

GENERAL ORDERS



The Newsletter of the

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



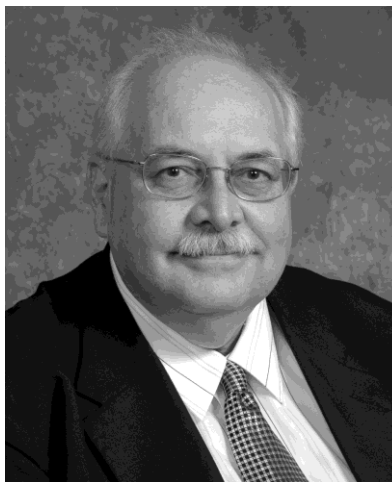
September 11, 2025

Dr. James Pula

Overlooked and Underappreciated: Dan Butterfield

Writing in a special issue of *New York State and the Civil War*, the editor asserted that Daniel Butterfield “was beyond argument the ‘fightingest’ general this state had given to the Civil War,” yet marveled that “the name of Butterfield is not conspicuous in the Civil War literature.” More than a half century later, this dearth of attention remains. Despite his prominence in that conflict, he is often relegated to a few negative comments about his relationship with General Meade or ignored altogether. This presentation will remedy the serious deficiency in coverage by examining his roles as a combat commander in the Peninsula Campaign in Virginia, at Second Bull Run, Fredericksburg, and in the Atlanta Campaign including how he earned the Medal of Honor. It will also cover his crucial role as chief of staff of the Army of the Potomac at Chancellorsville and Gettysburg, and later during the relief of Chattanooga. Accompanied by an abundantly illustrated PowerPoint, the presentation will also explain some of the lasting contributions Butterfield made not only to the Civil War but more broadly to American military tradition.

James S. Pula is a Professor of History Emeritus at Purdue University and the former editor of *Gettysburg Magazine*. His books include *The Civil War from Its Origins to Reconstruction*, the two volume *Under the Crescent Moon With the XI Corps in the Civil War*, *The 117th New York Infantry in the Civil War: A History and Roster*, *The Sigel Regiment: A History of the 26th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry*, *For Liberty and Justice: A Biography of Brigadier General Włodzimierz B. Krzyżanowski*, and most recently *Union General Daniel Butterfield: A Civil War Biography*. He was three times awarded the Oskar Halecki Prize for



outstanding books as well as the Gambrinus Prize in History from the Milwaukee County Historical Society and Honorary Membership in the Iron Brigade Society. His research on Polish immigrants was recognized with the Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland. Most recently his work on the Eleventh Corps was honored with the U. S. Army Historical Foundation Distinguished Writing Award.

General Orders No. 9-25

September 2025

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September 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.

2025-2026 Speaker Schedule p. 7

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.

The 2025-202 Round Table season comes is upon us! We look forward to more excellent speakers and topics. Please share a good review of our Round Table with your friends and invite them to join you here.

The MCWRT Board of Directors meet on July 31 for our summer meeting. At that meeting the following were elected to serve as officers of the board.

Mike Benton - President
Justin Tolomeo - First Vice President
Roman Blenski - Second Vice President
Paul Eilbes - Treasurer
Terry Arliskas - Secretary and Program Chair

The full list of board members is found on page 7.
Other actions and reports of the board are on p. 10.



The Muster Roll: NEW MEMBERS

MUSTER ROLL - CONSOLIDATED LIST of all persons of Class II, subject to the Military Duty in the Organizational District, residing in the Counties of Cook, DuSable, Madison, Jackson, and Dearborn, who are members of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc., during the month of _____, 1907, under the name of _____, Person Member.					
NAME	AGE	RESIDENCE	PLACE OF BIRTH	MEMBER SINCE	REMARKS
Nik Kovac	38	Chicago, Illinois	Serbia		Has filed declaration of intent
George Blenski	38	Chicago, Illinois	Poland		Has not filed declaration of intent
Paul Eilbes	38	Chicago, Illinois	Poland		Has not filed declaration of intent
John Durr	38	Chicago, Illinois	Poland		Has not filed declaration of intent
John Kowalski	38	Chicago, Illinois	Poland		Has not filed declaration of intent
John Lenchek	38	Chicago, Illinois	Poland		Has not filed declaration of intent
John Kuhnmueller	38	Chicago, Illinois	Poland		Has not filed declaration of intent
John Rodahl	38	Chicago, Illinois	Poland		Has not filed declaration of intent
John Solberg	38	Chicago, Illinois	Poland		Has not filed declaration of intent

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 Bepalec, 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 Kuhnmueller, 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 September meetings of the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table featured these speakers and topics.

- 2004 Gen. Parker Hills: "The Forgotten Vicksburg:
The Louisiana Campaign"
- 2010 Wayne Mahood: "Maj. Gen. James S. Wadsworth"
- 2011 Bruce Allardice: "Civil War Baseball"
- 2012 Bjorn Skaptason: "Wisconsin and Shiloh"
- 2013 John Michael Priest: "The Maryland Campaign from
Leesburg through South Mountain"
- 2014 Frank P. Varney: "General Grant and the
Rewriting of History"
- 2015 Dale Phillips: "The Capture of New Orleans"
- 2016 David J. Eicher: "Tales of the Civil War High
Commands"
- 2017 Edward Bonekemper: "False Remembrance of the
Civil War"
- 2018 Timothy B. Smith: "Difficult and Broken Ground
The Terrain Factor at Shiloh"
- 2019 Janet Croon: "The War Outside My Window"
- 2020 Ted Savas: "Lost and Found: The Archaeology
of the Battle of Payne's Farm"
- 2021 Eric J. Wittenberg: "Seceding from Secession"
- 2022 Steven Cowie: "When Hell Came to Sharpsburg"
- 2024 John Horn: "The Wilson-Kautz Raid"



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.

The 6th Wisconsin and the Antietam Campaign Friday, September 12 | 12pm – 1pm Presented by Dr. James Marten

Reimagining one of the oldest genres of Civil War history, Dr. Marten's program will explore the Antietam Campaign 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 Antietam as well as Second Manassas, Gettysburg, and the Overland campaign of 1864.

Dr. James Marten, Professor Emeritus of Marquette University, has written, edited, or co-edited over twenty books in two different fields: The Civil War era and the histories of children and youth. His books include *The Children's Civil War* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1998), a Choice "Outstanding Academic Title" and winner of the Alpha Sigma Nu Jesuit Book Award, as well as more recent books on Civil War veterans, including *Sing Not War: The Lives of Union and Confederate Veterans in Gilded Age America* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2011), *America's Corporal: James Tanner in War and Peace*, a short biography of the disabled Civil War veteran and activist James "Corporal" Tanner (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2014), and *Buying and Selling Civil War Memory in Gilded Age America* (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2021), co-edited with Caroline E. Janney.

His latest book is *The Sixth Wisconsin and the Long Civil War: The Biography of a Regiment* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2025), explores the war-time experiences and the long-term effects of the Civil War on a regiment that fought in one of the most famous units in the Union army—the Iron Brigade.

See more exceptional offerings from the
Kenosha Civil War Museum on page 10
of this issue of General Orders.

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**Headquarters 7th Reg. Wis. Vols.
Near Middletown, Md.
September 15, 1862**

Editors State Journal: It again becomes my duty to report the casualties in the 7th Regiment Wis. Vols. In the battle of South Mountain, Md., fought on the 14th day of September 1862, in which the 7th lost heavily in killed and wounded, as will be seen by the report below.

About four o'clock on the evening of the 14th September, the 7th regiment was ordered forward, through a cornfield on the right of the pike running through the gap in them mountain, our left resting within company distance of the pike. Skirmishers were sent forward and soon met the enemy Skirmishers. A hot skirmish fire ensued, our skirmishers driving those of the enemy, so that the skirmishers could advance no further.

I then received orders to advance the 7th in line of battle. We advanced until the regiment was within 60 or 70 yards of the enemy, without receiving anything more than an occasional shot from the enemy's sharpshooters, when they opened a most destructive enfilading fire from behind a stone wall running parallel with the pike on our left, also an enfilading fire from the woods on our right, and a direct fire from behind a stone wall in our front.

This state of things lasted for some fifteen minutes, when the 6th Wisconsin double-quickd it to our right, and fired in a volley that greatly relieved us by drawing the enfilading fire on our right, the 2d Wisconsin doing the same on our left, thus leaving us to contend with the direct fire from our front only. We fought until our cartridges gave out, and were then ordered to hold the ground at the point of the bayonet. The enemy seeming to know our condition, commenced to advance on us, when we came to a charge bayonet, and the order "charge" being given, our men advanced on them, when they "skedaddled." We held the ground until 11 o'clock at night, when we were relieved by Gen. Gorman's brigade.

Our men all fought nobly and desperately. I could not personate one in this connection without doing injustice to others equally brave and true.

Co. F. was commanded by Sergeant W. E. Stout, Co. I by Serg't Prutesman, and Co. B by Serg't Weeks.

Great credit is due these men for the manner in which they conducted themselves as line officers.

John B. Callis,
Capt. Command'g 7th Reg. Wis. Vol.

**The Battle of Antietam
Killed and Wounded of the Third Wisconsin
Headquarters Third Wisconsin Volunteers,
Camp near Sandy Hook, Maryland,
September 22d, 1862.**

Edward Salomon, Governor of Wisconsin-

Sir: I have the honor to report that 3d Regiment of Wisconsin Volunteers, under my command, was engaged in the great battle fought near Sharpsburg, 1862. The action began about six o'clock in the morning and continued with great severity during the forenoon and on portions of the field during the day. The regiment behaved with great steadiness and fortitude, maintaining itself in an exposed position, with heavy loss, but without flinching, and finally, with others, driving the enemy. The wounded were promptly removed from the field and cared for. I regret to again have to report a melancholy list of killed and wounded. The regiment carried into action about three hundred and forty-five officers and men. The total of killed and wounded is one hundred and ninety-seven, almost two-thirds. Most of the wounded will ultimately recover. The wounded on being removed from the field were distributed to the various hospitals, in some cases, to ascertain the character of the wounds. Will you have the kindness to cause the list of killed and wounded to be published.

Very respectfully.

Your obedient servant

Thomas H. Ruger,

Col. Comd'g 3d Reg. Wis. Vols.

The correspondent of the Boston Journal writes:

You know that John Brown had an accomplice by the name of Cook, who was captured among the Pennsylvania mountains and delivered over to Governor Wise, and suffered death. The man who arrested him was Fitz Hugh Miller, of Chambersburg.

Yesterday I saw seventy-four rebel prisoners marched into that town, guarded by United States troops. At the head of the party marched a man with downcast eye, sunburned, dusty, dressed in a suit of gray, with a feather in his hat. The same Fitz Hugh Miller, captain in the rebel army. The Dutch block of the citizens, usually as calm and steady in its flow as the rivers of their Fatherland came up with a rush. "Hang Him! Down with the traitor! Kill him!" mingled with words not recommended by moral law, were uttered. The excitement became wild. Men women and children pushed to obtain a view of the fellow to obtain possession of him.

The guards quickly put down the demonstration by charging bayonets; that alone saved the fellow from dangling by the neck from one of the trees in the square. Miller evidently thought that the hour of retribution had come. He cowed before the demonstration and showed himself an errant coward. I would not give two cents for his chance of continuing this life if released tonight and left to the mercies of the populace. A great change has taken place in the opinions of men in this section. Then have had a big scare, have felt a little secession, of slavery, have lost a few hundred horses, have passed sleepless nights, through fear been forced to flee. They are waking to the realities of war, and are ready to put down secession and slavery also without caring much about the manner of doing it. The public pulse beats not as it did in the days of John Brown.



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!

Upon Hearing of the Death of Our Mother

Banks' Head Quarters
November 16th 1861

Dear Sister,

I received a letter from Charles Cronkhite last evening and to my great surprise the death of our mother. You cannot judge the feelings I had all night thinking how you would get along in a trial like that there alone with the family. But knowing your disposition as well as I do, and your kindness to the children, I don't take it as hard as I would if I didn't think you would do all you could for the children's good. But it will be a great undertaking to you for some time. It will be lonesome for you but I trust to your welfare.

I wish I was there to help you in this time of trouble. I am so afraid that father will take to drinking harder than ever. If he should, I don't know what will become of you. These thoughts make me feel as never felt before. They make me feel for this war to end so that once more I could be there with you and keep you from — and all the rest from want. But I am an enlisted soldier and strong and healthy and in the most critical point of the war so that it would be useless for to try to get discharged at present. But I live in hopes that it will come to its end before next July. If not, you must do the best you can for I place all my confidence in you.

You must try and please father in everything you do and keep him from drinking. It may be the means of making him very childish. If so, you must do everything you can to please him. Keep up good cheer. It is, as everyone knows, hard to lose a mother, but everyone has to and many is the case where it is worse than ours, not having a sister who can apply themselves to the steadiness that I think you can.

I don't wait for your letter which is probably on the road but will write again as soon as received. No farther news at present with the exception of our captain is sick. He has got the jaundice but it is a little better this morning. So goodbye until I write again.

This from your affectionate brother, — Ansel Edwards

This letter was written by Ansel A. Edwards (1832-1862) of Neenah, Wisconsin. He enlisted in Co. G, 3rd Wisconsin Infantry on 15 April 1861 as a private and was later made "wagoner." He was shot and killed on 23 May 1862 at Buckton Station while defending the new trestle bridge on the Manassas Gap Railroad from attack by Turner Ashby's 7th Virginia Cavalry. Sister Susan later married James Duke. They made their home in Escanaba, Delta County, Michigan.

A Note from William Griffing

Most all of these letters were transcribed and researched for a friend who buys and sells them on eBay. In exchange for this service, he permits me to publish the letters on one of my many websites — most of them under the title of "Spared and Shared" — thus preserving the history contained within them.



"Griff" does this work as a labor of love and, as he says himself, "so that the history they contain may be preserved." If any member of the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table cares to support him in this endeavor, he does accept donations on his Facebook page ("Spared and Shared") and on his website, "Billy Yank and Johnny Reb Letters." Any donations are, of course, entirely up to you. The Round Table does not solicit donations on behalf of individuals, but we certainly encourage our members to support Griff in the important work he is doing. Thank you!

Update: Virginia Civil War Data Centers

(August 7) marked a major victory in the fight against what would be the largest data center complex in the world, located on part of the historic Second Manassas Battlefield. Circuit Court Judge Kimberly Irving ruled in favor of the Oak Valley Homeowners Association's claims a lame duck Board of Supervisors in Prince William County improperly approved the rezoning for the Prince William Digital Gateway. Those rezonings—which were approved with insufficient review of data center impacts, gave inadequate public notice and included unlawful waivers of key analyses— have been voided by the ruling.

"Today's ruling is a major milestone in our efforts to protect the Manassas Battlefield, demonstrating the merit of our claims that a lame duck Board of Supervisors acted inappropriately in its haste to rezone the Prince William Digital Gateway," said American Battlefield Trust President David N. Duncan. "We look forward to continuing our fight to ensure this hallowed ground is preserved forever."

The Milwaukee Civil War Round Table, and Round Tables around the nation, has been following this story with great interest. A huge "Thank You" is due to those people who have been on the front line of this fight to preserve battlefields and historic sites.

Preservation Efforts at Vicksburg National Military Park

The Friends of Vicksburg National Military Park is proud to announce a landmark \$2.8 million private donation to the Vicksburg National Military Park for critical battlefield restoration efforts. This transformative gift will be matched by \$2.5 million in federal funding through the National Park Service's Centennial Challenge program, resulting in a total investment of \$5.3 million in one of the most sacred sites of the American Civil War.



At the heart of the project is a full restoration of the iconic Illinois Memorial, the park's most visited and one of the most architecturally significant monuments. In addition, the project will remove a post-war condemned building that was erroneously constructed on core battlefield ground—an intrusion that obscures the story and sacrifices of the men who fought and died there in 1863.

"This gift from John Nau III is nothing short of visionary," said Brigadier General Robert Crear (Ret), President of Friends of Vicksburg National Military Park and Campaign. "It will not only preserve a national treasure—the Illinois Memorial—but also reclaim the battlefield from post-war development and restore its integrity for all Americans."

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 11, 2025	Dr. James Pula <i>Overlooked and Underappreciated: Dan Butterfield</i>
October 9, 2025	Kim Harris <i>Libbie Custer</i>
November 13, 2025	Chris Kolakowski <i>Topic to Be Determined</i>
December 11, 2025	Brian Jordan (At the Bavarian Bierhaus) <i>Topic to Be Determined</i>
January 8, 2026	Guy Fraker <i>Lincoln the Lawyer</i>
February 12, 2026	Keith Bohannon <i>Topic to Be Determined</i>
March 12, 2026	Cliff Roberts <i>Castle Pinckney</i>
April 9, 2026	Wayne Motts <i>Nevins-Freeman Award Winner</i> <i>Topic to Be Determined</i>
May 7, 2026	Chris Mackowski <i>Topic to Be Determined</i>
June 11, 2026	Alex Rossino <i>Topic to Be Determined</i>

**Speakers/topics remain subject to change.
We hope to have more details by October!**



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

Name	Office/Position	Term Expires
Terry Arliskas	Secretary/Program Chair	2028
Thomas Arliskas	Past President	2028
Michael K. Benton	President	2026
Dale Bepalec	Member	2026
Roman Blenski	Second Vice President Quartermaster	2028
Mike Deeken	Member	2028
Paul A. Eilbes	Treasurer	2028
Tom Hesse	Past President	2026
Grant Johnson	Membership/Webmaster Past President	2027
Bruce Klem	Past President	2027
Daniel Nettesheim	Member	2027
Frank Risler	Member	2027
Justin Tolomeo	First Vice President	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 September 11, 2025

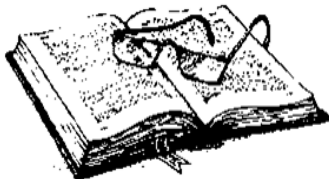
Mail your reservations by Friday, September 5 to:

Paul Eilbes
1809 Washington Avenue
Cedarburg, WI 53012-9730

Call or email reservations to:

(262) 376-0568
peilbes@gmail.com

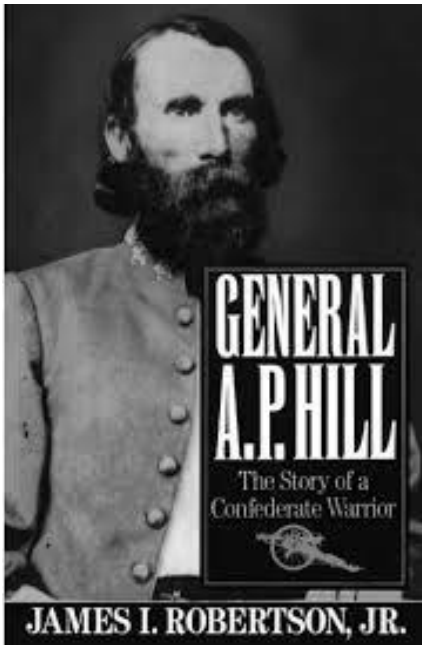
Enclosed is \$_____ (meal is \$35.00 per person) for _____ people for the
September 11, 2025 meeting of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee.
(Please make checks payable to the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.)



BETWEEN THE COVERS

General A.P. Hill: **The Story of a Confederate Warrior**

James I. Robertson



This book review is on a book I purchased from the used book section at the Kenosha Civil War Museum. The book is entitled General A. P. Hill, The Story of a Confederate Warrior. It is by noted author James I. Robertson, published in 1987. I had also read Mr. Robertson's book on Stonewall Jackson and found that book to be well written and researched so I thought his writing on Hill would be as interesting and well written. In that I was not disappointed and found this book to be equal in quality.

Mr. Robertson's book covers A.P. Hill's beginnings and rise through the pre-war U.S. Army; he provides a detailed background story that explains why Lee would have felt comfortable appointing Hill to command a corps after the death of Jackson in 1863. The work then covers Hill's early career as a regimental commander, but really starts to shine when we get to see Hill placed in command of the famed "Light" Division. This is where I felt a reader is sucked in and becomes gripped by Robertson's storytelling abilities. Robertson's telling of Hill's grapples with Jackson and his aggressive nature on the battlefield is first rate, and explains his ascension to corps command.

I actually went into this work with preconceived notions of A.P. Hill and his abilities as a commander, and I finished the work with almost the exact same opinions of the man. I agree that Hill never had the best brigades to command when it came to the army's restructuring in 1863, and his subordinates would have definitely been

the least desirable for a corps commander, but reading Robertson's work reinforced my beliefs that Hill was much better suited to divisional command and not so much for corps command. While Hill had some qualities necessary to command men in battle, his faults often crept in to derail his positive attributes.

Another factor that had a major impact on his abilities was an ongoing medical condition that he contracted early in his life and continued until his death. As a young cadet Hill contracted a venereal disease on a visit to New York City. This illness led to infections on the urethra and prostate and developed prostatitis. He was at various times either incapacitated or in so much pain and weakness he was suffering from this illness and unfortunately many times when key leadership was needed. I suspect that even at somewhat normal times his judgement may have been affected. Eventually it may have developed to uremia, which couldn't be treated back then and would have resulted in his death.

General Hill according to Robertson's writings had some moments of greatness but as Corps commander his leadership was somewhat checkered and uneven. I think his niche really was as division commander but as Confederate leadership was thinned by war the next man had to step up.

I thought General A.P. Hill: The Story of a Confederate Warrior is a fairly comprehensive biography of one of Lee's most trusted and overlooked generals. While Hill never garners the attention of a Jackson, Longstreet or Stuart, he was without a doubt one of the most capable commanders that served in the Army of Northern Virginia. Mr. Robertson's work provides a complete and objective telling of the general's life and military career, while showcasing the ups and downs that often plagued Hill during his tenure in Confederate service, one that I think is a worthy addition to any student of the Civil War's book shelf and would be a good one to have.

submitted by Bruce Klem



The last ever (probably, maybe) Civil War Field Trip for Trinity Lutheran Grade School of Waucousta took place in early June of 2025. From June 3 to June 8, twenty-one students and chaperones traveled through history to scenes related to historical events in those three locations. We had an absolutely great time walking hallowed ground, visiting museums, and enjoying Mr. G's ice cream and the outdoor pool at the Quality Inn on Steinwehr Avenue.

"You can't get kids into history anymore. All they want to do is play on their electronics."

Many of us have heard that said. Maybe we have said it ourselves. Well, it just simply isn't true. The group with which we traveled to Gettysburg was usually riveted on the people and places we were discussing. This is due in part because each one of them invested time in preparing and delivering a report on an individual associated with the historic sites on our itinerary. One dad who, incidentally, had long silver locks, reported on the abolitionist John Brown. We stood within a stone's throw of "John Brown's Fort" at The Point in Harpers Ferry as he delivered his talk. Being so close to an historic building where the events of October 1859 occurred helped the group "connect." At Antietam we were privileged to have NPS Ranger Matthew Borders as our guide to lead us through the action at the Sunken Road and Burnside Bridge. We covered Miss Clara Barton and the Dunker Church with our friend Carolyn Ivanoff. The morning action in the Cornfield highlighting the work of the Iron Brigade we covered ourselves. I have had students who live on land once farmed by members of the 6th Wisconsin. That makes their stories very real and extremely personal.

7th and 8th grade students at our school take a massive test of 200+ questions at the end of our Civil War unit. Since we started walking the ground at places they have studied, the lowest grade has been a C-. That speaks to the value of visiting, seeing, and experiencing the events they studied. Walking the ground matters.



In Gettysburg the group was introduced to both the military and social history of the Gettysburg Campaign when we visited the Adams County Historical Society Museum, the Seminary Ridge Museum, and the Gettysburg National Park Museum. The Beyond the Battle Experience at ACHS was impressive. The Cyclorama, of course, was a unique and exciting experience. For some of the kids, there was too much information. Others read and studied until it was time to leave.

Gettysburg's July 1 action was the focus of a full day of walking and learning. Our focus was again on Wisconsin units, but we covered the salient points of the entire first day. Students reported on John Reynolds, John Buford, John Burns, and Amos Humiston. Excerpts of writings from men who were there were shared at the spots where they

were engaged in the fighting. Carolyn Ivanoff took us to Barlow's Knoll and told us the story of her Connecticut Boys in her distinct style and accent. The kids had met Carolyn before, and they knew that what she had to share with us was absolutely worth hearing!

On the next day our group reveled in the great insights provided by Garry Adelman and Licensed Guide Larry Korczyk. Garry took us to Little Round Top, Devil's Den, Triangular Field, and the Wheatfield. Larry led us through Pickett's Charge and the High-Water Mark on Cemetery Ridge. What we heard was not only overwhelming in content and detail, but also in emotion! Students reported on Alonzo Cushing, Lewis Armistead, John Hancock, and more. Again, they stood right where these men fought and bled, and the kids and chaperones quietly absorbed what they heard.

When we visited the Evergreen and National Cemeteries, students reported on Elizabeth Thorne and Jennie Wade. Then, the student who had reported on Amos Humiston sought out his marker to pay her respects. Several classmates and her dad walked with her, our evening in the National Cemetery ended with a visit to the Wisconsin graves there. There were names of men we studied, including an ancestor of a man who came to speak to the kids at school some years ago.

Teaching history is all about making connections. Maybe someone has an ancestor who fought wearing blue or gray. Perhaps a Civil War artifact piqued one's interest. Possibly a person lives in a town or village steeped in history, and lives on land where a veteran once hung his hat. The threads of history are there. They are varied. It's up to us to take those fragile connections and weave them into a tapestry that illuminates the American experience. Let's continue to do that as individuals, and as the mission of our Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee.

submitted by Dave Wege

The First Michigan Engineers

Saturday, September 27 | 10am – 4pm

The 1st Michigan Engineers will show museum visitors the regiment's role as combat engineers while displaying and explaining the many tools and equipment that was used in surveying and construction duties such as cheveaux de frs and transit/level. The living history group will also display items used by the engineers in combat roles.

The present-day 1st Michigan Engineers and Mechanics, Company E, has been in the Chicago area since 1987. Over the years, the regiment has participated in combat and engineering roles at reenactments throughout the Midwest and national events at 1st Bull Run, Shiloh, Perryville (KY), and Bentonville (NC). Some of the items constructed at events include hand drawn field maps, bridges, a 33-foot signal tower, and plank roads.

Petersburg: Life in the Trenches

Saturday, September 27 | 1pm – 3pm Instructor: Steve Acker \$20 (\$25 non-members)

The Petersburg Campaign lasted from June of 1864 to April of 1865. Battles involving tens of thousands of soldiers were an almost monthly occurrence during this time: June 18, the Crater, Reams Station, Hatcher's Run, Fort Stedman, and more, each battle fought was followed by days and weeks of soldiers ducking artillery, avoiding the sharpshooter's bullet, and just trying to survive trench life. Life in the trenches of Petersburg is a program designed to put a face and a human story to the Petersburg Campaign. Using first person accounts from both sides, plus photos from the Library of Congress collection, this program will help us learn the human story of that 292-day period of the Civil War in Virginia.

Highlights of the July 2025 Board of Directors Meeting

A reminder will be made to members that the Board of Directors is made up of elected volunteers. Should you wish to serve on the board, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee. Members of that committee are Mike Benton, Paul Eilbes, and Dale Bspalec.

It was noted that the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee has funded three Civil War veterans' markers at the Forest Home Cemetery as part of our ongoing mission to preserve local history. It was also reported that the 1913 Wisconsin State Budget appropriated money for a Wisconsin marker at the Antietam Battlefield. Ongoing discussions will occur as to how the MCWRT can help facilitate that action.

The Lincoln book auction hosted by Quartermaster Roman Blenski at our January meeting last year was a success. The approved another book auction for November 2025. This auction will feature notable or notorious officers who wore the blue and the gray.

An honorary Milwaukee Civil War Round Table and Iron Brigade membership was bestowed on Rufus Dawes' descendent Barb Moberg of Marietta, OH.

Approximately \$3,000.00 in donation was received and sent to the Central Virginia Battlefield Trust to help preserve land related to 1864 Spotsylvania. The remnants of the Iron Brigade under the command of William Robinson launched an attack from that 7.2-acre tract of land along the Brock Road on May 8, 1864.

In Memoriam



The Civil War community is saddened by the passing of another giant in the area of Civil War scholarship. Noted author and historian Eric Wittenberg passed away on August 2 after a hard-fought battle with cancer and a stroke. Along with his career as an attorney, Eric also enjoyed his "second career" as a writer, lecturer, and tour guide of the American Civil War. A prolific writer, Eric published 26 books and over 40 articles about the subject he loved.

Eric is survived by his beloved wife, Susan, their four Golden Retrievers, and numerous other family and friends. A celebration of Eric's life will be held at a time and date yet-to-be-determined. The Milwaukee Civil War Round Table extends our deepest sympathies to Susan and the Wittenberg family.

May flights of angels guide him to his rest.

THE CIVIL WAR
UPPER MIDDLE WEST EXPERIENCE

GREAT LAKES CIVIL WAR FORUM

THE MANY SIDES OF THE ANTIETAM CAMPAIGN



13 September
09:30AM - 4:00PM

www.TheCivilWarMuseum.org



5400 1st Ave, Kenosha, WI



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

THE CIVIL WAR
MUSEUM
UPPER MIDDLE WEST EXPERIENCE

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. It is even possible, and perhaps probable, that you will make new friends who add to your network of Civil War contacts. After all, who doesn't need to know more good folks with a passion for one of America's most pivotal historical eras?

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

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 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.

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.

A new schedule of meetings for the Driftless Area Civil War Club should be available soon.



Attacking the Arteries of Rebellion

The Civil War Time Travelers October trip is full. However, from April 18-25 we will be visiting sites related to Vicksburg and Mobile. The tour will include a visit to historic Fort Blakeley, which guarded inland water approaches to Mobile along the Tensaw River. A tentative itinerary is available for this eight-day trip. Consider joining us to “*travel where heroes trod.*”

weg1862@gmail.com

Camp Douglas and Chicago during the Civil War

Chicago has numerous connections to the Civil War, but too often, they go unnoticed. The **Elk Grove Historical Museum** is providing visitors with the opportunity to look more closely at some of those connections. Perhaps the most tangible link to the war was the presence of Camp Douglas. The camp served as both a training camp for Union soldiers recruited from northeastern Illinois and as a prisoner of war camp during its existence. With items generously on loan from the Camp Douglas Restoration Foundation and the personal collection of Civil War historian Robert I. Girardi, this exhibition will provide visitors with a window to the City of Chicago during the Civil War, the experiences of prisoners at Camp Douglas, and the postwar use of Libby Prison as a museum. This exhibition will be on display until December 19. The **Elk Grove Historical Museum** is located at:

399 Biesterfield Rd.
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007

The Museum is open Tuesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays 12p.m. – 4p.m.

Beginning Balance:			\$7,294.33	Checking Balance 7/1/2024	
RECEIPTS					
	Dinner Receipts	\$20,785.00			
	Member Dues	\$6,660.00			
	Contribution-Annual Fund	\$7,130.00			
	Speaker Enhancement Fund	\$1,980.00			
	Book Raffle	\$898.00			
	Clothing	\$560.00		MISC. RECEIPTS:	
	Pins	\$110.00		CD Redemption	\$0.00
	Surplus Book Sales	\$338.00		Education Memberships	\$0.00
	Miscellaneous	\$60.00		Credit Card Points	\$60.00
	Total Receipts		\$38,521.00		
DISBURSEMENTS					
	Dinner Expense	\$21,149.32			
	Speaker Expenses	\$4,438.42			
	Printing	\$5,485.93			
	Postage	\$3,214.46			
	Contributions & Grants	\$4,106.05			
	Office Supplies	\$73.45			
	Plaques & Awards	\$568.46			
	Miscellaneous	\$1,444.40			
	Licenses & Renewals	\$104.50			
	Total Disbursements		\$40,584.99		
			\$5,230.34	Checking Balance 6/30/2025	
			\$215.00	Cash on Hand	
			\$6,623.12	Savings Balance	
			\$24,773.42	Certificates of Deposit	
			\$36,841.88	Total Capital	
				Fund Balances	
			\$11,225.86	Speaker Enhancement Fund	
			\$2,420.00	Donna A/ABT Fund	
Respectfully submitted,			\$150.00	Guest Dinner Fund	
Paul Eilbes			\$125.00	Education Memberships	
Treasurer			\$13,920.86	Total Fund set asides	
			\$22,921.02	Working Capital	



James L. Johnson, born in December 5, 1941, was a longtime resident of Milwaukee, and St. Petersburg, Florida, and am now retired in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

I joined the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table (MCWRT) around 1990, spent a number of years serving on the board, and contributed to the organization's activities and preservation efforts. My involvement includes regular contributions to the MCWRT's newsletter, *General Orders*, where I supply historical material from Civil War-era newspapers and research. I was also engaged in special projects, such as the reproduction of the Iron Brigade Tiffany Flag—a historic embroidered silk banner presented to the Iron Brigade in the summer of 1863 after the Battle of Gettysburg. The

original is now housed at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum in Madison. Our reproduction is used at monthly meetings and events. I am associated with the Second Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Association, a Civil War reenactment group, where the web site secondwi.com has been a project since 1996. Additionally, as a member of the Sons of Veterans of the Civil War I served as a post commander for John Gibbon Camp 4 and have been active with the post for over 25 years. I was privileged to be a member Wisconsin Sesquicentennial Commission.

My late wife Susan and I have 30 plus family members that were in that conflict 3 of which died at Gettysburg, Antietam and Chancellorsville plus a number wounded. Susan is my favorite Civil War figure. She loved researching the war and the people and now is with many veterans of that conflict in my family cemetery. Followed by General John Gibbon a very interesting person.

My first purchase of a book in fifth grade dealt with the story of General Custer and the 7th Cav, so this all started early in my life. I was a Staff Sgt in the US Army, Small arms instructor. My professional life has been spent in the world of Illustration and Graphic Design. I am now replacing the diesel engine in my sailboat, another area of interest.

MILWAUKEE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE QUARTERMASTER'S REGALIA

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

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

Contact Roman Blenski, Quartermaster

4601 W. Holt Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53219

(410 327-2847 dbcpmilw@gmail.com)

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

