

GENERAL ORDERS



The Newsletter of the

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



May 8, 2025

Steven Phan

Asian and Pacific Islanders During the Civil War

May is Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Heritage Month. To commemorate the Civil War Sesquicentennial (2011-2015), the National Park Service created handbooks that featured the stories, accounts, and narratives of people largely included from the traditional scholarship related to the conflict. Asian and Pacific Islanders and the Civil War, published in late 2014, highlighted the forgotten service of dozens of soldiers who served in the Union and Confederate armies and navies during the Civil War. Historian Steve T. Phan, who was featured in the publication, will present a lecture on the unknown citizen soldiers of Asian descent who participated in some of the war's largest battles, and campaigns in nearly every military theatre from Virginia to California. Their fight continued long after the guns fell silent in 1865. The struggle for citizenship and equality endured well into the 20th Century.

Steve T. Phan is a Park Ranger and serves as the Chief of Interpretation at Camp Nelson National Monument, and a historian and public speaker residing in Central Kentucky. Phan's research focuses on military occupation, operational command, African American soldiers and refugees, and fortifications during the Civil War. He recently served as the historian at the Civil War Defenses of Washington seminar.



Steve has also worked at Gettysburg National Military Park, Richmond National Battlefield Park, Hopewell Culture National Historical Park, Stones River National Battlefield, Rock Creek Park, and Charles Young Buffalo Soldiers National Monument.

He is the author of many articles related to his area of expertise in multiple publications. Steve was nominated for the National Park Service Tilden Award for Excellence in Interpretation in 2019 and 2020. He holds a master's degree in American History from Middle Tennessee State University.

General Orders No. 5-25

May 2025

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May 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.

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 Bsepalec – 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:

May 2 – June 6

The Muster Roll: NEW MEMBERS

NAME	RANK	REGISTRATION	PLACE OF BIRTH	PREVIOUS MILITARY SERVICE	REMARKS
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 Bsepalec, 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 Kuhnmuensch, 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 May meetings of the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table featured these speakers and topics.

- 2003 William Beaudot: "The 24th Wisconsin Infantry"
- 2006 Mark Noll: "How the Bible Helped Start the Civil War"
- 2008 Vernon Burton: "The Age of Lincoln"
- 2010 William W. Freehling: "The Strange, Difficult Triumph of Southern Secession"
- 2012 Brian Holden Reid: "The Strategy of the Civil War"
- 2014 David Bastian: "Grant's Canal: The Union's Attempt to Bypass Vicksburg"
- 2015 Eric Leonard: "Cartel, Code and Consequences at Andersonville"
- 2017 Rev. Robert Miller: "For God, Church, and Country: Catholic Chaplains in the Civil War"
- 2018 Joseph Rose: "Grant Under Fire: An Exposé of Generalship & Character in the American Civil War"
- 2020 COVID Cancellation
- 2021 Kevin Hampton: "Our Adopted Country is in Danger: Hans Heg and the 15th Wisconsin"
- 2022 Dr. James Pula: "The 11th Corps at Gettysburg: A Reappraisal"
- 2023 Sean Michael Chick: "They Only Came to Die: The Battle of Nashville"
- 2024 Lynn & Julianne Herman: "Tragedy in Lawrenceville: The Allegheny Arsenal Explosion"



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.

New Philadelphia, Illinois: Seven Ways to Freedom

Saturday, May 9 – 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm

Dr. Kate Williams-McWorter & Dr. Gerald McWorter

From a distance, New Philadelphia looked like a typical Illinois pioneer town of the mid-1800s. But this wasn't the case. As travelers got closer, they would find a small but bustling community where Black and White residents lived and worked side by side. For formerly-enslaved Frank McWorter, the town meant new beginnings and an opportunity to free family members enslaved in Kentucky. New Philadelphia, which he founded in 1836, is the first U.S. town platted and registered by an African-American.

Gerland McWorter and Kate Williams-McWorter will tell the story of this unique central Illinois town from its inception to its recognition as the 424th United States National Park in December 2022.

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.



Daily Appeal

Memphis

Wednesday morning, May 14, 1862

Fort Pillow

Not a gun was fired by the enemy at Fort Pillow yesterday. Since Jeff Thompson's late scrimmage with them they seem to be provokingly still.

Abandonment of Norfolk

The evacuation of Norfolk is a matter not at all surprising as it was a natural sequel to the falling back of our army from the Peninsula. Taken in connection with a similar proceeding at Pensacola.

Taken in connection with a similar proceeding at Peninsula it is deeply significant of the future war policy of the Administration which is to leave the revers and coast as far as practicable and force the enemy to fight us on land, where we have whipped in him every important engagement since the war. This as we remarked once before, is the silver lining to the cloud that now obvious us.

The Conscript Act

The misunderstanding which exists as is the recipe and intention of this act. Has produced a baseless example among the ignorant portion of our population within the last few days. The very impression that prevails on the 16th inst. Every man between the ages of 18 and 35 is to be utilized and forced into military services. This is a mistake. After that date the names on this class of men will be enrolled as is usual with the militia, but the quota drawn from each county for duty will be regulated by the number of volunteers that have already gone from each county into the army. The rest will be drilled and only held subject to duty when divided. Hence it may be that some of the counties and cities that have volunteered liberally may not have a single man called immediately into service. This subject should be properly considered and understood, and this disgraceful and frantic beggar stopped.

The New York packet ship Yorktown has been captured near the coast of England by a Southern privateer.

The State Journal

Saturday Evening, April 19, 1862

News from the Battle—Letter from Gov. Harvey

Gov. Harvey left Cairo Sunday evening at 9 o'clock, and expected to arrive at Savannah, by Tuesday noon. Col. Wood of the 14th, is Commandant at the Post.

Gov. Harvey, in a letter recently received, writes: "I have today (Sunday) been through the hospital at Mound City, six miles above Cairo, where are not less than 1,000 sick and wounded soldiers. It is the grandest affair of a hospital one can conceive of. A block of some ten fine brick stores, three stories, built in speculative times and abandoned, has been appropriated—each story making three wards one above the other. The whole is clean, admirable arranged, well ventilated, and the provision of comforts and care, including medical attendance, seems abundant and excellent. Doct. Whiting of Janesville is at Mound City assisting Doct. Franklin, the Physician who has charge of the hospital.

I found some thirty Wisconsin boys here. They appeared cheerful amid their sufferings, grateful for care and kindness shown them, and much cheered by our friendly call and the encouraging words we could give them.

We leave two of our physicians and three or four boxes of stores at the hospital to night.

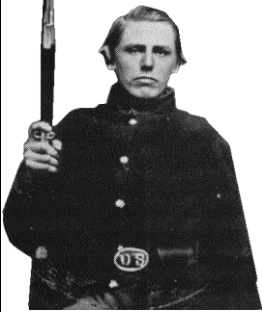
The 16th was in front of Gen. Prentiss' Division—two companies far in advance on picket duty and were the first fired upon. Lieut. Col. Fairchild was with them. He rode back and ordered the Regiment into the order of battle. By the time they were formed, the rebels were within three hundred feet in overwhelming force. The enemy pushed them with a whole Brigade, back steadily, but in good order. All agree that they conducted well. Col. Allen was slightly wounded, Lieut. Col. Fairchild badly wounded. (He died later from the wounds)

A ball entered the upper part of the leg, in the fleshy part, and turning upward, the ball remains, and cannot at present be extricated.

Major Reynolds is safe. Capt. Saxe, of Capt. Saxe, of Company A, was the first man killed—being with two companies on picket duty just mentioned. His orderly was also killed, and the company badly cut up. Capt. Pease was mortally wounded and has since died. A son of J.A. Hadley, of the Secretary of State's office was in this company and though considered rather slight in strength by his comrades, he surprised everyone by his exhibition of courage and valor. "He fought like a tiger" the boys say. Six of the privates of this company were killed. Capt. Train was badly wounded. Capt. Fox (formerly a Bible agent) and Capt. Wheeler slightly wounded. The regiment mustered about 700 on Thursday morning, three days after the engagement, leaving 260 to 280 killed wounded and missing. Of the 18th, Col. Alban was mortally wounded, shot through the lungs, and died on Wednesday. Lieut. Col. Beall was slightly wounded. Major Crain was killed on the field.

Captain Compton is reported killed, some 200 to 300 taken prisoners, and many more killed, wounded and missing. Only three of the captains, Kushner, Coleman and Luxton are known to be safe.

The regiment is now able to muster only about 300 to 400.



James K. Newton
Co. F 14th Wisconsin

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!

A Wisconsin Story from Shiloh

**The 14th Wisconsin Infantry Regiment
in the context of the Battle of Shiloh.**

The 14th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry was a Union regiment during the American Civil War, and it played a notable role at Shiloh on April 6-7, 1862. Here's an overview based on historical records:

The 14th Wisconsin was organized at Camp Wood in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, and mustered into service on January 30, 1862. By early March, the regiment was sent to St. Louis for training, then moved to Savannah, Tennessee, arriving on March 28. On April 6, as the Battle of Shiloh erupted near Pittsburg Landing, the 14th was initially stationed at Savannah, serving as provost guard. That evening, they were transported upriver to join the fight.

On April 7, the second day of the battle, the 14th Wisconsin entered combat as part of General Don Carlos Buell's Army of the Ohio, temporarily assigned to Colonel William Sooy Smith's 14th Brigade in General Thomas Crittenden's 5th Division. They arrived on the battlefield early Monday morning and were thrust into the Union counterattack against Confederate forces under General P.G.T. Beauregard. The regiment fought with distinction, earning praise for its steadiness despite being relatively green—having received their arms only weeks earlier and lacking extensive drill. Soldiers' accounts and later reports noted their "hard, steady fighting," with one observer dubbing them the "14th Wisconsin Regulars" for their performance.

The regiment suffered significant casualties: out of approximately 750 men, 16 were killed, 74 wounded, and 3 missing, totaling 93 casualties—a 12% loss rate. This was higher than many seasoned units at Shiloh, reflecting their intense engagement. They fought across terrain still littered with the dead and wounded from the previous day, contributing to the Union effort that ultimately drove the Confederates back to Corinth, Mississippi. After Shiloh, the 14th remained at Pittsburg Landing as provost guard under Colonel David E. Wood, who was appointed commandant there but died of disease in June 1862.

(The regiment went on to serve in other campaigns, including Corinth, Vicksburg, and Mobile, before mustering out on October 9, 1865, in Madison, Wisconsin.)

Co. E of the 14th Wisconsin was directed to Sherman's command in the winter of 1863 as guard of the platoon train, and served in other additional campaigns including Atlanta and the march to the sea and up the east coast to Washington. Under their 14th Wisconsin regimental flag they marched at the end of the grand review in Washington on the second day of the Western Armies review and were discharged in Washington).

The weather during the Battle of Shiloh on April 6-7, 1862, had a tangible impact on the 14th Wisconsin Infantry Regiment, particularly given their role and the timing of their engagement. Here's how the conditions affected them based on historical context and their specific circumstances:

On April 6, the first day of the battle, the 14th Wisconsin was not yet on the battlefield. They were stationed at Savannah, Tennessee, about 9 miles north of Pittsburg Landing, serving as provost guard. The weather that day was clear and mild, with temperatures likely in the 50s to 60s Fahrenheit (10-20°C), and no significant precipitation. This allowed for smooth transport of the regiment by steamer up the Tennessee River that evening, as they were ordered to reinforce the Union lines. The dry conditions meant their journey was unimpeded by weather-related delays, ensuring they arrived at Pittsburg Landing by early morning on April 7.

The weather shifted dramatically overnight, however, with heavy rain beginning late on April 6 and continuing into April 7. By the time the 14th Wisconsin disembarked and marched into position on the battlefield, the ground had turned into a muddy, waterlogged mess. This rain, described as torrential in soldiers' accounts, soaked the men and their equipment, adding weight to their already limited gear—they had received their muskets only weeks prior and were still adjusting to military life. The muddy terrain slowed their movements as they took up positions in General Thomas Crittenden's division for the Union counterattack.

continued on the next page

During the fighting on April 7, the 14th Wisconsin faced Confederate forces across a landscape of fields and woods now saturated with water. The mud made it harder to maneuver, especially for a regiment with minimal combat experience, and likely complicated efforts to maintain formation under fire. Artillery support, which the Union relied on heavily that day, was also hampered as cannon wheels bogged down in the mire, potentially reducing its effectiveness for units like the 14th. The wet conditions would have made reloading muskets more difficult as well, with damp powder and slippery hands adding to the chaos of their first battle.

The rain and cold—temperatures likely dipped slightly overnight—also took a physical toll. The 14th Wisconsin suffered 93 casualties (16 killed, 74 wounded, 3 missing) out of about 750 men, a high rate for a single day's action. Wounded soldiers left lying in the mud faced increased risk of infection and hypothermia, though specific accounts from the 14th don't detail this. The regiment's resilience in pushing forward despite these conditions earned them praise, with one report noting their "steady fighting" as they helped reclaim ground lost the previous day.

After the battle, the 14th remained at Pittsburg Landing as provost guard, where the lingering wet and muddy conditions likely made camp life miserable. The heavy rain had flooded low areas, and soldiers across the Union army reported wading through water and mud to tend to the wounded or bury the dead—a task the 14th, as guards, may have overseen.

In short, the clear weather on April 6 enabled the 14th Wisconsin's timely arrival, but the heavy rain and mud on April 7 challenged their mobility, endurance, and combat effectiveness during their baptism by fire. Their ability to perform under such conditions contributed to their reputation at Shiloh.

submitted by James Johnson

The story of the 14th Wisconsin continues next month with details of James Tyler, the great uncle of James Johnson.

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 112 Front Street Mineral Point.

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 for more information.

If you have not done so already, please go online and check out the revamped website of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee!

Grant Johnson and his crew at Responsory have done a magnificent job of refreshing the site and making it user-friendly.

Grant is a nationally recognized thought leader in marketing. That expertise certainly shows in the exceptional work he has done on our behalf.

Thank you, Grant!





Dawn and Van Harl moved to Cudahy, Wisconsin in 2011, shortly after Dawn retired from the US Air Force. Van is also retired Air Force. Dawn was moving back, knowing that she and Van would be joining the CWRT of Milwaukee. Dawn's mother had been a member for over 20 years.

Van's exposure to the War of Southern Aggression started in 1963. He was a young school boy born in pro-Union Iowa, then transplanted to the heart of secessionist country, Virginia, during the Centennial anniversary of the Civil War, due to his father's US Navy career. As a third grade little Yankee boy he was tormented on the Virginia playgrounds by would-be descendants of the "Cause." Van taught high school in Mississippi.

Dawn has one known family member who served in a Minnesota unit. Van has family members in multiple Union and Confederate units who, in many cases, fought against each other in the same engagements. Three young Harl Union-first cousins died on the same weekend of 1 July, 1863, at three different battle locations. Gettysburg is the engagement that stands out the most. There were six Harl's at that battle and one died. Multiple other family members with different surnames also fought there and some died. Van, Dawn, and daughter Felicity Harl did Civil War re-enacting while stationed in Mississippi and New Mexico-- Union units, of course.

Civil War Museum Curator and Site Coordinator Doug Dammann will lead a private tour of the Civil War Museum and its galleries for members of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee and Iron Brigade Association. Even if you've been to the museum many times before, Doug will share insights on the building of the exhibits, point out often unseen details, and provide access to the museum's artifacts collection that the average visitor does not get.

When: The tour will start at 5PM on Thursday, August 14

Who: Private Tour of the Civil War Museum and its Galleries for Members of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee and Iron Brigade Association

Capacity: Maximum number of people 30

Cost: \$10 (Free for Round Table members. There is a limit of 4 people per reservation.)

Registration: The museum created a private link for the membership to register for the tour. This link for your members only, so we won't publicize the tour on our website, Facebook, or on the online museum calendar.

<https://84428.blackbaudhosting.com/84428/tickets?tab=2&txobjid=2563a10b-5b7a-4867-90eb-cbda5be91620>

If MCWRT members would rather register by phone, they can call museum staff member Kiera at 262-653-4433. She is part-time, so if she doesn't answer, leave a message and she will get back to them.

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

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

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

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

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

MILWAUKEE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE 2024-2025 SPEAKER SCHEDULE

September 12, 2024	John Horn <i>Wilson-Kautz Raid</i>
October 10, 2024	Jen Murray <i>General George Gordon Meade</i>
November 7, 2024	Allen Ottens <i>The Grant-Rawlins Relationship During the Civil War</i>
December 12, 2024	Jon Sebastian (At the Bavarian Bierhaus) <i>We Are All in This War – The Northern Homefront</i>
January 9, 2025	Bjorn Skaptason <i>Milwaukee and Shiloh</i>
February 13, 2025	Hampton Newsome <i>Gettysburg's Southern Front</i>
March 13, 2025	Gerald Prokopowicz <i>Civil War Talk Radio: Podcasting History</i>
April 10, 2025	Phil Spaugy <i>The 19th Indiana of the Iron Brigade – Here was Made Our Last and Hopeless Stand</i>
May 8, 2025	Steven Phan <i>Asian and Pacific Islanders During the Civil War</i>
June 12, 2025	Dave Powell <i>Nevins-Freeman Award Winner Lost Opportunities in the Atlanta Campaign</i>

**Speakers/topics remain subject to change.
We appreciate your understanding!**



Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc. 2024 – 2025 Board of Directors

Name	Office/Position	Term Expires
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.milwaukeeecwrt.org

~ CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE NEWS EMAIL NOTIFICATIONS ~

Would you like to receive an email reminder before each meeting? How about an email telling you about a special or upcoming Civil War event in our area? If you are interested in receiving an email reminder/notification please send your email address to Grant Johnson at: grant.johnson@responsory.com

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

Milwaukee Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for May 8, 2025

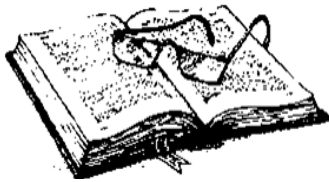
Mail your reservations by Friday, May 2 to:

Paul Eilbes
1809 Washington Avenue
Cedarburg, WI 53012-9730

Call or email reservations to:

(262) 376-0568
peilbes@gmail.com

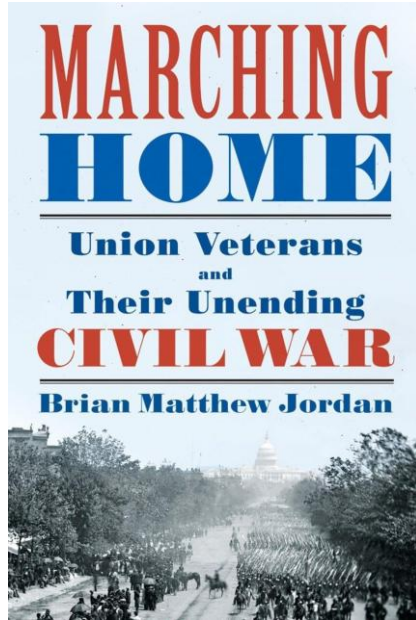
Enclosed is \$_____ (meal is \$35.00 per person) for _____ people for the
May 8, 2025 meeting of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee.
(Please make checks payable to the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.)



BETWEEN THE COVERS

Marching Home, Union Veterans And Their Unending Civil War

Brian Matthew Jordan



It was a beautiful fall day in 2023 while on a Civil War tour with the Civil War Time Travelers, we viewed the Georgia battlefield of Resaca. A short distance away we visited a quiet, yet beautiful, cemetery for the Confederate dead from that fight. Amongst the Georgia woods on a gravel road was the final resting place for the Southern soldiers. The ground was covered with fallen leaves yet the white stones and small Confederate flag created in me a profound respect. I was deeply moved by the barren simplicity of ultimate sacrifice as we walked among the headstones at the Resaca Confederate Cemetery.

Later in the tour, as we visited Kenesaw Mountain, I again was affected by the broad open meadow that Union soldiers raced up to confront the entrenched Confederates. The loss was heavy and later the field would be described as covered in Union blue. What must it have been like to return to their camp after such carnage? Witnessing your friends as they fell and died beside you. Later we visited Andersonville Prison. Certainly, it is a sight that stirs everyone who visits.

I realized that the readings of my youth had generally focused on the glory and romance of the Civil War. Blaring bugles, fluttering flags, and unmatched honor were my focus in my readings but something had changed. I started wondering about what it was like when the survivors of such carnage returned home.

It was suggested that I read the Pulitzer Prize for history finalist, "Marching Home: Union Veterans and Their Unending Civil War." I had not heard of this book or author but it was an answer to my questions. Well-written and exhaustively researched, readers will come away with a deeper appreciation of the sacrifices soldiers made. This is an important contribution to the scholarship of the life of Union soldiers after the war. It is honest and cynical, poetic and disturbing. It chronicles the Union soldier's perspective cutting through the hazy myth of honor and sacrifice. It details how they were preyed upon, mistreated, and forgotten as they struggled with their horrible memories and even more horrible wounds.

The author, using evidence from diaries, letters, pension records, regimental histories, and other sources, assembles a far darker narrative of veterans profoundly and permanently isolated from a civilian public that neither properly acknowledged nor understood their wartime sacrifice. Brian Matthew Jordan's inaugural work is a shade over 200 pages in text and is exhaustively researched and noted. It's written in a compelling style.

Readers will come away with a fuller understanding of veterans as they struggle with the events that they have experienced. The Civil War may have been 150 years ago but the struggle continues to this day for returning veterans from armed conflict. Very little has changed. How can veterans leave behind the smell, the taste, the sound and the hideous sights of their experiences?

This groundbreaking investigation is moving and heartbreaking. As the Union troops gripped their weapons in the mud and faced certain death, little did they realize that the war's end would not bring an end to their struggle. To be a veteran was to live with disturbing and haunting memories.

This is a hard but important book to read. I recommend it to anyone searching for a more complete understanding of what our veterans, then and now, experience.

submitted by Robert Johnson



A Visit to the National Soldiers Home

A small group visited the National Soldiers' Home in Milwaukee on Friday, April 11. Led by Laura Rinaldi and Terry Arliskas, we learned some of the history of the Soldiers' Home and how it was the result of a movement by women to take care of our veterans after the Civil War came to its conclusion. The West Side Soldiers' Aid Society and dedicated individuals worked tirelessly to have a Soldiers' Home built and funded on a beautiful plot of ground that, at the time, was located in rural Wisconsin outside of the growing city of Milwaukee.

At the outbreak of hostilities in 1861, ladies on the West Side of the Wisconsin River united to produce or collect whatever troops required: warm winter clothing, quilts, prepared foods and medicines, bandages, newspapers.

By the spring of 1864 the Society felt that soldiers passing through the city or returning from battle needed as much if not more attention than those on the front. The West Side Soldiers Aid Society dissolved its relationship with the Wisconsin Soldiers' Aid Society (an auxiliary of the United States Sanitary Commission) and reorganized as the Soldiers' Home at Milwaukee, renting storefronts on West Water Street (now Plankinton) north of Spring Street (now Wisconsin). They emphasized that their Home was "Not an alms house but a home where our brave boys shall receive at our hands some faint return for the benefits their valor and patriotism have won for us and our beloved country." Within days of opening, the Home was inundated with 100 residents, some passing through, some in need of medical care, food, clothing.

As the Civil War raged with shocking fury. This resulted in a pressing need for long-term care as the men who were coming home became more numerous. The work being done in Milwaukee would soon be replicated on a national scale.

On March 3, 1865, after a lengthy debate on the need for veteran care, President Lincoln signed "an Act to incorporate a national military and naval asylum for the relief of the volunteer forces of the U.S." On the following day, he delivered his second inaugural address, including the phrase which continues to animate care for our nation's veterans: "to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphans...."

A Constitution and Bylaws of the Wisconsin Soldiers' Home were approved in April 1865 and signed by Governor James Lewis. Along with a charter and a \$5,000 grant, the women received the go-ahead for a great State-wide fundraising fair to build a permanent Home in Milwaukee. Their dream was realized in 1867.

Our tour was absolutely wonderful. Laura and Terry are very passionate about the story of the Soldiers' Home, and both have dedicated countless hours to its sharing tale. Our small group met at a beautiful fountain that sits outside the front of Old Main, Building #2. From there we walked around the outside of a cluster of buildings that ranged from barracks to a hospital wing, from a fire house that is now a residence to private homes for senior staff of the facility. A tuberculosis wing with huge windows for ventilation stands in stately grandeur. A magnificent library and a GAR Hall were also on the list of things we saw. Sadly, the beer hall is gone.

As we walked, and Laura and Terry shared facts about the structures we were passing, all of us became immersed in the understanding that real people lived on the Soldiers' Home campus, and it still houses veterans to this day. They lived in a self-contained environment surrounded by other veterans. While many supported and remembered the soldiers at war, too often the broken men who came home from the conflict were forgotten. It was the mission of our national soldiers' homes to remedy that failure and care for the "detritus of war."

The tour was not complete without a visit inside the beautifully restored Old Main itself. We encountered residents who were quite simply glad to see people who were interested, ... in them. From the central and original tower of Old Main itself, to a recreational room, and then to a basement museum, our little group was not only enthralled, but humbled, by what we saw. Thank you, Laura and Terry, for creating poignant memories and a new respect for those who could too easily be forgotten.

There will be a day of living history at the Milwaukee Soldiers' Home on Memorial Day. A whole gamut of America's wars and her veterans will be represented by costumed interpreters and guides. This free event will begin at 9:00. Come celebrate the lives of America's veterans as told at the Soldiers' Home and visit one of Milwaukee's most magnificent and unknown landmarks.

The Milwaukee Soldiers' Home is located at 515 S. General Mitchell Boulevard. For more information, contact Laura Rinaldi (laurasshf@gmail.com) or Terry Arliskas (victoriansentiments@hotmail.com).

submitted by Dave Wege

A Wisconsin Surgeon at Shiloh

The Civil War Museum recently acquired a collection of artifacts, including the Hardee hat and albumen print shown here, that belonged to Surgeon William H. Walker of the 14th Wisconsin Infantry. Dr. Walker, who lived in Fond du Lac before the war, received his commission as surgeon of the 14th on October 30, 1861. The following spring, he and his regiment left Wisconsin and moved south, arriving in Savannah, Tennessee on March 28.

On the afternoon of April 6, 1862, the 14th traveled seven miles up the Tennessee River from Savannah and arrived at a place called Pittsburg Landing at 11:00PM. The regiment disembarked from their transports and stood the rest of the night in a driving rain storm among the dead and wounded of the day's fighting.

Early the following day, April 7, the 14th was sent into battle as part of a massive counter attack against the Confederates. For those of the regiment who wondered if they would ever meet the enemy on the battlefield, the Battle of Shiloh was their chance to finally "see the elephant."

On April 9, Surgeon Walker wrote a letter to his wife detailing his actions during and after the battle. "The great battle is fought. I was in it where balls flew thick and fast for about ½ hour. I had to move my hospital quarters 4 times in course of the action...We have not a final list of killed + wounded yet—about 70 wounded + 12 to 15 killed. I done all the surgery on the day of the action + the next day that I wanted to do. Amputated 1 thigh, 1 leg + one arm. Cut out about 50 balls + other little operations + saw much done by others. I never wish to see such a time again."

Dr. Walker resigned his commission shortly after the Battle of Shiloh and left the Federal Army on April 19, 1862.



Land of the Free

submitted by James Johnson

All hail to the flag of the land of the free,
O, where is the heart that's not beating for thee,
Or the hand that's reluctant to strike for any fame,
Till the foe turns his back and retires in shame,

The terror of tyrants, the hope of the slave,
The foul serpent flag and the traitor must flee
From the bright beaming Stars of the land of the free.
Our proud eagle's spurned by traitors and knaves,

Who boast that they can conquer and make us their slaves,
The legions of freedom shall rise in their might,
And the foes of our eagle must scatter in flight.
Ye sons of the North-land whose fathers have shed

Their blood for the flag of the blue, white and red;
The shades of your fathers now call unto thee
To strike for the flag of the land of the free.
The Goddess of Liberty shouts to the brave,

And points to the land of the chain and the Slave
Where the children of Africa in bondage and tears,
Must toil 'til the bright sun of Freedom appears.
'Tis the glory of freemen to shield the oppressed,

It brightens the halo round Liberty's crest;
March forward bold freemen, their hope rests on thee,
When you strike for the flag of the land of the free.
Shall the bright sun of Liberty set in the West,

And the emblems of Freedom be torn from our crest,
And the demon of Slavery stalk o'er the land
With bloodhounds and chains, and lash, and the brand!
Ah! No, see the hosts of the North take the field,

To the minions of slavery they never will yield,
The flag of the serpent and traitor must flee
From the time-honored flag of the land of the free.
From wood-lands and prairies, from hamlets afar,

The sons of the North rushes on to the war,
From hill tops and valley, hark! hear the loud cry,
For the Star-Spangled Banner we'll conquer or die,
For rights that are sacred, we welcome the fight.

We fear not the foe, 'tho he boasts of his rights,
The palmetto banner and traitor must flee
From the bright beaming stars of the land of the free.
Dear, dear to our hearts are the youth of our land

Who shield their loved country with heart and with hand,
O, Bless'd be the sons of the land of the brave.
Who go forth to conquer, or sink in the grave.
O, God of our fathers, in thee is our trust,

continued on page 13

Civil War Time



Travelers, LLC



Richmond is a Hard Road to Travel:

Richmond, Petersburg, Appomattox
October 25 – November 1, 2025

It's back to the Eastern Theater for the Civil War Time Travelers. We will visit the Confederate capital at Richmond and the fighting at Petersburg with its famous Crater, existing trenches, and more. Pamplin Park is on the list of stops as well. Then, we're off to Appomattox for the end of the war and a visit to the American Civil War Museum.

Along with these sites early plans include experiencing Ford's Theater, Arlington, Five Forks, Sailor's Creek, and Monticello.

Our first-ever eight-day excursion promises to be another unforgettable trip where strangers become friends, and friends become family.

Pricing for this trip is not yet available. It will, however, include all hotels, guides, museums, and deluxe motorcoach transportation from Wisconsin to the seat of war.

Contact wegs1862@gmail.com

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)

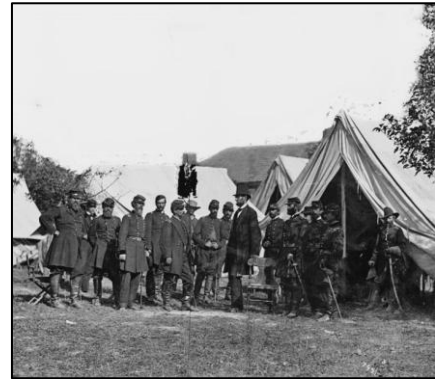
Check-in starts at 8:30am, program begins at 9:30am. Includes full day of programs, coffee, refreshments, and a catered lunch.

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.

Go with them to battle, their cause is just,
They fight not alone when their trust is in thee,
O, smile on the sons of the land of the free.
Hark! Liberty shrieks the brave Ellsworth has fell,
And a nation in tears hears the sound of his knell,
He has torn from its staff the foul flag of the foe
And felt the assassins base treacherous blow,
Woe, woe, to the traitors, their doom must be nigh,
The blood of the Hero for vengeance doth cry,
And the flag of Columbia in mourning doth wave,
O'er the tomb of her Ellsworth, the daring Zouave.
The war-drum is rolling, the shrill bugle sounds.
The cannon is roaring, its thunder resounds,
With cheers for our banner, and Death for its foe,
From the land of the brave to the battle we go,
Our hands they are willing, our hearts they are true
To the homes of our fathers, and lov'd ones adieu,
When the proud foe is conquered, we hasted to thee,
With the Rebel's flag under the land of the free.

*by Robert D. Rickaby, father of 4 sons in the
5th, 14th, 16th, and the 21st Wisconsin Infantry
and father-in-law to 3 in Co. E, 14th WI.*

Manitowoc Weekly Tribune on Wed, June 19, 1861



There was more than one Wisconsin War Eagle. "Joseph" lived at the National Soldiers' Home in Milwaukee after the war. He was named after Union General Joseph Hooker.

MILWAUKEE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE QUARTERMASTER'S REGALIA

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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.

