

GENERAL ORDERS



The Newsletter of the

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



October 9, 2025

Kim Harris

Libbie Bacon Custer

Elizabeth Bacon Custer was an American author and public speaker, and the wife of Brevet Major General George Armstrong Custer, United States Army. She spent most of their marriage in relatively close proximity to him despite his numerous military campaigns in the American Civil War and subsequent postings on the Great Plains as a commanding officer in the United States Cavalry.

Left nearly destitute in the aftermath of her husband's death, she became an outspoken advocate for his legacy through her popular books and lectures. Largely as a result of her decades of campaigning on his behalf, General Custer's iconic image as the gallant fallen hero amid the glory of Custer's Last Stand was a canon of American history for almost a century after his death.

Kim Harris is an accomplished Chautauquan with over 15 years' experience, having presented over twenty local and national historical characters, from California to Bronxville, NY, at various venues including Genoa Cowboy Festival, Pipers Opera House, the Gold Hill Hotel and The Lake Tahoe Chautauqua Festival. She is the owner of Western History ALIVE! where she presents the lives of many famous and infamous historical figures.



Harris was born and raised at Donner Lake, California, growing up immersed in the history of our West. She enjoys not only sharing what she has learned about our history, but continuously learning from those that have lived it themselves.

Please join us for our October meeting as we explore the life and legacy of the very interesting Libbie Bacon Custer.



Libbie Bacon Custer

General Orders No. 10-25

October 2025

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October 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

MCWRT Mission Statement

The purposes of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee shall be to promote study of personalities and events leading to or associated with the American Civil War; to provide a forum for members and guests to exchange views; and to support study and remembrance of our own nation's history.

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 2025-2026 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 met 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.

The Muster Roll: NEW MEMBERS

NAME	RANK	COMPANY	PLAQUE OF ARMS	ARMED SERVICE	REMARKS
John Liefert					
Barb and Jack Moberg					

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, 2025 through September 12, 2025.

Major Contributor (\$500 and above)

Paul Eilbes, George Frangesch, Doug Haag, Van and Dawn Harl, Grant Johnson

Patron (\$200 - \$499)

Mike Deeken, Gene & Jane Jamrozy, Laura Rinaldi, Brad & Kathy Schotanus, Dave and Kay Wege

Associate (\$100 - \$199)

Mike Benton, Ellen & Jerry DeMers, Gary & Judy Ertel, Bill & Claudette Finke, Jim Heinz, Bruce Klem, Steve Leopold, Kathy McNally, Jim & Monica Millane, Dennis Slater, Dan Tanty, Justin Tolomeo

Contributor (up to \$99)

George Affeldt, Gordon Dammann, Thomas Doyle, Lori Duginski, John Durr, Julian Gonzalez, Leon & Margaret Harris, Christopher Johnson, Rich Kallan, Jerome Kowalski, Jay Lauck, Fred Madsen, Rod Malinowski, Seth Maxfield, Paul & Susan Miller, Thomas Olsen, John Rodahl, Rick Schultz, Diana Smurawa, Anne & Dave Steinhilb, Dan VanGrunsvan, Paul Zehren

Speaker Enhancement Fund

George Affeldt, Ellen & Jerry DeMers, Thomas Doyle, Lori Duginski, John Durr, Paul Eilbes, Gary & Judy Ertel, George Frangesch, Julian Gonzalez, Jim Heinz, John Helmenstine, Tom Hesse, Don & Laverna Hilbig, Peter & Jean Jacobsohn, Gene & Jane Jamrozy, Dan Jones, Rich Kallan, Allan Kasprzak, Steve Leopold, Rod Malinowski, Robin & Tom Martin, Kathy McNally, Jim & Monica Millane, Paul & Susan Miller, Thomas Olsen, John & Susan Petty, Laura Rinaldi, Diana Smurawa, Dan Tanty, Paul Zehren



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

- 2004 Dr. Robert Zaworski: "Underwater Look at Monitor"
- 2006 Gordon Damman: "A Museum, a Battlefield, and a Hero"
- 2008 Gloria Swift: "Ford's Theater Secrets Revealed"
- 2011 Vernon Burton: "Lincoln and the Constitution"
- 2013 Edward H. Bonekemper III: "Lincoln and Grant: The Westerners Who Won the War"
- 2015 Dennis Frye: "John Brown: The Spark that Ignited the War"
- 2016 Lance Herdegen: "The Baby Had Red Hair: Music of the Iron Brigade"
- 2017 Dave Powell: "Who Won the Battle of Chickamauga?"
- 2018 Ted Karamanski: "The Civil War as an Indian War"
- 2019 Jim Lighthizer: "Historic Preservation and Place-Based Teaching"
- 2020 Rob Girardi: "Abraham Lincoln and the Common Soldier"
- 2021 David Dixon: "The American Civil War: A Radical, International Revolution"
- 2022 75th Anniversary Dinner and Civil War Forum
- 2023 Carleton Young: "Voices from the Attic"
- 2024 Dr. Jen Murray: "The Victor of Gettysburg: George Gordon Meade and the Civil War"



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.

From Rome to Appomattox: A History of Catholic Civil War Chaplains

Friday, October 10 | 12pm – 1pm

Presented by Father Robert Miller

Military chaplaincy has existed for over 1,600 years, with its earliest connections being seen some 3,000 years ago. In this talk, Father Robert Miller will first outline the history of religious people being actively involved with the world's military. He will then focus on a subset of Catholic chaplains in the Civil War – their challenges, numbers, impact, and stories of the more colorful and interesting "characters" among them.

Robert J. Miller is a Catholic priest of 49 years, retired from 35 years of inner-city Chicago ministry. He has Master's degrees in Religious Education and Divinity, has authored five books on spirituality and faith, and was an adjunct professor of Church History at the University of St. Mary of the Lake. A former President of the Chicago Civil War Round Table, he frequently speaks on topics of spirituality and history, especially on Civil War religion.

Opening Manassas: The Iron Brigade, Stonewall Jackson, and the Battle on Brawner's Farm, August 28, 1862

Friday, November 14 | 12pm – 1pm

Presented by Lance Herdegen

In the fading light of August 28, 1862, an untested Union brigade of Wisconsin and Indiana men fought an unexpected 90-minute stand-up clash with the Confederate veterans of Stonewall Jackson on the Virginia farm fields of John Brawner. None of them knew the immediate prelude to the far bloodier Battle of Second Manassas (Bull Run) had begun. Herdegen's new study utilizes a "fog of war" approach to unfold the battle as the soldiers of the Iron Brigade would have experienced it, and how various officers reacted with only the information they had at the time. His new approach uses an original methodology to uncover unexpected insights into the engagement and the leadership decisions of the brigade.

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



**Head Quarters, 2d Reg., Wis. Vol.
Ft. Tillinghast, Oct. 10, 1861**

Eds.: Advocate-In the life of a soldier on active duty there are many changes- When I last wrote to you, I guess it was from Camp Advance, Chain Bridge, since then we rejoined King's Brigade and went over the other side -stayed there three days and then came where we are now. I really have nothing much to say and am only writing to keep open communication. You inflicted a very severe punishment by not sending the Advocate this week, I suppose it was because I have not been a very good correspondent of late but it is very difficult to find anything to write about.

Yesterday we had our Brigade reviewed by Gen. McDowell; we were marched to the field about 10:25 AM and drawn up in line of battle, the 6th Wisconsin and 10th Indiana and behind them the 2d and 7th Wisconsin.

Gen. McDowell first reviewed us in line of battle, in rear upon order; then the columns were formed and we were marched in review, passed the Staff and returned to our post where our arms were inspected by the Aides and our clothes by the General. To us such things are of little interest, we would rather be going to a fight; we do not want any unnecessary parade but I suppose it is necessary. We would rather be anywhere but in King's Brigade; we want a fighting man and then we would add another laurel to the wreath that we have already dearly won and we would show the secessionists that our defeat at Bull Run and the loss of our grave comrades has inspired us with fresh vigor; they may whip the 2d but to make them believe it is the hardest work. We fear we shall have to remain here on the reserve, though there are many who would prefer to see us behind the batteries they command.

Since we have been back from Bull Run, we have been called the "Ragged Second" a title of which we were rather proud; Regiments that came fresh to Washington were fitted out entirely and we were passed over and not only that we were pushed ahead in work on picket duty. When we went to Chain Bridge, we heard that Gen. Smith had been told that we were demoralized but when we passed his head-quarters on our departure how said he would rather see all the rest of the regiments go than us. Our pickets were never driven in and we never raised a false alarm, (nor shot a cow, thinking it a cavalry man, as did the 5th) but the General thought we had one great weakness, which was foraging beyond our lines. The following is an incident: One of his aids was sent out to reconnoiter and when he returned the General asked what he saw, he replied that he had been as far past the outpost as he dared and, in looking ahead, he saw some soldiers about 1.5

mile farther; "That will do," said the General, "I know they must be the 2d Wisconsin;" the aide replied they were. And to our minds and mouths there was no doubt of it; for the next day secession geese and chickens played a conspicuous part in our rations.

Well to return to my story last week, we got our new uniforms- blue frock coats, blue pants and the regulation hat, feather, &c. and I can assure you that the 2d was a pretty good looking regiment and one of which Wisconsin may be justly proud and for the "Ruby Tigers", of course, I can say but little as modesty demands silence, but if ever they appeared to advantage it was then. The night before, the Captain expressed a wish that every man should make the best appearance he could and everyone seemed to do his best. Gen. McDowell remarked to King that it was a very good company. Capt. Ruby has served in the ranks and the boys all like him first rate; I don't mind saying I took a day in sight-seeing. It was the first time I had been over a mile from camp since our arrival in Washington and it really did me good to have a day to myself in which I could go and come as I pleased. It took some smooth talking to obtain a pass; but I was amply rewarded for my pain in the long walk I took during the day. I had been on guard the day before and got only an hour's sleep during the night so I was not in first rate trim for a ramble but for fear I might not get another chance, I concluded to improve the opportunity offered me.

Leaving our encampment on the outskirts of the grand and beautiful forest that covers Arlington Heights, I took a road leading directly to the valley of the Potomac. The morning mist had not yet cleared away and it was impossible to see any great distance through it but it was not thick enough to obscure the sun, and his bright rays falling upon the countless dew drops that hung upon the trees made the old forest sparkle.

Arlington Heights is one of the loveliest places in Virginia and probably in America and is the only place I have seen on this side of the Potomac on the line of our fortifications that has escaped to any considerable extent the ravages of war. This is the only forest that has been spared, all others, no matter how beautiful, have been cut down and this has suffered much though it still stands in its glorious majesty. In the center of the forest and on the highest point of elevation covered by it is situated the Arlington House- at present the headquarters of Major General McDowell and Brigadier General King.

After proceeding about a mile and a half I emerged from the forest and descended to the level plain or bottom that here extends along the river and turning abruptly to the right set out on a rapid walk for Alexandria, for it was yet too foggy to obtain any distant views and I could improve the cool of the day by increasing my step and see all that could be seen on my return. At Fort Albany there are two roads leading to Alexandria and as I could take but one, I turned to the left leaving the right-hand road for my return. -continued p. 6-



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!

Truth or Fiction? And a Hat That Answers the Question

July 2, 1863 — The Wheatfield, Gettysburg.

The 1st Pennsylvania Reserves was commanded at the Battle of Gettysburg by Colonel William C. Talley. It brought 444 men to the field, losing thirteen men killed and mortally wounded and thirty-three men wounded. A monument to the regiment's Company K, nicknamed the Adams County Infantry, is on Lincoln Square in the center of town. An inscription on that monument reads, *July 2nd in the evening charged from the hill in rear to this position and held it until the afternoon of July 3rd when the Brigade advanced through the woods to the front and left driving the enemy and capturing many prisoners.*

As the regiment was advancing in its charge on July 2nd its color bearer, Corporal Bertless Slott, was surprised to have the regiment's flag snatched from his grasp by division commander Brigadier General Samuel Crawford, who had ridden up from behind. After a brief struggle Slott let his general have the flag but ran alongside his horse during the charge, keeping a firm grip on the General's pants leg until the flag was returned.

James F. Culbertson was also a soldier in Company K. He charged into battle that morning like thousands of others. But his fight ended in a flash of pain and smoke. A bullet struck him just behind the right ear, passed through his neck, and exited behind his left ear—a wound that should have killed him instantly.

Carried off the field and left to die, James lay motionless in a makeshift field hospital for two full days, unconscious and unattended. Wisdom of the day, even in light of improvements in medical care of the wounded, said that he was mortally wounded. Doctors needed to save the ones they could. Then—against every expectation—he opened his eyes. There was no one attending him. No orders. Just silence and blood-soaked grass. So, he stood up. And he walked home—six miles to Middle Creek, near Emmitsburg. Alone and bleeding and barely alive, miraculously, he survived.

James lived another 54 years, passing away in 1917. One of his most cherished possessions? The hat he wore that day. The bullet holes—both entry and exit—still visible in the fabric.



The Culbertson Hat

Note the wooden skewer that traces the path of the bullet.

This story appeared recently on Facebook in August of 2025. Keyboard warriors immediately sprang up to declare that the story was false. Their proof was simple. "How could a bullet pass through his kepi," they asked, "while simultaneously cutting under his ear, through his neck, and then exit beneath the opposite ear?" To many the story just didn't add up. It was just another improbable tale told by someone who was all worked up after seeing the elephant.

The trouble with the doubters' questions is that they didn't have all of the facts. Apparently, on July 2, 1863 Culbertson wore a slouch hat tilted back on his head. The rear of the brim almost certainly came near his neck and shoulders. That, at least, is what the only actual artifact related to the incident tells us.

That same hat is on display at the Gettysburg: Beyond the Battle Museum, a quiet relic of a moment no one believed was possible. Culbertson's story is a testament to willpower. It's the story a man with a head wound that didn't stop a him from walking home, and eventually living out his days on the land he had defended.

submitted by Dave Wege

Wisconsin Daily Journal Oct 1861

When treason and open rebellion had burst upon us, patriots ventured to hope that the Northern press would lay aside party rancor on obsolete and by gone ideas, and that all would unite on that great living issue which had been criminally forced upon the country; but it is sickening to behold that such flattering hope can be indulged no longer! Some continue to make virulent appeals to the readers, determined to distract and divide into opposing positions the loyal people of Wisconsin.

From the Fields (continued)

From that place to Alexandria, a distance of about six miles, my road led me alternately over bluffs and through valleys and deep ravines; and to the right and left on every commanding position I could see the gaping mouths of cannon from forts and earth works there erected.

The stumps and fallen trees that cover the hill-sides alone are sufficient to obstruct the march of an army while the positions of the forts are so well chosen and so strong within themselves that a hundred men can defend any one of them against twenty times their number. This line of fortifications extends from Chain Bridge to Alexandria, a distance probable of 12 or 15 miles and I am sure that fifty thousand men can now hold Washington against two hundred thousand.- There are but few encampments now along this line of forts; only troops enough to defend them in case of an attack remain as a reserve force while the greater part of the army of the Potomac has advanced some distance into the enemy's country. Gen. McClellan seems inclined to hold every foot of ground he gets possession of and he is abundantly able to do it therefore he is ready to advance.

I arrived in Alexandria about 10 o'clock A. O. M. and as I had but little business to do, I spent a few hours in rambling through the streets of the dirty city where the brave Ellsworth met his death. I was not favorable impressed with appearance of this Southern city it being- New Orleans excepted- the filthiest I have seen North or South. It is situated in a very fine place and might be one of the fairest cities in America if the inhabitants had a little more energy, but as it now is its only redeeming qualification is the beautiful trees that line its streets.

On my return I took a somewhat different route and gathered a few chestnuts and persimmons though they are very scarce in these parts. I did not strike my old track until I reached Fort Albany, from which place I obtained a very good view of the surrounding country the Potomac and Washington. My regiment and brigade were drilling on the plain and looked well from the point from which I beheld them. When I arrived at camp I was tired enough and sleepy enough but I had had a very good time.

In Memoriam



Donald Pfanz of Spotsylvania County, VA died in his home on Sept. 2 from Glioblastoma brain cancer. Pfanz was born on April 16, 1958, in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, the son of Harry W. Pfanz and Letitia Earll Pfanz. He was predeceased by his first wife, Betty Davidsen Pfanz, and is survived by his second wife, Zandra Montalvo Pfanz; brother, Frederick Pfanz of Westerville, Ohio; and sister, Marion Ake of Woodsboro, Maryland.

Pfanz grew up in St. Louis, Missouri, and attended Wootton High School in Montgomery County, Maryland, before graduating with a B.A. degree in history from the College of William and Mary in 1980.

After college he made his career with the National Park Service, serving for 32 years at Petersburg Battlefield Park, Fort Sumter National Monument, and Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania County National Military Park.

An avid preservationist, Pfanz was a founder of The Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites (now The American Battlefield Trust). He also wrote 10 books on key people and places of the Civil War, including Clara Barton's Civil War, Richard S. Ewell: A Soldier's Life, War So Terrible: A Popular History of the Battle of Fredericksburg, and Spotsylvania National Military Park and Fredericksburg: A Comprehensive Civil War Guide.

May flights of angels guide him to his rest.

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 2025-2026 SPEAKER SCHEDULE

September 11, 2025	Dr. James Pula <i>Overlooked and Underappreciated: Dan Butterfield</i>
October 9, 2025	Kim Harris <i>Libbie Bacon Custer</i>
November 13, 2025	Chris Kolakowski <i>Civil War to World War: Simon Bolivar Buckner Jr. and Sr.</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 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. 2025-2026 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 Bspalec	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 October 9, 2025

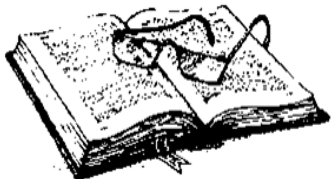
Mail your reservations by Friday, October 3 to:

Paul Eilbes
1809 Washington Avenue
Cedarburg, WI 53012-9730

Call or email reservations to:

(262) 376-0568
peilbes@gmail.com

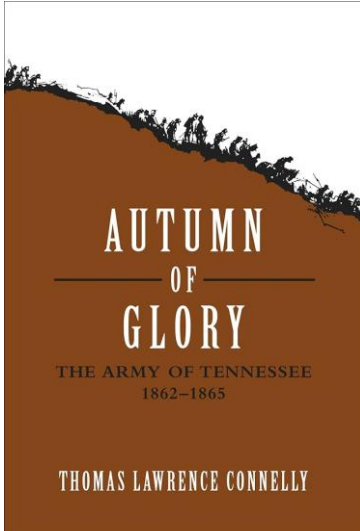
Enclosed is \$_____ (meal is \$35.00 per person) for _____ people for the
October 9, 2025 meeting of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee.
(Please make checks payable to the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.)



BETWEEN THE COVERS

Autumn of Glory: The Army of the Tennessee, 1862-1865

Thomas L. Connelly



My review is the follow-up to a previous one on the Army of the Heartland, better known as the Confederate Army of Tennessee. The book is Autumn of Glory: The Army of Tennessee, 1862-1865 by Thomas Lawrence Connelly. In the two works written by Mr. Connelly he brings out the problems that beset the Army of Tennessee from its inception to the end of the war. In this second part of the history of this army Mr. Connelly points out how the function of this force continually was hampered by internal problems, personal command issues between leadership and personality peculiarities of its commanders.

The author continually points out the issues Bragg and later Johnston had with the powers in Richmond. Supply of foodstuffs were sent as a priority to Lee's army and as a result Bragg's forces were limited to draw only off some of Tennessee and Mississippi. But never 100%. Almost all supplies in Atlanta were destined to be sent to Lee. The same was true of equipment and in some cases ammunition. I felt the area alone that was supposed to be secured by the Army of Tennessee was also short of manpower as well. Lee and his army had only the Virginia area of operations to cover, while the Army of Tennessee covered everything from the Mississippi to Richmond, with a smaller force than Lee had. Operations of the Heartland army might have been able to secure the territory if there was a unified

command in its area of operation but unfortunately so-called supporting commanders in the theater like Price, Van Dorn, Kirby Smith and others never fell under an overall commander which by rights should have been the leader of the Army of Tennessee, namely Bragg, then Johnston. If these other commanders had been subject to orders from the Army of Tennessee better coordination could have led to more success on the battlefield in my opinion.

Connelly is deeply focused on the big-picture questions of why the Army failed in its task of defending the West. Many Civil War buffs would probably find his battle descriptions too sparse to be satisfying: as he deals with Perryville, Franklin, and Bentonville in three pages each, for example. You thus do not get lots of descriptions of what battles were like for the individual soldier, or accounts of X Regiment's move here while Y Brigade struck the Union line there. While succinct, however, I found his battle descriptions to be clear and compelling. Unfortunately, the maps provided in the book left a bit to be desired. A few more detailed ones would have been helpful in following Connelly's text.

But Connelly's research (he was a history professor at the University of South Carolina) is impeccable; his treatment of the internal politics of the army's high command, riven with personality conflicts, is revealing and convincing; and his writing is elegant and vivid, fit to be ranked with that of Bruce Catton or Shelby Foote.

Autumn of Glory, published in 1971, takes us from Perryville to Nashville. While the AoT still existed after Nashville, it was no longer an army. The author covers this time but rightly considers the survivors to be more a collection of veteran units than an army. This is the years when they fight and lose central Tennessee under Bragg. The Georgia campaign under Joe Johnston and the return home under Hood. 1862 to 1865 are the years of the big battles and the political infighting that paralyze this army. No American army was ever as poorly lead or suffered government indifference on this scale. Richmond was paralyzed unable to choose between pro and anti-Bragg factions. Unable to consider removing either faction, Davis dithered, as Tennessee was lost. This is a hard book to read as the army is doubly damned for not winning and for losing its supply base. In the end, John Bell Hood leads this army to death in the largest charge of the war at Franklin and destruction at Nashville.

I highly recommend Connelly's two-volume history of the Confederate Army of Tennessee. Tackling the entire thing is not for the faint at heart as combined the books are a little over 800 pages I felt however these books give the reader a true picture of why the Army of Tennessee never was successful and what struggles the army commanders dealt with to conduct operations.

submitted by Bruce Klem

A Whirlwind Trip, a Meetup, and Memories



It was a true privilege gift-wrapped in a request to be of service. On the weekend of September 5-7, 2025 Ted Savas and Savas Beatie Publishing hosted the 7th Annual Author-Reader Meetup in Gettysburg. Among the authors who was eligible to attend was Wisconsin's own Lance Herdegen. Lance's most recent book, Opening Manassas, which he co-authored with Bill Backus, will be coming out this Fall, and he was invited to be present to discuss his book, his views on writing history, and maybe sign a few books. Dave and Kay Wege and Rich Kallan assumed the role of providing transportation for Lance, and enjoyed a remarkable weekend of learning, laughter, and memories in the process.

A conservative estimate places my visits to Gettysburg at 35+. Shoot, Kay and I even visited Gettysburg on our honeymoon in 1981 (She got a C- on the quiz I gave her.). I am often asked, "What is there still to see when you've been there so often?" The whirlwind trip we took may help to answer that question.

My two bucket list items were part of a personal and private agenda. In all of my trips to Gettysburg, I had never climbed up Big Round Top. It was always that one extra stop that never fit itself into the time we had available. Now that item has been checked off the Gettysburg Bucket List. A somewhat strenuous hike, it is worth every step. Beautiful monuments



stand proudly atop BRT. One of them marks the position held by Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain's 20th Maine on July 2 and 3. The other stop on my list was the position held by the Iron Brigade on the second and third days of the fight. I knew approximately where the markers were, but in my many previous visits the area was so overgrown with weeds and brush, with ticks waiting in ambush, that I never made the effort to find them. That changed on this trip. Arrayed as stone sentinels, the Black Hat markers delineate the ground the Midwestern men held after their epic stand on July 1, 1863. There is now a clear path that leads to them all. And, as is to be expected, the markers to the Wisconsin regiments are made from red granite. Add a visit to these markers to your own Gettysburg bucket list.

On Friday our group visited Antietam. There along the Hagerstown Pike we were regaled with tales of the courage shown by Gibbon's Brigade on September 17, 1862. With our little band was Phil Spaugy, himself no stranger to Iron Brigade legend and lore. Lance shared stories old and new with us. I never knew, for example, that some of the Battery B and Iron Brigade dead were buried just off the pike directly behind a spot now marked by a bronze gun. Among the dead was Captain Werner von Bache and, perhaps, his faithful canine who died in a hail of musketry as he guarded the captain's body. With a twinkle in his eye and a slight grin, Lance proposed that the dog's body remained buried there when the human remains were moved to the nearby national cemetery. "We should mount a campaign to find out!" he solemnly stated.

A second purpose of the visit to Antietam was for Rich Kallan to deliver a request from the Sons of Union Veterans to add a Wisconsin monument to the battlefield. Heroic work has been done by Wisconsin native Beverly Vaillancourt to get this mission accomplished. In a letter to Senator Ron Johnson and Tammy Baldwin, the document stated:

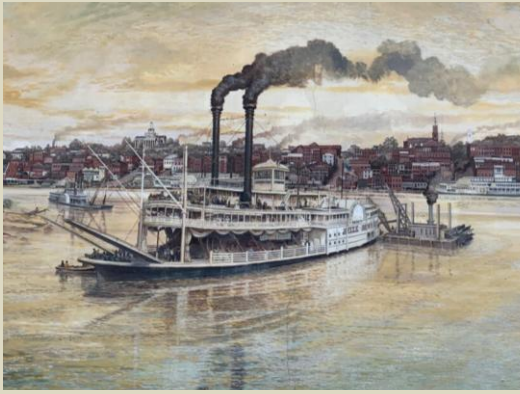
We write to urge your support for the establishment of a Wisconsin memorial monument at Antietam National Battlefield. While many states have placed monuments on this hallowed ground, Wisconsin remains unrepresented, despite the critical role our regiments played in the battle of September 17, 1862, the bloodiest one-day battle in American military history.

In 1913, Wisconsin's legislature authorized a monument commission for Antietam and Gainesville, but the effort never came to fruition. Over a century later, it remains an unkept promise to the GAR and to the descendants of Wisconsin's fallen at Antietam. A Wisconsin monument at Antietam would correct this historical oversight and honor the sacrifice of our soldiers alongside those of other states.

A battlefield visit to Antietam and a personalized tour with Lance and Phil at Gettysburg did not bring the weekend to a close. That happened when Lance was one of a panel of historians who discussed their latest books and ideas about writing at the Author-Reader Meetup. In true Midwestern style and with unique Herdegen humor, Lance shared the thrust of Opening Manassas. He discussed the difficulties involved in co-authoring a book, but added that the project turned into one with which he is truly pleased. He shared that he learned new things, and made that material a part of his portion of the book. Opening Manassas should be included on everyone's Christmas list this year.

A whirlwind trip, 1,600 miles on a weekend, it was worth every mile. There is always so much to learn as one walks hallowed ground. And, to spend that time with a true son of Wisconsin in Lance Herdegen, the days are already a treasured memory for all who were blessed to be a part of it.

submitted by Dave Wege



Attacking the Arteries of Rebellion April 18-25, 2026

Final cost has not yet been determined, but will include deluxe coach transportation, all hotels and most meals, entrance to museums and parks, and fees for historians. The ballpark for this eight-day trip is \$1,250.00.

Join the Civil War Time Travelers for an eight-day trip exploring western waterways that shaped the rebellion and the Union's response to them. From the "Father of Waters" to the waters of Mobile Bay, we will investigate actions at Vicksburg, Fort Gaines, and Fort Blakeley.

A highlight of the tour will be a pontoon boat trip on the Tensaw River. Confederate defenses there guarded the back door to Mobile, and were an engineering feat of epic proportions. With park rangers, local historians, and the talents of our own CWTT, we will see how the Civil War story unfolded at these key sites.

Good eating - Good history - Good times lay ahead!

Travelling Where Heroes Trod

Contact: wegs1862@gmail.com

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.

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.

Civil War Railroads and Their Tactics

Friday, December 12 | 12pm – 1pm | Presented by Charlie Banks

One of the aspects that makes the American Civil War one of the first modern wars was the use of railroads. Railroads were vital lifelines for armies because they were the fastest and most efficient way to transport soldiers and supplies. Because of this, major campaigns such as Chattanooga, Atlanta, Richmond, Petersburg, and Corinth were fought within 20 miles of a rail line or major rail hub. Mr. Banks' presentation will show how railroads brought about changes to military logistics and tactics that carried on to the major conflicts that followed the Civil War.

Charles (Charlie) Banks is a member of the Northern Illinois Civil War Round Table and a founding member of the McHenry County Civil War Round Table. He has a deep interest in the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad and its subsidiaries. Besides his interests in the Civil War, he also enjoys antiquing with his wife, Mary, and building his model railroad.

P.H. Sheridan vs G.K. Warren: Five Forks—and a Knife in the Back

Wednesday, November 19 | 6pm – 8pm | Instructor: Robert Girardi | \$20 (\$25 for non-members)

In the closing days of the siege of Petersburg in 1865, Phil Sheridan and Gouverneur K Warren were engaged in overlapping offensive operations. Warren seized the White Oak Road while Sheridan got bloodied at Dinwiddie Court House. Warren was ordered to support Sheridan, while Sheridan was authorized by U.S. Grant to relieve Warren if he so chose. Sheridan did just that, only moments after the two won the Battle of Five Forks. Sheridan then accused Warren of being reluctant to fight. It took Warren 17 years to get justice.

The two generals could not be more different in personality, character, and education. Both graduated from West Point and, in the pre-war years, had decidedly different careers. When circumstances brought them together in 1864 during the Overland Campaign, a series of clashes between them ignited the spark that would result in Warren's relief from command a year later. This is a study of two men, their interactions, and the abuse of power.



Douglas Haag has a BBA in Accounting from UW-Oshkosh and MBA from UW-Whitewater. He served the American Institute of CPA for 3 terms and was a member of the Advisory Council for Continuing Professional Education. He is a past president of the Wisconsin Institute of CPA, and has written professional articles, taught several AICPA courses, served, and chaired multiple committees and board positions for over 50 years. Since 2001 he has been an advisor to the WICPA Education Foundation investment committee. To name special recognitions, he chaired two WICPA Executive Director searches and in 2001 was elected for accounting service to the AICPA Business & Industry Hall of Fame.

Doug was an auditor and management consultant in two CPA firms. He worked for a privately held small company and for a Fortune 1000 corporation as a cost accountant, operational analysis manager, controller, and treasurer. In 1987 he lost his officer position in a corporate takeover, and with two executives purchased a bankrupt business of 10 employees. He purchased three other businesses to create a successful firm of \$19 million sales and 110 employees, which was sold to a private equity group in 2006. In 2007, he purchased a small shop and manages this company for the auto, medical, and rubber industries as tool and die machinists. In 2011 he purchased the tool room back from the equity group. In 2020 he purchased another tool and die operation for the pest control and plastic injection industry.

Doug's interest in history began as a 12-year-old with the centennial celebrations of the Civil War. He holds a Certificate and Advanced Certificate for Civil War Studies from Carroll University (2002 and 2004) under the tutorage of Lance Herdeggen from 1999. He is an active member of the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table since 2012, the Civil War Museum of Delafield, and has made six trips and four presentations with the Civil War Time Travelers. He truly enjoys the friendship and learning opportunities from the meetings of these great resources. His hobby is the Civil War, and when not working is constantly reading from his 350-book library.

Doug has been married for 51 years to Meg, and together have three grown children, all who have left the state for career opportunities. When younger he was a coach for baseball, softball, soccer, and volleyball in their schools, Merton Athletic Association, and Waukesha Puddles baseball.



For the first time in decades, we have a transformative opportunity to not only preserve but **restore Gettysburg**. The American Battlefield Trust is launching a multi-year restoration campaign, beginning with the McKnight House and Farm on East Cemetery Hill.

This first phase will open historic views long obscured by modern structures and help future generations observe the powerful legacy of this pivotal battlefield.

With \$212,000 already raised from three generous donors, we now seek \$488,000 more to reach our Phase 1 goal of \$700,000. **Together, we can return Gettysburg to its 1863 appearance — and honor the stories of valor written into its soil.**

This campaign will demolish the modern former Gettysburg Battlefield Military Museum and restore the landscape to what soldiers saw during the war. The farmhouse will be brought back to its wartime appearance.

Walking trails with interpretive signage and markers will help visitors connect more deeply with the battle and the brave souls who fought it. **You helped protect this land. Now help tell its story — and be part of a legacy that will endure for generations.**

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

(414) 327-2847 dbcpmilw@gmail.com

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

