

GENERAL ORDERS



The Newsletter of the

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



July 2026

This is no July meeting, of course, but the leadership of the MCWRT felt that a summer communication was important. Much has happened in the Civil War community that bears discussion. So, please enjoy this “additional read.” Have a wonderful summer!

2026-2027 Speaker List

We once again have a great slate of speakers lined up for next season. Topics haven't been determined yet, but this list ought to start generating excitement!

September 10	Jim Marten
October 8	Joshua Lindamood
November 12	Bob Miller
December 10	Stuart Dempsey
January 7	Dan Masters
February 11	Rob Girardi
March 11	Doug Damman
April 8	Dave Powell
May 13	Caroline Janney
June 10	Kevin Donovan

A Change in Command

With the passing of Lance Herdegen, it has become necessary to appoint a new Brigadier General Commanding of the Iron Brigade Association.

Ellen Kelling Vokovic has agreed to accept that position, and is uniquely qualified to do so. She is a direct descendant of Edwin A. Brown, Company E of the 6th Wisconsin Volunteers. Ellen has served the Milwaukee Round Table as President and Treasurer and a long-time MCWRT member.

The Brigadier General is the chief administrative officer of the Iron Brigade Association and presides at Association meetings when able to attend.

General Orders No. 7-26

July 2026

milwaukeecwrt.org

The Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee was established in 1947 and is the second oldest of the more than 300 Civil War Round Tables in the United States and abroad. Current membership is approximately 300.

Membership in The Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc. has many perks. It includes membership in the Iron Brigade Association. Monthly meetings, held from September through June, provide informative programs and promote fellowship. A monthly newsletter keeps members informed of group activities.

The Civil War Round Table welcomes members from all walks of life and age group. The Round Table admits members of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all its rights, privileges, programs and activities.

**THE CIVIL WAR
ROUNDTABLE OF
MILWAUKEE – EST 1947**

**The 2nd Oldest Civil War
Roundtable in the United States**

New Members:

**Jesse Chariton
Steven Rogstad**



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.

Port Hudson: The Most Significant Battlefield Photographs of the Civil War 2.0

Friday, July 10 | 12pm – 1pm

Presented by Dr. Lawrence Hewitt

Between June 14 and July 9, 1863—the final 25 days of the 48-day siege of Port Hudson—the photographic firm of McPherson & Oliver moved about the battlefield memorializing soldiers in action—and in combat! In the process of making this visual record of opposing armies actively engaged, the photographers created one of the greatest visual records of the Civil War. Their images included one taken at midnight (the first ever taken in the dark), one converted into a composite print (created by combining portions of two negatives), the Confederate army at the surrender ceremony, and examples of time-lapse photography. Sadly, the duo seldom receives credit for these images. Other studios, including Matthew Brady's, published the McPherson & Oliver's images as their own work. As with the battlefield they immortalized, McPherson and Oliver deserve better.

Lawrence Lee Hewitt was a professor of history at Southeastern Louisiana University. He has authored Port Hudson, Confederate Bastion on the Mississippi and coedited four volumes of essays under the collective title of Confederate Generals in the Western Theater and three volumes of essays under the collective title of Confederate Generals in the Trans-Mississippi Theater.

Civil War Immigrant Soldiers in the Union Army

Friday, August 14 | 12pm – 1pm

Presented by Scott Norrick

Scott Norrick's presentation will cover the key reasons immigrants came to America just prior to the Civil War. He will also discuss the scope and nationalities of immigrant soldiers in the Union Army as well as explore what motivated so many immigrants to volunteer for the Civil War. He will also delve into specific Upper Midwestern regiments that had large immigrant populations, such as the 32nd, 35th and 61st Indiana and the 23rd and 24th Illinois. Scott will also give some advice on best practices for researching your Union Civil War ancestors.

Scott Norrick's passion is connecting people to their past. He has an undergraduate degree from the University of Illinois and a master's degree from Northwestern University. He combines over 30 years of family history research with the necessary skills and passion to provide meaningful and proven results in breaking down family history brick walls. He is currently working on a book that chronicles the war time experiences and the post war trauma of his four great-great grandfathers who were volunteers in the Union Army during the Civil War.

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

NATIONAL HOME FOR DISABLED VOLUNTEER SOLDIERS

(ZABLOCKI VA MEDICAL CENTER AND WOOD NATIONAL CEMETERY, MILWAUKEE)

We are all interested in Civil War battlefields. Few know that right in our backyard is one of the three original National Soldiers Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers of the Civil War. While there were a few Soldiers and Sailors Homes in the country, most Civil War soldiers were volunteers, thus ineligible for care in those facilities. Just before his assassination, President Lincoln signed legislation authorizing creation of these Homes for Volunteer Soldiers.

We invite members of the Round Table and their guests to join us for a tour of this important but little-known piece of our Civil War history.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 2026, at 3:00 pm



VA Medical Center campus
50th and National Ave.
Milwaukee

Your tour guides are fellow
Round Table members
Terry Arliskas
Patrick Lynch
Laura Rinaldi

TO REGISTER, USE THIS LINK TO THE MILWAUKEE PRESERVATION ALLIANCE WEBSITE:

<https://mkepa.auctionsnap.com/mcwrt/event/>

A map can be found at that link showing parking and meeting spot. Please bring your own water, sun protection and portable seat if needed!

Questions? Contact Laura at
laurasshf@gmail.com or 414-460-6554

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

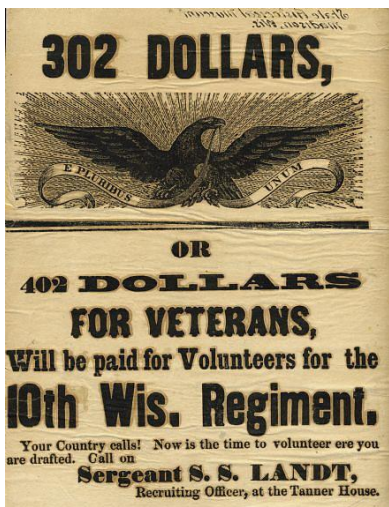
Darryl Smith's presentation will discuss John H. Morgan's Indiana-Ohio Raid from a different perspective – one that shows the raid was not the successful effort that some historians claim it to be – and how it adversely impacted operations in Tennessee. The result was not some grand effort, but instead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



Recruits Wanted

Spread the Call to One and All

Grow the membership of the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table.

Invite a friend. The first meeting's meal cost can be covered by a special fund established for that purpose. Let's grow our group and share the "best-kept secret in Southeastern Wisconsin."

(And you don't even have to speak German!)

Rekruten Verlangt

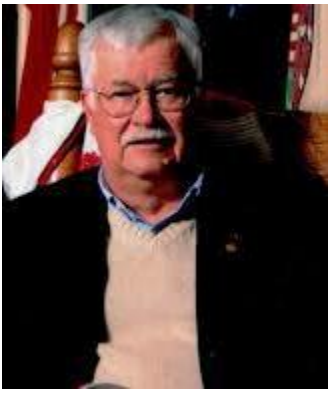


26. Regiment
Wis. Volunteers!!

Der Staaten County: \$402 für ehrenhaft aus dem Dienst entlassene Veteranen!
\$302 für Neue Rekruten!

27 Dollars und eine Monats-Lohnung im Voraus werden bezahlt, wenn die Mannschaft in den Dienst gemustert wird. Löhnung und Befähigung beginnt vom Tage der Anwerbung. Jeder Deutscher sollte sich diesem Regimente anschließen.
Rekrutierungs-Officer: Vier Thüren oberhalb der Stets-Halle, an Schwafferstraße, 7. Ward, Milwaukee.

Dr. Gordon Dammann



Dr. Gordon E. Dammann, D.D.S., age 81 of Lena, IL, passed away peacefully after a short illness on May 27, 2026.

Devoted husband of 59 years, Karen (Chisholm). Loved by his children Greg (Tamie) and Doug (Holly), and grandchildren Sophia (Daniel Vale), Samantha (David Wichman), Cameron (Maddy), Nate (Lily), Andrew, and Charlotte. Great grandchildren Flora, Poppy, Clover, Maggie, and Jenny.

Dr. Dammann was a graduate of Spalding Catholic High School of Peoria, IL, and Loyola (Chicago) University for both his undergraduate and dental school degrees. He served in the United States Army from 1969 to 1971 reaching of the rank of captain.

Gordon was a nationally-recognized expert, published author, and frequent speaker with particular expertise in the field of Civil War Medicine. He was a member of the Chicago and Milwaukee Civil War Round Tables, the Save Historic Antietam Foundation, and was the founder of the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick, Maryland. In retirement, Gordon enjoyed working as a licensed guide at the Antietam (Maryland) National Battlefield and Harpers Ferry (West Virginia) National Historic Park. His love for history was passed on to his son Doug, whose work as curator of the Civil War Museum of Kenosha he enthusiastically supported.

Gordy loved spending Sunday afternoons rooting on his beloved Green Bay Packers, especially when they played the Chicago Bears. He also enjoyed providing color commentary for Le-Win High School Football games for LWTW with his friends Gary Rich and TJ Gilley.

Gordy will be missed by his extended family and his many friends and admirers.



William Pool, Last Living Son of a Union Veteran



William Pool, recognized as the last living son of a Union Veteran of the Civil War, departed this life on Sunday, June 7, 2026 at the age of 101.

William "Bill" Pool was born on January 13, 1925, to Charles and Clara Bell Pool. His father, Charles Pool, Sr., was born on March 27, 1844, in Ritchie County, West Virginia, and served the Union cause as a member of the 6th West Virginia Volunteer Infantry. During his service, Charles was wounded in the left leg, resulting in an amputation above the knee, and later received an invalid pension from the federal government. In 1915, at the age of 71, Charles married Clara Bell Straw, who was 27 years old. Together they raised five children, including William, known throughout his life as "Bill."

Pool's family represented a remarkable living connection to the Civil War generation. His mother, Clara Bell Pool, lived to the age of 101 and was the last Civil War widow in Missouri to receive a pension based on her husband's Union service.

Following in a tradition of service to the nation, Bill entered the United States Army in 1944 during the Second World War. Serving in the European Theater, he distinguished himself through extraordinary courage when he voluntarily joined another soldier in rescuing a severely wounded officer from the battlefield after others believed the attempt too dangerous. For this act of heroism, he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal.

After returning home from the war, Brother Pool married Shirley Courtney, and together they raised nine children. He worked as a mechanic and later in the construction industry, earning a reputation as a devoted husband, father, and provider. His family remembered him as a man of unwavering faith, dedication, and work ethic who never missed a day of work and ensured his family was in church every Sunday.

Pool represented a direct and living connection to the men who preserved the Union during our nation's greatest trial. With his passing, an historic chapter in the legacy of the Grand Army of the Republic and the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War comes to a close. His life served as a tangible link between the Civil War generation and the present day, reminding us of our sacred obligation to preserve the memory, history, and principles for which the Union soldiers fought.

An Adams County Copperhead

A Wisconsin man attached to Battery B of the 4th U.S. Artillery scuffled with a Pennsylvania farmer who demanded a high price for fresh milk. Shrugging off the protests, the soldier milked the cow himself. But the farmer followed him to camp and demanded the officer in charge punish him for theft. Lt. James Stewart, a career officer now commanding the battery, regarded the private as a good soldier. If he did not punish the offender, Stewart concluded, the farmer would take his complaint elsewhere and the punishment might be worse. So the old regular ordered the citizen-soldier lashed spread-eagle on the extra wheel of an artillery caisson. The private's friends soon gathered around him, muttering against the punishment, one calling the farmer nothing more an "Adams County Copperhead" out to cheat a poor soldier. Stewart ordered them away, but they were sullen and for a few moments it seemed there might be trouble. Then the lieutenant, with more force this time, again ordered them away and this time they went.¹

¹ The private was Frank Nobels, Stoughton Light Guard, Co. D, 7th Wisconsin. He enlisted from Rutland in August 10, 1861 and served in the battery from June 8, 1862 until January 1864. *Wisconsin Roster*, 553.

Augustus Buell
*The Cannoneer:
Recollections of Service in the
Army of the Potomac.*
The National Tribune
1897

WHAT HAPPENED AT GETTYSBURG TO COL. WHEELER, NOW GOV. AT THE NATIONAL HOME

On the morning of the first day's fight at Gettysburg there was considerable firing by the artillery. The boys of the Second had much trouble in keeping out of the way of the guns of Battery B as they were constantly changed in position to keep out of the smoke. A corporal of Company C had his head shot off in front of Battery B's guns. When a passing shell from one of the guns went by, George Jenck, one of his company, took in the situation and saved Lt. Wheeler's life by jerking him one side. After lying down behind the guns, the lieutenant's attention was attracted to a line of battle approaching, when he immediately called the attention of the chief of artillery to the fact; he took his glass, surveyed the situation and gave orders to get out of there. The rout began through Gettysburg, and in going through we run the gauntlet, as the rebs had closed in on us both sides. Had not George Janck jerked his lieutenant out of his way of Battery B's guns, the rebs would have gobbled more men than they did.

Cullen "Doc" B. Aubery
Echoes From the Marches of the Famous Iron Brigade
1900

H.R. 7495 authorizes the establishment of memorials at **Antietam National Battlefield** in Maryland and **Manassas National Battlefield Park** in Virginia. A pdf version of the document may be found at:

[antietam-manassas-memorial-authorization-bill.pdf](#)

Key Details of the H.R. 7495:

- **Purpose:** Authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to establish monuments honoring Wisconsin infantry officers and enlisted men, specifically for the Second, Third, Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh Wisconsin Infantry Regiments.
- **Memorial Locations:** Honors soldiers at Antietam and Second Manassas.
- **Context:** This initiative completes a 1913 effort by the Wisconsin Legislature to build a memorial at these locations.



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

