

GENERAL ORDERS



The Newsletter of the

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



November 13, 2025

Chris Kolakowski

Civil War to World War: Simon Bolivar Buckner Sr. and Jr.

Buckner Jr. is best known as commander of Tenth Army and as the senior American killed in battle in World War II. His death ended a remarkable life, one molded and guided by his Civil War veteran father and namesake. Buckner, Sr. is famous for surrendering the Confederate army at Fort Donelson to Ulysses S. Grant in 1862. Both father and son served their causes with honor. This talk will explore the life and career of father and son, covering their activities from 1823 to 1945.

Christopher L. Kolakowski is Director of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum, a position he has held since January 6, 2020. He received his BA in History and Mass Communications from Emory & Henry College, and his MA in Public History from the State University of New York at Albany.

Chris has spent his career interpreting and preserving American military history with the National Park Service, New York State government, the Rensselaer County (NY) Historical Society, the Civil War Preservation Trust, Kentucky State Parks, the U.S. Army, and the MacArthur Memorial. He has written and spoken extensively on various aspects of military history and leadership from 1775 to the present, and was the inaugural Director of the General George Patton Museum and Center of Leadership at Fort Knox, Kentucky.



Chris has published three books on the Civil War and three on World War II in the Pacific. He is a reviewer and contributor to the *Air Force Journal of Indo-Pacific Affairs* and a Senior Fellow at the Consortium of Indo-Pacific Researchers. His latest book, titled *Tenth Army Commander*, is about General Simon Bolivar Buckner Jr., who was killed in battle on Okinawa.

General Orders No. 11-25

November 2025

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November 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.

For our November 13 Round Table meeting any and all are invited to wear period clothing. Your style may reflect any era, but we ask that it have a military theme in honor of our Veterans' Day.

Reservations for the December meeting are requested two weeks in advance. This ask comes from the Bavarian Bierhaus, our venue for that evening. With the meeting scheduled for December 11, that places the reservation due date at November 27. As that is Thanksgiving, perhaps November 25 would be a good date to let Paul Eilbes know your plans for the evening.

The Muster Roll: NEW MEMBERS

NAME	ADDRESS	PLACE OF BIRTH	FORMER MILITARY 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, 2024 through September 14, 2024.

Major Contributor (\$500 and above)

Paul Eilbes, George Frangesch, Doug Haag, Van & Dawn Harl, Rebecca & Charles Jarvis, Grant Johnson

Patron (\$200 - \$499)

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

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Mike Benton, Crain Bliwas, Ellen & Jerry DeMers, Gary & Judy Ertel, Bill & Claudette Finke, Jim Heinz, Peter & Jean Jacobsohn, 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, Gerald Frangesch, Julian Gonzalez, Jim Heinz, John Helmenstine, Tom Hesse, Don & Laverna Hilbig, Peter & Jean Jacobsohn, Gene & Jane Jamrozy, Dan Jones, Rich Kallan, Allan Kasprzak, John Lencheck, 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 November meetings of the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table featured these speakers and topics.

- 2003 Eric Wittenberg: "Little Phil: A Critical Assessment"
- 2006 Bob O'Neill: "P.S.G. Cooke and His Impact on Civil War Cavalry Leaders"
- 2007 John Y. Simon: "Could the South Have Won?"
- 2009 Patrick A. Schroeder: "Myths about Lee's Surrender"
- 2011 Gail Stephens: "Jubal's in the Valley, Summer 1864"
- 2012 Thomas G. Clemens: "An Overview of the Maryland Campaign of 1862"
- 2015 Philip Leigh: "Trading with the Enemy"
- 2016 Dave Connon: "The Propaganda Campaign in Iowa"
- 2018 Paul Kahan: "The Presidency of U.S. Grant"
- 2019 Ethan Rafuse: "Back to the Chivalric Days of Yore: The Valley Campaign of 1862"
- 2020 Gen. John Scales: "Did Forrest Make a Difference?"
- 2022 Dr. Mary Abroe: "Civil War Battlefields and Historic Preservation: An American Story"
- 2023 Ernest Dollar: "Hearts Torn Asunder: Trauma in the Civil War"
- 2024 Allen Ottens: "The Grant-Rawlins Relationship During 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.

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 study uses an original methodology to uncover unexpected insights into the engagement and the leadership decisions of the brigade.

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.

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



FROM THE SEVENTH REGIMENT
Camp Arlington, Nov. 28, 61

Editors Patriot: Thanksgiving in camp is somewhat differently observed from what it is back in the Badger State, still, said day has its peculiarities here. We were ordered to appear in our best blue, Sat, 11 o'clock, to march over to the Arlington House to listen to the farewell. Drawn up in front of the house, on the beautiful green award which descends from a small knoll used as the speakers stand with the Potomac, Long Bridge and city of Washington in full view.

The four regiments were drawn up describing a half circle. When all had come to "order arms" the governor made his appearance amid the cheers of drums, then the brass band of the 19th Indiana struck up the inspiring air of 'Hail Columbia'. The governor was brief in his remarks enjoining in on the soldiers to obey their officers, to place implicit confidence in those at the helm of our national forces, &c.

He enumerated the numerous wrongs we have suffered by being too lenient to the South and that now it was a question of Liberty and freedom or tyranny and despotism. Of course there were numerous cheers given in honor of the Governor, old Wisconsin &c.

The Governor proposed three cheers for the Governor of Indiana, which was greatly responded to then the brass band played our national air, Yankee Doodle. (I came away about that time). My tent mates and I had a luxurious meal. We had some turnips, which we drew from the field when out on the grand review, sweet potatoes, good bread, fresh beef, hominy, baked apples ginger bread, &c. We pronounced it the best meal we have had since we have been in "Dixie." Our stove is a combination of brick, sheet iron, mud & C.-brick we drew. The oven where we bake our taters and apples is situated on the back part of the institution- said oven is formed by placing four of said bats together forming a hollow square over which makes quite a good oven. The prevailing opinion is that we will winter here, in case we do we will build logs huts.

Rains about every day hinder slippery -to see the boys walking, guess you'd think they'd been at their old failin'.

S. I. M.

Camp Arlington, VA., Nov. 28, 1861

Messers. Editors: we beg the privilege to say a few words to our friends and relatives through the medium of your valuable paper. As today is Thanksgiving, and as we are not compelled to drill, we have a little time to spare to write and

feeling that our Annual fast day will be this year to many households an unusual solemn occasion – the empty chair telling a story of devotion, of courage, of determination, to shield the remaining ones in the enjoyment of the blessings they are singing praises for and tenderly will the prayer ascend of the absent one's protection and guidance. We hope the day throughout the land will be observed as it never was observed before.

A portion of the day might will be devoted to the preparation of a fitting tribute to our country's defenders. To-day the weather is fine the sun shines bright and warm as at a June noon day. At half past eleven we, Gen. King's brigade, were assembled in front of the Lee mansion – Gen. King's headquarters – where His excellency, Gov. Randall addressed us. He spoke at some length, paid us many compliments and bade us farewell – yes, I fear, a last farewell to many of us.

We then returned to our quarters to partake of our noonday meal which, I may say was almost a feast; and as there is a good deal of doubt on the part of our friends at home as to our having enough to eat, I will mention the bill of fare, which is not an uncommon thing with us:

We seated ourselves at a pine table covered with a white muslin cloth. After returning thanks to the Giver of All good, the thought occurred to us whether our friends and loved ones at home had as good a dinner to eat—but I am digressing. We commenced with mashed potatoes, roast beef, warm biscuit, fresh butter, pickles, tea and cream, winding up with apple pie, sweet cakes and crackers, fresh peaches, plum sauce, tomato sauce, oysters, fried nut cakes, green apples and good sweet cider. Considering that we are in the midst of enemies and in a soldier's tent almost on the field of battle, you may well imagine, that as it was, all prepared by a sister's experienced hand, who was seated at the head of the table, that it had a look of homelikeness; and as I said before, having good appetites, we did ample justice to our repast.

The health of the regiment is generally very good and being as it is a holiday the time passed off pleasantly.

The day closes with a gentle rain showering on us, and the same of our enemies a few miles beyond, verifying in a singular manner the scriptural saying that it rains the same on the just and unjust.

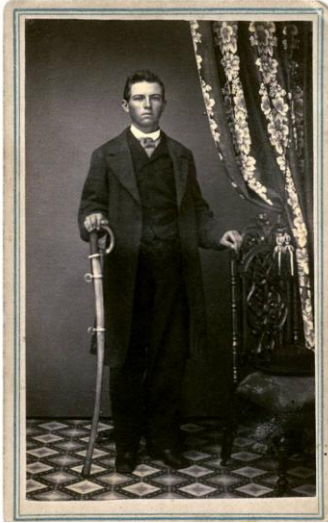
Before another Thanksgiving – probably before another holiday – we may have the opportunity of showering a rain of fire on their heads which we hope will annihilate them as effectually as Sodom and Gomorrah were annihilated. Let us hope and pray that when another Thanksgiving rolls around it may be such a one as will see our country rescued from its present dangers, and that we will again be a united people joining in a general Thanksgiving to Him who holds our destiny in his hands.

B



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!

Ditty's Down on the Race to the Sea



On November 15, 1864, the 9th Pennsylvania Cavalry left Atlanta and began the “March to the Sea.” The regiment and its brigade, part of Brig. Gen. Hugh Judson Kilpatrick’s division, were assigned to screen the right wing of Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman’s invading army. The horse soldiers soon crossed paths with the enemy.

An historian explained, “On the 16th, the first day out from Atlanta, it encountered General Wheeler, who, with his cavalry occupied the old works of the enemy at Lovejoy’s Station, on the Macon Railroad. The position was a formidable one, having been well entrenched by General Hood. As the brigade moved to the attack, the enemy opened a galling fire from four guns; but after a short and sharp encounter, by a most gallant charge, the regiment gained a lodgment in the works, driving the enemy from its guns, and capturing them with more than three hundred prisoners.” The Pennsylvanians suffered a number of casualties, including Pvt. Jesse Ditty of Company E.

During the charge, two bullets brought Ditty down. One ripped into the right side of the neck, narrowly missing the carotid artery. At the same moment, another tore into his mount. He was thrown from the wounded horse, which fell on top of him. Ditty lay pinned to the ground, his right hip dislocated.

The 9th’s surgeon, Dr. S.C. Walker, found Ditty and sprang into action. He and the regiment’s sergeant major lifted the animal just enough to free Ditty. An ambulance was summoned. Ditty recalled, “Just before Dr. Walker picked me up and put me in the Ambulance, he gave me a powder (likely morphine or opium), then I knew nothing until that evening, when we got into camp. We were in camp when I came to my senses again, then I was taken out of the ambulance and laid on the grass & Dr. Walker operated on my leg.” Walker set the leg, and ordered an attendant to rub it down with liniment.

Confined to an ambulance for the rest of the Savannah Campaign, Ditty “Rode to the Sea.” He noted that during the trip, a servant named Robert Jones carried his saber. It is probably the same weapon pictured in this carte de vis. Jones, who was employed by one of the Ninth’s officers, also brought him food during the journey.

Ditty — the origin of his name is from the French “Diddion” — had been in the army for less than a year before he suffered his injuries. Back in February 1864, the twenty-year-old left an apprenticeship to a coach maker in his hometown of Millersburg and enlisted in the 9th, a veteran regiment organized in 1861. Described by one officer as “a short, chunky little fellow,” he participated in various operations, including those against Brig. Gen. John Hunt Morgan and his raiders, before Confederate troops knocked him out of action at Lovejoy’s Station. Ditty rejoined his company in December 1864 and mustered out with his comrades in North Carolina in July 1865.

Ditty returned to Pennsylvania. In 1869, he married a woman four months pregnant with their son. Over the years six more children were born to the couple. Ditty worked several jobs to support the family, including a railroad brakeman and a miner. He had a difficult time making ends meet. His wife died in 1887, leaving Ditty to care for his three youngest children. A friend, writing in 1893, declared Ditty destitute. Two years later, Ditty wed Mary Cairns, an Irish-born widow who owned a crockery shop and two homes. One person suggested he married the widow for her money. The relationship fell apart less than two years later after Ditty’s wife accused a daughter from his first marriage of child abuse. Ditty sided with his daughter and moved out. He had harsh words for his estranged wife: “She is a drunken, miserable wretch and I never will live with her.”

True to his word, he spent the rest of his days with his daughter and her family. In 1899, while doing some work inside the home of a county official, Ditty experienced chest pains. He refused a suggestion to go to a physician, and a plea to lie down on a couch. He explained that these attacks happened often and would soon pass. He stepped outside for a breath of fresh air, and walked to the back yard. When he didn’t return, the concerned county official found Ditty in a “dying condition.” A doctor was called, but Ditty died before he arrived. A coroner determined heart disease as the cause of death. Ditty lived until age fifty-four. Five of seven children and his second wife survived him.

**Taken from a 2018 Facebook post by
Military Images – used w/permission**

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.

Schedule of meetings for the Driftless Area Civil War Club

November 15, 2025	Gordon Dammann will speak on Civil War medicine.
December 20, 2025	Pat and Mike Reilly, owners of the Dodgeville Chronicle
January 17, 2026	Charlie Banks – US Military Railroads in the War Effort
February 21, 2026	Show and Tell – Club Members will discuss their Civil War artifacts
March 14, 2026	Brian Conroy – Irish in the American Civil War
April 18, 2026	Chris Kolakowski – Civil War in New York
May 9, 2026	Reverend Miller – Both Prayed to the Same God
June 20, 2026	Jerry Allen – The 15 th Wisconsin Regiment
July 18, 2026	Mark Tully – Frontier Doctor
August 15, 2026	Bruce Allardice – Lincoln as a War Leader
September 19, 2026	Laura Schiller -Illinois Cavalry
October 17, 2026	Leslie Goddard – Clara Barton



In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of historian Nicholas Picerno. Nick was the longest serving board member of Virginia's Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation, a nationally recognized historian, and a champion of battlefield preservation. Nick had a particular fondness for Antietam. He is recognized across the country for his extensive collection of items related to the 1st, 10th, and 29th Maine Regiments and for his willingness to open that collection to researchers. Nick will be remembered by many as a powerful force for preservation, and the battlefields he helped to save will forever be his legacy. Together with his wife Kathy and his son Nick, we bid him farewell.

Visitation will be held at Stover Funeral Home (177 N Holliday St, Strasburg, VA 22657) on Sunday, October 12 and all are welcome to attend. Graveside Service will be at 1PM on Wednesday, October 15th at Evergreen Cemetery (799 Baltimore St, Gettysburg, PA 17325) and all are welcome to attend.

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 2024-2025 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 November 13, 2025

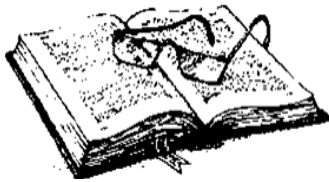
Mail your reservations by Friday, October 7 to:

Paul Eilbes
1809 Washington Avenue
Cedarburg, WI 53012-9730

Call or email reservations to:

(262) 376-0568
peilbes@gmail.com

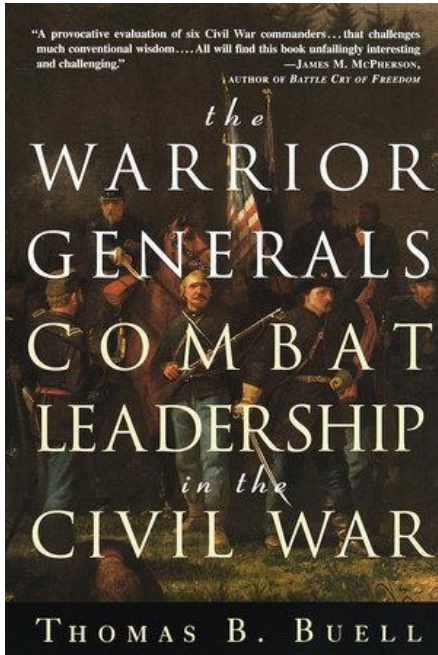
Enclosed is \$_____ (meal is \$35.00 per person) for _____ people for the
November 13, 2025 meeting of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee.
(Please make checks payable to the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.)



BETWEEN THE COVERS

The Warrior Generals Combat Leadership in the Civil War

Thomas B. Buell



This book review is on a book published in 1997 and written by historian Mr. Thomas B. Buell. The book is The Warrior Generals Combat Leadership in the Civil War. In this book Mr. Buell examines six key leaders who fought in the Civil War. His writing is focused on their thoughts and actions during that conflict and how their leadership in combat impacted the war. The men he keys on and names them are: 1) The Yeoman (Ulysses Grant), 2) The Aristocrat (Robert E. Lee), 3) The Knight-Errant (John B. Hood), 4) The Roman (George H. Thomas), 5) The Cavalier (John B. Gordon), and 6) The Puritan (Francis C. Barlow).

As I read this book it became obvious to me that the author in many cases was putting down his own spin on these six men. Some of his comments seem to follow some of the unproven comments on Grant's drinking and I think put more emphasis on the impact this had on his career and leadership of Union forces for example. This is an interesting book, but Thomas Buell has a lot of strong views. The book is essentially a history of the Civil War that focuses on the experiences of Robert E. Lee, Ulysses Grant, John Bell Hood, George Thomas, John B. Gordon, and Francis Barlow. These six generals fought in the majority of the major battles of the war and offer various forms of combat leadership. Obviously, some get heavier treatment than others. Gordon by far gets the least coverage.

The author provides perspectives on Generals Lee and Grant that may be unfair in some respects but are often thought-provoking. In his introduction Mr. Buell sets

the table on the thrust his book is going to take by stating "one of the greatest difficulties in understanding how Civil War generals functioned is that much of the war's history is biased and distorted. Upon scholarly inquiry, truisms about popular historical events and personalities are often discovered to be entirely misleading or wrong. The misconceptions are pervasive and widespread, even among those who are in a position to know better." From the reading I thought he definitely had strong opinions on how men like Grant and Lee and others performed during the Civil War as they moved up to major command positions.

I think one point he raises is that the importance of the western and eastern theaters had been somewhat distorted in their importance during the war. Mr. Buell feels that most works of the time put more emphasis on the eastern campaigns and gave short shift on the western campaigns. Considering this book was published in 1997 I don't think that comment is far off base. Many more recent works by a variety of authors and historians have put more focus on the western theater and I think scholars today have come to realize that in the West the war was more likely to be won or lost.

The author tells it like it was between the Federal and Confederate leadership during the War Between the States. Replete with details about the logistics and geography that helped officers on both sides decide where and how to fight. Mr. Buell is unsparing where bad decisions were made, or even no decisions by intransigent commanders, leading to defeats. Robert E. Lee is not given his usual saint's halo and genius status, but is shown to be deeply flawed, as was the entire Confederate command, being generally just as belligerent, grasping, arrogant and venal as their counterparts in the North.

Despite this author's style I found this to be an interesting and thought-provoking book. The quote from James M. McPherson on the cover of the paperback book seems apt to me. He says, "A provocative evaluation of six Civil War commanders that challenges much conventional wisdom. All will find this book unfailingly interesting and challenging." I know it prompted some reconsiderations on my part after reading it and I feel confident any student of the Civil War will find the same impact. A very interesting read to be sure. I recommend you try it.



Behind the Scenes at the Kenosha Civil War Museum

The Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee in conjunction with the Chicago Round Table and working through the Kenosha Civil War Museum have launched a joint effort to bring the two Round Tables closer together. It is hoped to build new vistas for both groups and further develop closer ties between the two groups. This effort was discussed at the last couple of board meetings and the first event set up through coordination with Doug Dammann at the Civil War museum and Dale Bspalec of the Round Table.

The first event originally was to be a sort of “behind the scenes” tour of some of the unique areas in the Civil War Museum after hours for board members. Later it was decided to open the tour to members at large as well with a limit of no more than 30 people. The tour was set for August 14th to begin around 5:30 and last about 1 hour. 25 people signed up for the tour cost of which was covered by the round table. About 23 were in attendance.

Doug started things off with a discussion on the history behind the development of the museum. He outlined the close connection the museum established with Cartage College and how through the workings of the mayor, representatives of the Palumbo Collection at the college and college representatives the collection was placed on loan to the museum for an indefinite period. He talked a little about the history of the city as well and how the land was placed aside and developed for the expansion of the condominiums and the sites for the new Natural History Museum and the Civil War museum sites.

The tour began with a stop in the 1860 village of Fairfield and along the way Doug pointed out some the early artifacts the museum has on display from pre-Civil War Kenosha and the section on the Underground Railroad. In the town area Doug talked about the Wide Awakes and how the normal school group tours include learning to march with the students as part of the life of a Civil War soldier by using the space to introduce students to some basic drill procedures. Our group did not have to practice any drilling as part of our tour.

We stopped at the rail car to hear about the flag from the Park City Greys that was donated to the museum’s care from the city. This flag was made by the women of Kenosha in 1861 when the Park City Greys, Kenosha’s militia company, was mustered into federal service just before the Battle of Bull Run. The 34-star flag hung for the longest time in Mary d. Bradford High School Auditorium. Bradford was built between 1924-27, later changed names To Walter Reuther Central High School in 1980. The flag at that time was in the open. Once the museum opened the flag was encased in protective glass and now hangs in the gallery. Doug explained the tie in with the background mural showing the city fete for the Park City Greys. He explained the many touches the artist added to the mural. Not only this particular mural but other murals throughout the museum.

Another item in this area is the daguerreotype picture of a soldier of the 1st Wisconsin Infantry. Corporal Robert York who gave this picture, (a small daguerreotype framed), to Miss Celia Maloney. It was donated to the museum by decedents. When the frame was opened during placing in the exhibit a lock of the soldier’s hair was found in the back of the picture. Perhaps a sign of lasting love for a sweetheart.

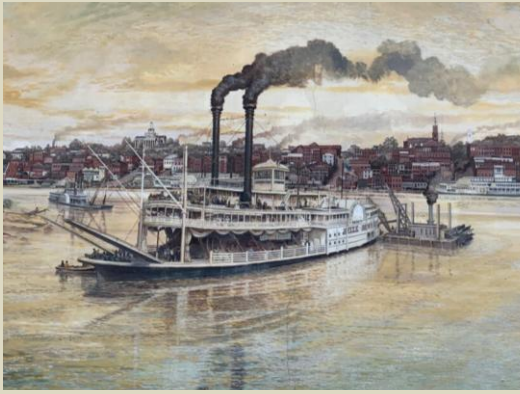


Dr. William Walker

Doug talked about many of the artifacts the museum has one of the most recent he managed to procure was the sword and other items that belonged to Dr. William Walker of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. He was the surgeon of the 14th Wisconsin Infantry on October 30, 1861. After organizing at Camp Wood in Fond du Lac the regiment left Wisconsin arriving in Savannah, Tennessee on March 28, 1862. On April 6, the 14th board transport boats and sailed from Savannah to Pittsburg landing. At 11PM they disembarked and stood the rest of the night in the rain among dead and wounded from the day’s fighting. On the 7th the 14th was sent into the fight and took part in the Union counterattack against the Confederates. After a horrific day long fight one a Badger soldier wrote, “All that I remember was that I loaded as fast as possible and wherever I saw a Secesh I shot at him”

Dr. Walker spent April 7 and the following days treating the wounded from Shiloh. In two letters home to his wife, he described the physical and mental toll this work took on him. He was so mentally and physically drained after the battle that he resigned his commission and left the Federal Army on April 19, 1862.

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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

On October 3, 1863, President Lincoln issued a proclamation designating "the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving." Lincoln's announcement marked the culmination of a multi-decade campaign by Sarah Josepha Hale to make Thanksgiving into a national holiday. Although Lincoln wrote the vast majority of his state papers, the Thanksgiving Proclamation was in fact drafted by Secretary of State William H. Seward.

Voices of Veterans Revisited

Saturday, November 15 | 1pm – 2pm | Presenter: Jean Hoffman

Between 2012 and 2013, ten World War II veterans living in Kenosha County were interviewed as part of the Library of Congress World War II Veterans Project. Veterans shared their pre-war life, wartime experiences, and their return to civilian life after the war's end. Interviewer and former Kenosha Public museums employee, Jean Hoffman, will present video excerpts from these interviews.

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.

Pearl Harbor Day Ceremony

Sunday, December 7 | 11am – 1pm

Join us for a commemorative ceremony honoring the brave men and women affected by the attack on Pearl Harbor led by **Naval Ship Club 40**. All are welcome to attend and pay tribute to this pivotal moment in history.



Laura Rinaldi grew up on Milwaukee's North Side, and at the age of eight became a member of a small drum and bugle corps, the "Chordaliers." A bugler, she played TAPS at Wood National Cemetery on the grounds of the VA Medical Center at the age of 10. Little did she know then that she would work at the VA after graduating from Pius XI High School. The plan was to work for the summer, then head off to college. Messed up paperwork led to a return to school delay, and 47 years later, Laura retired from Milwaukee's VA.

Over those 47 years, she became more interested in the long history of the Milwaukee VA, formerly known as the Northwestern Branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, which opened in 1867 for soldiers of the Civil War. Milwaukee's Home was the second of the three original National Homes.

While sitting in Gettysburg in 2001 watching the July 3 reenactment with her sister (fellow CWRT member Susan Anderson), she had a "smack to the forehead" moment - she worked at a Civil War Home, with a National Cemetery caring for the remains of thousands of Civil War veterans, and many people didn't know anything about it. Why not put up a couple pup tents on the front lawn with a couple of reenactors, get people to stop in and ask questions - and show them this magnificent place hidden in plain view? The battlefields were important, but the men who fought on those fields and needed care after those battles needed to be remembered as well.

That led to the creation of Reclaiming Our Heritage, a multi-era military celebration event. (Special nod to Lance Herdegen for support and encouragement!) The event ran once a year for 11 years, eventually hosting 700 reenactors from every military era in American history, with 12,000 visitors. The event drew the attention of the Milwaukee Preservation Alliance and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. In 2011 the National Trust named the site as one of the "11 Most Endangered" historic sites in the country, and that led to the prestigious National Landmark designation in 2011. Six of those wonderful National Soldiers Home historic buildings have now been restored and are once again providing housing for America's Veterans. Three additional buildings, the theater, chapel and governor's mansion (the Home's commandant, not the Wisconsin Governor) are now being restored and will reopen within a couple of years.

Laura's passion for Civil War history is surpassed only by her passion for America's Veterans, past and present. She served as Chair of Wood National Cemetery's Memorial Day Ceremony for several years, and was a member of the Board of Directors for Stars and Stripes Honor Flight. She is a tour guide with fellow CWRT members Terry Arliskas and Patrick Lynch for Soldiers Home tours, and coordinates tours of Wood National Cemetery. Special thanks to fellow CWRT members Terry and Tom Arliskas, Susan Anderson, Patrick Lynch, David and Kay Wege (and son Josh), Paul Eilbes, Dale Bspalec and Mike Deeken, who were the Voices of Wood National Cemetery.

Laura has been married to John for 40 years, has a daughter Jessica, and two adult grandchildren, Christopher and Lyric. She's an avid fan of the Brewers and Packers, and loves going on historic tours (especially with the Civil War Time Travelers.

Behind the Scenes continued

Doug explained how he came to pick up the artifacts from a Michigan museum that was looking for a home for the material. Apparently, relatives had donated the items long ago when the items the doctor had were donated to the museum there. But since the doctor had not been from Michigan the museum was trying to find a more suitable home for the items. Doug learned of the situation and managed to procure the items for a Wisconsin home. And the rest is history. It is situations like this that enable the museum to come up with material that reflect on people and events related to the participation of Wisconsin and the other states the museum represents in the Civil War.

Another artifact that he highlighted was the exhibit of flag of Company E, 26th Illinois flag. After the war soldiers of the company added the names of the battles they participated in and had the names added to the flag. Again it was through another donation that this item found its way to the museum and now is on permanent display in the museum. Highlighting another story of the Civil War for the public to see.

The tour finished up in the encampment area just outside of the theater for any additional questions and closing remarks. The tour ended the group exited the exhibit area richer in learning more about the Civil War Museum and some of the objects in its care. Events like these it is hoped will bring both round tables closer together and provide the members additional opportunities to enrich their knowledge about history in the Civil War. After all our mission statement says, **"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."**

What better way to accomplish our mission than special events such as these!

submitted by Dale Bspalec and Bruce Klem

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.

