

# GENERAL ORDERS

The Newsletter of the

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



**April 10, 2025**

**Phil Spaugy**

## **The 19<sup>th</sup> Indiana of the Iron Brigade**

**"If we can't hold it, where will you find men who can?"**

Mr. Spaugy will give a presentation on the crucial July 1st, 1863 stand of the old First Corps at the "slight barricade of rails" located on the western slope of Seminary Ridge. We will discuss if, in fact, this may have been thirty of the most critical minutes of the three-day battle. To paraphrase one Black-Hatted veteran, "If the Iron Brigade had not held on July 1, there would have been no battle on July 2 and 3."

Phil Spaugy has been a member of the North South Skirmish Association (N-SSA) since 1978 and as such has live fired almost every type of American Civil War firearm. He studies arms and accouterments of federal infantry soldiers with an emphasis on his home state of Ohio, the arms altered in 1861 by Miles Greenwood and the arms of the U.S. Arsenal at Harpers Ferry. He has a special interest in the study of the Black Hatted Iron Brigade of the West.

Phil is a retired general aviation services company owner who lives in Vandalia, Ohio, with his wife, Amy.

He serves as a senior editor for Military Images magazine and as a historical consultant to Civil War News magazine. As a historian and blogger, he shares his Civil War knowledge and passion with a wide audience. Phil is frequently seen as a guest on the American Battlefield Trusts annual Gettysburg videos on the anniversary of the July 1863 battle. He also has an interest in the Western fights between the U.S. Cavalry and Native Americans. Phil will be headlining a tour to the Little Bighorn this summer.



As mentioned previously, Phil has extensively studied the soldiers, battles, and campaigns of the famed Iron Brigade of the West, of which the 19<sup>th</sup> Indiana was a member regiment, with a particular interest in the actions of the color guard of the 19<sup>th</sup> at the battle of Gettysburg. Along with my friend Lance Herdegen, I took great pride in doing the research for the Don Troiani print "The Black Hats," which depicts the gallant actions of Sergeant Major Asa Blanchard of the 19<sup>th</sup> Indiana at Gettysburg on the afternoon of July 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **General Orders No. 4-25**

**April 2025**

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### **April Meeting at a Glance The Wisconsin Club 9<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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.

**In accordance with the Bylaws of the Civil War Round Table, the Nominations Committee presents the following slate of candidates for a three-year term on the Board of Directors, ending in June 2028:**

**Terry Arliskas – Thomas Arliskas - Roman Blenski  
Paul Eilbes – John Petty**

**Elections will take place in the May meeting.**

**If you have an interest in serving on the Board, please contact any Board members or a member of the Nominations Committee:**

**Dale Bospalec – Mike Benton – Paul Eilbes**

**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:**

**April 4 – May 2 – June 6**

## The Muster Roll: NEW MEMBERS

NAME	RANK	REGIMENT	PLACE OF BIRTH	OTHER MILITARY SERVICE
Janet Key				
Michael Key				
Drew DeLong				
Koko Kalous				
Leight Murray				
Jane Murray				

## 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, Robert Christie, 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 Bospalec, Jim Blake, 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 April meetings of the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table featured these speakers and topics.

- 2003 Kenneth Noe: "The Battle of Perryville"
- 2006 Horace Mewborn: "Mosby and His Rangers"
- 2008 Jennifer Webber: "Copperheads"
- 2010 David O. Stewart: "The Impeachment of Andrew Johnson"
- 2012 Marshall Krolick: "Riding for the Union: the 8<sup>th</sup> Illinois Cavalry"
- 2014 Scott Bowden: "Last Chance for Victory: Robert E. Lee and the Gettysburg Campaign"
- 2015 Prof. Michael Burlingame: "The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln"
- 2016 Greg Biggs: "Nashville: Siren's Song of the Confederacy"
- 2018 John Marszalek "The History of the Memoirs of Ulysses S. Grant"
- 2020 COVID Cancellation
- 2021 Ronald D. Kirkwood: "Too Much for Human Endurance"
- 2022 Jeff William Hunt: "Meade and Lee at Rappahannock Station"
- 2023 Richard Holloway: "Arrested, Promoted, and Transferred: Richard Taylor's Inglorious End to the Red River Campaign"
- 2024 A. Wilson Greene: "Opening the Cracker Line"



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.

### 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.

### 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.

### The Congdon Brothers and Significant Others: Their Civil War Times

Friday, June 13 – 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm

Presenter: Michael T. Sullivan

Eli, Hannibal, and Sylvester were brothers, farmers, soldiers, and friends from Palmyra, Wisconsin. They were respected for what they did and the Civil War made them forever friends of the country. While holding the rank of private, the brothers served honorably in Wisconsin military units of the Union army. They made it home, partially, but the home front presented its own family and personal struggles. Their story is gleaned from browned and fragile papers by Wisconsin author Michael T. Sullivan.



**Gazette and Friday Morning, March, 1861**

**The Inaugural**

We bestow no higher compliment upon the admirable message of President Lincoln than the universal commendation awarded to it. Every Republican expresses himself unqualifiedly satisfied with it, and a large portion of the democrats any it is just right.

Mr. Lincoln is not the man to fail in the execution of his duty after he has declared his policy, and the county may now confidently expect that its honor will be indicated and the supremacy of the laws asserted.

A happy day it was when Abraham Lincoln succeeded James Buchanan as the Chief Executive of the nation. Everywhere and by almost everybody it is approved, and by Republicans most cordially endorsed.

**Washington, March 2**

The army and navy officers, and also the secretaries of these departments paid farewell visits to Mr. Buchanan to-day. Short speeches were made.

The Herald's correspondent says that intelligence received here today from the new government at Montgomery shows that it was proceeding with great vigor the 4th of March. It is believed that the \$15,000,000 loan will have been taken. 10,000 soldiers are now being drilled and under arms awaiting orders.

A large army, provisions and supplies of all kinds have been purchased recently in Chicago, St. Louis and Cincinnati, and sent to Mobile and New Orleans for distribution.

On the 4th of March the new postal arrangement goes into effect. The die for the new stamps has been made, and the old contractors continued in the service of the Confederate states.

The present tariff is merely designed as temporary and as soon as possible a new system will be adopted.

A number of citizens, members of the Virginia convention, arrived to report the position of affairs and are not encouraged to the extent anticipated.

The president approved the tariff and territorial bills of Colorado, Dakota and Nevada.

Nothing will be said to-morrow about slavery.

The president leaves on Tuesday for Wheaton. His private secretary Glassberg remain several days to attend to Mr. B.'s private business.

Senators Hamphill and Wigfall will leave for Montgomery on Thursday, and join Regan and other members of the southern convention from Texas.

The inaugural will not be delivered to the hands of the printer until after delivery, It will be reported for the associated press.

The Pacific Railroad Bill is beyond resuscitation.

**A Formidable Weapon**

Mr. James Mills of this city has just returned from a trip through several of the southern states. In the course of his trip he visited Louisville, and procured from a brother who was working in the Harper Ferry armory when it was captured by John Brown and his party, one of the pikes used by Brown. This pike has been left with us for a few days for the inspection of those who may desire to see it.

Mr. Mills has also left with us an admirable caricature of the "secession humbug" which will repay a journey up two pair of stairs to see.

**Richmond, March 2d 1861**

In the convention a resolution was offered and referred that as the Crittenden Compromise had been deliberately rejected by the northern confederates every consideration of duty interest honor and position requires that an ordinance bill be adopted by the convention and submitted to the people by which Virginia shall resume all powers delegated to the federal government, and declare connection with the government dissolved.

A resolution was referred, suggesting that Forts Pickens and Sumter be transferred to the southern confederacy, and for an equitable division of the public property.

There was no prospect of the committee on federal relations agreeing on anything.

**Norfolk, March 2, 1861**

The Herald correspondent says a number of the members of the volunteer companies were detained last night for the purpose of patrolling the city. It appears that information reached the mayor of Petersburg to the effect that an outbreak would soon follow the inauguration of Mr. Lincoln, and I understand that a police officer arrived in this city yesterday as a special messenger to Mayor Lamb, hearing the above information. The city will doubtless be under the charge of our volunteers for some time to come, but more is feared from the white abolitionists than the blacks. We are prepared however for any emergency that may arise.

A great many discharges within the past few days have taken place in Gosport Navy yard and all who are known to favor secession are stricken from the pay roll.



*Through the Looking Glass* features are intended to tell the stories of common folks of the Civil War, whether they are civilians or military personnel. If you have access to the story of an ordinary citizen of this war-torn era and are willing to share it with our members, please consider submitting it to the General Orders. Thank you!

## The Milwaukee Regiment

It was a warm and sunny Friday afternoon in Milwaukee on the last day of July 1862. Work had been cancelled for most businesses, and bands marched along Grand Avenue (the current Wisconsin Avenue) playing patriotic tunes. Flags were waving and the beer was flowing. At Kneelands Grove, between 10th and 11th Streets just south of Grand Avenue, the state's governor was about to speak. This event was called the Great War Meeting, and its purpose was to induce Milwaukee men to volunteer for the war.

Just a few months earlier, the casualties at Shiloh had shocked the nation, and the failure of the Peninsula Campaign convinced President Lincoln that this would not be a short war. He called on the states to provide 300,000 more troops. If they failed to do so, he threatened to order a draft. Milwaukee was then a city of 45,000 and its quota was to produce at least two regiments. The 24th Wisconsin needed 1,000 volunteers.

Wealthy Milwaukeeans donated money for enlistment bonuses, which could be as much as \$7,000 in today's money. Enticing men to volunteer was becoming more difficult and recruitment now also focused on older and married men. Gov. Edward Salomon spoke to the crowd about the urgency for volunteers, concluding with: "What a field of heroic struggle is offered to you. Your gallant comrades from the battlefield call upon you by name. Will you shrink? Will you turn your backs?" Within only two weeks, the recruitment efforts paid off, and 10 companies of 100 soldiers each were formed.

The 24th was mustered in on Aug. 15. They gathered at Camp Sigel on Milwaukee's East Side; land leased to the federal government for \$1. Camp Sigel was named after Union Gen. Franz Sigel, and was bounded by Prospect and Bartlett Avenues and Lafayette and Royal Streets.

The 24th was one of seven Wisconsin regiments to train at this site, while most others trained at Camp Randall in Madison. The men were housed in 10 barracks and spent the next three weeks drilling. Their muskets arrived two weeks later but never were fired in this camp. The boys of the 24th were a source of much entertainment for the citizens, and ladies watched along Prospect Avenue with their parasols protecting them from the sun.



Arthur MacArthur

One humorous moment occurred when the 17-year-old regimental adjutant, in his high-pitched voice, gave orders for the men to wheel right – and then promptly tripped over his sword. The embarrassed young lieutenant, who stood 5-foot-7 and weighed less than 100 pounds, was Arthur MacArthur Jr., son of Judge MacArthur. The judge was able to secure an officer's commission for his son, after being frustrated earlier when failing to secure a commission to West Point.

Little more than a year later, on Nov. 25, 1863, MacArthur led the 24th up Missionary Ridge shouting, "On Wisconsin," leading them to an improbable victory and ultimately receiving the Medal of Honor. The medal was awarded in 1890.

Not even two months after being organized, the 24th would see its first action, at Perryville, Ky., on Oct. 8, and then in December 1862 was hit hard in the bloody battle of Stones River in Tennessee. It later won fame at Chickamauga and Missionary Ridge in 1863, and Division. Commander Phil Sheridan called the 24th his favorite regiment. The Milwaukee Regiment came to the rescue at the desperate and decisive 1864 Battle of Franklin, earning the nickname "The Invincibles." MacArthur, now a major, once again led the charge and was shot twice at close range but survived, was promoted, and known nationally as a hero and the "Boy Colonel."

continued on page 6



On Sept. 5, 1912, about four dozen surviving members of the 24th met in a downtown Milwaukee banquet hall to celebrate the 50th anniversary of their deployment. The guest speaker was retired Lt. Gen. Arthur MacArthur, now 67 and a hundred pounds heavier than when he was a young lieutenant. He began, "Little did we know 50 years ago..." then paused, spoke softly, and then said, "I can't go on" and sat down. He suffered what appeared to be a stroke, although other reports said it was a massive heart attack – and died instantly.

When the 24th returned to Milwaukee in 1865, on hand to welcome them was a disabled former member of Company G, Sgt. Henry Walton Carter. He had been shot through the right shoulder at Stones River and captured, imprisoned in Richmond, exchanged and discharged as disabled.

On Aug. 15, 1863, the Milwaukee Sentinel had run a story when he received a gift of \$122 from his company, which had taken up a collection. Commending the generosity of that nearly all-Irish company, the Sentinel used the story to argue for housing and pensions for disabled soldiers. In 1870, Carter would become one of the early residents of the Northwestern Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers. He died in 1872, at age 42, from the lingering effects of his injuries and is buried in Wood National Cemetery, in the area just north of the freeway. Carter was my great-great-grandfather.

submitted by Mike Deeken

## The Driftless Area Civil War Club

Programs are held monthly on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month at 1:00 at the Odd Fellow Lodge at 112 Front Street Mineral Point.

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

**July 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.

**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](mailto:helmenstine@att.net) for more information.

## Additional Educational Program

**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.

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](http://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](mailto:cwmdel@gmail.com)



**Bruce Klem's** career has been a combination of military and civilian almost simultaneously. He received his commission via Marquette's AROTC program in May 1970 and entered active duty in August 1970. After Field artillery Officer Basic Course at Fort Sill, OK and Motor Officer Course at Fort Knox, KY Bruce was assigned to the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division, 2<sup>nd</sup> BN 33<sup>rd</sup> FA in Germany serving as BN Ammunition Officer, and BN Liaison Officer. He Returned to Milwaukee in 1972. In January 1975 Bruce started work at Miller Brewing in Milwaukee in a management training program. After Miller Brewery, his career involved multiple job changes before he fully retired in 2014, joining the ranks of "happy retirees."

Bruce and wife Bonnie live in Kenosha. Both volunteer at the Kenosha Civil War Museum and at their church, St. Mary's in Kenosha. Their family is both here in Kenosha and Milwaukee. Our daughter and her husband live in Milwaukee. My stepson and his family live here in Kenosha.

Bruce has been an active member of the Round Table Board of Directors for multiple terms. A prolific reader, he submits book reviews to our newsletter's *Between the Covers* on a regular basis.

"I need not tell the brave survivors of so many hard-fought battles, who have remained steadfast to the last, that I have consented to the result from no distrust of them ... determined to avoid the useless sacrifice of those whose past services have endeared them to their countrymen ... I bid you an affectionate farewell."

**Robert E. Lee to his men at Appomattox; April 9, 1865**

"The war is over; the rebels are our countrymen again; and the best sign of rejoicing after the victory will be to abstain from all demonstrations in the field."

**Ulysses S. Grant in a note to Joseph R. Hawley in 1868**

**What Grant claimed to have said to Lee on April 9, 1865.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

November 7, 2024                        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 –  
Here was Made Our Last and Hopeless Stand*

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](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 April 10, 2025**

**Mail your reservations by Friday, April 4 to:**

Paul Eilbes  
1809 Washington Avenue  
Cedarburg, WI 53012-9730

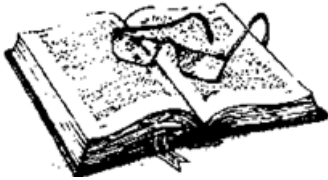
**Call or email reservations to:**

(262) 376-0568  
[peilbes@gmail.com](mailto:peilbes@gmail.com)

Enclosed is \$\_\_\_\_\_ (meal is \$35.00 per person) for \_\_\_\_\_ people for the  
April 10, 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 \_\_\_\_\_

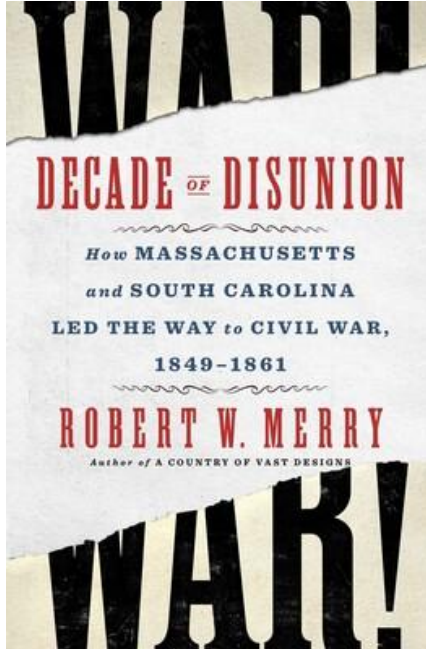




# BETWEEN THE COVERS

## Decade of Disunion

Robert W. Merry



My review this time is on a book that was sent to the Round Table for review by the Publisher, Simon & Schuster, one of their Marketing Managers, Tyann Nles. I was chosen to read and review. The book is Decade of Disunion, How Massachusetts and South Carolina led the Way to Civil War 1849-1861 by Mr. Robert W. Merry. This book is a deep dive into both key events and key figures that reacted to the crisis of slavery and how that crisis shaped the country and in particular the effect these two key states had on the slavery issue and how things morphed into disunion.

The author points out that "of all the new world colonies established in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, no two were as disparate in outlook, religion, moral precepts or cultural sensibility as Massachusetts and South Carolina." This is the basis for the comparison in this book as Mr. Merry the author focuses on the impact the issue of slavery had on these two societies and how their reactions mirrored the effect on the nation. And in many cases led the nation down the path to disunion.

In comparing the society's view of themselves both had diligence views. Massachusetts heavy imbued in the puritan ethic considered social harmony was a necessity, something they considered impossible in a highly stratified society. They opposed the emergence of an aristocracy of large landowners. Also because of the basic tenants of Puritanism which contained the moral imperative of abolishing chattel slavery.

South Carolina on the other hand developed from an Anglican heritage and particularly influenced by numbers arriving in Carolina from the West Indies and the sugar producers. This industry was heavily involved in sugar production through the use of slave labor. Prosperous islanders considered South Carolina an ideal destination for their young sons and the chance to develop similar large sugar or other plantations leading to tremendous wealth. Slavery thus became a necessity to develop this type of wealth.

It is arguable that war was not the only solution for slavery in 1850. But as Merry demonstrates in chapter after chapter by 1860 all choices had been dissipated. It is not because most Americans favored a violent clash over slavery. In fact, most Americans were in accord with Abraham Lincoln, whose primary concern was that "government of the people, by the people and for the people, shall not perish from the earth." Americans were very aware that in Europe in 1848 had overthrown monarchies and replaced them with democracies, only to have the status quo with monarchies restored. The union was a cause to die for.

Mr. Merry captures the critical conflicts leading to increasing strife between the sections: the North with its growing abolitionist leanings after the Fugitive Slave Law; the South with its growing fear that the North was fomenting "aggression" by refusing to violate their own states' rights in order to protect slavery in Southern states. Add in the Kansas-Nebraska Act, the caning of Charles Sumner, the Dred Scott Decision, and numerous other events, and it is no surprise the decade ended in civil war. I think with each chapter Mr. Merry highlights how step by step impact actions from these two states. He shows key individuals react and respond to the events push them further apart, thus making any reasonable compromise near impossible except through Civil War.

I found this book to be a very interesting look into the nuts and bolts of how this country moved inch by inch toward the Civil War. By using these two opposite states as the focus and the representation of how both north and south viewed this tumultuous time on trying to solve the slavery question. Reactions in both states highlighted how the Civil War came about. If you are interested in understanding the feelings and the way this country moved into civil war I recommend this book.

submitted by Bruce Klem



## My Recent Visit to Dover, Tennessee and the Fort Donelson Symposium

A year ago, I was contacted by a Mr. John Walsh of Fort Donelson Relics, a Civil War Dealer in artifacts, guns, paper, and books. John had viewed my discussions on Civil War firearms, particularly on Birgess's Western Sharpshooters who in time became the 66<sup>th</sup> Illinois. John has a great collection of Birgess' items. He invited me down for their 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Symposium in Dover, Tennessee. I accepted. The date for the Symposium was February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025.

I left on Thursday wanting to attend a Friday battle walk on February 21<sup>st</sup> covering General McClelland's unsuccessful attack on Maney's Battery position; what McClelland called his Redoubt No. 2. All morning on the 13<sup>th</sup> of February Maney's four 6-pounder smoothbore guns had been shelling his advance up the Wynn's Ferry Road, with McClelland moving Southwest to surround the Confederates in Dover and Fort Donelson.

It was cold. All the way down, a 9-hour drive, the temperature never went over 22 degrees. I have been to Fort Donelson at least three or four times over the years and have always enjoyed my tours on the battlefield. That said, I had never been on a tour of Maney's Battery or knew exactly where that was. It was up a hill which I felt was 6 miles high at a 50-degree angle and covered in wet snow and muddy paths, but I made it to the top. Actually, the hill was maybe on third of a mile at a 45-degree incline, but it was covered in snow and slippery.

The tour was led by a Daryll Smith, who has just finished a book on the Fort Donelson Battlefield Iron Markers, which I bought. I must state that the folks down South in the Dover area are the salt of the Earth, just like Wisconsin, and they really love their Civil War History. A vast majority of them had ancestors who fought in the Civil War for the Confederacy and they always want to know more. The tour for me to Maney's Battery was eye opening. Being wintertime the trees had no leaves and the brush was low so you could see for a mile. When someone says to get the real feel of a battle you have to walk the battlefield itself, it is true. The steepness of the ravines and the height of the surrounding hills was apparent. The idea of taking Maney's Battery while having to climb those hills and through those ravines under fire, through cut down trees and stacked brush, was not going to happen. McClelland's regiments were repulsed and the Confederates victorious. I was asked a couple of times my take on the firearms used smoothbores vs rifles. It was great!

That evening, I was alone and hungry. My wife Terry stayed home with the cats. Dover has but three places to eat. One is an Italian place known for their pizza, a Southern Diner downtown, and a Mexican place in the northern part of the city. Over the weekend, I tried two of them. The diner was very good and the pizza good also. The Mexican food I tried on an earlier trip was very good, and all of them were cheap. There are not very many places to stay overnight in Dover. The motel where I stayed is open from the 60's, and there are some cabins, but many who attended the conference told me that they stay in B and B's in town or Paris or Clarksville, Tennessee when visiting Fort Donelson. Good to know for next time. Dover is a very small town.

On Saturday, the day of the Symposium, the sponsors had to move the venue to a larger place as over 120 people said they were coming. The first speaker was Dr. Tim Johnson, who just wrote a book on the "Mexican War as a Training Ground for Civil War Officers." The professor's specialty is the Mexican War and his discussion on such officers as Lee, Grant, Pillow, and others was something I never really considered, but had read about. Next was Ranger Jim Ogden of Chickamauga fame who spoke on Grant's opening of the Cracker Line to feed the Union Army under siege in Chattanooga. Now, that is a presentation we should have at our Round Table. What was more interesting, during lunch Jim told me things about General Rosecrans, who was defeated at Chickamauga, and who got such bad press after the battle for retreating back to Chattanooga. Ranger Ogden had a lot to say. Basically, his research showed that Rosecrans did all the right things and left the battlefield to prepare to defend Chattanooga. It was a great lunchtime discussion. Next at 11:00 A. M. was my talk on Smoothbores vs. Rifles. The audience enjoyed it as something new. Many told me when my book is done they definitely want a copy, my talk was well-received. We then had lunch—BBQ pulled pork, pork and beans, and potato salad and chocolate cake and cookies! John Walsh's wife provided the food for the speakers.

After lunch our speaker was Derrick Lindow, who himself just wrote a book titled, "Partisan Warfare in Western Kentucky-1862." That is another very interesting piece of Civil War history we know little about. For the record, there was lots of fighting and killing after Fort Donelson in Western Kentucky. It was Partisan Warfare of raids and counter raids by the Federals. Buy that book!

And finally, our host John Walsh talked about “Civil War Photography.” John is a collector of Civil War images and brought many of them with him to show associated with Fort Donelson. For those who get the magazine Military Images, John provided many of the CDV’s, Ambrotypes, and Tintypes from his own collection for a great article on Fort Donelson. We all stayed to almost 4 PM answering questions and just talking to people. Again, the people of Tennessee are great! They brought lots of books to sell, displays and recruiting tables to help save our Battlefields. They ask for nothing and just give.

For those who want to do a “Wandering” to Fort Donelson from Wisconsin, it is a 9-10 hour drive. That said, this part of Tennessee is Bourbon Country. There are many tours in the area. Fort Donelson Battlefield Park is always worth a visit, especially down to the Water Battery and the view up the Cumberland River. Sadly, the Visitors Center is still in a trailer after 9 years of trying to get a new center opened. Go see the Rangers and Staff in the Trailer for information. Do a walk or just take the driving tour. A lot of the battlefield is gone, as homes and businesses cover the hills and ravines, but if you get Daryll Smith’s book he can take you to all the spots where the battle action occurred. On the way down you can stop in Paducah, Kentucky, lots of Civil War stuff to see there like the Confederate General Tilghman house, the old Steamboat displays, and they have National Quilt Museum, too! You drive through the Kentucky Lake area on the way down to Fort Donelson. Over the winter everything is closed, but in the summer there are lots of things to see and places to eat or stay.

Next year’s Symposium is scheduled already. It is worth the time and effort, and you will meet a lot of wonderful people.

submitted by Tom Arliskas

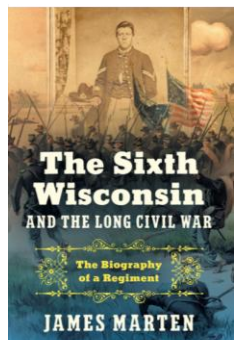
## **The Sixth Wisconsin and the Long Civil War: The Biography of a Regiment**

**James Marten will be at Boswell Books, 2559 North Downer Avenue on Milwaukee's East Side.**

**Tuesday, April 8, 6:30 pm**

Join us at Boswell for an evening with Marquette University Professor of History Emeritus James Marten, who appears with his new book, a history of the Sixth Wisconsin regiment and its lives, deaths, and afterlives throughout and beyond the Civil War.

**Register for this event at [jamesmartenmke.eventbrite.com](http://jamesmartenmke.eventbrite.com).** And be sure to order your copy of *The Sixth Wisconsin and the Long Civil War* now, too.



Reimagining one of the oldest genres of Civil War history, Marten engagingly presents the story of the war and its aftermath through the lens of a single regiment, the Sixth Wisconsin. One of the core units of the famed Iron Brigade, the Sixth was organized in July 1861 and mustered out in the summer of 1865, playing major roles at Second Manassas, Antietam, and Gettysburg, and in the Overland campaign of 1864. But the regiment’s full history is found in the stories of its men learning to fight and endure far from home amid violence, illness, and death, and in the lives of families that hung on every word in letters and news from the front lines.

Those stories also unfolded long after the war’s end, as veterans sought to make sense of their experiences and home communities struggled to care for those who returned with unhealed wounds. George C Rable says: “Marten skillfully recaptures the world of the Sixth Wisconsin regiment in all its diversity... It should become the gold standard for any work on a Civil War regiment.”

James Marten is author and editor of several books, including *Sing Not War: The Lives of Union and Confederate Veterans in Gilded Age America*.

\$925/person  
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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.

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](mailto:wegs1862@gmail.com)

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

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



**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](mailto: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)**

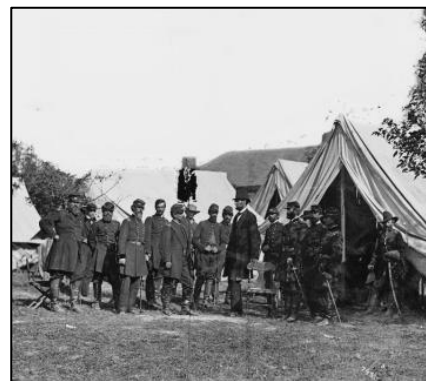
Check-in starts at 8:30am, program begins at 9:30am. Includes full day of programs, coffee, refreshments, and a catered lunch.

**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.

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<b>ITEM</b>	<b>COST</b>
Hooded Sweatshirt in Northern Blue.....	\$35.00
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Blue Brief Case.....	\$25.00
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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.

