they will be kept under constant drill an such of them as do not belong in the village, will be boarded at the expense of the State.

One of the most necessary articles for the equipment of the soldier, is the blanket. The enormous demand for these, renders it impossible for the State to procure them in sufficient quantities to furnish all the Volunteers in the State, unless aided by private contributions of this article, and we are obliged to make a call upon all our patriotic citizens to contribute from their private stores, as many blankets as they can spare towards supplying this necessary want to our Company.

Respectfully Yours,
Temple Clark
Captain of Company.

Time Not Up until Next Sunday

The Chicago Tribune calls attention to the fact that in the President's proclamation he gave the rebels twenty days in which to lay down their arms and return to their allegiance. "Time" will not be "called" until next Sunday night at 12 o'clock; and until it is good faith on the part of the government, requires that operations should be confined strictly to defense.

July 16, 1861

The Boston Transcript, recording the melancholy death by burning, of Mrs. Longfellow, the wife of the distinguished poet, at Cambridge, Mass, says, "Mrs. Longfellow was one of the most noble and accomplished women in the country, of great personal beauty and dignified presence. She leaves an interesting family of children to mourn the loss of a mother whose devotion to them was such as to secure their affectionate regard to a degree rarely attained. This terrible accident has thrown a deep gloom over many circles in Cambridge and Boston as the deceased was a universal favorite with all classes."



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!

Brown Water Subterfuge on the *Father of Waters*

The Confederate vessels CSS William H Webb, CSS Queen of the West, and CSS Beatty, under Major Joseph L Brent, caught up with the Union ironclad USS Indianola below Warrenton as it fled towards Vicksburg. Brent's squadron had reached Grand Gulf just four hours behind the Union gunboat. Knowing that his speed was considerably greater than that of USS Indianola, Brent was determined to overtake the ironclad and to attack at night when the Union ships' larger guns would not enjoy the benefit of their longer range. At about 9.30 pm the USS Indianola passed New Carthage, thirteen miles short of the nearest Union riverside batteries. Captain George Brown USN knew that he was unlikely to be reinforced by any gunboats from beyond Vicksburg so he decided to turn to face his pursuers abreast of Palmyra Island at Davis Bend.

Shortly before 10 pm, the approaching Confederate vessels were spotted by lookouts aboard USS Indianola. An 11-inch shot was fired at the CSS Queen of the West and another at CSS William H Webb, but neither hit their target. CSS Queen of the West opened the attack by attempting to ram the USS Indianola, slicing the coal barge lashed to the ship's port side in two but doing little damage to the hull of the warship. The damaged barge was cut loose but the CSS William H Webb rammed the USS Indianola head-on at full speed.

The Confederate ship was ripped open at the bow but, apart from having all its crewmen knocked off their feet the USS Indianola suffered little damage. The CSS William H Webb backed off and rammed again and crushed the barge on the ironclad's starboard side. The impact swung the USS Indianola around and CSS Queen of the West completed its circling upstream to regain momentum and rammed USS Indianola for a second time, crushing the starboard wheel, disabling the starboard rudder and starting a number of leaks abaft of the starboard wheelhouse. CSS William H Webb maneuvered into a new position to ram, this time into the lightly-armored stern, causing enough damage to spring more leaks. The USS Indianola fired continually but was unable to identify its targets clearly in the darkness. Only one shot hit the CSS Queen of the West, killing two and wounding four men. Now almost powerless and unable to steer Brown allowed the USS Indianola to fill with water to assure her sinking and ran the ship onto the west bank of the Mississippi. The ship was then surrendered. The loss of USS Indianola so soon after that of USS Queen of the West meant that the Confederates had regained control and restored river communications with Texas and western Louisiana across the Mississippi between Vicksburg and Port Hudson.

The Confederates decided to salvage and raise the powerful USS Indianola to strengthen their river flotilla, just as they had done previously with the CSS Queen of the West. Fighting upstream the Confederates would always enjoy the considerable advantage of knowing that any disabled Union ships would float downstream into their hands to strengthen the fleet they were building at the expense of the Union armada.

And now, as the departed Paul Harvey would often say, "The rest of the story."

The Rebels started salvage work on Indianola, and David Dixon Porter came up with a novel countermeasure. He had a faux ironclad constructed: wooden framework on a barge, stacked barrels for smokestacks complete with flammable materials inside to create smoke, and the whole thing coated with black tar. It was floated downstream towards the hulk of the Indianola, where the salvage crew didn't wait around for the enemy "warship" to close with them, but panicked and scuttled the wreck they had been trying to raise.

Porter the expense for this clever ruse to be less than \$10.00. And, to make the lesson even more painful, if not embarrassing, for the Rebels, painted on the side were these words: "Deluded people, cave in."

submitted by Dave Wege
shamelessly borrowed from a Facebook friend

The Driftless Area Civil War Club

Programs are held monthly on the 3rd Saturday of the month at 1:00 at the Odd Fellow Lodge at 121 Front Street Mineral Point.

March 15, 2025 - "The Literate Soldier" by Dave and Kay Wege will present a program about soldier's Civil War letters to and from home. Dave and Kay are also the organizers and sponsors of excellent week-long Civil War tours.

April 19 2025 - Rich Fronek President of the Madison Civil War Club will speak on "The Life of Andrew Jackson Bovee and the Battle of the Wilderness." His great grandfather fought for the Union in the Civil War.

May 17, 2025 - Julie Mason of Argyle will share her experiences as a Civil War re-enactor and maybe let her father talk about his part in being a re-enactor.

June 2025 - Dave Wege on "When Johnny Came Marching Home." The topic explores the effects of going to war and experiencing traumatic injury. What is a wounded veteran's life like on returning home? The talk will include a "then and now" scenario.

July 2025 - Paul Eilbes of the Milwaukee Civil War Roundtable will speak on General Ambrose Burnside and his successes and failures as a commander.

August 2025 - John Pare (Mt. Horeb), and John Helmenstine will display & inform us on the collecting of Civil War stamps, envelopes & other paper.

September 2025 - Jim Heinz will speak about Admiral David Farragut and his important contributions to a final Union victory.

Contact John Helmenstine at helmenstine@att.net for more information.

In Memoriam

Mort Kunstler, noted painter of historical scenes, passed away at the age of 97. Mr. Kunstler started painting at a very early age. Encouraged by his parents, he became an accomplished artist by the time he was twelve. Though he painted scenes from many historical eras, he was probably best known for his images of the American Civil War. According to Newsday, Kunstler was considered by some to be the "best-known and most respected historical artist in the country."

Together with his family and the entire Civil War community, we mourn the passing of a legend.

May flights of angels guide him to his rest.

Additional Educational Programs

April 9 – 7:00-8:30 p.m.

\$10 non-members/\$5 seniors/ North Point Lighthouse members are free

Laura Rinaldi & Terry Arliskas: "The Milwaukee's Soldiers Home"

The history and renovation of the Milwaukee Soldiers Home is one of only 43 National Historic Landmarks in Wisconsin. It contains some of the oldest and most historic buildings in the VA system. This presentation will take place at the North Point lighthouse in Milwaukee's Lake Park, 2650 N Wahl.

The Role of Civil War Engineers

Saturday, May 31 – 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm at the Kenosha Civil War Museum

Instructor: Brian Conroy

Engineers were a vital part of the military during the Civil War, helping to move the army and repair infrastructure needed for the war effort. This workshop class will discuss the role that engineers played, the equipment they used, and what they would have built. A special project at the end of the workshop will serve to illustrate the work of a Civil War engineer.

**440 Wells Street, Basement Suite
Delafield, WI 53018 262-347-9111**

Please check the website for titles and times of presentations.

Please register at our website: www.civilwarmuseumdelafield.com

The museum is open Thursdays and Saturdays from 11:00-3:00 or by appointment, or call 262-347-9111.

Or to register via email or contact us with questions, write to us at: cwmdel@gmail.com



Help Stop Massive Data Centers on Hallowed Ground!

Today, our mission faces unprecedented challenges. The historic grounds of Manassas National Battlefield Park and Wilderness Battlefield are under direct threat from large-scale developments, including data centers and mixed-use projects that would forever alter these sacred sites.

Despite setbacks since kicking this project off in December 2023, we remain resolute. **With your support, we plan to defend and preserve:**

- **Manassas Battlefield:** Over 1,750 acres rezoned for the world's largest data center campus, threatening to blanket this historic site with 37 massive structures.
- **Wilderness Battlefield:** A proposed 2,600-acre development, including residential units and commercial spaces, risks overshadowing the legacy of those who fought and died there.

The Trust is actively engaged in legal battles, public advocacy, and grassroots mobilization to overturn these decisions. Our fight extends beyond courtrooms; it's a battle for the soul of our nation's history.

Now, we need your support more than ever. Your support strengthens our legal campaigns, fuels public awareness efforts, and ensures that these historic landscapes are preserved for future generations.

Join us to protect this today. Stand with history. Fight for preservation.

Please go to www.battlefields.org/give/save-battlefields to see how you can be involved. Whether it's a monetary donation, the signing of a pledge that is provided on the website, or simply spreading the word about the importance of saving battlefield ground for future generations, make your voice heard!

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
Wilson-Kautz Raid

October 10, 2024 Jen Murray
General George Gordon Meade

November 7, 2024 Allen Ottens
The Grant-Rawlins Relationship During the Civil War

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

January 9, 2025 Bjorn Skaptason
Milwaukee and Shiloh

February 13, 2025 Hampton Newsome
Gettysburg's Southern Front

March 13, 2025 Gerald Prokopowicz
Civil War Talk Radio: Podcasting History

April 10, 2025 Phil Spaugy
The 19th 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.
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 Risler	Member	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

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

Milwaukee Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for March 13, 2025

Mail your reservations by Friday, March 7 to:

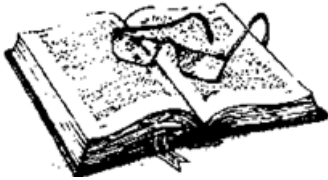
Paul Eilbes
1809 Washington Avenue
Cedarburg, WI 53012-9730

Call or email reservations to:

(262) 376-0568
peilbes@gmail.com

Enclosed is \$_____ (meal is \$35.00 per person) for _____ people for the
March 13, 2025 meeting of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee.
(Please make checks payable to the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.)

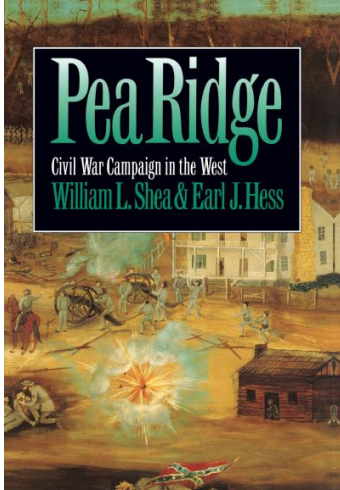
Name of Member _____



BETWEEN THE COVERS

Pea Ridge: Civil War Campaign in the West

William Shea and Earl J. Hess



This book review is on a book I purchased on our October trip with the Kenosha Civil War Museums' tour to Vicksburg. My wife and I took a roundabout trip to get there, stopping in Arkansas to visit the Pea Ridge National Battlefield as well as stopping in Hot Springs and visiting to President Clinton's Library in Little Rock. We also had time to visit the National Park site Little Rock Central High School which was the site of integration in the school during the 50s.

But I digress, the book is by William L. Shea and Earl J. Hess entitled Pea Ridge: Civil War Campaign in the West. The authors provide an in-depth study of the largest Civil War battle west of the Mississippi, which "effectively ended the threat of Missouri falling into the Confederacy and gave the Union an entrenched foothold on the northern half of Arkansas".

The book is 315 pages and has two appendices one entitled "The Legacy of the Battle" and the second an order of battle for Union and Confederate forces. Normally I don't spend much time if any reading appendices but the one on the legacy I thought was well worth reading especially to see what the overall effect of the is battle was in the opinion of the authors.

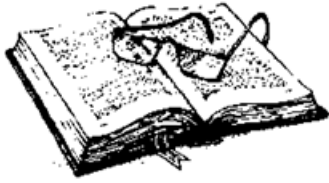
The authors provided a comprehensive look into the personalities and backgrounds of leaders on both sides, as well as the run-up to the battle, hour-by-hour details of the fighting over two days down to companies and individuals (where appropriate), the activities of those in command during the battle, and a thorough analysis of each side's strategy, leadership, tactics, and logistics. The authors leave little doubt how and why this battle was won or lost, and its subsequent effects on and implications for its leaders, the Trans-Mississippi region, and the war itself.

This book covers the entire campaign of both sides as they moved to the clash at Pea Ridge. The Union forces were the Army of the Southwest of four divisions under the command of Brigadier General Samuel Curtis and two of those divisions under control of Brigadier General Franz Sigel. The Confederate Army of the West, commanded by Major General Earl Van Dorn, consisted of McCulloch's Division, Major General Sterling Price's division, and seven divisions of the Missouri State Guard.

The authors cover the trials and tribulations of each army. Dealing with command issues, supply problems extreme weather conditions to tactics employed by both and the actual battle itself. The research is extremely comprehensive, obtained from personal journals and letters, memoirs, official records, newspaper articles, and other sources. Includes many observations of participants from the leaders on down to the common foot soldier, as well as journalists who accompanied the Union Army and were present during the battle. The endless privations and the suffering and horrors of war, as well cowardice and heroics (sometimes foolish and fatal), are brought into view in this book.

The actual battlefield is almost entirely contained in the park. Visitors will find only two monuments on the field. However, according to the Park Service, the area is pretty much as it was in 1862 at the time of the fight. The authors point out the two sections of the battle. One is the opening contact with McCullough's division and the final stage at Elkhorn Tavern of which is a replica of the original tavern. I highly recommend this book to any student of the Civil War especially if you want to get a feel for the War west of the Mississippi. This might be an excellent book to read if you are planning a visit to the battlefield as it will help to better explore the field to cover the action and troop movements. Superb full-page battle maps are provided as well as relevant drawings and photographs of key participants and modern-day views of important locations of the battlefield, all placed appropriately throughout the book.

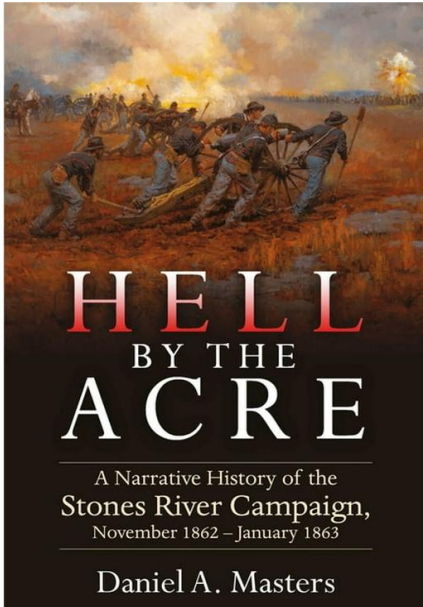
submitted by Bruce Klem



BETWEEN THE COVERS

Hell by the Acre: A Narrative History **of the Stones River Campaign**

Daniel A. Masters



First of all, two points about Dan Masters's latest book. The cover is truly beautiful with the artwork of Andy Thomas, it is very eye-catching and sets the tone of the book to come. Secondly, this is a big book. At 672 pages it might seem daunting to some but truly every page is important, full of detail, and key to what will become the go-to book on the battle.

There have been excellent prior books on Stones River, and that is not to deny their value. But Masters not only examines strategy, tactics, and high-level command decisions, he also ably weaves in the view of the soldiers who fought and died on the frozen ground of Tennessee. He details the experiences of the front-line soldiers through the use of archival and first-hand accounts that have previously not been published. His writing puts the reader on the ground and in the trenches of this pivotal Stones River Campaign of 1862-1863. *Hell by the Acre* is a shining example of what the combination of thorough research and skillful writing can produce. The book is a fascinating blend of quotations from the combatants and onlookers and a brilliant narrative of the movements, tactics, foibles, and successes of both armies. Stones River was the classic soldiers' battle. Prior books have focused more on generalship and high-level commands than the often-forgotten men in the ranks. It is meticulously researched, which compliments his strong narrative.

The opposing armies, 44,000 men under General William S. Rosecrans and 37,000 under Confederate General Braxton Bragg, locked bayonets on December 31, 1862, in some of the hardest fighting of the war. Bragg's opening attack drove the Federals back nearly three miles and captured 29 cannons, and thousands of prisoners. The Union lines held firm during the desperate fighting along the Nashville Pike against repeated determined attacks in the afternoon that left both armies bloodied and exhausted. The pivotal moment came two days later when, in the fading light of late afternoon on January 2, 1863, Bragg launched an assault on an isolated Union division on the east bank of Stones River. Once again, the Confederates enjoyed initial success but were repulsed by 58 Union guns arrayed along the west bank and a daring counterattack. This repulse broke Bragg's hold on Murfreesboro. He retreated the following night, leaving Rosecrans and his army victors of the field marking a turning point for Federal fortunes in the Western Theater. This fresh and original study sets forth the hefty cost of securing that victory for the Union.

It is often a complaint with the more exhaustive battle studies that the maps are not up to the needs of the reader yet in this book the maps are high-quality. In fact, I think the maps mesh well with the writing, pace, and organization of the book to make it cohesive and easy to follow and understand.

Masters's fine account belongs on the shelf of every student of the Western Theater and the war in general. It is an instant classic. This detail-oriented volume has excellent prose and is very readable, digestible, and compact with words from the soldiers themselves. Anyone who desires to better understand this understudied battle should read this book.

Daniel A. Masters is a graduate of the University of Toledo with a BA in Communications. Perhaps best known for his popular blog Dan Masters' Civil War Chronicles, his work focuses on the war in the Western Theater from the perspective of the men in the ranks. He is the author of many articles in various journals and magazines and ten books on the Civil War.

submitted by Robert Johnson



A Civil War Enthusiast's Lament

See pages twelve and thirteen for some travel opportunities.
Then write up your experiences for the General Orders.

People enjoy reading about others' adventures, opinions, and descriptions of all things related to the Civil War. Who knows, you may inspire someone to make a trip, too. And, after all, imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. Huzzah to warmer weather and your **Wanderings!**

Friday, January 31, 2025

2024 - The CIVIL WAR BOOKS and AUTHORS Top Ten Year in Review

BOOK OF THE YEAR

1. The Cassville Affairs: Johnston, Hood, and the Failed Confederate Strategy in the Atlanta Campaign, 19 May 1864 by Robert D. Jenkins, Sr. (Mercer).

This book offers the most meticulously detailed and most thoroughly convincing interpretation of arguably the greatest enduring controversy that emerged during the event-filled interval between the 1864 Atlanta Campaign's onset and the dismissal of Johnston. What put it over the top for me was the profoundly enlightening manner in which author Robert Jenkins combined conventional battle narrative with forensic historical map analysis unlike anything I've ever encountered before in the Civil War literature [for more on this title, see the [Site Review](#) (5/8/24)].

The Rest of the Year's TOP TEN (in no particular order)

2. High-Bounty Men in the Army of the Potomac: Reclaiming Their Honor by Edwin P. Rutan II (Kent St).

Rutan's study represents a groundbreaking reassessment of our understanding of the Union Army's late-war regiments and their contributions to final victory [see the full 10/22/24 site [Review](#)].

3. Hell by the Acre: A Narrative History of the Stones River Campaign, November 1862-January 1863 by Daniel Masters (Savas Beatie).

One of the finest single-volume campaign studies of recent memory, this book deserves recognition as the new standard history of Stones River [12/23/24 [Review](#)].

4. Treasure and Empire in the Civil War: The Panama Route, the West and the Campaigns to Control America's Mineral Wealth by Neil P. Chatelain (McFarland).

An excellent multi-themed transnational history of the land and sea route utilized by the United States to securely transport the Far West's vital mineral wealth to where it could be integrated into the country's war economy [5/24/24 [Review](#)].

5. New Fields of Adventure: The Writings of Lyman G. Bennett, Civil War Soldier and Topographical Engineer, 1861–1865 edited by M. Jane Johansson (Tennessee).

Combining coverage of uncommonly explored wartime topics, occupations, and settings with unusually descriptive prose, Bennett's writings are a dream resource for historians, the entire package enhanced through Johansson's expert editing [8/15/24 [Review](#)].

6. The Atlanta Campaign - Volume 1: Dalton to Cassville, May 1-19, 1864 by David A. Powell (Savas Beatie).

Powell's latest multi-volume campaign history project is off to a rousing start. This book certainly exhibits the same exacting standards established through the author's previous works [9/18/24 [Review](#)].

7. Between Extremes: Seeking the Political Center in the Civil War North by Jack Furniss (LSU).

A fresh and convincing way of reconsidering the dynamics of party politics and political strategy in the United States during the Civil War [1/22/25 [Review](#)].

8. Massacre at St. Louis: The Road to the Camp Jackson Affair and Civil War by Kenneth E. Burchett (McFarland).

The most comprehensive treatment to date of a chaos-filled seminal event from the early-Civil War period in Missouri [10/3/24 [Review](#)].

9. Union General Daniel Butterfield: A Civil War Biography by James S. Pula (Savas Beatie).

In addition to painting a compellingly favorable picture of Butterfield's Civil War legacy, this study possesses that rare quality of fully meeting expectations in terms of depth while as the same time remaining relatively concise in page length [7/24/24 [Review](#)].

10. North Carolina Troops, 1861-1865: A Roster, Volume XXII - Confederate States Navy, Confederate States Marine Corps, and Charlotte Naval Yard edited by Katelynn A. Hatton & Alex Christopher Meekins (NC Office Archives & Hist).

This is a great example of the supporting text in a roster history being both expansive enough and qualitatively strong enough to be worthy of publication on its own [7/17/24 [Review](#)].

\$925/person
Double Occupancy

Civil War Time

Travelers, LLC



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

Join CWT^T 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

The Civil War Round Table of Chicago Shiloh and Corinth – April 23-27, 2025

74th
Tour

Historian: Bjorn Skaptason

\$1,095/person double occupancy

\$1,435/person single occupancy

The tour includes hotel room for Wednesday evening through Sunday noon, all lunches and dinners, all motor coach services, tour guide, all admission fees, and tour kit. Dinner Wednesday evening and all breakfasts are on-your own.



For information or to register:

Rae Radovich

708-361-3823

raeradovich@earthlink.net

Paper registration forms are available at the registration table at our meetings of the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table.

For more information, the itinerary, and other details on the tour, please go to the Kenosha Civil War Museum website. The October trip is listed under special events.



Kenosha Civil War Museum Petersburg and Appomattox Campaign Tour

From **October 19-22, 2025**, step back in time on this immersive four-day bus tour exploring the pivotal final days of the Civil War. Walk the battlefields of Petersburg, stand where history changed at Appomattox, and visit key sites like City Point and The Crater. Expert guides will bring the past to life with in-depth tours of forts, museums, and historic landmarks. Discover the stories of soldiers and civilians caught in the conflict as you journey through Virginia's hallowed grounds.

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

Sunday, October 19 – Wednesday, October 22
\$1060-\$1305* (\$1140-\$1385 non-members)**

The Great Lakes Civil War Forum: The Many Sides of the Antietam Campaign

Saturday, September 13 | 9:30am – 4:00pm | \$72 (\$90 non-member)

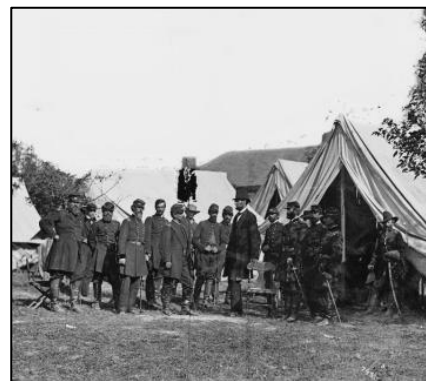
Check-in starts at 8:30am, program begins at 9:30am. Includes full day of programs, coffee, refreshments, and a catered lunch.

Antietam Landmark: The Dunker Church
presented by Alann Schmidt

Faces of Antietam and the 40-Acre Cornfield
presented by John Banks

Perspectives on the Artillery Battle of Antietam
presented by James A. Rosebrock

Medicine and The Battle of Antietam
presented by Dr. Gordon Dammann



Spending a day at The Great Lakes Civil War Forum is a special treat. Share some time with people who share your interests in the Civil War, while focusing on America's single, bloodiest day in the Civil War. The speakers are always top-notch and the camaraderie cannot be beaten. Leave with a more complete knowledge of this important day in American history.

**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.

