

GENERAL ORDERS

The Newsletter of the

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



May 7, 2026

Chris Mackowski

A Tempest of Iron and Lead: The Battle of Spotsylvania Courthouse

For twenty-two straight hours, in torrential downpours, up to their knees in mud and blood, Federals and Confederates slugged it out in the most intense sustained hand-to-hand combat of the war. A panoply of horror, one soldier called it. A Saturnalia of blood. Hell's Half-Acre. The slaughter pen of Spotsylvania. Most remember it simply as the Bloody Angle.

Chris Mackowski, Ph.D., is the editor-in-chief and co-founder of Emerging Civil War and the series editor of the award-winning **Emerging Civil War Series**, published by Savas Beatie. Chris is a writing professor in the Jandoli School of Communication at St. Bonaventure University in Allegany, NY, where he also serves as associate dean for undergraduate programs. Chris is also historian-in-residence at Stevenson Ridge, a historic property on the Spotsylvania battlefield in central Virginia. He has worked as a historian for the National Park Service at Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park, where he gives tours at four major Civil War battlefields (Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Wilderness, and Spotsylvania), as well as at the building where Stonewall Jackson died.



Chris has authored or co-authored nearly two dozen books and edited a half-dozen essay collections on the Civil War, and his articles have appeared in all the major Civil War magazines. Chris serves as a Copie Hill Civil War Fellow at the American Battlefield Trust. He serves on the advisory board of the Civil War Roundtable Congress and the Brunswick (NC) Civil War Roundtable. He has formerly served on the board of directors for the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust. He is also a member of the Friends of Grant Cottage, the U. S. Grant Homestead Association, and the Antietam Institute.

General Orders No. 5-26

May 2026

IN THIS ISSUE

MCWRT News	page 2
From the Archives	page 3
Kenosha Civil War Museum	page 3
Area Events	page 3
From the Field	page 4
Through the Looking Glass	page 5-6
Driftless Area CW Club	page 7
NEW! Musings and Memories	page 7
Round Table News 2025-2026	page 8
• 2025-2026 Speaker Schedule	
• 2025-2026 Board of Directors	
• Meeting Reservation Form	
Between the Covers	page 9
Great Lakes Civil War Forum.....	page 10
Wanderings	page 11
Tour the Soldiers' Home	page 11
Member Spotlight	page 11
Quartermaster's Regalia	page 12

May Meeting at a Glance The Wisconsin Club 9th and Wisconsin Avenue Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Jackets are required for dining room.

5:30 p.m. - Registration/Social Hour
6:30 p.m. - Dinner
7:30 p.m. - Program

Speaker and topic are subject to change. In case of inclement weather, listen to WTMJ or WISN for meeting status.

2025-2026 Speaker Schedule p. 7

milwaukeecwrt.org

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.

Slate of Candidates

The following names have been proposed for the Round Table Board of Directors with terms expiring in June 2029.

- Michael Benton
- Dale Bospalec
- Tom Hesse
- Justin Tolomeo

Memorial Day Event at Wood National Cemetery
Please see page 11 for details.

ROLL II--CONSOLIDATED LIST of all persons of Class II, subject to the military duty in the ...

NUMBER	NAME	AGE	RESIDENCE	PLACE OF BIRTH	OTHER RELIGIOUS SERVICE	REMARKS
1	Ammon, Samuel	21	White, Wisconsin	Wisconsin		Has filed statement of intention
2	Ammon, Samuel	24	White, Wisconsin	Wisconsin		Has not filed statement of intention
3	Ammon, Charles	21	White, Wisconsin	Wisconsin		Has filed statement of intention
4	Ammon, Charles	24	White, Wisconsin	Wisconsin		Has not filed statement of intention
5	Ammon, Charles	27	White, Wisconsin	Wisconsin		Has filed statement of intention
6	Ammon, Charles	30	White, Wisconsin	Wisconsin		Has not filed statement of intention
7	Ammon, Charles	33	White, Wisconsin	Wisconsin		Has filed statement of intention
8	Ammon, Charles	36	White, Wisconsin	Wisconsin		Has not filed statement of intention
9	Ammon, Charles	39	White, Wisconsin	Wisconsin		Has filed statement of intention
10	Ammon, Charles	42	White, Wisconsin	Wisconsin		Has not filed statement of intention

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 March 13, 2026.

Major Contributor (\$500 and above)

Susan Anderson, Paul Eilbes, Gerald Frangesch, Doug Haag, Van & Dawn Harl, Rebecca & Charles Jarvis, Grant Johnson

Patron (\$200 - \$499)

Mike Deeken, George Geanon, Gene & Jane Jamrozy, Dan Nettesheim, Andrew Platta, Laura Rinaldi, Brad & Kathy Schotanus, Dave & Kay Wege

Associate (\$100 - \$199)

Don & Amy Bauer, 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, Don and Amy Bauer, Jerry & Ellen DeMers, Thomas Doyle, Lori Duginski, John Durr, Paul Eilbes, Gary & Judy Ertel, Gerald Frangesch, George Geanon, 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 May meetings of the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table featured these speakers and topics.

- 2003 William Beaudot: "The 24th Wisconsin Infantry"
- 2004 Bruce Tap: "The Committee on the Conduct of the War"
- 2006 Mark Noll: "How the Bible Helped Start the War"
- 2008 Vernon Burton: "The Age of Lincoln"
- 2011 Tom Schott: "Jeff Davis and Alexander Stephens"
- 2012 Brian H. Reed: "Strategy of the Civil War"
- 2013 Ethan S. Rafuse: "Robert E. Lee, Gettysburg, and the Elements of Confederate Defeat"
- 2014 David Bastian: "Grant's Canal: The Union's Attempt to Bypass Vicksburg"
- 2016 Glenna Schroeder-Lein: "The Soldiers' Home in Civil War America"
- 2018 Joseph Rose.: "Grant Under Fire"
- 2019 John Horn: "The Petersburg Regiment in the Civil War"
- 2022 Kevin Hampton: "Our Adopted Country is in Danger"
- 2023 Sean Michael Chick: "They Came Only to Die: The Battle of Nashville"
- 2024 Lynn and Julianne Herman: "Tragedy in Lawrenceville: The Allegheny Arsenal Explosion"
- 2025 Steven Phan: "Asian and Pacific Islanders in 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.

Freedom Will Be Theirs by the Sword

Friday, May 1 | 12pm – 1pm

Presented by Jeff Kluever

On September 29, 1864 fourteen black men earned the Medal of Honor for their actions at the Battle of New Market Heights outside Richmond, Virginia. Their charge against Confederate fortifications broke the Rebel lines, but left hundreds of their comrades dead and wounded on the field. Join author and historian Jeff Kluever to learn the stories of these former slaves and freemen who fought valiantly for a country that did not yet consider them citizens.

The Organ of the Soldiers: An Introduction to Civil War Camp Newspapers

Friday, May 8 | 12pm – 1pm

Presented by Dan Freas

"Camp newspapers are a feature of the war that is worth attention," reported a St. Louis newspaper in 1862. "The camp paper is the organ of the soldiers, through which they communicate their condition, wants, enjoyments, and local news to the public, and to their distant friends." Historians have documented more than 200 camp newspapers printed during the Civil War. The majority of these publications were published by printers in Union regiments using confiscated shops, equipment and materials in occupied southern communities. A few were created using portable printing offices. Mr. Freas's presentation will introduce you to the printers, technology, and content from some of these camp newspapers which, given the lack of military or government censorship, provide honest and intriguing accounts of the soldier experience. An emphasis will be placed on camp newspapers associated with the Upper Middle West.

Dan Freas recently retired from a 42-year career in program development and administration of historic sites and museums, most recently serving for 12 years as the director of Old World Wisconsin. A native of Western Pennsylvania, Dan's interest in the Civil War began at a young age during a family trip to Gettysburg. His father worked for his hometown newspaper and one of Dan's first jobs as a living history interpreter was working in a historic print shop. With a little bit of ink running through his veins, he is now combining interests in printing and the Civil War through research and writing about camp newspapers and field printing during the conflict.



The Fifth and Sixth Regiments

Camp Randall will be immediately occupied by the Fifth and Sixth Regiments. The Waukesha Volunteers, Capt. Bean, belonging to the Fifth, arrived on the four o'clock train yesterday afternoon, and immediately took up the quarters in camp. It is a fine company, but not yet uniformed except its officers.

Col. Cobb, Lieut. Col. Emery, and Maj. Larrabee were at the camp last evening. Col. Cutler of the Sixth, was in town yesterday, and returned to Milwaukee last evening. Both regiments will be lodged in tents which will be here next week from New York.

Camp Cutler, Harrisburg, Penn Head Quarters, 6th Reg. Wis. Vol. August 1st, 1861

FRIEND COVER:-having a few moments of leisure time, I thought I would let you know how we are progressing on our journey. We are now camped at Harrisburg, Penn. We will proceed to Harper's ferry in a few days, and front there to Washington. The Fifth Regiment left Camp Randall three days before we did. They were here waiting for us. The Fifth left here yesterday; we will soon follow them. As we were coming through from Madison, at all towns and cities we passed we were greeted by large and enthusiastic crowds of people; hot coffee, cakes, pies and refreshments of different kinds, were fully distributed through the cars; at Milwaukee we met with a splendid reception the ladies had a dinner prepared for us which could not be beat anywhere in the East or West. The citizens of Milwaukee will long be remembered by the boys of the sixth; the ladies especially God bless them! the health of our camp is good although the weather is extremely warm the boys are very tired with traveling, no leaving slept any since we left Madison we have met with several companies of three month volunteers returning home they say the Southern men do not stand fire very well; we are ready and anxious to try their grit anyhow. The boys of gallant Wisconsin will never falter, when the storm of battle shall rage around them. We are the color company of the Sixth Regiment and carry the regimental colors; and I feel safe in saying in behalf of Company "C" that the splendid flag entrusted to our care shall not be dishonored by any act of ours. We shall bring it back unsullied by traitors' hands. I have had the honor of shaking hands with two of Major Anderson's daughters we met here. I will now come to close as the drum is beating for us to fall in; you will hear from me again more anon. Yours &c.

W. H. Drues.

From the Sixth Regiment Camp Lyon, Oct. 4, 1861

Since my last nothing of interest has occurred in this vicinity excepting the general retreat of the rebels and advance of our forces over the river, which took place last Saturday. The whole thing was done so quietly that most of us did not know of it until the Sunday morning papers from Washington came up.

All though we were ordered about midnight, Saturday night to hold ourselves in readiness to march by daylight Sunday morning with two day's rations yet very few of us thought of the rebels as being the cause of the order. We were held in readiness to re-inforce our troops over the river in case the rebels should attempt to re-occupy any of the positions that they abandoned Saturday.

But as yet they have shown no disposition to return and our camp has again become as quiet as usual. Of the value of these fortifications that have come into our hands it is sufficient to say that we have been most thoroughly hoaxed in regard to their importance they being chiefly valuable as lookouts and affording excellent opportunities for building batteries which by the way our troop are doing.

The enterprising artist who sketched the Rebel fortifications at Munson's Hill for that celebrated pictorial sheet having an extensive circulation, "&c. &c. certainly never approached near enough to the Hill to endanger his life by a shot from a 64-pounder provided there had been one there. the cut of the frowning ramparts and high walls in the aforesaid pictorial bear about as much resemblance to the rifle pits found at Munson's Hill as Gee. McClellan's army of the Potomac does to a fourth of July procession in Beloit. As to the reason for this step on the part of the rebels it is hard to give any. Whether the withdrawal is for the purpose of drawing us into an ambushade or for the purpose of concentrating their forces for an attack above or below or whether it is the commencement of a general retreat it is impossible to say.

Two regiments of our brigade, the 19th Indiana and the 2d Wisconsin have lately come back from over the river and encamped near us. The 2d are in good spirits as usual - discipline ditto and seemed to be as happy as though every one of them owned half of a kingdom. They are good fellows and although there is no disguising the fact that they are many of them rather tough still there is as good fighting stock in them as in any Wisconsin regiment or I might say in any regiment.

**Thank you, Jim Johnson, for these
monthly *From the Field* features!**

The 7th Wisconsin arrived here last Tuesday. Our boys and those of the 2nd made extravagant demonstrations of delight when they saw the grey uniforms and blue flag coming up the road from towards Washington. We were very much pleased with the appearance of Captain Gordon's company. They will compare with any company in General King's brigade. Captain Gordon and Lieutenants Oakley and Shirrell are a looking well, notwithstanding the hard trip they have had from Madison here the proficiency of drill as shown in the movements of the seventh was a subject of general remark.

The 5th Wisconsin has been taken out of this brigade. The reasons for this step have not yet fully transpired to us at least. We all regret it very much as we felt an attachment for the 5th that we felt for no other regiment, as we might be said to have grown up together. I heard yesterday that they were near Falls Church. Wherever they are they cannot fail to do honor to themselves and to the State to which they belong.

We had a military funeral in camp yesterday. A corporal in company I, from Bad Axe country died of typhoid fever, and was buried with military honors. It is somewhat unpleasant here at present. The days are hot and the nights very chilly, and the fog here is every morning so thick that it can be cut with a knife. There are three or four cases of fever and ague in our company.

We have had a change in field officers lately. Lt. Col. J. P. Atwood of Madison resigned on account of ill health and Major Sweet was appointed in his place. Capt. E. S. Bragg of Fond du Lac was appointed Major by Gov. Randall. Capt. Northrop could have been Major had he chosen and was urged by some to accept the position but he preferred to remain with his company. And although we would have been

glad to have seen him promoted yet we could not spare him nor replace him by any man we know of. The captain has won the love and respect of his men by the upright and straightforward course that he has taken and by the consideration and anxiety that he has shown for their welfare. Lieut. Montague we think cannot be surpassed as a drill master and the same success that attended him as a disciplinarian in school has attended him ever since he has been connected with our company. Capt. Northrop had been detailed for special service by the colonel two or three times on matters vitally connected with the welfare of the regiment and of such a character that no one that had not the entire confidence of the colonel would have been selected.

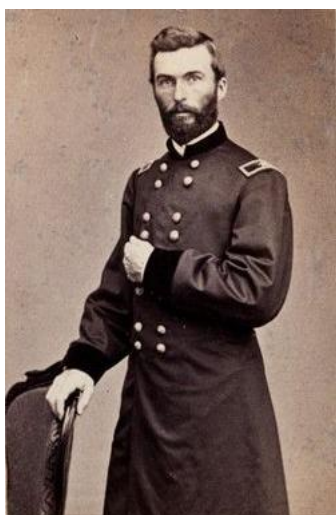
The latest report in camp is that our brigade is going to Fortress Monroe. I think it is doubtful yet it may be so. If so we are ready to go at any time and in fact to go anywhere where we can best serve the interests of our country.

The news of the nomination of Hon. L. P. Harvey for Governor gives great satisfaction to the Wisconsin boys here. To him next to Gov. Randall is due the credit of what Wisconsin has done toward upholding the Union in this trying crisis and in his past acts as Secretary of State, we have ample guarantee that as Governor of Wisconsin he will neither let the good cause lag at home or be unmindful of the welfare of her soldiers abroad but do all in his power to bring this terrible war to an end and restore us to our homes and friends and peace to our land.

Capt. Malloy

The story of these Wisconsin regiments will be continued when they are reunited on a battlefield near a small Pennsylvania town called Gettysburg.

For the last sixteen years William Griffing has devoted himself to transcribing letters from the Civil War that were unpublished until he worked on them. Much of his work has been presented on various **Spared & Shared** webpages or on independent websites. Griff transcribes these letters at no cost, and is always seeking new collections of material. He can be reached at his **Spared & Shared** Facebook page.



The letter which appears on the page 6 of this newsletter was written by Thomas Howard Ruger. In 1854 he graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, and then embarked on a long and distinguished career in the military. In June 1861, he was assigned as lieutenant colonel of the 3rd Wisconsin Regiment. On November 30, 1864, he was promoted to major general for his admirable service in the Battle of Franklin. After serving as colonel of the 33rd Infantry in the U.S. Army, Ruger again was commended for his courageous service in the Battle of Gettysburg and was commissioned a brigadier general.

Ruger is obviously very much in love with his wife, often referring to her by his pet nickname for her. This letter to her was penned two weeks after the Battle of Antietam and after he had been introduced to President Lincoln, who visited the battlefield after the September fight. His impression of the President was not exactly favorable though he correctly predicted that history would be a better judge of the man. "Exact justice of opinion will be more surely found among thinking, candid men after the present condition of things has passed away and the results are seen," he wrote.



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!

Camp near Maryland Heights, Maryland
October 3d 1862

My darling wife,

1862 - Thomas Howard Ruger to His Wife

I did not get the expected letter from you today but hope for one tomorrow. I have not had one for several days. You know I look for a letter every two or three days. You have so much time that you can write often.

The weather has been very pleasant for the past few days but I expect we shall have rain before long. The fall campaign the papers talk so much about and which I think will be made unless made very soon and quickly ended, will be made during the fall rains, of the beauties of which from what you saw last winter you can form a pretty good opinion. There may and probably will be considerable pleasant weather yet. If we are on active duty during the winter, there will necessarily be much suffering, however successful we may be. I am willing to undergo the privations of a campaign if at last I return safely to my darling little wifey, but it would be very pleasant to pass this fine fall weather with you and little Patey. I hope another fall will find us nicely situated without any war or rumors of war to disturb the quiet enjoyment of our home life.

You little sweetie. I often think of the pleasure of being once more with you for good and all, and hope I shall be before many months. I see no way of ending this war but to fight it out, and for me but to do my duty hoping to be brought safely through it to enjoy the society of my wifey all the more for the long separation.

All is quiet now, but how long the quiet will continue, I cannot even conjecture. The speculations of the papers are of no account. There are but two or three probable courses for us to take but which of them will be chosen.

How is my wifey this fall? Do you dread the cold weather the coming winter as usual. I would like it very much if you could be with me this winter but that will not be possible if we are actively engaged in campaign. You must pass away the time in writing ever so many letters to me. Since we have been here and I have got pretty well rested, the comparative quiet after so long time of continued activity gives me more time to think or perhaps I should say more thoughts come of things not connected with immediate duties, and you may be sure you are in my thoughts many times a day. Today I have been pretty well engaged writing, getting things in shape after the long time when even necessary writing could not be done. I see that there seems little prospect of the draft being made in Wisconsin to fill up the old regiments. It seems as if we never will learn wisdom. It is of much greater importance to fill up the old regiments than to raise so many new ones. Every officer who has given his opinion, everyone whose opinion is worth much, has decided in favor of the policy of filling up the old regiments, but still it is not done. The new regiments are composed of good material but the officers are for the most part deficient in military knowledge. It would not be a matter of so much importance if there was plenty of time as last year for bringing the new troops into a state of efficiency.

I sent you two hundred and fifty dollars by Express. You will doubtless have received it before this reaches you. If not, ask your father to enquire at the Express Office. How do matters go on at home? About as usual I suppose. For yourself attending to the usual daily duties and cares, visiting some returning calls, going down to the store, talking over matters with your mother and Hattie, talking a great deal to Patey and watching her girlish pranks, thinking a great deal about Howard, reading the papers for war news, watching for a letter from me and hoping that all this may end and you will soon be in your own house with your husband. The picture makes you a very loving wife and is somewhat flattering to myself, but it is true, is it not wifey, you little sweet. Just imagine a good kissing.

You see I have written quite a letter. I almost forgot to tell you that the President was here yesterday. I had the honor of being introduced and hearing him tell several stories. You have heard of the Presidential inclination for stories. Old Abe is a good man but darling, not a great man for these times, which latter remark may be somewhat objectionable as implying that what is great under some circumstances may not be under others. Perhaps President Lincoln has done as well, all things considered as anyone would. The fact is, Helen, we cannot judge as truly as people will who are not actors in, and witnesses of the present scenes. Exact justice of opinion will be more surely found among thinking, candid men after the present condition of things has passed away and the results are seen.

Give my love to all. Take good care little Patey, three years and a half old by the time this reaches you, which puts me in mind of the day three days from now. Would I not like to drop in for a visit. Write often, very often, darling. With very much love, your affectionate husband, — Howard

The Driftless Area Civil War Club Schedule of Meetings

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.

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



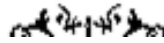
Musings and Memories

Reflections of a Wisconsin Civil War Historian

By now most of you have heard the sad news that the Boss Black Hat, Lance Herdegen, has passed away. He is survived by his beloved wife Shirley, his five daughters - Jill, Jennifer, Bonnie, Lisa, and Nicole, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Lance loved his family in a way that is truly to be admired and emulated. He will be missed.

May flights of angels guide him to his rest.

The following thoughts come from the pen of James Johnson, a monthly contributor to this newsletter on the pages we call *From the Field*. James knew Lance quite well. He will preface this month's feature with these appropriate words.



I find it difficult to digest the fact that Lance is gone even yet. He seemed as if he would last forever—an institution, sort of like the battlefield at Gettysburg. You have a feeling that five minutes, or five years, or 500 years from now it would still be there. This didn't fit into any of the parameters that I had allotted to Lance's being indestructible. He was a very interesting person, an amazing person.

Of course, Lance was very interested in the Iron Brigade of the West and especially in the Sixth Wisconsin. This month in *From the Field*, I am going to celebrate Lance with a few bits of Sixth Wisconsin history from the voices and the thoughts of members of that august regiment, and to celebrate one of their most fervent supporters.

Everyone in my family seemed to have been somehow involved with Lance at one time or another over the last 30-35 years. For "The Return of the Second" event for the state sesquicentennial celebration in 1998 in Madison, Wisconsin, Lance was the director for the military part of that epic day. My dear wife Susan was the director of the civilian part of the celebration. That program was something that developed over the period of many months, including hundreds of rose petals drying in our attic—no small thing collecting rose petals in 1998. Also, an 1864 flag full-size for the encampment at Camp Randall, as it probably is today. Susan and Lance had a number of great conversations.

I was also involved later with the Wisconsin Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission and the website for the 150th Anniversary, along with my son Jeremy. Jeremy still has a project in the works that he had discussed with Lance. It has about 150 pages. so perhaps you'll see that in the future.

Please read *From the Field* containing the historic pieces that I referred to, and as you read them, keep Lance's dedication and efforts in mind. These stories will be continued in next month's newsletter.

James Johnson

**MILWAUKEE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
2025-2026 SPEAKER SCHEDULE**

- September 11, 2025** **Dr. James Pula**
Overlooked and Underappreciated: Dan Butterfield
- October 9, 2025** **Kim Harris**
Libbie Bacon Custer
- November 13, 2025** **Chris Kolakowski**
*Civil War to World War:
Simon Bolivar Buckner Jr. and Sr.*
- December 11, 2025** **Brian Jordan**
(At the Bavarian Bierhaus)
Marching Home: Union Veterans - Their Unending Civil War
- January 8, 2026** **Guy Fraker**
Lincoln the Lawyer
- February 12, 2026** **Keith Bohannon**
*General Joseph Wheeler and the Army of Tennessee's
Cavalry Corps in the Atlanta Campaign*
- March 12, 2026** **Cliff Roberts**
Castle Pinckney
- April 9, 2026** **Wayne Motts**
*Nevins-Freeman Award Winner
Wisconsin Civil War Artifacts in the Collection of the
National Civil War Museum*
- May 7, 2026** **Chris Mackowski**
*A Tempest of Iron and Lead:
The Battle of Spotsylvania Courthouse*
- June 11, 2026** **Alex Rossino**
*Calamity at Frederick: A Fresh Look at the Creation and
Loss of Special Orders No. 191*

Speakers/topics remain subject to change.



**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.milwaukeecwrt.org

**CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE NEWS EMAIL
NOTIFICATIONS**

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

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

Milwaukee Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for May 7, 2026

Mail your reservations by Friday, May 1 to:

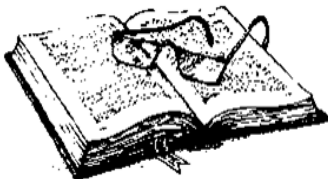
Paul Eilbes
1809 Washington Avenue
Cedarburg, WI 53012-9730

Call or email reservations to:

(262) 376-0568
peilbes@gmail.com

Enclosed is \$ ____ (meal is \$35.00 per person) for ____ people for the
May 7, 2026 meeting of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee.

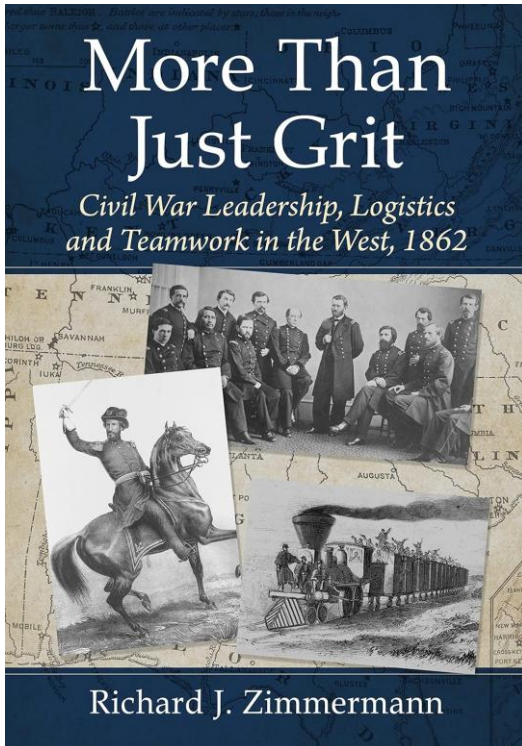
(Please make checks payable to the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.)



BETWEEN THE COVERS

More Than Just Grit

Richard Zimmermann



This review is on a book I purchased at a book presentation at our round table meeting in March 2023. It was written by one of our members Mr. Richard Zimmerman. The book is More Than Just Grit, Civil War Leadership, Logistics and Teamwork in the West 1862. In this book Mr. Zimmermann's analysis attempts to pin down the answer to "what makes a successful general." He does accomplish this by identifying six measurable phenomena by analysis of nine battles and their outcomes in the Western theatre of the Civil War.

In this book the author uses these six key factors of victorious generals: (1) able to achieve a clear and attainable objective, (2) successful in seizing the initiative at the close of the action, (3) sustained by their lieutenants, (4) reinforced by a competent staff that effectively supervised logistical support, (5) skilled at committing all their resources in a timely fashion, and (6) achieved true strategic success by the end of the campaign.

Almost any student of the Civil War can't fail to notice how the Confederate commands in the two main theaters of operation were markedly different in their success on the battlefield, It would appear that in the East the command structure of the Army of Northern Virginia might be called a well-oiled machine in the early part of the war and seemed to be able to lick the "damn Yankees" at every turn. However, in the West things were not as smooth running and successful as their counterparts in the East. While some keys to battlefield success may be objective, tactics, and use of terrain

but to me leadership is the key component to melding the various factors of military science into battlefield/campaign success. Mr. Zimmermann in this work has focused on how leadership seems to make the difference to success or failure.

He shows that in these engagements one commander had achieved success in all or many of the standards listed while the defeated general had very limited success in any of them. Mr. Zimmermann in his prologue uses the Mexican campaign by General Scott as a basis for establishing how these factors explain General Scott's success and how his actions compare with General Taylor in the prosecution of the Mexican War by analyzing both men against the six factors and whether either general worked through the factors in running his campaign. Then having established the groundwork of how the factors come into play he walks the reader through 9 key points in the Civil War that determined the failure of Confederate leadership in the 1862 campaign in the West.

The battles that are analyzed for this study are; Mill Springs, Forts Henry and Donelson, Pea Ridge, Shiloh, Richmond, Kentucky, Perryville, Corinth, Prairie Grove and Stones River. In each of these battles the author gives a relatively short description of the battle, to include a map of the key maneuvers, breakdown of each commander's staff, and the comparison of the commanders and what key factors they achieved during the battle to explain why they won or lost. The battle descriptions succinct and didn't break down to individual unit maneuvers for the most part. I thought this was a nice touch in that it makes the reader able to understand how the battle flowed without having to wade through regimental maneuvers. I felt this format is both detailed enough for other historians and even history students as well as clear enough for a novice to civil war history.

I found this to be an interesting approach to analyzing a key time period of the Civil War and the fight in the West. I think anyone reading this book will gain a firm understanding of factors that affected these battles of the Civil War and recommend to anyone interested in the Civil War.

submitted by Bruce Klem

Ethnic Regiments of the Army of the Cumberland
presented by Dan Masters

The Upper Midwestern states of Illinois, Indiana and Ohio provided the bulk of the soldiers for the Army of the Cumberland, the Federal government's second largest Civil War army. Dan Master's program will highlight several of the ethnic regiments—including the 24th Illinois (German) 32nd Indiana (German), 35th Indiana (Irish), 2nd Missouri (German), 9th Ohio (German), 10th Ohio (Irish), and 15th Wisconsin (Scandinavian) -- that served with this potent fighting force.

John Don't Call Me Hunt Morgan and the Not-So-Great Raid of 1863
presented by Darryl Smith

Darryl Smith's presentation will discuss John H. Morgan's Indiana-Ohio Raid from a different perspective – one that shows the raid was not the successful effort that some historians claim it to be – and how it adversely impacted operations in Tennessee. The result was not some grand effort, but instead led to the destruction of a Confederate cavalry division.

Hazardous Duty: Civil War Shipwrecks of the Great Lakes
presented by Brendon Bailod

Raw materials from the Great Lakes region fueled the industrialization of America and played a key role in developing the Union's capacity during the American Civil War. Hundreds of ships were lost in the years prior to the Civil War due to southern opposition to harbor appropriations for the Great Lakes. Hundreds more were lost during the Civil War as they sailed east with cargoes of grain, iron ore and copper. This talk will tell the story of the Great Lakes role in the Civil War through the lens of Great Lakes shipwrecks.

The Western Sanitary Commission
presented by Dana Shoaf

The Western Sanitary Commission, though overshadowed by the larger United States Sanitary Commission in the east, performed invaluable work. Union General John C. Fremont, Reverend William Greenleaf Eliot, James E. Yeatman, and Dorothea Dix established the WSC in August 1861. Headquartered in St. Louis, the hard-working doctors, civilians, and nurses of the WSC established hospitals, administered medical services, and improved sanitation in camps. Additionally, the WSC established a fleet of hospital ships to travel throughout the sprawling Western Theater and provide aid from the Battle of Wilson's Creek until the end of the war.

Return to the Valley: Battles for the Breadbasket

The **Civil War Time Travelers** will be returning to the Shenandoah Valley October 24-31 2026. We will be based in Woodstock, VA for five straight nights! From that base visits will be made to Kernstown, Cross Keys, Port Republic, New Market, and more. A trip over Skyline Drive will reveal the beauty of the Valley from above as nature's tapestry is laid out below us. Our trip will cover sights from both Jackson's 1862 Campaign and the 1864 Campaign that effectively destroyed the Shenandoah Valley's ability to help feed the Army of Northern Virginia.

More information will soon be available, but the ballpark cost for the trip is \$1,250.00. That includes motor coach transportation from Wisconsin, hotel costs, all museum and historian fees, and most meals. Join us for an eight-day excursion into the Valley. See why Thomas Jackson said, "If this Valley is lost, Virginia is lost."

Contact Dave Wege at wegs1862@gmail.com for additional information.

Wanderings



will return next month. Please remember to document your Civil War travels, whether to a museum, a battlefield, and elsewhere. Then write them down to share on the page with the MCWRT membership. Submit any travel tales to wegs1862@gmail.com.

The Civil War Time Travelers just returned from a trip to Vicksburg and Mobile. A write-up on that trip will appear in the June issue of *General Orders*. We enjoyed the service of excellent guides (Terry Winschel, Rick Martin, Morgan Gates, and Mike Bunn) who filled our heads to bursting with knowledge and tales of the people who were there. At Vicksburg's Railroad Redoubt the group was excited to see a marker commemorating the attack of the 77th Illinois. One soldier in the assault made by that regiment earned the Medal of Honor there on May 22, 1863. That soldier, Winthrop Davis Putnam, is buried at Wood National Cemetery.

WHAT DO WE DO WITH THESE STORIES?

Memorial Day at Wood National Cemetery

We are pleased to present "Voices of Wood National Cemetery" on Memorial Day, Monday, May 25, at 1:00 p.m. Attendance is limited, registration is required. The registration link is provided below, and includes a map of the grounds showing the driving path to parking and the walking path to the "Voices" presentation. Several members of our Civil War Round Table are story presenters, telling the stories behind the headstones of military personnel from all eras of American history.

We'd be honored to have you join us.

<https://www.milwaukeepreservation.org/soldiers-home-walking-tours>

Member

Spotlight



Terry Arliskas is the focus this month's Member Spotlight. Terry is a long-time member of the Milwaukee Round Table and has served on its Board of Directors for multiple terms. She serves as MCWRT Secretary and as the Program Chair.

Terry also works with the National Soldiers' Home near Am-Fam Field as a guide for tour groups who want to learn more about the lives of veterans post-Civil War.

Terry has been interested in the Civil War for as long as she can remember. Her first memory of the War was in 1963 when her family visited Gettysburg where she kept a keen eye out looking for fallen bullets (but never found any), and at home talking the kids in the neighborhood into playing the battle of Shiloh instead of Cowboys and Indians. Terry met her husband Tom through live fire black powder Civil War skirmishing (using only original and exact reproduction period firearms) in the North-South Skirmish Association where their team is the 29th Wisconsin. Terry is a US Army Veteran attained the rank of Captain and served for three years on active duty at Fort Hood, Texas and six years in the Reserves in Milwaukee. She served as the Chief Deputy Clerk of Courts in Jefferson County for nearly 20 years until moving back to Milwaukee in 2005. She and Tom have been Civil War Round Table members ever since where she now serves as Secretary and Program Chair. Now retired, she also enjoys volunteering with the Milwaukee Preservation Alliance giving guided tours of the Milwaukee Soldiers Home. They live in Wauwatosa with their two Maine Coon fur babies, Odin and Freya.



Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.



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

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.

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

